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BJP comes to power in Delhi after 27 years by ousting AAP

Delhi freed from AAPda: Modi



BJP

48

AAP

22

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 8

The Bharatiya Janata Party won a historic mandate in Delhi polls on Saturday, returning to power in the national capital after 27 years by ousting Aam Aadmi Party with several AAP leaders including former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal losing from their strongholds.

The verdict came months after BJP-led coalition swept Maharashtra polls and the party won Haryana, consolidating its domination of national politics.

The Congress, which was hoping for its revival in the national capital, again failed to win any seat. The party, which ruled Delhi for 15 years from 1998, registered a hat-trick zero tally in assembly polls.

BJP has won 45 of 70 seats in Delhi and is leading on three. AAP has won 21 and is leading on one seat.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded BJP's victory and said it was triumph of "good governance" of the party at Centre and in states it is in power. He said the party will leave no stone unturned in developing Delhi and improving the overall quality of life for the people.

"Jana Shakti is paramount! Development wins, good governance triumphs. I bow to my dear sisters and brothers of Delhi for this resounding and historic mandate to @BJP4India. We are humbled and honoured to receive these blessings. It is our guarantee that we will leave no stone unturned in developing Delhi, improving the overall quality of life for the people and ensuring that Delhi has a prime role to play in building a Viksit Bharat," he said in a post on X.

"I am so proud of each and every @BJP4India Karyakarta, who has worked very hard, leading to this outstanding result. We will work even more vigorously and serve the wonderful people of Delhi," he added.

Apart from Kejriwal, several senior AAP leaders lost the polls including former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, Delhi Minister Saurabh Bhardwaj, former ministers Somnath Bharti and Satyendra Jain and party leaders Avadh Ojha and Durgesh Pathak. Chief Minister Atishi won from Kalkaji.

Kejriwal accepted the people's mandate and congratulated BJP on its victory.

"We accept the mandate of the people with great humility. I congratulate the BJP for this victory and I hope they will fulfil all the promises for which people have voted for them," Kejriwal said in a video posted on X.

"We have done a lot of work in the field of health, education, infrastructure in the last 10 years. We will not only play the role of a constructive opposition but will also remain among the people and continue to serve them. We did not come into politics for the sake of power, we considered politics as a medium through which the people can be served," he added.



AAP heavyweights, in the first row L-R, Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia, Saurabh Bhardwaj, Satyendra Jain, Somnath Bharti; and in the 2nd row L-R, Durgesh Pathak, Rakhi Birla, Preeti Tomar, Jitender Singh Shunty and Avadh Ojha who lost their seats in Delhi Assembly elections 2025, in New Delhi.

BJP workers across India celebrate historic win

NEW DELHI : Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President Virendra Sachdeva, MP Manoj Tiwari, Bansuri Swaraj and other BJP leaders on Saturday celebrated the historic win at the party headquarters in New Delhi.

Manoj Tiwari expressed his gratitude to the people of the national capital and assured them that the government would work for the development. Tiwari also mocked at Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and said that the party was 'finished' and had no future in the country or any state.

"Words fall short to express our happiness. We express our gratitude to the people of Delhi... The people of Delhi have expressed their faith in PM Modi's guarantee... We will work for the development of Delhi... AAP is finished... AAP has no future in Delhi, Punjab and the country..." Tiwari said speaking to ANI. BJP leader and candidate from New Delhi constituency Parvesh Verma and Manjinder Singh Sirsa offered prayers at the Gurudwara Bangla Sahib in the national capital. Speaking to the media, Verma thanked the people for supporting him and giving a huge mandate to the party. "Delhi's people have given a huge mandate to the BJP. We will respect it and I congratulate the people of Delhi from the bottom of my heart... The credit for this victory goes to Prime Minister Modi..."

The results were largely in accordance with prediction of exit polls, which had predicted a BJP victory.

In New Delhi seat, BJP's Parvesh Verma defeated Kejriwal by over 4,000 votes. Congress candidate Sandeep Dikshit got 4,568 votes. Atishi defeated BJP's Ramesh Bidhuri by over 3,500 votes in Kalkaji. Alka Lamba of Congress got 4,392 votes.

"I thank the people of Kalkaji for showing trust in me. I congratulate my team who worked against 'baahub-

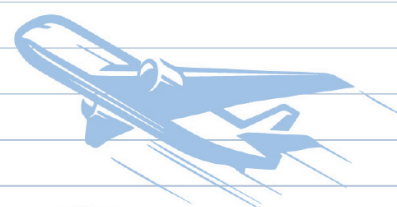
BJP's Parvesh Verma, Marwah emerge giant slayers by defeating Kejriwal, Sisodia

BJP's Parvesh Verma and Tarvin Singh Marwah emerged as the biggest giant-slayers in the high-octane Delhi Assembly elections, defeating AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal and former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia in the New Delhi and Jangpura constituencies, respectively. In a fierce triangular contest in the New Delhi seat, Verma secured 30,088 votes, while Kejriwal trailed behind with 25,999 votes. Congress' Sandeep Dikshit finished third with 4,568 votes. Verma, a two-time MP from West Delhi, had launched his campaign against Kejriwal even before BJP officially declared his candidature, positioning himself as the chief challenger.

al'...We accept the people's mandate. I have won but it's not a time to celebrate but continue the 'war' against the BJP," Atishi told reporters.



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NEWS BRIEF

Capacity Building Program at Glob Heritage International School



VIJAY KAUSHIK
LADWA: Glob Heritage International School organized a capacity-building program for 61 teachers from 8 schools. The program was designed to train educators in active learning strategies. The session was inaugurated with a lamp lighting ceremony, followed by a warm welcome to the chief speakers, Dr. Lalita Kanwar (Principal of La Montessori School, Kullu) and Dr. Indu Sharma (Principal of DAV Police Public School, Hisar). The program emphasized the importance of active learning in today's competitive environment, where teachers are encouraged to engage students through activities that make learning dynamic and effective. The speakers stressed that teachers' behavior and approach in life directly impact students' learning. They also noted that incorporating active learning techniques helps students not only learn new things every day but also teaches them how to succeed in life. The HR Manager Amit Singhal thanked the speakers and teachers, and mementos were presented to the guest speakers.

Spring season brings renewal, beauty, and prosperity: Rampal Saini



CHAMAN LAL
KARNAL: A spring celebration was organized by the Women's Cell of DAV PG College, Karnal, marking the arrival of the season of renewal and prosperity. On this occasion, Principal Prof. (Dr) Rampal Saini emphasized that spring rejuvenates both human life and the natural world, filling the atmosphere with beauty, happiness, and positivity. He highlighted how spring transforms nature, bringing lush greenery and bountiful harvests, symbolizing prosperity and abundance. He encouraged everyone to contribute positively to society, the nation.

Capacity Building Program on use of AI in classrooms



VIJAY KAUSHIK
LADWA: Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Senior Secondary Public School, Dhanora-Ladwa, hosted a capacity-building program under the aegis of CBSE. Resource persons Dr. Navalpreet Singh and Cyber Expert Urvashi Nag introduced the teachers to the significance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in teaching and learning. Dr. Navalpreet began the session with the quote, "Technology is the most powerful weapon, not the atomic bomb." Both resource persons emphasized the importance of continuous learning, urging teachers to stay updated with new techniques and technologies as per the National Education Policy (NEP). The session familiarized participants with the transformative power of AI tools in education. Teachers were introduced to platforms such as ChatGPT, Freepik, Questgen Techy, Duolingo, Zerogpt, Quillbot, Ryttr, WriteHuman, Steve.ai, Humanize, and GravityWrite. They emphasized that while technology cannot replace teachers, it can replace tasks that teachers perform. AI has become a universal tool for learning all subjects, including Mathematics, Science, Social Science, Languages, and Arts.

Delhi BJP victory celebrated in Indri

MAINPAL KASHYAP
INDRI, JAN 8

Haryana Vidhan Sabha Chief Whip Ramkumar Kashyap celebrated the BJP's massive victory in Delhi along with party workers at Bajaj Farm House, Indri, by distributing laddoos and jalebis. The BJP's triumph has ignited enthusiasm among its workers, and Kashyap credited the party's senior leadership for the decisive win. He expressed confidence that the BJP would secure a landslide victory in the upcoming municipal elections as well. Speaking on the results, Kashyap remarked that Delhi has embraced Modi's leadership and rejected "lies, deceit, and corruption." He stated that the AAP government's broken promises had been exposed, and voters had chosen a path of

Rahul Gandhi spreading misleading views: Maharashtra CM

AGENCY
PUNE, FEB 8

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday accused Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, of spreading misleading views, saying they are empowering forces of anarchy in the country. He made these remarks during a meeting with senior journalist and political analyst Bhau Torsekar and Jaipur Dialogue head Sanjay Dixit at the Jaipur Dialogue Deccan Summit event held here. Responding to Rahul Gandhi's recent comment on an increase of four million voters in the Maharashtra Assembly election as "vote



engineering" by the ruling BJP, he reminded him of the significant vote difference between the ruling Mahayuti and opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in the Assembly elections, which was nearly of one crore votes. "If Rahul Gandhi analyses the reasons for his

party's defeat, it could save the Congress, but if he keeps looking for excuses, Congress' position will worsen in the future," he retorted. Fadnavis further said, "Rahul Gandhi has always been a confused leader. He does not realise that public has lost trust in him. His

Historic victory of BJP in Delhi: Former MLA Seema Kumari

VERMA
GURDASPUR, FEB 8

In a celebratory event held at the Kasba Begowal (Taragarh) of the Bhoha constituency, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) celebrated its historic victory in Delhi. The program, organized under the leadership of Mandal President Gajendra Singh, witnessed a significant presence of political figures, including former MLA of Bhoha constituency, Seema Kumari. The event was filled with excitement, with traditional drum beats and the distribution of sweets among the people to mark the BJP's triumph. Seema Kumari expressed her views on the Delhi election results, stating that the crushing defeat of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Supremo Arvind Kejriwal would significantly strengthen the BJP's position, not only in Delhi but also in



Punjab. She confidently predicted that in the upcoming 2027 elections, Punjab would witness the rise of BJP as a major political force, similar to Delhi, with a majority government. She also highlighted the clear defeat of Congress in Delhi, which would have a ripple effect in Punjab, leading to the BJP's victory in the state. Seema Kumari further emphasized that this victory in Delhi is a precursor to the party's growing influence in other states, including Punjab, where the people are now

inclined towards BJP for their future governance. The event saw the presence of several prominent leaders, including Vinod Kumar, Mandal Secretary Deepak Saini, Keshav Singh, Bansilal Saini, Sonu Sharma, Sukhha Jat, Rakesh Kumar, Rajesh Kumar, Rani Devi, Ram Pal, Joginder Pal, Madan Singh, Sunder Kumar, and others. This occasion marked a key moment of political significance as BJP's victory in Delhi resonated with the hopes of the party's future success in Punjab and beyond.

Mid-Day Meal Workers' Union holds conference in Cheeka

BUREAU
CHEEKA: The Mid-Day Meal Workers' Union (Guhla Tehsil) held a conference at Devi Lal Park, Cheeka, under the presidency of Sukhwinder Sultania, with district secretary Dhooop Singh handling the proceedings. Addressing the gathering,



Dhooop Singh highlighted the serious issues faced by mid-day meal workers, including delayed salaries, lack of uniform allowances, arbitrary dismissals, and no new recruitments. He emphasized that these challenges are creating a major crisis for the workers.

Haryana govt committed to inclusive development: MLA Ramkumar Kashyap

MAINPAL KASHYAP
INDRI, FEB 8

Haryana MLA and Chief Whip Ramkumar Kashyap asserted that the BJP government is committed to inclusive development, ensuring progress in education, healthcare, security, dignity, and self-reliance for all sections of society. He emphasized that the state is being governed with a strong focus on good governance, following the principle of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'. Kashyap highlighted that several development projects worth crores have been completed in rural areas, including drainage systems, roads, community halls, dharamshalas, Ambedkar Bhavans, and marriage halls. He assured that pending projects would be expedited to benefit the people. During a visit to



Kunjpora village, Kashyap inaugurated the Prajapati Chaupal, constructed at a cost of several lakhs, and laid the foundation stone for the Rajput Chaupal. He asserted that the BJP government has delivered more development work in its tenure than the previous administrations. He also noted that every constituency receives substantial funding for development projects annually, ensuring that no region is left behind. He emphasized that one of the BJP government's key

achievements has been the elimination of corruption in administration, making Haryana one of India's leading states in development. He stated that other states are now looking to adopt Haryana's policies due to their success. Speaking on agriculture, Kashyap reiterated that Haryana is an agrarian state, and its farmers have played a crucial role in national food security. The state government has been supporting farmers through technological advancements and incentives.

Mobile Medical Unit Services at Village Badachpur by Naveen Jindal Foundation



VIJAY KAUSHIK
LADWA: As part of the initiative to provide health services to the people of Kurukshetra Parliamentary Constituency, three mobile medical units are being run by Naveen Jindal Foundation. These units visit villages to provide healthcare services. On this occasion, the mobile unit visited Badachpur village in Ladwa to offer medical assistance. Under the program, MBBS doctors provide consultations, conduct tests, and distribute free medicines. Blood and urine tests were also conducted. Dharmveer Singh, in charge of the Kurukshetra Parliamentary Office, explained that the mobile medical units were launched by Naveen Jindal to make health services accessible to more people in the region. A total of 81 patients received consultations and free medicines, and 11 individuals underwent blood and urine tests. Sanjeev Kumar Numberdar noted that under the Healthy Kurukshetra campaign, the Foundation is striving to reach more people through health camps. The event was successfully organized with the support of Satpal Numberdar, Jasvinder Kashyap, Kuldeep Kashyap, Praveen Kashyap, Rajvinder Singh, Amarsingh, and Naresh Kumar.

