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NEWS BRIEFS

Ex-VP Dhankhar admitted to AIIMS after two bouts of unconsciousness

NEW DELHI: Former vice president Jadeshpurkar was on Monday admitted to the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) where he will undergo an MRI after he fell unconscious twice last week, officials said. On January 10, he had "two bouts of unconsciousness" when he went to the washroom. "Today, he had gone to AIIMS for a checkup when the doctors insisted that he should get admitted for tests," an official said.

India-Germany ties to enter 'Limitless' phase in strategic sectors: PM Modi

AGENCY
GANDHINAGAR, JAN 12

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India and Germany, both nations, decided to transform their economic partnership into a "limitless" collaboration, extending deeper cooperation into strategic sectors. Speaking at the India-Germany CEOs Forum, the Prime Minister stated that Chancellor Merz's decision to choose India for his first trip to Asia reflects India's central role in Germany's diversification strategy and indicates high levels of trust. "We have decided to make this seamless economic partnership limitless. This means that along with traditional economic sectors, there will now be deeper cooperation in strategic sectors as well. In the defence sector, we are exchanging a



Modi, Merz inaugurate International Kite Festival

AHMEDABAD: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz on Monday jointly inaugurated the International Kite Festival 2026 at the Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad. The two leaders participated in the festival as part of Chancellor Merz's first official visit to India, highlighting the blend of cultural celebration and diplomatic engagement between the two nations.

growth and optimism. He noted that the India-EU Free Trade Agreement is expected to materialize soon, which will facilitate a new chapter for trade, investment, and bilateral partnerships. The Prime Minister invited German industry to integrate its

Partnership with India top priority for us: German Chancellor

GANDHINAGAR: German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said on Monday that Germany, as the largest country in the European Union, and India, as the world's largest democracy, are bound together by common fundamental values. The German Chancellor, who is on a two-day visit to India and held talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on various bilateral and global issues, described the partnership with India as a "top priority for Germany." He said a "highly dynamic" India and high-tech Germany share vital interests, and it is on this foundation that both countries build a relationship. "Germany, as the largest country in the European Union, and India, as the world's largest democracy, are bound together by common fundamental values. A highly dynamic India and a high-tech Germany share key strategic interests. It is on this foundation that we build our relationship," the German Chancellor said on X.

precision and innovation with India's scale and speed. He assured the forum that the Indian government intends to strengthen cooperation through stable policies and a long-term vision. "The path is clear for you here. I invite German precision and innovation to combine with India's scale and speed."

Institutions upholding ethics in healthcare are welcome in Haryana: CM



CHANDIGARH: Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that all responsible institutions that prioritize ethics, transparency and public welfare while partnering in the state's health goals are welcome in Haryana. Along with a strong public healthcare framework, the role of the private sector in diagnostics and medical services is also extremely important for citizens. The Chief Minister was addressing the inauguration ceremony of the Prem Sagar Cardiac Hospital at the 'Vivekanand Arogya Kendra', operated by Bharat Vikas Parishad Maharana Pratap Trust, Gurugram, located in Sector 12A, on the occasion of Swami Vivekananda Jayanti. Paying tributes to Swami Vivekananda on his 163rd birth anniversary, the Chief Minister also extended greetings to the people of the state on Lohri, Makar Sankranti and Pongal. Haryana Government's continuous endeavour is to make healthcare affordable, accessible and effective. Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that the Haryana Government has consistently worked to ensure that every citizen of the state has access to affordable, accessible and effective healthcare services. Institutions like Vivekanand Arogya Kendra are strengthening these efforts at the grassroots level.

Lok Milnis will act as catalyst in accelerating Punjab's development: CM Mann



**JS SODHI
JALANDHAR, JAN 12**

Braving the biting cold, Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Monday held a Lok Milni in Jalandhar, directly engaging with people from various Assembly constituencies and patiently listening to their grievances. Emphasising that such direct interaction is central to transparent and responsive governance, the Chief Minister said that sustained pro-people initiatives, ranging from free electricity and large-scale employment to healthcare and education reforms, are steadily easing the burden on common families and firmly placing Punjab on the path to reclaim its position as a frontrunner state in the country.

Interacting with people from various Assembly constituencies of Jalandhar, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said that Lok Milnis will be a regular feature of governance as they help the government understand ground realities and resolve public grievances effectively. "The basic aim of these Lok Milnis is to resolve issues faced by the people by streamlining the entire process, thereby giving a fillip to the overall development of the state. Our government is fully committed to providing transparent, effective and responsive governance to every citizen," said the Chief Minister.

The Chief Minister said that the Punjab government is making strenuous efforts to ensure the progress of Punjab and the prosperity of its people. "We are working consistently to restore the pristine glory of Punjab. The day is not far when, due to these sustained efforts, Punjab will once again emerge as a frontrunner state in the country," he said.

Outlining the long-term vision of his government, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said that a comprehensive plan has already been rolled out to carve out a "Rangla Punjab" (happy & prosperous Punjab) for coming generations. "My predecessors remained confined to their palatial palaces, but I have been visiting every nook and corner of the state to usher in a new era of peace, progress and prosperity."

Heartiest Greetings to all on the Occasion of Lohri & Makar Sankranti

साधना-ध्यान और दान-पुण्य की पवित्र परंपरा से जुड़े पावन पर्व मकर संक्रांति एवं लोहड़ी की ढेरों शुभकामनाएं। प्रकृति के इस उत्सव पर उत्तरायण सूर्यदेव से कामना है कि वे देश के मेरे सभी परिवारजनों को सुख-समृद्धि, सौभाग्य और उत्तम स्वास्थ्य प्रदान करें।

- नरेन्द्र मोदी

NEWS BRIEF

Mukesh Nain, VP Blossom Convent School, honoured with 'Naya Bharat Education Excellence Award'



J K Bhatta
CHANDIGARH: Renowned Educationist Principal Mukesh Chaudhary Nainji (Blossom Convent School, Nayagaon-Chandigarh) was honoured with the famous 'Naya Bharat Shiksha Excellence Award' on the occasion of Education Summit-2025. This award is given in recognition of his outstanding contributions, innovative approach, and consistent dedication in the field of education. The 'Naya Bharat Shiksha Excellence Award' is presented to several teachers and professionals who have made outstanding contributions in the field of education, recognising innovation, student development, and quality education. Promoting innovators in education through technology.

Politics being done over issue of 328 sacred saropos must be stopped: Jathedar Giani Kuldip Singh Gargajj

CHARANJIT SINGH ARORA
AMRITSAR: The Acting Jathedar of Sri Akal Takht Sahib, Giani Kuldip Singh Gargajj, said that Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji is the living, eternal Guru of the Sikhs, and every Sikh and follower of Guru Nanak Dev Ji across the world holds deep reverence and devotion towards the



Guru Sahib. He said that with regard to the ongoing issue concerning 328 sacred saropos (scriptures), an inquiry commission headed by S. Ishar Singh was constituted by Sri Akal Takht Sahib. The commission's report clearly states that these sacred saropos were given to the sangat through the collusion of concerned employees and officials, and the prescribed offerings (bheta) were neither deposited into the trust funds nor were bills issued. This matter pertains to financial misappropriation by certain corrupt employees, he said. He said that the Ishar Singh Commission report, which has been approved by Sri Akal Takht Sahib, clearly names 16 accused persons, who are also held guilty by Sri Akal Takht Sahib. In light of the orders issued by Sri Akal Takht Sahib, the Shriromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) has already taken departmental action against these 16 accused. He further recalled that the then Jathedar of Sri Akal Takht Sahib, Giani Harpreet Singh, had also stated from the historic stage of Gurdwara Sri Manji Sahib Diwan Hall on November 17, 2020, that this was a case of administrative corruption in which the concerned employees had embezzled money.

CM Mann inaugurates Punjab's first startup conclave; calls innovation & hard work backbone of startup success

PHAGWARA, JAN 12

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann inaugurated the state's first Startup Punjab Conclave at Lovely Professional University (LPU) in Kapurthala, placing innovation, hard work, and entrepreneurship at the heart of the government's economic vision.

Organised by the Department of Industries and Commerce, Government of Punjab, the Startup Punjab Conclave 2026 emerged as a flagship state-level platform celebrating innovation, entrepreneurship, and the state's rapidly expanding startup ecosystem. With over 100 startups participating, seed grants being disbursed, and industry leaders, investors, incubators, academic experts, and policymakers converging under one roof, the Bhagwant Mann government sent an unambiguous message



of full institutional backing to new business ideas, urging Punjab's youth to become job creators and unveiling "Update and Create" as the new mantra for youth-led growth, asserting that Punjab's future lies in entrepreneurship, not job hunting. Interacting with entrepreneurs at the startup conclave, the Chief Minister said that the government's clear objective is to transform Punjab's youth from job seekers into job givers

and enable them to carve a distinct identity for themselves. "We want the youth of the state to be job givers instead of job seekers, so that they can carve a niche for themselves," he said, adding that Punjabis are natural engineers and born entrepreneurs, which is why they succeed in every endeavour they undertake. The Chief Minister said the Punjab government is fully committed to giving wings to the dreams of Punjabis and assured that no stone would be left unturned in this direction.

Coining the slogan of "update and create," he said, "There is no dearth of funds and the government will help every single idea mooted by business leaders." Sharing his observations from his recent visit to Japan, the Chief Minister said that countries progress because of a clear vision for the future.

Complaint to CM Punjab about poor construction of newly built Arya College road

SHASHI PAL JAIN
KHARAR, JAN 12

A trader from Kharar, Arun Kumar, has sent a complaint to the Chief Minister of Punjab alleging that the Arya College Road, constructed a few days ago, has been built with substandard quality. He stated that the road is quite long and was constructed during the same period as the Gurdwara Akali Daftar Road, and its quality is similar to that road as well.

He mentioned that he had also filed a complaint regard-

ing that road earlier, and after an investigation, charge sheets are being issued to two senior officers. He further alleged that the Arya College Road started deteriorating within a short time of its construction.

He accused the officials of Kharar Municipal Council of showing gross negligence during the construction of the road. He said that a senior council officer had issued statements in newspapers claiming that development works were being carried out properly and that technical

staff were monitoring the construction work. He questioned that if the technical staff was not performing their duties properly, why complaints were not forwarded to senior authorities. He demanded a high-level inquiry into the construction of this road so that the actual situation in the Kharar Municipal Council could be revealed. Meanwhile, the Chief Minister's Office has forwarded this complaint to the Assistant Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Ludhiana, for further investigation.

Firing at Phagwara sweet shop sparks panic

KAPURTHALA (ASHISHPURI): Chaos ensued at the Sudhir Sweets on Hoshiarpur Road in Phagwara when an unknown assailant opened fire at the shop just after 15 minutes it was opened. As per reports, the attackers fired around seven to eight rounds on the shop, creating panic among the public. Fortunately, no one was injured during the firing. Following the incident, the former Union Minister Som Prakash visited the scene and met with the shop owner. He has flagged serious law and order concerns, claiming that the situation in the state has become worrisome and reflect growing insecurity in the state. The police reached the scene and initiated a probe into the matter. Currently, the CCTV footage is being examined and a thorough investigation is taking place. The identity of the attackers and their motive behind the attack is still under examination.

Bains hands-over regularisation certificates to 21 contractual employees of PSEB



SUMER GARG
CHANDIGARH, JAN 12

In a significant move highlighting Chief Minister, Bhagwant Singh Mann led Punjab government's commitment to its workforce, Punjab education minister, Harjot Singh Bains, today handed over regularisation certificates to 21 contractual employees, who were working in Punjab school education board (PSEB) on contractual basis. Mr. Bains informed that 16 packers, 2 cooks, 2 waiters and a driver have been integrated into government serv-

ice under the "Policy for Welfare of Adhoc, Contractual, Daily Wages, Work-Charged and Temporary Employees". While extending the heartiest congratulations to the employees, Mr. Bains stated, "these letters are about handing over dignity, job security and social respect to individuals who have been the vital part of our system. This regularisation is a fulfilment of our moral and electoral promise to ensure that no eligible employee is left in a perpetual state of uncertainty. Their tireless service will now be met with the stability and

benefits they rightfully deserve." The minister emphasized that this step transcends administrative action, representing a core principle of CM Mann-led state government's ethos to protect its employees and provide equitable growth opportunities. This regularisation brings immense relief to the employees and their families, granting them access to PSEB service benefits. It reinforces the government's resolve to address long-standing demands and improve the livelihoods of those serving in non-permanent roles.

Mock drill at Elante Mall to test security preparedness ahead of R-Day



CHANDIGARH, JAN 12

Today, i.e. 12.01.2026, under the direction of Ms. Geetanjali Khandelwal IPS, SP/Operations and under the supervision of Sh. Vikas Sheokand, DSP/Operations to check the preparedness/readiness and coordination between the counter teams of Chandigarh Police and other emergency services of Chandigarh Administration, Chandigarh Police Operation Cell has conducted a Mock drill at Elante Mall, Industrial Area, Phase-I, U.T. Chandigarh, keeping in view of security scenario of U.T. Chandigarh and upcoming Republic Day-2026 celebration.

All emergency services of Chandigarh Administration are participated actively in the

Mock exercise. During Mock drill, at Elante Mall, Industrial Area, Phase-I, U.T. Chandigarh was cordoned off and got evacuated by commandos of Operations Cell. A joint search operation by the HIT Teams of Operation Cell, Bomb Detection Squad and Dog Squad of Chandigarh Police was carried out and the dummy bomb was traced out successfully from CBTL entry of Elante Mall, Industrial Area, Phase-I, U.T. Chandigarh. Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs) of Operation Cell, PCR Vehicles, ambulance from GMSH-16, Dog Squad team, Bomb Squad team, Ambulance from Police Hospital, Sector-26, Dial-112, Fire brigade vehicle, team of Civil Defense, Mobile Forensic Team.

DC Mohali takes timely action, reunites destitute woman sitting in severe cold with her family



SHASHI PAL JAIN
KHARAR, JAN 12

Taking serious note of an incident in which a destitute woman was found sitting late at night on Morinda Road in Kurali amid biting cold, Mrs. Komal Mittal, Deputy Commissioner Mohali, extended prompt assistance and ensured that the woman was reunited with her family.

On the intervening night, a woman was seen sitting in an abandoned condition near the bypass on Morinda Road, Kurali, during extreme cold. Upon learning about the matter, Kurali-based Sukhjinderjit Singh Sodhi, along with his team members Prabhdeep Singh

Sodhi, Raja Singh, Ranbir Singh Laddi, Beant Singh Tony and other associates, reached the spot. At his level, Sodhi immediately brought the matter to the notice of Deputy Commissioner Mohali, Mrs. Komal Mittal.

The Deputy Commissioner Mohali immediately took the matter seriously without any delay and directed Kurali Police and Nagar Council Kurali to take prompt action. Acting Officer Mr. Rajneesh Sood immediately sent a team from the Nagar Council to the spot. Simultaneously, SI Jeet Ram and ASI Shri Chand from Kurali Police, along with woman police officer Amandeep Kaur, also reached the location.

Lohri celebrated with great enthusiasm at HLP Galleria Mall



TILAK RAJ
MOHALI, JAN 12

The festival of Lohri was celebrated with immense joy and traditional fervour across the city and surrounding areas. Specially significant for Punjabis, Lohri brought a festive spirit to homes and public spaces alike. Families who had witnessed weddings or the birth of a son or grandson during the past year celebrated the occasion with special enthusiasm. Children were seen going door to door seeking Lohri, while women sang traditional folk songs. Late into the night, youth and children

danced energetically to the beats of the dhol. Meanwhile, Lohri was also celebrated in a traditional style at malls across Chandigarh, Mohali and the Tricity. At HLP Galleria Mall, the event was organised on the theme "Virsa-e-Rang, HLP De Sang," showcasing the rich Punjabi folk culture and heritage. CM Security Officer Kamal Sisodia graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour. According to the organisers, such cultural celebrations play an important role in connecting the younger generation with their roots and keeping Punjab's vibrant traditions alive.

Lal Chand Kataruchak celebrates Lohri at the old age home, Jhakholari



PATHANKOT (SHARANJEET): Today, a special time was spent with the elders at Birth Ashram Jhakholari, sharing the joys of the holy festival of Lohri. On this occasion, the Lohri dhuni was lit together with the elders and the joys of the festival were celebrated by distributing traditional peanuts and rice cakes. While talking to the elders, Cabinet Minister Lal Chand Kataruchak said that when the elders place their hands on the head with trembling hands and bless, one feels that the greatest wealth in the world lies in these blessings.

Speaking on the occasion, the Cabinet Minister said that the elderly are the capital of our society, under whose experiences we have grown up. It is the moral duty of all of us to respect and take care of the elderly. This is a priceless gift that everyone should appreciate. Cabinet Minister Lal Chand Kataruchak further said that it will always be my prayer that this smile always remains on the faces of our elders. Our government and administration are always ready to ensure the welfare of the elderly and maintain their dignity. On this occasion, the old age home president Satnam Singh, superintendent Anjali Sharma, other staff and other dignitaries of the area were also present.

Stepping towards holistic development



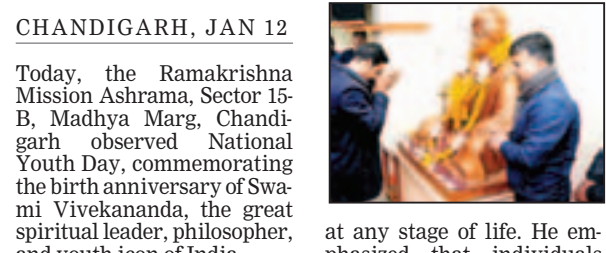
CHANDIGARH: DAV Senior Secondary Model School Sector-8 conducted a special six hour in-House Operation training program on the topic, "Promoting Mental Health and Wellness among Students".

The resource person was Madam Ranjana Bharadwaj, who is an Associate Principal, Bir International School, Baddi, and a renowned CBSE Master Trainer. A UNESCO-NCERT trained resource person and CBSE committee member for making English papers for classes X and XII, Madam Bharadwaj, guided the faculty on nurturing emotional well-being, resilience, and student-centric classroom practical strategies and real-life insights.

The interactive workshop saw active and energetic participation of teachers, reaffirming the school's commitment to keeping educators updated with innovative practices for holistic and learner-focused education.

Principal Mrs. Ritu Dilbagi assured many more such educational programmes for preparing the faculty to face all kinds of classroom challenges. As per the tradition, the resource person was honored with a token of appreciation by the principal before the conclusion of the training program.

National Youth Day celebrated at Ramkrishna Mission, Chandigarh



CHANDIGARH, JAN 12

Today, the Ramkrishna Mission Ashrama, Sector 15-B, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh observed National Youth Day, commemorating the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, the great spiritual leader, philosopher, and youth icon of India.

Shri H. Rajesh Prasad, IAS, Chief Secretary, UT Chandigarh, was the Chief Guest at the event. A special session featuring speeches, songs, and poems by youth speakers highlighted Swami Vivekananda's message of strength, character-building, service, and national regeneration. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Guest, Shri H. Rajesh Prasad, delivered the keynote address on the role of youth in nation-building.

He stated that there is no age limit for learning and that a person can continue to learn

at any stage of life. He emphasized that individuals should not work only for themselves but also for society, as collective efforts contribute to nation-building. He further stated that purity of heart leads to self-confidence. Highlighting Swami Vivekananda's teachings, Sh. Prasad said that God is not confined to temples, churches, or mosques, but resides in everyone's heart and is present everywhere; therefore, serving humanity is equivalent to serving God. He stressed upon Swamiji's clarion call, "Arise, awake, and stop not till you achieve your goal."

Laghu Udyog Bharti appoints Aadesh Joshi as honorary architect advisor

CHANDIGARH, JAN 12

Laghu Udyog Bharti, Chandigarh unit, has appointed renowned architect Mr. Aadesh Joshi as the organization's Honorary Architect Advisor for a tenure of two years, from June 2025 to June 2027.

