

YAMUNANAGAR MC CARRIES OUT CLEANLINESS DRIVE

MC teams cover parks, roads, streets, drains, sewerages and vacant plots in ward No. 13, 14, 21 and 22 of MCYJ. **P2>>**



AAP, JJP FIRST TIMERS TRYING HARD TO MAKE PRESENCE FELT

AAP candidate Raj Kaur Gill raise issues of waterlogging, poor roads, education and Tangri river. **P3>>**



ROW OVER IC 814: THE KANDAHAR HIJACK

Director says though he has a point of view on geopolitics, he prefers to remain neutral on hijack drama. **P4>>**



IN BRIEF

₹6.7L SEIZED AHEAD OF POLLS

Sirsa: Ahead of the Haryana Assembly elections on October 5, the Sirsa police are conducting special checking operations. During one such operation, they seized ₹6,70,235 from four individuals. The Sirsa CIA police apprehended a young man in the city's grain market area with ₹2 lakh. SP Vikrant Bhushan reported that the suspect, identified as Vikas, was stopped for a routine check when the cash was discovered during a search conducted in the presence of a Duty Magistrate. In another incident, the Ellenabad police seized ₹2,10,000 from Surya Prakash and ₹60,235 from Pankaj during checks in the Sudanpura border area near Rajasthan. Additionally, ₹2 lakh was confiscated from Gurnel during the operation. The individuals were unable to provide satisfactory explanations or proof regarding the source of the cash. Bhushan emphasised that the money was seized in accordance with election regulations and relevant departments have been notified for further action. He assured that security measures were being intensified, especially along the borders with Rajasthan and Punjab, to ensure a smooth election process. **TNS**



DEEPENDER DESWAL

HISAR, SEPTEMBER 20

The four-cornered contest in the Hisar Assembly constituency has taken an interesting turn as two of the top business houses of the country have joined hands against the BJP candidate in the Hisar Assembly constituency.

The Zee group owner, Subhash Chandra, has announced that he would extend support to Jindal Group chairperson Savitri Jindal who is in the electoral fray as an Independent candidate in the Hisar segment. Both Jindal and Subhash Chandra belong to Hisar town.

Chandra's support to Jindal has come as a shot in the arm for her. Interestingly, Chandra was instrumental in the defeat of Savitri Jindal in 2014 when she was a Congress candidate. With the backing of Subhash Chandra, BJP's Kamal Gupta registered an upset victory of Savitri Jindal by 13,646 votes in 2014. She later stayed away from electoral politics in 2019 and now is in the contest as an Independent candidate.

In a message on his social media X account today, Subhash Chandra, who had become the Rajya Sabha as an Independent candidate with the support of the BJP in 2016, stated that Savitri Jindal was the appropriate and right candidate from the Hisar Assembly constituency. "Though I am from a family which has been a supporter of the BJP, I am still making an appeal for the Independent candidate. Supporting the BJP is my personal matter. But I also have a dhama towards the people of Hisar which is my hometown," he stated in message while making an appeal to vote for Jindal.

Notably, both Jindals and Goenkas (Subash Chandra

Top business houses join hands to defeat BJP



Savitri Jindal amid her supporters; and (below) BJP's Kamal Gupta during campaigning in Hisar.

Though I am from a family which has been a supporter of the BJP, I am still making an appeal for the Independent candidate... I also have a dhama towards the people of Hisar.

Subhash Chandra



Goenka) were also in a legal tussle for nearly seven years and made peace in July, 2018 when Naveen Jindal withdrew the criminal complaints against the Zee group and Zee group also took back all complaints against the Jindal group.

The BJP has fielded Health Minister Kamal Gupta who is a two-time MLA while the Congress has nominated Ram Niwas Rara from this seat. Former Mayor and BJP leader Gautam Sardana is in the fray as an Independent to make it a four-cornered contest.

Another BJP rebel former district vice-president Tarun Jain is contesting as an Independent candidate. Savitri

Jindal who had been a minister in the Congress government headed by former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda has been using pink colour in her publicity material during the campaigning which has also become a talking point among the electorate. The people are identifying the colour with that of the colour which was being used by the supporters of the former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda during his rallies some time ago. Even her gesture to extend birthday wishes to the former CM Hooda on his birthday on her social media account is also being taken note of by people in Hisar.

Though Jindal had not given

any indication to any faction of the political parties and claimed that she had joined the electoral fray to raise the issues and demands of the people of Hisar in the state Assembly.

However, Kamal Gupta, has been banking on his development works done in the town by the BJP government in the last 10 years. "I am sure of my victory as people will vote for the development of the town," he said. Congress candidate Ramniwas Rara however alleged that the miserable conditions of the infrastructure in the town was a major issue in the election as the people were pinning hopes on the Congress to get rid poor civic infrastructure.

Congress highlights lack of jobs as major issue in state

PARVEEN ARORA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KARNAL, SEPTEMBER 20

With the visit of the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, at Ghogripur village on Friday morning, Congress leaders are trying to focus on the pressing issue of unemployment, which as per them, was driving many young people to migrate to foreign countries through illegal 'donkey' route.

Gandhi met six families at the village, whose children had gone abroad using the 'donkey route'. The Congress leaders said that during the meeting, Rahul Gandhi interacted with the family members and listened to their stories of hardship. The Congress leaders claimed that addressing unemployment would be a key priority for his party if voted back to power.

"Rahul Gandhi expressed his concern over the growing unemployment crisis in the state, which is forcing the educated youth to risk their lives in search of better opportunities abroad," said Virender Rathore, former AICC secretary and Congress candidate from the Gharunda Assembly segment.