Financial literacy training session for teachers at Navyug Sr Sec School



HANSRAJ YADAV
KURUKSHETRA: A training session was organized for the teachers at Navyug Senior Secondary School, Mohan Nagar, Kurukshetra, focusing on the topic of financial literacy. The session commenced with the lighting of a lamp in front of Mata Saraswati by the school's Director, Shri B.D. Gaba. On this occasion, the Principal Preeti Mishra explained that financial literacy involves acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to manage money. This includes concepts such as saving money, investing, budgeting, and borrowing. She emphasized that financial literacy can help achieve financial goals and avoid financial problems. Key aspects of financial literacy to always keep in mind include the ability to make informed financial decisions, avoid scams, achieve financial goals, avoid financial issues, take advantage of financial products and services, and promote financial inclusion. The Vice Principal Ridhima elaborated on several methods to enhance financial inclusion. Teachers Madhu Sharma and Sneha also shared their insights on financial literacy with the attendees. In

Tarksheel Society Strongly Condemns Inhumane Treatment of Indian Immigrants

KULDEEP SOOD
BARNALA, FEB 8

The Tarksheel Society Punjab has strongly condemned the inhumane treatment of 104 undocumented Indian immigrants who were deported from the U.S. in handcuffs and shackles. The organization has criticized the Modi government, calling it a fake "Vishwaguru" (world leader), for surrendering to American imperialism. The society holds the Modi government fully responsible for this disgrace, as well as for the widespread unemployment in India, which forces people to flee abroad. Tarksheel Society has also demanded strict legal action against fraudulent agents and their political patrons, who exploit desperate job seekers. Leaders of the Punjab State Committee, including Master



Rajinder Bhadaur, Hem Raj Steno, Rajpal Singh, Balbir Longowal, Ram Swaran Lakhewali, Joginder Kullewal, and Sumet Amritsar, have taken serious note of former U.S. President Donald Trump's cruel mistreatment of Indian citizens and his blatant violation of human rights. They have called it a national humiliation for all Indians on the global stage, blaming the Modi government for its complicity in this disgraceful act. The society has urged affected youth and their families not to despair but to

fight for their fundamental rights-education, healthcare, employment, justice, and equal development-through decisive struggles similar to the farmers' movement, aiming to overthrow the corrupt regime. At this event, state committee leaders Rajesh Akalia, Jaswant Mohali, Ajit Pardesi, Jaswinder Phagwara, Gurpreet Shahina, and Sandeep Dhariwal Bhoja accused the U.S. government of hypocrisy in claiming to be a champion of human rights while simultaneously violating international human rights laws.

350 patients benefited at free medical and blood donation camp

RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR, FEB 8

The 136th free eye, health, and blood donation camp was organized by Mother Mary Charity Home at Kait village, Old Saharanpur Road, Yamunanagar, under the leadership of President Khushi, Director Vikram Singh, and village Sarpanch Lal Singh. The event was inaugurated by Dr. Anil Aggarwal, surgeon at Aggarwal Hospital, by lighting the ceremonial lamp. During the camp, Dr. Ajay Rana conducted eye checkups, while the Aggarwal Hospital medical team examined general health conditions. Medi Cure Path Lab carried out lab tests for the attending patients. The camp also saw the collection of 25 units of blood. Speaking at the event, Dr. Anil Aggarwal highlighted



the organization's mission to conduct 1,000 medical camps to spread health awareness. He mentioned that thousands of patients have already benefited, receiving free checkups and medicines, with support from Oscar Remedies Pvt. Ltd. Dr. Aggarwal emphasized the importance of blood donation, calling it a supreme act of charity. He noted that blood cannot be manufactured artificially and can only be donated from one person to another. Having

personally donated blood over 120 times, he reassured that blood donation does not cause weakness and encouraged every healthy individual over 18 years to donate every three months. The event was attended by Kunal Narwal, Gaurav Prabhu Ram, Ravivar Kumar, Naresh Kamboj, Irshad, Sanjeev Kumar, Anil Kumar, Kanwar Bhan, Suresh Kumar, Raghubir Kamboj, B.S. Kalyan, Atul Bhardwaj, Vice President Yogendra Chauhan, Rajiv Kumar.

Swadeshi Jagran Manch strengthens demand for Entrepreneurship Commission through digital signature campaign

NIRMAL SAINI
RADAUR, FEB 8

The Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) is actively working to promote entrepreneurship through its Digital Signature Campaign, aimed at raising awareness among youth and advocating for the establishment of an Entrepreneurship Commission at the state and national levels. Providing details about the campaign, district coordinator Dr. Deepmala stated that the initiative is currently in its final phase and has been conducted across various educational institutions. As part of the campaign, youth are being encouraged to digitally sign in support of the cause. The primary objectives include



creating quality employment opportunities, promoting indigenous products in every household, and pushing for the establishment of an Entrepreneurship Commission. Pradeep Chaudhary, RSS block coordinator, emphasized that the Swadeshi Jagran Manch is conducting this campaign nationwide to strengthen the demand for the Entrepreneurship Commission.

The platform is dedicated to promoting the use of indigenous goods and engaging youth in economic discussions. The campaign also aims to shift the mindset of young individuals from solely seeking government jobs to considering self-employment opportunities. Chaudhary pointed out that it is not feasible for every youth to secure a government job, and encouraging entrepreneurship would not only benefit individuals but also create employment opportunities for others. He stressed that if one young entrepreneur becomes self-sufficient, they can support and employ numerous others, aligning with SJM's vision of fostering self-reliance.

BJP workers celebrate Delhi victory with sweets and drums in Pratap Nagar and Chhachhrauli



RK KASHYAP
CHHACHHRAULI: The landslide victory of the BJP in Delhi after 27 years has sparked celebrations across towns and cities in Haryana. In Pratap Nagar, under the leadership of Ashok Chaudhary, brother of former Agriculture Minister Chaudhary Kanwar Pal, BJP workers distributed sweets and played drums to mark the occasion. Similarly, in Pratap Nagar and Chhachhrauli, BJP members rejoiced by distributing laddoos and celebrating with traditional drum beats. Former Mandal President Praveen Aggarwal and Business Cell President Mudit Bansal said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the BJP has achieved a resounding majority in Delhi and will now form the government. They attributed the victory to Modi's popularity and the rejection of the false claims made by Delhi's Chief Minister, which led the people of Delhi to vote overwhelmingly for the BJP.

NEWS BRIEFS

Hry’s Culture and Civilization are Vast – Governor

CHANDIGARH: Haryana Governor, Sh. Bandaru Dattatraya on Saturday inaugurated the 38th AIU Inter-University North West Zone Youth Festival at Om Sterling Global University (OSGU), Hisar. Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said that education serves as the foundation for progress in life. Along with education, cultural programmes are essential for the overall development of an individual's personality, he said. Notably, the five-day youth festival features participation from 23 universities across the North-West zone, including 6 universities from Rajasthan, 15 from Haryana, and 2 from Delhi. A total of 931 participants are taking part in the festival. The Governor said that the objective of education is not just to obtain degrees but also to nurture well-rounded, cultured, and intellectually enriched individuals.

Jalebi celebration on Delhi victory

People taught a lesson to the bigoted dishonest Kejriwal – Mohanlal

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
NEW DELHI, FEB 8

Expressing happiness on BJP's massive victory in Delhi after 27 years, BJP State President Mohanlal Badauli celebrated this victory by eating Jalebi with his workers. Reacting to this grand victory of BJP in Delhi, Mohanlal Badauli said that the disaster in Delhi has ended and BJP has formed government in Delhi for 27 years, for which he thanked the people of Delhi and Haryana. BJP President said that the people of Delhi have given a befitting reply to Kejriwal's politics of corruption and lies and have expressed faith in BJP. Badauli said that the people of Delhi have accepted the guarantee of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and have shut down Kejriwal's shop of lies and cor-



ruption. He said that the people have given a clear mandate to PM Modi's policies and have made it clear that now the people do not give importance to

lies and corruption but to the politics of development. Celebrating with the workers, the BJP President called it a victory of Delhi as well as Haryana

and said that Kejriwal insulted Yamuna Mai and did dirty politics by making baseless allegations on the people of Haryana, to which the people of Delhi have now given a befitting reply. Also, Mohanlal Badauli said that on the day the dates of Delhi elections were announced, he had predicted that this time lotus will bloom in Delhi, giving information he said that in Haryana also voting took place on 5th and the results were declared on 8th and these were the dates for Delhi elections too, so he was confident from before that this time 'AAP' will win in Delhi and BJP will come.

PM Modi ensured respect for Nari Shakti: Dr Arvind Sharma

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
ASANDH, FEB 8

Cooperative, Prison, Heritage and Tourism Minister Dr Arvind Sharma has said that the respect for Nari Shakti has increased during the tenure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Daughters should connect themselves with his resolution to empower every age group and make their area proud by developing their capabilities in every field including education, sports, culture. He also appealed to the parents to provide proper opportunities to the daughters so that they can show their talent.

Cooperative Minister Dr Arvind Sharma, who arrived as the chief guest at the 52nd anniversary of Arya Kanya Gurukul Mor Majra on Saturday, inaugurated the newly constructed 50 rooms on the second floor of Gayatri Hostel. Addressing the annual festival, Cabinet Minister Dr Arvind Sharma said that the faith and harmony of the area has been connected with Gurukul for a long time and I am also a witness to this. Today, daughters are playing a leading role in every field. In the last 10 years, there has been a big change in the direction of women empowerment. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's idea has always been to give the right of equality. Therefore, the Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao campaign is being continuously strengthened on the ground from the land of Panipat. Today, work is being done to ensure the health, safety, education and contribution of daughters in various fields. Efforts for so many changes have never been made before except during the tenure of Narendra Modi. He called upon the daughters to set their goals by increasing their interest in education and work hard to achieve them. This will make their family, village, Gurukul, state and country feel proud of them.

Cabinet Minister Dr. Arvind Sharma also praised the Gurukul management and said that they are working hard to improve the



daughters in every field and its effect is also clearly visible. Cabinet Minister Dr. Arvind Sharma was honored by giving a memento on behalf of the Gurukul management. On this occasion, Pradhan Jasbir Mann, Vice-President Vijender Singh Mann, Secretary Ram Singh, Joint Secretary Gurdev Singh, former Pradhan Jagat Singh Mann, Principal Gurpreet Kaur, Sunita Sehrawat, Principal Sandeep Kandhol, Ishwar, Bhagwan Singh, Bhupendra Mann, Bijendra Mor, Naurang Bangar, Surendra etc. were present.

Delhi win on PM Modi's policies and hard work of workers Arvind Sharma

While talking to journalists after the anniversary, Cooperative Minister Dr. Arvind Sharma, while reacting to the Delhi elections, said that Arvind Kejriwal and Aam Aadmi Party have failed in front of the curse of Yamuna Maa and the policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In the year 2020, he himself had said that if he is unable to ensure the cleaning of Yamuna, then the people of Delhi should not vote for him. Today the people of Delhi have fulfilled their promise. He said that in the Delhi Assembly elections, the people of Delhi have given their mandate by trusting the policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Nipun Haryana Mission ensuring quality education at foundational Level

CHANDIGARH: The National Education Policy 2020 highlights foundational learning as essential for future education. The NIPUN Bharat Mission, launched on 5th July 2021, aims to achieve foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) by 2026-27. Haryana launched the NIPUN Haryana Mission on 30th July 2021 with a target to achieve FLN outcomes by 2025-26, impacting 35,000 teachers and over 8.68 lakh students annually across Balvatika III and Grades 1-5. From AY 2024-25, the program has expanded to Grades 4-5, with structured materials and training for all primary teachers.

The Nipun Haryana mission program has resulted in a remarkable improvement in the language, writing, learning, and reading skills of each child. It aims to teach National Initiative Proficiency in Comprehension and Numeracy to Class 3 primary school children. The recent ASER (Annual Status of Education Report) has shown a very positive result in the basic learning, especially in grade

3. Haryana has been leading the way in implementation of NEP 2020 imperatives and lays paramount importance on achieving the goals of foundational learning. Ensuring quality education at foundational levels will go a long way in providing equitable access to quality education at higher levels, later on leading to a better standard of life. The state is determined to make certain that under the NIPUN Haryana Mission, each child in Haryana achieves grade-level competencies required under foundational literacy and numeracy and be prepared for their future.

"What has led to this sudden improvement in learning levels? All-India estimates are typically slow to change and learning levels that had been stagnant till 2010 declined slightly thereafter, only improving slowly between 2014 and 2018. We have not seen improvements of this magnitude in the last 20 years since ASER has been presenting data on foundational reading and arithmetic.

Disney+ Hotstar drops the trailer of Oops! Ab Kya? releasing on 20th February, 2024

CHANDIGARH : Forget boring February blues—Disney+ Hotstar is here to turn your month upside down with a rollercoaster of comedy and chaos! Hold on to your funny bones because the trailer for Oops! Ab Kya? is finally here! This quirky comedy takes a wild, unexpected turn when a young woman's perfectly planned life goes haywire after an accidental artificial insemination—with her ex-crush's sperm, no less! Packed with laughter, awkward moments, and heartfelt emotions, the show promises to be the perfect mix of romance and chaos.

Tune in to Disney+ Hotstar on 20th February, 2025 and prepare for a wild, hilarious ride filled with love, laughter, and some very unexpected twists. Starring Shweta Basu Prasad, Ashim Gulati, Jaaved Jaaferi, Sonali Kulkarni, Abhay Mahajan, Aparna Mehta, and Amy Aela, Oops! Ab Kya? is directed by Prem Mistry & Debatma Mandal and produced by Dice Media. The trailer gives a peek into the hilarious and heartwarming drama that unfolds across three generations of women as they navigate love, tradition, and modernity—with a side of pure



madness! Shweta Basu Prasad said, "The moment I read the script of Oops! Ab Kya?, I knew this was going to be one crazy ride! My character's life goes from perfectly organized to utterly chaotic in seconds, and it's all shown with such humor and heart. The trailer only scratches the surface of how wild this journey is. It's a story of love, laughter, and finding your-

self amid all the madness. I know audiences will have even more fun watching it. So mark your calendars and join us for some unforgettable chaos!"