The appointment has been made under the leadership of Mr. Avi Bhasin, President, Laghu Udyog Bharti, Chandigarh. Mr. Joshi is widely recognized for his extensive experience, technical expertise, and professional excellence in the field of architecture. Through this association, Laghu Udyog Bharti aims to strengthen support for MSME and industrial members in areas such as architectural planning, construction, design optimization, and technical guidance, thereby contributing to sustainable industrial growth in the region. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Mr. Avi Bhasin said, "Industry



The appointment has been made under the leadership of Mr. Avi Bhasin, President, Laghu Udyog Bharti, Chandigarh.

growth is not driven by policies alone, but by sound planning and practical architectural solutions. Mr. Aadesh Joshi's experience will serve as a strong guide for our MSME members. Laghu Udyog Bharti expressed confidence that Shri Aadesh Joshi will extend full cooperation and professional support to the organization and its members throughout his tenure.

Desh Bhagat university hosts grand Lohri festival



AJAY MALHOTRA
FATEHGARH SAHIB, JAN 12

Desh Bhagat University came alive with colour, rhythm, and festive spirit as it celebrated Lohri with extraordinary enthusiasm and cultural grandeur at its campus. The event became a beautiful showcase of Punjab's rich traditions, communal harmony, and youthful vibrance.

The celebration began with the lighting of the traditional Lohri bonfire—an age-old symbol of gratitude, hope, and prosperity. The occasion was graced by H.E. Ms. Pradeepa Mahishini Colonne, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to India, who attended as the Chief Guest. Mr. Baltej Pannu, General Secretary,

Aam Aadmi Party, marked his presence as the Guest of Honour. The event was further enriched by the presence of Chancellor Dr. Zora Singh, Pro-Chancellor Dr. Tajinder Kaur, and Vice Chancellor Dr. Harsh Sadawarti. The campus resounded with energetic Bhangra, graceful Gidda, and soulful Punjabi folk music, as students put together a series of vibrant performances that captivated the entire gathering. The festive atmosphere was amplified by enthusiastic participation from students, faculty, and guests. Addressing the audience, H.E. Ms. Pradeepa Mahishini Colonne expressed her pleasure at being part of the celebration.

SBI inaugurates digital banking unit at Panchkula, donates 32-seater bus to PU



CHANDIGARH, JAN 12

State Bank of India, Chandigarh Circle, today marked an important milestone with an opening of its Digital Banking Unit (DBU) at Sector 26, Panchkula, and the donation of a 32-seater bus to Panjab University under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.

The Digital Banking Unit was inaugurated by Shri Rama Mohan Rao Amara, Managing Director (Retail Business & Operations), State Bank of India, in the gracious presence of Shri Krishan Sharma, Chief General Manager, SBI Chandigarh Circle and other dignitaries.

This DBU features 24x7 self service facilities and is a specialised, technology-driven branch, established in line with RBI guidelines, with a focus on paperless, secure, and customer-friendly digital banking. It will enable customers to access a wide range of banking services efficiently with minimal cash handling. It will also function as a financial literacy and cyber security awareness centre, helping customers adopt safe digital banking practices. The unit is expected to play a vital role in enhancing customer convenience, improving service efficiency, and reducing dependence on traditional branch banking.

CU of Punjab students shine at AIU Inter-University North Zone Youth Festival 2025-26



BATHINDA (ANANTDEEP KAUR): Students of the Central University of Punjab (CU Punjab) delivered an outstanding performance at the 39th AIU Inter-University North Zone Youth Festival (UNIFEST) 2025-26, held from January 6 to 10, 2026, bringing laurels to the university. The festival was organised by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and serves as a qualifying platform for the Inter-University National Youth Festival.

Showcasing excellence across cultural and literary domains, CU Punjab secured the Overall Fourth Position in the North Zone, marking a significant achievement among participating universities. In the Rangmanch (Theatre) category, the university emerged as First Runner-Up (Overall).

CU Punjab students excelled in several individual events, winning First Position in Skit; Second Position in Mime, Indian Group Song, Ghazal and Hindi Speech; Third Position in English Speech; Fourth Position in English Debate; and Fifth Position each in Classical Vocal Singing and Rangoli. The wide range of achievements reflects the versatility, creativity, and dedication of the students.

Notably, winners in Skit, Mime, Indian Group Song, Ghazal, Hindi Speech, and English Speech have qualified for the AIU 39th Inter-University National Youth Festival 2026, scheduled to be held at Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai (Tamil Nadu) from March 10 to 14, 2026.

JAITU (JAGDEEP SINGH GILL):



Under the leadership of Dr. Pragna Jain SSP Faridkat, Faridkat Police is continuously taking strict action against the bad elements. Under this, under the guidance of Shri Jageshwar Singh Garaya SP (Investigation) Faridkat and under the direction of Shri Iqbal Singh DSP (Sub-Division) Jait, success has been achieved in arresting a person who was selling oil by selling it in Bajakhana police station. The arrested person has been identified as Mohammad Akbar Alam, alias Mohammad Sarwar Alam, a resident of village Aamna in Purnia district of Bihar, who was staying at a dhaba near his brother Han Wada. The police party seized 04 drums filled with oil, 19 drums empty, 03 drums of 20 liters, out of which 01 was filled and 02 were empty, and 01 meter along with a pipe. According to the information, under the supervision of Sub Inspector Sakhwinder Singh, Chief Officer of Bajakhana Police Station, the police party along with Havildar Varinder Singh was at the village Wada Bhaikka bus stand for checking suspicious persons when

NEWS BRIEF

Amarjit Singh Sandoa congratulates Gulneet Singh Khurana on his promotion as DIG



BAHADURJEET SINGH RUPNAGAR: Former MLA from Rupnagar assembly constituency Amarjit Singh Sandoa congratulated IPS Gulneet Singh Khurana on being promoted to the post of DIG. In this regard Sandoa paid a courtesy call on DIG Gulneet Singh Khurana and honored him and highly appreciated his administrative abilities. On this occasion, Sandoa said that Gulneet Singh Khurana served his tenure as SSP in Rupnagar district very successfully, fairly and honestly. He said that during his posting in Rupnagar, Gulneet Singh Khurana emerged as a symbol of honesty and became known as a honest officer. Along with strengthening the law and order, he further increased the trust of the common people in the police administration. Sandoa said that as Gulneet Singh Khurana made unprecedented efforts to crack down on crime, launch a strict campaign against drugs and stop illegal activities.

Govt redraws Punjab's public transport map

CHANDIGARH: Punjab's public transport system is set for a fundamental transformation as the Bhagwant Singh Mann-led Government undertakes one of the most comprehensive expansions of state-run bus services in recent years. The decision to add 1,279 buses to the government-operated fleet is not merely an exercise in numbers, it reflects a clear policy choice to prioritise affordability, safety, accessibility and last-mile connectivity for ordinary citizens across urban and rural Punjab. At present, Punjab operates 2,267 buses, with 1,119 under PUNBUS (Punjab State Bus Stand Management Company Limited). The Mann Government has approved a calibrated expansion through both direct procurement and leasing, ensuring rapid augmentation without compromising fiscal prudence. Of the total additions, 796 buses will be purchased outright while 483 will be inducted under the kilometre scheme, allowing the State to respond flexibly to demand patterns and route requirements.

Centre delaying Dhuri ROB NOC; tenders ready; Dhillon



RAJESHWAR PINTU DHURI: The Chairman of Punjab Small Industries and Export Corporation (PSIEC), Dalveer Singh Dhillon, and Chairman of Market Committee Dhuri, Rajwinder Singh Ghullu, today asserted that the Punjab Government is fully prepared to construct the Dhuri ROB. They stated that all administrative, technical, and financial formalities have been completed, and the state will issue tenders the very day the Centre grants the No Objection Certificate (NOC). Addressing a press conference to counter claims made by former MLA Dalbir Singh Goldy, the leaders accused him of misleading residents with "false facts." Mr. Dhillon revealed that the Punjab Infrastructure Development Board (PIDB) has already reserved Rs 54.76 crore for the project. "This is clear proof of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's commitment."

Agarwal sewa samiti organizes annual family reunion ceremony



SURINDER DAMDAMI KOTKAPURA: Agarwal Sewa Samiti, Kotkapura organized its annual family reunion function at the local Sangam Palace. The function was presided over by the committee president Sheetal Goyal and was attended by the organization's chairman Ashok Mittal, vice chairman Om Prakash Goyal and patron Advocate Amrit Bansal. Around 125 members of Agarwal Samiti along with their families graced the function. The program began with a eulogy to Maharaja Agarsain. First, the festival of Lohri was celebrated as per traditional customs, with committee office bearers and members lighting the fire and praying for happiness, peace and prosperity. This was followed by a cultural and religious program, in which cultural performances were performed by the family children of the committee members, and the Kapil Kohli Group from Jalandhar, who presented religious tableaux, added to the grandeur of the event. A charming tableau depicting Maharaja Agarsain was also displayed. Conducting the program, committee secretary Swatntra Goyal and joint secretary Rajwan Jain welcomed everyone, shared the committee's contribution to social service, and thanked everyone for their support. In their addresses, the speakers highlighted the unity, cooperation and social responsibility of the Agarwal community, and gave a message to carry forward the traditions of the community. Children who presented cultural performances were presented with mementos, and the winners of the religious question and answer competition were also felicitated.

Sarpanch murder case cracked: Seven including two shooters arrested

GAURAV GOEL
CHANDIGARH, JAN 12

Cracking the murder of former Sarpanch from Valtoha, Jharmal Singh, within days, Commissionerate Police Amritsar has sent a strong and unmistakable message to organised crime by arresting seven accused, including two shooters, in a decisive blow to the Prabh Dasuwal gang. Punjab's Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav reiterated Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann's zero tolerance policy against organised crime, asserting that criminals operating in Punjab "will not be able to hide even in hell" and warning that anyone involved in violence will be tracked down from any nook, within or outside the country, to face the law.

Police investigations have established gangster Prabh Dasuwal as the mastermind behind the murder, committed due to old enmity, underscoring the pre planned and targeted nature of the crime. The DGP, accompanied by



Additional Director General of Police Counter Intelligence Amit Prasad, Inspector General of Police Headquarters Dr Sukhchain Singh Gill and Commissioner of Police Amritsar Gurpreet Singh Bhullar, said the swift breakthrough reflected the firm resolve of Punjab Police to act decisively against organised crime. Providing details of the arrests, DGP Gaurav Yadav said the accused have been

identified as Sukhraj Singh alias Gunga (20) of Thakkarpura in Tarn Taran, Karamjeet Singh (23) of village Passanwal in Gurdaspur, Jobanpreet Singh (19) of village Bhai Ladhu in Tarn Taran, Harpreet Singh alias Happy (27) of village Bahadur Nagar in Tarn Taran, Jobanpreet Singh (20), Kulwinder Singh alias Kinda (20) and Armandeep Singh (18), the latter three residents of village Kalsian Kalan in Tarn Taran.

He said Sukhraj Singh alias Gunga has a prior criminal history involving theft and Arms Act cases and was also involved in the Rajwinder Singh alias Raj, Sarpanch murder case. DGP Gaurav Yadav said investigations revealed that gangster Prabh Dasuwal had old enmity with the deceased former Sarpanch and had even fired at him earlier, clearly indicating a pre planned and well orchestrated conspiracy.

Govt working in mission mode to make Punjab crime-free: Kuldeep Singh

CHARANJIT SINGH ARORA
AMRITSAR, JAN 12

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Monday categorically stated that Punjab is completely safe and that law and order in the state is firmly under control under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, asserting that the government is enforcing a strict zero-tolerance policy against crime, gangsterism and violence.

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has intensified its offensive against gangsters in Punjab, delivering a decisive blow on Monday as Punjab Police arrested wanted shooters in two separate cases from Chhattisgarh and West Bengal. Calling it a clear message from the Bhagwant Mann government, AAP Punjab Chief Spokesperson and MLA Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal said the government is determined to hunt down criminals from any corner, even



the depths, and reaffirmed that the AAP government is working in full mission mode to make Punjab completely crime-free. Meanwhile, addressing a press conference in Amritsar, AAP Punjab Chief Spokesperson and MLA Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal praised the Punjab Police for delivering concrete results on the ground and said the Bhagwant Mann government is fulfilling every promise it made to the people. He informed that Punjab Police achieved a major breakthrough by arresting all seven accused involved in the murder of Valtoha Village Sarpanch Jarmal Singh, who was shot in Amritsar, within just eight

days. Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal said the Counter Intelligence wing of Punjab Police, in coordination with central agencies and police forces of other states, executed the operation with precision. "The accused had taken shelter in Bihar Patna, Nanded and Raipur in Chhattisgarh, but Punjab Police tracked CCTV footage for nearly 110 kilometres and pursued them relentlessly across states," he added. He further informed that Tarn Taran Police arrested three more accused, Kulwinder Singh Kinda, Armandeep Singh and Harpreet Singh, who arranged the weapons and the motorcycle used in the crime. "The two main accused arrested from Chhattisgarh will be brought to Punjab within the next one or two days, after which significant revelations are expected," said the AAP Punjab Chief Spokesperson. Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal said these murders are being orchestrated by handlers sitting abroad who arrange funding and weapons locally.

Foolproof security arrangements in place for Maghi Mela at Sri Muktsar Sahib



SRI MUKTSAR SAHIB: Ahead of the historic and sacred Maghi Mela, Special Director General of Police (Special DGP) Law and Order Punjab Arpit Shukla on Monday conducted an extensive review of all security, traffic, and public convenience arrangements in Sri Muktsar Sahib to ensure the event passes off smoothly and securely.

The three-day annual Maghi Mela to commemorate the martyrdom of the Forty Liberated Ones (Chali Mukte) will be held at Sri Muktsar Sahib from January 13 to January 15, 2026.

The Special DGP, accompanied by Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Faridkot Range Nilambari Jagdale and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sri Muktsar Sahib Abhimanyu Rana, undertook a detailed inspection of the Rally venue, vehicle and bus parking lots, Police Saanjh Help Desks, sensitive locations, and nakas established across the city.

Notably, the entire area has been systematically divided into seven sectors and a force of over 6000 police personnel, under the supervision of gazetted rank officers, have been deployed to ensure the safety, orderly movement, and comfort of the lakhs of devotees expected to visit the Mela. Special DGP Arpit Shukla said that a multi-layered surveillance system including 100 CCTV cameras at 37 key locations, two drone teams for aerial monitoring of crowded and sensitive areas.

Mundian hands over appointment letters to newly inducted employees

CHANDIGARH, JAN 12

Punjab Water Supply and Sanitation Minister Hardeep Singh Mundian, on Monday, handed over appointment letters to 12 newly inducted Group-D employees of the Water Supply and Sanitation Department, here at Punjab Bhawan. The appointments were made under the Punjab Government policy for compassionate employment to support families facing distress due to the death of the sole earning member.

The Cabinet Minister informed that among the 12 appointees, one has been appointed as Clerk, eight as Sewadars, one as Safai Sewak and two as Helper Technical. He said, these appointments are a decisive step by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann led Punjab government to ensure timely support to affected families while strengthening the departmental workforce. As sailing the previous Congress government, Hardeep Singh Mundian said, "despite clear provisions, compassionate ap-



pointments were ignored and delayed."

He pointed out that two of the newly appointed candidates lost their fathers in 2017 and 2018, respectively but were denied employment during the Congress regime. He said the Mann government has corrected this injustice by taking prompt and fair decisions.

Expressing happiness while handing over the appointment letters, the Cabinet Minister said the Mann government is committed to inclusive development with equal focus on the welfare of all sections of society. He congratulated the new appointees, say-

ing that the government has fulfilled its responsibility by providing them secure employment.

He expressed confidence that the new employees will discharge their duties with honesty and dedication and contribute to the overall development of Punjab. Prominent amongst others who were present included Harpreet Singh, Head of Department and Chief Engineer of the department. The newly appointed candidates along with their family members expressed gratitude to the Cabinet Minister and the Punjab Government on receiving the appointment letters.

3 arrested on charges of attacking Punjabi singer Gulab Sidhu



BALWINDER AZAD
BARNALA, JAN 12

Police have arrested three persons on charges of allegedly planning to kill famous Punjabi singer Gulab Sidhu of Punjab. Giving information in this regard, Mohammad Sarfaraz Alam SSP Barnala said that under the guidelines issued by the Deputy Director General of Police Punjab Chandigarh, under the campaign launched by Barnala Police against gangsters and other bad elements, SPD Ashok Kumar, DSP Satwinder Singh Bains, CIA Staff Handiyya under the leadership of Baljit Singh in-charge and S.I. Charanjit Singh Police Station In-charge City to Barnala received information that Baljinder Singh alias Kinda has formed a gang which is used to taking bribes from

traders and celebrities etc. Against whom several cases have already been registered, according to the information, Baljinder Singh along with his associates is sitting in the barnala-moga bypass to carry out some incident. The police party took immediate action and arrested Baljinder Singh and his associates along with illegal weapons and vehicles. The accused have been identified as Baljinder Singh alias Kinda son of Darshan Singh resident near old bus stand Kotdunna, Balwinder Singh alias Binder Mann son of Baldev Singh resident of Kotdunna, Gurvinder Singh alias Gill son of Gurjant Singh resident of Gill Patti Joga, from whom a country-made pistol 32 bore with magazine three cartridges one dummy pistol, four mobile phones, wooden stick.

Safai Sevak Union and welfare associations conducts protest march



SUKH NAHAR
JAGRAON, JAN 12

The Safai Sewak Union, Municipal Council Jagraon, organized a protest march in the city demanding a permanent solution to the garbage problem. Various social and religious organizations of Jagraon participated in the march. The participating organizations included Nagar Sudhar Sabha President Master Avtar Singh, Sanjha Pension Front President Balwinder Singh, Rural Labour Union Misal President Madan

Lal, Kar Bhalu Ho Bhalu President Amit Arora, members of Green Mission Punjab team Satpal Deharka, Kanchan Kumari, Dhanjal, Master Har Narayan Singh, Lions Club Mid Town President Rajinder Kumar Jain, Dr. Rajinder Sharma (District President, Bharatiya Janata Party), Amit Kalyan (Urban President, Central Valmiki Sabha India), social worker Rimpy Ladhar Uge, Sarpanch Khwaja Bajju Balwinder Singh, Rajinder Kumar Kaka, along with other aware citizens of the city.

Dr. Darpan Ahluwalia, assumes charge as SSP, Khanna



AMRISH ANAND
DORAHA, JAN 12

Dr. Darpan Ahluwalia, IPS, formally assumed charge as the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) of Police District Khanna today. On this occasion, a contingent of Khanna Police personnel presented a guard of honour and accorded him a ceremonial welcome.

After taking over charge, Dr. Ahluwalia interacted with senior police officers and staff and reviewed the overall law and order situation in the district. He emphasized that

maintaining public safety, strengthening crime prevention, and ensuring effective delivery of police services would remain the top priorities of the district police. Dr. Ahluwalia assured the residents of Khanna district that the functioning of Khanna Police would be fair, impartial, and transparent. He stated that public grievances would be addressed on a priority basis and that efforts would be made to further strengthen public trust in the police through accountability and professionalism.

Sehat Bima Yojana to be formally launched from January 22: Dr Balbir Singh

LK BANSAL
MOHALI, JAN 12

Punjab Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Balbir Singh today announced that the Mukh Mantri Sehat Bima Yojana will be formally launched across Punjab from January 22, marking a major step towards universal health coverage in the state. Under the scheme, every family in Punjab will be entitled to cashless medical treatment up to Rs 10 lakh per year.

Addressing a review meeting with the Mohali district administration and Health Department regarding the registration process, the Health Minister informed that pilot registration for the scheme will commence from tomorrow in district Mohali at eight paces. Residents with Punjab Adhaar



Card and Voter Card will be eligible for the benefit, he added.

Dr Balbir Singh further said that around 650 private health facilities and all medical colleges and Universities of the state, have already been empanelled under the scheme to ensure wide accessibility of quality healthcare services. He added that existing Ayushman Bharat Sehat Bima beneficiaries will also be provided an additional health cover of Rs 5 lakh, thereby significantly enhancing their overall insurance

coverage. Giving details of the arrangements in Mohali, the Health Minister said that the district has identified 274 registration sites, including Common Service Centres (CSCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs), Sub-Divisional Hospitals and the District Hospital. He informed that registration will start tomorrow at eight identified locations in Gharuan and Derabassi health blocks, following which it will be expanded across all designated sites.

