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PM Modi speaks to US President Trump

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11



FILE PHOTO

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday held a phone conversation with US President Donald Trump that focused on enhancing economic ties at a time the two countries are eyeing to seal a trade deal.

The two leaders exchanged views on expanding cooperation in trade, critical technologies, energy, defence and security, officials said.

Both the leaders also agreed to work closely to address shared challenges and advance common interests, they said.

Modi and Trump also reviewed progress in the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, they said.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the steady strengthening of bilateral cooperation across all domains.

Modi and Trump underlined the importance of sustaining momentum in shared efforts to enhance bilateral trade, the officials said. The leaders also exchanged views on expanding cooperation in critical technologies, energy, defence and security, and other priority areas that are central to the implementation of the India-US COMPACT (Catalyzing Opportunities for Military Partnership, Accelerated Commerce & Technology) for the 21st century, they added.

The leaders also discussed various regional and global developments and agreed to work closely to address shared challenges and advance common interests, the officials said. PTI

Very positive: Italian Deputy PM Tajani on meeting with PM Modi

Italian Deputy Prime Minister Antonio Tajani late on Wednesday described his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as "very positive", highlighting the strong bilateral relations between India and Italy. Tajani, who is also the foreign minister, is on a three-day visit to India. Speaking to PTI Videos after the meeting with Modi Wednesday evening, Tajani said the situation in West Asia is much better now and expressed optimism over the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) project.

PM, top leaders pay tributes to Mahakavi Bharathi on 143rd birth anniversary

CHENNAI: Leaders across the political spectrum paid glowing tributes to revolutionary Tamil poet Mahakavi Subramania Bharathi's on his 143rd birth anniversary on Thursday, recalling his enduring influence on generations. Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to X to honour the iconic poet and freedom fighter, saying Bharathi's poems stirred courage, and his thoughts had the power to make a lasting impression on countless minds. PTI

President Murmu, Modi express sorrow over loss of life in Arunachal accident

President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday expressed sorrow over a fatal accident in Arunachal Pradesh in which a truck carrying 22 workers fell off a cliff on December 8.

The President, in a social media message, said, "Saddened to learn about the loss of lives in a road accident in the Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh. My thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved families. I wish a speedy recovery to those injured."

CM Bhagwant Mann conducts surprise checks of roads

- Orders action against contractor after detecting lapses in under construction road

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Patiala/Fatehgarh Sahib, December 11



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Thursday ordered a show cause notice against the contractor and withholding his payments after detecting irregularities in the construction of Reetkheri Link Road in Patiala district.

The Chief Minister who conducted surprise inspection of the under construction road was miffed over non-compliance of stipulated weight parameters in the construction of the road after sampling of road was done. He asked the officers to showcase the contractor constructing the road and hold his payments with immediate effect. Bhagwant Singh Mann also inspected under construction Patiala Sirhind Road in Patiala district and asked the officers to get the samples of the road checked from laboratory adding he also checked Rurki to Reona plan road in Fatehgarh Sahib district.

The Chief Minister said that the objective of checking these under construction roads is to check the quality of roads being constructed across the state. He said that since a huge sum of amount is being spent by the state government so this drive has been started to ensure that high quality roads are constructed in the state. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that he will continue this surprise check in coming days too as he is duty bound to ensure that public money is utilised in a proper manner.

The Chief Minister said that the random checking has been done to ensure that the roads are constructed properly with the best material by optimum utilisa-

People of Manipur government's top priority: President Murmu



IMPHAL, DECEMBER 11

President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday said that the government of India stands firmly with every affected family in Manipur and that addressing the concerns of the people is the government's highest priority.

Addressing a civic reception hosted in her honour by the Manipur government at the City Convention Centre, the President said that the people of Manipur had witnessed "unfortunate violence for several months", and the Centre is fully aware of the hardships faced by them.

She said the government is committed to strengthening harmony, ensuring security and supporting Manipur in its journey towards development.

"The government has taken a series of steps to promote equitable development in Manipur and to ensure that progress reaches every corner of the state," President Murmu said.

She said that the government has undertaken several schemes and projects to develop connectivity, health and education, infrastructure, and rural development, which have brought tangible improvements to the state.

In the civic reception ceremony, the President laid foundation stones of 14 projects worth Rs 1180 crore and inaugurated 12 projects worth Rs 207 crore for different parts of Manipur.

These projects relate to education, sports, health, tribal development, agriculture, power and renewable energy, construction of guest houses, training facilities, community and security infrastructure, Ima markets (all-women markets), traditional industries, handloom and handicrafts, urban development, roads and public services. PTI

EC extends timeline for SIR in 6 states and Union territories

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

The Election Commission on Thursday extended the timeline for Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in six states and Union territories following requests from the respective chief electoral officers.

In a statement, the Election Commission (EC) issued the revised schedule for SIR in Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Uttar Pradesh.

The enumeration period for these six states and Union territories was to end on Thursday and the draft electoral rolls were to be published on December 16.

The enumeration period for Tamil Nadu and Gujarat has been extended till December 14 and the draft electoral rolls will be published on December 19, the statement said.

For Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the enumeration period has been extended till December 18 and the draft electoral rolls will be published on December 23.

The enumeration period for Uttar Pradesh has been extended till December 26 and the draft electoral rolls will be published on December 31.

According to the statement, the enumeration period for Goa, Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Rajasthan and West Bengal will end on Thursday and the draft electoral rolls will be published on December 16.

The schedule for Kerala was revised earlier. The enumeration period for the state will end on December 18 and the draft electoral roll will be published on December 23. PTI

Indian Navy to commission first indigenous diving support craft on December 16

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11



The Indian Navy will commission DSC A20, the first vessel of the indigenously designed and constructed Diving Support Craft (DSC), at Kochi on December 16 under the aegis of Southern Naval Command, officials said on Thursday.

The ship will be formally inducted into service in the presence of Vice Admiral Sameer Saxena, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command.

The event will mark the addition of a key operational asset to the Navy's inventory, enhancing its diving and underwater support capability.

DSC A20 is the lead ship in a series of five Diving Support Craft being built by M/s Titagarh Rail Systems Limited (TRSL), Kolkata.

Purpose-built for a wide spectrum of diving and underwater missions in coastal waters, the vessel is equipped with advanced, state-of-the-art diving systems that meet the highest standards of safety and operational efficiency. PTI

GOA FIRE

Delhi court dismisses Luthra brothers' transit anticipatory bail pleas



NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

A Delhi court on Thursday rejected the transit anticipatory bail pleas of Saurabh and Gaurav Luthra, owners of Birch by Romeo Lane nightclub in Goa where a massive fire last week killed 25 people.

On Wednesday, the accused sought four weeks of transit anticipatory bail so that they were not immediately arrested after their return to Delhi from Thailand.

Additional Sessions Judge Vandana dismissed the bail plea. A detailed order is awaited.

During the proceedings, counsel for the state of Goa opposed the pleas, saying, "They left, they concealed, and they are now seeking leniency."

He said the Luthra brothers had left Goa immediately after the fire incident and had been "evading the legal process".

The state counsel said the law does not aid those who refuse to submit to summons or warrants.

Referring to judicial observations, he said: "Once it is shown that a person is attempting to evade the process of law, the court should not come to his aid at all."

He added that anticipatory bail is a discretionary relief and cannot be granted to those who have "created obstacles in the execution of warrants or concealed themselves".

The counsel submitted that serious allegations were pending, including non-bailable warrants. "This is not a case for granting the privilege of anticipatory bail. The gravity of the offence and the conduct of the applicants disentitle them from any protection," he argued.

Seeking the relief, one of the counsel for the applicants argued that they were willing to return immediately and face the investigation, and urged the court not to "punish them at the threshold". IANS

Hema Malini, Esha Deol pay tribute at Dharmendra's prayer meet in Delhi

DHARMENDRA, FAMOUSLY KNOWN AS BOLLYWOOD'S 'HE-MAN', PASSED AWAY ON NOVEMBER 24

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11



Actor-politician Hema Malini on Thursday hosted a prayer meet for her late husband, Dharmendra, in Delhi. Hema was seen arriving at the Dr Ambedkar International Centre for the prayer meet, accompanied by her daughter Esha. Her younger daughter, Ahana Deol, was also present to pay her respects at the service.

Hema and Esha were seen putting flowers in front of Dharmendra's photograph as a heartfelt tribute.

Dharmendra, famously known as Bollywood's 'He-Man', passed away on November 24, 2025. On December 8, the actor's family members marked his 90th birth anniversary.

In an emotional post, Hema reflected on their life together and the heartbreak of losing him. "Dharam ji Happy birthday my dear heart. More than two weeks have passed since you left me heartbroken, slowly gathering up the pieces and trying to reconstruct my life, knowing that you will always be with me in spirit," she wrote on her Instagram. PTI

IndiGo flight crisis: DGCA officials start monitoring operations, refunds at airline headquarters

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

Enhancing oversight, DGCA officials on Thursday began monitoring IndiGo's operations, refunds, and other processes from the airline's headquarters, sources said.

They said the officials are expected to submit daily reports on the situation at the airline, which has been grappling with significant operational disruptions and the subsequent cancellation of thousands of flights due to planning failures related to the implementation of new pilot and crew duty norms.

On Wednesday, the DGCA decided to deploy two members from an oversight panel at IndiGo's Gurugram headquarters to monitor cancellation status, crew deployment, unplanned leave, and routes hit by staff shortages. The safety regulator also summoned IndiGo Chief Executive Pieter Elbers to appear at its office at 3 pm on Thursday and sought a complete report, along with comprehensive data and updates, relating to the recent operational disruptions.

Two officers from the DGCA office - a senior statistics officer and a deputy director - will be deployed at the IndiGo corporate office to monitor the status of domestic and international cancellations, refund status, on-time performance, compensation to the passengers as per the civil aviation requirement and baggage return, as per a DGCA order issued on Wednesday. PTI

IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers appears before DGCA as regulator seeks answers over flight disruption debacle

IndiGo Chief Executive Officer Pieter Elbers arrived at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) office today. The DGCA had summoned Elbers to appear before it at 3 pm today. It had directed Elbers to present comprehensive data and updates relating to the recent operational disruptions. The CEO must provide detailed information across key operational areas, it said. The DGCA had sought multiple updates, including the status of flight restoration, recruitment plans, progress in the refunds process and baggage return, effective information dissemination, re-accommodation of affected passengers and priority handling for vulnerable travellers such as the elderly, medical passengers and unaccompanied minors.



IG BSF pays tribute to martyrs at historic Rajamohtam Post, recalls 1971 battle bravery

HARISH MONGA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, December 11



Dr Atul Fulzele, Inspector General of the BSF Punjab Frontier, visited the historic Border Out Post (BOP) Rajamohtam on Thursday to honour the supreme sacrifices of BSF martyrs who defended the nation during the 1971 Indo-Pak War. The post, manned by a company-level BSF contingent, is renowned for its heroic stand during the war.

During his visit, the IG paid solemn homage to the martyrs at the memorial located within the post. A special ceremony was organised to honour the families of the fallen heroes. Dr Fulzele personally interacted with the families, conveying heartfelt respect and gratitude for the courage and sacrifice of their loved ones. As a mark of appreciation, he presented mementoes to the families as a tribute to their indomitable spirit.

The IG also viewed the war documentary "Raja Mohtam: The Untold Saga of BSF Bravery", showcasing the valour and pivotal role of the BSF in the 1971 conflict. The event saw the presence of senior officers and dignitaries, including DIG Punjab Police Snehdeep Sharma, SSP Ferozepur Bhupender Singh, DSP Rajbir Singh, and SBI Chief Manager Gurpreet Singh, along with civil society members, border residents, and families of martyrs.

Dr Fulzele commended the unwavering cooperation of the local border population in assisting the BSF in curbing criminal and illegal activities.

Women-led sustainable businesses shine at Phulkari Bazaar

N.P.S. CHAMAK
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Amritsar, December 11



The annual edition of Phulkari Bazaar, an initiative to promote small enterprises and businesses managed and founded by women entrepreneurs, was hosted at Ameera Farms by Phulkari-Women of Amritsar, a women organisation based in the city.Phulkari Bazaar is a business-to-business platform, where women entrepreneurs come together to form a network and exchange of ideas and trade. This year, around 60 and more small, home grown brands from Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Amritsar and Delhi-NCR featured products, including woollens, apparels, hand crafted furniture, jewellery, vintage art and organically sourced and produced decor.It is also a business-to-people platform, where direct buyer-seller exchange happens, ensuring that small enterprises get the support they need and consumers get quality and customised services.

Among some stand put stalls were Just Clay by Vandit Jain, a 26-year-old Jalandhar-based artist with Down Syndrome working with slab pottery for over a year now. What started as a hobby has now turned into his passion and a source of his happiness. His exhibit had handcrafted-clay coasters, candle stands, DIY painting kits and flower sticks that he paints himself.

"It all began when Vandit was introduced to Pottery in a hobby class. Pottery is not just a hobby for him but a source of his happiness. He enjoys the whole process straight from rolling the clay, moulding it, firing and getting to see the final result.

Heroin recovered in two separate operations in Kapurthala; two arrested under NDPS Act



ASHOK KAURA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Kapurthala,December 11

District, police registered two separate cases under Sections 21, 61, and 85 of the NDPS Act after recovering small quantities of heroin during routine checking operations. Both accused were arrested on the spot following transparent procedures carried out by patrolling teams.

In the first incident, ASI Naveen Kumar and his team were on patrol near the old grain market close to the railway station, Kapurthala, when they noticed a youth approaching from the direction of Bullpur. Upon spotting the police, the individual turned back hurriedly and was seen throwing a small object into nearby bushes. Police apprehended him and identified him as Joga Singh, resident of Purani Dana Mandi, Kapurthala. On inspecting the discarded transparent polythene packet, officers recovered 10 grams of heroin. The accused claimed he had thrown it out of fear. A case was registered accordingly, and he was taken into custody.

In another operation, a team led by ASI Nirmal Singh, in coordination with ASI Naveen Kumar, was conducting a high-tech naka near the Goindwal Sahib bridge turn under the jurisdiction of Police Station Talwandi Chaudhariya. During vehicle checking, police intercepted a black Activa scooter (registration PB-63-D-4988) approaching from Goindwal Sahib. The rider identified himself as Sukhjeet Singh, resident of village Mank Deke, Goindwal Sahib. While checking the scooter, the police found a transparent polythene packet hidden in his pocket. The accused appeared nervous and admitted that it contained heroin. Upon examination, the packet was found to hold 5 grams of the substance.

The heroin and the scooter were taken into police custody, and a case was formally registered.

Both arrests were made as part of routine enforcement activity aimed at curbing drug trafficking in the region. Police stated that strict action will continue against individuals involved in narcotics, and further investigations are underway in both cases.

Free cardiac screening camp at BBMB Hospital



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Hoshiarpur, December 11

A free medical camp for the screening of heart diseases was organized today at BBMB Hospital, Talwara, through the initiative of the Bhakra Beas Management Board, Talwara, in collaboration with Care Best Hospital, Jalandhar. The camp was formally inaugurated by the Chief Engineer of BBMB Talwara, Rakesh Gupta.Renowned cardiologist from Punjab, Dr. Raman Chawla of Care Best Hospital, Jalandhar, specially visited the camp to provide his expert services. While welcoming Dr. Chawla, Chief Engineer Rakesh Gupta highlighted that such health camps play a vital role in early diagnosis of diseases and also help in spreading awareness among the public. He further stated that BBMB actively contributes to various social welfare initiatives. His wife, Seema Gupta, was also present on the occasion.Addressing the gathering, Dr. Raman Chawla emphasized the importance of a healthy lifestyle to prevent heart ailments. He advised people to exercise regularly, reduce stress, and adopt a positive outlook for better health. He encouraged everyone to follow the mantra: "Stay happy, stay active."

Earlier, on their arrival at the hospital, Principal Medical Officer Dr. Surinder Pal Singh welcomed Chief Engineer Rakesh Gupta and Dr. Raman Chawla. The stage was conducted by Dr. Amarjeet Singh in his uniquely engaging literary style.

Along with Dr. Raman Chawla, Dr. Isaan Bagga and the team from Care Best Hospital also rendered their services. From BBMB Hospital, Dr. Sukhdev Singh, Dr. Sobhna Soni, and other medical officers were present.A large number of residents from Talwara and nearby areas attended the camp and availed the expert consultation. People appreciated BBMB's efforts and praised this public welfare initiative.

Complete ban on manufacturing, selling, storing & buying synthetic kite strings in Hoshiarpur: DM

DALJEET AJNOHA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Hoshiarpur, December 11



District Magistrate-cum-Deputy Commissioner Ashika Jain has imposed a complete ban on the manufacturing, sale, storage, purchase, and supply of kite strings made from nylon or synthetic plastic within the district boundaries.

This order has been issued under the provisions of Section 163 of the Indian Civil Protection Code, 2023, and will remain in effect until February 9, 2026.

The ban does not apply to traditional cotton threads.The order states that the kite strings currently in use are made of synthetic plastic instead of cotton. These strings are very strong, non-degradable, and unbreakable, posing serious risks. They cause severe cuts to the hands and fingers of kite flyers and have led to incidents where two-wheeler riders sustained neck and ear injuries. Additionally, birds often get entangled and die due to these strings. The carcasses remain hanging on trees, causing foul odor and environmental pollution.Considering these dangers to human life and wildlife, the district administration deemed it necessary to prohibit the storage, sale, and purchase of synthetic or plastic kite strings to ensure public safety and protect the environment.

Lamrin Tech Skills University celebrates its 4th Foundation Day

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Hoshiarpur, December 11



Lamrin Tech Skills University (LTSU), Punjab celebrated its 4th Foundation Day with great fervour and devotion. The university's foundation stone was laid by the then Chief Minister of Punjab, S. Charanjit Singh Channi, on December 10, 2021. Lamrin Tech Skills University, established under State Act No. 22 of 2021, is the first-of-its-kind skill university in Punjab dedicated to skilling the youth for gainful employment.

Shri Nirmal Singh Rayat, Chancellor of LTSU, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. He was warmly welcomed by senior university officials. In his address, he thanked the faculty, staff, and students for organizing a meaningful event to commemorate the 350th death anniversary of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, coinciding with the university's Foundation Day.To mark the occasion, a Path of Shri Sukhmani Sahib was conducted. Students of Rayat International School performed Shabad Kirtan, followed by a soulful kirtan recital by Bhai Gurpreet Singh Khalsa, Hazoori Ragi of Shri Harmandir Sahib, along with his jatha. An Ardas was offered seeking blessings from the Guru Sahibans.

Sh. Inderpal Singh Chada, Director (Overseas), Shri Guru Gobind Singh Study Circle, Ludhiana, enlightened the audience about the life and supreme sacrifice of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji.

Prof. B. S. Satyal, Registrar, spoke about the unparalleled sacrifices of Bhai Sati Dass, Bhai Mati Dass, and Bhai Diala Ji.

3 youths killed, one hurt after car rams into bypass pillar

AMRITSAR, DECEMBER 11

In a late-night accident on Tuesday, three youths lost their lives while another was critically injured after a speeding Hyundai Verna rammed into a flyover pillar on Mahal village bypass under the cantonment police station limits here.

The accident occurred around 1.30 am, when the car reportedly being driven at very high speed, went out of control and smashed into the pillar with immense force. The police from nearby Mahal police post reached the spot and took the bodies into custody.

One youth fell outside the car, while the other two were taken out with difficulty after removing the car doors.

According to relatives present at the site, the victims — Jaskaran Singh (21) and Diljaan Singh (23) of Chak Mishri Khan village, Jobanjeet Singh (32) of Lopoke and Avtar Singh (28) of Boparai Baaj village — were returning to Amritsar from Lopoke in a friend's Verna car.

Diljaan was driving the vehicle. He was also seriously injured in the incident. According to the police, he was out of danger now.The impact was so severe that the engine reportedly was found nearly 10 feet away. Some passersby after seeing the victims trapped inside the mangled car, stopped their vehicles and began rescue efforts.

With the help of police, all four youths were pulled out after nearly half an hour of struggle.

By then, Jaskaran, Jobanjeet and Avtar had succumbed to their injuries. Diljaan was found breathing and was rushed to a nearby hospital. AGENCIES

Youth booked in several cases shot dead near court complex in Abohar

ABOHAR, DECEMBER 11

A youth, known for his criminal background, was shot dead in the parking lot near the Judicial Court Complex in Abohar today.Preliminary reports indicated that Golu Pandit, who is locally known as son of temple priest, had come for the hearing of a case along with his friends in an brand-new Scorpio vehicle without number. Some persons, who were perhaps waiting for him, allegedly fired on him and fled. The incident triggered panic in the vicinity. At least three empties were reportedly spotted at the crime scene. Golu Pandit was rushed to the Civil Hospital but was declared dead. The police, led by senior officials, reached the hospital and kept the body in the mortuary. They are inspecting the crime site to investigate further. AGENCIES

Khaira slams SEC for 'deliberate delay' in removing ARO after Congress nominations rejected

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, December 11

Sukhpal Singh Khaira, MLA from the Bholath constituency in Kapurthala, has sharply criticized the State Election Commission (SEC), accusing it of intentionally delaying the removal of the area's Assistant Returning Officer (ARO). Khaira alleged that the SEC's inaction allowed the ARO to reject the nomination papers of six Congress candidates for the upcoming Block Committee elections, raising what he described as "serious doubts" over the fairness of the electoral process.

According to Khaira, the SEC issued an order on December 10, 2025, removing Bholath EO-cum-ARO Randeep Wadaich from election-related duties. However, he argued that the decision came far too late, as Wadaich had already completed the scrutiny of nomination papers—during which all six Congress candidates were disqualified. Calling the timing of the order "mischievous and intentionally delayed," Khaira claimed that the purpose of rejecting the Congress nominations had "already been accomplished."

The MLA further asserted that the delayed action suggested possible administrative collusion or deliberate negligence. He said the SEC should have acted promptly on a complaint lodged ten days earlier, especially considering that Wadaich had previously been found guilty by the Election Commission of India during the Ludhiana West Assembly bypolls.

Khaira questioned why no immediate steps were taken despite the ARO's tainted record and why the removal order was issued only after the nominations had already been rejected. He demanded an immediate clarification from the SEC, alleging that the sequence of events indicated potential political motivation behind the delay.