Ashim Gulati said, "Being part of Oops! Ab Kya? was like stepping into a world where every unexpected moment leads to a bigger laugh. My character gets thrown into an absolutely bizarre situation, and watching him navigate it is both hilarious and heartwarming. The trailer gives you a taste of the madness, but the full show is packed with even more twists, humor, and, surprisingly, a lot of heart. Get ready to laugh, cry, and maybe even question how you'd handle a situation like this!"

Jaaved Jaaferi said, "What I love about Oops! Ab Kya? is that it doesn't shy away from the absurdities of life. The humor is sharp, the emotions are real, and the characters are wonderfully relatable. The trailer shows how unpredictable and funny life can be, but what really stands out is the heart at the center of all the chaos. It's a story that's as much about laughter as it is about family, love, and relationships. It's going to be quite a blast!"

Neurobion launched its new campaign - 'Sabse Bada B'



CHANDIGARH : Nearly half of Indian adults suffer from the symptoms of Vitamin-B deficiency like tingling, numbness, and weakness. This may occur due to poor nerve health, a condition known as Peripheral Neuropathy. Notably, these subtle symptoms often go unrecognized, resulting in millions being vulnerable to nerve damage. If left unaddressed, Vitamin-B deficiency can lead to severe consequences, significantly impacting daily life, physical abilities, and sleep quality, ultimately resulting in crippling nerve damage and impaired mobility. With an aim to educate the masses on the importance of maintaining healthy nerves, Neurobion, India's #1 Nerve Care brand, launched its new campaign - 'Sabse Bada B'. This campaign is a step further to the ongoing efforts taken to bridge the knowledge gap surrounding the benefits of Vitamin B and the early symptoms of nerve damage. With legendary actor, Mr. Amitabh Bachchan, fondly known as 'Big-B', the campaign highlights Neurobion's 3x strength of Vitamin-B vs the ordinary Vitamin-B tablets. Neurobion Fortehelps alleviate Vitamin-B deficiency and its symptoms. It's powerful combination of 6 essential B-Vitamins, including B12, B6, and B3, helps relieve nerve health issues and its associated symptoms such as tingling, numbness, and weakness. What sets Neurobion Forte apart, is its unparalleled 3x strength of essential B-Vitamins that plays a key role in addressing Vitamin-B deficiency at its core. By addressing this critical nutritional gap, the brand plays a vital role in maintaining optimal nerve health, empowering individuals to regain control over their well-being. Milind Thatte, Managing Director, P&G Health India, said, "In India, many individuals delay diagnosing nerve related discomforts and its associated symptoms of tingling, numbness and weakness until they become unbearable.

Finding the perfect expression of love is just a click away on Amazon.in's Valentine's Day Store

CHANDIGARH : Celebrate love in all its forms with the specially curated Valentine's Day Store on Amazon.in. Explore through the wide selection, from diverse assortment of fresh flowers to timeless chocolates, stylish accessories, indulgent treats, and heartfelt keepsakes to commemorate special moments. Discover millions of products from brands such as Cadbury, Ferrero Rocher, Lindt, Giva, Bella Vita, mCaffaine and more, and get them delivered to the door-step of your loved ones anywhere in the 100% serviceable pin codes in India. Make the season of love even more special with Amazon.in's fresh flower delivery. Customers can choose from over 6000+ options, including classic red roses and luxurious bouquets, with an exclusive selection of 620 offerings from brands like FlowerAura, Shades of Spring, and The Floral-Mart. And if you're still unsure about the perfect gift, Amazon.in's Gift Cards are the ideal solution, letting your loved ones choose exactly what they want.

Global gold demand hits new high as prices soar in 2024

CHANDIGARH : The World Gold Council's Q4 and Full Year 2024 Gold Demand Trends report reveals that total annual gold demand (including OTC hit a new, record high of 4,974t, driven by strong, sustained central bank buying and growth in investment demand. The combination of record high gold prices, and volumes resulted in the highest ever total value of demand at \$382bn. Central banks continued to buy gold at pace in 2024, with purchases exceeding 1,000t for the third year in a row. Buying ramped up significantly in Q4, reaching 333t and bringing the annual total for central banks to 1,045t. Global investment demand increased 25% year-on-year to 1,180t – a four-year high – driven by a revival in gold ETF demand in the second half of 2024. Global gold ETFs added 19t in Q4 2024, marking two consecutive quarters of inflows for the asset class. Bar and coin demand stayed largely in line with 2023 volumes at 1,186t in 2024. Total gold supply increased 1% year-on-year, reaching a new record high of 4,794t. Growth in both mine production and recycling contributed to the increase in total gold supply. Louise Street, Senior Markets Analyst at the World Gold Council, commented, "Gold once again dominated headlines in 2024, with prices reaching 40 record highs last year. Yet, the demand trajectory of 2024 was far from linear, with central banks posting strong demand in Q1 before moderating through the middle of the year and finishing with a strong Q4. Likewise, the second half of the year saw a notable resurgence from Western investors which, combined with remarkable growth in Asian flows, brought global gold ETF flows into positive territory in the third and fourth quarters.

Manohar Lal reaches Sherpur Viran village of Nilokheri block, enquires about the well-being of the villagers

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, FEB 8

Union Energy, Housing and Urban Development Minister Manohar Lal reached Sherpur Viran village of Nilokheri block on Saturday during his stay in Karnal and enquired about the well-being of the villagers and inquired about the development works going on in the village and heard the problems of the people. On this occasion, the Union Minister gave instructions to make disabled pension for Baldev Singh suffering from paralysis and BPL card for Prem Singh as soon as possible. He also gave necessary instructions to the BDPO regarding cleaning of the pond in the village.

On this occasion, on the demand of the villagers, the Union Minister assured to provide a collective vehicle for the convenience of the school children of village Sherpur Viran, who go to nearby schools for higher education, and said that this service will start being available in the month of April from the new session of education. Not only this, if the number of children in the government school of the village increases, then the village school will be upgraded from fifth. On hearing this announcement, the villagers expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Union



Minister Manohar Lal. He told that during the thank you tour, first of all I am thanking the people by reaching the village with more than 10 thousand population and their problems are being resolved. He said that he has made a program to reach even the villages with the smallest population on priority basis. At this time, today I have got the opportunity to come to village Sherpur Viran, this village is connected to Rajgarh Gram Panchayat. The pace of development work will be accelerated even in small villages. On this occasion, the Union Minister congratulated and wished the people of Delhi and the country on the Delhi Assembly results coming in favour of the BJP and said that after 26 years, the BJP will form the government. He said that all this is the result of the excellent policies of the country's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the public has accepted those policies. He also said that last year, the BJP got a huge majority in the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections and in Haryana, the BJP has also got the record of forming the government for the third consecutive time, for this also he thanked the people of his Lok Sabha constituency.

Airtel Payments Bank Becomes the First Payments Bank to Go Live with I4C's Real Time API Integration

CHANDIGARH : In a landmark initiative to bolster customer safety, Airtel Payments Bank has successfully integrated its systems with the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP)-Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System (CFC-FRMS) of Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) through the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Application Programming Interface (API). Airtel Payments Bank is among the first four banks—and the first payments bank in India—to deploy this integration, reinforcing its commitment to fight against financial frauds and safeguarding customer interests. This advanced API integration automates the manual actions previously undertaken by bank in response to complaints lodged through the I4C, National Cybercrime Reporting Portal including the 1930 helpline. Real-time information sharing between Airtel Payments Bank, I4C and Ministry of Home Affairs, ensures faster, more logical processing of cybercrime complaints. It provides I4C, Ministry of Home Affairs with various details, including complaint numbers, mobile numbers, account numbers, reported fraud amounts, transaction references, among other. The system also allows the Bank to take immediate action thereby preventing further misuse of account reported. Ganesh Ananthanarayanan, Chief Operating Officer of Airtel Payments Bank, commented on the development: "At Airtel Payments Bank, customer safety is at the heart of everything we do. Our integration with I4C, Ministry of Home Affairs not only demonstrates our commitment to stay ahead in the fight against financial frauds but also ensures real-time resolution of fraudulent complaint reported on National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP).



Joyalukkas shines bright in Jalandhar with grand showroom launch

JALANDHAR: The world's favourite jeweller, Joyalukkas, has made a dazzling entry into Jalandhar with the grand opening of its flagship showroom. The highly anticipated launch event was a resounding success, drawing an enthusiastic response from customers and dignitaries alike.

The new showroom, designed with the signature Joyalukkas aesthetic, offers an unmatched jewellery shopping experience. Featuring an exquisite collection of gold, diamond, and precious gemstone jewellery, the store is equipped with premium facilities that provide a luxurious and immersive retail environment.

As part of the grand launch, Joyalukkas is offering



an exclusive inaugural offer. Shoppers can enjoy flat 50% off on making charges for Gold, Diamond & Precious Jewellery. Customers can explore an extensive collection of intricately designed gold, contemporary diamond designs, each

meticulously crafted to reflect our uncompromising artistry.

Speaking about the new store launch, Mr. Joy Alukkas, Chairman and Managing Director of Joyalukkas group, shared, "At Joyalukkas, our mission is to bring the finest designs to every home. We're thrilled to open our flagship store in Jalandhar, a city known for its rich cultural heritage and history. Our store reflects the elegance and sophistication our customers expect from us, offering them not only a wide range of premium products but also a world-class shopping experience. The overwhelming response from our customers reaffirms our commitment to delivering exceptional quality, craftsmanship, and service."

Surajkund International Mela become a symbol of craftsmanship and cultural prosperity – Chief Secretary

CHANDIGARH: Haryana Chief Secretary, Sh. Vivek Joshi on Saturday visited the ongoing 38th Surajkund International Crafts Mela in Faridabad and praised the artisans for their remarkable craftsmanship. During his visit, Sh. Vivek Joshi also visited the exhibition set up by the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Haryana at the Mela. He also visited stalls from different states and praised the artistic skills displayed. He said that Haryana has made remarkable progress in art and culture, heritage, and tourism. The Chief Secretary further said that under the guidance of the Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh, the Surajkund International Crafts Mela has gained a unique reputation worldwide. He said that this Mela is exceptional as it showcases India's handicrafts, handlooms, and rich cultural diversity. The idea behind organizing this Mela is to provide a platform for artisans, craftsmen, musicians, and artists from different states of India and various countries, said the Chief Secretary. He said that Haryana is now counted among the fastest-growing states in the country, and the Surajkund Mela is one of its most prestigious events. Chief Commissioner, Chandigarh Right to Service Commission, Dr Mahavir Singh, Managing Director, Haryana Tourism Corporation, Sh. Sunil Kumar, Deputy Commissioner, Sh. Vikram Singh and other senior officers remained present on this occasion.

Editorial

RBI focuses on growth, takes a calculated risk

With global uncertainties making India’s growth trajectory unclear, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appears to have concentrated its focus on boosting growth rate under its new governor Sanjay Malhotra. As part of this agenda, the RBI led Monetary Policy Committee slashed repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.25 per cent. This is the first rate cut by the MPC after five long years — after May 2020 — as former RBI governor Shaktikanta Das had exclusively set his attention on fighting inflation. This move will bring down borrowing rate and lower people’s equated monthly instalments (EMIs) on home loans and personal loans, among others. The RBI rate cut is in tune with the government’s decision to put more money in the hands of people by realigning income tax slabs in the Union Budget.

Malhotra, who is a career bureaucrat like Shaktikanta Das, asserted that India can achieve over seven per cent growth rate. An eight per cent economic growth, according to the Economic Survey, is crucial if the country wants to emerge as a developed economy by 2047. The RBI expects the economy to grow at 6.7 per cent in fiscal 2025-26 as against 6.4 per cent estimated for the current fiscal. The RBI expects retail inflation to slightly moderate to 4.2 per cent in the next financial year, beginning April, as against 4.8 per cent forecast for 2024-25. This forecast was conditional on absence of any supply-side shock, and other major geopolitical turmoil. The wording of the Central bank’s statement suggests that inflation may not see any substantial improvement and it would be satisfied with the price rise index staying below six per cent, which is the upper end of the RBI’s comfort zone of four to six per cent.

A higher inflation, nevertheless, would be a red flag for foreign investors as it would not protect their investment returns from the country. A rate cut would also reduce interest rate arbitrage between India and other developed countries like the US and increase pressure on the rupee. However, the new governor appears to be unconcerned about inflation and rupee in his pursuit to boost economic growth. His remarks against targeting any “specific level or band” of the rupee reiterates that India will not aggressively defend the local currency against the US dollar.

Trump’s Mideast ‘Riviera’: What will he devour next?

I called my travel agent this morning to discuss our annual summer vacation. “Somewhere exotic and glamorous”, I said airily. “I want it to be special and fun... great food, gorgeous people, celebrity-spotting... that kind of vibe”. “Hmmm... let me figure,” the lady replied thoughtfully. Minutes later, she called back... much excitement in her voice. “How about the Riviera?” she asked. Genius! Why didn’t I think of it? I promptly shot back: “Wow! I love the plan. Italian or French?” Pause. “Neither”, she replied patiently. “Oh... I get it... you are recommending the new Riviera -- Baku, right? Thanks, but no thanks. Half of Delhi will be there -- the lot that’s not creating havoc in Goa. Besides... Azerbaijan sounds a bit dodgy, if you know what I’m getting at.” She didn’t.