Harshita brings glory to Miri Piri Khalsa academy with gold at National Taekwondo

KULWINDER KARWAL
SARDULGARH, JAN 12

Miri Piri Khalsa Academy was a proud moment when its talented student Harshita secured a gold medal at the national level in Taekwondo in the Under-14 category during the 69th School Games 2025-26. With this remarkable achievement, Harshita not only brought laurels to her school but also enhanced the pride of Punjab.

During the competition, Harshita delivered an outstanding performance, defeating skilled players from across the country and showcasing her exceptional talent. Her success is being attributed to her rigorous training, unwavering dedication, and the systematic guidance provided by her coaches.



On this occasion, school Principal Pradeep Soni, Chairman Inderjit Singh, teachers, and fellow students congratulated Harshita on her achievement.

The school management stated that her success would serve as a source of inspiration for other students and expressed confidence that the academy's students would continue to bring recognition to the city and district in the future.

Warm welcome accorded to both cabinet ministers at Lehra Gaga following approval for establishment of a Medical College

GURMAIL SINGH SANGATPURA
LEHRAGAGA, JAN 12

The Punjab Government has approved the adjustment of staff members of Baba Hira Singh Bhattal Institute of Engineering and Technology on deputation against vacant posts available in the Department of Technical Education and Industrial Training, as well as in autonomous institutions functioning under this department. Approval has also been granted for the establishment of a Medical College on the premises of the closed college. Cabinet Ministers Harpal Singh Cheema and Barinder Kumar Goyal were accorded a warm welcome upon their arrival at Lehra Gaga today.

The staff of the institute and residents of the city extended a cordial reception to



both Ministers, felicitated them, and expressed their gratitude to the Punjab Government for these initiatives. Addressing the gathering at Lehra, Cabinet Minister Harpal Singh Cheema and Cabinet Minister Barinder Kumar Goyal stated that, owing to the tireless efforts of the Punjab Government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, the college is

now set to restart, and doctors will be trained here. This Medical College will cater to the Moonak and Khanauri regions, and hospitals in these areas will also function through this institution. Nursing classes will commence here next year, and a Dental College will also be started very soon. In addition, MD and MS courses will be introduced.

MRSPTU reviews academic reforms, skill initiatives with affiliated colleges of Sangrur and Barnala



BATHINDA (ANIL VERMA): With a clear focus on reviewing academic reforms and strengthening institutional coordination, Maharaja Ranjit Singh Punjab Technical University (MRSPTU), Bathinda organised an interactive review meeting with its affiliated colleges from Sangrur and Barnala districts under the outreach initiative "University Aapke Dwaar (MRSPTU at Your Doorstep)". The programme was held at Bhai Gurdas Group of Colleges, Sangrur. The meeting was chaired by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Kumar Sharma and witnessed the participation of Chairmen, Directors, Principals and senior representatives of 20 affiliated colleges from the two districts. The interaction aimed to foster closer engagement between the University and its affiliated institutions while ensuring alignment with evolving academic and regulatory priorities. Addressing the gathering, Prof. Sharma said the initiative is designed to deepen coordination, communication and academic collaboration across the MRSPTU ecosystem. He led focused deliberations on the effective implementation of NEP-2020, academic audits, examination reforms, introduction of need-based programmes.

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA: Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has expressed grief over the fire incident that broke out on Sunday night in Arki market in Solan district, in which an eight-year-old child was reported to have died. As soon as the information was received, the Chief Minister instructed the Deputy Commissioner of Solan to immediately carry out relief and rescue operations. He said that fire engines were pressed into service besides

fire vehicles from the Arki Fire Service, along with fire vehicles from Boileaugang in Shimla district, Banalgi in Solan district and the Ambuja Cement Company were immediately sent to the spot. The fire has now been brought under control and relief and rescue work was on war footing. He said that local MLA Sanjay Awasthi was present at the site and was overseeing the rescue operations. Two people were injured in the incident and were being treated at the Civil Hospital in Arki.

NEWS BRIEF

Sports keep youth away from drugs and teach them discipline and leadership: Gaurav Kumar



AVINASH CHAUHAN

AMB: The volleyball tournament held at Daulatpur College concluded successfully in an atmosphere of sportsmanship and enthusiasm. Gaurav Kumar, President of Swami Vivekananda Seva Trust, Chiripurni, attended the event as the chief guest. He was given a grand welcome and honor by the organizing committee. Gaurav Kumar said that Swami Vivekananda's thoughts are a guiding light for today's youth. Sports not only keep the body healthy but also develop discipline, self-confidence, team spirit, and leadership skills in youth. He urged youth to stay away from social evils like drug addiction and instead engage in sports and nation-building.

State govt gifts chilgoza saplings to Bhutan, CM flags off vehicle

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, JAN 12

Strengthening the long-standing friendly and amicable relations between India and Bhutan, Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today flagged off a vehicle carrying Chilgoza (pine nut) saplings as a gift to the kingdom of Bhutan from the State Secretariat today. On this occasion, the Chief Minister said that India and Bhutan share warm and cordial relations and this green initiative will further strengthen the bond of friendship between the two countries. He said that Himachal Pradesh and Bhutan have similar Himalayan natural heritage. The Himachal Pradesh Forest Department would also provide Chilgoza seeds worth Rs. 5 lakh to Bhutan soon. In addition, training would be given to Bhutan's forest officials on how to



grow Chilgoza plants. A team from Bhutan's Forest Department would soon visit Himachal Pradesh for this purpose. The state government would involve local women's groups in Chilgoza-based activities and provide them with financial

support. Efforts related to Chilgoza cultivation and development would be further expanded. The Chief Minister said that earlier also, 50 kilograms of Chilgoza seeds had been provided to Bhutan. Chilgoza is a unique and highly valuable

species of the western Himalayas. It is closely linked with environmental protection, biodiversity and local livelihood. The Chief Minister said that the present state government was taking several steps to promote forest conservation and expand forest cover.

As a result of government efforts, the forest area of the state has increased by about 55 square kilometers. This year, plantation work was being carried out on around 9,000 hectares of forest land under various schemes and projects, with 60 percent fruit-bearing plants. To increase the green cover 600 hectares of plantation was being done on barren hills under Chief Minister Van Vistar Yojana and for forest protection and management, 2,019 Van Mitras have been appointed since 2019.

Mercury improves across state; fresh western disturbance likely from Jan 15



AGENCY
SHIMLA, JAN 12

UNI After two days of biting cold, minimum temperatures showed a marked improvement across Himachal Pradesh on Monday, bringing partial relief to residents. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said mid-hill regions recorded a rise of three to four degrees, while temperatures in tribal areas also improved by two to three degrees, though several places there continued to remain under sub-zero conditions. The

improvement was most visible in the state capital, where Shimla recorded a minimum temperature of 8.8 degrees, around six degrees above normal. Other mid-hill and lower hill stations also witnessed a noticeable rise, indicating a temporary easing of the cold wave conditions that had paralysed normal life earlier. Sub-zero temperatures were still reported from tribal and high-altitude stations, arranged in increasing order as follows: Kukumseri remained the coldest at minus 9.6 degrees, followed by Tabo at minus 7.8 degrees.

In biting cold of Pangti valley, teacher Devi Charan is shaping young futures

SUBHASH MAHAJAN
CHAMBA, JAN 12

When a thick white blanket of snow covers the mountains and temperatures plunge far below zero, life in the remote Pangti valley of Chamba almost comes to a standstill. Yet in the village of Finduru, there is one home where the sound of lessons continues even during the harsh winter holidays. This is the home of Devi Charan, a devoted teacher who has turned his house into a classroom. A government school teacher and headmaster at the Primary School, Findpar, Devi Charan has been quietly setting an inspiring example for the past 30 years. During the winter vacations, when most people stay indoors to escape the freezing cold, he



opens his doors to children. Every year, around 25 to 30 students receive completely free coaching at his home. His aim goes far beyond basic learning. Devi Charan prepares children from the rural and tribal belt for major competitive and scholarship examinations, including the Jawahar Navodaya

Vidyalaya entrance test, Eklayva Model Residential School entrance, Sainik School admissions and various scholarship exams. Thanks to his sustained efforts, students from the far-flung Pangti valley are regularly making it into prestigious institutions, bringing pride to the region.

Govt launches dedicated senior citizen OPD above 70 yrs

AGENCY
SHIMLA/BILASPUR, JAN 12

The Himachal Pradesh government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, is continuously taking effective and welfare-oriented steps in the health sector, giving top priority to the interests of the public.

In line with this approach, the Himachal Pradesh government has launched a dedicated Senior Citizen OPD for senior citizens above 70 years of age. This special facility has already been implemented in major hospitals across the state, providing relief to the elderly from the problem of standing in long queues and ensuring they receive timely medical consultation and



treatment. In accordance with the Chief Minister's announcement, a dedicated Senior Citizen OPD has also been started at the Regional Hospital in Bilaspur district.

Giving information in this regard, Medical Superintendent Dr. A.K. Singh said that the dedicated OPD for senior citizens above 70 years of age is being operated in Room No. 209 at the Regional Hospital.

He said that senior citizens suffering from age-related diseases are being treated on a priority basis in this OPD.

Dr. A.K. Singh informed that under the dedicated Senior Citizen OPD, a comprehensive health check-up of senior citizens is being conducted, which includes assessment of physical, mental, psychological and social aspects. He said that in old age, more than one chronic disease such as diabetes, hypertension, joint problems, and memory-related illnesses are common, which require coordinated and continuous medical care. Through this OPD, such patients are being provided with proper consultation and treatment facilities at a single location.

Apple growers supplying over 100 boxes must submit land records

AGENCY

SHIMLA: Apple growers producing more than 100 boxes of apples in Himachal Pradesh will be required to submit land ownership details while claiming payments under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), according to the Managing Director of the HPMC. The MD said that as per the revised MIS guidelines, growers supplying over 100 boxes must furnish revenue documents such as Khata and Khatoni to establish land ownership and ensure proper verification of claims. "The measure has been introduced to bring greater transparency and prevent misuse of the scheme in cases involving large quantities of produce," he said. At the same time, the Managing Director clarified that apple growers producing less than 100 boxes under MIS have been exempted from submitting land records. This relaxation has been provided to reduce procedural burden on small and marginal farmers and to facilitate quicker settlement of their claims. He said the revised documentation requirement would not affect genuine growers and that HPMC is committed to ensuring the timely disbursement of MIS payments once the required records are verified. "The corporation is also working to streamline procedures so that payments reach farmers without unnecessary delay," he added. The clarification comes amid concerns raised by growers over delays in MIS payments and increasing documentation requirements. Farmer bodies have urged HPMC to ensure that the verification process remains farmer-friendly and does not result in prolonged withholding of dues.

Agrima Kanwar wins Gold at 4th Digvijay Memorial National shotgun championship



AVINASH CHAUHAN

AMB: Agrima Kanwar, an 18-year-old skeet shooter from Daulatpur Chowk, Una district, Himachal Pradesh, won the gold medal in the Youth (Women) Category at the 4th Digvijay Memorial National Shotgun Shooting Championship held in Bhopal (MP) from 08 Jan to 11 Jan 26. Earlier in 2025, she represented Himachal Pradesh at the Khelo India Youth Games, where she secured the silver medal in women's skeet shooting at the national level. Her consistent performances earned her selection to represent India at multiple international competitions during the year. Agrima competed at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup in Nicosia, Cyprus (May 2025), the Asian Shooting Championship in Kazakhstan (August 2025), and the ISSF Junior World Cup in New Delhi (October 2025), all in women's junior skeet shooting. She is currently pursuing Political Science (Honours) at Lady Shri Ram College for Women, University of Delhi, and is successfully balancing her academic commitments with high-performance sport. Expressing her views after the achievement, Agrima thanked her parents, grandparents and coaches for their constant support and said she remains focused on continuing to perform consistently for Himachal Pradesh and India.

Congress leaders' 'MGNREGA Bachao Sangram' bold and revolutionary step: Jagat Ram Sharma

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA, JAN 12

National INTUC Secretary and Pradesh INTUC General Secretary Comrade Jagat Ram Sharma has described the "MGNREGA Bachao Sangram" launched by the Congress party's national leadership as a strong and revolutionary step in defence of workers' rights and rural livelihoods. In a statement issued here, Sharma said the MGNREGA Act, 2005 was enacted after sustained struggles by INTUC and other trade unions and through the efforts of Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh. In 2009, the scheme was named after Mahatma Gandhi, in keeping with his ideals, ensuring 100 days of guaranteed employment to women, Dalits, Adivasis and the rural poor, making it a lifeline for crores of people across the country. He alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, without even consulting the Labour Minister or the Cabinet, had scrapped the old framework and renamed it as "BBG Ram Ji", which he called completely wrong. Sharma said all 12 national trade unions, along with the Congress, have strongly opposed this move. He added that dragging Lord Ram's name into such a policy



change was against religious sentiment, as any criticism of the scheme's shortcomings would inevitably involve invoking that name as well. Sharma said while Congress workers were united in this struggle, the participation of MGNREGA workers themselves was still limited and needed to increase. He also stressed that when Congress mobilises crowds, it must also raise issues such as the four labour codes introduced by the Modi government after repealing 29 labour laws, which, he said, had weakened workers' protections. Recalling the Nehru and Indira Gandhi eras, Sharma said large public sector industries were built to strengthen the nation, but today they were being deliberately run down and sold cheaply to big corporate houses like Ambani and Adani. This, he alleged, had led to soaring inflation and rising unemployment. He suggested that Congress meetings should feature strong spokespersons on different issues who could offer constructive ideas to strengthen the party and the organisation. Sharma also criticised what he called a culture of excessive flattery of big leaders in party meetings, instead of meaningful discussion on the freedom struggle and the Congress's role in nation-building.

New beginning in Palampur: BJP strengthens under leadership of Trilok Kapoor

SANJAY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA, JAN 12

On the birthday of BJP State President Dr. Rajiv Bindal, 129 new families joined the Bharatiya Janata Party, giving him a wonderful birthday gift. These included 101 families who were disillusioned with the Congress party and 28 retired employees. Today was a historically significant and proud day for the Bharatiya Janata Party, especially for the Palampur BJP. Fed up with the anti-people policies, false promises, and failed governance of the Congress party, and impressed by the inclusive approach of BJP Palampur's struggle cell leader Trilok Kapoor, people openly left the Congress and expressed their faith in the pro-people, nationalist, and development-oriented policies of the Bharatiya Janata Party. The results of



BJP leader Trilok Kapoor's dedication to the people of Palampur, immediately after losing the election, are now becoming evident. Addressing the gathering, senior BJP leader Trilok Kapoor launched a scathing attack on the Congress government. He said that the people of the state are completely fed up with the Congress government. The false promises on which the Congress came to power have now proven to be the biggest deception for the people. He said that the Congress made

big promises to gain power, but after coming to power they forgot those promises and plunged the state into debt. Trilok Kapoor clearly stated that Congress's politics has been based solely on lies, deception, and fraud, while the BJP's politics is based on service, good governance, and development. He said that today the people of the state have recognized the true face of the Congress. This is the reason why the Congress's support base is rapidly eroding, and it is moving towards political oblivion.

HRTC retirees in Nurpur express anger over delayed pensions

SANJEEV MAHAJAN
NURPUR, JAN 12

The monthly meeting of the Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) Retired Employees Welfare Forum, Zone Nurpur, was held under the chairmanship of State Vice-President Kripal Pathania. District executive president Ranjit Singh and press secretary Shyam Singh were also present. At the beginning of the meeting, members paid tribute to Ajit Singh and Dilwaj Singh by observing two minutes of silence. Strong resentment was voiced over the non-payment of pensions and other dues. Members said that despite January 12 having passed, the pension for December had not been credited, leaving retired



employees in deep distress. Speakers said the Chief Minister keeps claiming that all dues of transport employees have been cleared, but on the ground medical bills, arrears and pensions are still pending even after three years of the government. The members said that festivals are turning into "black days" for them because of financial hardship. With Lohri approaching, the non-receipt of pensions has pushed many families into

serious difficulty. A unanimous resolution was passed urging the authorities to immediately implement the decisions taken in the January 7 meeting of the Joint Struggle Committee with the Managing Director. The forum also demanded that an official meeting be arranged at the earliest between the Transport Minister and the Joint Struggle Committee so that the issues of retired employees can be addressed.

Environment and Social Welfare program organised in Samote Panchayat Chamba



SANJEEV MAHAJAN

NURPUR: A grand environment and social welfare program was organized by the Arjun Save Earth Foundation in Samote Panchayat, Sihunta Tehsil, Chamba district. The event was graced by Jyotika Mehra who served as the Chief Guest. Other special guests included Jagdish Chandra (President SC Morcha) and Pawan Kumar (Surpuda Panchayat pradhan) 'Scholarship and Educational Initiatives' Brijesh Pathania, Director of the Arjun Save Earth Foundation, shared detailed information regarding the foundation's initiatives. He announced that the foundation is providing scholarships of up to Rs. 7 lakhs for technical, educational, para medical and vocational courses to help rural youth access better employment opportunities. Shivali Sharma (state coordinator of Arjun Save Earth Foundation) also taught people about environmental protection, youth empowerment and women empowerment.

9-Day Maa Baglamukhi Maha Yagya to begin at 51-ft Temple site in Gagret from Jan 19

AVINASH CHAUHAN
AMB, JAN 12

The construction work of Siddha Maa Baglamukhi 16 pillar 51 feet temple is going on at war footing in Gokul Nagar Post Office Sunkali of village Upper Bhanjal of Gagret. Under this work, the work of Dhuna has been completed at the construction site and on the auspicious occasion of this Sankranti, the fire will be lit in Dhuna in which a one day havan will be performed. And a khichdi langar will be organised. Giving this information, the coordinator of the temple construction, Yeti Satyadevanand Saraswati Maharaj, disciple of Mahamandaleshwar Yeti Narasimhanand Giri Ji Maharaj of Shri Panch Dashnam Juna Akhara, said that today he had



held a special meeting with the members of Shri Mahakal Akhara and Sanatanis in which he discussed and expressed concern over the unpleasant incidents happening in the society. He said that in our research we have seen that the death rate of Hindus is increasing at a rapid pace, be it the number of sudden accidents or the number of diseases, our cremation grounds are burning at many places. In which we have found that even the rains of families are getting destroyed. Our research says that the divine powers have

somewhere become angry with us, now we will have to take shelter of Maa Jagdamba and Lord Mahadev. For this purpose, a 9-day Maa Baglamukhi Maha Yagya is being conducted at the temple construction site itself during the Gupt Navratras of this Mag month, whose aim will be the protection of Sanatan Dharma, complete destruction of the enemies of Sanatan Dharma, increase in the lineage of children, mutual brotherhood and unbroken devotion to Maa Jagdamba and Lord Mahadev Shiva.

KARANPREET KARAN BARNALA: Former MP and famous advocate of criminal cases and renowned Sikh thinker Sardar Rajdev Singh Khalsa has been nominated as a member of Shiromani Akali Dal (Punar Surjit) 'Political Affairs Committee' (PAC). With this decision, while Khalsa's political stature has been further elevated, the party has also put its stamp on his services towards the Sikh community and politics. According to an official letter issued by the party's



media in-charge Tajinder Singh Pannu in this regard, under the decision taken by the high command, priority has been given to Rajdev Singh Khalsa's vision and long political experience, due to which Rajdev Singh Khalsa is the only leader from Barnala district who has got the honor of joining the high command. The PAC of the Akali Dal As a member of the (PAC), he will now be directly involved in the future strategies, policy-making and important political decisions of the party.

NEWS BRIEF

Bhagwat Katha at Baba Beli Ram Ji Dera Temple Kotla Kalan Uppar concludes



KISHORI LAL BAINSUNA: Bhagwat Katha was concluded at Baba Beli Ram Ji Dera Temple Patka Kotla Kalan Uppar on Monday. This katha was started from 6th January. Bhagwat Katha was done by National Saint Baba Bal Ji Maharaj. Thousands of devotees were gathered everyday during this seven days katha. Langar parsad was also distributed to devotees after the katha. It is noteworthy that this Bhagwat Katha is organized by the committee of Baba Beli Ram Ji Dera Temple Patka Kotla Kalan Uppar every year.

