

# Chandigarh Tribune

AQI HITS 'SEVERE' CATEGORY IN CITY [INSIDE»](#)

LAW & ORDER IN PB MATTER OF CONCERN: GUV [INSIDE»](#)

FLIGHTS DELAYED DUE TO SMOG [INSIDE»](#)

THURSDAY | 14 NOVEMBER 2024 | CHANDIGARH

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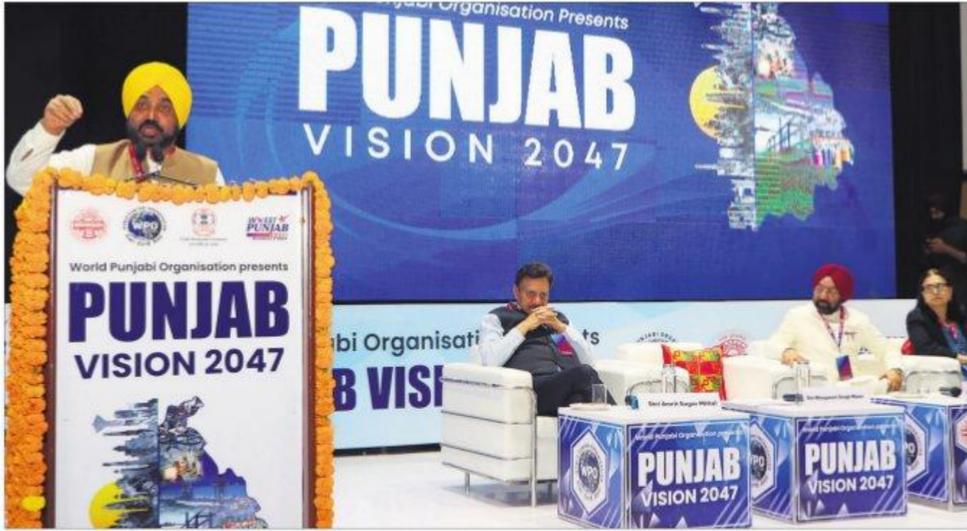
'PUNJAB VISION 2047' CONCLAVE

## Centre should incentivise farmers for managing crop residue, says Mann

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 13 "In Punjab, we have rich land, blessings of Gurus, inspiration from martyrs and hardworking people who are also global residents. So, we have everything required for success. The only need is to join forces," said Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann while addressing the audience on the last day of 'Punjab Vision 2047', a two-day conclave organised by the World Punjabi Organisation in association with the Punjab Development Commission and Panjab University here today. "The state government is making all-out efforts, but we are not getting the funds we deserve from the Centre, whether it's Rural Development Fund or under the National Health Mission," he added.

On the issue of air pollution, Mann said the Central Government was ignoring the problem by not incentivising farmers. "We had already submitted that the Centre should either allocate Rs 2,000 per acre to farmers to manage paddy straw or offer support price and procurement for alternative crops like maize, bajra and moong, so that



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann speaks on the second day of the 'Punjab Vision 2047' conclave being held at the Panjab University on Wednesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: PRADEEP TEWARI

farmers are able to make as much profit as they make from paddy," he pointed out. Rajya Sabha MP and organiser of the conclave, Dr Vikramjit Singh Sahney stressed on the need to engage youth in modern agriculture and opening of Wagah border for ease of trade with Pakistan and central Asian countries. "As MP, I keep rais-

ing issue of non-disbursal of funds to Punjab and we should push this further, especially in view of the upcoming parliamentary session. All MPs can come together to deliberate on a strategy to raise issues concerning Punjab's interests during the zero hour," he added.

Mann also talked about the initiatives taken by the state

government to improve government schools' functioning and formation of self-help groups of women for their financial independence. "Punjab will see an industrial resurgence soon as big players like Tata Steel are setting up plants in the state. We also need to focus on food processing units to increase profit from farm-

ing," he added. Sahney requested help of the Governor to solve certain issues related to Punjab. "Lack of international flights from Mohali and Amritsar is a deterrent to expansion of industry. We also need an MSP for crops other than wheat and paddy, which can solve the farming and ecological crisis of Punjab," he said.



Chandigarh Police use mild lathicharge as a group of Panjab University students tries to move towards the venue of the Punjab CM function on Wednesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: PRADEEP TEWARI

## Cops use force against students

AKASHDEEP VIRK  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 13 Amid the ongoing 'Punjab Vision 2047' conclave on the Panjab University campus, where Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was speaking, students protesting against the delay in elections to Senate were today thrashed and the police had to resort to mild lathicharge. As many as 10 students were injured in the altercation.

The protesters, under the banner of 'Panjab University Bachao Morcha' were taking out a march on the campus and reached near the Law Auditorium, where Mann was addressing the gathering. The students had started their protest march from outside Vice-Chancellor's office, where they have been protesting for the past over 20 days now. The incident happened near the Student Cen-

tre, in the parking area opposite the Law Auditorium when the protesters diverted from their planned route and tried moving towards the conclave. "The protesters had not taken any permission to come near the venue. No barricading was done around the auditorium and we had to stop them for which minor force had to be used," a police official said.

After the incident, the protesters were joined by Bharatiya Kisan Union (Krantikari) members at the Student Centre, where they raised slogans against the state government, VC and the police.

Commenting on the incident, Karan, a student who was part of the group which was stopped by police force, said, "This shows the condition of democracy here. We were not even allowed near the venue where CM Mann

was present. We, mere students of this university, were treated like anti-social elements by the police, which is absolutely condemnable."

The police have not registered any FIR regarding the incident, nor any protester has been detained.

Meanwhile, Congress leaders have reacted strongly to the incident where Chandigarh Police used minor lathicharge against students when they tried to reach the venue where Mann was speaking. Condemning the incident, Punjab Leader of Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa targeted the CM on X and wrote, "Ironically, while students were being caned, CM Mann was discussing 'Vision 2047' for Punjab." Later, Patiala MP Dharamvir Gandhi reached the campus to meet the protesters in the evening and expressed solidarity with them.

## Former banker among 3 acquitted in alleged scam of over ₹20 crore

RAMKRISHAN UPADHYAY  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 13 A local court has acquitted three persons, including Rajinder Singh Kalsi, a former bank manager at the Punjab and Sind Bank branch in Sector 24, Chandigarh, in an alleged multi-crore fraud case registered on November 15, 2012, after the prosecution failed to prove the charges. The two other accused who have been acquitted include a liquor contractor, Karan Thakur, and a businessman of

Mohali, Pardeep Goel. The police have registered a case under Sections 420, 467, 468, 471 and 120-B of the IPC at the Sector 11 police station in 2012 on the complaint of the bank officials. The 'fraud' of over Rs 20 crore came to light during the annual audit carried out by the manager (inspection) of the bank, who allegedly found huge irregularities in all sanctioned loans and submitted a complaint to the police, which registered a case in this connection. The police claimed in the

charge-sheet that the scrutiny of housing loans revealed that all loans, in lakhs, were issued on fictitious names and plots. As per the prosecution, Rajinder was posted in Sector 24 when the alleged fraud was committed. He was heading the loan section of the branch from June 2010 till June 2012 and during his term he had allegedly sanctioned a total of 116 loans on alleged fictitious names and forged documents. The police alleged that Kalsi used the passwords of his subordinate staff members in these

transactions. He released the loan amount by way of credit in savings accounts opened in the name of fictitious persons. The two other accused helped him in the alleged scam. Munish Dewan, counsel of the accused, argued that the prosecution had no record to prove that the accused were involved in the alleged fraud. The police failed to show the original files of the alleged loans, he added. After hearing the arguments the court acquitted the accused of the charges framed against them.