LoP Rahul Gandhi visits Ghogripur village, meets kin of those who went abroad through 'donkey' route

YOUTH RISKING THEIR LIVES TO GO ABROAD

Rahul Gandhi expressed his concern over the growing unemployment crisis in the state, which is forcing the educated youth to risk their lives in search of better opportunities abroad.

- Virender Rathore, CONGRESS CANDIDATE FROM THE GHARUNDA

He emphasised on the election manifesto of the Congress, which promised 2 lakh permanent jobs. "Our government will provide jobs to the youth, which will be a solution to stop the migration of youth to foreign land," he added.

The former MLA and Congress candidate from the Karnal Assembly seat, Sumita Singh, also highlighted unemployment as the major issue, which would be addressed by the Congress. She said, "Lack of jobs in Haryana, especially for young graduates, is one of the critical failures of the current government," she alleged.

Former Assandh MLA and Congress candidate from the

same seat, Shamsher Singh Gogi said Rahul Gandhi was a down to earth leader, due to which he reached here to interact with the people and listen to their plight. "Unemployment is a major issue in Haryana and Rahul Gandhi understands it, due to which he interacted with the families of such youths," Gogi said, adding that if voted to power, the Congress would provide jobs.

The BJP has failed to provide jobs to the youth, due to which a large number of youth have migrated abroad and a majority of them have gone abroad through illegal donkey route while risking their lives.



Leader of Opposition and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's visit Ghogripur village.

Kaithal police step up vigil on nine inter-state checkpoints

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KAITHAL, SEPTEMBER 20

Ahead of the Assembly elections, the Kaithal police have intensified vigil in the district. Security has been tightened not only within the district but also on the borders shared with neighbouring states. Police personnel along with paramilitary forces have been deployed on all nine inter-state checkpoints as well as other inter-districts nakas within the limit of Kaithal district.

The police and paramilitary forces have expedited the process of vehicle inspections at checkpoints across the district to ensure a peaceful and fear-free environment for the elections.

Rajesh Kalia, Superintendent of Police (SP), said that checking is being conducted at nine inter-state checkpoints, including Dhanouri, Barta, Sangatpura, Tatiana, Hamauli, Kamehri, Kharka, Kasour, and Azeemgarh, as well as various locations within the district. "The Kaithal police have



The Kaithal police check a vehicle at the inter-state checkpoints.

POLICE CONTINUE FLAG MARCH

The Kaithal police continue to conduct flag marches in the district, in collaboration with paramilitary forces, as part of their election security measure. The flag march aims at instilling fear in anti-social elements and create a sense of security among the public, ensuring that they feel confident to vote without intimidation. During the flag march, senior police officials urge people to participate peacefully, impartially and freely in the election process. The public has been encouraged to immediately report any attempt to influence their vote so that appropriate legal action can be taken against such people, said SP Rajesh Kalia.

implemented stringent measures to prevent illegal activities, particularly targeting liquor smugglers and those involved in selling illicit liquor. Vehicles, including two-wheelers, four-wheelers, light and heavy vehicles are being thoroughly inspected," said the SP

SP Kalia said all police officers and station in-charges had been instructed to maintain heightened vigilance during the elections, ensuring that no illegal weapons or narcotics were smuggled into the district. He emphasised that conducting peaceful and

secure elections was the police administration's top priority. The officials stationed at checkpoints had been directed to maintain a friendly behaviour with the public while keeping a close watch on suspicious people and vehicles.

Khattar's nephew Ramit joins Congress, returns to saffron party within hours

SUNIT DHAWAN

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, SEPTEMBER 20

Ramit Khattar, a nephew of former Haryana Chief Minister and present Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar, who had joined the Congress yesterday and returned to the BJP fold within a few hours.

Ramit joined the Congress in the presence of Rohtak MLA Bharat Bhushan Batra around noon on Thursday. However, by the same evening, he joined the BJP in presence of Batra's rival and BJP candidate Manish Grover at a public meeting.

However, he did not explain or elaborate on his switch-over to the Congress and subsequent 'ghar-wapsi' to the BJP. "He (Batra) put a piece of cloth on my shoulder. Photographs were clicked and circulated. I am with the BJP, with Manohar Lal ji," Ramit told the reporters present at the BJP meeting.

Asked about Batra's statement regarding his joining the Congress, Ramit remarked that it was inappropriate.



Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar's nephew Ramit Khattar being welcomed to the Congress by Rohtak MLA Bharat Bhushan Batra.



Ramit Khattar welcomed back to the BJP by former Haryana minister Manish Grover on Thursday evening.

"Look, I am here before you," said Ramit as he gestured to touch Grover's feet while

standing on the dais. As per sources, Ramit approached Rohtak MLA and

Congress candidate Bharat Bhushan Batra through a local leader of the party, after which he was inducted into the Congress.

He joined the Congress MLA during a door-to-door campaign yesterday. After that, he stayed with Batra's supporter Advocate Lokinder Singh Phogat, alias Jojo, a former president of the District Bar Association, for a couple of hours. "I did not know Ramit before yesterday. He approached me through a local leader, who introduced Ramit to me and told me that he (Ramit) wanted to join the Congress. I asked him whether he was sure and wouldn't retract, to which he replied positively. Following that, I publicly welcomed him to the Congress," Batra told The Tribune.

The MLA revealed that while Ramit was with them, he was getting calls from his uncle and Union minister Khattar. "However, Ramit did not take the Union minister's calls. But later in the day, we were told that he joined the BJP," said Batra.

Y'nagar MC carries out cleanliness drive

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

YAMUNANAGAR, SEPTEMBER 20 Under the 'Swachhata hi sewa pakhwada' programme, the teams of the Municipal Corporation, Yamunanagar-Jagadhri (MCYJ) carried out a special cleanliness drive in four wards of Yamunanagar city in the past two days.