PM's National Apprenticeship Fair successfully organised at ITI Bhadrakali



AVINASH CHAUHAN AMB: Under the Prime Minister's National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme, as per the instructions of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India and Directorate of Technical Education, Himachal Pradesh, the Prime Minister's National Apprenticeship Fair was successfully organized on Monday at the Government Industrial Training Institute, Bhadrakali. In this fair, apart from ITI passed trainees in various trades, students who passed 10th and 10+2 with vocational subjects also came to register their names for apprenticeship. The importance of apprenticeship in skill development and employment generation was highlighted in the fair. 120 candidates and 18 establishments participated in the fair.

CBI grills actor Vijay on delays, crowd management in Karur Stampede Case

AGENCY NEW DELHI, JAN 12

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday began a detailed line of questioning of actor-turned-politician Joseph Vijay as part of its probe into the Karur stampede case, focusing on alleged delays, crowd management lapses, and organisational responsibilities related to the event. The CBI took over the investigation from the Tamil Nadu Police in October last year following a Supreme Court order. Since then, the agency has been examining the circumstances surrounding the stampede at a political event in Karur. One of the key issues under scrutiny was the alleged seven-hour delay at the venue. Investigators are probing the discrepancy between the programme's scheduled start time and Vijay's actual arrival, and whether the delay contributed to the crowd swelling and loss of



control. The agency also questioned whether party workers on the ground coordinated adequately with the local police and district administration, as the crowd reportedly grew from an estimated 10,000 people to around 30,000. Delays in Vijay's movement and his party workers' movement are being examined to assess their impact on crowd dynamics. Investigators are scrutinising documents related to

permissions sought for the event and are seeking clarity on who organised the Karur programme. Within the party, the CBI is examining the organisational structure to determine responsibility for planning and execution, including who decided to hold the event in Karur and when Vijay was informed. Another focus area is whether Vijay's team conducted any prior risk assessment in

coordination with the district administration, and whether basic arrangements, such as drinking water facilities and designated entry and exit points, were provided for the crowd. The movement of Vijay's modified caravan through the gathering is also under investigation, with the CBI examining how it passed through the dense crowd and whether there was adequate coordination with local police. The agency is further probing when Vijay became aware of the stampede and the sequence of events that followed. Questions on the exact time of his arrival and departure from the venue are also part of the ongoing inquiry. Earlier, actor and Tamilaga Vetrri Kazhagam (TVK) president Vijay arrived in the national capital for questioning by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in connection with the Karur stampede that claimed 41 lives during a party campaign event in September last year.

Bilaspur DC orders urgent repairs to Luhnu sports ground after track damage

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY BILASPUR, JAN 12

In a proactive move to protect vital sports infrastructure, Deputy Commissioner Bilaspur Rahul Kumar on Monday conducted an on-site inspection of the Luhnu sports ground along with officials from the Public Works Department and the Municipal Council. The inspection focused on the synthetic track located near the Luhnu fairground, which has suffered damage due to the rising water level of Govind Sagar Lake. During the visit, it was observed that a significant portion of the retaining wall supporting the synthetic track had collapsed, posing a risk to the structure and affecting its long-term usability. Taking serious note of the situation, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to initiate immediate remedial measures. HIMUDA Board of Directors member Jitendra Chandel was also present during the inspection. The Deputy Commissioner further inspected a blocked drain outside the synthetic track and instructed Municipal Council officials to carry



out immediate repairs to ensure proper drainage and prevent waterlogging that could cause further structural damage. Emphasising the need for swift and coordinated action, he directed Public Works Department officials to prepare detailed estimates and proposals at the earliest so that repair and protective works can commence without delay. Rahul Kumar stated that the safety and preservation of sports facilities and public assets are a top priority for the district administration. He stressed that such infrastructure plays a crucial role in promoting sports and healthy activities among youth and must be maintained with utmost care.

'Mayoral election will have to be held before January 31'

JAGRAJ SINGH SANGHA MOGA, JAN 12

The campaign launched by Civil Society Moga to make people aware in Moga city got a big boost today when the Honorable High Court, while pronouncing its verdict on Civil Writ Petition No. 201 of 9 Congress councilors, ordered the election of Moga Mayor before January 31. Addressing a press conference in this regard, Civil Society Moga Advisor Ajay Gora Sood, Presidium Member Mahendra Pal Loomba, Amarjit Singh Jassal and Balwinder Singh Rode said that after the resignation of the Mayor, Civil Society Moga had put up a large number of posters and banners in the city and on December 26, people had gathered at the Town Hall



Club to raise issues related to warding and election of the Mayor and had identified the issues of Moga city for the upcoming council elections, which had caused an immediate earthquake in the politics of the city. Councilors Gaurav Guddu and Reema Sood had written a letter to hold the election of the mayor and 9 Congress councilors Sahil Arora, Amanpreet Kaur Mann, Tarsem Singh, Ram Kaur, Manjit Kaur Gill, Vijay Khurana, Jaspreet Singh Vicky Sarpanch, Reema Sood and Amarjit Ambi had

approached the Honorable High Court and today the Honorable High Court gave this historic decision, due to which the politics of the city has heated up once again. On this occasion, Civil Society Moga thanked the above councilors for their cooperation and appealed to the councilors to rise above the party level and unite to elect a new mayor and solve the problems of Moga city within the remaining term of the council so that the common people can get relief.

Gaiety marks Lohri celebrations at Rayat Bahra University



LK BANSAL MOHALI: Rayat Bahra University celebrated the festival of Lohri with great enthusiasm and cultural fervour at its Open-Air Theatre, showcasing the vibrant spirit of Punjabi tradition and community bonding. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, faculty members, and guests, creating a colourful and joyous atmosphere. The programme commenced with the arrival of guests, accompanied by soothing Punjabi instrumental music that set a festive mood. The anchor welcomed the gathering and highlighted the cultural and seasonal significance of Lohri, emphasising its association with harvest, gratitude, and togetherness. This was followed by a series of lively cultural performances, including energetic Bhangra and soulful Punjabi folk songs that enthralled the audience. Addressing the gathering, Group Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Sanjay Kumar underlined the importance of preserving and promoting cultural heritage within academic institutions.

Barnala Police foil plot to attack singer Gulab Sidhu, three gang members arrested



KULDEEP SOOD, KARANPREET KARAN BARNALA: Barnala Police, in a major operation under the campaign against bad elements, has arrested three members of a gang who were planning to attack Punjabi singer Gulab Sidhu. During the press conference, District Police Chief Mr. Mohammad Sarfaraz Alam said that the special informant gave secret information to the SHO of Police Station City 2. Charanjit Singh that some people have formed a gang who attack famous personalities and collect extortion by pressuring them. The SSP said that on the basis of this information, SHO Charanjit Singh along with the police party took action in a planned manner and arrested the current Sarpanch of village Koidunna in Barnala district, Baljinder Singh alias Kinda, Balwinder Singh alias Binder Mann and Gurvinder Singh alias Gill near Moga-Barnala bypass. The SSP said that a country-made pistol .32 bore along with cartridges, a dummy pistol, four mobile phones, a wooden stick and a Swift car have also been recovered from these arrested persons.

Guru Nanak Khalsa College Yamunanagar celebrates National Youth Day with Swadeshi Sankalp Rally

RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR, JAN 12

Guru Nanak Khalsa College, Yamunanagar celebrated National Youth Day to commemorate the 163rd birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda Ji with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour. The celebrations were organised by the collective efforts of Department of Physical Education, Department of Social Work, NCC and NSS Units as per the guidelines and directions of Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra. On this occasion, a Swadeshi Sankalp Rally and oath ceremony were organised in which a large number of students and faculty members participated enthusiastically in the programme. The students took a pledge to adopt Swadeshi products and practices for building an Atmanirbhar Bharat. During



the rally, students reaffirmed their commitment towards self-reliance, national unity and social responsibility, inspired by the teachings of Swami Vivekananda. The rally was flagged off by the Principal, Dr. Arvinder Singh Bhalla, who extended his best wishes to the students. In his message, he motivated the youth to follow the path shown by Swami Vivekananda and contribute positively to society through discipline, dedication and service to the nation. Sardar Randeep Singh Jauhar,

President, Governing Body and Managing Committee, also conveyed his message on the occasion and appreciated the efforts of the departments and student volunteers for organising such a meaningful programme. Dr. Sahib Singh, Head, Department of Social Work; Dr. Sanjay Vij, Head, Department of Physical Education; and Dr. Hemant Mishra, Associate Professor, addressed the gathering and encouraged students to actively participate in social, physical and national service activities.

Swadeshi Sankalp Run and Assembly organised at Dyal Singh College, Karnal on National Youth Day

CHAMANLAL KARNAL, JAN 12

On the auspicious occasion of the 164th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda (National Youth Day), Dyal Singh College, Karnal organized a grand Swadeshi Sankalp Run and Swadeshi Sankalp Assembly under the joint aegis of NSS, NCC, Red Cross Society, and the Department of Sports. Students, faculty members, and non-teaching staff of the college participated enthusiastically in the programme. The Swadeshi Sankalp Run commenced from the college playground, proceeded up to Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Chowk, and concluded back at the college campus, covering a total distance of approximately 2 kilometers. Through this run, the youth expressed their firm resolve to promote the use of



indigenous products and contribute towards building an Atmanirbhar (Self-Reliant) India. Following the run, a Swadeshi Sankalp Assembly was organized, during which the inspirational thoughts of Swami Vivekananda were recalled, motivating the youth to play an active role in nation-building. The programme featured Dr. Praveen Kumar Dhanda, Head of the Department of History, as the Chief Speaker, and Shri Devendra Arora, Retired Chief

Manager, UCO Bank and District President, Swavalambi Bharat Abhiyan, as the Distinguished Speaker. The speakers highlighted the relevance of Swami Vivekananda's philosophy in the present context and emphasized Swadeshi values, self-reliance, and patriotism as essential needs of the time. The occasion was further graced by the esteemed presence of Shri Ashok Dua, Retired Manager, Punjab National Bank.

Dr. Ria Mahajan urges cervical cancer awareness and regular screening in Gurdaspur

VERMA

GURDASPUR: In view of the rapidly increasing cases of cervical cancer among women, senior gynecologist Dr. Ria Mahajan of City Hospital (A Unit of EMC Hospitals), Gurdaspur has appealed for greater awareness. She emphasized that with timely identification of symptoms, regular screening, and appropriate treatment, cervical cancer can be prevented and effectively controlled. Awareness, she said, is the strongest weapon against this disease. Dr. Ria Mahajan explained that cervical cancer develops in the lower part of the uterus (cervix) and is primarily caused by infection with the Human Papillomavirus (HPV). In many cases, this infection does not show clear symptoms in its early stages, putting women at risk without their knowledge. Therefore, regular screening is extremely important even in the absence of symptoms. She cautioned that the early warning signs of cervical cancer should never be ignored. Abnormal vaginal bleeding, bleeding between menstrual periods or after sexual intercourse, and bleeding after menopause can be key warning signs. Paying attention to these symptoms at the right time can be life-saving. Dr. Mahajan further added that foul-smelling vaginal discharge, persistent pelvic pain, pain in the lower abdomen or back, and pain during sexual intercourse may also be potential symptoms of cervical cancer. If such symptoms persist for a long time, immediate consultation with a specialist is essential.



Himachal's Trailblazer Renu Negi among 108 Global achievers honoured at Women Prestige Awards 2026

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY BILASPUR, JAN 12

The Women Prestige Awards 2026, held at the Sri Lankan High Commission, emerged as a powerful celebration of women leadership, innovation and social impact, as 108 outstanding women from across the globe were honoured for excellence in diverse fields. The prestigious 6th edition of the awards was organised by Lions Club Delhi Veg in collaboration with Nari Shakti - A New Initiative Foundation, reaffirming a strong commitment to women empowerment and inclusive growth. Among the distinguished awardees was Renu Negi, India's first tribal woman filmmaker from Himachal Pradesh, whose journey has inspired countless



young creators. Renu Negi has carved a unique identity in Indian cinema through her thought-provoking documentaries. Her acclaimed work 'Yak - The Ship of Mountain' earned the Silver Beaver Award for Best Science Film and the Special Award for Technical Excellence in Cinematography at the 8th National Science Film Festival in 2018, bringing national recognition to Himachal Pradesh and tribal storytelling. Her honour at the Women Prestige Awards

2026 stands as a proud moment for the state and a tribute to her creative excellence and perseverance. The grand ceremony was graced by the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, along with diplomats from Sri Lanka, Bosnia, the Czech Republic, Iran, Libya, Egypt, Madagascar and the USA. Eminent dignitaries including Dr. Rashmi Saluja, Chairperson GTTCI, Mrs. Pooja Kapil Mishra, Vice President BJP Mahila Morcha, and Ajay Bhai Ji added prestige to the occasion.

Rana Gurjeet Singh extends warm birthday greetings to Priyanka Gandhi

BUREAU KAPURTHALA:

Congress MLA from Kapurthala Rana Gurjeet Singh, today issued a congratulatory message conveying his birthday greetings and best wishes to Smt. Priyanka Gandhi, general secretary of the All India Congress Committee, on the occasion of her birthday. Rana Gurjeet Singh said that Smt. Priyanka Gandhi's fearless leadership, commitment to democratic values, and steadfast resolve to be the voice of the people have infused the congress party with renewed direction and strength across the nation. Her consistent struggle for social justice, women's empowerment, and the rights of farmers and workers stands as a beacon of hope in the India's political landscape. He further added that Priyanka Gandhi's inspiring vision and people-centric politics are igniting fresh enthusiasm among the youth of the nation. Her simplicity, clarity of thought, and deep sensitivity towards public issues continue to uphold and strengthen the rich and robust traditions of the Congress party. Rana Gurjeet Singh prayed for the almighty to bless Smt. Priyanka Gandhi with robust health, long life, and ever-growing strength, enabling her to continue serving the nation and its people with dedication and selfless commitment.



Mayor Komal Saini celebrates National Youth Day with students at NSTI, pays tribute to Swami Vivekananda

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA PANIPAT, JAN 12

Panipat Mayor Komal Saini celebrated National Youth Day with students at the National Skill Training Institute (NSTI) for Women, Panipat, and paid tribute to Swami Vivekananda, recalling his ideals of strength, self-belief and nation building. Interacting with trainees at the institute, Komal Saini said that skilled youth, especially trained women, would play a decisive role in realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a Developed India. She said institutions like NSTI are empowering women by making them self-reliant and are contributing significantly to women's empowerment. The Mayor



was welcomed by NSTI Principal Babita with a bouquet on her arrival. During the visit, Komal Saini also reviewed various skill development and training activities being conducted at the institute. Speaking on the occasion, she said Swami Vivekananda's thoughts

continue to inspire millions of young people even today. She added that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nayab Saini, the country's youth is moving forward with confidence and becoming a strong pillar of a developed India.

NEWS BRIEFS

24.5 grams of heroin seized, accused arrested



JAIBEER RANA THAMBER BARARA:

A police team led by ANC Inspector Rishi Pal, acting swiftly on a tip-off regarding drug possession, arrested the accused, Rifayat Khan alias Nishu, a resident of Barara village near Badi Masjid, Barara, and recovered 24 grams and 5 milligrams of heroin from him. He was remanded to police custody for one day by court order. The accused will be interrogated thoroughly during the remand period. ANC Inspector Rishi Pal stated that his team was on patrol for crime control. The police received information that the accused, who is involved in drug trafficking, would be passing through Adhoya Chowk on foot with the drugs.

Govt fully committed to the interests of farmers: Shyam Singh Rana

BUREAU CHANDIGARH, JAN 12

Haryana Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Sh. Shyam Singh Rana said the state government is fully committed to safeguarding the interests of farmers and that there will be no shortage of funds for any welfare scheme, provided that the available budget is utilized in a proper, transparent and effective manner. He emphasized that the benefits of government schemes must reach the real farmers.

Sh. Shyam Singh Rana was chairing the pre-budget consultation meeting of the Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Department in Chandigarh today. Senior officers of the department participated in the meeting and made detailed presentations on the utilization of the budget allocated in the previous year under various agricultural schemes run by the Central and State Governments, the current financial position, and the projected expenditure for the coming year.

During the meeting, Sh. Rana reviewed the progress of the "Mera Pani Meri Virasat" scheme and described water conservation as a priority for the state. He said promoting alterna-

tives to water-intensive crops such as paddy is the need of the hour and directed officers to create awareness among farmers about crops that yield higher production with less water.

He also laid special emphasis on the scientific and environmentally friendly management of paddy straw



and other crop residues. He said that to effectively tackle the problem of stubble burning, farmers should be provided timely access to machinery, technical support and incentive amounts so as to prevent environmental pollution.

Reviewing the Soil Health Card Scheme, the Agriculture Minister said that soil testing should not remain a mere formality; instead, it should provide farmers with scientific guidance—from sowing to harvesting—on fertilizer use, crop selection and ways to increase productivity. He directed officers to maintain regular interaction with farmers to ensure implementation of the recommendations given in Soil Health Cards.

Sh. Shyam Singh Rana stressed the need to make farms self-reliant in terms of manure and water, stating that balanced use of natural resources is the foundation of sustainable agriculture. He also instructed officials to encourage farmers towards organic farming so that cultivation costs are reduced, soil fertility is maintained, and consumers receive chemical-free and nutritious food grains.

He said that it is the priority of the Haryana Government to economically empower farmers, increase their income and make agriculture a profitable enterprise. For this, departmental officers should work in coordination and ensure effective implementation of schemes at the grassroots level.

Rare confluence of rhythm, discipline, and emotion in Rimpa Siva's tabla recital: Vivek Atray



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, JAN 12

The powerful and deeply expressive tabla performance by internationally acclaimed and renowned Indian woman tabla exponent Rimpa Siva left the audience spellbound. The distinguished guest of the programme, Ex IAS Vivek Atray, former Deputy Commissioner of Panchkula, and motivational Speaker, remarked that Rimpa Siva, who hails from Kolkata and belongs to the Farrukhabad gharana, represents a rare synthesis of rhythm, technical brilliance, and emotional expression in her tabla playing. Her performance elevates the glorious tradition of Indian classical music to new heights.

He said that every stroke emerging from Rimpa Siva's fingers is a living expression of rhythm, beauty, and dedicated practice. While adding new dimensions to the classical tradition of tabla, she held the audience completely captivated and further strengthened the dignity and stature of the Indian tabla art form. She was ably accompanied on sarangi by Ustad Akram Hussain.

The program Named Anant Naad was or-

ganised by Voice of India the music people at Karnal Club Karnal.

On this occasion, the Chief Guest, Karnal Mayor Renu Bala Gupta, congratulated Rimpa Siva and the organisers, stating that Voice of India - The Music People would continue to organise such outstanding classical music programmes in the future as well. She also noted that the institution has consistently organised excellent programmes in the past.

Presiding over the programme, S. P. Chauhan, President of Navchetna Manch, said that Voice of India has always made efforts to provide a platform to Indian classical music alongside film music, thereby giving it a new direction. He added that the organisation has completed 25 years of dedicated service in promoting music, for which it deserves heartfelt congratulations.

Present as special guests, Kapil Atraja, Member of the Staff Selection Commission, and Pandit Kuldeep, President of the Sarawat Brahmin Sabha, especially appreciated this programme organised by Voice of India. On this occasion, Rimpa Siva, who had come from Kolkata, was honoured with the Pandit Jasraj Samman by Voice of India.

Run for Swadeshi organised at Government College, Uklana

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA HISAR, JANUARY 12:

A 'Run for Swadeshi' was organised on Monday at Government College, Uklana under the aegis of the National Service Scheme (NSS) unit. The event was held under the guidance of Principal Rekha Saluja and led by NSS Programme Officer Chandan Singh.

The run aimed to sensitise students and the general public about the use of indigenous products, national consciousness, the concept of Atmanirbhar Bharat and the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Along with NSS volunteers, members of the college staff also participated enthusiastically. Former NSS Programme Officer Dr. Amit Kumar was also present and encouraged the volunteers by actively taking part in the event.

The run began from the college campus, passed



through major nearby routes and concluded back at the college. During the run, volunteers raised slogans such as "Adopt Swadeshi, strengthen the nation" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat", spreading awareness about the importance of using

indigenous products.

