

## KARNAL POLICE PAY TRIBUTES TO MARTYRS

Between 1990 and 2018, seven police personnel from Karnal laid down their lives in the line of duty. P2>>



## 205 DENGUE CASES REPORTED IN KARNAL, ADMN ON TOES

Larvae of the Aedes mosquito have been detected in 7,166 households across the district. P3>>



## TRADITION SCORES BIG ON KARWA CHAUGH

As the nation celebrated Karwa Chauth with great excitement, B-town wives also joined the festivities. P4>>



TUESDAY | 22 OCTOBER 2024 | HARYANA

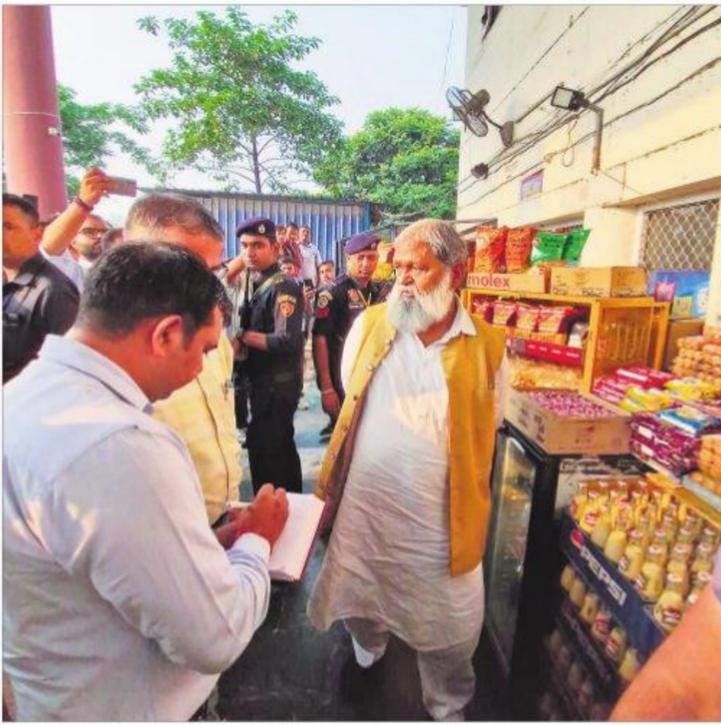
# Minister Vij furious over violations at Karnal bus stand, calls for action

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**KARNAL, OCTOBER 21**  
 New Transport Minister Anil Vij expressed his anger during a surprise visit at the new bus stand in Karnal today as he found multiple violations, including encroachment of public spaces and irregularities in the functioning of canteen and other facilities. He directed strict action against the persons concerned, including the registration of FIR. He called for a thorough investigation to determine who was benefitting from the illegal occupation of public land.

"I came here to check facilities being provided to people. I will continue to make surprise visits. Shops are supposed to have a designated size, but I found that many had taken over extra space, which is unacceptable. I have asked the authorities to constitute a committee to investigate and determine the time period for which these encroachments have been prevalent and under whose behest these public spaces, meant for passengers, have been taken over," said Vij after the inspection. He also found that the booking window was closed.

Vij, who reached here in a Haryana Roadways bus, remained there for over 20



Transport Minister Anil Vij inspects the new bus stand in Karnal on Monday.

### ENCROACHMENTS, CLOSED BOOKING WINDOW IRK MINISTER

"Shops are supposed to have a designated size, but I found that many had taken over extra space, which is unacceptable," said Transport Minister Anil Vij. He also found that the booking window was closed, besides detecting irregularities in

the functioning of canteen. Vij, who reached here in a Haryana Roadways bus, remained there for over 20 minutes and pointed out mismanagement in various affairs. He reprimanded officials for negligence and not looking after the management of the new bus stand. "This is public money and the public demands accountability. Irregularities will not be tolerated," Vij said.

He was enraged over unauthorised set-ups and services operating allegedly through favoritism and personal connections. "People with recommendations are taking over and no one is questioning them. This has to stop," he warned.

Vij directed officials to take immediate corrective actions, emphasising the need for strict enforcement of rules. "The system has to improve, and those responsible for these violations must face consequences," he added.

He expressed his confidence in the support of employees, adding that he would continue to work with them for the betterment of the state.

Kuldeep Singh, General Manager, Haryana Roadways, Karnal Depot, said the minister had directed registration of a case against a food supply vendor. "Violations were found at the canteen and action would be taken against the concerned," he said.

# Overbridge with escalators inaugurated in Ambala

Meant for visitors to Civil Hospital along NH

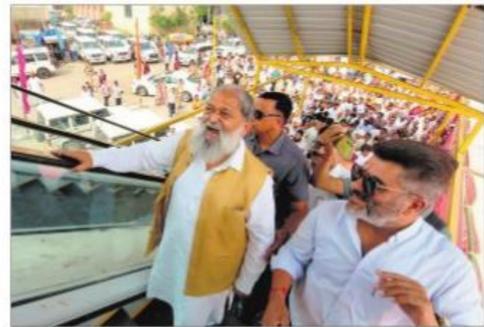
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**AMBALA, OCTOBER 21**  
 State Power, Labour and Transport Minister Anil Vij today inaugurated a foot overbridge (FOB) with escalators on the Ambala-Saha national highway to help patients and visitors who come to the Civil Hospital in Ambala Cantonment.