I carried on cheerfully: “Georgia has been done to death by lechy desis attracted to the gorgeous bodies tanning on golden beaches. But we aren’t oglers... In any case, right now, that whole region is on some sort of a high alert... level one on the travel advisory? We want to go somewhere really, really safe, where we can put up our feet, enjoy mimosas by the sea, nibble on grilled calamari...” Bigger pause. Deep sighs. Oh dear! What had I just said that had upset the lady? Finally, I heard her voice. “Ma’am, those old destinations are no longer being marketed by us. We are selling the newest Riviera...” I was so impressed. “That’s so cool. Done. Let’s go with what’s hot and happening. Is the newest Riviera the latest stomping ground of international celebrities?” “Oh yes!” squealed the travel agent.

“You may bump into Donald Trump and his missus getting some shade under transplanted date palms.” This was sounding seriously amazing. “Yeayyyy!” I exclaimed. “Send me the itinerary... we are on! By the



way... where is the newest Riviera?” Biggest pause. “Gaza”, she hoarsely whispered. Hey Devaaa!!! Yeh Trump, bhi na? POTUS is at it again. Being preposterous, abominable and obnoxious. Matlab, being himself. Some folks never “sudharo” even after they’ve got all that they’ve fought for. Relax, man. Chill. Know that everybody hates you. Everybody basically hates realtors and upstarts!

But there is a limit to being repulsive. We are talking about the future of two million Palestinians. Gaza is their home. Seizing control of Gaza and scattering its people is the single most offensive suggestion of your brand-new presidency. “I don’t think people should be going back to Gaza. Gaza has been very unlucky for them. They’ve lived like hell,” he casually said at a White House press conference with Israeli Prime Minister Ben-

jamin Netanyahu. This nonchalantly dropped bombshell sent shockwaves through the world. Trump was at it again -- eyeing prime property to develop and flog as “The Riviera of the Middle East”. The man is on a manic buying spree -- he wants to bag Greenland, annex Canada, reclaim the Panama Canal and rename the Gulf of Mexico. These are mere hors d’oeuvres on the Trump menu card.

The world is waiting to see the main course. Given his size and appetite, Trump may devour a few more countries before he’s done. Let’s wait for the belch! Even with us, his loyal “dosts”, Trumpji is showing his teeth. When the US military C-17 Globemaster aircraft with 104 Indians landed in Amritsar this week, New Delhi could do or say nothing. This was an unprecedented and highly provocative move by Donald Trump,

cleverly designed to assert himself and show who’s the boss. The Union government helplessly bleated: “All repatriated citizens would be accepted back.” Arrey! What’s the other option? Throw these desperate people into the Yamuna? They are our people! Ask instead WHY so many Indian citizens risk their lives, sell whatever they have, borrow money, travel hazardingly just to illegally sneak across the border and hopefully disappear into America. The great American dream ended tragically for these unfortunate people (104, including 13 minors), who were roughly picked up and sent packing -- back to their devastated families. Reading the heart-breaking stories of all the severe hardships suffered by the parents who had begged, borrowed and sold all that they possessed to fulfil the delusional ambitions of their children, is a lesson worth learning for those who stake everything so that their kids can have a better life. Better? These are horror stories of dreams that collapsed before they even took off.

Poor, desolate parents! Some expressed suicidal thoughts at the prospect of spending the rest of their lives in debt and penury, because of a child’s misplaced ambition. “Go East, Go West, Home is Best” -- our elders used to say, thwarting any plans that involved settling overseas.

How right they were! FOR every hard luck story, there is another that brings a smile back to my face. Chandrika Tandon, at 71, defeated all the odds when she won a Grammy for her Chanting Album, which she describes as a “coming together of multiple ideas... That’s why we called it Triveni”, she told the press about her creative collaboration with South African flautist Wouter Kellerman and Los Angeles-based cellist Eru Matsumoto.

Literature & Health

More screen time may lower language development skills in toddlers: Study

Increased exposure to screens, such as television and smartphones, may lead to lower language development skills in toddlers, according to an international study. The findings led by researchers from 20 Latin American countries found that book exposure and shared screen time with adults could boost language skills in toddlers.

The researchers analysed data from 1,878 toddlers aged 12 to 48 months across Latin America between August 2021 and March 2023. The toddlers were evaluated based on parent-reported surveys of screen use, shared media engagement, book exposure, language skills, and developmental milestones.

The team also screened the socio-economic status of the participants to understand basic needs, parental education, and occupation. The results, published in the journal PLOS ONE, showed that TV and



background TV were the most frequently used media, with average daily exposure exceeding one hour. These lowered language development skills in toddlers.

The team also found that entertainment content was the most consumed by toddlers. It was followed by music and educational programming. Further, families with lower socio-economic status reported less use of books and fewer educational resources.

Children with more screen exposure had lower lexical density and delayed language milestone achievement.

On the other hand, those with more exposure to books or had screen engagement with adults had better language skills. The relationship between screen use and motor development was not significant.

The findings support previous research that excessive screen use negatively impacts early language development. Shared engagement with adults,

Are eggs good or bad for our health?

You might have heard that eating too many eggs will cause high cholesterol levels, leading to poor health.

Researchers have examined the science behind this myth again, and again, and again -- largely debunking the claim.

A new study suggests that, among older adults, eating eggs supports heart health and even reduces the risk of premature death.

Researchers examined data from a large, ongoing study that is following older adults and tracking their health (the AS-PREE study).

In their analysis of more than 8,000 people, they examined the foods people usually eat and then looked at how many participants died over a six-year period and from what



causes, using medical records and official reports.

Researchers collected information on their diet through a food questionnaire, which included a question about how frequently participants ate eggs in the past year: never/frequently (rarely or never, 1–2 times per month), weekly (1–6 times per week), daily (daily or several times per day).

Overall, people who consumed eggs 1–6 times per week

had the lowest risk of death during the study period (29 per cent lower for heart disease deaths and 17 per cent lower for overall deaths) compared to those who rarely or never ate eggs.

Eating eggs daily did not increase the risk of death either. How reputable is the study?

The research was published in a peer-reviewed journal, meaning this work has been examined by other researchers and is considered reputable and defensible.

In the analysis, factors such as socioeconomic, demographic, health-related and clinical factors, and overall dietary quality were “adjusted” for, as these factors can play a role in disease and the risk of early death.

POEMS

Gitanjali

Thou hast made me endless, such is thy pleasure. This frail vessel thou emptiest again and again, and fillest it ever with fresh life.

This little flute of a reed thou hast carried over hills and dales, and hast breathed through it melodies eternally new.

At the immortal touch of thy hands my little heart loses its limits in joy and gives birth to utterance ineffable.

Thy infinite gifts come to me only on these very small hands of mine. Ages pass, and still thou pourest, and still there is room to fill..

Rabindranath Tagore

Diversity, inclusion in Trump’s cross-hairs: From a US aircrash to Middle East’s ‘Riveria’

“Idle now, I watch the flocks
Of birds whose name I do not know
Turning sharp right in the sky and so
In perfect formation they mock
The grains of expertly cooked rice
Individual and yet a bunch
-- And though the metaphors entice
I suppose I should get on with lunch?”
From The Diary of Hunji: The Nazi
Sardar, by Bachchoo

A collision of a passenger plane with a helicopter over the US capital, Washington DC, is a disastrous tragedy. The horrible task of retrieving bodies and salvage begins. There will be investigated reports on how and why the crash happened.

Before any such analysis and conclusion, the President of the United States wades in and declares that the crash was the result of the policies of “diversity” and “inclusion”. Shameful and outrageous. He didn’t point his nasty fingers at any specific institution but one can, from his openly stated attitudes and nasty opinions, deduce that he meant the recruitment of blacks and



women into air traffic control led to the crash.

If some conspiracy theorist on a now-unchecked-for-truth social media platform had made such a claim, it could be ignored as the mutterings of some demented idiot. But, gentle reader, this comes from the elected President of the United States of America!

Since the run-up to the election and during and after it, Donald Trump and his associates, including Elon Musk, have doubled down on attacking “di-

versity” and “inclusion”. These are safeguarding liberal policies framed to ensure that prejudices, such as racism and misogyny, do not determine the recruitment of blacks and women.

This week, following the ceasefire in the Middle East between Israel and Hamas, among other idiotic manoeuvres and wild statements, Trump has declared that the US is going to “own” the Gaza Strip and redevelop it -- not to rebuild the land which US and UK-supplied missiles, planes and bombs have reduced to a desert of rubble so that the homeless Palestinians can return to some semblance of civilisation, but to “turn it into the Riviera of the Middle East”!

The stated corollary to this ambition is the expulsion of the entire Palestinian population of Gaza to neighbouring countries such as Egypt and Jordan.

The new “Riviera of the Middle East” will then, presumably, be populated by non-Muslim white settlers: Jews and gentiles. It will presumably be devoid of diversity -- with the exception, naturally, of allowing women

in. What’s a Riviera without lots of pretty women which this President (appropriately named after a cartoon duck) openly regards as adornments and objects to exploit?

The policy of “inclusion” was forced on certain democracies by the growing and insistent voice of feminism. It hasn’t (yet?) succeeded in countries such as Iran. In the United States, the “diversity” policies are the direct and partially victorious result of the Civil Rights movement, led by Dr Martin Luther King Jr, Malcolm X and the agitation of black activists such as the Black Panther Party.

In Britain, without centuries of having a “diverse” population, the change, quite distinct now, came about after the post-Second World War settlement of immigrant communities from the ex-colonies of the West Indies, Africa and the Indian subcontinent.

It wasn’t labelled “diversity”. In a more characteristically British way, its manifestations were associated with the term “multi-culturalism”. Without any immodesty, I can factually claim

that I was, with so many of my generation from this multi-ethnic section of British society, part of its gestation: I was a member in the late 1960s of the Indian Workers Association in Leicestershire and then a member of the British Black Panther Movement -- an organisation of mainly West Indian, Asian and African immigrants, some of them of the second generation of black communities.

I wrote, anonymously, in the movement’s newspaper called Freedom News about events at the multi-ethnic school where I taught. It was at the school that I was approached by an editor from Macmillan publishing called Martin Pick who started by saying he’d read these “stories” and that “the demand for multicultural stories or literature exists, but the books don’t”. He commissioned over the next year and a half three of my first published books.

These drew the attention of the pioneering Black Theatre Co-op (BTC) who invited me to write a stage play -- and then a few more.

These and the books drew the at-

tention of TV executives who then commissioned me to write a BBC drama series and then the sit-coms No Problem and Tandoori Nights.

I was then, in 1983 offered the job of commissioning editor at Channel Four TV and worked there for fifteen years, with the assignment of bringing the affairs, stories, politics and culture of the new, now integrating, communities of Britain to the screen. Fun!

The movement, moving officiously from multi-culturalism to legislated “diversity” or its adoption as a principle followed.

Some institutions take the injunction solemnly. Almost every commercial advertisement on TV contains black actors.

When we pioneered the Black Theatre Cooperative in the late 1970s and early 1980s, and soon after the Asian Coop Theatre (ACT, geddit?) there were very few black or Asian faces in national drama.

It’s changed. In a TV series about Henry VIII, Ann Boleyn and her family are all played by black actors.

AIIMS Bilaspur releases groundbreaking book ‘Evidence in Breast Cancer’ edited by Dr. Chitresh Sharma

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY
BILASPUR: In a significant contribution to oncology research, AIIMS Bilaspur today unveiled the book "Evidence in Breast Cancer, edited by Head of the Department of Surgical Oncology Dr. Chitresh Kumar Sharma. The book was



formally released by AIIMS Bilaspur Executive Director, Prof. DN Sharma, in the

presence of renowned medical experts and cancer specialists. This comprehensive guide delves into critical aspects of breast cancer diagnosis, treatment, and management, integrating the latest research, evidence-based approaches, and clinical algorithms.

NEWS BRIEF

CM expresses grief over death of devotees returning from Maha Kumbh

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA: Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has expressed grief over the tragic accident in which two persons of Choti Dolly village of Tehsil Baijnath in Kangra district lost their lives and 11 others were injured. This accident took place this morning in Chilli village, under the jurisdiction of the Rath police station in Hamirpur district, on the Bundelkhand Expressway, where a Traveler from Himachal Pradesh was returning from the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj collided with a truck parked on the road. There were 13 devotees, including the driver, in the Traveler. The Chief Minister said that the Himachal Pradesh Government was in constant touch with the Uttar Pradesh Government and ensuring that the injured were receiving best treatment at the nearest hospital. He prayed to Almighty to grant peace to the departed souls and strength to the bereaved families to bear this irreparable loss. He also prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured in this tragic accident.

Anil Sharma takes charge of Amb police station in-charge



AVINASH CHAUHAN
AMB: Anil Sharma took over as Amb police station in-charge on Friday. Prior to this, he was serving in Chintpurni police station. Youth Congress Chintpurni felicitated the newly appointed police station in-charge Anil Sharma. On this occasion, Youth Congress Chintpurni Pradhan Anmol Sharma and Kuldeep Pathan congratulated him for doing better work.

State Government committed to strengthen rural economy: CM

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, FEB 8

Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has announced the beautification of the Shri Naina Devi Ji temple complex at a cost of Rs. 100 crore. He said that the work would be carried out in three phases. Along with Shri Naina Devi Ji temple, the state government would also beautify Maa Chintpurni, Maa Jwalamukhi, Baba Balak Nath and other temples in the future. He also announced the opening of a division of the Public Works Department and the Jal Shakti Department at Jagatkhana in Shri Naina Devi Ji assembly constituency, along with a new sub-tehsil in Namhol. He also assured Rs. 8 crore for completing the remaining work of the 50-bed hospital in Naina Devi and full funding for the construction of an indoor stadium in Jukhala.