At the concluding ceremony, Principal Rekha Saluja lauded the participants and said that such activities help inculcate discipline, patriotism, social responsibility and healthy living among students. NSS Programme Officer Chandan Singh also praised the disciplined and energetic participation of the volunteers and expressed commitment to organising more such awareness programmes in the future.

The event concluded peacefully and successfully, with all participants taking part with enthusiasm and dedication.

Meditation session organised by Agarwal Sabha in Rewari

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA REWARI, JANUARY 11:

A meditation session was organised by Agarwal Sabha, Rewari, in collaboration with the Art of Living at Agarwal Bhawan on Sunday.

Addressing the gathering, Agarwal Women Wing president Mona Goyal said that in today's fast-paced life, meditation plays a vital role in reducing stress and anxiety while improving overall health. Project Chairperson Shefali Goyal and her team welcomed Art of Living members Suman Yadav, Manjeet Kaur and Rahul Yadav, while Sandeep Goyal also greeted Rahul Yadav by presenting garlands.

Art of Living instructor Rahul Yadav guided the participants through warm-up exercises, pranayama and meditation, and explained their importance in daily life.



Members of the Agarwal community, including Mukesh Bhattawala, Surender Agarwal, and women wing members Kalpana Agarwal, Shashi Mittal, Manju Agarwal, Neetu

Agarwal, Yashoda Bansal, Aman Agarwal, Usha Agarwal, Pallavi Agarwal, Rajrani Goyal, Seema Garg and others were present during the session.

Punjabi Welfare Sabha Kaithal celebrates Lohri Festival with great enthusiasm



RANVIR PARASHAR KAITHAL:

Punjabi Welfare Sabha Kaithal, under leadership of President Susham Kapoor, grandly celebrated Lohri festival with traditional fervor and cultural vibrancy at Shri Geeta Bhawan Temple premises. Event was organized as a Punjabi family gathering attracting numerous dignitaries, social workers, industrialists, doctors and a large number of Punjabi families from city. Program not only highlighted cultural significance of Lohri but also conveyed a message of mutual brotherhood, unity and social harmony in the community. Program was presided over by Kailash Bhagat, President of Shri Geeta Bhawan Temple Committee and Chairman of all Punjabi community organizations. Under his leadership and guidance, ceremony attained a dignified form. Prominent social worker Kamal Ahuja attended as chief guest while Dr. Rohit Mehta, Unit Head of Cygnus Hospital and renowned industrialist Rajan Miglani were present as special guests. Sabha President Susham Kapoor, Chief Patron Inderjit Sardana, General Secretary Sanjay Setia, Gyanprakash Kumar and former President Rajkumar Mukhija welcomed all guests with bouquets and garlands. Program commenced traditionally with chief and special guests lighting a lamp in front of idol of Goddess Saraswati. After lamp lighting, all those present prayed to Goddess Saraswati for knowledge, wisdom and maintenance of positivity in society. Highlighting importance of Lohri festival, President Susham Kapoor said that objective of Punjabi Welfare Sabha Kaithal is to bring community together on one platform and keep cultural traditions alive. He said that such events provide an opportunity for new generation to connect with their culture and traditions. He expressed his gratitude to all members, collaborators, and guests, stating that similar social and cultural programs will continue to be organized in the future. Lohri is not just a festival, but a symbol of harvest, gratitude towards nature and new beginnings. Presiding over program, Kailash Bhagat shared his thoughts, stating that Punjabi community has always been known for hard work, generosity and brotherhood. He said that Lohri festival inspires us to come together, share happiness and help those in need. He praised efforts of Punjabi Welfare Sabha, saying that such events play a crucial role in keeping community united. Chief Guest Kamal Ahuja said that social organizations are backbone of society. He said that this function organized by Punjabi Welfare Sabha Kaithal strengthens social unity and cultural awareness. He urged youth to actively participate in social service activities and be proud of their culture. Special Guest Dr Rohit Mehta emphasized health awareness, saying that it is essential to take care of one's health while celebrating festivals. Industrialist Rajan Miglani said that along with business and industry, fulfilling one's responsibility towards society is also duty of every individual.

Farmers must obtain unique identification number through Agri-Stack: DC Vishram Kumar

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

KARNAL: Deputy Commissioner Vishram Kumar stated that Agri-Stack is a major agricultural digital infrastructure project developed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India. It ushered in a new era in the agricultural sector, launched to promote the use of farming technology by establishing an integrated database of land records, unique identification numbers, crop details, and government schemes for all farmers in the country. He explained that the main objective of this project is to create a unique identification number for farmers, which will be linked to Aadhaar. This will provide farmers with easy access to their land records, making it easier for them to obtain loans and insurance. Farmers will receive the benefits of all government schemes, such as PM Kisan and agricultural inputs (fertilisers, seeds, etc.), through this system. It is mandatory for

farmers to obtain their unique identification number through Agri-Stack to avail the benefits of all government schemes. He further stated that the upcoming installment under the PM Kisan scheme will be given only to those farmers who have obtained their unique identification number. In the district, 98,647 farmers are registered under the PM Kisan scheme, of which 17,000 farmers have already obtained their unique identification number. The remaining farmers should also get their farmer ID made as soon as possible to avail the benefits of the PM Kisan scheme.

Ayurveda and Modern innovation come together in the lap of the Shivalik Hills

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA PANCHKULA, JAN 12

The National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA), Panchkula, located in the peaceful surroundings of the Shivalik hills, is strengthening Ayurveda by combining it with modern medical practices. Every day, more than 500 patients visit the institute's OPD and benefit from Ayurvedic treatment and Panchakarma therapies. The hospital has 12 OPDs and a 100-bed inpatient facility. Students from India and other countries are also studying Ayurveda at the institute.

The National Institute of Ayurveda, Panchkula, works under the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, and is guided by the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur (Deemed University). Located in the Mata Mansa Devi Complex, the institute has been developed as a centre for Ayurvedic education, training, research, and holistic healthcare. Under the guidance of Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Sanjeev Sharma, the institute is emerging as an important healthcare and education centre in North India.

The institute offers the BAMS (Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and



Surgery) course, where students receive quality education by combining Ayurvedic knowledge with modern medical science. With good infrastructure and advanced facilities, students gain both classroom learning and practical clinical experience. International students are also enrolled in the programme.

Free Health Services for Patients Since October 16, 2023, the institute has been providing daily health services in the spirit of "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah." These include OPD services, Panchakarma therapy, ECG, and free blood sugar testing. The hos-

pital has 12 OPDs and a 100-bed inpatient facility, and patients are given good-quality medicines free of cost.

Medical services are available in general medicine (Kaya Chikitsa), eye care and ENT, gynaecology and obstetrics, surgery, Panchakarma, paediatrics, emergency care, preventive health, toxicology, skin and cosmetic care. Facilities such as Panchakarma therapy, physiotherapy, operation theatre, yoga, ECG, laboratory tests, ultrasound, and X-ray are also available. Around 500 patients visit the OPD every day for consultation and treatment.

Police personnel practice Surya Namaskar at police lines

ASHOK CHUGH PANIPAT, JANUARY 12

Under the leadership of SP Bhupender Singh, a Surya Namaskar programme was organised at the police lines on Monday. The programme commenced in a calm and disciplined atmosphere in the morning. Senior police officers, subordinate officers, and a large number of police personnel present practiced Surya Namaskar together. The yoga instructor provided detailed information about the correct method of Surya Namaskar, its various stages, and its physical and mental benefits.

DSP of Police Headquarters Satish Vats, addressing the assembled personnel, said that ancient Indian practices like yoga and Surya Namaskar not only keep the body healthy but also help in relieving mental stress. He said that compared to other departments, the police department's duty is somewhat more challenging. Due to long working hours, police personnel sometimes face challenges such as mental stress and physical fatigue. Regular yoga practice significantly increases a person's efficiency, concentration, and decision-making ability. Deputy Superintendent of Police Rajbir Singh, address-



ing the personnel, said that Surya Namaskar strengthens the body's muscles, improves blood circulation, and increases immunity. It also promotes discipline, self-confidence, and positive thinking. During the programme, everyone collectively resolved to adopt a healthy lifestyle by performing Surya Namaskar together. Deputy Superintendent of Police Satish Vats informed that a Surya Namaskar campaign is being conducted by yoga teachers of the Haryana Yoga and Ayush Department from Swami Vivekananda Jayanti (January 12) to Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati Jayanti (February 12). Under this campaign, the police department will also continuously conduct Surya Namaskar. Surya Namaskar is a sequence of 12 powerful yoga postures that are very beneficial for health.

'Run for Swadeshi - Swadeshi Pledge Run' organised at Indira Gandhi Women's College



SANJAY SHARMA

KAITHAL: On the occasion of Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary and National Youth Day, a "Run for Swadeshi - Swadeshi Pledge Run" was organised at Indira Gandhi (PG) Women's College, Kaithal, under the joint auspices of the Swami Vivekananda Cell, NSS, and NCC, as per the instructions of Prof. Som Nath, Vice-Chancellor of Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra. On this occasion, the President of the College Management Committee, Shri Ram Bahadur Khurania, and the Principal of the college, Dr. Aarti Garg, flagged off the run. The objective of this run was to strengthen the spirit of Swadeshi, self-reliance, India, physical fitness, discipline, and nation-building among the youth. The college students, teachers, and NSS and NCC volunteers participated enthusiastically, and the students ran a 2-kilometer race, conveying the message of Swadeshi and nation-building. A pledge ceremony was also held in the assembly after the run, in which the students took a pledge to adopt Swadeshi, become self-reliant, and work in the national interest. Speakers also highlighted the thoughts of Swami Vivekananda, Swadeshi, self-reliance, and the role of youth power.

Dargha Sharif hosts special programme to promote communal harmony in Karnal

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, JAN 12

A special programme was organised at the Dargha Sharif Hazrat Shah Abdul Razak Alvi Sahab Ji at Neela Roza, where Sajjadah Nashin Babar Hussain Alvi Qaddusi paid respects to the revered saints and offered salutations.

On the occasion, Chairman of Nagar Panchayat Jhjhana, Suresh Pal Kashyap, along with senior BJP leaders, was honoured by the Muslim community at Dargha Sharif Neela Roza. Babar Hussain Qaddusi, along with Safdar Alvi, Qazi Shan Mian, Khurshid Alam, Hashim Mian, Qasim, Ahmed Mian and Tanveer Alam, presented a turban and angvastra to Chairman Suresh Pal Kashyap as a mark of respect.

Senior BJP leader Rahul Dev Gupta, Dr Satish Kumar Kashyap, Vinod Kumar (con-



tractor) and councillor Ikrum Siddiqui, who accompanied the chairman, were also felicitated by the Dargha committee.

Addressing the gathering, Suresh Pal Kashyap said such events reflect the true culture of the country where people of different faiths celebrate festivals together. He said this spirit of togetherness strengthens

national unity and showcases the country's rich tradition of communal harmony. He also appealed to the residents to continue living in peace and brotherhood and to celebrate all festivals collectively.

Babar Hussain Alvi offered prayers for peace and harmony and urged people to maintain mutual goodwill and brotherhood in the society.

EDITORIAL

Fixed impressions may ease social anxiety, say researchers

A new study finds that people with social anxiety may feel less stressed and perform better in social situations when they believe first impressions are hard to change, Israeli's Bar-Ilan University announced. The finding challenges a long-standing assumption in psychology that thinking people can always improve how others see them, is healthier in every case. Social anxiety is a widespread condition marked by intense discomfort in social settings and persistent worry about being judged. For years, research has suggested that believing impressions can change encourages self-improvement. But researchers at Bar-Ilan University found that for people with high social anxiety, this belief can increase pressure and mental strain, making social interactions more difficult rather than empowering. "For most people, believing that others' opinions can change motivates growth," said Prof. Liad Uziel of Bar-Ilan University's Department of Psychology, who led the research. "But for individuals with high social anxiety, that constant possibility for change can feel overwhelming. Viewing others' impressions as relatively stable may make the social world seem more predictable and less mentally draining." Published in the peer-reviewed *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, the research unfolded in several stages, including a preliminary survey and three follow-up experiments. Across all phases, the researchers found a consistent pattern: participants with higher levels of social anxiety reported feeling less burdened and performed better when they adopted a fixed mindset about impression formation. In one experiment, participants prepared a self-introduction ahead of an anticipated meeting. Those with high social anxiety made a poorer impression when they believed impressions were malleable, but this effect disappeared when they believed impressions were fixed. A second experiment involving a more stressful, video-recorded task produced similar results, again showing improved performance under a fixed mindset. The findings were reinforced in a three-day field study in which participants applied these beliefs during everyday social interactions. Those guided to think impressions were stable described their experiences as less stressful and more satisfying than those encouraged to believe impressions could change. The study suggests that predictability, rather than flexibility, can be calming for socially anxious individuals by reducing the pressure of constant self-evaluation. "For those who often worry about how they are perceived, believing that others' impressions are stable can be both calming and empowering," Uziel said. The findings have direct implications for evaluative settings such as job interviews, academic assessments, and public speaking. For individuals with social anxiety, believing that impressions are formed early and unlikely to change based on minor mistakes can reduce self-monitoring and free cognitive resources, leading to clearer focus and stronger performance under pressure. The research may also inform workplace and educational training, where constant emphasis on impression management and adaptability could unintentionally heighten anxiety.

Bangladesh election under a cloud of fear

Whether Bangladesh's next general election will be held on schedule has become a question of growing concern and anxiety across the country. If the current roadmap remains unchanged, the election is scheduled for February 12.

However, as the date draws closer, public apprehension continues to rise. The primary reasons are a sharp deterioration in law and order and the systematic exclusion of a major political party from the electoral process.

The government led by Dr Muhammad Yunus has failed to restore the rule of law. Attacks on minority communities and leaders and activists of the ousted Awami League have not ceased.

Two student leaders recently arrested on charges of instigating mob violence were released within days and subsequently issued threats to attack media offices.

One of them, while in police custody, reportedly narrated in detail how police personnel were killed during the July movement, how Baniachong police station was set ablaze, and how Sub-Inspector Santosh Choudhury was burned to death. Despite the gravity of these allegations, he was released shortly after arrest. Around the same time, a female student coordinator arrested on extortion charges was also freed and soon after publicly threatened to burn down media offices.

Meanwhile, a leader of the BNP's youth wing was murdered in Dhaka. Taken together, these incidents point to a serious breakdown of law and order at a time when preparations for a national election are underway, inevitably deepening uncertainty over the credibility of the vote.

Another major source of concern is the complete exclusion of the Awami League from the electoral field. Two alliances led by the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami are set to contest, effectively narrowing the political space to just these forces.

The Awami League has been prevented from operating openly, while the mainstream media has largely fallen silent.

More than 300 former ministers and Members of Parliament of the Awami League are currently in jail. According to party figures, nearly 10,000 leaders and activists are being detained without trial. Journalists, teachers, writers, judges



and civil and military officials have not been spared either, with many also imprisoned.

A large number of Awami League leaders and activists are now in hiding due to cases and mob violence. Nearly 19,000 are reportedly living abroad, including in India, with many seeking political asylum.

Yet the core reason for barring the party from elections appears to be fear of its support base. Political analysts estimate that between 35 and 40 per cent of voters still support the Awami League. Ironically, public sympathy for the party has increased following what many describe as the Yunus government's failed governance over the past one and a half years.

On the other hand, in the absence of former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, the BNP is now under the singular leadership of Tarique Rahman. He has maintained regular engagement with the media and professional groups. Rahman has been actively involved in party politics since 2000 and had built a grassroots organisational network through worker conferences at the upazila and union levels. That groundwork is now yielding dividends. Over the past 15 years, despite remaining in London, he has exercised strong

influence over the party through digital coordination and organisational restructuring, modernising the BNP's political machinery.

At present, Jamaat-e-Islami has emerged as Rahman's principal challenger. Since August 5, 2024, Jamaat has witnessed a rapid resurgence in Bangladesh.

It has consolidated positions within both civil and military administrations, reportedly with direct or indirect backing from the Yunus government. Universities have effectively come under its influence. Meanwhile, the BNP has struggled internally over the past 18 months, particularly over financial control and allegations of extortion linked to markets and transport hubs. Disciplinary actions, expulsions and internal violence have weakened the party's organisational coherence.

Taking advantage of this vacuum, Jamaat's student wing, Islami Chhatra Shibir, has gained control of public universities after winning student union elections and now occupies a dominant position. The organisation openly harbours ambitions of forming the next government. Although the BNP maintains that this will not significantly affect national elections, the reality

may be more complex. Youth voters play a decisive role in elections, and a large segment of that demographic is now under Shibir's influence. Notably, many Shibir leaders were previously associated with the Awami League's student wing, having allegedly entered leadership positions through financial transactions. The commercialisation of committees within the Awami League's student and youth wings proved disastrous for the party and remains one of the principal causes of its decline.

During its time in power, arrogance, patronage politics, committee trading and the transformation of some ministers and MPs into business figures severely eroded the party's credibility.

Today, the Awami League faces a severe financial crisis. Prominent business-linked ministers have distanced themselves from the party. Key figures from the banking and corporate sectors are either imprisoned or abroad.

In this harsh reality, the Awami League remains outside the electoral process. Some within the party still believe that an external or "divine" force may restore them to power. The political ground, however, suggests otherwise.

Much of Bangladesh's complex political calculus now hinges on whether the upcoming election is held at all. There are visible efforts to ensure that an election without the Awami League fails to gain legitimacy.

Sections of the interim government reportedly prefer no election and want the Yunus administration to continue. Certain international actors are also perceived to support this approach.

Groups born out of the July movement, including NCP and Inqilab Mancha, are opposed to elections. With Yunus in power, they have benefited from mob politics, deteriorating law and order and a climate of fear. Legal mechanisms are now reportedly being used to grant immunity for such actions.

There is also widespread speculation that Dr Yunus aims to remain in power beyond the election by leveraging BNP and Jamaat support to become President. Separate lobbying efforts with both parties are reportedly underway, alongside a sustained campaign to politically eliminate the Awami League.

At the same time, another powerful faction within the state apparatus is working to retain the Yunus government without elections. The BNP and Tarique Rahman, however, have adopted a tactical position in favour of holding the polls and are actively preparing at the grassroots.

Jamaat-e-Islami and its international allies, meanwhile, are equally determined to capture power. The cold rivalry between the BNP and Jamaat is fundamentally a struggle for state power. Everything now depends on whether elections can be held amid collapsing law and order, widespread illegal arms, killings and mob violence. Political analysts argue that the Yunus government needs a pretext to suspend elections—and that such a pretext is being systematically constructed.

Despite these challenges, the BNP continues to push for elections. Ground-level surveys suggest an advantage for the party. Sections of the media have begun portraying Tarique Rahman as a prime minister-in-waiting.

Alarmed by the rise of extremism, progressive forces that once opposed him are gradually shifting their stance, arguing that he alone may be able to restore normalcy.

Online shopping in future will be AI-driven

Google CEO Sundar Pichai announced the launch of the Universal Commerce Protocol (UCP), saying that artificial intelligence (AI) agents will play a major role in the way people shop in the near future. In a social media post, Pichai said, "AI agents will be a big part of how we shop in the not-so-distant future. To help lay the groundwork, we partnered with

buy directly on AI Mode and the Gemini app." He said AI agents will become an important part of the shopping journey, helping users discover products, compare options and complete purchases more efficiently. To support this shift, Google has partnered with major global commerce and retail platforms, including Shopify, Etsy, Wayfair, Target and Walmart to

platforms and enable a more connected experience for users, merchants and AI-powered tools. Pichai said that UCP will soon power native checkout, allowing users to buy products directly within AI-driven experiences such as AI Mode and the Gemini app. This would reduce the need for users to move across multiple websites or apps, making the buying process simpler and faster.

UCP works by creating a common language between AI systems and commerce platforms. Through this, AI agents can access product details, pricing, availability and checkout systems in a standardised way. This allows AI to assist users from product discovery to final payment without interruptions. For consumers, this could mean faster and more

personalised shopping experiences. For businesses and sellers, especially those on platforms like Shopify and Etsy, UCP can help improve visibility and access to customers through AI-powered shopping tools.



Shopify, Etsy, Wayfair, Target and Walmart to create the Universal Commerce Protocol, a new open standard for agents and systems to talk to each other across every step of the shopping journey.