The bridge has been constructed at a cost of Rs 2 crore by the National Highways Authority of India and handed over to the Municipal Council, Ambala Sadar, for maintenance and operation.

The Civil Hospital is situated on the busy Ambala-Saha Road (a stretch of the NH-444 A). A large number of people visit the hospital and the cancer centre, established on the premises of the hospital.

The FOB will give easy access to people visiting the hospital as the escalators lands on the premises of the hospital, near the main gate on one side and the Ambala-Saha stretch on the other. While addressing a gathering on this occasion, Vij said, "People of Ambala Cantonment gave immense support to me in the elections and now, the time has come to give a return gift to the people of Ambala. Today, we have inaugurated Haryana's first foot overbridge equipped



Cabinet Minister Anil Vij uses the escalator of the foot overbridge inaugurated by him in Ambala Cantonment on Monday.

with escalator. The Civil Hospital in Ambala Cantonment has a daily OPD footfall of over 3,000 persons. A large number of patients, along with their attendants, visit the hospital everyday. The heavy traffic makes it challenging for them to cross the road. So, we decided to get a foot overbridge made and also raised the matter with NHAI officials. We also wanted an escalator facility along with the FOB. NHAI officials agreed and got us the overbridge constructed."

"Soon, Ambala residents will receive the gift of an airport. It will take only a month to complete this project. Some machines are to be installed and once they arrive, the project will be fully operational," he added.

### SEVEN SUFFER MINOR INJURIES DURING EVENT

■ During the event, when minister Anil Vij was coming down from the escalator of the overbridge, a major tragedy was averted when there was a stampede kind of a situation and some people, including Ambala Cantonment SDM Satinder Siwach, lost their balance on the escalator.

■ Some persons suffered minor injuries in the incident. They were provided medical attention at the Civil Hospital.

■ Principal Medical Officer Dr Lokbir said, "Seven persons suffered injuries in the incident, of whom one suffered a minor fracture in the foot, while others suffered sprain and scratches. They were all discharged from the hospital after getting medical aid."

# MLA Valmiki visits villagers on dharna for 4 years in Bhiwani

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**BHIWANI, OCTOBER 21**  
 The newly elected MLA from Bawani Khera Assembly segment, Kapoor Valmiki, visited the site of dharna being held by residents of Prem Nagar village in Bhiwani district.

Residents have been staging a dharna for the last four years seeking jobs for village youth in Chaudhary Bansi Lal University, whose building is under construction in their village but is currently functioning from a makeshift accommodation in Bhiwani town.

The village panchayat had given about 132 acres of land for establishing the university building on lease for 33 years at a token rate of Re 1 per year.

Local residents said that they had given the land for the university in 2020 when the state government had promised to provide jobs to the local youth whose land had been taken over for establishing the university. The villagers later staged a dharna at the gate of the university in support of their demands alleging that the state government had failed to fulfill their demand.

Dharam Pal, a former panchayat member of the village, said that they hoped that the state government would accept the demands of the villagers now. "We started the dharna about four years ago. Though the construction work of the new building is still going on, only a few village youths have been employed on the contract basis in the university till now," he said, adding that they would lift the dharna if

Have been seeking jobs in newly set up university for the land provided to govt



Bawani Khera MLA Kapoor Valmiki visits the dharna site at Prem Nagar village in Bhiwani district. TRIBUNE PHOTO

### PANCHAYAT HAD GIVEN 132 ACRES TO GOVT

■ The panchayat of Prem Nagar village had given about 132 acres of land to the state government for establishing the university building on lease for 33 years at a token rate of Re 1 per year.

■ Residents said that they had given the land for the university in 2020 when the state government had promised to provide jobs to the local youth whose land had been taken over for establishing the university.

the government assured to fulfill the demand.

During the visit of MLA Valmiki, Kalam Singh, who is leading the dharna, apprised him of the demand, besides other related issues. The MLA assured the villagers that he would talk to Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini regarding their demands and would arrange a meeting of their representatives with the CM. "I will try to get the demands fulfilled as soon as

possible," he said.

Notably, the village panchayat of Prem Nagar had also given additional 32 acres land for setting up a medical college and the then Union Health Minister, JP Nadda, laid the foundation stone in 2017 with the state government spending Rs 97 lakh in raising the boundary wall. However, the project was later shifted to Bhiwani town and the land was restored to the village panchayat.

# Sirsa MLA meets agri officers over fertiliser shortage

OUR CORRESPONDENT

**SIRSA, OCTOBER 21**  
 Sirsa MLA Gokul Setia visited the office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture on Monday to discuss the ongoing shortage of DAP fertiliser, which has been causing inconvenience to local farmers. Setia met Deputy Director Dr Sukhdev Singh Kamboj to understand the situation. On Sunday, the MLA called upon Congress-supported MLAs from Ellenabad and Kalanwali, along with district Congress leaders, to join him in addressing the issue, but none of them attended the meeting. Accompanied by a group



Sirsa MLA Gokul Setia with the Deputy Director of Agriculture and other officials of the department.

of farmers, Setia sought information from the Agriculture Department. He was told that 16,000 metric tons of fertilisers had already been distributed

through various societies and procurement centres.