During his one-day visit to the Shri Naina Devi Ji assembly constituency in Bilaspur district, the



Chief Minister said that the present state government was committed to bringing prosperity to Himachal Pradesh through 'Vyavastha Parivartan'. The state government was working towards reaching the last person in the village. He said that the daily wage under MNREGA has been increased from Rs. 240 to Rs. 300. He further stated that the state

government has fulfilled its six election guarantees within two years. Women were being provided with a social security of Rs. 1,500 per month in a phased manner and by March 2025, the Indra Gandhi Sukh Samman Nidhi would be given to 50,000 women.

The Chief Minister said that ever since the Congress secured 40 MLAs,

the BJP has been spreading false rumours, attempting to create unrest and chaos in the state. He accused BJP leaders of spreading misinformation just to tarnish the reputation of the state and the government. He said that the state government has successfully overcome political challenges with the blessings of Maa Naina Devi, the deities and the people of the state and ensured the strength of Congress MLA remained at 40.

He recalled that Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur had said that even god could not save this government. He said that the state government reinstated the old pension scheme despite the central government's restrictions. Today more than 7,000 retired NPS employees are getting the benefits of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS). These retired NPS employees who were getting monthly pension of Rs. 3,000 were now availing Rs. 30,000 per month under OPS.

Governor inaugurates children's park at AIR colony



DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, FEB 8

Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla today inaugurated a newly constructed Children's Park at the AIR Colony at Chadwick in Summer Hill, Shimla. The park has been developed by the National Academy of Audit and Accounts to provide a recreational space for children in the area. Speaking on the occasion, the Governor appreciated the initiative and said that such a facility significantly contributes to the well-being and holistic development of children. He emphasized the need for safe and engaging play areas that promote both

physical activity and social interaction. Following the inauguration, Shiv Pratap Shukla visited the historic Chadwick House Museum, where he toured the exhibits and learned about its rich heritage. During his visit, the Governor also unveiled a special video commemorating 75 years of celebrations at Yarrows, highlighting the journey and achievements of the institution over the decades. Senior officials of the National Academy of Audit and Accounts and members of the local community lauded the commitment of the Governor to heritage conservation and community development.

Delhi mandates PM Modi's vision: Prem Kumar Dhupal

RAJNEESH SHARMA
HAMIRPUR, FEB 8

Former Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Prem Kumar Dhupal said on Saturday that the people of Delhi have reaffirmed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision by giving a decisive mandate to the BJP. In a press statement, he remarked that BJP's victory in Delhi reflects the immense popularity of the Modi government at the Centre. Dhupal criticized the AAP government, stating that despite ruling for a considerable time, it only delivered corruption instead of governance. He asserted that Delhiites have now held Arvind Kejriwal accountable. He also pointed out that BJP's governance



model has gained trust nationwide, leading to its governments being formed in several states.

Highlighting Modi's leadership, Dhupal emphasized that under his tenure, India has not only accelerated its development but has also earned a stronger global presence. Referring to

Himachal Pradesh's governance, Dhupal said that whenever BJP has been in power, the state has witnessed rapid development. He criticized the Congress government for failing to meet public expectations despite being given a chance. He accused Congress leaders of constantly complaining about financial constraints while indulging in extravagant expenditures and political favoritism.

Dhupal remarked that Congress's humiliating defeat in Delhi, where it failed to win even a single seat, reflects its declining public support. He asserted that the massive BJP win not only shocked AAP but also signaled the complete downfall of Congress.

CM dedicates 13 developmental projects worth Rs. 127 crore for Shri Naina Devi Ji assembly constituency



DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, FEB 8

Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today performed inaugurations and foundation stones of 13 development projects worth Rs. 127.09 crore for Shri Naina Devi Ji assembly constituency of Bilaspur district during his one day tour to this area.

Sukhu inaugurated Rs. 2.54 crore additional accommodation in PWD Rest House, Namhol, Rs. 3.69 crore metalling and tarring on balance work of link road from Dolra to Bag Mehla, Rs. 2.85 crore link road from village Gohri to Sayar, Rs. 4.92 crore link road from Galwa to Challela, Rs. 5.25 crore upgradation of Deoth Lag Ghat Jamli road,

Offers prayers at Shri Naina Devi Ji Temple

SHIMLA: Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today during his one day tour to Bilaspur visited the revered Shri Naina Devi Ji Temple and offered prayers for the peace, prosperity and well-being of the people of the state. The Chief Minister said that Shri Naina Devi Ji was one of the most prominent Shakti Peeths, which holds immense spiritual significance for devotees from across the country. He said that the state government was committed to preserve and enhancing the religious and cultural heritage of the state and assured that all necessary measures would be taken to improve the facilities at the temple complex to provide a better experience for pilgrims.

Rs. 3.01 crore LWSS to left out partially covered habitations under GP Nakrana and adjoining villages under Jal Jivan

Mission, Rs. 49 lakh Veterinary Hospital Swarghat and Rs. 3 crore Arrival Hall of Bus Stand Shri Naina Devi Ji.

Himachal's Akhil Thakur shines on International stage with double gold in kickboxing

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY
BILASPUR: Akhil Thakur has once again made India and Himachal Pradesh proud by clinching two gold medals at the international kickboxing competition held at Indira Gandhi Stadium, Delhi. In which competing against the top athletes from 14 countries, Akhil showcased his remarkable skill and determination to emerge victorious in the kick-light event. Already a decorated athlete with gold and bronze medals in the Asian Kickboxing Championship, Akhil has also represented India in the World Championship and the World Cup. His latest triumph adds another milestone to his illustrious career, reinforcing his status as a world-class kickboxer. Expressing his gratitude, Akhil credited his success to his chief coach, Parshuram Awardee Dr. Sanjay Yadav, Himachal Kickboxing Association General Secretary Hansraj Sharma, and coach Manoj Patial. He also extended heartfelt thanks to Bilaspur Deputy Commissioner Abid Hussain Sadiq for his encouragement, as well as Chetna Sanstha Secretary Harish Nadda and NTPC Koldam for their unwavering support and incentives. Hailing from Delg village in Tehsil Sadar, District Bilaspur, Akhil's achievement has ignited a wave of celebration in his hometown. His victory not only brings pride to the region but also serves as an inspiration for aspiring athletes across Himachal Pradesh.



BJP's massive victory in Delhi is a victory of faith in PM Modi: Dr. Rajiv Bhardwaj

SANAJY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA, FEB 8

On BJP's historic victory in the assembly elections, Dharamshala BJP Mandal celebrated with Kangra-Chamba Parliamentary constituency MP Dr. Rajiv Bhardwaj and distributed laddus. On this occasion, BJP workers and supporters were seen dancing in joy. MP Dr. Rajiv Bhardwaj said on this occasion that the results of Delhi assembly elections have come. BJP has registered a historic victory there, while two-time Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his party had to face defeat. BJP's victory in the country's capital Delhi after 27 years is being celebrated across the country. He said that the people of Delhi have cast their votes on the policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The massive victory of Bharatiya Janata



Party in the results of Delhi assembly elections is a victory of the unwavering support of the people on the policies of service, good governance, poor welfare, Antyodaya and development under the able leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. BJP's massive victory in Delhi has assembly elections is a victory of faith in the policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Dr. Rajiv Bhardwaj said that the people of this country have faith in PM Modi's credibility and BJP's politics of good governance and development. I heartily

congratulate Prime Minister Narendra Modi, party President JP Nadda, Delhi State BJP President Virendra Sachdeva and all party workers for this magnificent victory. On this occasion, State BJP spokesperson Rakesh Sharma said that the people of Delhi have destroyed the 'Sheesh Mahal' of lies, deceit and corruption and have made Delhi Aam-Da free. Delhi has taught such a lesson to those who break promises, which will set an example for those who make false promises to the public across the country.

Harsh and Kavita were selected as best players in annual sports competition

AVINASH CHAUHAN
AMB, FEB 8

The 28th annual sports competition was organized at Government Excellence College Amb on Saturday. The chief guest was Dr. Raman Kumar Sharma, retired principal of Amb College. He inaugurated the program by lighting a lamp at the feet of Maa Saraswati. On this occasion, NCC cadets, NSS volunteers and Rover Ranger members saluted the chief guest while marching past. The chief guest said in his speech that sports have special importance in student life and it leads to all-round development of every player. Along with this, he also said in his speech that sports not only lead to physical development but also develop ideal human qualities like tolerance and patience. He said that when a



player participates in sports, he also develops social skills. This competition was conducted under the supervision of physical education professor Dr. Pawan Patiyal. The stage was conducted by Prof. Sukhdev. In the 1500 meter race in the men's category, Abhishek Singh got first place, Kanhaiya got second place, Tanish got third place. In the women's category, Kavita got first place, Payal Rani got second place, Sanjana got third place. In the 800 meter race

in the men's category, Abhishek got first place, Aman got second place, Harish got third place. In the women's category, Payal Rani got first place, Mehak Chaudhary got second place, Sanjana got third place. In the 400 meter race in the men's category, Harsh got first place, Kanhaiya got second place, Raman Kumar got third place. In the women's category, Kavita got first place, Payal Rani got second place, Anita Devi got third place.

Former MLA Chaitanya Sharma congratulates BJP on its historic victory in Delhi

AVINASH CHAUHAN
AMB, FEB 8

Gagret BJP leader and former MLA Chaitanya Sharma has congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi, National President JP Nadda, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the Delhi BJP team on the massive victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party in the Delhi Assembly elections. He said that the people of Delhi have expressed faith in the policies of the BJP by rejecting the hollow guarantees of Arvind Kejriwal and the Congress. This victory is the public's seal of approval on the policies of good governance, transparency and



development of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Chaitanya Sharma said that after a long time, BJP has received historic support in Delhi, which proves that the public has now rejected the politics of corruption and breaking promises. He said that Arvind Kejriwal's government gave nothing to Delhi except false promises

and scams, due to which people were troubled. Now a new development journey will start in Delhi under the leadership of BJP.

Chaitanya Sharma said that the countdown of the Himachal Pradesh Congress government has also begun because the Congress government of the state is ignoring the Public Service Commission and distributing freebies to its favourites, a living proof of which is the recruitments done in the assembly in which jobs have been distributed to the close ones of the Chief Minister and the Assembly Speaker by ignoring their qualifications, due to which the youth is feeling cheated.

JOGINDER DEV ARYA
BANGANA, FEB 8

The block-level sub-junior throwball championship concluded successfully in Bangana on Saturday, with nine teams and 80 players showcasing their athletic talent. Seema Sharma, President of the District Throwball Association, honored the winning and runner-up teams during the closing ceremony.

The event was also attended by Sachin Indu Wala, Gurudev, Sumit Sharma, and Technical Board President Yashveer Rana and Naresh Kumar from the Una District Throwball Association. In the final match, Team Adarsh and



Team Aditya competed in a thrilling contest. Team Adarsh emerged victorious with a 2-1 win, securing the championship title, while Team Aditya finished as runners-up.

Players who excelled in the championship will be selected for district and state-level competitions. The event not only highlighted the

enthusiasm and dedication of young athletes but also fueled excitement among spectators for upcoming tournaments.

For sports enthusiasts, this championship was a remarkable showcase of young talent, paving the way for these athletes to make their mark on bigger platforms in the future.

Block-Level Sub-Junior Throwball Championship concludes successfully

Students should pass board exams with good marks without any stress: Ajay Sehgal

AVINASH CHAUHAN
AMB: Under the Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan, in PM Shri Government Senior Secondary School Marwari, renowned national level expert in Mathematics, retired Prof. Ajay Sehgal gave special knowledge in Mathematics to the children of Marwari School. He gave tips to the children to pass the board



exams without stress and with good marks. He cleared the concepts related to the subject. The students listened to his lecture very attentively and satisfied their curiosity. Professor Ajay Sehgal has served in various educational institutions. He has been a famous mathematics expert of Himachal. He has been a member secretary in the Board of Study in Himachal University. The children taught by him have studied in various institutions of national and international level. School Principal Nisha Sandal specially welcomed him on his arrival in the school and thanked him for imparting valuable knowledge to the children. The school staff was present on this occasion.

NEWS BRIEF

This is not BJP's victory in Delhi but victory of hooliganism: Birinder Goyal

GURMAIL SINGH SANGATPURA LEHRAGAGA : After the results of the recently concluded Delhi Assembly elections, Punjab Government Cabinet Minister Advocate Birinder Goyal said that this victory is not the victory of BJP



but the victory of hooliganism. But the mandate given by the people of Delhi is on our heads. He said that the sympathy of the people of Delhi was in favor of the Aam Aadmi Party. If the BJP had fought this election honestly, then these election results would have been in favor of the Aam Aadmi Party. He said that what could be a bigger example of BJP's hooliganism than that even before the formation of the government in Delhi, BJP has issued a decree that no minister of the Aam Aadmi Party government will go to the Vidhan Sabha, Secretariat and offices. He said that the truth is that BJP has used every method to intimidate and intimidate the voters to win the Delhi elections and get votes in its favor. He said that such a victory can never be called a victory.

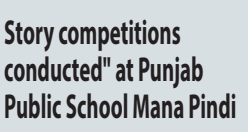
BJP has created history by winning Delhi Assembly elections with landslide and absolute majority: Rajan Narang

SURINDER DAMDAMI KOTKAPURA: In the results that came out today, the Bharatiya Janata Party has created history by winning the Delhi assembly elections with a stunning and complete majority. By winning the BJP, the people proved that the country can move on the path of development only under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The above views were expressed by

Bharatiya Janata Party District Fairkot District Vice President Rajan Narang while talking to Yugmarg. He said that the excellent performance of BJP by winning 48 seats in Delhi has shown that the people of the country are very happy with the development and people-friendly policies of the Bharatiya Janata Party, people from all sections have faith in the Modi government.