And coming soon, UCP will power native checkout so you can

create UCP. The Universal Commerce Protocol is a new open standard designed to allow AI agents and different digital systems to communicate smoothly across every stage of the shopping process.

Google said the protocol will help remove barriers between

Thousands march in New York to protest ICE killing and condemn Trump



Thousands of protesters gathered near Central Park on Sunday before marching through Manhattan to denounce the Trump administration and the fatal shooting of Renee Nicole Good, who was killed last week in Minneapolis by a federal immigration agent. The demonstration followed the shooting, which has sparked nationwide outrage over Immigration and Customs Enforcement's tactics. Marchers carried signs condemning President Trump's mass deportation policies as well as recent US military actions in Venezuela. The rally began Sunday afternoon at the southeast corner of

Central Park and remained peaceful as crowds moved through the city. Several local politicians joined the demonstration, voicing support for the protesters' demands for accountability and immigration reform. Protesters marched along Fifth Avenue, passing Trump Tower, while holding signs criticizing ICE, US actions against Venezuela, and current federal policies. Chants included "No kings," "No ICE," and "No wars," according to the New York Post. As of 2:30 p.m. (19:30 GMT), the protest was proceeding peacefully, with no police interference reported.

POEMS

The Small Bells of Benin

In a Chicago museum, these small bells of Benin

are bringing their charm to a foreign scene, without ringing.

The concave cylindrical draping of some is as prim as the poise of a Quaker maid, while the rare quadrangular forms of the rest, with their molded latticed designs, suggest the iron fences, displayed in New Orleans, and everywhere, now.

And who can escape the quaint, spellbound, gargoyle-like bronze faces that stare from their settings of thin metal lace?

I wish I could obtain one of these bells or even a facsimile, but the formula to their deft moldings was lost and hasn't been quite rediscovered or found.

By Margaret Danner

KIIT ranked the country's 5th best university in attracting foreign students

- 5th best university in India in terms of international students
- Internationalization of higher education as per NEP; recent data published by NITI Aayog
- Odisha and Bhubaneswar ahead of many other states in attracting foreign students
- KIIT plays the most important role: over 2,000 students out of 2,362 in eastern India are pursuing education at KIIT alone
- More than 5,000 foreign students have passed out from KIIT

KIIT's flagship IndiaTrek initiative hosted an impressive 350-member delegation in 2025

KIIT has been able to attract nearly 350 international visiting faculty members and Ph.D. scholars from leading global institutions such as Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), University of Washington, and City University of New York (CUNY), The University of Tulsa, University of Virginia, Seattle University, etc., during the current academic session. These scholars visited the University,

interacted with students, and spent 10-15 days on campus, besides visiting places of tourism importance.

IndiaTrek is a flagship initiative of KIIT, conceived as a cultural-academic immersion platform that brings together international delegates, diplomats, scholars, and youth leaders to experience India's educational ecosystem, cultural heritage, and social development models.



A 21-member delegation from Harvard University, USA, on a visit to KIIT and KISS recently. Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT, KISS & KIMS, is seen among them.

BHUBANESWAR: Odisha is steadily emerging as a preferred hub for foreign students pursuing higher education. Reflecting this trend, KIIT is the country's 5th best university in attracting foreign students. According to a recently published NITI Aayog report,

Odisha figures among the top 10 states in India in terms of attracting international students. Odisha is placed better than neighbouring states like West Bengal, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. So also, Bhubaneswar city has emerged

better than Kolkata and Hyderabad. As envisaged under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, internationalization of higher education has been accorded top priority. Though KIIT is located in the State of Odisha, a Tier-II city at Bhubaneswar, it presently

hosts over 2,000 international students from 70 countries—out of a total of 2,362 foreign students enrolled across various universities in eastern India—along with a strong global alumni base of more than 5,000 international students.

KIIT Attracts Over 1,000 Foreign Delegates Annually; Nobel Laureates Continue to Visit Campus

KIIT attracts over 1,000 foreign delegates annually. It is worth mentioning that more than 3,50,000 delegates from across the country have visited KIIT & KISS to grace various events. So also, many Indian delegates visit KIIT; out of them 50 percent are coming to KIIT to participate in various sports events. The institution has hosted about 25 Nobel Laureate lectures. These achievements have been made possible due to the blessings of the Almighty, as well as the goodwill, national and international rankings, and

accolades received by KIIT & KISS, the world-class infrastructure including sports facilities, and the profound societal impact of Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder of both institutions. KIIT has facilitated extensive international academic exchange by hosting faculty members and enabling the exchange of students from across the world. These engagements are held through Global Faculty Programmes, the Global Immersion Programme, and the Credit-Based Study Abroad Programme.

Paddy procurement investigation paused: Surjeet Sandhu

CHAMAN LAL

KARNAL: Indian National Lok Dal party's National General Secretary Surjeet Sandhu alleged that due to the collusion of politicians sitting in the government, the investigation into the paddy scam is on the verge of closure. It seems that the investigation is being suppressed under political pressure. In the name of investigation, only lip service is being done. By taking action only against small employees, senior officers and politicians are being saved, says he. A scam of more than



70 crore rupees has taken place in the markets of Karnal district. INLD leader Surjeet Sandhu has demanded that the government complete the investigation, take action against all the culprits involved in the scam, make the names of mill owners and politicians public and also recover the money from them. He said that the party would continue to prominently raise the problems of the people, such as unemployment, corruption and issues related to farmers and strengthen the party's presence among the people.

NEWS BRIEF

Lohari and Makar Sankranti festival promote social harmony in society: Ramchandra Jadaula

SANJAY SHARMA

KAITHAL: Former HAFED director and famous social worker Ramchandra Jadaula said that the festival of Lohri and Makar Sankranti was a symbol of happiness and mutual brotherhood. Lohri festival

promotes social harmony in the society. Congratulating everyone on Lohri and Makar Sankranti, he

said that in the sacred fire of Lohri, every person should take a pledge to give up evil and follow the path of goodness. We should forget every grudge and celebrate every festival together with mutual brotherhood. In true sense, Lohri festival is meaningful only in the form of helping the needy because the needy citizen is also an integral part of the society and every possible help should be given to him. Former director Ramchandra Jadaula said that Lohri and Makar Sankranti festivals were festivals of joy, enthusiasm and new light of joy. India is the sacred land of sages and every festival has its own significance.

165 complaints resolved at Samadhan camps held at SDM office in 2025: Anubhav Mehta



KARAMBIR LADWA, JAN 12

SDM Anubhav Mehta said that out of the complaints received during Samadhan camps held at SDM office in Ladwa, Chief Minister's constituency, in 2025, 165 complaints have been resolved. During this period, 113 complaints were rejected as a solution was not possible, while 9 complaints are pending. He appealed to people of Ladwa to visit the Samadhan camp to get their problems resolved. Problems of residents of Ladwa are listened to carefully at Samadhan camp and action is taken immediately. SDM was presiding over Samadhan camp at SDM office

in Ladwa sub-division on Monday. He said that this camp is held twice a week, on Monday and Thursday, from 10 AM to 12 PM at SDM office. Officers from all departments are also present during this time. He instructed officers to resolve the problems brought to Samadhan camp in a time-bound manner so that citizens do not have to visit the administration repeatedly for same issue. Mehta said that if any person has any problem related to their Family ID card, such as family income, removing or adding a family member's name or any problem related to land, electricity, water request is handed over to concerned officer present on spot so that immediate action can be taken.

Attempt to encroach on public road, case registered against 11 named and 25 others



MAINPAL KASHYAP

INDRI: The matter of blocking a public road near Muradgarh Road in Indri took a serious turn on Sunday. Some miscreants from Indergarh village attempted to illegally encroach on the public road by erecting pillars and fencing it off, creating a tense situation in the area. A large number of villagers gathered at the spot. Due to the road closure, common people and landowners faced immense difficulties. This road connects to the cremation ground and other villages as well. Landowner Jaykumar and others stated in their complaint to the police that the accused forcibly attempted to occupy the road and also threatened to kill them when they protested. Upon receiving the information, a large police force reached the spot and brought the situation under control. Considering the seriousness of the matter, Station House Officer Vipin Kumar took strict action and named 11 people, including Manish, Pankaj, Anoop, Praveen, Sahil, Ved, Sumit, Ragbir, Rajesh, Massey, Vipin, and Sandeep, while a case has also been registered against 25 other unknown persons. Station House Officer Vipin Kumar said that a case has been registered under sections related to illegal encroachment on a public road, giving death threats, and other relevant sections.

BJP does not want country men to become self-reliant: Ashok Arora



HANS RAJ YADAV KURUKSHETRA, JAN 12

Congress MLA and former minister from Thanesar, Ashok Arora, said that Bharatiya Janata Party government does not want the people of country to become self-reliant; they only want them to take five kilograms of grain and remain dependent on them. He was speaking while observing a fast at Gandhi Park in Kurukshetra to save MNREGA. Shahabad MLA Ramkaran Kala, Pehowa MLA Mandeep Chatha and former MP Kailash Saini were also present with him. Arora said that Congress government had started MNREGA scheme, 100-day employment guarantee scheme for laborers, which the anti-people BJP government has shut down. A

fast is being observed by the Congress across India today in protest. He said that MNREGA scheme guaranteed employment to laborers. People used to get employment under MNREGA. Now the government says that it has made changes to MNREGA and started VB Ji Ram Ji scheme, but this scheme only benefits contractors and does not provide employment to the people. Earlier there was a guarantee of employment, now guarantee has been removed. Under new scheme, it has been said that wages will not be given during sowing and harvesting which is completely wrong. BJP government does not want to give employment to laborers; these are people who snatch away jobs.

Cold wave and dense fog disrupt life in Sadhaura



PREETI SAINI SADHAURA: Life in Sadhaura remained badly affected for the second consecutive day as intense cold and dense fog gripped the region, throwing normal routine out of gear. With visibility dropping sharply, vehicles were seen crawling on the roads even during daytime with their headlights switched on. While visibility was almost zero at night, it improved only marginally to around 10 metres in the morning hours. Because of the biting cold and thick fog, people were forced to remain indoors for most of the time. The sun appeared only in the afternoon on Monday, bringing some relief and prompting residents to step out of their homes. However, work and daily activities continued to remain disrupted. Local residents including Suresh, Mahipal, Sulek Chand and Amit Kumar said that the severe cold over the past two days had affected their routine and livelihoods. They added that the prevailing weather conditions were also leading to an increase in illnesses, with many people reporting allergies, fever and headaches and visiting hospitals for treatment. Doctors have advised people to wear woollen clothes and avoid going outdoors unless absolutely necessary.

MP Naveen Jindal celebrates Lohri and Makar Sankranti with journalists



SANJAY SHARMA

KAITHAL: MP Naveen Jindal celebrated the festival of Lohri and Makar Sankranti at Grace Hotel on Monday in a very enthusiastic atmosphere with local journalists and media personnel. The event was organized in an informal and intimate atmosphere. On this occasion, he also talked about deepening his relations with the fourth pillar of democracy and also gave the message of unity, harmony and healthy living. While interacting with the media, Naveen Jindal said that journalists were the mirror of the society. They work to convey the voice of the common people to the government and administration. You have an important role in the society. Help the government's welfare schemes accessible to the common people, so that every eligible person can avail the benefits of the schemes. He said that the festivals of Lohri and Makar Sankranti were symbols of new energy. Jindal emphasized on mutual brotherhood and communal harmony through this event. In an informal conversation amid the celebrations, he reiterated his commitment towards the development of Kaithal and surrounding areas. He said that under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, continuous work was being done for the development of the area.

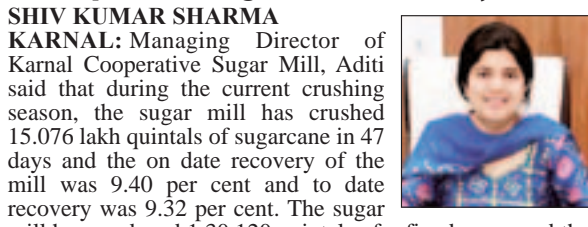
National Youth Day celebrated at Himgiri Degree College, Roorkee



CHAMAN LAL

KARNAL: The Department of Political Science at Himgiri Degree College, Roorkee, Uttarakhand, celebrated National Youth Day with great fanfare on Monday. Dr. Balram Sharma, Chairperson of the Political Science Department of DAV College, Karnal, attended the event as the chief guest. Upon his arrival at the college, he was welcomed by Vikrant Kaushik, Chairman of the College Management Committee and Principal Sanyogita Kaushik with a bouquet of flowers. On this occasion, Chief Guest Dr. Balram Sharma said that Swami Vivekananda was a pioneer of youth. He taught the young generation the lessons of spirituality. Today, India is a global leader in spirituality, thanks to his teachings. He urged youth to contribute to nation-building. He encouraged them by advocating that success can be achieved through hard work and never be discouraged by setbacks in life. Influenced by Swami Vivekananda's thoughts, many young people in India played a key role in the freedom movement. He also emphasized the importance of character building among youth. They should draw inspiration from the life of Swami Vivekananda. College President Vikrant Kaushik, who presided over the program, stated that youth are the backbone of our country.

Karnal Sugar Mill crushed massive 15 lakh quintals sugarcane in 47 days Aditi



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

KARNAL: Managing Director of Karnal Cooperative Sugar Mill, Aditi said that during the current crushing season, the sugar mill has crushed 15.076 lakh quintals of sugarcane in 47 days and the on date recovery of the mill was 9.40 per cent and to date recovery was 9.32 per cent. The sugar mill has produced 1,30,120 quintals of refined sugar and the sugar mill is continuously producing sugar within 60 ICUMSA colors which is as per the standards set by the government. He said that till date the mill has produced a total of 1.81 crore KWH units from the 18 MW cogeneration plant installed in the sugar mill, out of which 1.17 crore KWH units have been exported to North Haryana Electricity Distribution Corporation and received an additional net dividend of Rs 7.43 crore. Karnal Sugar Mill has paid Rs 51.63 crore to the sugarcane farmers for the sugarcane supplied till January 7, 2026, which is 82.73 per cent of the total sugarcane payment supplied so far, which is the highest among all the mills. He said that for the convenience of the farmers supplying sugarcane to Karnal Cooperative Sugar Mill, arrangements have been made through Atal Kisan Canteen for a full meal at just Rs 10 and for the farmers who rest at night besides arrangements have been made for a modern rest house in which food arrangements are also available. The employees of the sugarcane department are emphasizing on the farmers to take fresh, clean and leaf-free sugarcane to the mill so that the sugar recovery of this season is maximum. At present the mill is running at its full capacity without any interruption.

Swami Vivekananda's ideals a major source of inspiration for Indian youth: Dr Ram Pal Saini



CHAMAN LAL

KARNAL: On the occasion of National Youth Day, a 'Run for Swadeshi' programme was organised at DAV PG College, Karnal, under the joint aegis of the NSS and NCC units. The event was held to mark the 163rd birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda and to promote the values of self-reliance, discipline, physical fitness and nation-building among the youth. Addressing the gathering, Vice-Chancellor of Chaudhary Ranbir Singh University and Principal of the college, Prof Dr Ram Pal Saini, said that Swami Vivekananda's philosophy and ideals continue to serve as a great source of inspiration for Indian youth. He described Swami Vivekananda as a great thinker, powerful orator, visionary, poet and a true guide for young people.

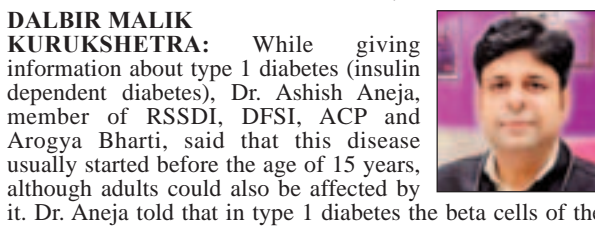
Divya Jyoti Jagrati Sansthan holds weekly satsang programme



PRITI SAINI

SADHAURA: At the weekly satsang programme organised by Divya Jyoti Jagrati Sansthan near Vyaspur Ashram, at Saraswati Senior Secondary School, Shiv Chowk, Sadhvi Rabia Bharti, a disciple of Gurudev Shri Ashutosh Maharaj, said, "Does criticising someone's personal life bring peace of mind? Think about it. When you were hurt by someone's harsh words or behavior and therefore criticized them, did it bring you peace of mind? When your child scored low marks in a school exam, did your scolding and criticism improve their grades? When the food wasn't to your liking, did criticizing it improve the taste? The answer to all these questions is 'no'. This means that by criticising, you cannot improve the situation that has already occurred. So, can you improve the future? Does blaming someone guarantee improvement in the future situation and change in the person?"

Dr. Aneja gives detailed information on symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of Type 1 diabetes



DALBIR MALIK

KURUKSHETRA: While giving information about type 1 diabetes (insulin dependent diabetes), Dr. Ashish Aneja, member of RSSDI, DFSI, ACP and Arogya Bharti, said that this disease usually started before the age of 15 years, although adults could also be affected by it. Dr. Aneja told that in type 1 diabetes the beta cells of the pancreas stop producing insulin, due to which the body cells are not able to use glucose and the blood sugar level increases. In this condition the patient is required to take insulin injections throughout his life. Dr. Aneja told that its main symptoms are excessive thirst, frequent urination, excessive hunger, weight loss, fatigue, irritability, blurred vision, dryness of skin and mouth, detection of ketones in urine. He said that Type 1 diabetes was an autoimmune disease in the development of which genetic, environmental, viral infection, geographical and birth-related factors were believed to play a role. This disease can cause complications related to heart, kidney, eyes, nerves, feet and skin and in uncontrolled condition there is a risk of diabetic ketoacidosis. Blood tests like fasting blood sugar, HbA1c, OGTT, C-peptide and antibodies are done for diagnosis.

Car falls into ravine in Dhumsi village, driver dies



MAINPAL KASHYAP

INDRI: A road accident took place late night in Dhumsi village of the sub-division when a car went out of control and fell into a ravine. The car driver died on the spot in this accident. The incident spread a wave of mourning in the area. According to the information received, at around 12.30 in the night a car driver was coming from Garhi Jatan. As soon as it reached near village Dhumsi, the car suddenly lost its balance and fell straight into the ravine. As soon as the information about the accident was received the police and SDRF team immediately reached the spot and rescue and search operation was started from the night itself. Due to extreme darkness, a thorough search was not possible in Johar at night. As soon as the morning broke, the police and SDRF team again launched a search operation, during which the body of the car and the driver were taken out from Johar whose identity has not been established as yet.

"Bringing Big-City Facilities to Small Towns: Namdhari highlights mission for affordable health & quality education"

AJAY MALHOTRA

FATEHGARH SAHIB: "Health and education are the most essential needs of modern society, and we are committed to fulfilling these through our schools and the newly developed hospital facilities."

These views were expressed by S. Bachittar Singh Namdhari, Founder of Garden Valley International Schools and Chairman of Ardaas Multi-Specialty Hospital, Bassi Pathana, during an exclusive interaction with the media. Sharing his thoughts at Ardaas Hospital, Namdhari said that people today often neglect their health out of fear—many avoid medical checkups worrying that tests might reveal an illness. "However, early detection not only saves lives but also ensures timely and effective treatment," he emphasized. Highlighting the advancements at Ardaas Hospital, he shared that the center is now equipped with 'cutting-edge medical technology' that earlier required patients to travel to major cities. "Today, all these facilities are available right here in a small town like Bassi Pathana," he added with pride. Namdhari also stressed that the hospital prioritizes treatment over a patient's financial condition. "We never look at a patient's pocket. Providing the best possible treatment is our primary duty," he affirmed. To further support patients and their families, the hospital offers free meals (langar) for all patients and attendants.



National Youth Day observed at Youth Hostel Dalhousie on Swami Vivekananda Jayanti



SUBHASH MAHAJAN

DALHOUSIE: National Youth Day was observed with enthusiasm at the Youth Hostel in Dalhousie on the occasion of Swami Vivekananda Jayanti under the aegis of Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat). The programme aimed to familiarise young participants with the inspiring thoughts of Swami Vivekananda, the essence of his historic speeches, and the importance of leading a drug-free life. Sub-Divisional Magistrate Dalhousie, Anil Bhardwaj, attended the event as the chief guest. Addressing the youth, he highlighted the core message of Swami Vivekananda's speeches and urged young people to stay away from drugs, including chitta. He said Swami Vivekananda's philosophy of self-confidence, discipline and service to the nation continues to empower the youth and guide them towards a meaningful life. Block Medical Officer Dr Sumit shared important information on tuberculosis and HIV, stressing the need for timely testing, treatment and awareness. He underlined that informed and responsible youth play a crucial role in preventing the spread of such diseases.