Defence team inspects dilapidated building of Sainik School in Kapurthala

JALANDHAR, DECEMBER 11

A defence team inspects the dilapidated building of Sainik School in Kapurthala. The building of the only Sainik School of Punjab, housed in the Jagatjit Palace of Kapurthala, is crumbling. Worse, the Public Works Department (PWD) has recently declared a large part of the building unsafe.The plaster from the roof of the building, including classrooms and the library, have been falling.The 607 cadets studying here, including 45 girls, have been forced to attend classes in the verandah. Since the weather is getting cold, the authorities are mulling a plan to set up pre-fabricated classrooms as an alternative arrangement till the repairs are done or an alternative building is readied.Jagatjit Palace was the residence of erstwhile Maharaja of Kapurthala, Maharaja Jagatjit Singh, which was architecturally designed like the Versailles Palace in France. The building is 124-year-old.The Sainik School started functioning in this building from 1961. Since no major repair work has been undertaken since then, the condition of the building has been getting worse.During the Akali regime, it was proposed that the school be shifted out of the palace building and a new school building be set up. AGENCIES

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AAP govt focused on all-round rural development: Minister Cheema

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Dhuri/Sangrur, December 11



Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema and Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann's OSD Sukhveer Singh today addressed a series of election rallies across the villages of Bhullarheri, Bhalwan, Ladda, Kanjhla, Baliyan, Katron, and Ghanauri Kalan in Dhuri constituency, urging support for Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidates contesting the upcoming Zila Parishad and Panchayat Samiti elections. A large number of enthusiastic villagers participated, signaling strong support for AAP candidates. Chairman of Punjab Small Industries & Export Corporation Dalvir Singh Dhillon and Chairman, Market Committee Dhuri, Rajwant Singh Ghulli, along with a significant number of AAP volunteers, were also present.

Addressing the gatherings, Finance Minister Cheema said that the Aam Aadmi Party government has accorded highest priority to rural development, as villages form the backbone of Punjab's economy. He said that the widening and strengthening of link roads in villages is being executed on a war footing to boost the pace of progress. In addition, sports stadiums and libraries have been established in rural areas on the pattern of urban infrastructure to ensure the physical and mental well-being of children and youth. Appealing to the public to vote for AAP candidates in the Zila Parishad and Panchayat Samiti elections, he said that strengthening grassroots governance will help accelerate development and ensure better facilities in every village.

CM's OSD Sukhveer Singh, while addressing the rallies, said that initiatives such as Aam Aadmi Clinics and Schools of Eminence have brought high-quality health and education facilities to rural residents, reflecting Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann's commitment to balanced and inclusive development.

Punjab's new Industrial Policy in Jan will give 'run for money' to other states: Industries Minister Arora

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11



Punjab will come out with a new industrial policy next month, focusing on ease of doing business and ensuring project clearances in 5 to 45 days across different categories, state Industries Minister Sanjeev Arora said on Thursday.

He also said the government will soon announce a new Private Industrial Park Policy, allowing the private sector to set up industrial parks. "We are going to announce a new industrial policy by January, and work is on. Whatever we come up with, one would never have seen such a policy before. We will give a run for their money to all other states," he told reporters here.

The minister said investment projects to the tune of Rs 1.5 lakh crore have been accorded approval in the last four years, with several big corporates seeking to expand or set up shops in the state. Arora also said that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in the state is focussing on setting up electronics and information technology industry which is non-polluting. Besides, the state government is also seeking to produce green power, he said.

The minister said work on the new Industrial Policy is underway and the state would announce it early next year, ahead of its three-day ‹Invest Punjab Summit› scheduled in Mohali from March 13, 2026.

The minister has just returned from a 10-day tour of Japan and South Korea, along with Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, where they met industrialists and entrepreneurs and NRIs in cities like Tokyo, Osaka and Seoul. Arora said the new industrial policy will have a robust new scheme of giving clearances to new projects within 5 to 45 days.

He further said under the new policy, green projects or real estate sector projects will be accorded approval in five days, while proposals requiring some change in policy and further approvals will get cleared in 15 or 18 days in separate categories. PTI

HC asks Punjab poll body to direct cops for non-partisan conduct in local polls

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 11

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has asked the State Election Commission (SEC) to issue directions to all police personnel deployed in poll duty for the December 14 zila parishad and panchayat samiti elections to conduct themselves in a non-partisan manner. The directions came on pleas filed by Akali leader Daljit Singh Cheema and Congress leader Partap Singh Bajwa.

Cheema sought urgent judicial safeguards to ensure free and fair elections in the state while Bajwa demanded extension of the last date for filing nominations, which was December 4, for the zila parishad and panchayat samiti polls, claiming that opposition candidates faced "intimidation and systematic obstruction" in filing nomination papers.

The petitions were filed after a purported audio clip surfaced on social media with Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal claiming that Patiala Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Varun Sharma and other officers were heard allegedly conspiring to prevent opposition candidates from filing nomination for the zila parishad and panchayat samiti polls at the behest of the ruling AAP.

The hearing in the matter in the high court took place on Wednesday while the order came out on Thursday.

In the order, the bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Sanjeev Berry said the Commission ought to have risen to the occasion and nipped even an apprehension of favoritism or nepotism in the bud on the receipt of a complaint from any quarter.

"As such, it would have been better if the Commission would have handed over verification of the material presented by complainants in the shape of audio and video recordings to a neutral agency not under the control and supervision of the State of Punjab," read the order. It was further expected of the Commission to have divested the Patiala SSP of election duty, pending inquiry into the allegations, the court observed.

Earlier, the counsel for the SEC submitted that the audio clip has been sent for verification to the forensic lab in Punjab.

The counsel for the SEC also submitted that a committee headed by additional director general of police, Punjab, has been constituted by the Commission to inquire into the veracity of the complaints made in respect of the conduct of Patiala SSP Sharma. The SEC counsel apprised the court that Sharma has been sanctioned leave for six days from December 10 and Sangrur SSP Sartaj Singh Chahal will hold additional charge of the Patiala SSP. PTI

7 IAS officers, one PCS officer transferred

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, December 11

Punjab government on Thursday ordered the transfers/postings of seven IAS officers and one PCS officer with immediate effect.

According to the orders, Tejveer Singh, IAS (1994) Additional Chief Secretary, Local Government, has been posted as Additional Chief Secretary, Technical Education & Industrial Training against vacant post; Manvesh Singh Sidhu, IAS (2004) Administrative Secretary, Labour and in addition Secretary, Revenue & Rehabilitation, has been posted as Administrative Secretary, Labour and in addition Secretary, Revenue & Rehabilitation and in addition Commissioner, Roopnagar Division, Roopnagar relieving Gurpreet Kaur Sapra, IAS, of the additional charge; Arun Sekhri, IAS (2004) Commissioner, Ferozepur Division, Ferozepur and in addition Commissioner, Jalandhar Division, Jalandhar, has been posted as Commissioner, Ferozepur Division, Ferozepur and in addition Commissioner, Faridkot Division, Faridkot in place of Manjit Singh Brar, IAS; Manjit Singh Brar, IAS (2007) Commissioner, Faridkot Division, Faridkot, has been posted as Administrative Secretary, Local Government in place of Tejveer Singh, IAS; Ramvir, IAS (2009) Secretary, Punjab State Agricultural Marketing Board and in addition Administrative Secretary, Information & Public Relations, has been posted as Secretary, Punjab State Agricultural Marketing Board and in addition Administrative Secretary, Information & Public Relations and in addition Commissioner, Jalandhar Division, Jalandhar relieving Arun Sekhri, IAS, of the additional charge; Rubinderjit Singh Brar, IAS (2020) Additional CEO, Punjab Bureau of Investment Promotion has been posted as Additional CEO, Punjab Bureau of Investment Promotion and in addition Additional Secretary, NRI Affairs; Sonam, IAS (2023) Posted at the Department of Excise & Taxation has been posted as Department of Excise & Taxation and in addition Joint Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Patiala; Jagdeep Saigal, PCS (2016) Posted as Joint Secretary, Local Government, has been posted as Joint Secretary, Local Government and in addition Additional Managing Director, Punjab Small Industries Export Corporation against vacant post.

Private bus rams into vehicles near Ludhiana bus stand; several injured

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, December 11



A major accident occurred near the Ludhiana bus stand on Thursday afternoon when a private bus coming from Nangal lost control, hit two vehicles and several people, and mounted the road divider in front of Hotel Palm Inn outside the bus stand.

According to information, about six people were injured in the accident. A preliminary police probe suggested that brake failure was reportedly the cause of the accident. The impact was so strong that the rear portion of an e-rickshaw was badly damaged, while the front of the bus and its windshield were completely shattered.

Police officials stated that the injured were shifted to ESI Hospital and necessary legal proceedings are underway.

An eyewitness, traffic policeman Kulwant Singh, who was on duty near the bus stand, said that the bus was coming from the bus stand flyover. When it reached outside the bus stand, it first hit a bike. The impact sent the bike riders tumbling, and their vehicle was damaged. Further down the road, the bus hit an e-rickshaw, badly injuring the people standing near it.

Even though people tried to catch him, the driver fled after the collision. Passengers on the bus also suffered minor injuries in the mishap.

GNDU kickstarts five-point mission for clean, green city

AMRITSAR, DECEMBER 11

Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU) launched a major initiative to make Amritsar a clean, green for visitors from India and abroad. Recently, CM Bhagwant Mann declared Amritsar as a holy city, reaffirming its sacred heritage and historical stature.

Vice Chancellor Karamjeet Singh said the university had taken a proactive role in supporting the vision of a "clean and green Amritsar". "The university will work in collaboration with district administration — particularly the Municipal Corporation Commissioner and the DC — for continuous guidance and support. To actualise the mission, GNDU has evolved a comprehensive five-point strategy — regular cleanliness drives, appointment of cleanliness ambassadors, carrying out of signature pledge campaign, awareness through dialogue and culture exchange."

Today, GNDU organised a cleanliness drive, in which around 200 volunteers, led by the NSS unit, along with teachers, non-teaching staff, and students, participated. NSS in-charge Balbir Singh said a pledge-based signature campaign had been initiated underway to motivate shopkeepers and residents to keep their surroundings clean. AGENCIES

Visually impaired graduate from Ferozepur backs ECI's SIR

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, December 11



A visually impaired graduate from the Home for the Blind in Ferozepur has strongly supported the Election Commission of India's (ECI) ongoing voter list cleansing drive, the Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

The SIR, or Special Intensive Revision, is a national-level exercise initiated by the ECI with the dual objective of ensuring that every eligible Indian citizen is included in the Electoral Roll (ER) and, crucially, that no ineligible voter is registered. This intensive scrutiny is intended to curb the "menace of illegal voting" by eliminating illegal/ineligible voters, including those suspected to be foreign nationals, while simultaneously registering all newly eligible voters.

Vishnu, a resident of the Home for the Blind in Ferozepur, Punjab, passionately defended the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise, dismissing criticism as mere political posturing. Addressing the concern that democracy is weakened when people stop raising their voice, Vishnu stated that while the Constitution grants the right to speak on public interest issues, the focus should strictly remain on national benefit. He highlighted the issue of non-citizens, including alleged residents of Bangladesh, who have "settled in India and enjoyed the voting" right illegally.

"It is not a mistake to scrutinize the voters lists," he asserted, adding that those who are speaking against the SIR are simply "playing politics and baking their vested interests."

Comprehensive gastro care at Livasa Hospital Amritsar



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Amritsar, December 11

Livasa Hospital Amritsar on Thursday announced the comprehensive gastro care by offering advanced GI surgery, gastro medicine, endoscopy, minimally invasive procedures and 24/7 emergency interventions.

With this the hospital is now fully equipped to manage every possible gastrointestinal condition, supported by state-of-the-art infrastructure.

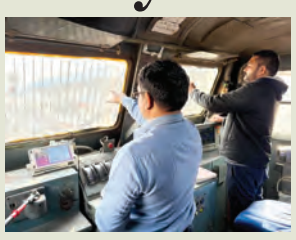
This robust infrastructure enables safe, coordinated care for routine digestive disorders as well as complex cancers, severe pancreatitis, obstructive jaundice, GI bleeding and surgical emergencies, said Dr. Kanwaljeet Singh, principal, director surgical gastroenterology.

The hospital also offers a complete range of endoscopic services, including colonoscopy and sigmoidoscopy (both diagnostic and therapeutic), polypectomy, haemorrhoidal banding and EVL banding, ensuring precise, minimally invasive solutions for diverse GI conditions, opined Dr. Ishan Mittal associate consultant gastroenterology.

Anurag Yadav CEO- Livasa Hospitals said that our mission is to ensure that even the most complex and high-risk patients in and around Amritsar get a chance at life and receive world-class care close to home.

Railway takes multiple measures to ensure trains punctuality and safety during fog

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, December 11



Ferozepur Rail Division has implemented several measures to maintain safe and smooth train operations during foggy conditions. To enhance safety levels affected by low visibility, loco pilots have been equipped with reliable safety devices known as Fog Safety Devices. These devices inform the loco pilots about the locations of upcoming signals, helping them control train speeds effectively. Alongside this, all loco pilots have been provided with Signal Location Booklets to aid signal awareness. The pilots strictly adhere to safety precautions and drive trains at speeds that allow full control despite reduced visibility during fog. Safety equipment such as flares have also been distributed to all safety-related railway personnel. Several safety enhancements have been made including lime markings on the tracks before signals, reflective Sigma boards on electric poles, and yellow reflective sign strips at busy level crossings. These steps are crucial from a safety perspective.

Reliable and uninterrupted power supply for signaling equipment is being ensured. Maintenance staff working on tracks are provided with reflective jackets, protective clothing, and torchlights to ensure their safety.

Night track patrolling has been started during cold weather across different sections of the railway. If any irregularity is detected, it is promptly reported to concerned officials for swift action.

Dry day declared on December 14

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, December 11

As per the directions given by the State Election Commission, Punjab, Excise Commissioner Punjab Jitendra Jorwal IAS has declared the poll day of 14.12.2025 as "Dry Day" with effect from 00.00 hours on 14.12.2025 to 10:00 AM on 15.12.2025 in the revenue estate of the villages falling in jurisdiction of the Zila Parishads and Panchayat Samitis of the State of Punjab.

Yudh Nashian Virudh: On day 285, Punjab Police nab 85 drug smugglers with 2 kg heroin

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, December 11

Continuing the war against drugs "Yudh Nashian Virudh" waged by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann to eradicate drug menace from state consecutively for the 285th day, Punjab Police conducted raids at 338 locations on Thursday leading to the arrest of 85 drug smugglers after registration of 74 first information reports (FIRs) across the state. With this, the number of total drug smugglers arrested has reached to 40,109 in 285 days.

The raids have resulted in recovery of 2 kg heroin, 335 intoxicant pills and Rs 800 drug money from the possession of arrested drug smugglers.

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

Over 120 Police teams, comprising over 1000 police personnel, under the supervision of 75 gazetted officers have conducted 338 raids across the state.

Despite minister writing to Chief Secy, teachers put on election duty; students likely to suffer

AMRITSAR, DECEMBER 11

Even though Education Minister Harjot Bains had written to Chief Secretary to exclude teachers from poll duties in the interest of students, his words seem to have little effect as in the recent zila parishad and panchayat samiti elections schoolteachers have been deployed for SIR and booth-level duties.

Hundreds of teachers from Amritsar have been assigned as booth-level officer (BLO) duties in the polls and are travelling 80-100 km almost daily to report at their jobs.

Democratic Teachers Front district president Ashwini Awasthi said that the district administration had crossed all limits because this time the election duties of widows, mothers, pregnant and unmarried women employees had also been assigned.

Talking about the duties of BLOs, the teachers said that the work of drawing, counting and revising votes was done by BLOs at their booths throughout the year. "Adding to the pressure, there are strict orders from the Election Commission and the administration for the BLOs to clear the pendency and book a call in the BLO app daily. For the last few months, the work of SIR (Special Intensive Revision) by the EC is also being done with great dedication by the BLOs despite many difficulties. AGENCIES

Governor launches 'Sugar and Oil Boards' awareness campaign

A.S. PRASHAR
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, December 11



The Chandigarh Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CCPCR) on Thursday launched its significant health initiative the 'Sugar and Oil Boards' awareness campaign at Chandigarh Secretariat, Sector-9, Chandigarh.

The boards were formally launched by Gulab Chand Kataria, the Governor of Punjab and Administrator of Chandigarh, underscoring the Commission's and Administration's commitment to child health and nutrition. H.Rajesh Prasad, Chief Secretary, U.T. Chandigarh, Shipra Bansal, Chairperson, CCPCR, Anuradha S.Chagti, CSS, Secretary, Social welfare and Women & Child Development, Chandigarh Administration, Rajneesh Kumar, Member, CCPCR and staff of the Commission were present during this event.

With a vision to inculcate healthy food habits among children, the Commission along with the administration took this initiative. The above said initiative aligns seamlessly with the endeavor which is already taken by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and the earlier directive by the CBSE regarding the installation of 'Sugar Boards' in all schools as a national mission. These 'Sugar and Oil Boards' are the preventive shield, empowering every child with the knowledge to protect their own health. The mentioned boards are designed to educate students about the hidden risks of excessive sugar and oil consumption. Also the concerned boards display the detailed information of calories consumption, various healthy food items containing different kinds of food nutrients & vitamins along with graphically illustration of the sugar and fat content in commonly consumed snacks and packaged foods, serving as a powerful behavioral nudge to encourage students to make healthier food choices. These boards will be displayed in all the schools of Chandigarh.

The Governor of Punjab and Administrator, UT Chandigarh lauded the Commission and the administrative departments for working tirelessly towards safety & wellbeing of Chandigarh.

Chandigarh Admn strengthens citizen-centric governance through weekly public hearings

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, December 11

The weekly public hearing, initiated in July 2025 under the guidance of the Punjab Governor and Administrator, Chandigarh, Gulab Chand Kataria, continues to reinforce the Administration's commitment to transparent and citizen-centric governance.

After today's public hearing conducted by the Chandigarh Administrator, the Chief Secretary, UT Chandigarh H. Rajesh Prasad, stated that although the system of public hearings has existed at various levels earlier, the directions of the present Governor have significantly expedited the grievance redressal mechanism across all offices. He noted that matters are now being resolved in a strict time-bound manner, ensuring greater efficiency and responsiveness.

He further informed that since July this year, Gulab Chand Kataria, the Chandigarh Administrator, has been personally conducting weekly public hearings at the Chandigarh Secretariat. Till date, a total of 95 grievances have been heard by the Administrator, out of which 62 cases have been successfully resolved, while 33 cases are under active process at various departmental levels.

The Chief Secretary once again assured the Administrator that the Chandigarh Administration remains fully dedicated to serving the residents of the city with utmost priority, commitment, and complete transparency. He reaffirmed that the Administration is fully committed to making Chandigarh the number one city in all spheres across the country.

Mohali banks achieve 74% of ACP target in quarter 2: ADC Sonam Chaudhary

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Mohali, December 11



The 78th District Consultative Committee (DCC) meeting was held at the District Administrative Complex under the chairmanship of Sonam Chaudhary, ADC (Rural Development). Sharing the details, the ADC informed that Mohali district has achieved 74% against the stipulated 50% target, surpassing the Annual Credit Plan (ACP) projections for the September quarter. Sector-wise achievements include: Agriculture 58%, MSME 82%, Other Priority Sectors 45%, with an overall achievement of 74%.

She further informed that the district's Credit–Deposit (CD) Ratio stands at 101.50%, significantly higher than the national benchmark of 60%. Appreciating the outstanding performance of the banks, ADC Sonam Chaudhary emphasized the need for a stronger focus on government-sponsored schemes. "Banks are the backbone of the economy. The banking community must work in mission mode to achieve targets and uplift the poor and marginalized sections," she added.

> 'Banks are the backbone of the economy. The banking community must work in mission mode to achieve targets and uplift the poor and marginalized sections'

During the meeting, M.K. Bhardwaj, Chief LDM, urged private banks to give special attention to social security schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, and Atal Pension Yojana.

Deepak Singla (LDO, RBI) stressed the need for 100% digitalization of accounts across the district and directed all banks to bring the remaining accounts onto digital platforms at the earliest. He also highlighted the importance of strict adherence to RBI guidelines and the need to enhance financial literacy and digital awareness in rural areas. The progress of the CFL initiative was also reviewed.

Som Das (AGM, Punjab National Bank) thanked all participants and advised DCOs to attend future meetings with thorough preparation. The meeting concluded with a collective resolve to further strengthen and enhance the efficiency of banking services in Mohali district.

Anchal Sharma (DDM, NABARD), Upkar Singh (State Director, RSETI), along with officials from various banks and government departments, were present on the occasion.

Haryana CM felicitates Dr Monica B Sood

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, December 11



City-based Ayurveda expert and socio-economic analyst Dr Monica B Sood has been felicitated for her exemplary contributions to socio-economic development, national leadership, and groundbreaking advancements in Ayurveda led healthcare. She was feted by Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini for her achievements.

Notably, Dr Sood, CEO of Navjivan Group, Chairperson of the National Unity and Security Council (NUSC), global Ayurvedic visionary, socio-economic and geopolitical analyst, and State State Convenor, Intellectual Cell, BJP Chandigarh, represents a unique blend of intellect, compassion and strategic leadership.

Dr Sood's work is distinguished by her ability to merge classical Ayurveda with frontier research, oncology training, and technological innovation. Her multidisciplinary academic foundation, spanning Ayurveda, International Law (LLB), Psychology, Economics and HR (MBA), oncology training from Johns Hopkins and Michigan University, and her ongoing PhD in Tribal Studies, enables her to integrate healthcare, mental wellness, policy and economics into a holistic model for national progress.

As Chairperson of NUSC, Dr Sood is a national advocate for women's leadership, economic empowerment, national unity, and mental health.

First-year dental students begin their academic journey with 'White Coat Ceremony'

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, December 11



Dr Harvansh Singh Judge Institute of Dental Sciences and Hospital, Panjab University (PU), Chandigarh, on Thursday conducted the 'White Coat Ceremony' for the first-year BDS and MDS students of the 2025 batch at the University Auditorium.

About 120 students, along with their parents, faculty and staff of the Dental Institute, attended the event. After receiving their white coats from the dignitaries, the students undertook the Maharishi Charak Shapath oath, reaffirming ethical responsibility and patient care.

The White Coat Ceremony is held every year at the Institute to familiarise new students with their responsibilities and the expectations placed upon them. The ceremony marked the formal entry of students into the profession of dentistry and emphasised their commitment to patient care and ethical practice.

The Director of Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital & Research Centre, New Chandigarh, Prof Ashish Gulia, handed over the white coats to the BDS and MDS students. In his address, Prof Gulia encouraged students to adopt a broad vision, uphold the ethos of the Charak Shapath, and embrace empathy and neutrality in their practice. He also highlighted stress management and staying grounded as essential for success.