The teams covered parks, roads, streets, drains, sewerages and vacant plots in ward no 13, 14, 21 and 22 of the MCYJ under this cleanliness drive and also removed wild grass from areas of these wards.

"The team members also made people aware about the importance of cleanliness and asked them to dispose garbage in the MC vehicles, instead of throwing it in open spaces," said Sunil Dutt, Chief Sanitary Inspector.

He said the drive would continue from September 17 to October 2 on the instructions of Municipal Commissioner Ayush Sinha.

He further said that under this fortnight-long programme, cleanliness was being ensured in every



Employees of Municipal Corporation conducting sanitation drive in a colony in Yamunanagar.

colony of Yamunanagar and Jagadhri and in every village falling under jurisdiction of the MCYJ. He added that this cleanliness drive was being run dividing all 22 wards in two zones.

Chief Sanitary Inspector Sunil Dutt organised an

awareness programme regarding cleanliness in Government Senior Secondary School situated in Old Hamida falling under ward no. 14 of the MCYJ.

Dutt said that efforts were being made to get the best position in Swachh Survek-

shan-2024. He said that school students took out a rally in various areas of the old Hamida colony to spread awareness about cleanliness.

"After the rally, a painting competition was also held on the topic of cleanliness in the school premises. Through



CAMPAIGN TO CONTINUE FROM SEPT 17 TO OCT 2

- The teams covered parks, roads, streets, drains, sewerage and vacant plots and also removed wild grass from four wards
- The drive will continue from September 17 to October 2 on the instructions of Municipal Commissioner Ayush Sinha

painting, the students gave a message of protecting the environment from pollution, keeping separate dustbins for wet and dry garbage, planting as many trees as possible and making twin cities clean," said Dutt.

Harshita bagged the first

position, Riya stood second and Prachi got the third position in the painting competition.

The students were honoured by Information Education Communication (IEC) expert Pooja Agarwal of Swachh Bharat Mission by giving them prizes.

CAMPUS NOTES



TALENT SHOW AT RKSD COLLEGE

Kaithal: The annual talent show was organised at RKSD College, Kaithal. Kaithal ADC Deepak Babul Karwa was the chief guest, along with the college chairman, Ashwani Shorewala. College principal Sanjay Goyal said dance performances, singing, speeches, mono-acting, a short play on the importance of voting, rangoli making, poster presentations, clay-modelling and photography featured during the show. Cultural Committee convener Ashok Attri and Richa Langyan presented the annual cultural report of the college.

HACKATHON ORGANISED AT CUH

Mahendragarh: An internal hackathon was organised at Central University of Haryana (CUH), Mahendragarh, on Tuesday. The objective of the programme organised by the entrepreneur cell and centre for innovation and incubation of the university was to provide opportunities to eligible talents for the 'Smart India Hackathon-2024' organised by the Ministry of Education and AICTE. Prof Vikas Dhawan from IMS, Noida and prof Sanjay Bohra from Acharya Narendra Dev College were present as external experts.



(L-R) Actor Raghuvendra Malik, Prof Harish Arya and Anjali Hooda in MDU Rohtak on Friday.

Cinema a potent medium of social change, says Malik

RAVINDER SAINI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, SEPTEMBER 20 It is commonly said cinema holds a mirror to the society and it reflects back the changes in the society at the social and political level. To discuss cinema's role in shaping social norms and fostering critical thinking, renowned film personalities, academia, and students gathered at Maharshi Dayanand University (MDU) here on Friday.

To mark National Cinema Day in an effective manner, the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication of the university hosted a dialogue programme to

explore cinema's multifaceted contributions in building the society.

After a detailed conversation on various aspects of cinema, experts reached a consensus that films transcend entertainment and serve as a potent medium for social change and human development.

Veteran Haryanvi film actor Raghuvendra Malik and actress Anjali Hooda graced the event as distinguished guest speakers. Prof Harish Kumar, Head of the Department, stated that cinema was a medium of communication closely linked to people's lives. He highlighted cinema's vast impact and its contribution to education apart

from entertainment. Malik shared his journey, starting with Shyam Benegal's documentary in the 80s and his debut as a villain in the 1983 Haryanvi film *Bahurani*. He emphasised preserving Haryana's cultural heritage while Anjali discussed her film career, beginning with Bollywood actor and director Satish Kaushik's production *Hamari choriyan chhoron se kam nahi hoti*.

She encouraged the audience to watch films in theatres and support the film industry. The event featured a short film with a social message, followed by an interactive session with students.

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2 CDLU faculty among world's top scientists

OUR CORRESPONDENT

SIRSA, SEPTEMBER 20 Chaudhary Devi Lal University (CDLU) in Sirsa is celebrating the recognition of two faculty members, Professor Joginder Duhan and Dr Sanju Bala Dhull, by Stanford University as part of the world's top 2 per cent scientists. The prestigious acknowledgment highlights their exceptional contributions in their fields.

Professor Joginder Duhan, head of the zoology department, has over 25 years of experience in teaching and research, focusing on microbiology. He has received several awards, including the Young Scientist Award from the Association of Microbiologists of India, and has published more than 130 research papers.

Dr Sanju Bala Dhull, head of the food science and technology department, brings over 17 years of expertise. Her research encompasses biomolecules, food films, and vegetarian product development, with over 130 publica-



Prof Joginder Duhan



Dr Sanju Bala Dhull

tions and seven authored books to her credit.

Vice-Chancellor professor Ajmer Singh Malik congratulated both professors for their achievements, which not only elevate their personal careers but also enhance the university's international reputation.