Shukla Saptami Fair will be organised on Jan 25 at Kamyakeshwar Tirtha



HANS RAJ YADAV

KURUKSHETRA: With the inspiration of Brahmawarup Brahmachari, the Supreme President of Shri Jairam institutions operating across the country, a Sunday Shukla Saptami fair will be organized on January 25 at the Shri Kamyakeshwar Mahadev Temple and Teerth located in the village Kamuda of Kurukshetra, the confluence of pilgrimages and the religious city. For the Shukla Saptami fair, arrangements are being made by the servants of Shri Jairam Vidyapeeth for the devotees coming from far away places. Rajesh Singla, media in-charge of Shri Jayaram Institutions said that a grand fair would be organized at Shri Kamyakeshwar Tirtha under the guidance of Supreme President Brahmawarup Brahmachari. An important meeting was held at Shri Kamyakeshwar on Sunday regarding the preparations for the fair. On this occasion, many servants and villagers including servant Shumendra Shastri, celibate Rohit Kaushik, Master ji, Vakil Singh, Sukhdev, Lal Chand, Sheeshpal, Pawan Kumar, Naresh Kumar, Rohit Kaushik were also present.

Lohri celebrated with enthusiasm, joy, and cultural fervor at Little Millennium School



HANS RAJ YADAV

KURUKSHETRA: The Lohri festival was celebrated with great enthusiasm, joy, and cultural fervor at Little Millennium School, Sector-3. Renowned Punjabi singer Balbir Bupparay graced the occasion with his presence. He was given a grand welcome by the school staff and presented with a bouquet of flowers. During the programme School Manager Parminder Singh Bath and CLO Jyoti Khaneja honoured singer Balbir Bupparay, stating that the presence of such a distinguished artist at the school is an inspiration for the students. He celebrated Lohri with the young students of Little Millennium and extended his best wishes to all the children. It is noteworthy that Balbir Bupparay is the popular Punjabi singer who lent his voice to the famous Punjabi song "De Le Geda."

Kotak Mahindra Bank Appoints Anup Kumar Saha As Whole-time Director

CHANDIGARH: Kotak Mahindra Bank has appointed Anup Kumar Saha as whole-time director, strengthening its senior leadership bench as it sharpens focus on consumer banking and digital transformation.

Samsung and Netflix Offer Exclusive 'Stranger Things' Theme for Galaxy

CHANDIGARH: Samsung Electronics has partnered with Netflix for the exclusive launch of Stranger Things Theme for its users. As part of this association, the company will be offering fans of Stranger Things a unique way to celebrate the show's final season.

Royal Enfield Goan classic 350 2026 edition receives new rider-focused updates

AMRITSAR/JALANDHAR: Royal Enfield, the global leader in the mid-size motorcycle market (250-750 cc), has introduced the 2026 edition of the bobber-inspired, free-spirited Goan Classic 350.

Hero MotoCorp marks national Road safety month with three-month 'ride safe india' campaign

GURUGRAM: Hero MotoCorp, the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters, has commenced an inclusive road safety campaign Ride Safe India, to mark National Road Safety Month.

Flipkart Strengthens MSME Seller Ecosystem in Ludhiana-Chandigarh Belt

LUDHIANA: Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, is further strengthening its seller ecosystem across Ludhiana and Chandigarh, reaffirming its commitment to empowering manufacturers and MSMEs from one of India's most significant regional manufacturing hubs.

Blenders Pride Fashion Tour 2025 Concludes with Groundbreaking Fashion Showcases Across India

AMRITSAR/JALANDHAR/LUDHIANA: Blenders Pride Fashion Tour 2025 concluded its spectacular edition, setting a new benchmark for fashion experiences across Gurugram, Jaipur, and Kolkata.

PGIMER Transfers Indigenous HFNC Technology to Clarity Medical



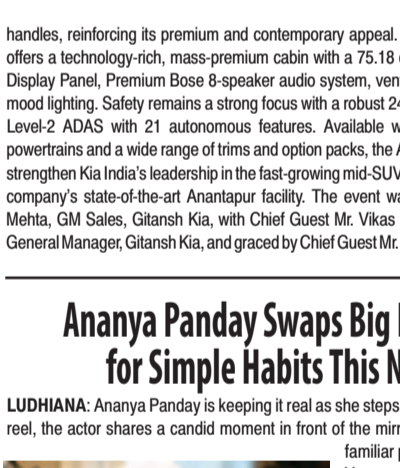
CHANDIGARH: The Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, today signed a landmark Transfer of Technology (ToT) agreement with Clarity Medical Pvt. Ltd., Mohali, for the indigenously developed 'TrueOxy+ High Flow Nasal Cannula (HFNC) System'.

Following over a year of rigorous bench testing at the Biomedical Hub of PGIMER, the device underwent Phase 1 clinical trials in 2024 and is currently progressing through Phase 2 clinical trials at the institute.

Care, PGIMER, included Prof. G. D. Puri (Former Project Principal Investigator), Dr. Shiv Lal Soni (Current Project Principal Investigator), Dr. Ajay Singh, Dr. Naveen Naik B., and Er. Harpreet Singh (Research Scientist-II).

All-New Kia Seltos Showcased at Gitansh Kia in Amritsar and Firozpur

AMRITSAR/FIROZPUR: Kia India showcased the Bigger, Bolder and Progressive All-New Kia Seltos at Gitansh Kia showrooms in Amritsar and Firozpur, offering customers an exclusive preview of the next-generation mid-size SUV.



presence, enhanced cabin space and improved ride stability. Its bold exterior design, inspired by Kia's Opposites United philosophy, features the new Digital Tiger Face, Ice Cube LED projector headlamps, Star Map LED DRLs, connected LED tail lamps and first-in-segment automatic streamline door handles.

Miri Piri Khalsa College Bhadaur B. A. Part II Semester 4 results were excellent

BHADOUR, JANUARY 12 (BALWINDER AZAD): Miri Piri Khalsa College Bhadaur, which is working under the management of Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee Sri Amritsar Sahib Ji. This college is recognized by Punjabi University Patiala and All India Council for Technical Education.



B. A. Part II Semester 4. Prof. Bhinderjit Kaur of Punjabi Department informed that like every time, this time also the result of the institution was excellent. In which student Diksha Singla secured the first position by securing 77.2 percent marks.

Ananya Panday Swaps Big Resolutions for Simple Habits This New Year

LUDHIANA: Ananya Panday is keeping it real as she steps into 2026. In a new Instagram reel, the actor shares a candid moment in front of the mirror, talking herself through the familiar pressure that comes with New Year resolutions.



Acknowledging how quickly time flies and how anxiety often follows the idea of a "new year, new me," Ananya chooses a more grounded approach—focusing on small, sustainable habits instead of chasing impossible standards.

OPPO India Launches Reno15 Series, Ushering in a New Era of AI-Powered Travel Photography

AMRITSAR : OPPO India today announced the launch of its premium Reno15 Series, featuring the Reno15 Pro, Reno15 Pro Mini, and Reno15 smartphones. Designed to redefine travel photography and content creation, the Popout feature, while the debut of the Pro Mini variant addresses the growing demand for compact yet powerful smartphones.



Commenting on the launch, Goldee Patnaik, Head of Communications, OPPO India, said that, "With over 100 million users in India, OPPO remains focused on delivering premium camera systems, intuitive AI, distinctive design, and real-world performance.

Shilpa Shetty brings in festive grace to MasterChef India's harvest special episode

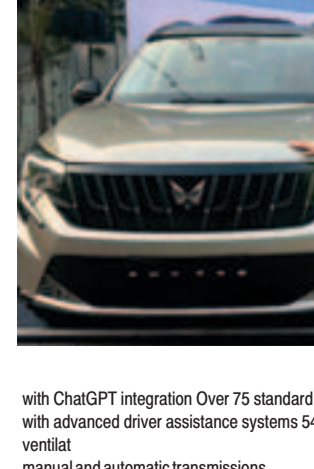
CHANDIGARH : As MasterChef India continues to celebrate stories from across the country, the show marks the harvest season with a special episode steeped in tradition, togetherness, and cultural pride. Coinciding with festivals such as Pongal, Makar Sankranti, Lohri, and Magh Bihu, the Harvest Special becomes a vibrant reflection of India's shared spirit.



Welcoming the season of harvest, Shilpa Shetty beautifully captured the sentiment, saying, "At this time, the whole of India is engulfed in the colours of harvest and festivals. Sometimes Pongal, sometimes Sankranti, sometimes Bihu, sometimes Lohri. The names may be different, but the aim is one, happiness."

Mahindra Raj Motors Launches New XUV 7XO in Ropar

ROPAR: Mahindra Raj Motors marked a significant milestone with the grand launch of the all-new Mahindra XUV 7XO at its Ropar showroom, reinforcing Mahindra's commitment to delivering advanced, stylish, and technology-driven SUVs to Indian customers.



The launch showcased Mahindra's strong focus on innovation, safety, and premium design, underlining its vision of making cutting-edge automotive technology accessible to a wider audience.

Producer Rass teams up with Randev for swagger-driven new single 'She Knows'

HISAR : In a culture obsessed with shouting confidence, Producer Rass and vocalist Randev step into a lane defined by composure, control, and undeniable presence with their latest release, 'She Knows'. Stylish, smooth, and locked-in, 'She Knows' captures the energy of late nights where presence speaks louder than words and swagger moves effortlessly between flex culture and restraint.

Business Leader Uday Gill Visits PAU, Interacts with SBS Faculty

LUDHIANA: Noted global business leader and distinguished alumnus Mr. Uday Gill visited his alma mater, the School of Business Studies (SBS), Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), on January 8, 2026, marking a special homecoming filled with reflection, interaction, and inspiration.



boards, including the International Textile Manufacturers Federation (Zurich) and Vardman Textiles Limited (Ludhiana). Over the course of his illustrious career, he has held senior leadership positions at organizations such as PepsiCo, Reliance Industries, Cotton Corporation of India, and Indorama Ventures.

99th Commemoration of Sant Atar Singh Ji to Be Observed in Gurmat Spirit

BARNALA (BALWINDER AZAD): The annual commemoration of Sant Atar Singh Ji Mastuana Sahib Wale will continue to be observed strictly in accordance with Gurmat principles, the administrators of the Akal College Council and representatives of various Sikh Jathas stated in a joint press statement today.



fairs, with instances of excessive noise, alcohol consumption, theft, and other undesirable activities being reported. However, over the past two years, local village communities, Sikh organizations, and the administration have collectively worked to restore the Gurmat spirit of the samagam.

Paras Health Panchkula Successfully Performs High-Risk Gastro-Colic Whipple Surgery in Advanced Stomach Cancer with Multi-Organ Involvement

PANCHKULA : Paras Health Panchkula has successfully performed a rare and highly complex Gastro-Colic Whipple surgery on a middle-aged male patient diagnosed with locally advanced stomach cancer involving multiple organs.

stomach, a form of stomach cancer, which had extended into the duodenum, the first part of the small intestine. This led to progressive obstruction of the food passage. Given the advanced presentation, the medical team initiated neoadjuvant chemotherapy, a treatment given before surgery to shrink the tumour.



realme 16 Pro Series Debuts with 200MP LumaColor Portrait Master, Premium Design and Powerful Performance

KARNAL : realme, India's most popular smartphone brand among the youth, today unveiled the much-anticipated realme 16 Pro Series, setting new benchmarks in the premium mid-range smartphone segment. The lineup Portrait Master. The realme 16 Pro+ stands out with the segment's only 200MP camera paired with a 3.5x periscope telephoto lens, enabling stunning portraits across multiple focal lengths.

Blenders pride announces the launch of zenith black edition ROHTAK : Blenders Pride, a leader in India's premium whisky segment, proudly announces the launch of the Blenders Pride Zenith Black Edition—a limited-edition expression that unites a bold black aesthetic with the iconic Blenders Pride blend to create a truly distinctive experience.



democratising technology, and the XUV 7XO further exemplifies this commitment by offering advanced features starting from the base variant. The AX variant, featuring Coast-to-Coast 31.24 cm Triple HD screens, Intelligent ADRENEX, Wireless Android Auto & Apple CarPlay, Alexa Built-in with ChatGPT, Cruise Control, Push Button Start/Stop, and 75 safety features—all as standard—makes cutting-edge technology and premium features more accessible than ever.

Swami Vivekananda's life and thoughts are still inspirational for youth: Suresh



RADOUR, (NIRMAL SAINI): Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Swami Vivekananda Senior Secondary School, Alahar. Students and staff members offered flowers to Swami Vivekananda's portrait and paid their respects. Students presented a cultural program showcasing Swami Vivekananda's ideas. Program was presided over by school chairman, Suresh Kamboj, Suresh Kamboj said that Swami Vivekananda was born on January 12, 1863. His entire life and thoughts are still an inspiration for young people today. Swami Vivekananda, who changed people's thinking with his ideas, was a disciple of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa. Swami Vivekananda was a true patriot, and his love for country is well-known. He never hesitated to help people; in fact, he considered serving people equivalent to worshipping God. We should all follow his ideals.

Pro Wrestling League 2026 schedule announced

NEW DELHI: The Pro Wrestling League (PWL) has officially announced the schedule for its much-anticipated first season, with the league set to run from January 15 to February 1, 2026, at the Noida Indoor Stadium. The season opener on January 15 will see Punjab Royals take on UP Dominators, setting the tone for a competitive league phase. Marking its return after a comprehensive restructuring, PWL 2026 will feature six franchises competing in a high-intensity league and knockout format, bringing together elite Indian and international wrestling talent under one roof. All matches of PWL 2026 will be broadcast Live on Sony Ten 4 and Sony Ten 5, with coverage beginning at 8:00 PM, while double-header fixtures will start at 6:00 PM, alongside simultaneous live streaming on the Sony LIV digital platform.

ESIC Gurugram celebrates world hindi day with seminar and kavi sammelan



GURUGRAM: On the occasion of World Hindi Day 2026, the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), Sub-Regional Office, Gurugram, organized a Hindi workshop-cum-seminar and Kavi Sammelan to promote the use and global significance of Hindi. The program began with Saraswati Vandana and the ceremonial lighting of five lamps. The event was chaired by the Chief Guest, Shri Kumar Pal Sharma, Joint Director (Implementation), Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, along with the Head of Office, Shri Sunil Yadav. The Head of Office welcomed and felicitated the Chief Guest with a shawl, a plant sapling, and a coconut. Based on the World Hindi Day 2026 theme, "Hindi: From Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence," Shri Sunil Yadav read out the message of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The program also featured cultural performances including poems, songs, and ghazals, presented by officers and staff members. On the occasion, the Administration Branch was awarded a shield and certificate under the Inter-Branche Official Language Rolling Shield Scheme for its outstanding contribution to the promotion of Hindi. Additionally, Shri Sachin Singh, Deputy Director, was felicitated with a certificate under the Hindi Dictation Scheme (2024-25). Addressing the gathering, Chief Guest Shri Kumar Pal Sharma emphasized the need to take Hindi to the global stage through collective efforts. He stated that due to its simplicity, accessibility, and rich literary heritage, Hindi is steadily strengthening its presence in information technology, digital media, and modern technological platforms. He added that unity in diversity defines India, and Hindi plays a vital role in expressing this identity, urging everyone to adopt Hindi in thought, speech, and action. In his address, Shri Sunil Yadav said that Hindi is our mother tongue and closest to our hearts, and therefore deserves respect and wider adoption. He highlighted the deep association of ESIC with Hindi, noting that the Corporation's foundation rests on the language spoken by insured persons, largely Hindi and its various dialects. During the program, winners of various Hindi competitions organized under the aegis of the Nagar Rajbhasha Karyanayam Samiti, Gurugram, were honored with certificates and mementos.

Bam Bhola Kavar Sangh Celebrates Lohri with Religious Fervour

RAMPURA PHUL (KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA): Shri Bam Bhola Kavar Sangh (Regd.), Geeta Bhawan, Rampura Phul, celebrated the festival of Lohri with great enthusiasm and religious fervour at Geeta Bhawan under the leadership of Sangh President Mitra Sain Ballou. Members of the Kavar Sangh, along with their families, participated wholeheartedly in the celebrations. Senior Aam Aadmi Party leader Inder recreational games organized for children. Winners of the games were awarded prizes, adding joy and excitement to the festive atmosphere. Refreshments including tea, water, coffee, and later dinner were served to all the guests. Prominent members present on the occasion included Rakesh Kumar Babi, Janak Raj, Vinay Goyal, Abhijit Goyal, Hari Krishna, Darshan Jindal, Dinesh Mittal, Raju, Jagdish Kumar, and others. The celebration reflected unity, devotion, and traditional spirit, making the Lohri festival memorable for all attendees.

Inspection of Pathankot-Jogindernagar Narrow Gauge Section by General Manager, Northern Railway

JAMMU: The General Manager of Northern Railway, Shri Ashok Kumar Verma, today, 12 January 2026, conducted a detailed inspection of Pathankot City Railway Station in the Jammu Division. He was accompanied by the Divisional Railway Manager of Jammu Division, Shri Vivek Kumar, and other senior officials. He first inspected the Station Master's office, booking office, retiring rooms, and the ongoing redevelopment works at Pathankot Railway Station. He issued specific instructions to the concerned officials regarding the redevelopment works. Following this, the General Manager conducted a detailed inspection of key railway stations on the Pathankot-Jogindernagar narrow gauge (762 mm) railway line, including Nurpur Road, Talara, and Jawanwala sahar. The objective was to review safety standards, assess passenger amenities, and explore possibilities for modernizing this historic route. The General Manager conducted a thorough inspection of the tracks, bridges, stations, and signaling systems along the narrow gauge section. He interacted with railway officials and staff and obtained detailed information on the steps being taken to ensure the smooth operation of the line. During his inspection, General Manager Shri Ashok Kumar Verma also inspected the Rail Chakki Bridge on the narrow gauge section, which is currently undergoing repair work. He instructed the concerned officials to expedite the completion of the repair work on this bridge. The General Manager laid special emphasis on track stability and safety checks, particularly in the hilly areas. Passenger amenities, including cleanliness at stations, waiting rooms, drinking water facilities, and lighting, were reviewed.



PAU NIDHI-TBI Incubatee Among Top 100 Startups at APEDA Challenge

LUDHIANA: An incubatee from Punjab Agricultural University's NIDHI-Technology Business Incubator (NIDHI-TBI) has brought laurels to the university by securing a place among the Top 100 Startups selected in the first cohort of the APEDA Bharati Business Challenge. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) organized the national-level Bharati Business Challenge on January 8, 2026, bringing together promising startups from across the country to showcase innovation, scalability, and entrepreneurial potential. Incubatees from PAU's NIDHI-TBI were shortlisted to participate and pitch their ventures at the event. Mr. Jagroop Singh, a registered incubatee of NIDHI-TBI and Founder of "The Countryman", Jagroon, a brand specializing in jaggery and jaggery-based products, successfully presented his business model and earned selection for this prestigious national initiative. The recognition provides him with a valuable platform to expand professional networks, explore strategic collaborations, and accelerate business growth.

Ram Mandir Committee Meets Gilco Palm RWA Office Bearers

SHASHI PAL JAIN KHARAR: Executive members of the managing committee of the under-construction Shri Ram Mandir, situated on the banks of Aji Sarovar and associated with the lineage of Lord Ram Chandra Ji, met the office bearers of the Gilco Palm Resident Welfare Association (RWA), Sector-115, Kharar, and shared detailed information regarding the temple project. During the meeting, the temple committee informed the RWA members that Murti Shapana and Pran Pratishtha ceremonies are planned to be held on March 26 at the temple premises. Representatives of the Gilco Palm RWA present on the occasion included President Gagandeep Singh, Vice-President Hinder Markande, along with Vidut Das, Madhur Kumaria, Kulwant Kaur, Kusham Sharma, Nin Khanna, Siddharth, Amit Tiwari, Anil Malbia, Manik Jain, and others. From the Shri Ram Mandir managing committee, J.P. Dhiman, Rakesh Kumar Bunt, Anand Bansal, Preeti Rana, and other members provided comprehensive details about the temple's historical and religious significance, as well as the large-scale construction work currently underway.