Setia also requested the department to provide a list of farmers who had received fertilisers to

ensure transparency in the distribution process. The officials explained that in addition to DAP, the government had also provided other fertilisers like NPK and

NP, which are suitable for crops like mustard and potatoes. They urged farmers to try these alternatives to better understand their effectiveness instead of focusing solely on DAP.

Addressing the media after the meeting, Setia commended the district administration's decision to form a special task force to prevent black marketing of fertilisers. He emphasised the importance of ensuring fair distribution to farmers and urged the authorities to prevent any malpractice. Setia reiterated that his priority was to ensure all farmers receive fertilisers they need without facing any difficulties.

# Rewari MLA hears grievances in city's oldest park

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**REWARI, OCTOBER 21**  
 BJP MLA Laxman Singh Yadav was seen in action mode after being elected MLA from Rewari, which is known as London of Ahirwal that comprises Rewari, Mahendragarh and Gurugram districts.

The MLA reached the city's oldest Rao Tularam Park in the morning and heard the grievances of residents related to the park. Yadav also summoned officials of the Rewari Municipal Council to the park.

The MLA, along with the municipal officials, took stock of the facilities at the park. Yadav directed the officials to resolve issues like upkeep of toilets, besides fixing broken tracks and installing garbage bins across the park, within a month. "Strict action would be taken against the offi-



BJP MLA Laxman Yadav inspects Rao Tularam Park in Rewari on Monday.



Garbage accumulated at Nehru Park in the city. TRIBUNE PHOTOS: SUMIT THARAN

cial concerned for non-compliance of the directives," he added. The MLA also directed the officials to install a new board displaying the park's name.

Many residents were seen apprising the MLA of the problems in the park. "A large number of people visit the park in the morning and evening daily, but

it is grappling with many issues like unclean toilets, non-availability of potable water, broken pathways, poor drainage system etc. I have directed the municipal officials to redress these issues within a month," Yadav said.

The MLA added that the municipal officials had also been asked to inspect

other parks in the city to ascertain the problems there. "After one month, residents will not have to face any issue in the park," he claimed.

Municipal Council Executive Officer Sandeep Malik told The Tribune that Rewari city had over 50 parks. "Residents Welfare Associations and non-government organi-

sations are taking care of horticulture in the park, while the municipal council has the responsibility of other works like cleanliness, repairs etc. Our teams will inspect all the parks to ascertain the issues so that they could be resolved at the earliest. Tenders, if required, will be issued for civil works in the parks," he added.

## Karnal pays tributes to its bravehearts on Police Commemoration Day

### CAMPUS NOTES



#### 13 STUDENTS GET PLACEMENT

**Sonapat:** Thirteen final year students of Computer Science Engineering programme at Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram University of Science and Technology (DCRUST), Murthal, have been selected by a company through a placement drive organised at the university. The selected students will get an annual package of Rs 8.51 lakh each, while the company would give Rs 25,000 per month stipend to the selected students during their internship. The Vice Chancellor congratulated the selected students and urged them to not run after the employment, but work towards providing employment. "Prepare yourself as per the global competition so that you can face and deal with every challenge in your life," the Vice Chancellor said. University's Employment and Training Officer Prof Suresh Verma said the selected students — Ankit Jindal, Dheeraj, Diksha Goyal, Himanshu, Mukul Bhardwaj, Paras, Rakesh Kumar, Rishabh Gupta, Shashank, Simarjit Kaur, Sudhanshu Arya, Sunny Kumar and Tushar Bhatia — have brought laurels to the institute.

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**KARNAL, OCTOBER 21**  
On the occasion of Police Commemoration Day, the Karnal police paid tributes to the martyrs of the police force during a programme organised at Police Lines on Monday. Inspector General of Police (IGP), Karnal Range, Kulvinder Singh and Superintendent of Police (SP) Mohit Handa, along with other police officials, paid tributes to the bravery and supreme sacrifice of the martyrs by offering them floral tributes and observing a moment of silence.

The IGP said the day was observed in the memory of the brave soldiers who, on October 21, 1959, sacrificed their lives while fighting the Chinese forces. "The sacrifices made by these brave officers will never be forgotten by the nation. They will be remembered for their bravery and supreme sacrifice," added the IGP.

"The Martyrs' Book placed in front of the

Between 1990 and 2018, seven police personnel from Karnal laid down their lives in the line of duty



Police officials pay tributes to martyrs on Police Commemoration Day at Police Lines in Karnal on Monday.

memorial is a symbol of sacrifice, dedication, courage and ultimate selflessness," he said, adding that the names of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty were recorded in this book. This moment, he said, serves as a source of inspiration for the entire police force.

SP Mohit Handa explained the significance of the day, stating that on October 21, 1959, a small patrol of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) was ambushed by Chinese troops in Hot Springs, Ladakh. In that battle, 10 CRPF soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice for the security of the nation. He emphasised the unwavering commitment and dedication with which the soldiers performed their duties, putting their lives on the line for the

safety of the country. Handa also highlighted the sacrifices made by the Haryana Police in serving the nation, including those from Karnal. Between 1990 and 2018, seven police personnel from Karnal have laid down their lives in the line of duty. These include Constable Harbans Singh (1990), Inspector Vijender Singh (1992), Inspector Baljeet Singh (1992), Assistant Sub-Inspector Raghunandan (1992), Constable Narayan (1992), Head Constable Jagtar Singh (2010), and Sub-Inspector Narendra Kumar (2018).