PU Dean University Instructions, Prof Yojna Rawat, stressed the need for hard work, discipline and responsibility for success.

PU Registrar, Prof Y. P. Verma, emphasised that success in dentistry is driven by commitment, adaptability and the integration of technology.

Director Research, Prof Meenakshi Goyal, urged the students to nurture curiosity and a questioning mind, as these qualities are vital for innovation in the profession.

PU Controller of Examinations, Dr Jagat Bhushan, noted that excellence in dentistry is a continuous pursuit and students must keep learning to evolve, combining technical skills with empathy and righteousness for true healing.

Welcoming the guests, the Director of the Institute, Dr Deepak Kumar Gupta, impressed upon the students the significance of donning the white coat and the responsibilities that come with it.

Showman's grand shopping Expo 2025 begins in Chandigarh

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, December 11



The Grand Shopping Expo 2025 kick-started on Thursday marking a vibrant and energetic opening day at Parade Ground, Sector-17. The event received an overwhelming response, with a large number of people visiting the expo on the very first day, making it one of the most successful openings in recent years.

Showman Associates Pvt. Ltd., known for its 32 years of experience in organizing exhibitions and a record of 467 successful shows, inaugurated the 10th edition of the Grand Shopping Expo with much enthusiasm. Backed by its Silver Jubilee expertise, the expo showcases an extensive range of the latest and most innovative consumer products.

Under the leadership and efforts of Satish Sharma, Showman Organizer, and the dedicated team of Grand Shopping Expo 2025, this year's edition features participation from esteemed multinational companies as well as reputed national brands. There are also fun rides available for children, which young children can enjoy a lot.

Speaking on the occasion, Satish Sharma said, "I am sure that both the consumers and the exhibitors will take the maximum benefit from the expo. We are committed to providing a vibrant platform where quality, variety, and value come together for everyone."

The Exhibition "GSE 2025" presents a vast variety of categories such as Furniture & Décor, Consumex, Fashion & Apparel, Brand & Consumex Expo, Food & Health Expo, branded food products, consumer items, cosmetics & designer jewellery, bakery & confectionery, kitchen equipment, electrical & electronic gadgets & accessories etc. The exhibition will remain open to the public for five days, from 11th to 15th December 2025, 11:00 am to 9:00 pm.

ISHICON 2025 opens with powerful call for innovation in transplant immunology



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, December 11

The 8th National Conference of the Indian Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (ISHICON 2025), themed "Innovation Driven Transplant Immunology: Sharpening the Cutting Edge", commenced on Thursday. Organised by the Department of Immunopathology, PGIMER, Chandigarh, the conference is being held from December 11 to 13, 2025.

The inaugural ceremony opened with the welcome address by conference chair, Prof (Dr) Biman Saikia, followed by the Secretary's Report by Dr Uma Kanga, the Presidential address by Prof. Narinder K. Mehra, and the vote of thanks by conference Secretary, Prof. Ritu Aggarwal, who acknowledged the contributions of Joint Secretary Dr Gaurav Sharma, Treasurer Dr Mahendra Kumar, Conference Organising Committee, Scientific Committee, and partner organisations.

Expressing deep satisfaction at the enthusiastic participation, Prof. Biman Saikia, Conference Chair, stated: "ISHICON 2025 is more than a scientific meeting—it is a collective resolve to push the boundaries of transplant immunology. As India rapidly advances in transplantation science, our ability to innovate, collaborate, and translate research into patient-centred solutions will define the next decade. This platform brings together the best minds to sharpen that cutting edge."

An inspiring keynote address by ISHI President Prof. Narinder K. Mehra on "Evolution of Transplant Immunology in India" set the tone for the scientific deliberations.

A major highlight of the day was the Prof. Narinder Mehra Oration, delivered by Prof. Alejandro Madrigal (UK), who spoke on advanced donor-selection strategies for stem cell transplantation.

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I hitherto known as RAMAN W/o VIJAY KUMAR, residing at VPO. Dolike Sunderpur, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab-144302, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAMAN KUMARI.

I, hitherto known as MEENA KAUR D/o DESA SINGH residing at House No. 18, Ram Vihar, Near Nahalan Wala Pull, Basti Danishmanda, Jalandhar-144002, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as GURHEER HUNDAL.

I, Sunny S/o Amarjit R/o House No. 265, Near Pal Chakki, Basti Bawa Khel, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name from Sunny to Sunny Bhatti. All concerned please note.

I, RIPUL S/O Raju R/O H.no.325, Street devi Ditta Mal,Neem Wala Chowk (Ludhiana) have change my name from Ripul To Ripul Dhiman.

I, Rani Ahluwalia W/O Param Jit Singh R/O H.no. 647/1, St.no:-19-C,Punjab Mata Nagar (Ludhiana) 141002 have changed my name to Sushma Walia.

I, Ishaan Dua S/O Late Yashpal Dua R/O H. No 42-B-Block New Sukhdev Nagar Bhamian Road Jamalpura Awana Ludhiana declare that my father was two names Yashpal Dua and Yaspaul Dua both names are one and same person and belongs to my father's.

I, Arvinder Pal Singh Kalra C/O Amar Singh R/O H. No.76-77 New Green City Ferozepur Road, Jhande Rajguru Nagar (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Arvinder Pal Singh.

I, Sanjeev Kumar R/O H. No.1-D Sua Road Ghuman Estate Near Kwality Chownk, Threeke Ludhiana declare that Sanjeev Kumar and Sanjiv Kumar both names are one and same person and belongs to me.

I, Jamaludin S/O Md Lukadi R/O H. No.10 Rahmat Ganj Pandarpala B Polytechnic District Jharkhand changed my name to Mohammad Jamaluddin.

I Gurleen Kaur Baweja W/o Bhupinderpal Singh R/o Guru Nanak Nagar, Tajpur Road, Bhamian Kalan, Ludhiana have changed my name to Gurleen Kaur

I Jasminderjeet Singh Sohi S/o Ram Singh R/o Near G.G.S Public School, Dhuri Patiala By Pass Mangwal Distt Sangrur have changed name my minor daughter Gagandeep Kaur Sohi to Gagandeep Kaur

I Sukdev Singh S/o Amar Singh R/o Vpo Andheri Distt Sangrur have changed my name to Sukhdev Singh

I Harmandeep Singh S/O Maan Singh R/O Ward No:-2, Opp New Bus Stand, Bhawanigarh District Sangrur Have Changed My Name To Harmandeep Singh Tejay

I hitherto known as SIMPLE RANI W/o VIKAS SHARMA residing at H.No.10594, New Patel Nagar, Haibowal Kalan, Near Santosh Dharmshala, Ludhiana, District Ludhiana, Punjab-141001, India, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SIYA SHARMA

I hitherto known as RADHIKA W/o ROHIT KUMAR SINGLA residing at H.No.12369, St.No.4, Jujhar Singh Nagar, Bathinda, Punjab-151001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RADHIKA SINGLA.

I Kavita W/o Vinod Khanna R/o H.No. 544/124, St No 2, New Shiv Puri, Basti Jodhewal, Ludhiana have changed my name from Kavita to Kavita Khanna.

I Jatinder Singh Bhatia S/O Inder Singh Bhatia R/O H.no. 28, Shakti Nagar, Model Gram, Ludhiana 141002 Punjab India have changed my name from Jatinder Singh to Jatinder Singh Bhatia.

I, Daljeet Singh S/O Kulwant Singh resident of Vinjoke, Post Office Makhu, Tehsil Zira, District Ferozepur Punjab, declare that my name is Daljeet and Singh is my surname.

I Amarjit Singh Bhatia S/O Inder Singh R/O H.no. 28, Shakti Nagar, Opp. Green Field , Ludhiana 141002, Punjab India have changed my name from Amarjit Singh to Amarjit Singh Bhatia.

I Jatinder Kaur Bhatia W/O Amarjit Singh Bhatia R/O H.no. 28, Shakti Nagar, Opp. Green Field , Ludhiana 141002 Punjab India have changed my name from Jatinder Kaur to Jatinder Kaur Bhatia.

I,Rupinder Singh S/o Jaswant Singh R/o H.no. 1906/384, St.no. 4-B, Basant Nagar, New Shimlapuri (Ludhiana) have changed my name from Rupinder Singh Dhaliwal to Rupinder Singh.

I Kanchan Rani w/o Gulshan kumar R/o H.No. B-11 1136 RAMANDEEP COLONY,NEAR NAYARA PETROL PUMP,MUNDIAN KALAN Ludhiana 141015 have changed my name from Kanchan rani to kanchan.

I, Kulwinder Singh Lall S/o. Santokh Singh R/o. H.no. 33, Jain Heights, Mundian Kalan, Chandigarh Road, Near Sarb Hospital (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Kulwinder Singh Lall to Kulwinder Singh.

I, Manjit Kaur W/o Tarlok Singh R/o House No. 449/8A, Ward No. 6, Nimbu Vaali Gali, Santokhpura, Jalandhar, Punjab have changed the name of my daughter from Nitika to Nitika Kaul. All concerned please note.

I, Rajwinder Kaur Lall W/o. Kulwinder Singh R/o. H.no. 33, Jain Heights, Mundian Kalan, Chandigarh Road, Near Sarb Hospital (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Rajwinder Kaur Lall to Rajwinder Kaur.

I, Jinder Singh s/o Amar Singh Mother Bimla kaur R/o Village Jiwan Arain Tehsil Guruharsahai, Distt. Ferozepur (Punjab), have changed my name from Harjinder Singh to Jinder Singh Pls note all.

I, Bhajno alias Harpreet Kaur W/O Paramjit Singh R/O W.No.14, Preet Nagar, Kapurthala Pb. , hereby declares that I have changed my name from Bhajno alias Harpreet Kaur to Harpreet Kaur. Concerned please note.

I,Pawan Patni S/O Om Dev R/O H.No.369/1, Gali No.7, Golden City, Kamboh, PO Heir, Distt. Amritsar, Punjab inform that Pawan Kumar Patni, Pawan Patani, Pawan Kumar and Pawan Patni all names are mine and one and the same person and have equal value.

I Seema Rani W/o Ajay Kumar R/o H.No 77, St.No.4, Guru Nanak Nagar Tripuri Town Patiala have Changed My Name to Seema.

I Rahil S/o Sanjay Jain R/o Plot No. 116, Surjit Enclave , Village Jassian, Haibowal Kalan (Ludhiana) have changed my name from Rahil to Rahil Jain .

I, hitherto known as Sonia Dhunna W/o Hardeep Singh R/o H.No. 36, Ward No. 31, Kotakpura Road, Chownk Shekhan, Agwar Budhe Ka, Moga, Punjab-142001 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Manjeet Kaur.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Sumit Kaur D/o Papinder Singh R/o H.No. 143, Sunny Enclave-2, Near DMW Railway Colony, Patiala Punjab that in My Minor Daughter Gurleen Kaur' DMC of Class 10th Ryan international School issued by CBSE her Father Name Gurpreet Singh is not Mentioned, I want to record her father's name in above mentioned DMC .

We, Bharat Bhushan S/O Diwan Chand and Neelam Rani W/O Bharat Bhushan R/O H. No. 2213/87B Street no 2 New Vijay Nagar Tajpur Road Ludhiana declare that our daughter Akansha is out of our control so we disown her from our movable and immovable properties anybody deal with her at their own risk.

I, Sukhdev Singh Bath S/o Chetan Singh Bath R/o Village Rasulpur Malla, Tehsil Jagraon, District Ludhiana declare that my wife Virpal Kaur Bath and my son Charanjeev Singh Bath are out of my control. I disowned them from my any movable or immovable property in India or in any country. Whoever deals with them will be responsible for himself. I will not be held responsible for any kind of liability.

We Ram Khilawan S/o Mangru Ram and Baby Devi W/o Sh. Ram Khilawan R/o H.No. 6549/1, St. No. 3, Gurdwara Bhagat Dhana Ji, Guru Nanak Nagar, Daba, Lohara, Ludhiana declare that our son Manjeet Kumar is out of our control. We disowned him from our all moveable and immovable properties. Anybody deals with him at his/her own risk. We and our family members will not be responsible for any act or conduct done by him.

I, Hament Rawat, S/o Vikram Rawat, R/o H.no. 101, Balwan Colony,Sunil Nagar, Jassian Road, Ludhiana, declared that my name Hemant Rawat and Hament Rawat is one and same person name.

I Parminder Singh S/o Darshan Singh and Karamjit Kaur W/o Parminder Singh, R/o Patti Vichla Vas, Badrukhan, District Sangrur, Punjab 148001 and we declare that our son Dapinder Singh and his wife Amandeep Kaur are out of our control. Both of them are threatening to kill us. We disinherited them from our movable and immovable property. Anyone who deals with them will be responsible for themselves. We and our family will not have any responsibility. We have no relationship with them.

It is hereby noticed that I, Gagandeep Kumar s/o Hans Raj/ Smt. Santosh Kumari, r/o H. no. 135, Anaj Mandi, ward 10, Kharar, SAS Nagar (Mohali) have lost my original Punjab School Education Board Marksheet of Class X, Roll No. 925429, Year of Passing 1997, issued by the Punjab School Education Board (PSEB). If anyone finds the same contact : 9872021077 or return to my address.I am applying to PSEB for second copy of certificate.Sd/-

MORE CLASSIFIED ADVTs ON PAGE-7

It is hereby notified that I Priyanka Sharma D/o. Sh. Satya Narayan and Smt. Lalita Sharma R/o. 8463, St.No. 2/3, New Subhash Nagar, Ludihana have lost my original PSEB Certificate of Class +2, Roll No. 2015205209 (March 2015) Issued by PSEB. If anyone finds the same kindly contact me at 9646977171 or return to my above address. I am applying to PSEB for a second copy of Certificate. (Priyanka Sharma 9646977171)

I Gurinder Pal Singh S/O Shri Daljit Singh Riat R/o H. No. 425, MIG Housing Board Colony, Urban Estate Phase-1, Jalandhar 144022 declare that in my some documents my Father's name is written as Daljit Singh Riat and in some other documents his name is written as Hari Singh. Both these names Daljit Singh Riat and Hari Singh are of one and the same person.

ਮੈਂ,ਬਲਬੀਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਹਜ਼ਾਰਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਮਕਾਨ ਨੰ:-124, ਗਲੀ ਨੰ:-3 1/2, ਭੋਲਾ ਕਲੋਨੀ, ਬਸਤੀ ਜੋਧੇਵਾਲ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਪੰਜਾਬ-141007 ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ,ਕਿ ਮੇਰਾ ਲੜਕਾ ਹੈਪੀ ਅਤੇ ਉਸਦੀ ਪਤਨੀ ਮਨੀਸ਼ ਕੁਮਾਰੀ ਉਰਫ ਮੋਨਾ ਮੇਰੇ ਅਤੇ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹਨ, ਮੈਂ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੱਲ-ਅਚੱਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖ਼ਲ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ, ਇਹਨਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ- ਦੇਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਖੁਦ ਜਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ ਸੰਬੰਧਤ ਨੋਟ ਕਰਨ।

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Ludhiana DC launches Punjab NGO Expo 2026 organised by CityNeeds in association with administration

YOGESH KAPOOR
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, December 11



In a major step toward strengthening Punjab's social development landscape, Deputy Commissioner Himanshu Jain long with Assistant Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Jasdev Singh Sekhon on Thursday launched Punjab NGO Expo 2026 in presence of over 80 prominent Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), various industry association, institutions and clubs from Ludhiana district. The meeting aimed to brief, mobilize, and engage civil society organizations for the upcoming Punjab NGO Expo 2026, a landmark state-level event dedicated to showcasing and empowering the social sector.

The Deputy Commissioner formally announced that the Punjab NGO Expo 2026 will be held on Jan 31 and Feb 1 at PAU Grounds.

Addressing the gathering, the DC appreciated the significant role played by NGOs as grassroots partners in last-mile delivery of welfare services. He noted that NGOs have consistently supported the Administration during humanitarian challenges, health drives, education initiatives, and environmental action.

An executive committee of five-members has been constituted headed by Assistant Commissioner, and DDF Ambar Bandopadhyay, for allocation of stalls in this expo.

Sekhon also urged all Punjab's NGOs to participate in this event.

DC hands over dairy farming certificates to 24 youths

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, December 11

As part of Yudh Nashya Virudh campaign by Punjab government towards holistic rehabilitation, Ludhiana Deputy Commissioner Himanshu Jain on Thursday awarded certificates to 24 youths who successfully completed a skill-development programme in dairy farming and allied activities at the Government Rehabilitation Centre in Jagraon.

The youths, all undergoing de-addiction treatment, received hands-on training organised by the district administration in collaboration with the Dairy Development Department, Health Department, and supported by the Sun Foundation. The programme equipped them with practical skills in modern dairy farming, milk processing, animal husbandry, and entrepreneurship – tools designed to open doors to dignified self-employment.

CM Mann's foreign tour will generate thousands of jobs in Punjab: Neena Mehta

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, December 11



Neena Mehta, president of Youth for Public Rights and a leader of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), said during a meeting held in the local Civil Lines that the agreements signed with major foreign companies during Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's foreign tour are a historic milestone for the bright future of Punjab's youth. She said that the Chief Ministers in previous governments used to go on foreign tours for their own and their families' enjoyment, buying expensive gifts and indulging in luxury, but they never formulated any concrete policy for the future of Punjab's youth. However, today the people of Punjab are proud.

Mehta said that foreign companies have agreed to invest thousands of crores of rupees in Punjab, considering Chief Minister's four-year term. This will make Mohali a major industrial and technology hub in North India in the coming days, and this investment will create better employment opportunities for thousands of young people. She said that in the 2022 elections, as the party president, Chief Minister Mann had promised the people of the state that the youth of Punjab would not have to go thousands of miles away from their families in search of jobs. He had promised that the government would provide them with better employment opportunities right here.

Mehta said that foreign companies have agreed to invest thousands of crores of rupees in Punjab, considering Chief Minister's four-year term.

Today, the AAP government in Punjab has fulfilled its promise by attracting foreign companies to invest in the state. Mehta said that in the history of Punjab, no Chief Minister has worked selflessly for the benefit of the state's youth and people, but Chief Minister Mann has set a new record.

Also present on the occasion were Pinky, Shine Rana, Indu Verma, Kavita Ghai, Pooja Palta, Ripsi, Alisha, Veena, Karamjit, Sonia Bhalla, Kanika, and others.

Ludhiana gears up for week-long drive to strengthen child immunization



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, December 11

Under the guidance of Civil Surgeon Ludhiana, Dr Ramandeep Kaur, the Health Department, Ludhiana, is set to launch a Special Immunization Week (SIW) from December 15 to December 22, 2025, aimed at strengthening routine immunization services and ensuring maximum vaccine coverage across the district.

In preparation for the SIW, a special training session was organised for all Lady Health Visitors (LHVs) of District Ludhiana. The session was conducted by Dr Harpreet Singh, District Immunization Officer (DIO) Ludhiana, who provided detailed guidance on effective implementation of immunization activities during the week-long campaign.

Dr Harpreet Singh highlighted the need to enhance coverage of essential vaccines such as Penta 1, OPV, and MR, stressing that achieving high immunization rates is crucial for safeguarding children from vaccine-preventable diseases. He urged all LHVs to perform their duties with dedication to ensure the success of the Special Immunization Week.

The training session covered key components including micro-planning, vaccine administration protocols, proper cold-chain management, and strategies to tackle vaccine hesitancy within communities. LHVs were also briefed on methods to identify and reach children who may have missed routine vaccinations.

AAP ended 'Parcha-Culture' in Punjab: Baltej Pannu

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, December 11



Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Punjab General Secretary and Media In-charge Baltej Pannu today delivered a powerful message to the people of Punjab as he toured various regions ahead of the Zila Parishad and Block Samiti elections. He said that AAP is seeking votes purely on the basis of hard work, honest governance, and unprecedented development carried out by the Bhagwant Mann Government.

Pannu said all wings of the party and every leader is actively campaigning across villages and blocks, and the public response has been overwhelmingly positive.

Highlighting the achievements of the AAP Government, Pannu said, 600 units of free electricity continue uninterrupted, giving massive financial relief to families. Punjab's school infrastructure has been transformed, bringing dignity and quality back into government education. Mohalla Clinics have opened across the state, offering free medicines and free diagnostic tests. The government has shut down 13 toll plazas, something no other state has achieved. "These are real, measurable achievements, and we are asking for votes on this work, nothing else," he said.

Pannu said Punjab's newly created Road Safety Force (SSF) has reduced road accident fatalities by nearly 50%, a historic achievement. On the issue of drugs, Pannu stressed that while drug trafficking is a global problem, Punjab is the only state fighting it with such intensity and planning.

"No other government has taken such decisive action against smugglers," he said.

Addressing one of the biggest achievements of the Mann Government, Pannu said 60,000 youth have received government jobs. Not even one job has been challenged in court. No recommendations, no bribes, no political pressure were involved.

Welfare pension provisions can't be defeated by illiteracy, unawareness of employees: High Court to Punjab

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 11

Holding that welfare pension provisions cannot be defeated by the illiteracy or unawareness of employees, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has directed grant of pension to an employee who served for more than 43 years but was denied benefits only because she never exercised an option under the Punjab Municipal Employees Pension and General Provident Fund Rules, 1994.

Justice Harpreet Singh Brar asserted the petitioner's predicament was not solitary, while making it clear that department's failure to inform not-so-high ranking employees of a one-time option could not be used to deprive them of lifelong social security. The court recorded: "The petitioner, an uneducated and illiterate Class IV employee... cannot be made to suffer merely because she did not formally exercise the option prescribed therein."

The matter was placed before Justice Brar after petitioner Chandro Devi moved the high court against the State of Punjab and other respondents contending that she superannuated in March 2024 after "43 years, five months and 26 days of continuous, satisfactory, and unblemished service". She discovered near retirement that she had been denied pensionary benefits only because she did not opt for the scheme within the stipulated period back in 1994.

Soon after her retirement, she submitted a detailed representation to the respondent authorities, requesting the grant of pension, expressly stating her readiness and willingness to refund the employer's share of the contributory provident fund contribution. Justice Brar asserted her plight was not an isolated one and the government acknowledged the problem's widespread nature. AGENCIES

Sangrur top cop takes additional charge, holds meeting over law & order ahead of zila parishad elections

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Patiala, December 11

Days before the zila parishad and panchayat samiti elections on December 14, Patiala SSP Varun Sharma proceeded on leave and Sangrur SSP Sartaj Singh Chahal will now ensure free and fair polls in Patiala and Sangrur.