AXIS BANK LTD. Retail Asset Centre: AXIS Bank Ltd. 2nd Floor, Property # 7-E, Municipal 3903/1142/16, Malhar Road, Sarabha Nagar, Ludhiana - 141001. Corporate Office: Axis House, Block-8, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025, Registered Office: 'Trishul', 3rd floor, opposite Samartheswar Temple, Law Garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006. Publication of Notice regarding possession of property u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI Act 2002. Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, a demand notice was issued on the dates mentioned against each account and stated hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said Act on the dates mentioned against each account. The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Axis Bank Ltd. for an amount and interest thereon. The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

ELECTION NOTICE. It is for information of all members of The Mahalakshmi Cooperative Consumer Store Ltd., that election of the society will be held as approved RCS, U.T., Chandigarh. Filing of nomination paper: Dt. 30.01.2026, 10.00 am to 11.00 am. Date and time for polling: Dt. 30.01.2026, 3.00 am to 05.00 pm. Venue: Park in front of H. No. 138, Sector 45A, Chandigarh. (President)

ELECTION NOTICE. It is for information of all members of The Old Friends Cooperative NATC Society Ltd., that election of the society will be held as approved RCS, U.T., Chandigarh. Filing of nomination paper: Dt. 30.01.2026, 10.00 am to 11.00 am. Date and time for polling: Dt. 30.01.2026, 3.00 am to 05.00 pm. Venue: Park in front of H. No. 138, Sector 45A, Chandigarh. (President)

ELECTION NOTICE. It is for information of all members of The Fair Deal Workshop Cooperative Industrial Society Ltd., that election of the society will be held as approved RCS, U.T., Chandigarh. Filing of nomination paper: Dt. 30.01.2026, 10.00 am to 11.00 am. Date and time for polling: Dt. 30.01.2026, 3.00 am to 05.00 pm. Venue: Park in front of H. No. 138, Sector 45A, Chandigarh. (President)

ELECTION NOTICE. It is for information of all members of The Fair Deal Workshop Cooperative Industrial Society Ltd., that election of the society will be held as approved RCS, U.T., Chandigarh. Filing of nomination paper: Dt. 30.01.2026, 10.00 am to 11.00 am. Date and time for polling: Dt. 30.01.2026, 3.00 am to 05.00 pm. Venue: Park in front of H. No. 138, Sector 45A, Chandigarh. (President)

HDB FINANCIAL SERVICES. POSSESSION NOTICE. Registered Office: Radhika, 2nd Floor, Law Garden Road, Navrangpur, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, Pin Code: 380009, Branch Office: Fourth Floor 300 No 8 Sector 5 Panchkula. Whereas, The Authorized Officer of HDB Financial Services Limited Under the Securitization And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) And In Exercise Of Powers Conferred Under Section 13(12) Read With Rule 3 Of The Security Interest (enforcement) Rules, 2002 Issued Demand Notice To The Borrowers As Detailed Hereunder, Calling Upon The Borrowers To Repay The Amount Mentioned In The Said Notice With All Costs, Charges And Expenses Till Actual Date Of Payment Within 60 Days From The Date Of Receipt Of The Same. The Said Borrower-borrower Having Failed To Repay The Amount, Notice Is Hereby Given To Borrower/Co-borrower And The Public In General That The Undersigned Has Taken Symbolic Possession Of The Property Described Herein Below In Exercise Of Powers Conferred On Him/her Under Section 13(4) Section 14 Of The Said Act Read With Rule 8 Of The Said Rules Of The Security Interest (enforcement) Rules, 2002. On The 18.09.2023 And 19.09.2023, The Borrowers In Particular And Public In General Are Herby Cautioned Not To Deal With The Property And Any Dealings With The Property Will Be Subject To The Charge Of HDB Financial Services Limited For The Amount Specified Herein With Future Interest, Costs And Charges From The Respective Date. Details Of Property Taken In Symbolic Possession Are Herein Below: (1) NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE BORROWER/CO-BORROWER/GUARANTOR; (2) LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBER; (3) LOAN AMOUNT; (4) DETAILS OF SECURITIES; (5) DATE OF DEMAND NOTICE; (6) CLAIMED AMOUNT IN INR; (7) DATE OF POSSESSION.

HDFC BANK. PUBLIC NOTICE AUCTION FOR SALE OF HYPOTHECATED ASSET LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS, AS MENTIONED IN THE TABLE BELOW. SALE OF HYPOTHECATED ASSET. Whereas, the authorized Officer of HDFC Bank has taken Possession of the Hypothecated Vehicle Bearing Registration No. PB65AT9101, Bearing Engine No. DE3006620, Bearing Chassis No. WAU2DJFYJ700193 and make AUJG Q5 PREMIUM PLUS 2.0 on dated: 10-NOV-2025. That in pursuant to the intimation for the sale/auction of vehicle addressed to the Borrower, Co-borrower and guarantor in the following loan account no. 5602010 with right to sell the same on "as is where is, as is, what is, as is, whatever is there is and without recourse basis" for realization of Bank's dues plus interest as detailed here under. The sale shall be conducted by the undersigned through Public Auction to be held at www.CarTradeExchange.com or in alternatively the bidder can also participate in the auction, which is to be held at Bank premises at Plot No-115, Sector 101 Alpha IT City Mohali 160062. Name of the Borrower & Co-Borrower: 1. Mr. Trilok Facilitators And Logistique Private Limited Through Its Directors Mr. Jeetinder Singh Hundal R/o House No 736 A First Floor, Army Plaza Phase 2, Sector 54 Mohali (punjab) 160055 Also At: Bunglow No 14, Krishna Enclave, Sarabha Jaganmohan Gidhwa 7562162, Jeetinder Singh Hundal R/o Gurkesh Singh Hundal Director Mills Triton Facilitators And Logistique Private Limited R/o House No 736 A First Floor, Army Plaza Phase 2, Sector 54 Mohali (punjab) 160055 3. Deepika Hundal W/o Jeetinder Singh Hundal Director Mills Triton Facilitators And Logistique Private Limited R/o House No 736 A First Floor, Army Plaza Phase 2, Sector 54 Mohali (punjab) 160055. Original Application filed amount : Rs. 25647037.86/- (Rupees Two Crore Fifty Six Lacs Forty Seven Thousand Thirty Seven and Six Paise only) Loan Account Number(s) : Auto Premium Loan Account Number 5602010 Reserve Price : Rs. 12,15,000/- (Rupees Twelve Lacs Fifteen Thousand Only) Bid Increase Amount : Rs. 100000/- (Rupees One Lacs Only) Date of Receipt of Bid : 15/01/2026 from 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM Date and Time of Auction : 16-Jan-2026 from 10:00AM to 5:00 PM Date and Place of Inspection : Till 14-Jan-2026 with prior appointment from Authorized Officer. The vehicle is parked at Raj Nandia Plot No 309, Industrial Area, Phase-I Panchkula 134113. Details of Asset Hypothecated with HDFC Bank: Hypothecated Vehicle Bearing Registration No. PB65AT9101, Bearing Engine No. DE3006620, Bearing Chassis No. WAU2DJFYJ700193 and make AUJG Q5 PREMIUM PLUS 2.0. Mode of Auction: E-Auction/Public Auction. Website : www.CarTradeExchange.com. Venue: Plot No-115, Sector 101 Alpha IT City Mohali 160062. Description of the Hypothecated Asset under Auction:-

AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED (A SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANK). Regd. Office: 19-A, Dhuleshwar Garden, Ajmer Road, Jaipur - 302001 (CIN:L36911R1996PLC011381). APPENDIX IV (SEE RULE 8(I)) POSSESSION NOTICE. Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) under the "Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest [Act, 2002 (54 of 2002)] and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice on the date as mentioned below calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice as per the details given in below table:

TERMS & CONDITIONS: 1. The Auction/E-auction is being held on "as is where is, as is, what is, as is, whatever is there is and without recourse basis". The Authorized Officer of HDFC Bank/Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/rights dues. 2. It shall be the responsibility of the bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the asset and specification before submitting the bid. The inspection of asset put on auction shall be provided only after obtaining the due appointment from authorized officer Mr. Amit Aswal at 9879124614. 3. The interested bidders shall submit their EMD being 25% of the Reserve Price for an amount of Rs. 303750/- by the way of DD in the Name of HDFC Bank Ltd. The said Demand Draft shall be deposited at HDFC Bank Ltd Plot No-115, Sector 101 Alpha IT City Mohali 160062. 4. The interested bidders shall submit their EMD through Web Portal: www.CarTradeExchange.com, (the user ID & Password can be obtained after making the statutory payment for the portal more particularly mentioned as per the terms and conditions of the portal as described above). 5. The highest bid shall be subject to approval of HDFC Bank Limited. Further, Authorized Officer reserves the right to accept/reject all or any of the offers/ bids so received without assigning any reasons whatsoever. His decision shall be final & binding. After registration and for participation, the bidder may abide by the terms, conditions, and submission of the necessary documents as per the portal/terms and conditions. 6. The interested bidders who require assistance in creating Login ID & Password, uploading data, submitting bid, training on e-bidding process etc., may write or seek assistance by writing to the above-mentioned portal. Further, it is made clear that the HDFC Bank has no role in providing any kind of assistance. 7. During the Online Inter-see Bidding, Bidder can improve their Bid Amount as per the 'Bid Increase Account' (mentioned above) or its multiple and in case bid is placed during the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the e-Auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes (each time till the closure of e-Auction process), otherwise, it's automatically get closed. 8. The Authorized Officer / Secured Creditor shall declare the bidder who submits the highest bid amount (not below the Reserve Price) on the closure of the e-Auction Process as a Successful Bidder, after required verification. 9. That the Successful bidder shall deposit the amount remaining amount after deduction of the EMD within 24 hours of being declared as successful bidder. In case the amount is not deposited within the time as prescribed above, the bank shall have every right of getting the said amount deposited with the bank forfeited. 10. The highest bid shall be subject to approval of HDFC Bank Limited. Further, Authorized Officer reserves the right to accept/reject all or any of the offers/ bids so received without assigning any reasons whatsoever. His decision shall be final & binding. The Authorized Officer / Secured Creditor shall declare the bidder who submits the highest bid amount (not below the Reserve Price) on the closure of auction process. 11. The Authorized Officer is not to accept or reject the highest offer and the Authorized Officer has the absolute right to not accept or reject any or all offer(s) or adju(m) post/pon(e) the Auction without assigning any reason therefor. 12. Bidding in the last moment should be avoided in the bidders own interest as neither the HDFC Bank nor Service provider will be responsible for any lapse/failure/Internet failure/power failure etc.) in order to ward-off such contingent situations bidders are requested to make all necessary arrangements / alternatives such as power supply back-up etc., so that they are able to circumvent such situation and are able to participate in the auction successfully. The Borrower, Co-Borrower and guarantor are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to dated interest and ancillary expenses before the date of Auction, failing which the asset will be auctioned/ sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost. Date: 13.01.2026 Authorized Officer, HDFC Bank Ltd.

Swadeshi pledge programme held on Swami Vivekananda's 164th birth anniversary

RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR, JANUARY 12

A Swadeshi Pledge programme was organized at Vivekananda Multi Specialty Hospital, Yamunanagar, under the aegis of Swadeshi Jagran Manch, on the occasion of Swami Vivekananda's 164th birth anniversary. Yamunanagar MLA, Shri Ghanshyam Das Arora, was the chief guest at the program. He inaugurated the programme by offering flowers to a portrait of Swami Vivekananda and administered a pledge to the assembled gathering to adopt Swadeshi (indigenous) products. During the programme, speakers elaborated on Swami Vivekananda's thoughts, his contribution to nation-building, and his vision of a self-reliant India. Office bearers of Swadeshi Jagran Manch appealed to everyone to promote the use of indigenous goods. Students and other dignitaries also shared their views on this occasion. In the same vein, a special pro-

gram was organized at Swami Vivekananda Hostel and Vivekananda Multi Specialty Hospital to commemorate Swami Vivekananda's birth anni-



versary, the hospital's founding day, and its annual day. Patients who had recovered completely after treatment also participated in the programme.

They shared their experiences from the stage and praised the services of the doctors and staff. It was announced that the hospital has state-of-the-art facilities

for radiotherapy and transplants, and a cath lab is also being established soon, which will provide advanced medical services to the people of the region. Chief Guest MLA Ghanshyam Das Arora, in his address, said that Vivekananda Multi Specialty Hospital is playing a significant role in providing world-class healthcare facilities to the people of the region. Referring to the central and state government's Ayushman Bharat scheme, he said that continuous review and effective implementation of these schemes are necessary to provide better healthcare facilities to the poor and needy. Hospital director Dr. Vikrant Kamboj said that the institution's objective is to provide quality and accessible medical care with a spirit of service. Two female patients who had received treatment also shared their experiences and praised the hospital's services. A large number of citizens, patients, doctors, and staff members were present at the programme.

NIRMAL SAINI
RADOUR, JAN 12

Awareness program was organized at Global Research Institute of Management and Technology, Nachraun on Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary. Main objective of program was to familiarize students with Swami Vivekananda's thoughts, ideals and philosophy of life and to develop self-confidence, discipline and a spirit of national service among youth. It was inaugurated by institute director Dr Lakshya Agarwal by offering flowers to portrait of Swami Vivekananda. Various educa-



tional and cultural activities such as essay writing, singing and group discussions were organized. In essay writing competition, students expressed their views on Swami Vivekananda's thoughts and role of youth. Performances of inspirational and patriotic songs in singing competition

moved everyone deeply. Through group discussions, students engaged in meaningful deliberations on social responsibilities of youth and challenges of present times. Dr Lakshya Agarwal highlighted important events from Swami Vivekananda's life, discussing his struggles,

his dedication to education and messages he gave to youth. He stated that Swami Vivekananda's entire life is a source of inspiration for young people. He encouraged the students to follow Swami Vivekananda's philosophy: "Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached."

MP Naveen Jindal celebrates Lohri and Makar Sankranti with scribes

RAHVIR PARASHAR
KAITHAL: MP Naveen Jindal celebrated

festivals of Lohri and Makar Sankranti with local journalists and media personnel in a very enthusiastic atmosphere at Grace Hotel today. It was organized in an informal and cordial setting. He also spoke about further strengthening his relationship with the fourth pillar of democracy and gave a message of unity, harmony and good health. Interacting with media, Naveen Jindal said that journalists are mirror of society. They work to convey voice of common people to government and administration. You have an important role in society. Ensure that government's welfare schemes reach



common people so that every eligible person can benefit from schemes. He said that festivals of Lohri and Makar Sankranti symbolize new energy. Through this event, Jindal emphasized mutual

brotherhood and communal harmony. Amidst the celebrations, he reiterated his commitment to development of Kaithal and surrounding areas. He said that continuous work is being done for development of region under guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini. A parliamentary sports competition was recently organized to encourage youth participation in sports. We should all play some sport so that our bodies remain physically and mentally healthy. When we play sports, we either win or we learn. He urged journalists to take some time out of their busy lives to exercise every day.

Awareness organized at DAV College Pehowa on Youth Day

YAGYA DUTT SHASTRI

PEHOWA: An awareness campaign was organized by Legal Literacy Club at DAV College Pehowa on the occasion of Youth Day. Objective of this campaign was to educate students about gender equality, road safety and cyber safety. It was organized by Legal Literacy Club Dr Deepika. She sensitized students on these important topics and encouraged them to follow these principles in their lives. She informed students about road safety, explaining how they should follow traffic rules and prevent accidents. They were advised to obey traffic signals, wear helmets and be cautious while on road. They were also made aware of increasing cyber fraud and how they can protect themselves from it. They were advised to keep personal details secure, avoid clicking on unknown links and use strong passwords to protect their accounts. Importance of gender equality was also discussed. They were told how they can promote gender equality in their society and respect women's rights. Program concluded with question-and-answer session for students where they asked their questions.



Shri Shrimad Bhagwat Katha Gyan Yagna begins at Someshwar Rice Pvt. Ltd. with kalash yatra

KAMAL SHARMA
TARAORI, JANUARY 12

A seven-day Shrimad Bhagwat Katha Gyan Yagna commenced on Monday with a grand Kalash Yatra in Kachhwa village, with prayers for the peace, happiness, and prosperity of the community. A devotional atmosphere prevailed throughout the area for this religious event held at the Someshwar Rice Pvt. Ltd. premises on Kachhwa Road. In the morning, a grand Kalash Yatra was taken out from Nagar Kheda, in which hundreds of women carried Kalash (holy water pots) on their heads and circumambulated the town. This procession, filled with faith and devotion, passed through various routes and reached the Katha venue at the Someshwar Rice Pvt. Ltd. premises. Before this, Acharya Pandit Shubham Shastri of Shri Mahakali Ma-



hakaleshwar Siddhpeeth Temple performed the rituals and prayers at Nagar Kheda. Katha Vyas Pujya Shri Keshav Acharya Ji Maharaj, who had come from Vrindavan Dham, beautifully described the significance of the Shrimad Bhagwat Katha on the first day, immersing the devotees in devotion. A large number of women and devo-

tees listened to the Katha and earned spiritual merit. After the Katha, prasad (blessed food) was distributed to all the devotees. Ramdas Sharma, CMD of Someshwar Rice Pvt. Ltd., expressed his gratitude to all the devotees and dignitaries present and said that this Katha event will continue daily until January 18 and is an opportunity for spiritual benefit for the people of the region. On this occasion, Sheeshpal Sharma, Shubham Sharma, Tarawadi Grain Market President Subhash Gupta, Ranjit Bhardwaj, Satish Kakkar, Rohit Bhardwaj, Nagar Kheda Committee President Atar Singh, Bittu Bhatia, Gobind Bhatia, Vishal, Ravi Sharma, Rinku Sharma, Ashwani Sharma, Deepak Sharma, Maulik Bhardwaj, Sunita Devi, Aarti, Santosh Gupta, Saroj Sharma, and a large number of other dignitaries.

Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary held at DAV College

YAGYADUTT SHASTRI

PEHOWA: A program was organized at DAV College, Pehowa, to commemorate birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. Program began with college principal Dr Sumanlata formally lighting lamp and offering flowers at statue of Swami Vivekananda. Addressing students, she said that Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary is celebrated every year on January 12 as National Youth Day, with aim of instilling self-confidence, discipline, physical fitness and a spirit of nation-building in the youth. A lecture was organized to inspire students towards Swadeshi, self-reliance and nation-building. Assistant Professor of Hindi, Ravindra Kumar, Prof Sukhbir from History Department and Professor Anu from English Department were the main speakers at the lecture. Following lecture, a 2 km Swadeshi Pledge Run was organized. Run was flagged off by college principal, Dr Sumanlata. At end of program, a Swadeshi Pledge assembly was held, where students were administered an oath to adopt Swadeshi products and fulfill the objectives of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India) campaign.



ਪੰਤਰਕਾਰ ਅਮਰੀਸ਼ ਆਨੰਦ ਵਲੋਂ ਲੋਹੜੀ ਅਤੇ ਮਾਘੀ ਮੌਕੇ ਦੋਰਾਹਾ ਤੋਂ ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ ਸਪਲੀਮੈਂਟ

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Sukhbir Singh Badal (Ex-Deputy Chief Minister Punjab)
Maheshinder Singh Grewal, Gurpreet Singh, S. Jagdeep Singh, Gurdeep Singh, Lohal, Bawa, Member Gen. Comdant, Shriyanth Yashpal Dal, Shriyanth Yashpal Dal, Leader

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Er. Manwinder Singh, Giaspura Mla Haika Payal
Sudarshan Kumar Sharma, Sudarshan Kumar Sharma (President Nagar Council Doraha)

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Jyoti Sharma, Samdish Singh

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S. Manwinder Singh Giaspura (MLA Payal), **S. Gurwinder Singh Rana Kooner (Member of district Planning Board AAP)**

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