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 13 The municipal corporation (MC) here has planned to include the use of low frequency microchips in stray dogs for their identification and to vaccinate them against rabies. Home Secretary Mandip Singh Brar chaired a meeting regarding the upcoming livestock census 2024 and stray dog menace here yesterday. During the meeting, various issues were discussed, including the status of tenta-

tive population of stray dogs in the city, rules, regulations and guidelines related to sterilisation of stray dogs, status of sterilisation and its success rate in Chandigarh, future roadmap to cover complete sterilisation of stray dogs in the city. The MC officials briefed that the tentative population of stray dogs in Chandigarh would be around 12,000 and Animal Birth Control Rules-2023, which comes under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Act 1960, mandates the sterilisation of stray dogs in

the city. They said that the MC was organising anti-rabies vaccination camps for stray dogs throughout the year. It was also suggested to include use of low frequency microchips in stray dogs for their identification and record keeping to make sure vaccination against rabies in 100% dogs is done on the lines of Vadodara city. Brar observed that the issue of stray dogs was a major issue in the city and many a times people felt unsafe to venture out, especially at odd hours due to the

fear of stray dogs. He directed the sterilisation and vaccination wing of the MC, along with local councillors, to work in coordination with the census team of the Animal Husbandry Department, so that all stray dogs could be vaccinated and sterilised in a time-bound manner. The meeting was attended by Amit Kumar, MC Commissioner, Hari Kalikkat, Secretary, Department Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, and other officials of the Department of Animal Husbandry and the MC.

## PU organises symposium on nanotech

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 13 The University Institute of Engineering & Technology (UIET), Panjab University (PU), today hosted the MHRD Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) sponsored international symposium on the topic "Nanotechnology, Fabrication, Characterisation and Application". The SPARC aims to improve the research ecosystem in the Indian higher education institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian and the best global institutions. It provides funding to support joint research projects between Indian researchers and their international counterparts. Mohsen Rahmani from the School of Science and Technology of Nottingham Trent University, UK, was the keynote speaker at the event organised by the UIET biotechnology branch in association with the Society for Biological Engineering. Rahmani discussed about recent advancements, emerging trends and career pathways in the field. He emphasised on the importance of inter-disciplinary collaboration, innovation and practical skills.

## Haryana Assembly: AAP, Cong, SAD object to land in UT

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 13 The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has strongly opposed the decision to build the Haryana Legislative Assembly complex in Chandigarh. The party said if Haryana was offering 12 acres in Panchkula to the Chandigarh Administration, then why was the Assembly house not being built there. In a press conference on Wednesday, AAP MLA and former minister Anmol Gagan Maan said that in 1966, when Haryana was carved out of Punjab, it was promised that Chandigarh would be handed over to Punjab after some time. Until Haryana built its own capital, Chandigarh would remain a Union Territory, she said and added that 58 years had passed and still Chandigarh had not been handed over to Punjab. She stated that, "Chandigarh

belongs entirely to Punjab as it was built on the land of 22 villages of Punjab. The decision to build a legislative Assembly for Haryana in Chandigarh is completely wrong. We will not tolerate it. This decision is entirely against Punjab." Anmol cited the example of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, saying that when Telangana was created in 2014, it was immediately decided that Hyderabad would be the capital of Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh would establish its new capital in Amaravati. In this year's budget, the Modi government had announced ₹15,000 crore for Andhra Pradesh's new capital and promised ₹50,000 crore over the next few years, she added. Meanwhile, the Congress and SAD have also objected to the allotment of land in Chandigarh for a separate Vidhan Sabha. Former Punjab Assembly Speaker Rana KP Singh said

it was totally unjustified on part of Chandigarh Administration to allot separate land for Haryana Vidhan Sabha. "When Chandigarh belongs to Punjab, the Chandigarh Administration has raked up a political controversy by allotting separate land for Haryana vidhan sabha. Haryana can build its vidhan sabha in Panchkula," he opined. Meanwhile, SAD leader Daljit Singh Cheema termed it shocking. "The party strongly condemns this action of the Centre. It is illegal, unconstitutional and grave violation of the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966. The SAD will not allow any such evil design to succeed at any cost," he said. "It is extreme injustice and another betrayal with the people of Punjab. By taking such decisions the Centre wants to convey a message that Punjab will never be given its capital," Cheema added.



Members of the dog squad in the Chandigarh Police at the Raising Day Parade held at the Police Lines, Sector 26, Chandigarh, on Wednesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: PRADEEP TEWARI

## Chandigarh Police observes Raising Day

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 13 On the occasion of their 58th Raising Day of the Chandigarh Police, UT Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria awarded top three positions to three police stations in 'DGP Running Trophy for Best Police Stations'. Sector 26 police station got the first prize of Rs 25,000, Sector 11 police station the second prize of Rs 15,000 and Mauli

Jagan police station the third prize of Rs 10,000. Three cops have also been awarded with the top three positions for 'DGP Running Trophy for Best Investigating Officer'. Inspector Shiv Charan was awarded Rs 25,000, SI Naveen Kumar Rs 15,000 and ASI Kuldeep Singh Rs 10,000. Two police officials have also been awarded with the 'DGP Running Trophy for Best Beat Officer'. Constables Sanjay and Kamaljeet Kaur

were awarded Rs 15,000 each. Earlier, Kataria took the salute at the parade held at the Parade Ground, RTC, Police Lines, Sector 26. The parade contingents of Chandigarh Police headed by the parade commander, Dheeraj, DSP/Traffic, marched along with the 14 platoons of the parade, along with the pipe and brass bands. Rajeev Verma, Adviser to the Administrator, Chandigarh, Surendra Singh Yadav,

Director General of Police, Chandigarh, and officers from the Chandigarh Administration and Police Department, municipal councillors, senior citizens, distinguished invitees and retired police officers were present at the function. Surendra Singh Yadav, IPS, Director General of Police, UT, Chandigarh, delivered the welcome address to the honourable guests as well as to the audience.