Families of the martyrs, along with police officials and students from DAV Police Public School, were also present on the occasion. The ceremony began with the IGP and SP offering floral wreaths at the National Police Memorial, followed by tributes from other officers, family members of the martyrs and schoolchildren. A two-minute silence was observed in honour of the martyrs.

### Ratnawali fest to reflect self-reliant India : KUK VC

**KURUKSHETRA, OCTOBER 21**  
Kurukshetra University Vice Chancellor Som Nath Sachdeva said the four-day state-level Ratnawali Mahotsav will exhibit home-grown (swadeshi) products and self-reliant India model.

Kurukshetra University to organise cultural festival from October 25 to 28

## MDU non-teaching staff body's poll on October 28

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**ROHTAK, OCTOBER 21**  
The annual election of the Maharshi Dayanand University (MDU) Non-Teaching Employees' Association will be held on October 28 and the process for filing nomination will start on October 24. The tenure of the present body ends on October 31.

The decision was taken at the meeting of the executive committee of the association held on the university premises on Monday. The meeting was presided over by the association president Raj Kumar Sharma.

The association has also



called a meeting of its general house on Tuesday in the administrative block of the university to get the approval of the election schedule.

"The executive committee of the association, while discussing election related issues in detail, resolved to conduct the annual election on October 28, three days before the end of tenure of the present body of the association. We will send the election schedule to the

university administration on Tuesday for further action," Sharma told The Tribune.

He informed that the candidates would be able to file nominations for the five posts of office-bearers, including president, vice president, general secretary, joint secretary and cashier, and 21 posts of members of the executive committee on October 24 and October 25. The process of nomination with drawal and allotment of symbols would be completed on October 25 post-lunch, he added.

Sharma further maintained that his group named 'Swabhimani Manch' had also decided its candidates for the



#### INTERNATIONAL CHEFS DAY CELEBRATED

**Rohtak:** The Institute of Hotel and Tourism Management (IHTM) at MD University, Rohtak, celebrated International Chefs Day at The Dafeteria, located in the MDU Food Park. The event saw enthusiastic participation from faculty members and students of the IHTM and Department of Law. The celebrations began with a lamp lighting ceremony, followed by an insightful introduction to the significance of International Chefs Day by Prof Sandeep Malik. Chef Anurag graced the occasion as the guest of honour. Chef Anurag gave insights on how to run a successful hotel, hospitality and culinary sector. The Director of IHTM, Prof Ashish Dahiya, highlighted the institute's commitment to fostering culinary excellence and its growing focus on providing hands-on learning experiences to students through collaborations with industry leaders.

Department of Youth and Cultural Affairs, Kurukshetra University, is set to organise the state-level cultural festival Ratnawali from October 25 to 28.

Vice Chancellor Sachdeva said, "Along with this, the startup initiative will gain new strength through goods made by the university students." DYCA Director Vivek Chawla said local delicacies will be promoted during the festival.

The Deputy Director of Public Relations Department, Dr Jimmy Sharma, added that this year, Haryanvi songs and Lora dance performance will be the highlights of Ratnawali's opening ceremony. Dr Sharma said products made by the students of KU Tourism Department, Home Science Department and Institute of Integrated and Honours Studies (IHS) will be the centre of attraction during the craft fair.

### Man lodges theft plaint against son

**ROHTAK, OCTOBER 21**  
A resident of Kheri Sampla village in Rohtak district has lodged a complaint of theft with the police against his son. Karamvir, a dealer of old cars and scrap, has accused his son of stealing some automobile parts from his shop.

"I run a shop and deal in old cars and scrap. On Sunday evening, I got a call from Jasbir Rathi, who told me that my son and another youth had stolen some automobile parts from my shop. I rushed to the shop and found that the said parts had indeed been stolen," said the complainant. Karamvir told the police that his son Naveen was a drug addict and he had disowned him in 2017. — TNS

## Sirsa's poor air quality sparks urgent call for crop residue mgmt

ANIL KAKKAR

**SIRSA, OCTOBER 21**  
With an AQI index of 133 on Monday, the air quality in Sirsa has been recorded as poor, raising alarm about the ongoing issue of straw burning in the region. In the light of this, the local authorities are intensifying efforts to educate farmers on the importance of managing crop residue effectively rather than resorting to burning.

In recent awareness camps held in Sirsa and Dabwali, SDMs Rajendra Kumar and Arpit Sanghal addressed farmers, urging them to consider the harmful effects of burning straw. During a camp in Jodhkan, SDM Kumar highlighted that burning crop waste not only con-



Dabwali SDM Arpit Sanghal and (right) Sirsa SDM Rajendra Kumar raise awareness about crop residue management among farmers.



tributes to air pollution but also harms soil health. "This practice poses serious health risks, especially to children and the elderly, as the smoke can lead to diseases like asthma and cancer," he warned the farmers.