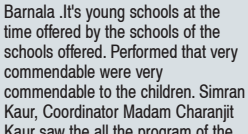


Story competitions conducted" at Punjab Public School Mana Pindi



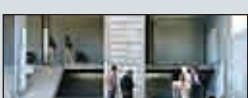
BALWINDER AZAD BARNALA DEHATI: The story of kindergarten children were conducted at the Punjab Public School Manna Pindi Dhanaula road Barnala. It's young schools at the time offered by the schools of the schools offered. Performed that very commendable were very commendable to the children. Simran Kaur, Coordinator Madam Charanjit Kaur saw the all the program of the Gandhi and was honored. Praise the children while appreciated. It was very good.

52-year-old man dies in suspicious circumstances



VICKY BHABAT ZIRAKPUR: A 52-year-old man's body was found in a suspicious condition in the basement of a newly constructed building on Zirakpur Ambala Road. The police are calling it an accident. The body was bleeding from the nose, which is due to internal injuries to the head. Someone saw the body at around 9:30 am and informed the police. The police reached the spot and investigated and called a forensic team who collected evidence from the spot to find out whether it was a murder or a spontaneous death due to a fall. According to information received from the spot, a person named Sunil, who lived in Dhakauli, saw his body at around 9 am today and informed the police. The police saw a body lying in the basement of the building, whose nose was bleeding.

Successful conclusion of the NSS camp of Miri Piri Khalsa College



BALWINDER AZAD BARNALA DEHATI: A seven-day NSS camp was organized by Punjab University Patiala at Miri Piri Khalsa College Bhadour, the leading institution of the area running under the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, under the guidance of the NSS Department Coordinator Professor S. Anhad Singh Gill. Which was successfully concluded. On the last day of the camp, an award ceremony was also held. During this, the program coordinator Prof. Jaspreet Singh read the report of the camp and shared the details of the activities done during the camp.

Cleanliness and anti-encroachment drive conducted in Chandigarh's Sector 26 Mandi

SHASHI PAL JAIN
CHANDIGARH, FEB 8

Following the meeting convened yesterday under the chairmanship of Hari Kalikat, IAS, Secretary Agriculture, UT Chandigarh with the Arthiyas of Grain, Fruits & Vegetable Market Sector 26, Chandigarh, a cleanliness drive and anti-encroachment drive was held today, jointly by the Municipal Corporation and the Market Committee, in Mandi Sector 26 under the supervision of Sh. Pavitter Singh, PCS, Administrator of the Market Committee.

As per the decisions taken in the meeting held yesterday, the Market Committee, today, took necessary steps to remove unauthorized vendors from the Mandi and a special cleanliness drive. Such drives will now be regularly held in the



Mandi Sector 26 Chandigarh so as to improve the in-

frastructure and cleanliness of the markets, benefiting

both the traders and the public.

APJ School celebrates annual function of Kindergarten and grades along with Accolade ceremony for Kindergarten to Grade 12

SHASHI PAL JAIN
KHARAR, FEB 8

APJ Public School celebrated its Annual Function for Kindergarten and Grades 1-3, along with the Accolade Ceremony for Kindergarten to Grade 12.

The event featured vibrant performances from the young students of the Kindergarten to Grade 3, who showcased their creativity through dances, songs, and skits. The cere-



mony was a moment of pride as students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 were honored for their academic achievements, leadership, and perseverance, celebrating their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

In addition to the celebrations, the school hosted a Social Studies Exhibition for Grades 5-8, where students presented their research projects on various topics related to history, geography, and social sciences.

DC Orders FIR against illegal mining at Illegal site in Miyanpur Changar

MOHALI: Swung into action against the illegal mining activities, the District Administration SAS Nagar has ordered to lodge an FIR against the illegal mining at an illegal site in the Miyanpur Changar area of the district SAS Nagar. Divulging the details, Deputy Commissioner Mrs Aashika Jain said that after getting an information about the illegal mining in Miyanpur area, an administrative team led by SDM Kharar Gurmander Singh and comprising Naib Tehsildar Majri Raghvit Singh, Executive Engineer Drainage-cum-Mines and Geology, Akash Aggarwal and SDO Pardeep Kumar immediately rushed to the spot in the evening to gather the report on the illegal activities. She said that as per the preliminary report, the site on which the trash of mining activities has been found, is illegal. The material that has been extracted from the site is mixture of sand, gravel and earth She said that as per the report of the Executive Engineer, Drainage-cum-Mines & Geology, an FIR has been recommended to the District Police to launch further investigation.

MCM celebrates Basant Panchmi with traditional fervour



CHANDIGARH, FEB 8

In a befitting celebration of Basant Panchmi, the Sustainable Practices Committee of Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women, Chandigarh, organised 'Basant Ut-sav' with the purpose to celebrate our rich cultural heritage while reliving memories of our long forgotten customs.

Dressed in different hues of yellow, the staff members and students thoroughly enjoyed the festivities basking in the warmth of sunshine.

The event comprised of Braid Styling Competition, 'Swaal Jwaab' - a fun quiz related to Basant, and 'Khanak' - a stall of colourful bangles. Adding to the flavour of the celebration, 'Udaan' brought out the child in everyone present as they indulged in kite flying.

Another highlight of the event was 'Basant walk' wherein children of staff members walked the stage in traditional attire. Traditional besan barfi was also distributed on this occasion, enhancing the sweetness of the celebration.

LR DAV College organizes IT Conundrum-VII for students



SUKH NAHAR
JAGRAON, FEB 8

Under the directions of Principal Dr Anuj Kumar Sharma, the Department of Computer Sciences and Sciences organization, 'Udaan' brought out the child in everyone present as they indulged in kite flying.

Prof. Hitesh Monga was the Convener of this event. The function was inaugurated in computer Department. In his address, Dr Anuj Kumar Sharma spoke on the significance of information technology in

every realm be it business, marketing ,teaching or research.

IT has become the main driver behind innovations and inventions, he said. To stay at the forefront, students must familiarize themselves with various IT skills. On this occasion, the department organized various activities, Quiz competition based on information technology, Typing master competition, Programming and Debugging, PPT competition, Poster making competition, rangoli competition, Clay modelling and Treasure hunt.

Gillco International School Kharar conducts draw of Lots ceremony for grade nursery

SHASHI PAL JAIN
KHARAR, FEB 8

Gillco International School Kharar conducted Draw of Lots Ceremony for grade nursery on Saturday.

GIS is one of the leading educational institutions in Mohali, Punjab conducted a draw of lots ceremony today to determine the order of admission seats for the upcoming session 2025-26.

The ceremony, which was attended by parents, teachers, and students, was held at the school premises. The draw of lots was conducted in a fair and transparent manner, with the Chairman, Mr Ranjeet Singh Gill, Trustee, Mrs Gill, Senior Management, Ms Jai Sandhu



Gill presiding over the ceremony. "We are thrilled to host this event," said the Principal, Dr Kritika

Kaushal. The draw of lots ceremony marks an important milestone in the lead-up to the event.

Seminar organized on health, hygiene, cyber crime and traffic rules



HOSHARPUR(DALJEET AJNOHA): Today organized a seminar on health, hygiene, cyber crime and traffic rules at Ajawal School In connection with the Student Police Credit Program. On this occasion ASP Gazalpreet Kaur IPS specially participated On this occasion, school principal Parminder Kaur, nodal officer Harmeet Kaur, Head Constable Jatinder Singh from Police Department and Head Constable Rajkumar from Sadar Police Station we're present. On this occasion, Gazalpreet Kaur while making people aware about health, hygiene, cyber crime and traffic rules said that it is very important for people to be aware about traffic rules. They were encouraged to follow traffic rules.

National Public School, Kurali hosts fun-filled celebration of baby show



SHASHI PAL JAIN
KURALI, FEB 8

The event kicked off with the ribbon-cutting and lamp-lighting ceremony by the esteemed school management members, Chairperson, Ms. Santosh Sharma, Manager, Mr. Aman Sharma, Treasurer Mr. Ish Aggarwal ji and Principal, Ms. Madhu Kalia symbolizing the beginning of the celebrations.

The event featured dance performances, games, and a fashion show for the tiny tots. Parents and kids participated

in fun games enthusiastically, making it a memorable event. The celebration promoted bonding and physical activity among parents and kids. The Principal Ms. Madhu Kalia delivered a stirring speech, highlighting the significance of the occasion and the importance of cherishing childhood, a stage that lays the foundation for a lifetime growth, learning, and exploration. The Principal highlighted the need to nurture and protect the innocence, curiosity, and creativity of childhood, and to provide children with a supportive and stimulating environment that fosters their physical, emotional, and cognitive development. She also expressed gratitude to management members, teachers, kids and their parents in making the celebration a resounding success. The event concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, where the winners of the games were awarded gifts and certificates. The school management congratulated the winners and encouraged all participants to continue striving for excellence.

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PAU convocation 2025: Governor of Punjab Lauds University's role in nation-building

LUDHIANA, FEB 8

Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana, held its Annual Convocation today at the Dr Manmohan Singh Auditorium, celebrating academic excellence, innovation, and service to society. Hon'ble Governor of Punjab and Chancellor of PAU, Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, accompanied by Shri Vivek Pratap Singh from Vidhan Sabha with PAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. Satbir Singh Gosal, Registrar Shri Rishi Pal Singh, and Dean Postgraduate Studies Dr. M.I.S. Gill being the other dignitaries of the day.

The ceremony began with a majestic academic procession led by the Registrar, senior faculty, deans, directors, board members, the Vice Chancellor, and the Chancellor. The university auditorium exuded grandeur as faculty and students in ceremonial robes gathered for the momentous occasion. A highlight

of the convocation was the Chancellor's Medal, awarded to three outstanding students, alongside several Gold Medals for academic excellence. In a unique and commendable move, PAU also honoured faculty members for their exceptional contributions to research, mentoring, and agricultural extension.

Recognizing this, Governor Kataria lauded PAU for setting an exemplary precedent by acknowledging faculty achievements during a student convocation, emphasizing that teachers are the true architects of society who shape future generations. He highlighted how, throughout Indian history, teachers (Gurus) have been revered, and this recognition is a practice that other universities should follow. In his address, the Governor hailed PAU as a sacred institution built on the vision, hard work, and perseverance of its scientists and farmers, who revolutionized Indian agriculture.

The Unirise World School conducts "Athletics Arena"



SUKH NAHAR
JAGRAON, FEB 8

The Unirise World School showcased the true spirit of sportsmanship and unity as it successfully hosted its much-anticipated two-day event, 'Athletics Arena', on February 7th and 8th, 2025. Designed exclusively for students from Kindergarten to Grade V, the event was a spectacular celebration of athleticism, teamwork, and perseverance.

The day commenced with a warm welcome extended to parents and esteemed guests. Setting the tone for a holistic and spirited beginning, the event opened with the soothing recitation of the Gayatri

Mantra and the Mool Mantra, followed by a ceremonial relay carrying the flambeau.

As the torch was ignited, the atmosphere brimmed with excitement and anticipation. Adding grandeur to the occasion, the Chairman, Mr. Rakesh Aggarwal, alongside the Director, Dr. Pallavi Aggarwal, the Managing Director, Mr. Shifu Aggarwal, and the Principal, Mrs. Neha Rattan, hoisted the National Flag, followed by the collective singing of the National Anthem.

Principal, then officially declared the event open, releasing vibrant balloons into the sky—a symbolic gesture of aspirations taking flight.

Parent-Teacher meeting organized at Punjab Convent School



KULWINDER KARWA
SARDULGARH, FEB 2

A Parent-Teachers Meeting was held today at Punjab Convent School to announce the results of PT-4 examinations and the Pre-Board examinations of classes 10th and 12th. During this meeting, teachers discussed students' performance, preparation, and future plans with

the parents. The teachers analyzed the students' preparation and informed the parents about their strengths and weaknesses. They emphasized the need for students to study diligently in view of the upcoming annual examinations. Parents also shared their thoughts on their children's academic challenges.

Teachers discussed individual plans to assist the stu-

dents and highlighted the importance of regular revision and self-study. They also addressed strategies to reduce students' mental stress, encouraged time management, maintaining good health, and boosting self-confidence. Parents provided their suggestions and collaborated with teachers to implement further improvements in the students' academic journey.

Malta Ex-PM, Israeli Ex-foreign minister visit Pathankot



VERMA
GURDASPUR, FEB 8

Pathankot township has witnessed many VIP visits in the past. However, it was for the first time that VIPs of the stature of an ex-PM and a Cabinet minister of two different foreign countries were hosted by the city, sending a feeling of euphoria and ecstasy among local residents.

Malta Ex-PM Joseph Muscat and former foreign minister of Israel Eliezer Sandberg were in the city on an invita-

tion of Caledonian International School which organised a function to celebrate its 15th foundation day.

The two dignitaries delivered educative speeches which were lapped up by the students, staff and other guests.

Director of the School Srijal Gupta had arranged for the visits of the two dignitaries. Joseph Muscat met everybody who wanted to meet him and mixed up freely with the organisers and the audience.

Punjab Pay scale restoration joint front will surround Chief Minister's residence Sangrur on March 23



ABHISHEK NANDA
FEROZEPUR, FEB 8

A state-level meeting of the Punjab Pay Scale Restoration Joint Front was held. A large number of state committee members and district leaders of various departments participated in today's state-level meeting.

In this meeting, after the Punjab government's SLP in the Supreme Court was rejected by the Punjab government in Saurabh Sharma Kesh, the front also expressed its intention and apprehensions about the

change in the rules of all departments by the Punjab government that the government is doing cunning tricks, it was clear that the government is not in favor of restoring the Punjab Pay Scale. Where the general government, which had given its yes in favor of so many employees before coming to power, now seems to refuse to accept the orders of the Honorable High Court and the Supreme Court. Due to which, huge protests were seen against the government among the employees of all various departments.