Tribal representatives from across nation take part at Samalkha meet

MUKESH TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PANIPAT, SEPTEMBER 20

The three-day national workers' conference organised by the Akhil Bhartiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram (ABVKA) was inaugurated on Friday at Seva Sadhana and Gram Vikas Kendra at Patti Kalyana in Samalkha. Bhagwat Kathakar (religious preacher) of Gujarat Ramesh Bhai Ojha inaugurated the conference.

Tribal representatives and workers from across the country including Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir, Purvanchal and South Indian states were present at the inauguration of the conference.

While addressing the representatives, Ramesh Bhai called upon saints to reach out to the interior of forest regions and interact with communities with kathapravachan (storytelling).

In the three-day workers'

conference, various issues including the activities and programmes of the Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram in different parts of the country will be discussed with the workers in 12 sessions. Workers of the provinces will report their respective programmes and will also get guidance from the officials.

Notably, the All India Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram is running 22,152 projects of education, health, village development, self-reliance, etc for the all-round development of the tribal society through its affiliated units at 17,394 places in the country. The all India workers' conference is organised by the Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram every three years.

After inauguration by RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat on Saturday evening, the representatives of 80 different tribes of the country would give a 'message of unity' by presenting their tribal worship methods as per their

customs and traditions and would present their cultural programmes.

In the beginning of the conference, tribal women from Sikkim presented the Buddha prayer. Ramdatt, Joint General Secretary, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS); Antar Singh Arya, president, National Tribal Commission; Urmila Bharti, Tribal Advisory Committee member; Madhya Pradesh; Satyendra Singh, president, Akhil Bhartiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram (ABVKA); Hira Kumar Nagu, vice-president, ABVKA; Techi Gubin, vice president, ABVKA; Yogesh Bapat, general secretary, ABVKA; Atul Jog, National Sangthan Mantri, ABVKA, and Rambabu Singhal, president, Kalyan Ashram Haryana were present at the inaugural ceremony.

RSS Sah-Sarkaryavah Ramdatt said that Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram was soon going to complete 75 years.

Varsity inks pact with ISKCON, KDB on Gita teachings

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KURUKSHETRA, SEPTEMBER 20 A three-party agreement was signed among Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra Development Board and ISKCON Temple, Kurukshetra, for the holistic growth of students and faculty through the values and principles of the Bhagwad Gita.

To provide holistic growth of students, faculty

The MoU was signed by Registrar Prof Sanjeev Sharma on behalf of the university, honorary secretary Upender Singhal on behalf of the KDB and ISKCON chief Sakshi Gopal Maharaj on behalf of the ISKCON temple, Kurukshetra.

KU Vice-Chancellor Prof Som Nath Sachdeva said under the MoU, practical knowledge of Indian Vedic culture would be given to students by ISKCON temple, Kurukshetra. The aim of the MoU was to empower students with the knowl-

edge of the Gita, promote emotional resilience, self-awareness and strategies for maintaining positive mental well-being.

ISKCON vice-president Mohan Gaurchandra Prabhujhi said ISKCON would play a leading role in organising and implementing the International Gita Olympiad. ISKCON would provide fac-

ulty and training material to conduct Gita courses, including meditation in online and offline modes, as well as other educational programmes related to the International Gita Olympiad.

Upender Singhal said the purpose of the MoU was to spread the glory of the Gita to national and international audience.



Religious preacher Ramesh Bhai Ojha at the confence in Samalkha on Friday.

Importance of Gandhian thoughts in contemporary South Asia discussed

Keynote address delivered by Dr Ziaul Haque Sheikh from Jagannath University, Dhaka

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KURUKSHETRA, SEPTEMBER 20 The research and development cell and the department of economics at Indira Gandhi National College hosted an international lecture on the 'Importance of Mahatma Gandhi's thoughts in contemporary South Asia' in online mode, on Friday.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr Ziaul Haque Sheikh from Jagan-

nath University, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Dr Kushal Pal, Principal, Indira Gandhi National College, emphasised the timeless relevance of Gandhi's principles, highlighting non-violence as a fundamental tenet of his life and work. He reflected on Gandhi's commitment to social uplift through truth, service, equality and goodwill.

Dr Ziaul Haque Sheikh articulated the pressing

need for countries in South Asia, including Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Afghanistan to embrace Gandhi's philosophy. He pointed out that the region's political instability largely stemmed from the inadequate application of Gandhi's concept of Sarva Dharma Siddhant, which promoted universal respect and understanding. Dr Sheikh urged the nations to adopt these enduring principles to fos-

ter stability and progress.

The programme coordinator, Dr Yashpal Singh, said this lecture underscored the continued importance of Gandhi's teachings in addressing contemporary challenges faced by South Asia, inspiring participants to reflect on these critical themes.

Dr Romesh Singh Bhal, Dr Harneet Kaur, Sunita Rani, Dr Neeru Bala, and Dr Naveen Kumari also attended the event.

WHAT OUR READERS SAY

Is a civic issue bothering you? Are you agitated over the lack of concern? Is there something heartening that you feel needs to be highlighted? Or a picture which in your opinion ought to be seen by many, and not just you?

The Tribune

invites its readers to have their say. Please email at: haryana@tribunemail.com

NOISE POLLUTION BY VENDORS

VENDORS using loudspeakers have become a big source of nuisance these days. Sometimes two or three street vendors come together and play recorded messages on loudspeakers, causing inconvenience to students, ailing and elderly persons. The local municipal authorities and district administration should take action. **DINESH MIGLANI, ROHTAK**



UNFINISHED ROADS CAUSE INCONVENIENCE

TWO main roads passing through Narwana and Jind, which were dug up some time ago, are lying unfinished. Contractors and officials concerned have left the people in the lurch. If it rains again, the passage will get muddy and slippery. The authorities concerned should spring into action. **RAMESH GUPTA, NARWANA**

AAP, JJP first-timers trying hard to make presence felt in Ambala

NITISH SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMBALA, SEPTEMBER 20
Amid a fierce battle in the Ambala Cantonment, some new contestants have been trying hard to make their presence felt in the field.