Kumar encouraged farmers to take advantage of the financial assistance provided by the state government to support effective crop residue management.

"Many farmers are already benefiting from managing their straw. Others should follow their example and realise that proper management can also be a source of additional income," he said.

In Dabwali, SDM Sanghal echoed these sentiments, emphasising the need for sustainable practices. He reassured farmers that government grants are available to help them manage their crop residue without difficulty. "By adopting these practices, farmers can not only reduce pollution but also enhance their income," he added.

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**CHECK RISING AIR POLLUTION**

MANY illegal factories that burn tyres to extract oil are operational in the area due to which severe air pollution is being recorded. The burning of paddy stubble is worsening the situation. With the first stage of GRAP still in force, the Pollution Control Board officials should take immediate measures to check such illegal factories, besides warning farmers not to burn paddy stubble in their fields. As festival season has begun, the authorities concerned should take immediate action. **Ramesh Gupta, NARWANNA**

**STAGNANT WATER POSES HEALTH HAZARD**

MUD and stagnant water spread across the Ambala City grain market have become an eyesore for farmers. The situation is not only causing inconvenience to the people, but also posing a major health hazard, keeping in view the outbreak of dengue and other diseases during this time. The Market Committee is responsible for looking after these issues, but the local administration should look into the matter at the earliest.

**Gian P Kansal, AMBALA**

# Authorities on toes as 205 dengue cases reported in Karnal district

PARVEEN ARORA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KARNAL, OCTOBER 21

With 205 dengue cases having been officially reported in Karnal, the administration is on its toes to check the spread of the mosquito-borne disease. The number of cases could be much higher, as several cases go unreported. The sharp rise in hospitalisation of dengue patients adds to the concern among health officials who are working round the clock to contain the outbreak.

The number of dengue cases was 561 in 2023, 335 in 2022, 304 in 2021, 93 in 2020, 29 in 2019, 104 in 2018 and 234 in 2017.

The situation has become more alarming as larvae of the Aedes mosquito, which is responsible for the transmission of dengue, have been detected in 7,166 households across the district. As a result, notices under the Municipal By-laws Act of 1973 (Section 214) have been served to households found breeding larvae in coolers, pots, vases and other water storage items, said Dr Anu, Deputy Civil Surgeon.

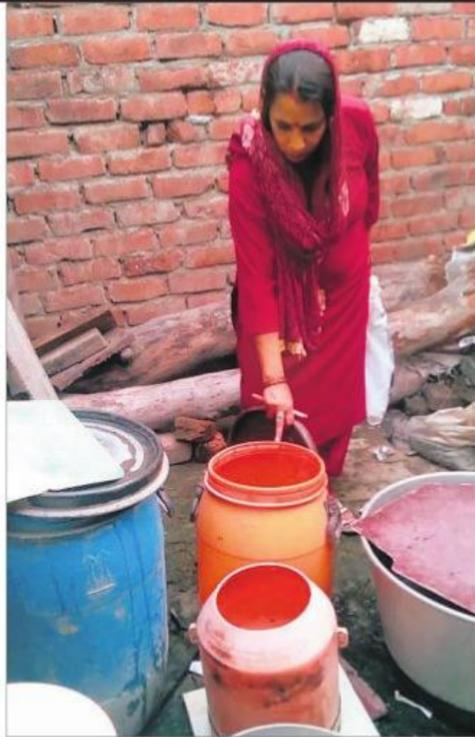
The health authorities have intensified their efforts to stop the breeding of mosquitoes. As per the authorities, 166 teams have been formed to conduct anti-larval activities, with 16 teams deployed in urban



Anti-larvae activities being carried out by health workers and residents in Karnal on Monday.

areas and 150 in rural parts of the district. Besides, the Health Department has tested 6,030 samples. "We have intensified efforts to contain the outbreak. Dengue mosquitoes breed in clean water. We urge everyone to ensure their surroundings are

free from stagnated water," she said. "People should regularly clean water containers, earthen pots, fridges, water tanks, and coolers to prevent mosquito breeding. Our teams are constantly monitoring the district, and notices are being served



where larvae are found," said Dr Anu. Private hospitals and labs have also been directed to report fever cases daily to the department, ensuring timely tracking of potential dengue patients, she added. The District Civil Hospital

and Kalpana Chawla Government Medical College (KCGMC) have already set up separate wards for dengue patients, she said. Deputy Commissioner (DC), Karnal, Uttam Singh has instructed officials to take strict measures to stop the spread of the disease.

# Kadipur Animal Hospital to be revamped under ₹100 cr project

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

GURUGRAM, OCTOBER 21

In what comes across as the first mega project of the newly constituted Haryana Government, the Kadipur Animal Hospital will be revamped at a whopping Rs 100 crore. The hospital will also be provided state-of-the-art facilities to make it a modern veterinary hospital. A mobile vet van was also flagged off today.

Gurugram Deputy Commissioner Nishant Kumar Yadav said an MoU was signed between the Animal Husbandry Department and the Vedanta group, which was aiding in the revamp as part of its CSR (corporate social responsibility) initiative. The hospital will not just benefit Gurugram but also the entire NCR and other districts of Haryana which lack spe-

To get state-of-the-art facilities; will cater to NCR, Haryana dists lacking specialised vet care

cialised veterinary care. "The company has prepared a project report to make the government animal hospital in Kadipur a veterinary centre of excellence, which will be implemented in two phases," said Yadav. The project would soon get approval from the Animal Husbandry Department and start within a month's time, said Yadav.