## Habit-forming drugs seized from Sec 22 shop

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 13 To keep a check on the flow of habit-forming drugs in the market, a raid was conducted at a shop in Sector 22-A last evening on a complaint. Drugs inspectors Tajinder

Singh and Amit Lakhnpal jointly raided M/s Medicare and during the search, the firm was found stocking habit-forming drugs costing around Rs 82,000 without any purchase and sale record. Oral

dosage formulations containing tapentadol and pregabalin (2,400 tablets & 400 capsules) were also seized from the shop. A show-cause notice has been issued to the firm as per the relevant Act. — TNS



## HOSTS VIVEK HIGH SCHOOL WIN BASKETBALL TITLES

The boys and girls U-17 teams win titles at in Sardar Bhagwant Singh Memorial Basketball Trophy. **P3»**



## SHOOTER VANSHIKA BAGS LAURELS AT WORLD MEET

Was part of Indian team that won silver in the 50m rifle 3position event in New Delhi. **P3»**



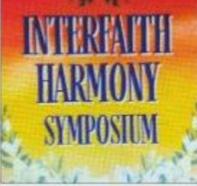
## RASHMIKA REVEALS DETAILS ABOUT PUSHPA: THE RULE

Rashmika took to Instagram, where she shared a picture from the dubbing session. **P4»**



### WHAT'S ON

#### PANCHKULA



Interfaith Harmony Symposium: Bhavan Vidyalaya, Panchkula, November 14

#### APNI MANDI

Chandigarh: Sectors 34, 56 and Ram Darbar

Mohali: Sector 76

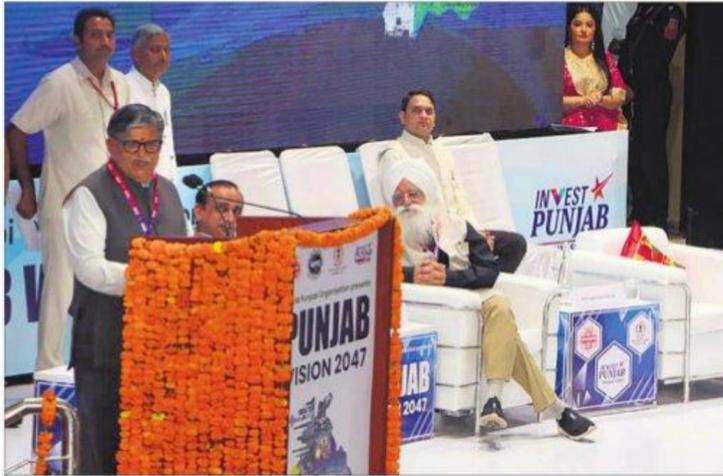
Panchkula: Sector 5

Please send information about events in tricity at: [whatson@tribunemail.com](mailto:whatson@tribunemail.com)

### IN BRIEF

#### FLIGHTS DELAYED

Mohali: Flight operations were delayed at Shaheed Bhagat Singh International Airport, Chandigarh, due to low visibility in the morning. All morning flights (arrival and departure) were behind schedule by around half an hour. **TNS**



Governor of Punjab Gulab Chand Kataria addresses gathering at "Punjab Vision 2047" in PU.

## Law & order situation in Pb matter of concern: Governor

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 13 Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria has stated that the law and order situation in the state and until it does not improve, investors would avoid coming to Punjab. Also commenting on the issue of stubble burning by farmers, he said, "We need to go beyond legal measures and think of other solutions." The governor was addressing the valedictory session of

"Punjab Vision 2047", a two-day conclave organised by Dr Vikramjit Singh Sahney, Rajya Sabha MP and president of World Punjabi Organisation, in collaboration with the Punjab Development Commission and Panjab University today.

"We have to think how to engage youth so anti-social elements are not able to misuse them. Educational institutions need to improve their training so they are able to stand on their own feet. Employment is a big solution

to many issues, including drug addiction," the Governor said during his address.

On the issue of stubble burning, he said, "Law cannot be the solution to curbing straw burning. When the gap to sow the next crop after harvesting is so short, how will the farmer clear the field? We have to think of a solution that is acceptable to all and also favourable to the environment," he added. "Likewise, we have to research on how to stop using agricultural

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## City gasps for fresh air as AQI hits 'severe' category

Enveloped by smog for sixth day, longest such spell since 2020

DUSHYANT SINGH PUNDIR  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 13 Air quality in the city slipped into the 'severe' category today, leaving residents to gasp for fresh air.

As the region grappled with the rising pollution levels, the city was the worst hit with the AQI reaching 424 points at the Air Quality Monitoring Station, Sector 22, around 10 pm for the first time this season. At the Sector 53 station, bordering Mohali district, the AQI was 419 and at the Sector 25 facility 335. The average AQI of the city stood at 393.

For the sixth consecutive day today, the average AQI remained in the 'very poor' category in the city and it is the longest spell since 2020.

According to the data of the Central Pollution Control Board, the second highest average AQI was registered at 400 in the city on November 9, 2022.

During the night of Diwali, the AQI was 395 in the city.

In the morning and evening, a thick blanket of smog enveloped the city. Dr Ravindra



A girl wearing mask crosses a road near the airport light point in Chandigarh on Wednesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: RAVI KUMAR

### POSES HEALTH RISK

Dr Ashutosh N Aggarwal, Prof & Head, Department of Pulmonary Medicine, PGIMER Chandigarh, said: "Smog poses considerable health risk to those engaged in outdoor activities. It can cause throat and chest irritation, shortness of breath, and also aggravate pre-existing lung diseases in patients."

dra Khaiwal, Professor of Environment Health, Department of Community Medicine and School of Public Health, PGI, said air pollution emissions, meteorology and atmospheric chemistry worked together in complex ways to influence the build-up of pollutants near ground levels, especially in urban environments like that of Chandigarh.

"This interplay is especially evident during winter when

pollutants like PM2.5 and ground-level ozone accumulate due to lower temperatures, limited wind dispersal and stubble burning, leading to "severe" AQI levels that impact the health and well-being of residents," he said.

Stubble burning in the neighbouring states was considered as one of the major causes of the increasing air pollution in the city.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

### UT ISSUES ADVISORY

■ Avoid outdoor morning and late evening physical exercise. Do not open external doors and windows during morning and late evening hours, may ventilate if necessary between 12 pm and 4 pm (on days with 'poor' to 'severe' AQI)

■ Avoid burning wood, coal, animal dung, kerosene.

■ Avoid use of room fresheners. It consumes oxygen very fast

■ Do not smoke cigarettes, bidis and related tobacco products

■ Avoid burning mosquito coils and incense sticks in closed premises

■ Practice wet mopping instead of sweeping or vacuum cleaning

■ Keep washing your eyes with running water regularly and do regular gargles with warm water

■ Consult the nearest doctor in case of breathlessness, giddiness, cough, chest discomfort or pain, irritation in eyes (red or watery)

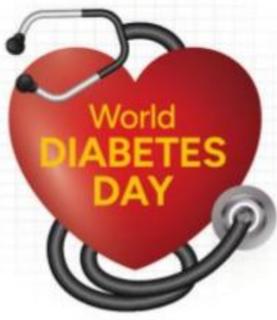
■ Patients with underlying medical conditions should be more careful to avoid exposure to air pollution. They should keep their medications readily available

# Inauguration of Gini Advanced Care Hospital

gini health



By Honourable Finance Minister of Punjab  
**S. Harpal Singh Cheema**



**Dr. Anil Bhansali**  
Former Head of the Department of Endocrinology PGI



**Dr. Saniya Gupta**  
DM Pediatric Endocrinology (PGI) MD-Paediatrics



**Dr. Jatin Garg**  
Critical Care and Internal Medicine

**November 14**  
10:30AM Onwards

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10,000 People have reduced their blood sugar, blood pressure, cholesterol and triglycerides, and are using fewer medicines

**FREE Consultation**  
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Kulwant Singh, MLA  
Aashika Jain, DC

## Educators urged to be future-ready, adaptive

Over 40 principals, school coordinators and directors from Ambala, Kaithal, Kurukshetra participate in conference

**The Tribune**  
**PRINCIPALS' MEET**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**AMBALA, NOVEMBER 13**  
The Tribune Group of Newspapers, in collaboration with Chitkara University, organised a seminar on 'Overhauling Indian Education System: Growing Expectations' in Ambala on Wednesday.