Sharma took leave just hours ahead of the Punjab and Haryana High Court hearing in the viral audio-clip controversy, in the afternoon today.

Sources in the police department confirmed that SSP Sharma went on a week's leave on Tuesday evening. They added that, for now, Sangrur SSP Sartaj Chahal will oversee Patiala's policing in addition to his present posting. Chahal held a meeting with local officers and discussed the law and order ahead of the polling day, later this week.

The move comes ahead of the high court hearing which had on Monday asked the State Election Commission to expedite the inquiry into the audio clip released by Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal last week, allegedly of SSP Sharma purportedly directing his subordinates to obstruct opposition candidates from filing their nomination papers.

Ludhiana MC seals five under-construction illegal buildings on Malhar Road and Ghumar Mandi

GURKIRPAL SINGH
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, December 11



Continuing action against illegal constructions, Ludhiana Municipal Corporation (MC) sealed five illegal buildings on Malhar Road and Ghumar Mandi on Thursday.

Two buildings are situated on Malhar Road; one in Mandir Wali Gali, Ghumar Mandi; and two on Ghumar Mandi main road.

While two buildings on Ghumar Mandi main road have been sealed as owners failed to pay CLU fee, the other three buildings have been sealed after the owners had started the construction works without getting the building plans approved from the civic body. Assistant Town Planner (ATP - Zone D) Harvinder Singh stated that the action against illegal buildings has been taken on the directions of MC Commissioner Aaditya Dachalwal. The owners have been directed to get the building plans approved from the civic body.

Stating that the drive against illegal constructions would continue in the coming days too, the civic body officials appealed to the residents to get the building plans approved from the civic body before starting the construction works, otherwise strict action would be taken against illegal constructions.

Punjab local body polls: HC flags 'appearance of bias'; orders SEC to enforce non-partisan police conduct

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 11

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has asked the State Election Commission (SEC) to direct all SHOs and police personnel involved in election duty to conduct themselves in a "non-partisan manner without indulging in any kind of activity deleterious to the concept of free and fair elections".

The Bench asserted that the directions were necessary "to ensure free, fair and impartial elections" to Zila Parishad and Block Samitis in the given facts and circumstances.

"It would have been appreciated that on receipt of a complaint from any quarter, the Commission ought to have risen to the occasion and nipped, even an apprehension of favouritism or nepotism in the bud," the court asserted.

The Bench also made it clear that the SEC must not only act with strict neutrality while conducting the elections in the State, but must also appear fully impartial in every aspect of the poll process. It added that Article 243-K placed a constitutional obligation on the Commission to conduct, supervise, and conclude panchayat elections in a manner completely free of political alignment.

"The SEC is expected to be non-aligned, while discharging its duties including that of conducting and supervising and concluding the Panchayat election process. In this process, conduct of the Commission ought not to give an impression that it is favouring any person or political party. It is expected of the SEC to conduct itself without partiality. AGENCIES

Social organisation condemns RSS workers' murder in Ferozepur

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, December 11



The rapidly growing social organisation "WE ARE ONE" Ferozepur held an important meeting. A large number of prominent families, businessmen, and eminent citizens from the city and cantonment area participated.

The meeting began with a condolence message for RSS worker Naveen Kumar Arora, who was recently shot dead in the busy Ferozepur market. Members observed a two-minute silence to pray for the peace of his departed soul.

Following this, the organisation discussed the increasing number of criminal incidents occurring in Ferozepur. Members expressed concern over the rising law-and-order challenges and agreed to meet senior police officials in the coming days to press for stronger action to prevent such crimes.

The growing traffic chaos in the city and cantonment was also highlighted as an urgent issue requiring immediate attention.

Senior lawyer and chief coordinator of the organisation, Advocate Sham Sunder Monga, industrialist Nand Kishore Gugan, and Press Club Ferozepur President Mandeep Kumar Monty said that the organisation was established with the primary aim of raising public issues before senior authorities and seeking timely solutions.

For this purpose, five specialised committees have been formed, each focusing on different departments to assist members in resolving their problems efficiently.

The organisation, which started with around 50 members, has now expanded to nearly 100, and is steadily emerging as a major citizens' body in Ferozepur.

Criminal past behind, Gurpreet Sekhon now key player in Ferozepur politics

FEROZEPUR, DECEMBER 11

In border belt Ferozepur, former "most wanted" gangster-turned-politician Gurpreet Singh Sekhon, alias Sonu Mudki, has emerged as a decisive force in the zila parishad elections, with the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) openly throwing its weight behind Independent candidates fielded by him.

The SAD has not fielded a nominee in two of the four zila parishad zones in the Ferozepur Rural Assembly constituency. Former SAD MLA and the party district president Joginder Singh Jindu has been actively holding meetings in support of Sekhon's candidates.

Sekhon's rise is as dramatic as his past. A co-mastermind of the sensational Nabha jailbreak in November 2016 (during the SAD-BJP government), he was freed by a heavily armed gang that stormed the high-security jail in Patiala district and helped six "most wanted" criminals escape, including two terrorists.

Booked in over a dozen cases across Punjab and Chandigarh, Sekhon, once a member of the Jaipal gang, claims to have transitioned into mainstream politics after spending nearly 10 years in jails. Two of his female relatives, his wife Mandeep Kaur (Bazidpur zone) and Kuljeet Kaur (Ferozeshah zone), are contesting the zila parishad polls, with Sekhon personally leading their campaign. AGENCIES

Akali Dal has no candidates; forced to push SGPC employees into election fray: Talbir Singh Gill

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Majitha/Chandigarh, December 11

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Talbir Singh Gill launched a sharp counter-attack on the Shiromani Akali Dal President Sukhbir Singh Badal over his use of inappropriate language and baseless allegations. Challenging Badal and MLA Ganieve Kaur, Gill asked them to present evidence of who was intimidated in the Majitha constituency and in what manner.

Addressing the media during a press conference, Gill clarified that not a single nomination paper of any Akali Dal candidate, whether for the Zila Parishad or the Block Samiti, has been rejected. All nominations were filed peacefully. The truth, he said, is that the Akali Dal is unable to find candidates in Majitha. Sukhbir Badal must clarify whether his party even has candidates in several areas like the Chamunda Devi circle.

He alleged that the Akali Dal is suffering from internal discord, which has compelled them to field employees of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) in the elections.

Leveling serious allegations, Gill said that from the Dhadde zone, Akali Dal could not find any candidate, and therefore, an SGPC employee.

bright Punjab Express

Indo-US trade talks

In the face of forbidding tariffs and repeated intimidatory statements emanating from the US President Doland Trump, India has dug in its heels and refused to come under the US pressure to open up its agricultural sector for American farm produce, forcing the US to admit that India is a tough nut to crack.

The critical trade talks between the two countries are currently underway in New Delhi. The US had admitted that India has now presented its best market access offer yet. The discussions aim to resolve tariff disputes and firm up a trade deal between the two countries.

As US negotiators opened two days of trade talks in New Delhi on Wednesday, a top American official in Washington said India has put forward its strongest proposals yet for a long-pending bilateral pact.

Testifying before the Senate Appropriations Committee, US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer noted that 'there's resistance in India to certain row crops and other meats and products. They're a very difficult nut to crack. But they've been quite forward leaning. The type of offers they've been talking to us about have been the best we've ever received, as a country."

According to him, a US delegation is in New Delhi this week to work through the remaining friction points, particularly India's resistance to American farm goods, meat and dairy products. Despite those hurdles, Washington now sees India as a "viable alternative market" as the US looks to diversify trade channels.

The delegation, led by Deputy US Trade Representative Rick Switzer, began meetings on Wednesday with India's chief negotiator and Commerce Department Joint Secretary Darpan Jain. Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal is overseeing the negotiations.

The visit is critical as both sides push to finalise the first tranche of a framework trade deal this year. It also comes on the heels of a sharp escalation in trade tensions: the US has imposed a 25 per cent tariff and an additional 25 per cent penalty on Indian goods linked to New Delhi's purchase of Russian oil — a combined 50 per cent levy that is among the highest slapped on any partner.

US President Donald Trump has also threatened fresh tariffs on Indian rice after a farmer representative at a White House roundtable complained of dumping by India, China and Thailand. The India-US trade deal is deadlocked because Washington is trying to drive a hard bargain so American agricultural products don't face steep import tariffs. New Delhi has dug in its heels, and is determined to safeguard India's farming and dairy sectors.

Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal recently said New Delhi hopes to close a basic framework deal this year that would address tariff pain points for Indian exporters even as a broader bilateral trade agreement remains some distance away. India and the US are currently running two parallel negotiation tracks — one on tariff rationalisation and another on a comprehensive trade pact.

SPIRITUAL WORLD



Towards universal social security powered by India's Labour Codes and Digital Public Infrastructure

G. Madhumita Das



Social security systems play a central role in reducing poverty, enhancing resilience, and promoting equitable development. Universal social security coverage allows every resident, regardless of income, employment status, or demographic characteristics, access to a minimum set of social protections such as pensions, healthcare, unemployment benefits, or disability support. India is closer than ever to building a universal social security system—something most nations even the most developed ones took decades of sustained investment to achieve.

With the Labour Codes, especially the Code on Social Security, 2020, the country has the legislative architecture to protect every worker, from gig drivers to factory employees to migrant construction labourers. The Code on Social Securityconsolidates nine major laws into a single framework. This helps in reducing the administrative complexity, improves portability of benefits, simplifies compliance for employers and strengthens monitoring and enforcement increasing the likelihood that workers—especially those in smaller enterprises in the informal sector where 90% of India's workers are employed—can receive benefits without bureaucratic hurdles.

The code also allows the government to extend coverage of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), Maternity benefits and Gratuity for enterprises in all sectors, for the benefit of hitherto uncovered workers and encourage voluntary enrolment in smaller establishments. It provides for a National Social Security Fund/State Social Security Funds where Government funding, CSR funding, contributions from Employer and workers can be collected which can support social security coverage.

But legislation is only one piece of the puzzle. What could truly set India apart from global counterparts is its emerging digital public infrastructure—from the e-Shram database and Aadhaar authentication to Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) platforms. Combined, these tools give India a unique opportunity to leapfrog traditional welfare models and build a portable, transparent, tech-enabled welfare system unlike any in the world.

Aadhaar: The Backbone of Universalisation

Global leaders in social protection ensure universality by guaranteeing every resident a unique ID that is tied to benefits. India has this already in Aadhaar, which provides highly reliable, no-cost authentication.

Aadhaar solves the biggest barrier to universal social security: identifying and verifying beneficiaries across states, sectors, and employers. For migrant workers, Aadhaar-enabled portability can do what no previous generation of welfare reforms could achieve: ensure uninterrupted access to entitlements regardless of location. This mirrors the digital ID–based systems in Norway and Denmark, where citizens carry their welfare identity seamlessly across regions and services.

A Unified Code riding on a Unified Database

While around the World, workers in the organized sector are typically covered under social security, it is far more difficult to cover unorganized sector workers where stable employer-employee relationship doesn't exist. Many countries rely on integrated labour laws, but few have the benefit of a national worker registry as massive as India's eShram database. The Social Security Code's mandate for a unified registration mechanism aligns perfectly with eShram, which already captures demographic, skill, and occupation data for more than 310 million unorganised sector workers, each of whom are uniquely identified through Aadhaar authentication and given a e-ShramUniversal Account Number (UAN).

India's ability to uniquely identify, directly register and track informal workers through a single digital platform could enable faster enrolment for social security benefits, better portability, and real-time updation of worker data. In future, if the eShram and EPFO UANs are made portable, it will be possible to track labour movement between the unorganized sector and organized sector. This will allow analysis of labour market dynamics and be a goldmine of data that can inform public policy.

UPI and DBT: The Missing Link That Most Countries Are Yet to Master

Countries with strong welfare focus rely heavily on banks and legacy payment systems. India, however, has pioneered UPI, one of the world's fastest, lowest-cost, interoperable payment networks. Integrated with DBT, India has the proven ability to send social security payoutsinstantly and directly to workers—across the length and breadth of the country.

This is a capability even advanced economies struggle with. During the pandemic, even in the US, millions waited weeks for stimulus cheques. In contrast, India transferred emergency COVID-19 payments to hundreds of millions of beneficiaries with unprecedented speed.

The Central and State Governments have a number of social security schemes spanning life insurance, accident insurance, health coverage, maternity benefits, old age protection etc. By enrolling eShram registrants in such schemes and leveraging UPI and DBT, universal social protection can be achieved, at scale, in a user friendly, transparent and efficient way.

India Can Leapfrog the World

For the first time in history, India holds all the cards, a legal framework (Labour Codes), a national worker registry (e-Shram), a universal ID system (Aadhaar), a real-time payments system (UPI) and a direct benefits pipeline (DBT). This combination is rare globally. If harnessed well, India could build a universal social protection model that is not only inclusive, but digitally native and future-proof—a model other nations may one day study.

The Social Security Code is more than legislation; it is a chance to redefine how a nation protects its workers in the 21st century. India must seize this opportunity and ensure the Labour Codes deliver on this unique opportunity for ensuring social security for all workers.

(The author is the Additional. Secretary & Finance Advisor, Ministry of Labour and Employment)

Modi: The modern Sarathi of Bharat

Dr Monica B. Sood



A leader who Rose beyond politics

There are rare moments in a civilisation's long journey when leadership rises above the compulsions of politics and assumes the timeless role of a guide-a Sarathi, steering not just the present but the destiny of generations. In the 21st century, as Bharat stands on the threshold of a profound civilisational revival, Narendra Modi has emerged not merely as a Prime Minister but as a force that echoes something far older, deeper, and rooted in our eternal dharmic memory. His leadership mirrors the role of Shri Krishna on the battlefield of Kurukshetra: he guided Arjuna's chariot with the strength of dharma, the clarity of truth, and the calmness of his own beliefs.



To understand Modi is to witness Bharat rediscovering its self-belief after centuries of invasions, colonisation, and internal confusion. To see him lead is to see Krishna's calm guidance reflected once again, firm hands on the reins, eyes on the horizon, and a mind unwavering in purpose.

The Sarathi In The Age Of Chaos And Confusion

In the Mahabharata, Arjuna did not crumble due to weakness; he faltered due to doubt. Confusion clouded his mind, and at that decisive hour, Krishna became his Sarathi, not merely to drive the horses, but to steady Arjuna's inner world. The greatest battle of the epic was not fought with arrows, but with clarity.

In 2014, Bharat stood in a similar fog of uncertainty. A vast population was unsure of its direction, its economy was weighed down by inertia, its civilisational identity had been reduced to apologetic footnotes, and its youth wandered without purpose or pride. Into this atmosphere of moral exhaustion rose Narendra Modi-not as a monarch but as a guide who reminded a nation of its own forgotten strength.

Just as Krishna brought Arjuna back to the truth of who he was, Modi has brought Bharat back to the truth of who we are, a civilisation that has always been more than a political entity; it is a spiritual idea, a moral force, a cultural ocean, a collective heartbeat.

Dharma And Determination: The Krishna-Modi Parallel

Krishna never promised Arjuna an effortless war; he promised clarity, purpose, and the strength of dharma. Modi has never promised ease; he has only promised direction. His governance is based on the ancient dharmic principles that doing the right thing creates its own unstoppable force.

Whether restoring the grandeur of Ram Mandir, reviving the sacred corridors of Kashi and Mahakal, or reinstating the Sengol of justice in the new Parliament, his actions are extensions of civilisational memory. He has repaired not just monuments, but the very psychic architecture of national confidence.

Krishna, protector of the weakest, stood for the cowherds, the farmers, the destitute. Modi carries that same spirit into the modern world, expanding dignity through Jan Dhan accounts, free ration, Ayushman healthcare, Ujjwala kitchens, Har Ghar Jal, and homes for the poorest. These aren't schemes; they're examples of dharma in government and modern examples of Krishna's compassionate leadership.

Even his brave choices, like abrogation of Article 370, starting surgical strikes, Balakot, OP Indoor, the Citizenship Act, GST, and Digital India, show that he followed Krishna's advice to act without fear or attachment and only for the sake of what is right and for the long term vision.

Modi: The Sarathi Who Steers, Never Seeks The Throne

Krishna held the reins but never sought the crown. He guided kings but never desired a kingdom. Modi too stands in public life with the same philosophy. He works, speaks, and decides not as a ruler wanting legacy, but as a sevak who serves a purpose larger than himself.

Like Krishna, he absorbs criticism with silence, preferring action over argument. Like Krishna, he persuades through wisdom rather than authority. Like Krishna, he awakens rather than commands. His leadership is not the loudness of power; it is the quiet strength of purpose.He has kept the chariot steady through every crisis, whether it was a pandemic, a global economic crisis, or geopolitical problems, so that the country doesn't lose its way.

A New Gita For A New Bharat

Krishna gave Arjuna the Gita on the battlefield. It is not a religious text, but a book about clarity, duty, and self-control. Through his policies and vision, Modi is creating a new way for people to believe in themselves as a nation. Not a book of verses, but a living Gita that comes to life as systems, institutions, and minds.

Under him, democracy is no longer ritualistic-it is participatory. Nation-building is no longer a slogan-it is a collective discipline. India is no longer a reluctant post-colonial state-it is a proud civilisation reclaiming its rightful place in the world.

Modi's governance is not merely administrative; it is philosophical. Not merely economic; it is civilisational.

The Chariot Of 2047 And The Destiny Of A Civilisation

As Bharat marches toward the centenary of its independence in 2047, the imagery becomes unmistakable. Arjuna's chariot bore the emblem of Hanuman; Bharat's chariot bears the strength of 1.4 billion determined citizens. And guiding this vast civilisation is a man who understands what Krishna understood: that the role of a Sarathi is not to fight the battle, but to prepare the warrior, steady the chariot, and point the arrow in the direction of dharma.

Modi is not steering programs alone; he is steering consciousness. Not shaping policies alone; he is shaping identity. Not leading merely a nation; he is awakening a civilisation that once lit the world with its knowledge, courage, and spiritual depth.

The Sarathi Who Awakened Bharat

History will remember Narendra Modi as a civilisational leader, a man who restored dignity to a wounded nation, resurrected dreams buried under colonisation, and rekindled the lamp of Bharat's ancient wisdom. Like Krishna, he stands at the meeting point of duty and destiny. Like Krishna, he whispers courage into a nation that often forgot its own strength. Like Krishna, he holds the reins of a chariot that carries not just people, but the soul of a civilisation.

He is steering not roads, but the very direction of time.Not merely a government, but a legacy.Not merely a nation, but Bharat-the world's oldest civilisation rising again.And like Krishna, he does not merely guide the chariot.He guides the future.

Author is State Intellectual Head & Convener, BJP, Chandigarh, CEO Navjivan Health Service

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

Lottery baron Santiago Martin's son to launch new political party on Dec 14 in Puducherry

PUDUCHERRY: In a significant political development for the Union Territory of Puducherry, Jose Charles Martin -- son of prominent lottery baron Santiago Martin -- has announced the formation of a new political party named 'Latchiya Jananayaka Katchi'. The party is set to be formally launched on December 14 in Puducherry, marking Martin's official entry into electoral politics.Making the announcement from Geneva, where he was delivering an address on human rights, Martin said the decision to unveil the party on an international stage was deliberate.It was meant to convey, he noted, a long-term vision of fostering global cooperation and demonstrating that Puducherry's political aspirations are aligned with modern democratic ideals. **IANS**

KMC to step up vigil on restaurants, bars and nightclubs during Christmas-New Year festivities

KOLKATA: The Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) will conduct special surveillance drives across hotels, bars, nightclubs, and restaurants during the Christmas and New Year celebrations to ensure strict compliance with entertainment tax rules and safety norms, a senior KMC official said on Thursday.
With the winter festive season just around the corner, preparations have already begun in the city's hotels, nightclubs, restaurants and bars where various concerts, cultural programs and parties are organised. **IANS**

Indian Army mounts massive rescue effort after truck plunges into gorge in Arunachal Pradesh, 21 missing

ITANAGAR/NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11



The Indian Army on Thursday launched a large-scale search and rescue operation in the high-altitude Chaglagam region of Arunachal Pradesh after a truck carrying 22 workers from Tinsukia fell off a cliff along the remote Hayuliang–Chaglagam road, officials said.
The accident, believed to have occurred on the night of December 8 near KM 40, came to light only late on December 10 when the lone survivor managed to reach the Chipra GREF Camp and alerted authorities.
According to preliminary inputs provided by the survivor, the vehicle veered off the treacherous mountain road and plunged nearly 200 metres into a dense, inaccessible forested gorge.
The site, about 12 km short of Chaglagam, lies in a remote stretch with minimal connectivity.
Notably, no information about the missing workers had been reported by any local agency, contractor, or civil representative until the survivor's arrival, prompting immediate mobilisation of rescue resources.
On December 11, the Indian Army's Spear Corps deployed multiple search and rescue columns along with medical teams, GREF personnel, local police, NDRF members and the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) of Hayuliang.
"At 1155 hours, after four hours of intensive search and rope descent, the truck was spotted around 200 metres below the road near KM 40 in a re-entrant, inaccessible and not visible from helicopters or the road due to dense tree cover and thick foliage. Eighteen bodies have been sighted and are being retrieved using belay ropes," an official said.
Dense foliage and deep terrain had earlier made the vehicle invisible from both the road and aerial reconnaissance.
So far, 18 bodies have been sighted at the accident site and are being retrieved using belay rope systems.
ADC Hayuliang has informed SP Anjaw, who has reached the site, while the District Medical Officer is moving to facilitate the evacuation of casualties and mortal remains
The State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), requisitioned by the Deputy Commissioner, is also moving towards the site.
Authorities have begun questioning the subcontractor linked to the Zila Parishad Member of Chaglagam to verify the workers' identities and confirm the exact number on board.
Despite harsh terrain, limited visibility and difficult weather conditions, the army and civil agencies continue to make all-out efforts to locate the remaining individuals and provide immediate assistance. **PTI**

High command has ruled out leadership change', reiterates Yathindra; Shivakumar seeks CM's clarification

BENGALURU, DECEMBER 11



The leadership tussle in Karnataka resurfaced once again with Congress MLC Yathindra Siddaramaiah, son of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, reiterating that the high command has ruled out any change in leadership in the state.
The statement has gained significance as CM Siddaramaiah has maintained that he will abide by the high command's decision regarding any leadership change. The matter also took a serious turn after Deputy Chief Minister and State Congress President D.K. Shivakumar sought a clarification from the CM on the issue.
Speaking to reporters in Belagavi on Thursday, Yathindra, reacting to questions on the possibility of a leadership change, said, "There is no tussle for the CM's post. I have already told you. Now everything is clear. The high command has clearly said that, as of now, there will be no changes in leadership."
Responding to this, Dy CM Shivakumar remarked, "I think the CM will reply for him."
The development is seen as likely to further intensify the leadership debate within the party. It may be noted that Shivakumar is considered a strong contender for the Chief Minister's post.
Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh, a close associate of Siddaramaiah, said, "Siddaramaiah will act as per the instructions of the high command. **IANS**