A committee has already been formed at the district level which will monitor the work and services being done in the hospital.

The Vedanta group spokesman said that the building of the Kadipur Animal Hospital, built on 1.78 acres of land, had become old and needed renovation.

Keeping this in mind, the company prepared a project report on its renovation in the first phase.

The official spokesperson of the company said a general OPD, medicine store, private OPD, reception, lobby, laboratory, OT room, post-operation care unit, director room and doctor's room etc. would be built afresh.

"In the second phase, work will be done to get the staff quarters and building renovated. With the renovation of this hospital, the livestock owners of Gurugram will be able to get much better facilities for the treatment of their sick animals," he said. A modern veterinary ambulance was also launched by Vedanta.



A mobile vet van of the Kadipur Animal Hospital being flagged off by officials on Monday.

# Sirsa 2nd in state in sex ratio, 945 girls born per 1,000 boys

ANIL KAKKAR

SIRSA, OCTOBER 21

From January to September 2024, Sirsa district achieved a notable sex ratio of 945 females for every 1,000 males, securing the second position in the state alongside Karnal district.

In contrast, Yamunanagar district led with a ratio of 947 girls per 1,000 boys born, highlighting significant variations in gender balance across the regions.

In 2022, Sirsa fell to the eighth rank, but due to continuous efforts by the health authorities and strict monitoring of illegal practices like sex-selective abortions, the district has now moved up to the second place. The district administration and health department have worked tirelessly to curb such practices, resulting in this positive change.

In 2015 and 2016, Sirsa had maintained a consistent top position in Haryana for the highest female birth ratio. However, between 2019 and 2022, a decline was observed, with the district slipping from first to lower positions. After improvements in



## TOP FIVE DISTRICTS IN GENDER RATIO

District	Girls (per 1000 boys)
Yamunanagar	947
Sirsa & Karnal	945
Fatehabad	935
Bhiwani & Nuh	921
Kurukshetra	920

## RANKED 8<sup>TH</sup> IN 2022

■ In 2015 and 2016, Sirsa had maintained a consistent top position in Haryana for the highest female birth ratio.

■ In 2022, Sirsa fell to the eighth rank, but due to continuous efforts by the health authorities and strict monitoring of illegal practices like sex-selective abortions, the district has now moved up to the second place

2023, Sirsa managed to regain its position among the top-performing districts by September 2024.

The PNDT cell in-charge Dr Bharat Bhushan Mittal said several measures had

contributed to this progress. He said the government had implemented strict surveillance and action against gangs involved in illegal pre-natal gender testing.

The authorities have also been providing incentives to families to support the birth of girls. A cash reward of Rs 21,000 is given to families for the birth of a girl child under various state schemes, he added.

Dr Bhushan said, in addition, awareness campaigns focusing on educating people about the importance of gender equality had also played a crucial role in improving the birth ratio in Sirsa. Regular Health Department inspections and community-level programmes had ensured that illegal activities like pre-natal gender testing were kept in check, Dr Bhushan added.

The positive trend in Sirsa's sex ratio reflects the success of ongoing efforts to balance the gender disparity in Haryana, which has historically been among the states with low female birth ratios.

# 81% procured bajra lifted from Jhajjar grain markets

RAVINDER SAINI

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JHAJJAR, OCTOBER 21

The district authorities have expedited the process of lifting bajra procured by the government agencies so as to provide space for further arrival of the produce. As per official information, a total of 81 per cent of bajra procured has been lifted from various grain markets of the district.

A total of 27,601 MT of bajra has so far been procured by government agencies from 9,739 farmers in the district at the minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 2,625 per quintal. A total of 22,491 MT of bajra has been reported so far, said Shakti Singh, Deputy Commissioner, Jhajjar.

"To date, 11,111 MT of millet has been procured by the Haryana State Warehouse Corporation in the Jhajjar grain market while 10,321 MT in Matanhail, 502 MT in Badli, 150 MT in Bahadurgarh, 1,041 MT in Beri and 4,476 MT in Dhakla has been purchased by HAFED. Help desks have been set up in the markets for the convenience of the farmers whereas patwari, agriculture officials, marketing board employees and their

27,601 MT bajra procured so far in eight mandis of the district



A labourer manages bajra at the grain market in Jhajjar. PHOTO: SUMIT THARAN

associates have been deputed there to resolve farmers' grievances on the spot," said the DC.

He has called upon the farmers to bring bajra to the mandis for sale after drying and cleaning it properly. "Farmers should make pro-

per arrangements for crop residue instead of burning it as the practice leads to air pollution. Farmers can increase their income by properly managing crops. The government is providing incentives ranging from Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500 per acre

to farmers for crop residue management," he added.

The DC said the crop residue management scheme was beneficial for farmers. Under this scheme, agricultural equipment such as super seeder, zero tillage machine, straw chopper,

happy seeder, reversible plow, etc. are provided to farmers on subsidy. With the help of these, farmers could increase the fertility of the soil by mixing straw in the land or could earn additional income by making bundles of straw, he said.