Participants at a seminar on 'Overhauling Indian Education System: Growing Expectations' in Ambala on Wednesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: RAVI KUMAR

Over 40 educators, school coordinators, principals and directors from Ambala, Kaithal and Kurukshetra districts attended the 'Principals' Meet'.

Keynote speaker Aadi Garg, a psychologist and career counsellor, was the resource person for the seminar who called upon the educators to be future ready India by using the Edtech role in education system.

While interacting with the educators, he said, "The National Education Policy-2020 says educate, enlighten and empower by utilising the accessibility, affordability, accountability. We have to adapt the change by analysing and utilising technology, not to replace the things but using the transformational content for the betterment of society."

He called upon the principals and directors of the schools to be more adaptive and implement what they think. By using immersive learning experience, the productivity, intent and content of the students can increase.

The keynote speaker said the principal should also follow NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic

Advancement), SWAYAM portal with SWAYAM PRABHA and future ready India by using the Edtech role in education system.

"We are only focusing on the students, while we should follow and focus on self-productivity too. There is also a need to be more responsive. Technology must be used to increase efficiency," Garg added.

Directors, principals and coordinators shared the ideas and challenges being faced in the management and education system with the keynote speaker.

Priti Chaudhary, Director, Office of Strategic Initiatives, Chitkara University, shared methodology followed by the university for students to ensure quality academic atmosphere. "Each student is important. Chitkara is a research-based university and whatever we do, we do it from heart. We are contributing to education from KG to the highest level of education," she added.

### INTEGRATION OF TECH INTO EDUCATION

“The National Education Policy-2020 says educate, enlighten and empower by utilising accessibility, affordability and accountability. We have to adapt with the change by analysing and utilising the technology. The integration of technology into education has to be done not just in classrooms but also in school managements so that the school workforce is transformed and upgraded to function efficiently.” — Aadi Garg, PSYCHOLOGIST AND CAREER COUNSELLOR

Zonal president, North of Haryana Progressive Schools' Conference, and director, Tulsii Public School, Prashant Munjal who was the guest of honour on the occasion said, "I congratulate The Tribune for holding the event and this is a great initiative because such events are the need of the hour. We are a developing economy and to compete with the modern developed world, overhauling and robust the education system must be the top most priority in the country. Like highways and defence, education should also

be among the priorities otherwise we will not be able to develop the country." Saurabh Kapoor, director of Shri Geeta Nand Public School, said, "The education field is lagging behind. The youngsters don't want to be educator anymore. They want to do jobs in law firms, MNCs and become CA, but they are losing interest in becoming teachers. The Tribune is doing a commendable work by organising such programmes for principals and directors, and we would like to see the involvement of

students too in future so that they could learn value of educationists."

Principal, Headway World School, Pehowa, Harpreet Kaur Sodhi, said, "Such events help us the principals in running schools more efficiently, bring the required changes and increase the parameter of growth. It is good to embrace the change and moving toward growth."

Principal of Chaman Vatika Gurukul Ambala, Sonali Sharma said "The topic chosen today was very contemporary and the need for the day. Various changes, including NEP, are coming in the present education system and in such events and discussions we also come to know about the new trends in education, how we can collaborate, cooperate and fulfill the expectations of new education system."

Gulshan Saini, Coordinator, IG Public School Kaithal, said, "Holding regular meetings with the staff and sharing ideas can resolve many

issues. It was a fabulous experience to be here and attend the event."

Neelam Sharma, principal, OPS Vidya Mandir, said, "I eagerly wait for The Tribune's event because of such fruitful sessions. It makes us rethink about education system, listen to so many experts and reevaluate our way of working so that we can make the education better for students and coming generation."

Nishtha Dua, coordinator MM International Sadopur, said "The event about overhauling Indian education system, growing expectations around us in the educational scenario was very good."

Kalpna, coordinator, Vishwas Public School, Shahabad, said "It was good experience to be here. The keynote speaker who represented the psychological aspect of education was very good as it helps us to balance the parental, student and administrative balance."

## 17-year-old stabbed to death in Mohali

**ROAD RAGE**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**MOHALI, NOVEMBER 13**  
A 17-year-old youth was stabbed to death, while an eye of another was allegedly gouged out by a violent group of miscreants in a case of road rage near Kumbhra village in Mohali this evening.

The deceased had been identified as Daman Singh (17), while a seriously injured Dilpreet Singh (16) was admitted to a nearby private hospital after the incident.

In the brawl, unidentified assailants stabbed Daman

Singh in the throat, while Dilpreet sustained a serious eye injury. The police said the brawl began with a minor incident of road rage as the suspect's bike grazed past the duo in the village.

The duo reportedly abused the suspect as he left the place. An hour later, the suspect, a migrant worker, returned along with a group of his supporters and attacked the duo. The police have taken the body in possession and kept it in the mortuary of Phase 6 Civil Hospital. The Phase 8 police have registered a murder case and started investigation.

## Car thieves open fire, try to run over cops; two arrested

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**PANCHKULA, NOVEMBER 13**  
The Panchkula police today arrested two car thieves who fired shots and tried to run over cops at a check-point on the Panchkula-Raipur Rani road. One car thief was injured in cross-firing and was admitted to PGI.

The police recovered two sports utility vehicles (SUV) and a country-made pistol.

ACP Arvind Kamboj said the police officials had been tracking miscreants in connection with repeated complaints of theft of SUVs in the region. When the police tried to stop two vehicles — a Mahindra Scorpio and a Toyota Fortuner, which were coming from the Raipur Rani side,

at the check point, the miscreants fired shots and tried to run over the police personnel in order to flee. He said, "In retaliation, the police party fired shots, one of which hit the driver of the Scorpio car."

The ACP said the police arrested two individuals identified as Manoj, a resident of Fatehabad, and Rakesh of Charkhi Dabri. Meanwhile, the driver of the Fortuner car abandoned the vehicle on the Barona-Mouli road.

Police Commissioner Rakesh Kumar and DCP (Crime) Varinder Sagwan also reached the spot. ACP Kamboj said Manoj was admitted to PGI, while the police had arrested Rakesh and started investigation. A hunt has been launched to nab other accused.

## Proceedings for accused's extradition underway, court told

**BMW MURDER CASE**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 13**

The Chandigarh Police have told the court that proceedings have been started for the extradition of Balraj Singh Randhawa, an accused in the alleged murder of Akansh Sen, nephew of former Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh.

Sen was allegedly run over by a BMW car in Chandigarh's Sector 9 on the night of February 9, 2017.

Randhawa was allegedly driving the car. Another been accused Hermehtab Singh has already been convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment in 2019 in the case, while Randhawa managed to flee the country. This information has been given by the Chandigarh Police in a status report submitted before the court.

The police said during the course of the investigation, it had been found that accused had not travelled on his passport issued to him prior to the incident.

Request forwarded to High Commission of India in Ottawa

The location of the accused could only be found with sincere efforts of the staff of Crime Branch with their specialised skills and experience. Thereafter, the matter was taken up with Interpol and the location of the accused was confirmed in Canada.

A proposal has already been prepared for extradition of Balraj Singh Randhawa and the administrative queries are being rectified without any delay.