3 held for assaulting vendors selling chicken patties at Gita recital event in Kolkata

KOLKATA, DECEMBER 11

Three people were arrested on charges of harassing and assaulting two vendors selling chicken patties at Brigade Parade Ground during a recent Gita recital event in Kolkata.
The police said on Thursday that the arrested individuals have been identified as Soumik Golder (23), Tarun Bhattacharya (51) and Swarnendu Chakraborty (32).While Golder and Chakraborty are from Gobardanga and Ashoknagar areas in North 24 Parganas district, respectively, Bhattacharya is from Uttarpara in Hooghly district.
They were arrested based on complaints lodged by two vendors at Maidan Police Station. **IANS**

Jitu Patwari hits out at CM Mohan Yadav-led MP govt of selling properties to repay bank loans

BHOPAL, DECEMBER 11

Madhya Pradesh Congress President Jitu Patwari, on Thursday, accused the Chief Minister Mohan Yadav-led Bharatiya Janata Party government of selling the state's properties to repay the mounting bank loans it borrowed in the past 22 years.
Patwari claimed that the public properties outside Madhya Pradesh have also being sold in the past two years to Chief Minister Yadav-led BJP government.
He said that mounting debt taken by the BJP government has paralysed the state's economy.
"Chief Minister Mohan Yadav's government has sold 101 state's properties at total Rs 1,100 crore. Two properties in Mumbai and one in Kerala were also sold by the BJP government. This is what the BJP government has done in the past 22 years of their tenure," he claimed.
Meanwhile, the State Congress Chief also reiterated that the Madhya Pradesh government is borrowing loans to pay interest on previous loan amounts.
"Now, they (BJP) have started selling government's properties situated out of the state," Patwari said while talking to the press at Congress office on Thursday.
The Congress leader also added that farmers in Madhya Pradesh are dying in queues to get fertilizsrs and the state government is spending nearly Rs 21 lakh per day on hired aircraft and helicopters during Chief Minister Yadav's tenure.
The disclosure came during the Winter session of the state Assembly session in response to queries raised by Congress MLAs Pratap Grewal and Pankaj Upadhyay a few days ago.
"People of Madhya Pradesh have given a mandate to the BJP government for service and not to sell the state's properties for their luxury. As a responsible Opposition, Congress is continuously raising an alarm to awaken the people. This mounting debt may not affect today, but it would definitely cost a lot in the future and people must realise it," Patwari said.**PTI**

DELHI/NCR

Delhi's air quality slips further, edges close to 'very poor' mark again

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11



Delhi's air quality remained lodged in the poor category for the third straight day on Thursday morning, though the overall air quality index (AQI) slipped further to 285, just below the 301 threshold that pushes conditions into the very poor bracket, data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) showed.
As of 7 a.m., at least ten monitoring stations across the city registered AQI levels above 300, placing them in the very poor range.
At Anand Vihar, the AQI stood at 300, Ashok Vihar 328, Chandni Chowk 305, and ITO 309.
Noida's overall AQI was recorded at 294 (Poor), and sector-wise AQI ranged from 246 to 331, while Greater Noida's Knowledge Parks 3 and 5 recorded AQI levels of 235 and 331, respectively.
The city's 24-hour average AQI on Wednesday stood at 259, showing a slight improvement from Tuesday's reading of 282. After nine consecutive days of air quality dipping into the very poor zone, the capital recorded some relief on Tuesday, and due to stronger daytime winds on Wednesday, conditions managed to remain within the poor category for the second day in a row.
CPCB classifications state that an AQI between 0 and 50 is tagged as good, 51–100 satisfactory, 101–200 moderate, 201–300 poor, 301–400 very poor, and 401–500 severe. **IANS**

₹3.59 crore demonetised currency racket busted in Delhi, four arrested

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11



Delhi Police have busted a major racket involving demonetised currency and arrested four men who were allegedly circulating old Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes by falsely claiming they could be exchanged at the Reserve Bank of India, officials said on Thursday. The operation, led by the team of Police Post WPIA under Ashok Vihar police station, resulted in the recovery of demonetised notes with a face value of Rs 3.59 crore and the seizure of two vehicles used in the crime. The arrests were made on December 10 following a tip-off received by Sub Inspector Rohit Chahar. A raiding team comprising SI Mohit Yadav, Head Constable Dravesh, HC Pawan, HC Manoj and HC Ashwani apprehended the suspects near Shalimar Bagh Metro Station Gate No. 4. The accused were identified as Harsh (22), Tek Chand Thakur alias Vinod (39), Lakshya (28) and Vipin Kumar (38), all residents of Delhi." The gang was duping people by offering old notes at throwaway prices and falsely claiming that the currency could be exchanged at the RBI on the basis of Aadhaar. **IANS**

CBI dismantles digital arrest fraud network; cases filed against 13

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a charge sheet against 13 accused persons in a major "digital arrest" cyber fraud case, as part of its focused, case-by-case crackdown under Operation Chakra - V against organised transnational cybercrimes, the agency said on Thursday.
The case was registered suo motu by the CBI to comprehensively investigate ten significant incidents of Digital Arrest scams reported across the country, amid a steep rise in such offences.In October 2025, the CBI conducted coordinated searches across Delhi-NCR, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Kerala and West Bengal. **IANS**

Police bust interstate mobile theft gang; 40 high-end phones stolen in Delhi concert recovered

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

The Delhi Police Crime Branch has arrested four members of an interstate mobile phone theft gang and recovered 40 high-end smartphones, many of which had been stolen from a December 7 concert at IGI Stadium, officials said on Thursday.
A team from the Eastern Range-I of the Crime Branch, led by Inspector Ashish Sharma and supervised by ACP Sunil Srivastav, tracked the suspects for nearly 48 hours before intercepting them near Yamuna Vihar Metro Station on December 9. **IANS**

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shanti kaur w/o Joginder singh r/o village sadiq District Faridkot declared that I Have an Original title deed No 2329 Dated 22.9.2017 in Name of Usha Rani w/o Bhura Ram which have been lost from me . A Report of it's lost has been registered through Saanjh At PSOC Sadiq, Faridkot. Its DDR No 657142/2025 on Dated 10/12/2025 . If anyone finds the same or having any objections, then please contact With my Lawyer Within 7 Days from Publication Sh. Pankaj Jain Advocate, Lawyer's Chamber Complex, Chamber No 449, 3rd Floor, Distt Court Bathinda 98788-28140

PUBLIC NOTICE

We, Davinder Singh, Narinder Kaur and Inderpreet Singh,all residents of House No-2949, Guru Nanak Colony, Gill Road, Ludhiana, hereby declares that the statements earlier made by us before the media and authorities regarding the "Canal View" project at Ludhiana were incorrect and made under a misunderstanding. We now confirms that the project is complete in all respects, that the promoter was fully entitled to levy non-construction charges, and that there was no fault on the part of the promoter. We unconditionally withdraws all earlier statements, previous reply issued through counsel, and tenders an unconditional apology for any inconvenience or harm caused to M/s JLPL. We undertakes not to issue any further statements on the matter.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This to inform the members of The Parja Self Supporting Coop. House Building Society Ltd. (B Category) that society has decided to construct B category flats next year. Revised price will be 50 + lakh tentatively. Respected members are requested to complete their deposits up to 20 lakh before 30 December 2025 positively so that we could start construction in 2026. Members are already informed in regard. So this should be considered last notice.
President

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that, I **Meena Bahl** W/o Sham Sher Jang Bahadur, resident of ward No. 9, Street No. 5, Tagore Nagar, Wast Enclave, Hoshiarpur, have misplaced/lost the original sale deed pertaining to the following property:
SALE DEED VIDE NO. 4475 DATED 16/03/2017, executed in favor of Smt. Meena Bahl W/o Sham Sher Jang Bahadur, duly registered with Sub-Registrar, Phagwara. **Property Details:** Plot in vakiya pind- Chaheru Tehsil Phagwara,
• Khewat No. 538,Khatoni No. 8046, Khassra No. 1412(9-16), 1413(6-9),1414(8-0),1428(8-0),1429(8-7),1430(10-5).
• Total Area: 5 Marla 75 Sq. Ft. Despite diligent search, the said original Sale Deed is untraceable. If any person finds the above-mentioned document or has any claim or objection regarding the same, they may notify the undersigned within 7 days of this publication. After that, I will proceed to apply for a duplicate copy from the concerned authority.
Meena Bahl
Mobile : 7888543753

COURT NOTICE

In the Court of Sh. Navdeep Singh, Assistant Collector Grade I District Revenue Officer, Barnala
(Publication Notice Under section 20(7) land Revenue act)
Partition Application No. 20/P(NRI)
Dated 25.07.2025
Pending For 31/12/2025
1. Bhupinder singh Alias Bhupinder singh Cheema s/o Gurcharan singh Village Cheema District Barnala. ..... Applicant
Versus
Gurmeet singh s/o Puran Singh r/o Cheema, Tehsil and Distt. Barnala etc. ....respodents
Application for partition of land measuring 81 Kanal 18 Marla, Khewat Number 918/850, Khatauni No. 1190 situated within the revenue limits of village Cheema, Tehsil and District Barnala Publication issued to respondent No. 3. Dalip singh s/o Puran singh s/o Lal singh R/o Cheema Tehsil and Distt. Barnala 4. Gurmail Singh s/o Puran singh s/o Lal singh R/o Cheema Tehsil and Distt. Barnala 6. Sukhdev singh s/o Mukhtiar singh s/o Lal singh R/o Cheema Tehsil and Distt. Barnala 10. Meeto daughter of Puran singh s/o Lal singh R/o Cheema Tehsil and Distt. Barnala 11. Ram singh s'o Nachattar singh s/o Mall singh R/o Cheema Tehsil and Distt. Barnala 14. Baldey singh s/o Pritam singh s/o Lal singh R/o Cheema Tehsil and Distt. Barnala 15. Amarjeet Kaur daughter of Pritam singh s/o Lal singh R/o Cheema Tehsil and Distt. Barnala 16. Kuldeep Kaur daughter of Pritam singh s/o Lal singh R/o Cheema Tehsil and Distt. Barnala 17. Harjeet Kaur daughter of Pritam singh s/o Lal singh daughter of Gurmeet singh 19. Ajaib singhs s/o Surjit singh s/o Puran singh R/o Cheema Tehsil and Distt. Barnala 21. Punjab Housefed Chandigarh 1. Gurmeet singhs heir Choti Kaur and Gudi kaur 2. Jagger singhs heir Baljit kaur daughter of Jagger singh 7. Kartar singhs heir Parmjit kaur widow of Kartar singh and Sukhchain singh s/o Kartar singh and Binder Kaur daughter of Kartar singh.
Whereas it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the respondents above named cannot be served in the ordinary way of service. Hence, this proclamation Under section 20(7) land Revenue act is hereby issued stating that they should appear personally or through their counsel on at 10:00 am in the court of undersigned; 31/12/2025 otherwise ex-parte proceedings will be initiated against them.
Take notice that, in default of their appearance on the day before mentioned, the above said case will be heard and determined in their absence.
Give under my hand and the seal of the court, this
District Revenue Officer Barnala

COURT NOTICE

In the Court of Sh. Navdeep Singh, Assistant Collector Grade I District Revenue Officer, Barnala
(Publication Notice Under section 20(7) land Revenue act)
Partition Application No. 26/P(NRI)
Dated 03.09.2025
Pending For 31/12/2025
I. Sandeep Kaur Alias Sandeep Kaur Gill wife of Parmjit Singh sidhu Village Mahal kalan District Barnala. .....Applicant
Versus
Balvir singh s/o Babu Singh r/o Mahal Kalan, Tehsil Mahal Kalan Distt. Barnala etc. .....respodents
Application for partition of land measuring 16 Kanal 0 Marla, Khewat Number 205/193, Khatauni No. 330 ta 331 situated within the revenue limits of village Mahal Kalan A, Tehsil Mahal Kalan District Barnala Publication issued to respondent No. 1. Balvir Singh s/o Babu Singh s/o Bagel Singh R/o Mahal Kalan Tehsil Mahal kalan Distt. Barnala 3. Jagjeet Singh s/o Janger Singh s/o Bura Singh R/o Mahal Kalan Tehsil Mahal kalan Distt. Barnala 4. Jagdeep Singh s/o Jangir Singh s/o Bura Singh R/o Mahal Kalan Tehsil Mahal kalan Distt. Barnala 5. Amarjit Kaur Widow of Nirmal Singh s/o Janger Singh 8. Parmjit kaur wife of Bahdur singh s/o Malkeet singh R/o Mahal Kalan Tehsil Mahal kalan Distt. Barnala 9. Rajesh Kumar s/o Jagan Nath s/o Kedhu Ram R/o Mahal Kalan Tehsil Mahal kalan Distt. Barnala 13. Pargat singh s/o Bhadur singh s/o Malkeet singh R/o Mahal Kalan Tehsil Mahal kalan Distt. Barnala 16. Bhupinder singh s/o Jagraj singh s/o Darshan singh R/o Mahal Kalan Tehsil Mahal kalan Distt. Barnala 17. Gurwinder singh s/o Charan Singh s/o Sarwan singh R/o Mahal Kalan Tehsil Mahal kalan Distt. Barnala 18. Jaswant singh s/o Charan singh s/o Sarwan singh R/o Mahal Kalan Tehsil Mahal kalan Distt. Barnala.
Whereas it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the respondents above named cannot be served in the ordinary way of service. Hence, this proclamation Under section 20(7) land Revenue act is hereby issued stating that they should appear personally or through their counsel on 31/12/2025. at 10:00 am in the court of undersigned; otherwise ex-parte proceedings will be initiated against them.
Take notice that, in default of their appearance on the day before mentioned, the above said case will be heard and determined in their absence.
Give under my hand and the seal of the court, this
District Revenue Officer Barnala

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO APPEAR / ATTEND PROCEEDINGS OF DLM & SFC-LDH Through this Publication This is for Constructive Notice for respondent M/s GPRS FASHION having registered office at SCF 358-359, Swastik Vihar Patiala Road, Zirakpur, SAS Nagar, Punjab, 140603 to appear in person or through Authorised representative before the District level Micro & Small facilitation Council Ludhiana, District Industries Centre, Ludhiana on Dated 31/12/2025 regarding claim reference petition submitted by claimant M/s THE GARMENT COMPANY U/s 18(1) of MSMED Act 2006 bearing reference: MSEFC/DIC/07/24/3164. If respondent still fails or omits to appear as above then arbitration proceedings shall be conducted as per section 23 & 25 of Arbitration and Conciliation Act and award shall also be passed on the basis of evidence before it.
Member Secretary cum General Manager
District Industries Centre,
Industrial Estate, Ludhiana,
Ph. No: 0161- 2540695,
Email Id: dicludhiana5@gmail.com
Ludhiana.msefc@gmail.com

COURT NOTICE

In the Court of Sh. Navdeep Singh, Assistant Collector Grade I District Revenue Officer, Barnala
(Publication Notice Under section 20(7) land Revenue act)
Partition Application No. 24/P(NRI)
Dated 03.09.2025
Pending For 31/12/2025
I. Sandeep Kaur Alias Sandeep Kaur Gill wife of Parmjit Singh sidhu Village Mahal kalan District Barnala. .....Applicant
Versus
Payar singh s/o Gurdev Singh r/o Mahal Kalan, Tehsil Mahal Kalan Distt. Barnala etc. .....respodents
Application for partition of land measuring 134 Kanal 05 Marla, Khewat Number 32/28/1, Khatauni No. 55 situated within the revenue limits of village Mahal Kalan A, Tehsil Mahal Kalan District Barnala Publication issued to respondent No. 1. Payar singh s/o Gurdev singh s/o Bishan singh R/o Mahal Kalan Tehsil Mahal kalan Distt. Barnala 2. Navkiran singh s/o Payar singh s/o Gurdev singh R/o Mahal Kalan Tehsil Mahal kalan Distt. Barnala 3. Harcharan singh s/o Gurdey singh so Bishan singh Ro Mahal Kalan Tehsil Mahal kalan Distt. Barnala 4. Gurtej Singh s/o Harjeet singh s/o Gurdey singh R/o Mahal Kalan Tehsil Mahal kalan Distt. Barnala 5. Gurpreet singh so Harjeet singh s/o Gurdey singh R/o Mahal Kalan Tehsil Mahal kalan Distt. Barnala 6. Balwant singh s/o Puran singh s/o Bshan singh R/o Mahal Kalan Tehsil Mahal kalan Distt. Barnala 7. Hari singh s/o Puran singh s/o Bshan singh R/o Mahal Kalan Tehsil Mahal kalan Distt. Barnala 8. Surjit singh s/o Puran singh s/o Bshan singh R/o Mahal Kalan Tehsil Mahal kalan Distt. Barnala 9. Sharanjeet Kaur wife of Harjeet singh R/o Mahal Kalan Tehsil Mahal kalan Distt. Barnala 12. HDFC Bank Branch Bhikhi Distict Mansa.
Whereas it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the respondents above named cannot be served in the ordinary way of service. Hence, this proclamation Under section 20(7) land Revenue act is hereby issued stating that they should appear personally or through their counsel on 31/12/25 at 10:00 am in the court of undersigned; otherwise ex-parte proceedings will be initiated against them.
Take notice that, in default of their appearance on the day before mentioned, the above said case will be heard and determined in their absence.
Give under my hand and the seal of the court, this
District Revenue Officer Barnala

COURT NOTICE

In the Court of Sh. Navdeep Singh, Assistant Collector Grade I District Revenue Officer, Barnala
(Publication Notice Under section 20(7) land Revenue act)
Partition Application No. 22/P(NRI)
Dated 25.07.2025
Pending For 31/12/2025
I. Bhupinder singh Alias Bhupinder singh Cheema s/o Gurcharan singh Village Cheema District Barnala. .....Applicant
Versus
Majar singh s/o Mewa Singh r/o Cheema, Tehsil and Distt. Barnala etc.
Application for partition of land measuring 185 Kanal 15 Marla, Khewat Number 449/425, Khatauni No. 599 to 603 situated within the revenue limits of village Cheema, Tehsil and District Barnala Publication issued to respondent No. 3. Buta singh s/o Surjit singh s/o Hjura singh R/o Cheema Tehsil and Distt. Barnala 7. Baldey singh s/o Dalip Singh s/o Santa singh R/o Cheema Tehsil and Distt. Barnala 10. Charanjit singh s/o Baldev singh s/o Dalip Singh R/o Cheema Tehsil and Distt. Barnala 11. Harminderpal singh Sandhu s/o Babu singh s/o Jaswant singh R/o Cheema Tehsil and Distt. Barnala 12. Parminderpal singh sandhu s/o Babu singh s/o Jaswant singh R/o Cheema Tehsil and Distt. Barnala 13. Sukhdeep singh s/o Megh singh s/o Jagan singh R/o Cheema Tehsil and Distt. Barnala Whereas it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the respondents above named cannot be served in the ordinary way of service. Hence, this proclamation Under section 20(7) land Revenue act is hereby issued stating that they should appear personally or through their counsel on 31/12/2025 at 10:00 am in the court of undersigned; otherwise ex-parte proceedings will be initiated against them.
Take notice that, in default of their appearance on the day before mentioned, the above said case will be heard and determined in their absence. Give under my hand and the seal of the court, this.
District Revenue Officer Barnala

COURT NOTICE

In the Court of Sh. Navdeep Singh, Assistant Collector Grade I District Revenue Officer, Barnala
(Publication Notice Under section 20(7) land Revenue act)
Partition Application No. 25/P(NRI)
Dated 03.09.2025
Pending For 31/12/2025
1. Sandeep Kaur Alias Sandeep Kaur Gill wife of Parmjit Singh sidhu Village Mahal kalan District Barnala. ..... Applicant
Versus
Kunda singh s/o Gurdayal Singh r/o Mahal Kalan, Tehsil Mahal Kalan Distt. Barnala etc. .....respodents
Application for partition of land measuring 123 Kanal 11 Marla, Khewat Number 160/1512min, Khatauni No. 218 situated within the revenue limits of village Mahal Kalan A, Tehsil Mahal Kalan District Barnala Publication issued to respondent No. 1. Kunda Singh s/o Gurdyal singh s/o Partap Singh R/o Mahal Kalan Tehsil Mahal kalan Distt. Barnala 2. Gurtej Singh s/o Kunda Singh s/o Gurdayal Singh R/o Mahal Kalan Tehsil Mahal kalan Distt. Barnala 3. Manjit Kaur wife of Kunda Singh s/o Gurdyal Singh R/o Mahal Kalan Tehsil Mahal kalan Distt. Barnala 4. Pardeep Singh s/o Jarnail Singh s/o Didar singh R/o Mahal Kalan Tehsil Mahal kalan Distt. Barnala 5. Jaswant Kaur widow of Karnail Singh s/o Didar singh R/o Mahal Kalan Tehsil Mahal kalan Distt. Barnala 6. Jagseer Singh s/o Jarnail Singh s/o Didar Singh R/o Mahal Kalan Tehsil Mahal kalan Distt. Barnala 7.Gurcharan Singh s/o Teja Singh s/o Fuman singh R/o Mahal Kalan Tehsil Mahal kalan Distt. Barnala 8. Swaran singh s/o Teja Singh s/o Fuman singh R/o Mahal Kalan Tehsil Mahal kalan Distt. Barnala 9. Gurpreet singh s/o Nirmal singh s/o Teja singh R/o Mahal Kalan Tehsil Mahal kalan Distt. Barnala 10. HDFC Bank Branch Mahal Kalan Tehsil Mahal kalan Distt. Barnala 11. Punjab and sind Bank Branch Mahal Kalan Tehsil Mahal kalan Distt. Barnala.
Whereas it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the respondents above named cannot be served in the ordinary way of service. Hence, this proclamation Under section 20(7) land Revenue act is hereby issued stating that they should appear personally or through their counsel on 31/12/2025 at 10:00 am in the court of undersigned; otherwise ex-parte proceedings will be initiated against them.
Take notice that, in default of their appearance on the day before mentioned, the above said case will be heard and determined in their absence.
Give under my hand and the seal of the court, this
District Revenue Officer Barnala