Aam Aadmi Party's Raj Kaur Gill and Jannayak Janta Party's Avtar Singh are in the field from the Ambala Cantonment segment where former Home Minister and BJP leader Anil Vij, Congress candidate Parvinder Singh Pari and Congress rebel and Independent candidate Chitra Sarwara are making all possible efforts to woo voters.

Raj Kaur Gill while meeting people raised the issues of waterlogging, poor roads, education and Tangri river.

Gill, who is contesting her first-ever election, said, "I have always raised my voice against wrong and supported the people who have been struggling due to the wrong policies of the government. I participated in the farmers' agitation and also for the women rights. Education is a major issue that I have been raising during my election campaign. A large number of government schools have been closed during the BJP regime, affecting the studies of children belonging to the economically weaker section. Tangri river is another major issue for the people of Ambala. Due to the floods last year, many people lost their lives

and suffered huge losses, but failed to get any compensation from the government."

"The roads are in poor condition and colonies witness waterlogging after a spell of rain. Due to the closure of the Shambhu border, residents, farmers and businessmen are suffering. Anil Vij is a six-time MLA and if he is so confident about his victory for the seventh time and he believes that he has done a lot, then he should sit at home instead of going door to door and requesting the people to vote for him. Soon Arvind Kejriwal and other senior leaders will campaign for us here. We have been getting a good response from the people of Ambala and we will give him a tough fight," said Raj Kaur, a gidha coach.

Similarly, Avtar Singh, who is contesting on the ticket of Jannayak Janta Party, is raising local issues and the challenges being faced by the science manufacturers in Ambala.

Avtar Singh, who works in a science manufacturing unit, said, "The science industry of Ambala faced heavy losses due to the flood last year. While the science apparatus manufacturers are facing problems in resuming their operations, the labourers and workers have also struggled. The government has failed to protect the industry and moreover the wrong decisions like the ISI marking for the glassware lab-



JJP candidate from Ambala Cantonment Avtar Singh during campaign; (below) AAP candidate from Ambala Cantonment Raj Kaur Gill meeting supporters.

oratory products being taken by the government have been affecting the livelihood of thousands of people associated with the industry."

"Waterlogging, and stray cattle in Ambala cantonment are some other major problems. I have been associated with former Home Minister Anil Vij from 2009 to 2018 and have learned a lot from him, so literally, I am contesting against my political guru. I have been getting support from the people of Ambala Cantonment as I know the issues and I can raise them effectively. Soon Dushyant Chautala and other leaders will reach Ambala for campaigning and it will give a boost to our campaign", said Avtar Singh.



Unlike others, JJP will deliver on promises: Ajay Chautala



JJP leader Ajay Chautala addresses a public meeting in Fatehabad on Friday.

ANIL KAKKAR

SIRSA, SEPTEMBER 20

Criticising the BJP and the Congress for making empty promises in their manifestos, such as free electricity and Rs 500 per cylinder, Ajay Chautala, national president of the Jannayak Janata Party (JJP), stated that both parties had been in power in Haryana for the past 20 years but had failed to fulfil their commitments to the people.

Speaking in Fatehabad during a campaign for JJP-ASP candidates, he highlighted that despite having only a 20 per cent share in the coalition government, JJP had successfully implemented nearly 90 per cent of its promises. These include providing 50 per cent

reservation for women in local bodies and 8 per cent for backward classes. He urged voters to recognise who truly had their interests at heart.

He emphasised that JJP's agenda mirrors the values of Chaudhary Devi Lal, advocating for people's rights and welfare. Chautala accused both the national parties of being insincere, suggesting they only engaged in empty rhetoric and did not have any genuine plans for the state.

Addressing concerns over pensions, he rebuked former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda for falsely claiming to increase old age pension to Rs 6,000. Chautala reminded the people that Hooda had failed to consider any hike during his 10 years in office. He

asserted that the old-age pension scheme, initiated by Chaudhary Devi Lal, aimed to increase pensions to Rs 5,100, a commitment JJP was prepared to fulfil if elected. Chautala acknowledged that the current pension amount of Rs 3,000 for senior citizens was among the highest in the country, attributing this success to JJP's role in the government.

He called upon party workers to engage actively in the campaign, stressing that the public was ready for change. "We must leave no stone unturned to bring JJP-ASP to power," he urged. He reassured voters that JJP would fulfil all its promises if given the opportunity, asking them to support JJP-ASP candidates in the upcoming elections.

Cong leader Setia questions status of ₹800 cr Sirsa funds



Congress candidate Gokul Setia at a public meeting in Sirsa on Friday.

ANIL KAKKAR

SIRSA, SEPTEMBER 20

Gokul Setia, the Congress candidate from the Sirsa Assembly seat, recently addressed the city residents during a poll campaign, focusing on the reported Rs 800 crore allocated for the city's development. He challenged the current MLA, Gopal Kanda, and questioned the status of these funds.

Expressing his deep bond

with the people of Sirsa, Setia stated, "They are my family, and their love is my strength." He stressed the need for electing a representative who would be present physically and who would actively address the concerns of residents. "The public has suffered long enough," he noted, highlighting ongoing issues like water shortages, clogged sewage systems, and poorly maintained roads.

He criticised the ruling BJP's claims of development, arguing that real progress had yet to come about. Setia urged voters to reflect on their past choices, emphasising that a fresh start was needed for Sirsa's development under the Congress leadership. Giving a clarion call to residents to vote, he said, "Let us not repeat past mistakes; this time, vote for progress."