The police further said the property of Balraj Singh Randhawa had already been attached.

At present, the file is pending with Ministry of External Affairs and is in process. The Ministry of External Affairs has intimated that extradition request in respect of Balraj Singh Randhawa from Canada to India has been forwarded to High Commission of India, Ottawa, on October 30, 2024.

## Firm official loses ₹79.5L in 'digital arrest'

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**MOHALI, NOVEMBER 13**

In yet another incident of "digital arrest" scam, miscreants conned Poddar Tyres Limited vice-president (operations) Mahendra Prakash Vyas of Rs 79.5 lakh after telling him that the Customs Department has found passports and narcotics in a courier meant for him.

On the complaint of the victim, a cheating case has been

registered at the Punjab State Cyber Crime Police Station. In his complaint, the victim stated that miscreants impersonated as officials of Mumbai Police and CBI and kept him under "digital arrest" for around 20 days from September 27 to October 29. They threatened him not to disclose anything to his family members.

The miscreants reportedly forced Vyas to transfer Rs 54 lakh, Rs 10.5 lakh, Rs 7.5

lakhs and some more amount in installments over 20 days after which he reported the matter to the police.

Three days ago, an 83-year-old resident of Kansal was duped of Rs 85 lakh after he was put under "digitally arrest". The victim went to a Sector 17 branch of a bank and deposited the money in the account number provided by miscreants. He was told that the Customs Department had seized passports

from his courier. The victim, Nirvair Singh Bains, complained to the Cyber Crime Police after which a case was registered.

### High-profile case

The police recently busted a gang of inter-state cyber fraudsters who duped noted industrialist Shri Paul Oswal of Rs 7 crore. Two cyber criminals have been arrested and Rs 5.25 crore have been recovered from them.

## Varsity clerk wins ₹1.5 crore lottery



Kiran Bala receives the prize.

**FATEHGARH SAHIB, NOVEMBER 13**

Kiran Bala, a clerk at Sri Guru Granth Sahib World University, has won the first prize of Rs 1.5 crore in the monthly draw of the Punjab Government Lottery.

Thanking God, Kiran Bala said she had never dreamt that fortune would smile at her like this. She said her husband had purchased the lottery ticket for the first time on the eve of Diwali. — OC

## P'kula air quality drops to 'very poor' category; admn steps in

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**PANCHKULA, NOVEMBER 13**

With the Air Quality Index (AQI) in Panchkula dropping to 'poor' and 'very poor' levels, the district administration has started registering FIRs against farmers for stubble burning. The AQI, which largely remained between 'good' and 'satisfactory' levels a month ago (mid-October), has remained in the 'poor' category (between 200 and 300) in the past one week and shifted to 'very poor' category on Wednesday. A prolonged exposure outside can lead to respiratory illness.

Deputy Commissioner Monica Gupta said the administration had recorded five incidents of stubble

burning in the district. "Five farmers have been booked. The department has also collected Rs 12,500 fine from them," she added.

She pointed out that the administration had issued show-cause notices to 16 officers and employees in connection with stubble burning on the basis of areas where the incidents took place. "Now, they will be called for personal hearing. Further action will be taken against those who fail to provide a proper explanation," she said.

The DC said the farmers

should not set fire to crop residue and the state government was already providing compensation for crop residue management at the rate of Rs 1,000 per acre.

### AQI stands at 310

The region's AQI remained largely within the good and satisfactory categories (between 0 and 100 points) on the AQI meter till September end. It moved towards the moderate level by mid-October and ever since it has only worsened. For the past one week, Panchkula's AQI recorded at the Sector 6 office of the Haryana State Pollution Control Board has remained in the poor category. On Thursday, the region's AQI was recorded at 310 in the 'very poor' category.

## Farmers honoured for not burning stubble

OUR CORRESPONDENT

**FATEHGARH SAHIB, NOVEMBER 13**

The district has recorded 75 per cent reduction in stubble burning cases compared to last year, an environmental engineer of the Punjab Pollution Control Board has said. Only 195 cases have been reported till date, com-

pared to 800 incidents of stubble burning in the district last year.

The campaign launched by the district administration had yielded good results and it will be continued, Deputy Commissioner Sona Thind said while addressing the media along with Kamal Singla, environmental engineer, PPCB.

They were present at function organised by the Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department, in collaboration with PPCB, to honour 118 farmers who did not burn stubble, here today.

The DC said they were proud of the farmers of the district who played an important role in saving environ-

ment and others should also take inspiration from them. She said another extremely sensitive issue was that of depleting groundwater level in five blocks of the district.

"We will have to think seriously about it from now on because it is impossible to live without water," the DC added.

The Tribune  
**TIME CAPSULE**

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU (NOV 14, 1889-MAY 27, 1964)

## Much-loved first PM of India

IN his autobiography, India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru mentions an annual event he would look forward to, apart from festivals - his birthday. "My chief grievance was that my birthday came so rarely. Indeed, I tried to start an agitation for more frequent birthdays," he wrote. Little did he know then that his birthday would be celebrated with fervour by the entire country.



The only son of prosperous parents, Nehru was born on November 14, 1889, to Motilal Nehru, a prominent lawyer and Swarup Rani Nehru. He writes of himself as a 'spoil' child in his autobiography. He was lonely as he had two younger sisters, and though he lived in a big Hindu joint family, his cousins were much older to him. His ancestors had descended from the high mountains in Kashmir to the rich plains to earn more fame and money. One of his prominent ancestors, Raj Kaul, gained eminence as a Sanskrit and Persian scholar in Kashmir. The then Mughal emperor, Farrukhsiar, noticed his potential on a visit to Kashmir, and on his insistence, the family migrated to Delhi - the imperial capital - around 1716. A jagir with a house situated on the banks of a canal (nahar) was given to Kaul, hence, originated the surname 'Nehru'. The jagir vanished over the years.

Nehru's great-grandfather Lakshmi Narayan Nehru became the first vakil of East India Company at the emperor's court in Delhi. Jawaharlal's grandfather, Ganga Dhar Nehru, was the 'kotwal' of Delhi for a brief stint, before the revolt of 1857. After the revolt, all papers of the Nehru clan were destroyed and the family moved to Agra, where Jawaharlal's father was born. Nehru's father, under the tutelage of one of his lawyer brothers, moved with him to Allahabad from Agra. An intelligent man, his father took up the legal practice of his brother Pandit Nand Lal after he died. He earned success, fame and money, changing the way of living of his family, which became more and more westernised.

Born in Allahabad, Jawaharlal admired his father, but was fearful of him. In his childhood, he used to hear from his cousins about the insulting manner of the English people, biases towards them in railway compartments, etc. He began to resent them, though he did not harbour ill will against individual Englishmen. He was brought up by an English governess and most of his father's friends were Englishmen.