COURT NOTICE

In the Court of Sh. Navdeep Singh, Assistant Collector Grade I District Revenue Officer, Barnala
(Publication Notice Under section 20(7) land Revenue act) Partition Application No. 21/P(NRI)
Dated 25.07.2025
Pending For 31/12/2025
1. Bhupinder singh Alias Bhupinder singh Cheema s/o Gurcharan singh Village Cheema District Barnala. .....Applicant
Versus
Gurmeet singh s/o Puran Singh r/o Cheema, Tehsil and Distt. Barnala etc. .....respodents
Application for partition of land measuring 8 Kanal 0 Marla, Khewat Number 1169/1082, Khatauni No. 1499 situated within the revenue limits of village Cheema, Tehsil and District Barnala Publication issued to respondent No. 3. Dalip singh s/o Puran singh s/o Lal singh R/o Cheema Tehsil and Distt. Barnala 4. Gurmail Singh s/o Puran singh s/o Lal singh R/o Cheema Tehsil and Distt. Barnala 5 Meeto daughter of Puran singh so Lal singh R/o Cheema Tehsil and Distt. Barnala 8. Baldes singh s/o Pritam singh s/o Lal singh R/o Cheema Tehsil and Distt. Barnala 10. Ram singh s/o Nachattar singh s/o Mul singh R/o Cheema Tehsil and Distt. Barnala 11. Amarjeet Kaur daughter of Pritam singh s/o Lal singh R/o Cheema Tehsil and Distt. Barnala 12. Kuldeep Kaur daughter of Pritam singh s/o Lal singh R/o Cheema Tehsil and Distt. Barnala 13. Harjeet Kaur daughter of Pritam singh s/o Lal singh 1. Gurmeet singhs heir Choti Kaur and Gudi kaur daughter of Gurmeet singh 2 Jagger singhs heir Baljit kaur daughter of Jager singh 6. Mukhtair singhs heir Naranjan singh and Sukhdev singh and Avtar singh s/o Mukhtair singh 7. Kartar singhs heir Parmjit kaur widow of Kartar singh and Sukhchain singh s/o Kartar singh and Binder Kaur daughter of Kartar singh.
Whereas it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the respondents above named cannot be served in the ordinary way of service. Hence, this proclamation Under section 20 (7) land Revenue act is hereby issued stating that they should appear personally or through their counsel on 31/12/2025 at 10.00 am in the court of undersigned; otherwise ex-parte proceedings will be initiated against them.
Take notice that, in default of their appearance on the day before mentioned, the above said case will be heard and determined in their absence. Give under my hand and the seal of the court, this
District Revenue Officer Barnala

GIDDERWINDI BRANCH — NOTICE FOR PUBLIC AUCTION OF PLEDGED GOLD JEWELLERY/ORNAMENTS/COINS

It is hereby brought to the notice of the following gold loan borrowers, their legal heirs, persons engaged in business of gold jewelry/ornaments/coins and general public that in spite of repeated reminders/ notices by the Bank, the following borrowers are not repaying their dues to the Bank.
Notice is hereby published that if they fail to deposit all their dues in their respective gold loan accounts (including up-to-date interest and all costs charges/ expenses) by **26.12.2025 then from 10:00 AM of 29.12.2025** their pledged gold jewelry/ ornaments/coins will be put up for public auction in the branch premises. For this, Bank shall not be held responsible for any inconvenience or damage caused to the concerned borrowers and no allegations or representations will be entertained from any borrowers in this regard.
Persons interested to take part in the bidding should deposit **Rs. 1000/- (Rupees One Thousand Only) with the Branch Manager Gidderwindi Branch)** before the scheduled time/ date towards earnest money. Persons having taken part in final bidding must be able to deposit full amount to the Bank within 48 hours, failing which their earnest money, deposited with the Bank will be forfeited. Bank reserves the right to cancel the auction without assigning any reasons in case, the bidding price so arrived at, is observed to be low or inadequate. Further, if need be, Bank reserves the right to change the date, time or place of the above scheduled auction or cancel the same without assigning any reasons thereon. The reserve price is exclusive of GST and other applicable charges. **Thus, the successful bidder has also to deposit GST and other applicable taxes.**

Account No.	Name of the Borrower	Total Dues	Gross Weight/ Net Weight of the Gold	Reserve Price/ Earnest Money/ Bid Incremental Amt.
636377610000141	Rupinder Kaur Aujla W/o Gagandeep Singh	Rs. 5,06,535.90 + UCI and other charges	210.90 gram 185.00 gram	Rs. 21,23,522.50 Rs. 1000/- Rs. 500/-

Branch Manager

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

Through this Publication this is for Constructive Notice for respondent M/S V.M INDUSTRIES having registered office at ADD I: HOUSE NO. 8907, STREET NO. 33, KOT MANGAL SINGH, LUDHIANA, PUNJAB, 141001. ADD II: 1250, STREET NO. 41, JANTA NAGAR, LUDHIANA, PUNJAB, 141001 to appear in person or through authorized representative before the District Level Micro & Small facilitation Council Ludhiana, District Industries Centre, Ludhiana on Dated 05-01-2026 regarding claim reference petition submitted by claimant M/S SONA INDUSTRIES U/s 18(1) of MSMED Act 2006 bearing reference: MSEFC/DIC/03/25/3387. If respondent still fails or omits to appear as above then arbitration proceedings shall be conducted as per section 23 & 25 of Arbitration and Conciliation Act and award shall also be passed on the basis of evidence before it.
Member Secretary cum General Manager
District Industries Centre
Industrial Estate, Ludhiana
Ph. No: - 0161-2540695
Email Id: - dicludhiana5@gmail.com, Ludhiana.msefc@gmail.com

CM Saini releases ₹116 cr relief to 53,821 farmers for crop loss caused by heavy rains

RAJENDRA KHATRY
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, December 11



Providing substantial relief to the farmers of Haryana, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Wednesday released a total compensation of Rs 116.15 crore to 53,821 farmers for crop losses caused by heavy rains in August-September. Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shyam Singh Rana was also present on the occasion. Addressing a press conference here, the Chief Minister stated that the compensation released today includes Rs 35.29 crore for millet, Rs 27.43 crore for cotton, Rs 22.91 crore for paddy, and Rs 14.10 crore for guar. The disbursement has begun immediately, and the entire amount will be credited to the accounts of beneficiary farmers within the next week.

He explained that the heavy rains in August-September last year had caused flooding in several districts, and he personally visited the affected areas to assess the situation. The e-Kshatipurti portal, which was opened on September 15, invited farmers to submit details of crop damage to facilitate timely compensation. The Chief Minister said that three districts suffered the most significant losses: Charkhi Dadri received Rs 23.55 crore, Hisar Rs 17.82 crore, and Bhiwani Rs 12.15 crore.

He also mentioned that earlier, the government had already released Rs 4.72 crore to compensate for livestock losses, house damage, and other essential items affected by the floods. He further stated that a total of 5,29,199 farmers had registered 31 lakh acres of land on the e-Kshatipurti portal for natural disaster-related crop losses during the 2025 Kharif season. After verification, damage was confirmed on 1,20,380 acres belonging to 53,821 farmers.

CM Saini stated that the Haryana government stands shoulder to shoulder with farmers and ensures compensation for any losses they incur. In line with this commitment, the government has been providing timely compensation to farmers for crop loss over the past 11 years. Under the PMFBY, an amount of Rs 15,448 crore has been disbursed to support farmers in the state.

Targeting the opposition, the CM stated that the Congress government had played a cruel joke on farmers. During their regime, Patwaris did not conduct proper verification on the ground, resulting in farmers not receiving full compensation.

Even those who were compensated were given checks of just 2 to 5 rupees. Over the 10-year rule of the Congress government, a total of Rs 1,138 crore was released as compensation. He added that the Congress government failed to pay Rs 269 crore of compensation to farmers. After the BJP came to power in 2014, the state government ensured that in 2015, this Rs 269 crore from the previous government was transferred directly to farmers' accounts. The CM stated that, addressing accountability, six Patwaris were suspended for negligence in verifying crop losses during the 2025 Kharif season. He emphasised that the state government has a clear agenda: it is accountable to every citizen.

State doctors begin fast unto death as talks with govt fail

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, December 11

The standoff between government doctors and the state administration deepened today as leaders of the Haryana Civil Medical Services Association (HCMSA) began a fast unto death after day-long wait for negotiations yielded no response from the authorities. HCMSA president Dr Rajesh Khyalia, along with medical officers Dr Labh Singh and Dr Virender, started an indefinite hunger strike outside the office of the Director General of Health Services (DGHS) in Sector 6, Panchkula.

The strike follows the Association's indefinite work stoppage over a set of unresolved service-related demands. Speaking to 'The Tribune', Dr Khyalia expressed frustration over the lack of communication from the government. "No one approached us from the government side for talks. We are on a hunger strike. It is a fast unto death. We will not budge till our demands are met," he said. The HCMSA is demanding prohibition of direct recruitment of Senior Medical Officers (SMOs) and the implementation of the modified Assured Career Progression (ACP) scheme. Although an agreement was reached with the government on December 5 on ending direct SMO recruitment, the Association alleges that the decision has not yet been implemented.

Talks between the two sides on December 5 had collapsed over the modified ACP scheme. The revised ACP proposes grade pay of Rs 6,600 at five years, Rs 8,000 at 10 years, and Rs 9,500 at 15 years. A 2024 assessment by the Finance Department estimated an additional annual burden of Rs 9.75 crore on the state exchequer if implemented. Currently, government doctors receive grade pay of Rs 7,600 after 10 years and Rs 8,700 after 15 years.

Youth wanted in 8 cases nabbed after gunfight with Rohtak Police

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, December 11

> 'Mohit has eight criminal cases registered against him in various police stations of Karnal, Panipat, Sonepat, Jhajjar and Rohtak districts,' he said

An absconding youth wanted in several criminal cases across multiple districts was arrested on Wednesday evening after an encounter with the Rohtak police near the Industrial Model Township. The accused, identified as Mohit, a resident of Kathura village in Sonepat, suffered a bullet injury in his leg during the exchange of fire and was admitted to PGIMS, Rohtak for treatment. SP Surendra Singh Bhoria said a country-made pistol, four live cartridges, two empty cartridges, and a motorcycle were recovered from his possession. "Mohit has eight criminal cases registered against him in various police stations of Karnal, Panipat, Sonepat, Jhajjar and Rohtak districts," he said. The SP said preliminary investigation suggested that Mohit, along with his associates, had fired nearly 50 rounds in Karnal on October 29. "A case is already registered at Sadar Police Station, Karnal. He has also been sentenced to seven years' imprisonment in a kidnapping case. Recently, Mohit and his aides were planning to murder a youth," Bhoria added.

The SP said: "Acting on a tip-off the police team tried to stop a suspicious youth on a motorcycle in IMT area. He opened fire on the police team, prompting them to retaliate. During the exchange, the suspect was shot in the leg," the SP said.



A woman protects herslf with warm clothes on a cold winter morning, in Gurugram on Thursday. PTI

SC directs state to restore green land to its original state in 90 days

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, December 11



The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Haryana Government's urban development authorities to restore a green area in Karnal to its original state, after 40 fully grown trees were uprooted to build an access road to a newly constructed BJP office.

The top court gave three months to the Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) and the Karnal Municipal Corporation to complete the restoration. A Bench of Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice KV Viswanathan said it agreed with submissions made by advocate Bhupender Pratap Singh, appearing for a 1971 war veteran, that the trees were felled illegally to create the approach road.

The court expressed dissatisfaction with the Haryana Government's defence. The Bench, however, refused to examine the broader issue of the legality of allotting land in a residential colony — located along the national highway — to the BJP. "It is too late to go into that question," the court observed. Appearing for the state, Additional Solicitor General Vikramjit Banerjee insisted that "all required permissions were taken for allotment and all green norms were followed." He assured the court that "trees would be planted in proportion to the number of trees that were felled for the approach road."

The Bench had earlier come down heavily on the government. On November 26, it remarked, "It is pathetic that you uprooted fully grown trees. Why and what happened to these trees? What is your explanation for this? Why can't you get the office of the political party shifted to some other location?"

HIMACHAL/J&K

Omar orders revenue push, strict expense control as J&K reviews capex, fiscal position

JAMMU, DECEMBER 11

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday called for boosting revenues across all streams and exercising strict control over avoidable expenditure, and urged departments to sustain the momentum throughout the remaining months of the fiscal year.

These directions were given by Abdullah while chairing a review meeting to assess the progress of district capex, Constituency Development Fund (CDF) works, projects and the overall fiscal position of Jammu and Kashmir. The Principal Secretary, Finance, presented a comprehensive sector-wise view, outlining achievements, bottlenecks and the required course of action. Reviewing the expenditure under district capex, including centrally sponsored schemes, the chief minister examined the status of administrative approvals, tendering and works awarded for 2025–26. He underlined the need for every department to work within fixed timelines, avoid procedural delays and ensure that both ongoing and newly sanctioned works move swiftly towards completion on the ground.

Calling for "stepping up revenues across all streams and exercising strict control over avoidable expenditure", he urged departments to sustain the momentum throughout the remaining months of the year. PTI

Elements of 'dying' terror ecosystem spreading misinformation will face strict action: LG Sinha

JAMMU, DECEMBER 11



Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said certain elements of the dying terror ecosystem are attempting to spread misinformation or negative narratives against the country and warned of strict action against them under the country's established legal framework.

Sinha said terrorists, separatists and their patrons are no longer given government jobs in Jammu and Kashmir, and instead, they are being identified and given the harshest punishment for their deeds. "There are certain elements from the dying terror ecosystem who are attempting to spread misinformation or negative narratives against the country. We will take stringent action against such elements according to the country's established legal framework," the LG said. He made these remarks while handing over appointment letters to 41 next of kin of victims of terrorism in the Jammu Division. Appointment letters were also given to 22 beneficiaries in age relaxation cases and 19 wards of police martyrs under compassionate appointment rules and the Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme.

"Abrogation of Article 370 brought a dynamic change in Jammu and Kashmir. Now, terrorists, separatists and their patrons are not given government jobs but are being identified and given the harshest punishment for their deeds," he said. The LG further said, "We have not bought peace, but established peace. The days of misgovernance are over. Now, terrorists, separatists and their patrons are not given government jobs but are being identified and given the harshest punishment for their misdeeds." Those who are fanning separatism and threatening national unity will face action according to the law, he further said.

He also appealed to all sections of society to contribute to the 'Mahayagya' of development in Jammu and Kashmir with selfless action. Earlier, on July 28, the lieutenant governor handed over appointment letters to 94 next of kin of terror victims from the Jammu division. The move brings relief to 135 terror victim families from the division who were denied justice for decades. PTI

Chinese national sent back from Kashmir after visiting J&K, Ladakh in violation of FRRO rules

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 11

A Chinese national was put on emergency exit and sent back after visiting J&K and Ladakh in violation of the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) rules, police said on Thursday. Police said that a Chinese national, identified as Hu Congtai, was put on emergency exit and sent back on Wednesday after he visited Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in violation of FRRO rules.

"The 29-year-old Chinese national, Hu Congtai, was put on emergency exit and sent back from the Srinagar airport yesterday after he was blacklisted for violating the FRRO rules," police said. A Physics graduate from Boston University (USA), he was picked up from a low-budget homestay in Friends Colony in Budgam district three days ago. It was found that his visa was not valid for entry into the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Police said his visa is valid only for Varanasi, Agra, New Delhi, Jaipur, Sarnath, Gaya, and Kushinagar. However, he entered Jammu and Kashmir without a valid visa, police said. The information about the above person came to the notice of the local police. "The Chinese national was sent back from Srinagar to Delhi after conducting a preliminary investigation," police added.

Hu Congtai arrived in Srinagar on December 1 and was sent back to Delhi by the Air India Express flight on Wednesday. The Chinese national faced questioning at the Humhama Police Station in Srinagar for two days. The digital login on his mobile phone, which had an Indian SIM card, left the security agencies curious about him. IANS

₹14.17 cr worth of welfare benefits given to Himachal construction workers

SHIMLA, DECEMBER 11



Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Thursday released financial assistance of Rs 14.17 crore to the state's construction workers.

A total of 3,835 workers received benefits under various welfare schemes of the Himachal Pradesh Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board during the Jan Sankalp Sammelan held in Mandi, a government statement said. Rs 19 lakh was released to 19 beneficiaries under the 'CM Single Window and Divyang Housing Scheme', and Rs 1.50 crore to 117 people got death and funeral assistance.

"Rs. 9.28 crore were given to 3,040 beneficiaries for education assistance and Rs 3.01 crore were released for 600 beneficiaries under marriage assistance," a spokesperson said. "Additionally, an amount of Rs 1.73 lakh was provided to 10 beneficiaries as maternity and paternity benefits while support of Rs 1.80 lakh was extended to nine mentally challenged special children," he said.

Under the Mukhya Mantri Awas Yojana, Rs 10.42 lakh was given to 10 beneficiaries, besides Rs 3.53 lakh was released for 30 beneficiaries as medical assistance. PTI

J&K govt orders urban local bodies to secure schools, hospitals, stadiums from stray dogs

JAMMU, DECEMBER 11

The Jammu and Kashmir housing and urban development department on Thursday directed all urban local bodies to map schools, hospitals, stadiums and transport hubs within two weeks and secure them from the entry of stray dogs. Mandatory three-monthly inspections and humane ABC-based removal of stray dogs from these places have also been ordered, along with a 30-day compliance report. Commissioner-Secretary of the department, Mandeep Kaur, issued a circular directing all ULBs across the Union Territory to immediately implement a series of measures mandated by the Supreme Court for effective management of stray dogs in institutional areas.

The circular mandates a two-week exercise to identify all government and private institutions, including schools, colleges, hospitals, stadiums, bus stands, ISBTs and railway stations. The urban local bodies (ULBs) have been asked to classify all high-risk areas, particularly those frequented by children.

"All urban local bodies, in coordination with the district magistrates concerned, shall, within a period of two weeks from the issuance of this circular, complete the identification of all government and private institutions falling within their territorial limits," the circular said. PTI

NEWSBRIEFS

Indian national gets 90-month US sentence for $2.2 million elder fraud

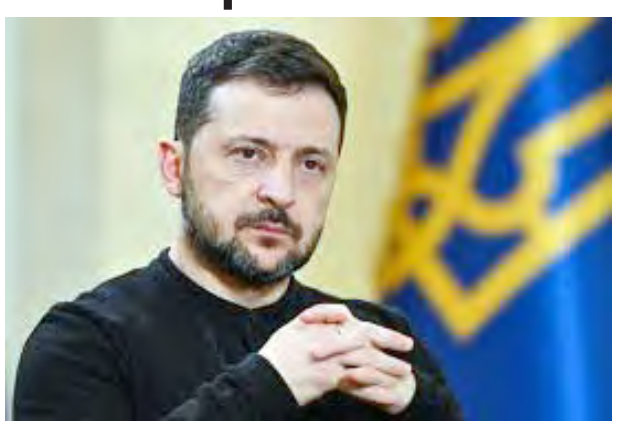
WASHINGTON: A US district judge has sentenced an Indian national to 90 months in federal prison for his role in a sweeping imposter-fraud conspiracy that targeted elderly residents across five Midwestern states and caused intended losses exceeding $2.2 million. Ligneshkumar H. Patel, 38, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and financial institution fraud and two counts of wire fraud. The court ordered him to pay more than $2 million in restitution, the Department of Justice said. "Imposter scams are international conspiracies often using US-based money mules to meet victims in person to take their money," US Attorney Steven D. Weinhoeft said. In remarks outlining the scheme, prosecutors said Patel and his co-conspirators impersonated law enforcement or federal officials "to defraud people into giving them money, access to financial accounts or other personal information." The victims were told they needed to surrender their assets for "protection." **IANS**

Global experts flag 550% surge in cases against journalists in Yunus-led Bangladesh

OTTAWA: Several prominent international experts voiced serious concerns over the deteriorating human rights situation in Bangladesh under the Muhammad Yunus-led interim government, citing a rise in abuses and the use of "false and fabricated cases" to pursue political vendetta. Canada-based think tank organisation 'Global Centre for Democratic Governance (GCDG)' organised a virtual international seminar titled 'Bangladesh in Crisis: Human Rights, Justice, and the Future of Democracy' during which the experts shared their assessments. The seminar was chaired by GCDG President Md. Habibe Millat. Other speakers included Raminder Singh Ranger, a member of the UK House of Lords; Michael Rubin, a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute; and Charlotte Jacquemart, editor of Public Radio of Switzerland. **IANS**

Zelenskyy will hold urgent talks with 30 countries as Trump pushes for swift peace deal with Russia

KYIV, DECEMBER 11



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was due to hold urgent talks Thursday with leaders and officials from about 30 countries that are supporting Kyiv's effort to obtain fair terms for an end to the war with Russia.

The leaders of Germany, Britain and France were among those expected to take part in the meeting of Ukraine's allies, dubbed the Coalition of the Willing, via video link.

Zelenskyy indicated the talks were hastily arranged as Kyiv officials scramble to avoid getting boxed in by US President Donald Trump's demands for a swift settlement. European governments are trying to help steer the peace negotiations because they say their own security is at stake.

Trump said Wednesday that he and European leaders discussed proposals by phone in "pretty strong terms," adding that Zelenskyy "has to be realistic" about his country's position on a peace plan that would cede Ukrainian territory to Russia. He didn't elaborate.

Trump's latest effort to broker a settlement is taking longer than he wanted. He initially set a hard deadline for Kyiv to accept his peace plan before Thanksgiving. Previous Washington deadlines for reaching a peace deal have also passed without making a breakthrough.

Russia is also keen to show Trump it is engaging with his peace efforts, hoping to avoid any further US sanctions. Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Thursday that Russia has relayed to Washington "additional proposals ... concerning collective security guarantees" that Ukraine and Europe say are needed to deter future aggression.

"We understand that when discussing security guarantees, we cannot limit ourselves to Ukraine alone," Lavrov said. He didn't offer details of the Kremlin's proposals.

Meanwhile, Ukraine launched one of its biggest drone attacks of the nearly four-year war overnight, forcing flights in and out of all four Moscow airports to be halted for seven hours. Airports in eight other cities across Russia also faced restrictions, Russian civil aviation authority Rosaviatsia said Thursday.

The Russian Defence Ministry said air defences intercepted 287 Ukrainian drones over multiple Russian regions.

The display of Ukraine's military capability to strike deep inside Russia appeared as a counter to the Kremlin's argument that its invasion is overwhelming for its smaller neighbour.

Russian President Vladimir Putin wants to portray himself as negotiating from a position of strength, analysts say. But since launching the full-scale invasion in February 2022, Russia has captured only around 20 per cent of Ukraine.