# Man stabbed to death in Panipat

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PANIPAT, OCTOBER 21

A man was stabbed to death in Panipat's Praveen Colony late Sunday night. The accused was caught from the spot and handed over to the police by locals. The deceased has been identified as Avnish Shukl of Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, who was living in a rented accommodation in Praveen Colony. As per

information, the accused, Jaiveer of Osar village, in Madlauda, was also living in the same colony.

Following an altercation on Sunday, Jaiveer allegedly stabbed Avnish with a sharp-edged weapon. The accused has been arrested and the weapon used in the crime was also recovered from him, SHO Sandeep Chahal said. The accused and the deceased were working in Paliwal factory, the SHO added.

# Rohtak PGIMS docs save life by removing knife from patient's heart

RAVINDER SAINI

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, OCTOBER 21

A team of doctors at the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (PGIMS), Rohtak, today saved the life of a 26-year-old man by removing a knife from his heart.

The patient, belonging to Sonapat district, was brought to the PGIMS Trauma Centre after being stabbed in the chest, following a scuffle. The knife had pierced the heart and was lodged deep inside, said sources.

26-year-old man was stabbed in the chest, following a scuffle

"The patient was in a critical condition when he was brought to the PGIMS. Our team, led by Dr Shamsheer Singh Lohchab, swung into action and performed a complex surgery to remove the knife," said Dr Sandeep Singh, Head of Cardiothoracic Surgery Department, PGIMS.

He maintained that the operation, which lasted over

three hours, was a challenging task due to the knife's proximity to vital organs.

"We had to carefully repair the damaged heart tissue and lungs to prevent excessive bleeding. The patient is now recovering well and is expected to be discharged soon," said Dr Lohchab, who is also the Director, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Rohtak.

The family members of the patient have expressed their gratitude to Dr Lohchab and his team for saving his life.



Doctors, along with the patient, after performing the surgery at the PGIMS in Rohtak.

## NEW POSTER UNVEILED



Ahead of his birthday, the makers of Prabhas-starrer *The Raja Saab* unveiled the film's new poster. The poster features Prabhas in a stylish avatar. He could be seen donning a checkered shirt. *The Raja Saab* is directed by Maruthi and it has an electrifying score by Thaman S.

## Celebrations!

Sobhita Dhulipala and Telugu star Naga Chaitanya, have dropped pictures from the *Pasupu Danchadam* ceremony, which marks the beginning of wedding festivities in Telugu culture.



NONIKA SINGH

**G**ETTING into the skin of a hardened criminal at the young age of 28 sounds like a tough ballgame. But Chandigarh-based Haardik Gabbi, who goes by the stage name Puran Gabbi, had no hesitation in getting into this dark headspace of a criminal's mind. Soon, he will be seen playing Ranga of the notorious Billa-Ranga infamy, who had kidnaped and killed the Chopra kids in 1978, in the upcoming series *Black Warrant*.

The reason for saying yes to the part was a no-brainer. Who would not give want to work with celebrated director Vikramditya Motwane, who helms *Black Warrant* and directs the segment in which Haardik has been cast? Incidentally, Haardik, who happens to be a singer-musician and runs a band TMDA with his friend Pulkit Tewari, had gone to meet Motwane for a musical assignment. But as Motwane heard his rather dark songs, he suggested — why don't you audition for acting? Presto, one-and-a-half-month later he got the green signal!

Since the series is based on a book *Black Warrant: Confessions of a Tihar Jailor* by Sunil Gupta and Sunetra Choudhury, and looks at eight death sentences which were carried out during Gupta's tenure, Haardik read as much as he could about jail inmates on the death row. Today, it has made this student of psychology better understand how the mind of a criminal works. Talking about Motwane's directorial method, he shares, "Well, it does not involve minute-by-minute interference. Only his audition process is manifold and much before you are signed, a long conversation prepares the actor in you for the character." Interestingly, Haardik gets to croon in the series too. "Ranga had become religious as death dawned near and would sing songs too," he says.

Music one could presume is Haardik's first love. After all, he has studied the subject for five long years, both in school and in college. And it was this love that took him to Vishal Bhardwaj, whom he assisted in music during the making of *Khushiya* and



# DARK SPACE, BRIGHT MIND



Haardik Gabbi, who will be seen in the series *Black Warrant*, says being the brother of Wamiqa Gabbi is a help, but ultimately it's his own talent that will help him succeed

*Kutte*. Meeting Vishal's equally talented other half, Rekha Bhardwaj, was perhaps a forgone conclusion. Only, he had the good fortune of not just a face-to-face interaction with the gifted singer, but also a chance to sing with and compose for her in an independent album. Hailing her as 'goddess' whose songs have been his ringtone for years, singing with Rekha is far more than a 'pinch me' moment for him. He says, "I had goose-bumps when she liked my songs

and was so overwhelmed after we recorded the first of the four songs that I called Wamiqa and began to cry."

If Haardik's surname Gabbi is not a giveaway, let it be said he is the younger brother of Wamiqa Gabbi, the *Jubilee* star. While Wamiqa has made it sans a godfather, Haardik admits having her in the industry is a privilege. He says, "It gives me the opportunity to knock on many doors, but ultimately you have to chart your own journey and she can't help me

become a better artiste."