CHANDNI S CHANDEL

Read the full story on [www.tribuneindia.com/anniversary](http://www.tribuneindia.com/anniversary)

**DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS, CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION**  
UT SECRETARIAT, 3RD FLOOR, SECTOR 9, CHANDIGARH  
E-MAIL: CHD.DCA@GMAIL.COM

**AUCTION FOR THE ALLOTMENT OF TEMPORARY PARKING SITE**  
No. DCA/2213 Dated 13/11/2024  
Department of Cultural Affairs, Chandigarh Administration invites e-tender (online tender) from the individuals/Companies/Firms/Contractor/Agency/Joint Venture/Consortium for the allotment of temporary parking sites near Kalagram, Chandigarh during the 10 day Chandigarh National Crafts Mela to be held from 29th November 2024 to 8th December, 2024. The interested parties can apply for the bidding on or before 20.11.2024 up to 02.00 p.m. The terms and conditions of the bidding can be seen on the website of Chandigarh i.e. <http://etenders.chd.nic/nicgep/app> or <http://chdca.gov.in>  
Sd/- Director Cultural Affairs, Chandigarh Administration

**IN BRIEF**

**TAPS STOLEN FROM SEC 10 COLLEGE**

Chandigarh: Taps and utensils have been stolen from the laboratory of Government Home Science College, Sector 10. A case has been registered at the Sector 3 police station on a complaint filed by the principal. TNS

**JEWELLERY, CASH STOLEN**

Chandigarh: Jewellery and cash were stolen from a house in Dhanas. The complainant reported that gold and silver jewellery, and Rs 35,000 in cash were stolen from the house. A case has been registered at the Sarangpur police station. TNS

**TWO ATTACKED WITH KNIFE**

Chandigarh: Two persons were attacked with a knife in Sector 25. Robin, alias Bura, reported that Sanju, alias Kancha, along with his six accomplices, attacked him and his brother Ravi near their house. A case has been registered at the Maloya police station. TNS

## Member moves HC over non-holding of club meet

**CHD CLUB ISSUE**

**SOURABH MALIK**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 13

A retired Army officer and permanent voting member of the Chandigarh Club has moved the Punjab and Haryana High Court alleging anomalies in the functioning of its management. Among other things, Anil Kabotra has alleged that the club's annual general meeting has not been called for more than eight years.

The application has been moved in an ongoing matter concerning the club's functioning filed against the Chandigarh Administration and other respondents in 2016.

Kabotra submitted that the non-holding of meetings by the club management was contrary to the provisions of the Companies Act. Explanation for not conducting the meeting has not been put forward by the club authorities, he submitted.

"In spite of specific

instances of siphoning of the money of the members over the past few years, the club management has blatantly exploited the funds of the club and have also not deposited the lease money due to the government, which has been collected from the members on account of the same. The fact can be highlighted from the annual report prepared by the club, which duly depicts a demand of approximately Rs 2.96 crore as on December 31, 2023, by the Estate Office," he added.

Kabotra added he wanted to highlight the malpractices within the "club management and high level of corruption/fraud/manipulation of accounts and embezzlement of funds". "The fact can be highlighted through various instances, which would show how even illegal transactions are undertaken by the club management to grant memberships to people by manipulating the categories under which they have been

granted the same," he submitted.

Kabotra added the entire exercise of inducting unauthorised members was being done at the cusp of the club management elections. "Further, it has also come to light that there is a mass scale manipulation in the accounting of membership fees in the club which has to be thoroughly investigated by way of a forensic audit. At some instances, membership is being given to unknown people at a heavily discounted rate without any justifiable cause or reason and further membership money, i.e. collected from various members is being embezzled out of the club accounts and being utilised for personal gain," he added.

The plea, yet to come up for hearing, added unauthorised and discounted memberships was being given to people by showing them as relatives of the existing club members, "despite the fact that such new members are not even remotely connected to the existing members".

## Wear mask while going out: Docs

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 13

The thick cover of smog enveloping the tricity has affected life with patients suffering from respiratory conditions, morning walkers and food stall vendors facing a tough time. The doctors have said it is best to reconsider outdoor activities. If going outside is necessary, one should cover nose and mouth with a scarf or mask.

"The people are avoiding visiting food stalls running in the open," said Gopal, who runs a small food business in Sector 34.

Many residents complained of breathing issues and burning eyes. Dr Ashutosh N Aggarwal, Professor and Head, Department of Pulmonary Medicine, PGI, said: "Smog poses a considerable health risk to those engaged in outdoor activities. It can cause throat and chest irritation, shortness of breath and also aggravate pre-existing lung diseases in patients."

He added, "If the AQI suggests poor (or even worse) air quality, then people with underlying chronic lung diseases (like asthma) and those who are severely bothered by air pollution, should avoid vigor-

ous outdoor exercise. This is even more important for young children and the elderly."

Navdeep, a 40-year-old asthma patient, blamed the poor air quality for his worsening symptoms. Another asthma patient, Radha Devi, who lives in suburbs of Mohali, visited a chemist in Chandigarh to buy inhalers. "Bad AQI or not, I make sure that I have my medicine. My doctor has advised me that medicine shouldn't be missed for a single day when there's a change of weather because these symptoms mostly re-appear during that time," she said.

"While morning walks are a great way to stay healthy, one should stay safe and avoid going out during dense fog, particularly in the morning and evening. Opt for indoor exercises instead. As the AQI hits hazardous levels, breaching 300, it's best to reconsider outdoor activities. If going outside is necessary, cover nose and mouth with a scarf or mask. Avoid smoking and focus on eating healthy diet. Prioritise your health this season," said Dr Kritarth, Consultant Pulmonology, Paras Hospital. (inputs by Sheetal and Deepankar Sharda)

## Hosts Vivek High School win basketball twin titles

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 13

The boys and girls U-17 teams of hosts Vivek High School, Mohali, won twin titles during the concluding day of the Sardar Bhagwant Singh Memorial Basketball Trophy (BSMBT) held at Sector 78 Sports Complex.

In the boys U-17 category, Vivek High School lifted the title by recording a 44-38 win over Saupin's School, Sector 32. Aditya scored 25 points to help the hosts win the title easily. Apara Sood made his best effort to reduce the margin by contributing 15 points for the Sector 32 team. Learning Paths School (LPS), Mohali, claimed third position. The girls U-17 team of the host school recorded a 45-40 win over Yadavindra Public School, Mohali.

Kashvi scored 22 points for

the winning side, while Ananya was the highest scorer for the losing side. LPS eyes also claimed third position. Meanwhile, KV High Ground School, Chandigarh lifted the boys U-14 trophy by defeating YPS 32-27. Ankush (16 points) was the highest scorer for the title winners, and Gurmat scored 10 points for the Mophali team. Vivek High School, Mohali, claimed the third position.

The boys' U-12 team of Police Public School defeated the hosts 34-23 to win the title. Vansh alone scored 12 points for the title winners, whereas the Mohali team claimed the third position.

Jiya contributed 12 points as Sacred Heart School, Sector 26, won the girls U-14 title by defeating the hosts 28-18. Trasha scored six points for the host team and YPS-Mohali claimed third position. Sacred Heart team won

their second title by winning the girls U-12 title. The Sector 26 team defeated LPS 22-12 in the final with Naisha scoring maximum of 12 points, and Sanvi adding six points for the losing team. Manav Mangal Smart School, Mohali, claimed the third position.

In the boys U-17 category, Aditya Nagpal claimed the title of player of the tournament, while in the boys U-14 category, Ankush won the same title. In the boys U-12 category, Gurjot Singh was adjudged player of tournament. Kashvi bagged the same title in the girls U-17 category, followed by Jiya in the girls U-14 category and Naisha in girls U-12 category winning the same title.

Amar Jyoti Chawla, Principal, Vivek High School, Mohali; and Renu Puri, Principal, Vivek High School, Sector 38, awarded the winners.