There are signs that the negotiations are coming to a crossroads.

Mexico's Congress approves tariff hikes on imports from China, others

MEXICO CITY, DECEMBER 11

Mexico's Congress approved Wednesday most of the tariff increases proposed by the government on more than 1,400 products imported from China and other countries that do not have free trade agreements with Mexico.

The Senate passed the measure Wednesday evening, following the lower chamber, which had approved the increases before dawn. The governing Morena party of President Claudia Sheinbaum, who said the tariffs were necessary to spur domestic production, controls both chambers. The Senate passed the legislation with 76 votes in favour, five against and 35 abstentions.

Analysts say the real motivation is ongoing negotiations with Washington, Mexico's most important trading partner.

Sheinbaum has been trying to find relief from remaining tariffs imposed on Mexican imports by the Trump administration, which has accused China of using Mexico as a backdoor into the US market.

Tariff increases of as much as 50 per cent will affect textiles, shoes, appliances, cars and auto parts among other things beginning in January.

China will be the most affected as Mexico imported USD 130 billion worth of products from the country in 2024, second only to the what Mexico bought from the United States. The Chinese government was critical of the proposed tariff increases when they were announced in September.

"The real reason has to do with the United States, it has to do with the review of the USMCA (free trade agreement) that is coming up, with the negotiations to obtain reductions, exemptions from the tariffs that Mexico is facing at this moment to access the US market," said Oscar Ocampo, director of economic development at the Mexican Institute for Competitiveness. Mexico still faces US tariffs on the automotive sector, steel and aluminum.

But Ocampo said Mexico was bending to an unpredictable US President Donald Trump and changing its commercial policy "in the wrong direction."

He said the government was creating problems for a number of sectors, including auto parts, plastics, chemicals and textiles, because the tariffs will create disruptions in supply chains and could push inflation up at a time when the economy is slowing. **PTI**

India calls for 'pragmatic engagement' with the Taliban: Amb Harish tells UNSC

UNITED NATIONS, DECEMBER 11



India told the UN Security Council that it calls for a "pragmatic engagement" with the Taliban as New Delhi underlined that a focus on only punitive measures will ensure a 'business as usual' approach.

Addressing the UN Security Council meeting on the Situation in Afghanistan on Wednesday, India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish said India calls on the United Nations and the international community to adopt nuanced policy instruments that help bring sustainable benefits for the people of Afghanistan.

"India calls for a pragmatic engagement with the Taliban. A coherent policy of engagement should incentivise positive actions. A focus on only punitive measures will only ensure that a 'business as usual' approach continues as we have been seeing now for the last four and a half years," Harish said.

He reiterated India's commitment to meeting the development needs of the people of Afghanistan.

Harish said the recent decision by the Indian Government to restore the status of Delhi's Technical Mission in Kabul to that of an Embassy "underscores this resolve."

"We will continue our engagements with all stakeholders to augment our contribution to Afghanistan's comprehensive development, humanitarian assistance, and capacity-building initiatives, in keeping with the priorities and aspirations of Afghan society," he said.

Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi was in New Delhi on a six-day trip in October, the first senior Taliban minister to visit India after the group seized power in Kabul in 2021.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held wide-ranging talks with Muttaqi, announcing the upgrading of Delhi's technical mission in Kabul to the status of an embassy and pledging to renew its development works in Afghanistan.

India had withdrawn its officials from its embassy in Kabul after the Taliban seized power in August 2021.

In June 2022, India re-established its diplomatic presence in the Afghan capital by deploying a "technical team". **IANS**

Indian film fraternity sees tremendous potential for creative collaboration with Israel

JERUSALEM, DECEMBER 11

Bonded by a shared concern over terrorism, a delegation of the Indian film fraternity visiting Israel expressed tremendous potential for creative collaboration that can help deepen cultural ties between the strategic partners through cinema.

Israel welcomed leading personalities from the Indian film fraternity this week to showcase its immense visual diversity, from the biblical desert and beaches to modern and ancient cities, added with its strength in innovation and technology in the field, to lure them to collaborate in filmmaking.

The six-day visit from Saturday comes at a time when Israel is struggling with the pain of October 7's terror attack and the ensuing war that has carried on for more than two years.

The delegation visited places that came under attack, met survivors of the deadly attack and heard their heart-wrenching stories first-hand, noting the striking resemblance in the pattern of terror attacks that happened also in India, including the one in Pahalgam.

"Our delegation, drawn from India's film fraternity, sees tremendous potential for creative collaboration between our two nations. Cinema has the power to bridge hearts and minds, and we are eager to open new chapters of co-production, exchange, and mutual inspiration," K G Suresh, Director of India Habitat Centre in New Delhi, told PTI.

He said that they held "fruitful meetings" with leading Israeli filmmakers, distributors, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and our own Ambassador. **PTI**

South Korea to strengthen consular services amid rising safety risks to nationals abroad

SEOUL, DECEMBER 11



The South Korean government plans to conduct a reorganisation of the foreign ministry aimed at strengthening its consular and overseas safety protection services amid rising risks to the safety of nationals abroad, officials said on Thursday.

The interior ministry plans to preannounce a revised decree reflecting the reorganisation plan from Friday to next Tuesday before having it approved at a Cabinet meeting by the end of the month, government officials said, Yonhap News Agency reported.

The plan focuses on strengthening the foreign ministry's Consular Affairs and Safety Bureau amid the growing need for stronger protection for Koreans abroad, stemming from criminal scam rings in Cambodia targeting nationals as well as natural disasters, conflicts and other safety issues. Under the reorganisation plan, a new director-general-level post in charge of overseas protection planning will be established, while a new division for overseas safety crisis response will be added to the bureau to enhance overseas protection services and improve response to incidents affecting nationals abroad. The ministry's 24-hour call centre for consular assistance will also be expanded, while the bureau's personnel will be increased by 21, including police officers in charge of the situation room for overseas safety. **PTI**

Bulgaria's govt resigns as large public protests grip nation weeks before joining eurozone

SOFIA (BULGARIA), DECEMBER 11

Bulgaria's government resigned on Thursday as mass protests gripped the country just weeks before it's due to join the eurozone.

The resignation of the minority coalition, led by the centre-right GERB party, was announced minutes before parliament was scheduled to vote on a no-confidence motion tabled by the opposition over economic mismanagement and supported by growing public anger with widespread corruption.

"Ahead of today's vote of no confidence, the government is resigning," Prime Minister Rosen Zhelyazkov told reporters in parliament.

"The decisions of the National Assembly are meaningful when they reflect the will of the people. We want to be where society expects us to be," Zhelyazkov said, referring to the anti-government protests. **IANS**

Far-right Reform UK, far-left Green Party support on rise among British Indians, finds census

LONDON, DECEMBER 11

The votes of British Indians must not be taken for granted by the major parties as the electorate is getting increasingly drawn towards the extremes on the right and left of the political divide, the 'British Indian Census 2025' reveals this week.

The research by the 1928 Institute think tank, released in a House of Commons committee room in London on Tuesday, found that Indian diaspora support for the anti-immigration Reform UK tripled to match a similar rise in young voters backing the climate action focussed Green Party.

While support for the governing Labour Party is still higher among British Indians than the national average, at 35 per cent compared to 22 per cent within the wider population, there has been a 13 per cent decline in this support.

Meanwhile, the Opposition Conservatives have lost ground with a 12 per cent fall since 2019 and the Liberal Democrats registered no change at around 9 per cent support within the community.

"Political support among British Indians is increasingly volatile. In the past year, support for Reform tripled to 13 per cent — now matching the Green Party — while Labour has a 13 per cent drop over the same period," said Kiran Kaur Manku, co-chair and co-founder of the 1928 Institute. The University of Oxford researcher cautioned policymakers against taking the community for granted as it has "diverged from political allegiance" and wants to see delivery from their politicians.

"Older, long settled and working middle-class British Indians are drifting towards Reform, while those that are younger and with more recent roots in the UK are turning to the Greens. It shows a community that is increasingly critical, voting on performance, not allegiance.

"Their priorities mirror the national concerns towards living costs and also the building blocks of public services," she said.

Lord Krish Raval, British Indian Labour peer in the House of Lords, pointed out that this trend towards the extremes of the political divide was reflective of the disillusionment being felt within the wider British electorate.

"I'm not overly worried by these polls. They reflect the national mood, and we're no different from any other community," said Raval. **IANS**

Venezuela's Machado says Maduro government didn't know where she was hiding

OSLO, DECEMBER 11



Opposition leader María Corina Machado said Thursday that she doesn't believe the Venezuelan government knew where she was hiding for most of this year, as she met Norway's leader a day after her daughter received the Nobel Peace Prize on her behalf.

Machado arrived in Oslo hours after Wednesday's prize ceremony and made her first public appearance in 11 months in the early hours of Thursday, emerging from a hotel balcony and waving to an emotional crowd of supporters. She had been in hiding since January 9, when she was briefly detained after joining supporters in a protest in Caracas.

Machado was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in October after mounting the most serious peaceful challenge in years to the authoritarian government of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. **IANS**

Nigerian children reunite with their parents after being released from abduction

PAPIRI(NIGERIA), DECEMBER 11

Several parents welcomed the return late Tuesday night of their children, who were abducted last month when gunmen stormed their school.

"It has not been easy for me... But today, in fact, I have a little bit of joy, especially because there is still one abducted. But I am now happy with this one that I have gotten," Luka Illaya, one of the parents in the hall, told The Associated Press.

One of his sons was released, while another remains with the abductors.

His son, who hugged him tightly, is one of the 100 students released over the weekend after they were abducted from a Nigerian Catholic school on Nov. 21.

The Papiri school abductions, where more than 300 students and staff were taken, was the latest in a string of mass abductions that have rocked Nigeria in the past decade. Days earlier, 25 students were also abducted in nearby Kebbi state.

The government did not release any details about the released Papiri students and the fate of at least 150 other children and staff who remain in captivity. Fifty of the students escaped in the hours following the abductions.

"We thank all the security agencies that helped in the rescue of our children. We are pleading that God should give them more strength to be able to rescue the remaining children," Reverend Sister Felicia Gyang, the principal of the school, said.

No group has claimed responsibility for the abductions. Analysts say school children are a target for armed groups seeking a high ransom from the government and communities. Such abductions have often commanded national and international attention, with the pope last month calling for the release of the Papiri students in a Sunday address from the Vatican.

Since 2014, when Boko Haram kidnapped 276 girls from Chibok, there have been at least a dozen mass school abductions with at least 1,799 students kidnapped, according to an AP tally. **IANS**

lifestyle



Alia honoured by GOLDEN GLOBES AT: RED SEA Film Festival

Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt and Tunisian actress Hend Sabry were honoured by Golden Globes at a glitzy gala dinner during the fifth edition of Saudi Arabia's Red Sea Film Festival. Alia has earned critical acclaim and box-office success for standout performances in films such as "Highway," "Raazi," "Udta Punjab," "Dear Zindagi" and "Gangubai Kathiawadi," reports variety.com.

She said, "The Golden Globes are an iconic part of the global awards universe and I am delighted to be part of it and look forward to continuing my career in telling more stories of powerful and deserving women."

Helen Hoehne, president of the Golden Globes, described Sarby as "a truly iconic performer and humanitarian whose body of work reflects the depth, power, and global impact of Arab cinema," reports variety.com.

The award for Alia, she said, celebrated "her exceptional contributions to international cinema."

Sabry was named the recipient of the Omar Sharif Award and Bhatt received the Golden Globes Horizon Award.

Sabry's performances in films such as "The Yacoubian Building," "Scheherazade," "Tell Me a Story" and "Asmaa" won her widespread recognition for her nuanced portrayals of complex, socially resonant characters.

Sabry said, "My career has been devoted to uplifting women with complex stories and I am thrilled to be sharing this Golden Globes stage with Alia Bhatt, one of the next generation's brightest and most talented stars."

Among the guests at the event were directors Sean Baker and Darren Aronofsky, actresses Sigourney Weaver, Naomie Harris, Shailene Woodley and Olga Kurylenko, actor-director Idris Elba, and actors Édgar Ramírez, Salman Khan, Henry Golding and Riz Ahmed. **IANS**



Priyanka

shares her go-to skincare tip for long-haul flights

Actress Priyanka Chopra, on Thursday, gave a quick peek into her travel routine as she shared a candid moment from her long-haul flight. The global star offered a simple yet essential skincare tip, emphasising that the only way to keep skin healthy during long journeys is to stay hydrated in every possible way. Taking to her Instagram Stories, the 'Baywatch' actress shared a photo of herself applying a sheet mask mid-flight, giving a glimpse of her in-flight skincare ritual. In the candid image, the desi girl is seen looking straight into the camera.

Alongside the click, Priyanka wrote, "Only way for your skin to survive, long haul flights. Hydrate in every way possible. Ok now...g'night!."

Priyanka Chopra, who had recently returned from Mumbai, also shared glimpses from her whirlwind visit. The post featured a video of the actress getting ready for a show, meeting Kapil Sharma in his vanity van, and posing for the paparazzi. Priyanka also clicked selfies with fans before heading to her car. The clip wrapped up with Priyanka admitting that she didn't want to leave, joking about how long the flight back to New York would be. **IANS**



Shilpa

soaks in Christmas spirit while enjoying final leg of 2025 with family

Actress Shilpa Shetty is ringing out 2025 on a joyful note. She soaked in the Christmas spirit while enjoying a relaxing family vacation. On Thursday, Shilpa took to her Instagram handle and shared a couple of her photos and captioned them simply, "Decembering... #gratitude." In the images, the 'Hungama 2' actress can be seen striking poses with her husband Raj Kundra and their children. From capturing sunsets to sharing glimpses of her meals, Shilpa posted a series of photos giving a peek into how she is enjoying the last month of 2025.

The final photo shows the actress posing with a Christmas tree beautifully decorated in the background.

Meanwhile, Shilpa had recently visited the holy Mahalaxmi Temple in Kolhapur, Maharashtra. The 'Dhadkan' actress shared a photo from her spiritual trip on Instagram with the caption, "#kolhapurlaxmitemple #blessed."

In the image, Shilpa was seen inside the temple premises, dressed in a vibrant yellow saree, holding a beautifully decorated offering plate filled with flowers, and smiling warmly at the camera.

A few days back, Shilpa Shetty brought Sai Baba's revered Kafni and Paduka into her home. She expressed her heartfelt gratitude for the holy items, calling their arrival a truly blessed and divine experience. On her social media, Shilpa shared a video capturing herself, her husband Raj Kundra, and other family members performing prayers and paying respects to Sai Baba's sacred belongings.

For the caption, Shilpa wrote, "Filled with gratitude and love as I bring home your sacred Kafni and Paduka, Sai. May your divine presence fill my home and heart, guiding me with Shraddha and Saburi. Om Sai Ram. #gratitude #love #blessings #miracles." **IANS**



Taylor Swift reveals 2 favourite songs from her catalog

Pop icon Taylor Swift has shed light on two of her favourite songs from her own catalog. The singer-songwriter recently appeared on 'The Late Show With Stephen Colbert', when the show host asked her about her top five, a question he previously asked Dolly Parton, Elton John, Paul Simon and Bruce Springsteen, reports 'Variety'.

However, the 14-time Grammy-winning artiste told the late-night host that her rankings are "constantly changing", and that she would need "a little time" to get back to him on all five.

She further mentioned, "I think number one is 'All Too Well', the 10-minute version. I'm really obsessed with 'The Life of a Showgirl', the whole album. I can't really do any of the others, except I will say somewhere in the list, I think, is going to be a song called 'Mirrorball', from the 'Folklore' album. You know, it came on the other day. A friend sent it to me, and she was talking about it, and I put it on, and then you asked me this question, so I said it".

As per 'Variety', the singer-songwriter assured that at some point, she would give Colbert an "update" after she had sat down and deeply considered her definitive top five favorites.

At the beginning of November, her latest album, 'The Life of a Showgirl', logged its fourth week in a row at Number 1 on the Billboard 200. One of Swift's most popular songs from the record, 'The Fate of Ophelia', also logged four weeks on the Hot 100 last month, making Swift the only artist to debut at Number 1 on both charts simultaneously and hold the spots for a month straight. **IANS**

Chitrangda Singh

reveals how Deepti Naval offered her own house when she had no place to stay in Mumbai



Bollywood actress Chitrangda Singh is often hailed as one of the finest talents in the industry. The actress, who is all set for the release of her upcoming movie Raat Akeli Hai: The Bansal Murders, in a conversation with IANS, spoke about how veteran actress Deepti Naval had come to her rescue while she was a struggler in Mumbai years ago.

"Before I officially moved to Mumbai, I had stayed at Deepti Ma'am's home for a while, since there were some accommodation issues. So she has been a part of my journey from the start." The actress concluded, "Working with both of them again felt wonderful. As an actor, you naturally observe senior artists closely, the way they perform, their rhythm, and the little details they add. I really enjoyed watching and learning from them on set."

Now that Chitrangada is all set to feature alongside Deepti Naval and actress Revathy in 'Raat Akeli Hai: The Bansal Murders', she also spoke about her camaraderie with both the veteran actresses. Talking about Deepti, Singh said, "With Deepti Ma'am, there is a more personal connection. We worked together in "Inkaar", so I know her very well."

Talking about her camaraderie with veteran actress Revathy, the 'Housefulll' actress said, "I have always loved Revathy Ma'am as Maggie from her film "Love. She added, "The first thing I spoke to her about was that role because I truly admired it. She even told me stories about how the film was shot, which I really enjoyed. I have also admired her as a director." **IANS**

CIBIL score dispute: SC asks PNB, SBI to clarify if petitioner ever took loan or defaulted

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11



The Supreme Court has sought responses from the Punjab National Bank (PNB) and the State Bank of India (SBI) on whether a Uttarakhand resident -- whose CIBIL score has allegedly been shown as negative due to PAN duplication and erroneous reporting -- has ever taken a loan or committed any default.

A bench of Justices K.V. Viswanathan and S.V.N. Bhatti, while hearing a special leave petition (SLP) filed by Rajendra Singh Panwar after the Uttarakhand High Court declined to intervene in his contempt plea earlier this year, issued notices to both banks directing them to file detailed affidavits.

The petitioner has contended that despite having no outstanding loan, his CIBIL score has shown a negative status since 2020, rendering him ineligible for any financial facility. He further claimed that his PAN number is shared by two other individuals with the same name, and that their defaults may have been wrongly attributed to him.

Senior advocate P.S. Patwalia, appearing for Panwar, submitted before the Justice Viswanathan-led Bench that even after the Income Tax Department issued him a new PAN, his negative credit score persists because the new number continues to reflect data linked to the old PAN. The CIBIL Bureau told the apex court that it merely reflects information supplied by banks and plays the role of a "collating agent", going by the records furnished by the banks.

Observing that the banks' version was necessary to adjudicate the dispute, the bench directed the PNB and the SBI to state clearly whether the petitioner has ever availed a loan and whether any default is recorded against him and listed the matter for further hearing on January 9, 2026.

The SLP stems from a series of proceedings before the Uttarakhand High Court, where the petitioner initially challenged CIBIL's inaction on his grievance. In February 2020, the Uttarakhand High Court had directed CIBIL to decide his representation within three months. A subsequent contempt petition was closed after CIBIL Chairman M.V. Nair informed the Uttarakhand HC that a decision had been taken.

However, Panwar again approached the Uttarakhand High Court in 2024, alleging renewed disobedience of the same 2020 order. In an order passed on August 7, this year, a single-judge Bench of Justice Manoj Kumar Tiwari dismissed the second contempt plea, holding that since CIBIL had already stated on affidavit that it had acted on the petitioner's representation, "there was no reason to issue a fresh notice for enforcement of that very order". Following the Uttarakhand High Court's refusal to reopen the contempt proceedings, Panwar filed a special leave petition (SLP) before the Supreme Court, which has now sought responses from the reporting banks. IANS

IMF loan tranche to Pakistan offers little relief for households: Report

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11



The International Monetary Fund's approval of a $1.2 billion tranche for Pakistan will help the country avoid immediate default on foreign debt repayments but is unlikely to ease the squeeze on mainstream households, a new report has stressed.

The IMF's ongoing $7 billion loan has provided a critical lifeline, yet remaining "afloat" does not address its trade deficit, impending foreign-exchange crisis and other deep structural problems, the report from The News International said.

The data in November showed that Pakistan's trade deficit widened sharply by 33 per cent to $2.86 billion from a year earlier, driven by falling exports and rising imports amid subdued economic growth.

The additional economic pressure this year was triggered by widespread losses to Pakistan's agriculture, caused by large-scale destruction to farms following heavy rainfall and floods during the summer. With forecasts predicting a significant rise in rainfall next summer, Pakistan's agricultural journey is set to remain troubled, the report noted.

A new vision for the future must be built upon resolving Pakistan's internal political discord, which has rapidly fuelled economic uncertainty in recent years.

Internal political divisions have overshadowed long-term prospects for the economy, the report said, adding that Pakistan must immediately suspend its unnecessary infrastructure projects.Subsequently, a fundamental review of each project for building new roads or other brick-and-mortar projects must be carefully undertaken to assess their utility for Pakistan in the short to medium term, it suggested. The report urged that the government should assume further debt only for essentials such as population control or building safeguards against climate change.Given that a large part of Pakistan's population remains uneducated, a rapid shift towards industrialisation remains the missing piece for the foreseeable future, it noted. IANS

Piyush Goyal says trade talks with US going well but no deadline for deal

MUMBAI, DECEMBER 11



Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday said that the ongoing trade talks between Indian and US officials are progressing well, but at the same time, ruled out any deadline for signing a deal.

Commenting on US Deputy Trade Representative Rick Switzer's two-day visit to Delhi, Goyal said: "We had very good substantive discussions. But I have said on record that a deal is only done when both sides stand to benefit. We should never negotiate with deadlines because you tend to make mistakes then."

"Negotiations are progressing well. We've had substantive discussions over several rounds of negotiations. In the past, I think five rounds have happened. The current visit is not a negotiating round. The current visit is being undertaken by a new deputy United States Trade Representative (USTR) who has joined about three months ago. It's his first visit to India. We're getting to know each other."

India's Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal and US Deputy Trade Representative Switzer held discussions here on Wednesday on the proposed bilateral trade agreement between the two countries.

"The two sides exchanged views on matters related to India-US trade and economic ties including on the ongoing negotiations for a mutually beneficial Bilateral Trade Agreement," the Commerce Ministry said in a post on X.