An artiste is how he defines himself when quizzed whether he is a singer first or an actor? Opening the concerts for *Talwinder*, an emerging singing sensation, Haardik is certainly on a song. Only his head is on his shoulders and sorted too. Quoting Robert de Niro "The talent is in choices", if he lauds his sister for making the right ones, he too will be picky when life offers him as many chances. Till then, he is ready to soak in the sheer presence of geniuses like

Bhardwaj and Motwane.

He adds, "There are a million things to learn from observing these greats at work." His unconventional choice for an acting debut too is a learning curve. Since it makes him privy to, "An emotion of the murderer I will never have access to in real life." If his wisdom belies his youth, he owes it all to his artistic family, singer grandfather and father Govardhan Gabbi, a noted Punjabi writer. Love makes a family and in his case love for art too.

# TRADITION SCORES BIG ON KARWA CHAETH



SONAM KAPOOR

## SONAM STUNS IN MINT GREEN

As the nation celebrated Karwa Chauth with great excitement, B-town wives also joined the festivities. On Sunday, Sonam Kapoor was spotted arriving at her father Anil Kapoor's residence to celebrate the special occasion.

Even though Sonam does not fast, she never misses a chance to glam up. She looked stunning as she chose to skip the usual red and pink outfits often worn for Karwa Chauth. Instead, she wore a beautiful mint green ensemble. Her outfit included a saree-styled *lehenga* with a V-neck jacket blouse decorated with detailed embroidery, mirrorwork, and soft floral designs. She paired this with a matching pleated skirt and a long cape. For accessories, the actress chose a pair of statement multi-layered, three-piece moon-shaped earrings that extended down to her shoulders. Earlier, Shilpa Shetty, Raveena Tandon, Geeta Basra, Neelam and Mira Kapoor, were spotted arriving at Anil and Sunita Kapoor's residence on Sunday evening for the traditional Karwa Chauth *pooja*. All of them were dressed in ethnic attire.

While Raveena donned an *Anarkali* suit, Shilpa opted for a red saree. Maheep Kapoor and Bhavana Panday came together.

## OTHER CELEBS SHINE TOO

Katrina Kaif posted stunning pictures from the occasion, wearing a lovely baby pink and golden *saree*. One of the photos showed her taking blessings from Vicky Kaushal's mother, while another captured a sweet family moment with Vicky and his parents. She also shared a solo picture, looking radiant in the *saree*, proudly flaunting her *sindoor*. Kirti Kharbanda also shared adorable pictures with husband Pulkit Samrat. Dressed in a golden *saree*, Kirti posed alongside Pulkit, who wore a simple white *kurta*. Rakul Preet added a set of romantic photos with her husband, Jacky Bhagnani. Both wore matching red outfits, and Rakul's sweet caption read, "My sun, moon, universe, my every-

thing... happy Karwa Chauth from us to you."

Raghav Chadha shared beautiful moments from his first Karwa Chauth with wife Parineeti Chopra. Mira Rajput, Shahid Kapoor's wife, also posted a sweet selfie with her husband, calling him her 'sun and moon'. Sonakshi Sinha, who tied the knot with Zaheer Iqbal in June 2023, celebrated her first Karwa Chauth with the latter fasting too!

Mouni Roy joined in the celebration by sharing a lovely series of pictures with her husband, Suraj Nambiar, as they celebrated Karwa Chauth. Dressed in pink, Mouni looked stunning as she shared the joy of the special day with her fans.

## PRIYANKA GETS 'FILMY'

Actress Priyanka Chopra shared a glimpse of her Karwa Chauth celebration with husband Nick Jonas, providing fans with a delightful insight into their festivities from London. The couple marked the occasion in a unique and casual style, with Priyanka donning a maroon tracksuit complemented by a red *dupatta*. Taking to Instagram, Priyanka posted several images that showcased the couple's celebration. The first picture captured a sweet moment where Nick held a glass of water for Priyanka as she prepared to break her fast. The two engaged in a video call with her mother, Madhu Chopra, while also managing their traditional *pooja thalis*.

In another candid shot, Priyanka was seen smiling while reading a note with Nick's name written on it. Perhaps the most striking image featured her intricately designed *mehendi*, which included a heart symbol along with Nick's birth date etched on her palm. Accompanying the images, Priyanka chose the classic song *Chand Chupa Badal Mein* from the 1999 film *Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam* as the background music, evoking a nostalgic atmosphere.

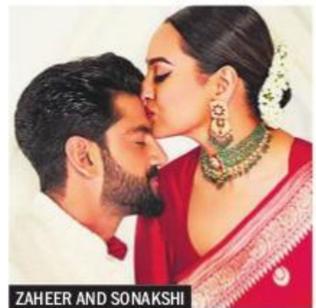
She expressed her festive wishes with the caption, "To all those celebrating... happy Karwa Chauth and yes I'm filmy," while geo-tagging their location in London, United Kingdom. — ANI



SHILPA SHETTY



GEETA BASRA



ZAHEER AND SONAKSHI



MIRA AND SHAHID



PRIYANKA AND NICK



RAVEENA TANDON