## MP discusses city issues with Kataria

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 13

City MP Manish Tewari and Chandigarh Pradesh Congress president HS Lucky today called on Punjab Governor and UT Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria and discussed various issues concerning the City Beautiful.

The main issues include share-wise registration of property, extension of 'lal dora', need-based changes in houses of the Chandigarh Housing Board and conversion of properties from leasehold to freehold.

They also discussed various issues relating to cooperative societies, ownership right to colonies and exorbitant interest being charged on delayed payments by the owners of dwelling units in colonies.

Both leaders expressed their concern over the rising pollution. The Administrator assured them that concentrated efforts would be made in the coming days to resolve these issues. — TNS

## March of faithful



A devotee sprinkles flower petals on the road during a nagar kirtan ahead of Parkash Purb of Guru Nanak Dev in Chandigarh on Wednesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: VICKY

## Hitesh, Ishita half marathon winners

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 13

Hitesh Sahu clocked 1 hour and 18:26 seconds and Ishita 2:23:33s to win men's and women's 21km event, respectively, of the 14th edition of the Punjab Half Marathon.

In the men's 10km run, Garva Pooniya clocked 36:24s to win the race, while Aradhya completed the race in 1:3:01s to claim the top honours in the women's category. In the male and female 5km event, Stephan Van Der Merwe (20:14s) and Koshin Parik (25:54s) won the gold medals, respectively.

The 28 per cent of the participants were female. In a heartening addition, 15 visually impaired runners from Punjab University also took part. Maj Gen Mathew Jacob, Commandant of Military Hospital, Western Command, awarded the winners. — TNS

## City gasps for fresh air as AQI hits 'severe'...

FROM PAGE 1

The air quality of Chandigarh that has the third-highest tree cover in India was worse than Punjab's industrial city of Ludhiana at 206 in the evening. Yesterday, at 343, Chandigarh was more polluted than Delhi, which had an AQI of 334. On Sunday also, the AQI of the city at 339 was higher than that of Delhi at 334.

## Shooter Vanshika bags laurels



CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 13

Vanshika Shahi, a student of Chandigarh University, Gharuan, bagged laurels by winning a team medal in the World University Shooting Championship 2024. The Indian team won silver in the 50m Rifle 3 position event in New Delhi.

The team lost gold by one point to Czech Republic. Germany claimed third position.

The Indian team was represented by Sift Kaur Samra, Vanshika Shahi and Manini Kaushik. Earlier, Vanshika had won gold at the Khelo India Youth Games in Guwahati with a final score of 451.3.

She also claimed 16th rank during the ISSF Junior World Cup in Suhl with a score of 1,167 in the 50m Rifle 3 Position women's junior event. — TNS

## Law & order situation in Punjab...

FROM PAGE 1  
chemicals without losing crop productivity." "Punjab is the only state that can fulfil India's dream of uniform development by 2047. When Punjab solved India's food shortage after the 1965 war, it not only solved the problem of

our hunger but also fed other countries of the world," said Kataria. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Sahney requested the Governor's help to solve certain issues related to Punjab. "Reopening of Wagah border for trade can help Punjab send its products to Cen-

tral Asia. A lack of international flights from Mohali and Amritsar is a deterrent to the expansion of industry. We also need a minimum support price for crops other than wheat and paddy, which can solve the farming and ecological crisis of Punjab," he said.

## Ranji Trophy: Saurashtra batters shine in opening day of match against city team

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 13

A fine performance by Saurashtra batters helped the side post a respectable 299/2 against Chandigarh on the opening day play of the Ranji Trophy at Government Model Senior Secondary School, Sector 26.

Chirah Jani came up with a brilliant 153 and, in support of Harvik Desai (99), raised a partnership of 236 runs to give a major push to the Saurashtra innings. The Chandigarh skipper won the toss and put the visiting side to bat. The match witnessed a delayed start due to poor visibility. On the opening day, 79 overs were bowled.

The visitors started their innings with Tarangoghel and Desai. However, Jagjit Singh Sandhu shocked Tarangoghel (0) on the second ball of the opening over, as the batsman was back to the hut. After the early loss, Jani joined Desai and the duo took over the charge in style. The duo played for the next 64 overs to raise a 236-run partnerships. They ensured the side not only recover from an early loss, but also move towards a big total. However, in the 65th overs, Chandigarh's star bowler Nishunk Birla gave the hosts much awaited breakthrough as he stumped Desai for 99 off 169 balls, with 14 boundaries and one six.

Down to 237/2, Sheldon Jackson joined Jani and supported him till the draw of the

stumps. While Jackson remained unbeaten for 34 off 46 balls, with three boundaries and two sixes, Jani went to score an unbeaten 153 off 258 balls, studded with 21 boundaries and two sixes.

The duo ensured no further loss, as the side posted 299/2 on the board.

**Punjab restrict Bihar**

At IS Bindra PCA Stadium in Mohali, Punjab restricted Bihar at 135. The situation was same here as the opening day with only 56 overs bowled due to poor visibility. Sukdeep Bajwa remained the leading wicket taker for the hosts with 3/38, while Baltej Singh (2/34), Mayank Markande (2/8) and Naman Dhir (2/9) also claimed wickets. Gurnoor Brar (1/28)

also chipped in with a wicket in his kitty. Ayush Loharuka (63 off 112 balls, with 11 boundaries) was the main scorer for the side.

**Cooch Behar Trophy**

Meanwhile, on the first day of the Cooch Behar Trophy match between Chandigarh and Baroda at Moti Bagh Cricket Ground, Vadodra, Smit Rathva (114 off 148 balls, with 20 boundaries) and Abhishek Swaminathan (104 off 144 balls, studded with 10 boundaries and two sixes) along with a half-century from HG Patel (83 off 98 balls) took the host team to 421/9. Jayant Vashisht (5/91) took a maximum of wickets, while Ishan Gaba claimed 2/98 for the bowling side.

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**VICKY AS PARASHURAMA**



Film producer Dinesh Vjian and director Amar Kaushik are set to raise the bar once again with the announcement of their magnum opus, *Mahavatar*, which will feature Vicky Kaushal as the legendary warrior sage Chiranjeevi Parashurama.

# Tribune Life Style



**Kishore fan**  
Bollywood heartthrob Sidharth Malhotra has revealed that he plays songs by the legendary singer Kishore Kumar when he is in the car and that they instantly energise him.

CHANDIGARH | THURSDAY | 14 NOVEMBER 2024

PHOTO: PRADEEP TEWARI

## Bonding over bok choy

PARBINA RASHID

It's amazing how a bowl of hot Pho Ga can help two people bond. A Vietnamese chef and a North-East Indian foodie comparing notes while placed in the Punjabi heartland! Call it a kitchen date, if you may, where Chef Duy gets to cook his national dish at JW Marriott's oriental restaurant kitchen and I get to be his first taster on Indian soil.

The anxiety of cooking in a foreign land is palpable. He is just one-day-old in the city, his experience with Indian food is limited to just *aloo gobi-naan* and *aloo parantha*. Before boarding the flight, he had a menu for the food festival at Marriott, Chandigarh, in place, but his plan goes topsy-turvy as he is told — 'beef is a complete no-no'. "We even beep that 'B' word," I told him. He looks crestfallen, having to replace his star ingredient with chicken.