Campaigning picks up pace in Panipat

MUKESH TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PANIPAT, SEPTEMBER 20

Campaigning has reached its peak in Panipat City and Panipat Rural Assembly segments. The party candidates start their day with party workers in the wee hours which ends late in the night.

Party candidates, their family members and their supporters are leaving no stone unturned to woo the voters. In Panipat City Assembly constituency, there is a triangular contest between BJP's candidate Pramod Vij, Congress' Varinder Kumar Shah alias Bulle Shah and an Independent candidate former MLA Rohita Rewri.

On Friday, Pramod Vij started his day with an early morning meeting with party workers at his house and after discussing the strategy with his team, he left the house at 7 am and held meetings with the people in the parks with morning walkers and at tea stalls over 'chai pe charcha'. He attended many public meetings which ended around 10 pm. He is holding almost 10 to 12 public meetings every day in the city.

Vij held a 'chai pe charcha' programme in Sector 12, where scores of residents gathered and they held a discussion with the BJP candidate. Besides, he visited Sector 23 TDI, District bar, New Mukhija colony, Shiv Nagar, Khatik Basti and held public meetings. Addressing the people, Vij said that the development works would be done more speedily after getting victory for the third time.

Congress candidate Varinder Kumar Shah alias Bulle Shah held meetings with the public at various places in the city. In a programme held on Assandh road, he made a scathing attack on the ruling BJP for corruption in the Municipal Corporation (MC), for traffic jams in the city, inspector raj for traders, etc.

Similarly, the former MLA and Independent candidate Rohita Rewri also held several programmes in the city informing the public of the development works she had carried out in the city.

In the Panipat Rural constituency, BJP's Mahipal Dhandha held public meetings in Diwana, Khalila, Hartari,



BJP candidate Pramod Vij at a programme 'Chai Pe Charcha' in Panipat; and (below) Cong candidate Varinder Kumar Shah addresses a gathering in Panipat City on Friday.

Dahar, Brahaman Majra, Jatal, Assan Kalan, Virk Nagar, Jyoti Colony and Dutta Colony on Friday. Dhandha said BJP would fulfil all its promises mentioned in the manifesto after forming the government a third time.

Congress candidate Sachin Kundu held public meetings in Vikas Nagar, Babarpur mandi, Jeetgarh-Ram Nagar, Jatal, Khalila, Diwana, grain market, door to door campaign from Devi temple to Hari Singh chowk market Sector 25 and Dadlana and Baljeet Nagar.



BJP, Congress working hard to regain lost ground in Nilokheri

PARVEEN ARORA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KARNAL, SEPTEMBER 20

The Nilokheri Assembly segment, one of the five segments in Karnal district, seems to be witnessing an interesting contest between the BJP and the Congress in the upcoming elections. This constituency has a record of electing Independent candidates, with five out of 13 elections being won by Independents. This time, both major parties are leaving no stone unturned to regain lost political ground. The Congress last won the seat in 2005, while the BJP clinched victory in 2014. In this election, the BJP has fielded former MLA Bhagwan Das Kabirpanthi, who secured the seat in 2014. On the other hand, Congress

has expressed confidence in Dharampal Gonder, a former Independent MLA who won in the 2019 elections. The contest is expected to be closely contested, as Kabirpanthi and Gonder are going head-to-head once again after five years. In 2019, Kabirpanthi contested on the BJP ticket, while Gonder was an Independent, who won the seat with a narrow margin of just 2,222 votes.

The constituency comprises key towns like Nilokheri, Taraori, Nissing, Nigdhu, and 76 villages. All the candidates are making efforts to secure victory by approaching rural and urban voters. The present scenario suggests the BJP and the Congress are dominating the scene, while other parties are also in the



Cong candidate Dharampal Gonder and (right) BJP candidate Bhagwan Das Kabirpanthi during campaigning in Nilokheri.

fray. INLD-BSP has fielded Balwan Singh, and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has chosen Amar Singh.

A significant challenge for the Congress candidate comes from within the party. Former MLA Raj Kumar

Valmiki and Rajiv Gonder, both Congress rebels, are contesting as Independent candidates, potentially splitting the votes and making the election even more unpredictable.

The candidates have inten-



sified the campaigns focusing on door-to-door visits and nukkar meetings.

BJP's Kabirpanthi is seeking votes by highlighting the achievements of the BJP government over the past decade. "The BJP govern-

ment has done tremendous work with the vision of 'Haryana Ek, Haryanvi Ek'. We have abolished the 'parchi and kharchi' (recommendation and bribe) system and provided jobs on merit basis. Our government has

brought transparency in governance," he said, emphasising the party's development agenda. Meanwhile, Congress candidate Dharampal Gonder is appealing voters by highlighting the BJP's neglect of the constituency. "Despite being an Independent MLA, I worked hard to bring development to Nilokheri. The BJP government, however, has consistently ignored the needs of this region," Gonder said.

He highlighted his achievement of ensuring the status of sub-division to Nilokheri during his tenure. During his campaign, Gonder also highlighted the manifesto of Congress, which promises Rs 6,000 social welfare pension, jobs to youth and others.

Political analysts believe

Nilokheri's voters prioritise the candidate's merit over party affiliation, which has led to the repeated success of independent candidates. Jai Singh Rana has a record of being elected MLA four times including twice as Independent MLA.

"Presently it seems to be a contest between candidates of the national parties - the BJP and the Congress. Caste factor will play a crucial role. This constituency has maximum voters of the Ror community, who seem to be silent this time. The voting trend of Brahmmins, Punjabis, Sikhs and others will also play an important role," said Balram Sharma, a political analyst and Head of Department of political science, DAV College, Kamal.