Commerce Secretary Agrawal said last month that India and the US are "nearing closure" of their talks for signing the first tranche of the proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement.Agrawal told journalists that the two countries have been holding regular virtual rounds of talks on the BTA. Although no formal deadlines can be set on the issue, the first stage of the trade talks is progressing swiftly, he added.US President Donald Trump sent positive signals on strengthening US-India relations in November, raising fresh hopes that a bilateral trade agreement between the world's two largest democracies could be signed soon.

Trump told reporters at the White House that his talks with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi were "going great" and that a visit to Delhi could take place next year.

He said that he plans to "lower tariffs" imposed on India "at some point", indicating that a breakthrough in the trade talks could come soon. However, India has made it clear that it would not compromise on the interests of farmers, the dairy sector, and workers in trade deals that it signs with other countries. IANS

Surge pricing: Bharat Taxi App in testing and trial phase, says Nitin Gadkari

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11



Amid rising cases of surge pricing by private online cab aggregators, a mobile-based application called 'Bharat Taxi App' is in the testing and trial phase, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari told Parliament on Thursday.

The Bharat Taxi App is aimed at supporting driver-owned taxi service on a cooperative model under the aegis of the Sahahkar Taxi Cooperative Limited (STCL), Gadkari said in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha.

The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) plays a key role in establishing the cooperative-based 'Bharat Taxi' ride-hailing service. The new multi-state cooperative society has been registered, and driver enrolment, along with technological development, is in progress, according to an earlier statement by the government.Gadkari further stated that the government has issued The Motor Vehicles Aggregators Guidelines, 2025, for aggregators, including app-based cab services, to provide a light-touch regulatory system, while attending to issues of safety and security of the user and the welfare of the driver. IANS

Price of LPG in India is much lower than Pakistan, Sri Lanka & Nepal: Hardeep Puri

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11



The price of LPG for consumers in India is much lower than in neighbouring Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Nepal, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri informed the Parliament on Thursday.

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, the minister also tabled data showing that the effective price of a 14.2 kg LPG cylinder as on November 1 this year in India (Delhi) was Rs 553 for PMUY beneficiaries, while in the case of regular consumers, the price was Rs 853. This is much lower than the prevailing prices in neighbouring Pakistan (Lahore) at Rs 902. 20 per cylinder, Sri Lanka (Colombo) at Rs 1,227.58 and Nepal (Kathmandu) at Rs 1,205.72.

India imports about 60 per cent of its LPG requirement, and accordingly, prices of LPG in the country are linked to its prices in the international market. While the average Saudi CP (international benchmark for LPG pricing) rose by 21 per cent from US$ 385/MT in July 2023 to US$ 466/MT in November 2025, the prices of domestic LPG were reduced by about 22 per cent from Rs. 1103 to Rs. 853 during this period, the minister said.

He said that for FY 2025-26, the government is providing a targeted subsidy of Rs 300 per 14.2 kg cylinder for up to 9 refills of a 14.2 kg cylinder to the PMUY consumers. For PMUY consumers, the effective price for domestic LPG has been reduced by about 39 per cent from Rs 903 in August 2023 to Rs 553 in November 2025. IANS

NEWSBRIEFS

Bridging cultures: How regional nuance is redefining marketing in India

CHANDIGARH: India's cultural and linguistic diversity is reshaping how brands engage consumers, pushing marketers to move beyond one-size-fits-all campaigns toward regionally nuanced strategies that reflect local beliefs, tastes and behaviours. With "121 languages and over 1,360 rationalised dialects," financial services companies now realise that mass messaging alone no longer works and relevance is the true differentiator. Speaking on this topic, Nalin Jain, CMO of Godrej Capital, said "When communication happens in the local language, not just literally, but also emotionally and contextually, the connection becomes far stronger." BPE

Amazon India partners with govt departments to strengthen opportunities for artisans, entrepreneurs, and the logistics sector

CHANDIGARH: Amazon India on Thursday announced collaborations with multiple Government of India-run institutions to support traditional artisans, women-led enterprises, emerging startups, and research-driven innovation in India's logistics ecosystem. These partnerships with the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME), the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), and Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) under the Ministry of Railways aim to expand market access, build capability, and contribute meaningfully to India's economic priorities. BPE

Culinary Explorer Anubhav Sapra reveals science behind India's street food and misleading food labels

CHANDIGARH: From crispy pakoras to delicious samosas, street food is an emotion across India. Yet behind every perfectly fried snack lies the unseen role of the oil that makes it possible. A podcast series features culinary explorer and Delhi Food Walks founder Anubhav Sapra, who simplifies the role of cooking oils in street food and clears confusion around misleading food labels. Episode Overview -In the first Episode, "Silent Hero: The Science of What We Eat," Anubhav explains why palm oil is widely used by vendors. Its high-heat stability, neutral taste, and consistent frying performance help deliver the signature crispness of Indian snacks. BPE

Turkish Airlines opens its first European lounge abroad in Edinburgh

CHANDIGARH: Turkish Airlines has opened its first-ever European lounge at Edinburgh Airport, aside from the world-famous one at its stanbul hub, bringing another dimension of its world-renowned hospitality to travellers in Scotland. The new lounge further elevates Edinburgh's premium travel offering while reinforcing airport's growing role as an international gateway. Türkiye's flag carrier, which flies to more countries than any other, hosted a celebratory event at Edinburgh International Airport on 10 December to mark the opening of its eighth lounge outside of Türkiye. Turkish Airlines continues to bring scaled down slices of its five-star Lounge in stanbul to its international gateways to maintain a seamless and luxurious experience. BPE

Amazon is powering the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision

SHIMLA: An Economic Impact Report by Keystone Strategy released at the sixth edition of Amazon Smbhav Summit reveals that Amazon's cumulative investments of $40 billion in India since 2010, including compensation to employees and the development of infrastructure, have significantly contributed towards India's Atmanirbhar vision. According to Keystone, these investments have established Amazon as the largest foreign investor in India, the largest enabler of ecommerce exports, and among the top job creators in the country. BPE

Chandigarh's December highlights at Sector 7 SOCIAL

CHANDIGARH: Join Chef Neha for a warm, hands on workshop that brings the joy of holiday baking to life. Participants will learn to create an eggless Christmas Fruit Cake and a beautifully rustic Galette while enjoying a fully loaded Christmas spread that captures the season's indulgence. Saturday 13 December, 12 PM to 3 PM at Sector 7 Social. Lakme Salon and Sector 7 Social come together for a glam-packed, feel-good celebration designed for anyone who loves the buzz of a bachelorette-style night, no bride required. The evening brings together fun, cheeky, high-glam vibes with pop-up beauty stations offering glitter eye looks, LED nails and quick hairdos, along with playful interactive games featuring voucher giveaways. 19th December, 9 PM Onwards at Sector 7 SOCIAL. BPE

Saint Soldier International School hosts session by hospitality expert

CHANDIGARH: Saint Soldier International School, Sector 28 B, Chandigarh organised an insightful counselling session on hospitality for the students of Classes XI and XII. The session was conducted by Mrs. Rajnit Kohli, who has served as Principal, Institute of Hotel Management, Bathinda and also as Associate Director, Hospitality Food & Beverage Service at Chitkara University and Dean Academics and Head of Department at Chitkara School of Hospitality. BPE

Truecaller launches Family Protection

CHANDIGARH: Truecaller announced the launch of Family Protection, a major new feature designed to make digital safety a shared experience among families. Built directly into the Truecaller app on both Android and iOS, Family Protection enables users to form trusted family groups to provide real-time protection against scams and unwanted calls. On Android, the Family Administrator can receive alerts during potential scam calls for other family members and end such calls remotely. Family Protection lets up to five people join a trusted family group with shared tools that help them stay safe from scam calls. BPE

Vivo announces its collaboration with National Geographic Creative Works

CHANDIGARH: vivo announced its collaboration with National Geographic Creative Works for Go Into The Wild, an immersive photography and storytelling initiative captured entirely on the all-new vivo X300 Series. Building on the success of past editions, this year's project takes a Nat Geo Explorer, and other creators photographers across India's wild terrains to document untouched landscapes, wildlife encounters, and natural spectacles with cinematic detail. BPE

THINK Gas swiftly responds to pipeline damage caused by contractor negligence

KAPURTHALA: Think Gas pipeline near Ramada Hotel, Kapurthala was damaged during unauthorized excavation, resulting in a gas leak. Upon receiving information about the incident, the Think Gas Emergency Response Team immediately reached the site and successfully controlled the gas leak, averting a major incident. Despite visible warning signs, the contractor failed to take precautions or inform THINK Gas in advance, leading to the pipeline damage. The company urges all contractors and agencies to strictly follow safety protocols and coordinate in advance to avoid such incidents. BPE

Industry bodies like ASSOCHAM can play catalytic role

NEW DELHI: The AS India Water Leadership Conclave 2025 brought together national leaders, industry heads, and grassroots champions to drive a unified agenda for India's water-secure future. Addressing the Conclave, Dr. Raj Bhushan Chaudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State for Water, Ministry of Jal Shakti, highlighted India's major progress under the unified Ministry of Jal Shakti. He noted that initiatives such as Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Atal Bhujal Yojana, PMKSY, AMRUT 2.0, and Har Ghar Jal—which now covers over 80% of rural households—have delivered globally recognised improvements in water supply, conservation, and reuse. BPE

Gold, silver to sustain rally in 2026 amid headwinds: Report

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

Gold's rally in 2025, surging about 60 per cent year-to-date, may continue in the near-term, giving it a positive bias in 2026 amid support from safe-haven flows and central bank buying, a report said on Thursday. The report from Axis Mutual Fund, however, said that investors should brace for bouts of correction and volatility in 2026.

Higher real yields, a stronger US dollar, higher global growth, reduced inflationary pressures, and hawkish US policy stance may erode demand, it cautioned.

Regarding silver's outlook in 2026, analysts warned that overvaluation could lead to ETF outflows, or a downturn in copper could also weigh on prices.

"Overall, our outlook for silver is constructive with multiple tailwinds sustaining its rally even as valuations stretch," the report said

Gold-backed exchange-traded funds (ETFs) have witnessed strong inflows, with assets under management reaching a record of about $470 billion by the end of Q3CY25, while demand for bars and coins exceeded 300 tonnes for three consecutive quarters.

"In the near term, we have a positive bias on gold, supported by safe haven flows given the backdrop of global uncertainty," the report said.

The rally in 2025 was supported by a lower opportunity cost of holding non-yielding gold, and safe-haven appeal is sustained amid expectations of US rate cuts.

"We anticipate 1-2 more rate cuts in this cycle, as macroeconomic conditions stay uneven and weakness persists in the labour market," the report said. IANS

SPORTS

TIM NIELSEN
"THE WORLD CUP IS A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY FOR THESE YOUNG CRICKETERS TO SHOWCASE THEIR TALENT AND TEST THEMSELVES AGAINST THE BEST IN THE WORLD."

Quinton de Kock's dazzling 90 takes South Africa to 213 for 4

NEW CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 11





Powered by opener Quinton de Kock's blistering 90 off 46 balls, South Africa posted a competitive 213/4 in their 20 overs in the second T20I match against India at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium here on Thursday.

The left-handed opener set the tone with some clean hitting and dazzling shots square of the wicket through the leg-side to strike five fours and seven sixes, apart from sharing a partnership of 83 with Aiden Markram for the second wicket. India briefly clawed back with scalps, but South Africa regained control in the closing stages, as David Miller (20 not out) and Donovan Ferreira (30 not out) added 53 runs off just 25 balls to push South Africa past 210.

India's pacers struggled under heavy dew, with Arshdeep Singh conceding nine wides and Jasprit Bumrah missing his yorkers. Varun Chakravarthy was the standout bowler, with 2-29, while Axar Patel found grip late to finish with 1-27. India now face a stiff chase, though the dew could tilt conditions in their favour.

Inserted into batting first, de Kock gave South Africa a flying start by carting an erring Arshdeep Singh for two sixes and a four in the third over. De Kock and Reeza Hendricks feasted on the short ball by getting a pulled six each off Jasprit Bumrah in the fourth over.

India turned to spin in the fifth over, and Varun Chakravarthy got the first breakthrough by castling Hendricks with a quicker delivery that skidded through the pitch. The dismissal extended Chakravarthy's dominance over Hendricks, with him having removed the batter three times in just seven balls in T20Is.

Despite that, South Africa maintained momentum as de Kock targeted Axar Patel in the sixth over -- pulling him for a towering six, before punching and glancing off Hardik Pandya and Chakaravarthy for a brace of boundaries.

While skipper Aiden Markram was yet to find fluency in the innings, de Kock reached his half-century off 26 balls with a leg-side whip off a full toss from Pandya, before dancing down the pitch to thump Axar for a maximum and launching an off-colour Arshdeep, who gave a staggering seven wides in an 18-run 11th over, down the ground for another six.

It felt Markram had found his groove by smacking Chakaravarthy over long-on for consecutive sixes. But attempting to hit another six, Markram holed out to deep mid-wicket, giving Chakaravarthy his second scalp. IANS

WTC finals have definitely delivered in providing pinnacle event for Test cricket: ICC CEO

MUMBAI, DECEMBER 11



The three World Test Championship finals held so far have 'definitely delivered' on the aim of creating a pinnacle event for the traditional format of the game, said ICC CEO Sanjog Gupta here on Thursday. New Zealand, Australia and South Africa have each won the WTC once with India finishing runners-up twice.

Gupta highlighted that a packed Lord's during the previous edition's final between Australia and South Africa, despite the absence of India and hosts England, was a landmark moment for the global governing body.

"What the World Test Championship final attempts to do, beyond just being a five-plus-one-day event where the two best teams compete for the greatest prize in the format, is to give context to the two years of Test cricket that precedes that final," Gupta said during the announcement of ICC's global partnership with AB InBev India (Budweiser 0.0) here.

"That was the endeavour with which the World Test Championship was launched and what we've seen with three editions past us now, is that the World Test Championship final has definitely delivered on the goal of providing a pinnacle event for Test cricket."

He said the turnout at Lord's showed that the WTC final has stirred interest among fans, who now look forward to it just as they do with other flagship events.

"The last World Test Championship final was played between Australia and South Africa in England, and Lord's was packed," he said.

"India was not playing, England was not playing, (but) Australia was taking on South Africa, and Lord's was packed, which means that we now have a pinnacle event in Test cricket which the world waits for, or the world that enjoys Test cricket waits for."

Gupta added that the growing anticipation among fans in the months leading up to the final also strengthens the broader storytelling around Test cricket.

"The other thing that it did was, in the six months leading up to the World Test Championship final, the entire narrative was around who will feature and that gives additional meaning, context, and significance to the bilateral Test cricket that's being played in the lead-up to that World Test Championship final," he added. PTI

BCCI's apex council AGM to discuss Kohli, Rohit contracts, women's domestic pay

MUMBAI, DECEMBER 11



A revision of contracts for Indian superstars Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, along with those of women players in domestic cricket, will be discussed during the Annual General Meeting of the BCCI's apex council on December 22.

The 31st AGM of the apex council will be held online, where decisions are expected on the contracts of Kohli and Rohit, both of whom have retired from Tests and T20Is over the past year and now feature only in ODI cricket.

In that context, India's Test and ODI captain Shubman Gill could be placed in the A-plus category, alongside senior all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, who was appointed vice-captain for the last Test assignment, and ace fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah.

Among other matters, a revision in payments for umpires and match referees, along with an update on the board's digital properties will also be discussed.

It will be the first AGM of the apex council since changes among officials in the BCCI, with Mithun Manhas becoming the board's president and Raghuram Bhatt named treasurer in September, while Devajit Saikia and Prabhtej Singh Bhatia were appointed as secretary and joint secretary.

The board's last elections also saw Saurashtra Cricket Association's president Jaydev Shah coming on board as a councillor. PTI

Two Indian origin players named in Australia U19 World Cup squad

MELBOURNE, DECEMBER 11



Two Indian origin players Aryan Sharma and John James have been named in Australia's 15-member squad for the men's U-19 World Cup scheduled to be held in Namibia and Zimbabwe from January 15 to February 6.

Aryan, a handy batter and slow left-arm spinner, and James, a right-arm medium pace all-rounder, were both part of the squad that played against India in the youth Tests and one-dayers in September.

Besides cricketers of Indian heritage, the squad features two players of Sri Lankan (Naden Cooray and Nitesh Samuel) and one of Chinese Origin (Alex Lee Young).

Australia enters the tournament as defending champions, with Oliver Peake as captain.

"We're delighted to announce a strong and well-balanced squad for the ICC Under-19 World Cup. Our focus has been on selecting a group with complementary skill sets that provide the best chance of success in tournament," head coach Tim Nielsen said in a release.

"The players named have impressed with their performances during the U19 series against India in September and at the recent National U19 Championship in Perth.

"It's an exciting group, some have already experienced senior training environments, while others are progressing rapidly through our pathway."

Australia is placed in Group A alongside Ireland, Japan, and Sri Lanka. The team will reach Namibia in early January and play warm-up matches from January 9–14.

"The World Cup is a fantastic opportunity for these young cricketers to showcase their talent and test themselves against the best in the world," Nielsen said. PTI

Agree to an extent but can't play around with roles too much: ABD on Gambhir's 'over-rated' comment



NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 11

'I do agree with him to a certain extent. I've always enjoyed a floating batting lineup in ODIs. But it's a fine line because you can't really play around too much with the players' roles'

Former South Africa captain AB de Villiers said he agrees 'to a certain extent' with India head coach Gautam Gambhir's belief that ODI batting orders are 'overrated,' but stressed the need for teams to balance flexibility with clearly defined roles.

Following India's 2-1 ODI series win against South Africa, Gambhir had said that he thought batting orders are overrated in the ODI format.

"I do agree with him to a certain extent. I've always enjoyed a floating batting lineup in ODIs. But it's a fine line because you can't really play around too much with the players' roles," De Villiers said on his YouTube channel.

"It's the top three, four to six, and then your tailenders who can hold the bat. It's almost like three segments, and you can really be creative with that.

"Play with right and left-hand combinations and certain situations of the game."

India won the first T20I against South Africa to extend their winning run to 27 victories out of 31 games.

Lavishing praise on the Indian team, de Villiers said: "It has been incredible, especially for a T20 format.

"It's the most volatile format of the three, and to have that kind of consistency tells you there must be something going on that's heading in the right direction.

"I think it's got to do with the depth of Indian cricket," said de Villiers. PTI

Juventus made to battle before earning much needed win over Pafos

TURIN, DECEMBER 11



Juventus registered their first home win of this season's Champions League but were made to battle before overcoming Pafos 2-0 at home on Wednesday thanks to second-half goals from Weston McKennie and Jonathan David.

The sides were level on points going into the game and Pafos proved more than a match for their more illustrious Italian opponents for long periods, but Juventus earned a second successive win to boost their European hopes.

Juventus are 17th in the standings on nine points while Pafos are 26th on six points, with the top eight teams qualifying for the knockout stage and the next 16 going into the playoffs for the other eight spots.

Pafos created an early chance with Anderson Silva's backheeled shot going just wide and minutes later Juventus keeper Michele Di Gregorio needed to be alert to keep out an own goal when the ball ricocheted off Andrea Cambiaso. The visitors' keeper Neofytos Michael parried away Kenan Yildiz's curling shot and Teun Koopmeiners headed wide from a Juventus corner but Pafos proved dangerous with quick counter-attacks.

Joao Correia got on the end of a long ball, shrugging off the attentions of McKennie before firing over and Vlad Dragomir reached Correia's cross into the box but Di Gregorio had little trouble gathering his tame effort. Pafos continued to cause problems. Silva struck the outside of the upright with another effort, Derrick Luckassen headed narrowly wide from a corner and Di Gregorio tipped over a powerful strike from Dragomir. AGENCIES

Arsenal make it six out of six with easy win over Club Brugge

BRUGES, DECEMBER 11



Noni Madueke scored two goals and Gabriel Martinelli netted another as Arsenal kept up their 100% run in the Champions League to stay top of the standings with a comfortable 3-0 triumph at Belgium's Club Brugge on Wednesday.

Arsenal's sixth win in as many games all but confirms a top-eight finish, meaning they will skip the knockout phase playoffs in February and move straight into the round of 16 in March. Brugge remain on four points and in stark danger of missing out on the knockouts.

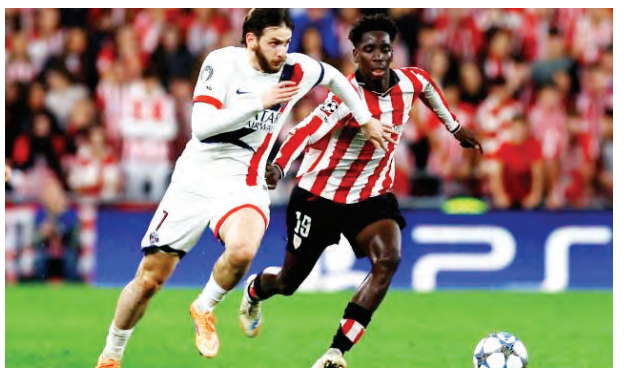
It was a satisfying night at the Jan Breydelstadion for the under-strength Gunners, who lost at Aston Villa at the weekend and made five changes to freshen up an injury-stricken squad, including a first run-out in almost a year for Brazilian striker Gabriel Jesus, who got half an hour of action as a second-half substitute.

Madueke got matters going with a thunderous strike in the 25th minute, collecting possession on the halfway line and swiftly weaving his way up field before unleashing a powerful effort that flew into the top corner.

The home side went close to an equaliser in the 39th minute, when some swift passing saw Aleksandar Stankovic curl a shot narrowly wide, and continued to probe up to halftime with David Raya making two key saves, from Christos Tzolis and Stankovic. AGENCIES

PSG held to goalless draw as Athletic Bilbao's Simon shines between the posts

BARCELONA, DECEMBER 11



Paris St Germain played out their first goalless draw of the season at Athletic Bilbao on Wednesday but stayed in the driving seat for direct qualification for the Champions League last-16 after a string of fine saves by home goalkeeper Unai Simon denied the defending champions.

Luis Enrique's side had the clearest chances after being under pressure in the first half, but Simon produced several superb saves and Ousmane Dembele's absence was once again felt up front by the visitors. The result left PSG in third place in the 36-team league with 13 points from six games while Bilbao are 28th on five points, two points from the playoff places.

PSG next travel to Sporting and Bilbao visit Atalanta.

Bilbao threatened first when Alex Berenguer curled a right-footed free kick towards the far post in the 31st minute, forcing PSG goalkeeper Matvey Safonov to fingertip the ball behind for a corner.

The Basque side enjoyed their best spell around the half-hour mark, pressing high and testing PSG's defensive organisation without finding a breakthrough. AGENCIES

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