NEWS BRIEF

LPU Concludes Personal Contact Programme for Distance Education Students

Jalandhar(J S SODHI): Lovely Professional University (LPU) successfully concluded a four-week Personal Contact Programme (PCP) designed to enhance academic excellence among Distance Education students. Nearly 150 faculty members conducted interactive sessions across 331 courses, providing personalized academic counseling to thousands of students from diverse backgrounds. Covering a range of Undergraduate, Postgraduate, and Diploma programs, the initiative attracted working professionals and government employees balancing their careers with education. Participants praised the faculty's expertise and student-centric approach. The Director of the Centre for Distance and Online Education highlighted LPU's commitment to innovation in learning. Admissions for LPU Distance Education programs are open for the February 2025 session. Interested candidates can contact 0182-521350 or WhatsApp 99150-20429 for details.

Jalandhar Rural Police Nabs Drug Peddler with 50 Grams of Heroin

J S SODHI
JALANDHAR: In a major crackdown on drug trafficking, Jalandhar Rural Police arrested a notorious drug peddler, Baldev Singh alias Ballo, and seized 50 grams of heroin in a special operation near Kartarpur. Senior Superintendent of Police Harkamal Preet Singh Khakh stated that acting on specific intelligence, a CIA staff team led by Inspector Pushap Bali and SI Nirmal Singh intercepted the accused, who was riding a white TVS Apache motorcycle. The heroin was found concealed under the seat in a wax-sealed envelope. The accused has a prior record of drug and liquor smuggling. A fresh case (FIR No. 26) has been registered under the NDPS Act at Kartarpur Police Station. The police are investigating his supply chain, potential buyers, and assets for further legal action.

Punjab Government Enhances Welfare Measures for Families of Martyred Soldiers

CHANDIGARH: The Punjab Government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, is continually making efforts to support the families of martyrs. In a significant move, the state has enhanced the ex-gratia amount for the next of kin of martyred soldiers from ₹50 lakh to ₹1 crore. Defence Services Welfare Minister Mohinder Bhagat stated, "The Punjab Government is firmly committed to the welfare of military personnel, martyr's families, and ex-servicemen. The increase in the ex-gratia amount to ₹1 crore underscores our respect and gratitude for their supreme sacrifice." This decision reflects the government's commitment to honoring the sacrifices of its armed forces personnel. As of now, 24 families of martyred soldiers have benefited from this enhanced financial assistance.

Punjab Vidhan Sabha goes paperless with the launch of NeVA, Says Kulkar Singh Sandhwan

CHANDIGARH: The National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) project has been launched in the Punjab Vidhan Sabha, Secretariat under the dynamic leadership of S. Bhagwant Singh Mann, Chief Minister of Punjab and the proceedings of the events in Punjab Vidhan Sabha have been made paperless. This is a revolutionary step to improve the functioning of the State Legislative Assembly. Sandhwan said digitization of Punjab Vidhan Sabha would enhance the efficiency of MLAs to raise the leading issues of public concern and this is a beginning of a new era as the working of Vidhan Sabha has been made paperless. It has been easier to trace decisions and records vis-a-vis to share information in a transparent and answerable manner. The Speaker informed that the proceedings of the House are being telecast live on the official social media platforms of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha and the Punjab Government from the year 2022, through which the general public can also easily watch the proceedings of the House. National e-Vidhan Application was inaugurated on 23 September 2023 in Punjab Vidhan Sabha to make it easier for exchange of information in the House. National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) is a mission mode project of the Government of India in which the functioning of various Legislative Assemblies of the country are being done in a paperless manner and the objective of this project is to present the proceedings of the Legislative Assemblies in an efficient and transparent manner.

Police honor numerous employees for commendable jobs

SUMER GARG
SANGRUR: Mandeep Singh Sidhu IPS, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Patiala Range, Patiala while addressing the media persons said that under the command of Mr. Sartaj Singh Chahal IPS, Senior Superintendent of Police, Sangrur, the district Police Sangrur honored 11 gazetted officers with appreciation letters, 72 officers/employees with DGP discs, 1800 employees with appreciation letters, first class along with a cash prizes of Rs. 21,00,000 for their excellent Police services during the past months. On this occasion, Mr. Sidhu and Mr. Chahal in a joint statement said that our officers and employees deserve congratulations, who are engaged in the service of the people 24 hours a day with full effort, dedication and determination. He said that with the vigilance of the Police officers and personnel, great success has been achieved in curbing anti-social elements in Sangrur district and their contribution in maintaining law and order is commendable. Apart from this, they said that there is a need to contribute more diligently in the successful implementation of the special campaign being run by the Punjab Police against drugs, so that drug peddlers can be brought behind bars and people who consume drugs due to bad company can be given proper treatment. On this occasion, SSP Sangrur, Mr. Chahal specially thanked DIG, Mandeep Singh Sidhu IPS and motivated all the employees of Sangrur Police to perform their duties with even more diligence, honesty and dedication, also to solve the problems of the public on priority basis without any bias and to behave well with the public.

Farewell ceremony organized at Dharm Public School, Panjeto

CHHACHHRAULI – R.K. KASHYAP: A farewell party was organized at Dharm Public School, Panjeto, where class 11 students bid farewell to their seniors in class 12. The event had been meticulously planned in advance and was conducted under the supervision of the school staff. School Principal Namita Sehgal appreciated the efforts of both students and staff, extending her best wishes to the outgoing students for their bright future. She encouraged them to continue making their parents proud through their achievements. She also highlighted the importance of such events, as they create lasting memories that can be cherished for years to come.



409 newly qualified CAs conferred degrees at ICAI Convocation



PANCHKULA: In a momentous occasion for the accounting fraternity, 409 newly qualified Chartered Accountants (CAs) from upper north region were conferred with their degrees at a convocation ceremony organized by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) at Indradhanush Auditorium on Friday. The event was presided over by CA Abhishek Singh Chauhan, Chairman ICAI Chandigarh Branch in the presence of governing council members, senior professionals, and proud parents. Addressing the gathering, CA Chauhan emphasized the importance of innovation in the field of accountancy, underscoring its role in driving national prosperity. He encouraged the young professionals to remain diligent, ethical, and dedicated as they step into their careers, particularly in taxation and financial management. Adding to the significance of the event, CA Atul Gupta, Past President of ICAI, highlighted ICAI's stature as the world's largest professional body for Chartered Accountants, established by an Act of Parliament. He described the CA profession as the "mother of all professions," which is playing a pivotal role in shaping the economic framework of the nation. He urged the graduates to uphold integrity and professionalism while contributing to India's financial growth.

Public Endorsement of PM Narendra Modi's Leadership in Delhi Elections: CM Nayab Saini



CHANDIGARH: Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini while expressing gratitude to the people of Delhi for giving a clear mandate to the BJP and ensuring the blooming of the lotus in Delhi said that the people have endorsed Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi's capable leadership and guarantees of social welfare. He assured that the BJP would restore Delhi's honor and glory. This election stands as a testament to the public's trust in Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi's competent and visionary leadership, said Sh. Nayab Singh Saini. Taking a dig at the Aam Aadmi Party, the Chief Minister said that the people of Delhi have rejected AAP's misguided policies and reposed their faith in the BJP's welfare-oriented policies. He

accused Arvind Kejriwal of insulting Haryana's soil, questioning, If he couldn't be

loyal to Haryana, how could he be loyal to Delhi? Sh. Nayab Singh Saini

said that under the Prime Minister's leadership over the past decade, India has

achieved historic milestones, emerging as a global power. He said that India has made strong strides toward self-reliance under the Prime Minister's leadership. Initiatives like Digital India, Make in India, Ujjwala Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, Kisan Samman Nidhi, and the Garib Ann Kalyan Yojana have empowered every section of society. As a result of the Prime Minister's leadership, India has now become the fifth-largest economy in the world, said the Chief Minister. Sh. Nayab Singh Saini further asserted that the people of Delhi are now prioritizing development and national interest. The public has recognized and rejected the politics of appeasement and false promises that have misled them for years, he said.

Country biggest & longest walk in aviary centre of attraction at Chhatbir Zoo

GAURAV GOEL
CHANDIGARH: The Punjab Government under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann and the guidance of Forest and Wildlife Preservation Minister Lal Chand Kataruchak is fully committed to preserve and nurture the wildlife of the State. Hence, many



pathbreaking initiatives have been undertaken at the Chhatbir Zoo in this regard. The biggest and the longest walk in aviary of the country has become the centre of attraction at the

zoo besides an ultra modern dinosaur park which has been set up. In the Wildlife safari area of around 1200 metres, the boundary wall has been strengthened apart from installation of a solar plant having 260 KV capacity. A critical care unit stands constructed at the lion safari for the carnivorous animals besides an open air zoo Education plaza for the assistance of the visitors especially the school children.

Everest BKCC Season 6 Semi-Finals in Punjab: A Tribute to India's Diverse Flavors



J S SODHI
JALANDHAR: The Everest Better Kitchen Culinary Challenge (Everest BKCC) Season 6 semi-finals for Punjab & Haryana took place at Lovely Professional University, Jalandhar, bringing together aspiring chefs, culinary experts, and food enthusiasts. Under the theme "Flavours of India,"

Everest BKCC continues to inspire and nurture young chefs, focusing on three key aspects—preserving and promoting regional cuisines, encouraging healthier food choices, and advocating culinary tourism. This prestigious event celebrated the revival of traditional lost recipes and Indian sweets (Toyyharo Ka Meetha), offering young

culinary talents a platform to showcase their skills while preserving the essence of India's diverse cuisine. The competition witnessed participants blending heritage flavors with modern techniques, creating exceptional dishes that impressed the jury and reinforced the significance of Indian regional cuisine. The national-level competition was made possible with the support of Everest Masala, Incredible India (Ministry of Tourism, Government of India), Uttar Pradesh Tourism, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Wisdom Career Education, MYMENU365, and Bio Nutrients (India) Pvt Ltd.

Two-Day 10th GTA Cup Open National Taekwondo Championship Organized by Emerald Martial Arts Academy



More than 800 players from the Tricity and over 200 participants from 10 different states competed in the event. Additionally, students from 43 schools in the Tricity and 28 schools from other states also took part. On the final day of the tournament, a Tag Team Event will be held, with the winning team receiving a cash prize of ₹21,000.

The Directors of Emerald Martial Arts Academy, Master Shiv Raj Gharti and Kavita Rai Gharti, expressed that the main objective of this event is to provide a platform for Taekwondo players to showcase their talent, gain inspiration, and feel a sense of pride. Additionally, the championship aims to promote the historical significance of Taekwondo. They also extended their gratitude to Khanauri Builders & Developers (KBD) for their support in making the event successful.

R NKHERA
CHANDIGARH: Emerald Martial Arts Academy successfully organized the two-day 10th GTA Cup Open National Taekwondo Championship at Sports Complex, Sector-56, Chandigarh. The championship was led by 6th Dan Black Belt Master Shiv Raj Gharti and 3rd Dan Black Belt Kavita Rai. On the first day, players participated with great enthusiasm and showcased exceptional performances, following

which they were honored with medals. This prestigious championship saw participation from players aged 3 to 25 years. The tournament was categorized into four major events: Kyorugi (Fighting), Poomsae (Forms), Gyeokpa (Breaking), and Speed Kicking. Participants from various states exhibited their remarkable skills, with many securing medals and proving their talent.

Water Resources Minister Barinder Goyal Inaugurates 24 KM concrete lining Section of Second Patiala Feeder, Completed at Rs. 36 Crore

RAKESH JINDAL
PATIALA: Punjab Water Resources Minister Barinder Goyal inaugurated the 24-kilometer concrete lining section of the Second Patiala Feeder canal, built at a cost of ₹36 crore, setting a record for timely completion. The canal's capacity has now increased from 900 cusecs to 1617 cusecs, ensuring better irrigation for the farmlands of Patiala, Sangrur, Malerkotla, and Mansa.

Addressing the event at Jorhepul, Minister Barinder Goyal emphasized that the Punjab Government, under Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, is committed to delivering canal water to farmers efficiently. The Second Patiala Feeder,



concrete lining completed in just one month 15 days, will now provide irrigation water to nearly 4 lakh acres of agricultural land across 10 blocks in four districts. He highlighted that the project, initially estimated at ₹42 crore,

was successfully completed for ₹36 crore, demonstrating cost efficiency and timely execution. Criticizing previous Government, Barinder Goyal pointed out that past governments delayed projects

for years and often exceeded budget estimates. In contrast, the Bhagwant Singh Mann government completed this major irrigation project in record time and under budget, fulfilling the expectations of farmers.

Central University of Punjab's Vice-Chancellor Honoured at Zee PHH Pride of Malwa Show

BATHINDA: In recognition of his remarkable contributions to skill development, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, and guiding higher education institutions (HEIs) in the Malwa region for the effective implementation of NEP-2020, Prof. Raghavendra P. Tiwari, Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Punjab and Director of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, was honoured by the Zee Punjab Haryana Himachal (Zee PHH) Media Team during the Pride of Malwa event. As an eminent academican with over 40 years of teaching and



research experience, Prof. Tiwari was invited as a special guest at the event, where Shri Deepak Dhawan (Editor, Zee PHH) and Shri Lakhwinder Singh (Senior Territory Head, Zee PHH) conferred upon him a prestigious accolade. The

honour was presented in the distinguished presence of Shri Gurmeet S. Khuddian (Punjab Cabinet Minister) and Shri Amarjit Singh Mehta (President, Punjab Cricket Association). The event also featured a panel discussion, during

which Prof. Tiwari emphasized the need for HEIs to focus on imparting holistic and value-based education, skill development, interdisciplinary research, and experiential learning opportunities. He highlighted that CU Punjab has established key innovation hubs such as CUPRDF NIDHI i-TBI Incubator, E-Yuva Centre, and Idea Lab, which are providing a platform for Punjab's youth to transform their innovative ideas into viable concepts, thereby contributing to India's growing start-up ecosystem. Prof. Tiwari further underscored CU Punjab's

commitment to addressing regional challenges in alignment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Vocal for Local" initiative. He noted that the university's research teams are actively working on critical issues in the Malwa region related to environment, agriculture, and healthcare. In pursuit of innovative solutions, CU Punjab has initiated collaborations with top academic and research institutions, playing a crucial role in establishing the Consortium of Higher Educational Institutions of North India and Consortium of Higher Educational Institutions of Bathinda region.