"This is my first visit to India. Hence the mistake," he says. That, however, is not the only 'mistake' I spot as I watch him prepare his dish, Pho Ga, which is the chicken variety of the original Pho. He starts with the stock by boiling chicken and infusing flavours of coriander, onion, ginger, cabbage, radish and baby corn into it. Chef Duy had spiced all his ingredients in advance to retain the authentic taste.

Next, he boils the rice noodles and lets it sit for a couple of minutes in cold water. After what seems like an agonising wait, he finally prepares the bowl. Puts the noodles, adds some stock, some diced chicken, puts blanched bok choy, mushrooms, coriander

A meeting with Chef Duy, who is in Chandigarh to curate a food festival, turns out to be an education on the subtle flavour and egalitarianism that Vietnam's popular dish Pho Ga stands for

and lemon leaves. He keeps it simple, a fuss-free comfort bowl. Too simple if compared to his Indian counterpart, Chef Tenzin's version. The Indian chef uses star anise, cardamom, cinnamon stick and clove for the stock, adds Tibetan butter for richness and sprinkles dried red chillies for a bit of heat. He serves his bowl with bean sprouts, chilli slices, lime wedges and fried onion.

That's the dish which is more likely to find favour with the city gentry. This bit of wisdom comes from personal experience. I have lost count how many times my bamboo shoot-fish-rice combo took the beatings from *rajmah-chawal* and my *punch-phoran* tempered *daal* bowed to its *tadka*-enriched



Punjabi version! Here, simplicity is fine as long as it's part of living room conversations, not on the dining table.

Chef Duy's defence lies in celebrated poet Tu Mo's poem, *An Ode to Pho*. Tu Mo captured the subtle flavour of the soup and its egalitarianism in his verses. To him, it is a dish loved by both the rich and the poor.

"I know Indian palate runs towards rich, spicy food, and, yes, I am willing to incorporate the Indian sensibilities in my cooking, but only to a certain extent. I can't take the Vietnamese essence out of my dishes because I represent my country here," he says. Despite his heavily accented English, there is no mistaking the resolute spirit.

I empathise. For it's not just another oriental dish. It's Pho. Vietnam's national dish. Pho was listed at number 28 on World's 50 most delicious foods, compiled by CNN Go in 2011. Before that, the word Pho was added to the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary in 2007. There are many versions about the history regarding the origin of Pho and the most popular version says it began at the end of the 19th century, at the peak of French colonialism. In all likelihood, it evolved from a noodle soup called *Xáo Trầu* — a dish made with slices of water buffalo meat cooked in broth with rice vermicelli.

While Nam Dinh is believed to be the birthplace of Pho, its spiritual home is

Hanoi. This is where Pho found its popularity. In sync with the turbulent history of Vietnam, Pho duly got divided in its form and flavour. It became Pho Bac in the North Vietnam, Pho Hue in the Central region, and Pho Sai Gon in South Vietnam.

While the history and geography around the dish do appeal to the foodie in me, all my senses, except for one, get relegated to the background the moment Chef Duy places the bowl in front of me. The bok choy, the snow-white eonki mushrooms, the velvety rice noodles and the delicate broth sing merrily inside my mouth, and it's a happy tune!

(The food festival *A Culinary Journey to Vietnam* is on at JW Marriott till November 17)

On Children's Day, celebrities go back to where it all began — school picnics, childhood dreams and lessons for life

## Inspiring the gen-next



**FROM THE HEART:** Anupama Solanki

On November 14, school authorities took us for picnics or games every year and it was very exciting. When I was a kid, there were only radio and television, so I have grown up watching actors like Srimti Irani, Amna Sharif, Sakshi Tanwar and many more. They have definitely inspired my journey into the entertainment industry and I really cherish that. I think when children pursue the field they are interested in with their heart and soul, they will definitely excel. That is my suggestion to them.

**PASSION FOR SINGING:** Bhawana Aneja

Children's Day brings back a cherished memory from my childhood. I was in second grade when I won an award for singing. No one in my family knew I had even participated, so bringing home the trophy in a vegetable basket was a complete surprise! My mom was overjoyed and that moment marked the beginning of my passion for singing. Growing up, I was a Bollywood enthusiast, deeply inspired by Madhuri Dixit and performing on her songs became my stage highlight. That early passion has stayed with me, eventually leading me to the entertainment industry. My parents instilled in me strong values, grounding me with kindness and confidence. They taught me that everyone has their own identity, so I never see others as a competition.



**LIVE AND LET LIVE:** Rohit Choudhary

All my memories of childhood are filled with the time I spent playing with my dad. As a child, my dreams and ambitions shifted constantly, but one thing always stayed the same - I wanted to be like a king because my father used to say, 'Beta, you are my king'. I believe that a person's character is shaped by the values they grow up with, regardless of their financial situation. It's essential for children to pursue a creative field or sports alongside academics. This helps them develop a side of themselves that keeps them in a continuous learning phase, which is crucial to keeping them away from unwanted habits. The simple philosophy I follow is to 'live and let live'. Mistakes are a natural part of life; the key is to learn from them and try not to repeat them.



**FOSTERING CREATIVITY:** Ekta Tiwari

Children's Day is a celebration of innocence, joy and endless potential. Many of us treasure sweet memories of school celebrations, treats shared, games with friends and family, and learning new skills, all encouraged by the love and support of those around us. Our childhood experiences shape us — instilling values like empathy, perseverance and curiosity. Encouraging children to explore creative pursuits is essential. Engaging in the arts fosters self-expression, builds problem-solving skills, enhances cognitive abilities, and nurtures innovation. Key lessons learned in childhood — like kindness, integrity, and the power of imagination — lay a foundation for personal growth.

**EMOTIONAL QUOTIENT:** Rinku Ghosh

Honestly, I had no clear direction as I grew up — I was an average student, and the only thing that truly resonated with me was dance. I thought I might even become a classical dancer someday. Dance inspired me, especially when people appreciated my expression and performance on stage. It gave me a sense of confidence. I've always believed that values and culture should be instilled in children from a young age, as these lessons stay with us for life. My parents taught me how to be compassionate and empathetic.

## Coming soon

Rashmika Mandanna reveals details about *Pushpa: The Rule*

Actress Rashmika Mandanna has promised that *Pushpa: The Rule* is going to be an exciting ride. She revealed that the 'first half is amazing, the second half is even more so'. Rashmika took to Instagram, where she shared a picture from the dubbing session, which she captioned, "#Pushpa The Rule #Dubbing Session On." She then 'got down to business' and revealed details about the upcoming film, which is directed by Sukumar.

She wrote, "Now that the fun and games are over, let's get down to business! 1- Pushpa shoot is almost done... 2- Pushpa the rule - duo for the first half is over... 3-1 am dubbing for the second half and my God!" The film's first half is already freaking amazing and the second half is even more so... I am literally short on words... You guys are really in for a mind-blowing experience! I can't wait!"

On November 10, the makers of the film dropped a poster featuring Sreeleela's special number from Allu Arjun-starrer *Pushpa 2: The Rule*. The film is set to arrive in cinemas on December 5. — IANS





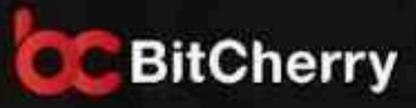
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