THE FAMILY MAN GETS GOING



The cast of the spy action thriller series *The Family Man* — Sharib Hashmi, Dalip Tahil, and Shreya Dhanwanthary have offered fans an exciting glimpse behind the scenes of the upcoming season, recently being filmed in the picturesque landscapes of Nagaland.

Tribune Life Style

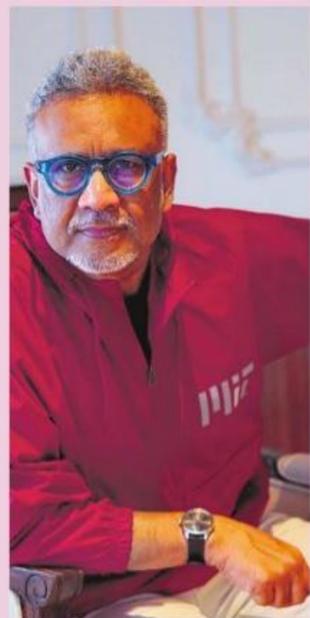
HARYANA | SATURDAY | 21 SEPTEMBER 2024

All set for IIFA

Nora Fatehi will be seen setting the stage on fire with her performance at the 24th edition of International Indian Film Academy Awards. Nora said that she cannot wait to bring her A-game forward.



Anubhav Sinha, whose web series *IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack* ran into controversies, says though he has a point of view on geopolitics, he prefers to remain neutral on this hijack drama



“We tend to view war and aggression, especially in our cinema, as an act of bravado. We fail to see the collateral damage that comes along with it.”

The drama is in the details

NONIKA SINGH

Each time he picks up the directorial baton, he takes us to the world hitherto not seen before on silver screen. Even though acclaimed director Anubhav Sinha picks up stories very much from the milieu around him and us, but gives it a new spin each time. So, *Thappad* becomes a stinging slap on the face of patriarchy, *Mulk* a sharp anatomy of what nationalism stands for from the perspective of minority community and *Article 15* a scathing look at the glaring social inequality and discrimination.

With his latest series *IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack*, he may have stirred a hornet's nest and naysayers may have picked up unwanted cudgels. But the tribe of those who loved his recreation of the longest hijack in Indian aviation history is no less vocal, or enthusiastic. Anyway the gifted director feels that with the Netflix series he was not really flowing against the current so much. Rather, he avers, “This is the first time, I am not blaming anyone.” He adds, “Indeed, the moment when the plane landed in Amritsar, the situation could have been handled differently by the authorities. But who knows what disastrous consequences it would have entailed.”

Even otherwise he feels that we tend to view war and aggression especially in our cinema as “an act of bravado, while it's many things and fail to see the collateral damage that comes along with it.” Interestingly, when the series written by Adrian Levy and Trishant Srivastav came to him, his first thoughts were— what was happening outside while these passengers were being held captive? Thus many facets of the hijack drama fleshed out.

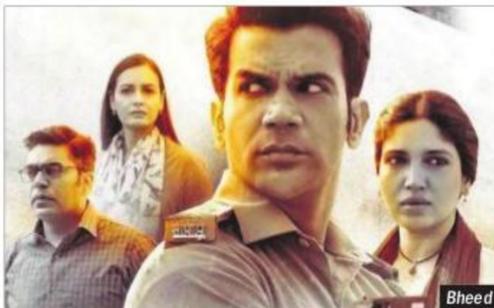
The challenge of making the series steeped in factual reality lies in not only sticking to facts but equally importantly the VFX effects. Today, he is tickled pink that no one is talking about it which means it blended so well with the narrative. On his initial reaction of refusal to direct *IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack*, well, it had nothing to do with the politics or lack of it. He says, “I am happy making films. Unlike movies where I can control the experience of viewers, on streaming platforms I am not so sure



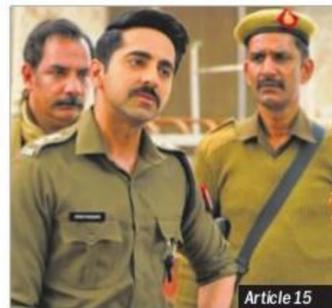
IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack



Thappad



Bheed



Article 15



Mulk

about how to make people watch the way I have designed it. People may not like what you have created for they could be watching on their small mobile phone screens or their speakers are not good enough.”

No, he doesn't think the audience for OTT is any different from cinema, only the attitude is. He says, “While in cinema halls you have the unwavering attention of viewers, on OTT they could be distracted by what'sapp status or messages or they can just go into the kitchen to make a cup of tea.” Yet, as he is receiving nearly 20 calls every day on how people have binge-watched the six episode series, he has realised that his misgivings on the power of storytelling on OTT were perhaps misplaced. And, our doubts on how he managed to hold together such a stellar cast sans ego clashes are belied too. Every sin-

gle actor in the series, be it Naseeruddin Shah, Pankaj Kapur, Arvind Swami, Vijay Varma or Yashpal Sharma is a name to reckon with. On the casting coup, he reveals, “There was no desire for one-upmanship among actors. It was the first time I saw actors working like one unit.”

Manoj Pahwa, seemingly his favourite, who once again got a meaty part in the series after *Mulk*, is special, but it's not like, “we hang out together.” In an otherwise serious series, Sinha gave Pahwa a few tongue-in-cheek one-liners for he believes, “Audiences' appetite for humour is boundless.” While it is for others to comment on his inclination towards hard-hitting subjects, the *Bheed* director says, “I guess I have a point of view on society, on economy, on geopolitics. Often this could be at variance with others and whenever you have a

contrarian point of view you are questioned.” Indeed, he has no problem with people asking questions as long as these are legitimate and relevant and not a question mark in themselves.