Livasa Hospitals Launches Outreach Out Patient Department (OPD) in Batala to Bridge Healthcare Gap

VERMA
BATALA : As a part of their Community Engagement & Outreach Program, Livasa Hospitals, formerly Ivy Hospitals, is launching their Outreach OPD services in Batala. The first Outreach OPD is scheduled on February 11, 2025 at OM Medicos. The initiative aims to narrow the gap in access to specialist medical care by ensuring that residents of Batala and the surrounding villages may consult Dr. Radhika Garg, Nephrologist and Dr. Arjun Ved Gupta, Cardiologist from 2 P.M to 4 P.M without having to travel long distances. Under this outreach program, top specialists from Livasa Hospitals will visit Batala once a week, offering high-end tertiary care services across various specialties, including cardiology, orthopedics, gastroenterology, neurology, urology, and oncology. Patients will have access to advanced medical expertise, ensuring world-class consultations and treatment options closer to home. Access to specialized healthcare has long been a problem in Batala, a city of around 50,000 people with a population of about 2 lakhs, including neighboring villages. Due to the limited number of emergency services in Batala at night, patients often have to travel to Amritsar, where other hospitals remain the primary choice for tertiary and quaternary care. Livasa Hospitals is filling this void by bringing multiple specialty services closer to the community.



“I couldn’t do...”: Salman Khan opens up about time when he was in prison

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan recently sat down with his nephew Arhaan Khan and shared his personal and professional experiences on the Arhaan's podcast 'Dumb Biryani'. During his first-ever podcast appearance, Salman reflected on his journey. One of the excerpts of the conversation that caught everyone's attention is when the 'Dabangg' star briefly opened up about the time when he was in prison.

While discussing the importance of hard work and discipline, the actor emphasised that making excuses, such as needing sleep, only acts as an obstacle in achieving success.

He said, "I am tired.' No, get up. No matter how tired you are. 'I don't get sleep'. Don't sleep. Do something, you'll automatically go to sleep. So I don't understand these things... I sleep for an hour and a half or two hours and then some-day, once in a month, I sleep for seven hours."

"Somedays I'll get a five-minute break between shots so I'll sleep on

the chair. In places where I cannot do anything, like when I was in jail, I slept. I couldn't do anything about it... When it comes to your work or family, the effort that you have to keep on putting in... you just need to be there for friends and family and work," Salman added.

Salman's imprisonment was linked to a controversial case involving the illegal hunting of blackbucks in 1998.

Meanwhile, on the acting front, Salman will be seen headlining AR Murugadoss' upcoming film Sikandar, co-starring Rashmika

Mandanna. The film is slated for release on Eid this year.

Last year, Salman shared a glimpse from the sets of Sikandar.

In May 2024, the production house officially announced Rashmika Mandanna's role in the film, posting, "Welcoming the fabulous @rashmika_mandanna to star opposite @beingsalmankhan in #Sikandar! Can't wait for their on-screen magic to unfold on EID 2025!" Apart from Sikandar, Salman is also set to appear in Kick 2 in the coming months.



Vicky Kaushal enjoys Bihar's famous "Litti-Chokha" from street vendor, take a look



Actor Vicky Kaushal, who is busy promoting his upcoming film 'Chhaava', recently visited Patna, and his trip was all about enjoying the famous dish of Bihar--"litti chokha."

As part of his promotional tour, Vicky made a stop in the city and made sure to try the delicious local delicacy.

The 'Raazi' actor took to his Instagram account on Saturday, to share a series of pictures and videos, showing him happily savouring the traditional Bihari dish at a street stall. His excitement and love for local flavours were clearly visible in the video, where he enjoyed the food while interacting with fans.

Along with the post, the actor added a caption that read, "Patna aakar Litti Chokha kaise miss kar jaayein??? Garda uda diyal" (How can one miss Litti Chokha when in Patna? It was amazing!)

Take a look

Speaking of his film 'Chhaava', the film also stars Akshaye Khanna and Rashmika Mandanna.

The film is a period drama that portrays the legendary story of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, played by Vicky Kaushal. It is set to depict the courageous Maratha ruler's legendary reign, beginning with his coronation in 1681.

Critics Choice Awards 2025: From Demi Moore to Emilia Perez, see complete winners list

The 30th Critics Choice Awards took place in Los Angeles on early Saturday morning. This year's event had some unexpected wins, leaving audiences both thrilled and surprised. While Demi Moore winning Best Actress for The Substance and Zoe Saldana taking home Best Supporting Actress for Emilia Perez were widely predicted, Ariana Grande's loss in the Best Supporting Actress category sparked disappointment among her fans. The Best Picture award went to Anora, while Jon M Chu won Best Director for Wicked. Adrien Brody secured Best Actor for The Brutalist, and Kieran Culkin won Best Supporting Actor for A Real Pain. The Best Animated Feature award went to The Wild Robot, and Emilia Perez was crowned Best Foreign Language Film. In a rare moment, Best Comedy had two winners—A Real Pain and Deadpool & Wolverine. Check out the complete list of winners:

1. Best Director
Brady Corbet - The Brutalist
Coralie Fargeat - The Substance
Denis Villeneuve - Dune: Part Two
Edward Berger - Conclave
Jacques Audiard - Emilia Perez
Jon M. Chu - Wicked (WINNER)
RaMell Ross - Nickel Boys
Sean Baker - Anora
2. Best Picture
A Complete Unknown
Anora (WINNER)
Conclave
Dune: Part Two
Emilia Perez
Sing Sing
The Brutalist
The Substance
Wicked 3. Best Actress
Angela Lindvall - Maria
Cynthia Erivo - Wicked
Demi Moore - The Substance (WINNER)
Karia Sofia Gascon - Emilia Perez
Marianne Jean-Baptiste - Hard Truths
Mikey Madison - Anora
4. Best Actor
Adrien Brody - The Brutalist (WINNER)
Colman Domingo - Sing Sing
Daniel Craig - Queer
Hugh Grant - Heretic
Ralph Fiennes - Conclave
Timothée Chalamet - A Complete Unknown
5. Best Supporting Actress
Ariana Grande - Wicked
Aunjanue Ellis-Taylor - Nickel Boys
Danielle Deadwyler - The Piano Lesson
Isabella Rossellini - Conclave
Margaret Qualley - The Substance
Zoe Saldana - Emilia Perez (WINNER)
6. Best Supporting Actor
Clarence Maclin - Sing Sing
Denzel Washington - Gladiator II
Edward Norton - A Complete Unknown
Guy Pearce - The Brutalist
Kieran Culkin - A Real Pain (WINNER)
Yura Borisov - Anora
7. Best Young Actor/Actress
Alisha Weir - Abigail
Ayla Browne - Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga
Elliott Heffernan - Blitz
Izaac Wang - Didi
Maisy Stella - My Old Ass (WINNER)
Zoe Ziegler - Janet Planet
8. Best Acting Ensemble
Anora
Conclave (WINNER)
Emilia Perez
Saturday Night Sing Sing
Wicked 9. Best Comedy
A Real Pain (JOINT WINNER)
Deadpool & Wolverine (JOINT WINNER)
Hit Man
My Old Ass
Saturday Night
Thelma 10. Best Foreign Language Film
All We Imagine as Light
Emilia Perez (WINNER)
Flow
I'm Still Here
Kneecap
The Seed of the Sacred Fig
11. Best Production Design
Arthur Max, Jille Azis, Eli Griff - Gladiator II
Craig Latrop - Nosferatu
Judy Becker, Patricia Cuccia - The Brutalist
Nathan Crowley, Lee Sandales - Wicked (WINNER)
Patrice Vermette, Shane Vieau - Dune: Part Two
Suzia Davies - Conclave

12. Best Original Screenplay
Brady Corbet, Mona Fastvold - The Brutalist
Coralie Fargeat - The Substance (WINNER)
Jesse Kuntzberg - A Real Pain
Justin Kuritzkes - Challengers
Moritz Binder, Tim Fehlbaum, Alex David - September 5
Sean Baker - Anora
13. Best Adapted Screenplay
Denis Villeneuve, Jon Spaihts - Dune: Part Two
Greg Kwerda, Clint Bentley - Sing Sing
Jacques Audiard - Emilia Perez
Peter Straughan - Conclave (WINNER)
RaMell Ross & Joslyn Barnes - Nickel Boys
Winnie Holzman, Dana Fox - Wicked
14. Best Animated Feature
Flow
Inside Out 2
Memoir of a Snail
The Wild Robot (WINNER)
Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl
15. Best Cinematography
Alice Brooks - Wicked
Greig Fraser - Dune: Part Two
Jarin Blaschke - Nosferatu (WINNER)
Jomo Fray - Nickel Boys
Lol Crawley - The Brutalist
Stephane Fontaine - Conclave
16. Best Song
Beautiful That Way - The Last Showgirl - Miley Cyrus
Compress/Repress - Challengers - Trent Reznor, Atticus Ross
El Mal - Emilia Perez - Zoe Saldana, Karia Sofia Gascon, Camille (WINNER)
Harper and Will Go West - Will & Harper - Kristen Wig
Kiss the Sky - The Wild Robot - Maren Morris
Mi Camino - Emilia Perez - Selena Gomez
17. Best Editing
David Jancso - The Brutalist
Hansjorg Weissbrich - September 5
Joe Walker - Dune: Part Two
Marco Costa - Challengers (WINNER)
Nick Emerson - Conclave

Subha Rajput shares her journey of embodying Maa Parvati and Minakshi on COLORS' 'Shiv Shakti – Tap Tyag Tandav'

Chandigarh: COLORS' 'Shiv Shakti – Tap Tyag Tandav' is all set to take viewers on an emotional ride with the upcoming track featuring the intense love saga of Minakshi and Sundar. As the story unfolds, Sundar (Lord Shiva in human form) and the fierce warrior Minakshi's (an avatar of Parvati) destinies intertwine, sparking a passionate and complex relationship. Actor Subha Rajput, who brings both Maa Parvati and Minakshi to life, shares insights into the challenges and excitement of portraying these contrasting roles in this captivating new chapter of the show.

1. Tell us something about the Minakshi Sundar track?

The Minakshi-Sundar track has only just begun—it's been barely three or four days—but I can promise you this: it's going to be one of the most

unforgettable storylines in Shiv Shakti. For both Ram and me, this is something we've never explored before in the show. Expect a mix of high-voltage drama, intensity, deep love, and pure devotion. It's a track that will entertain, stir emotions, and leave audiences hooked.

2. Tell us about your character. What are the key traits that define her, and how do you relate to her in your portrayal?

Minakshi is born into an Asur family, but at her core, she remains divine. The soul never changes, and destiny always finds its way. Her journey begins in darkness, but she is, and will always be, Parvati's essence—destined to reunite with her Shiva. However, this birth is different, and so is her path. She is fierce, a warrior through and through. Yet, beneath the tough exterior, she has a tender heart—one



she refuses to reveal easily. She's aggressive, strong, and impulsive, shaped by the world she was born into. But warriors, too, have layers, and as the story unfolds, audiences will see the many shades of Minakshi—her strength, her vulnerability, and her evolution.

3. What's been the most challenging part of bringing Minakshi's journey to life?

For me, the challenge lies in making Minakshi feel like an entirely new character, distinct from everything I've done so far in Shiv Shakti. I want the audience to see her as someone completely different, someone who feels fresh, unfamiliar, and unpredictable. That's my biggest test as an actor—to break away from my past performances and give them something they've never seen before. Whether I succeed or not... well, that's for the audience to decide!

4. How different is it to play Minakshi compared to Shakti/Sati/Parvati?

The biggest challenge is the transition. I've been playing Parvati for a long time, embodying her grace, maternal warmth, and unflinching devotion. She is gentle, nurturing, and embodies the essence of divinity. Minakshi, on the other hand, is a stark contrast. She may be a form of the same divine energy, but she was raised in an entirely different world. She's a warrior, impulsive and aggressive. She acts first and thinks later. Shifting from Parvati's serene energy to Minakshi's raw, untamed fire was both thrilling and difficult. But that's the beauty of this journey—playing two extremes of the same soul.

5. Minakshi's journey is filled with power, love, and destiny. If you could take one lesson from her into your personal life, what would

it be?

One powerful lesson Minakshi teaches is this—what's meant for you will always find its way to you. No matter how much you struggle, chase, or resist, destiny will unfold in its own time. You don't need to be desperate; you don't need to fight fate. Trust in the divine timing of the universe, and what's truly yours will come to you.

6. How does Minakshi's dynamic with Sundar differ from the characters of Shakti and Shiv?

Like I said before, at their core, they are still Shiv and Shakti, bound by an eternal connection. But their upbringing, their worlds—everything about them is different in this birth. That's what makes their love story so unique. You've never seen Ram and me like this before. We're stepping into entirely new versions of our characters—ones that feel fresh, unpredictable,

and wildly different from our previous avatars. We, along with our writers, are pushing the boundaries to bring a fresh, dynamic love story to life—one that's high-energy, fun, intense, and deeply engaging.

7. What can viewers look forward to in the Minakshi-Sundar track?

Oh, there's so much in store! If you love Shiv Shakti for its divine love and purity, don't worry—you'll get that and more. This track is packed with fiery chemistry, unexpected twists, humour, and unforgettable moments. It's a whirlwind of emotions—love, war, devotion, and destiny—all colliding in one gripping storyline. We're having an absolute blast shooting it, and I have no doubt that excitement will reach you too. This is going to be an unforgettable ride, and I can't wait for audiences to experience it!

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