On questions of his next being a superhero film, he reveals he is writing one. Since all his heroes have a super-heroic quality in a relatable sort of a way, he says, “My superhero would be like any other of similar genre.” He nods in the affirmative that we could be inching close to creating our own universe on the lines of MCU, he is not sure whether his Shah Rukh Khan's *Ra.One* would have worked better today. He quips, “Who can say, such thoughts are a little pretentious.” And, Sinha judging by his cinema wears no blinkers, only a sharp lens that makes us relook and reanalyze the world we inhabit.

Mysticism, emotion and innocence combine in the works of artist Aradhana Tandon, whose paintings are themed around women and structured buildings

When dreams take flight

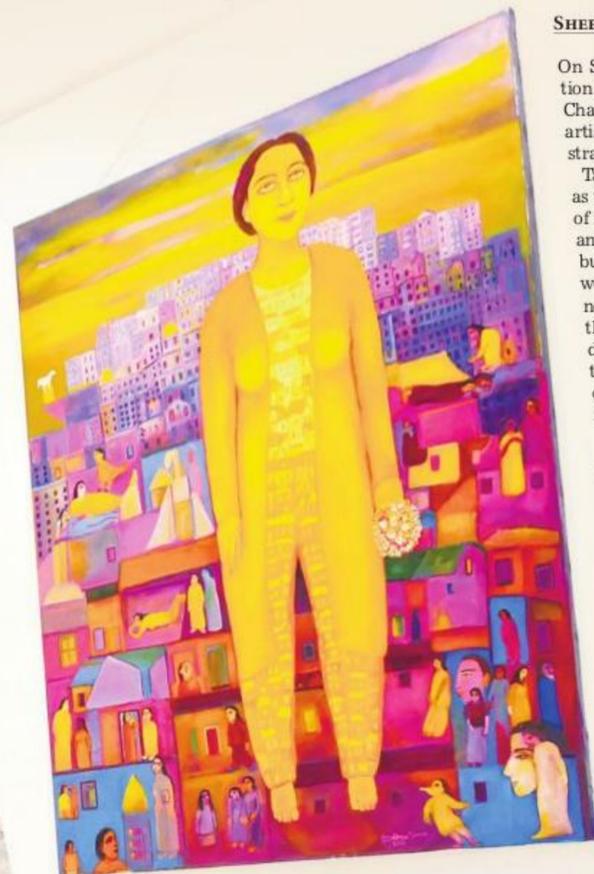
SHEETAL

On Saturday evening, an audio-visual presentation, *Shades of Life*, held at Alliance Francaise, Chandigarh, showcased paintings by renowned artist Aradhana Tandon, whose works demonstrate great strength, emotion and innocence.

Tandon's art presents the strength of women as the most authentic and prominent metaphor of nature, due to her ability to produce, nurture and contribute values. Women and structured buildings often find their way in Tandon's work. She says, “It's true that many who witness my work think of women as being a theme, but my intentions have always been to depict humans of all kinds. As for the structured buildings, they are also a presentation of my inner thoughts and dreams that come in many shapes, sizes and colour.”

Tandon's imagination takes off from her own source of artistic creativity that rises from her subconscious mind. Her work is creative expression of an intelligent soul, which can trigger some of the most challenging thoughts. While the event was mainly an audio-visual presentation organised by MN Sharma Architectural Society, Tandon displayed a few of her works in the art gallery for people to appreciate her 33-year-long career.

There's also hint of mysticism in her works. Her ability to fuse one figurine into another and bring alive animals, birds or trees is remarkable. Even the choice of colours is unique. For her journey, Tandon specifically thanked renowned artist Prem Singh, who also served as the formal principal of Government College of Art, Chandigarh. “Under his tutelage, I was able to develop many skills. I also thank Diwan Manna for encouraging me to be out here with my works.” Apart from drawing inspiration from Chandigarh's architecture, which she has seen and very much been a part of, she has painted other locations as well, such as Cappadocia in Turkeye.



“It's true that many who witness my work think of women as being a theme, but my intentions have always been to depict humans of all kinds.”



Rao on the go

Finally, the makers of *Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video* unveiled the romantic song *Tum Jo Mile Ho* starring Rajkumar Rao and Triptii Dimri on Thursday. After teasing fans with a teaser of the song, Rajkumar dropped the full song video on his Instagram handle. Titled *Tum Jo Mile Ho*, the song is composed by Sachin-Jigar and sung by Vishal Mishra along with the duo. The lyrics are beautifully penned by Priya Saraiya. Giving 90s vibe, the video shows the romantic chemistry between Rajkumar and Triptii. Sharing the video, he wrote, “90s ka wahii andaaz, lagega aur bhi khaas, apke apne Vicky Vidya ke saath. #TumJoMileHo song out now! #VickyVideoKaWohWalaVideo in cinemas on 11th October.”

A few days ago, the makers also released the film's trailer, which offers a sneak peek into the hilarious journey of Vicky (Rajkumar) and Vidya (Triptii), as they, along with their family, go all out to recover their missing suhagraat CD in the scenic town of Rishikesh. With help from Mallika Sherawat and the rest of the family, the couple leaves no stone unturned, from appealing to the police and family elders to even venturing into graveyards at night. Helmed by Raaj Shaandilyaa, *Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video* promises a “perfect blend of laughter and drama, immersing viewers in the charm and energy of the swinging 90s. Rajkumar and Triptii Dimri-starrer *Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video* is all set to clash with Alia Bhatt's *Jigra*. Both films are releasing on October 11. — ANI

PRADHEEP TEWARI



INDIAN English Newspaper

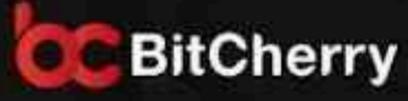
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