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NEWS BRIEFS

Karur stampede case: CBI questions TVK chief Vijay for second time

NEW DELHI: The CBI started the second round of questioning of TVK chief and actor Vijay at the agency headquarters here on Monday in connection with the Karur stampede case, officials said. The actor arrived at the agency headquarters on Lodhi Road in a fleet of luxury SUVs this morning, they said. He is being questioned during the day by a team of officials led by a deputy superintendent rank officer drawn from the agency's anti-corruption, they said.

Bomb hoax at 3 Ambala schools

AMBALA: Three schools here received bomb threat email on Monday after which the school authorities immediately informed the police and a thorough check was carried out, but nothing suspicious was found, officials said. Police said a thorough search was conducted in the three schools -- two of them in Ambala Cantt and one in Ambala City, but nothing suspicious was found. Ambala Cantt SHO Jatinder Dhillon said, "a thorough search was conducted, but nothing suspicious was found."

Himachal cabinet clears subsidy to resume Shimla air services

SHIMLA: In a significant development, the Himachal Pradesh cabinet on Monday decided to release state subsidy to facilitate the resumption of air services from Shimla, despite the ongoing debate over the lack of central support under the UDAN scheme. The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Sukhvir Singh Sukhu. Announcing the decision, Industry Minister Harsh Vardhan Chauhan said the state government had approved the release of a subsidy to ensure that flight operations resume at the earliest. "Flights from Shimla to Delhi and Shimla to Dharmsala will soon begin. The Cabinet has approved this. These flights had been suspended for several months due to the termination of the Alliance Air contract," Chauhan said. He added that the resumption of flights would benefit tourists from across the country visiting Shimla and Dharmsala and would provide a boost to the state's tourism sector. The Cabinet decision comes at a time when Himachal Pradesh has been without regular commercial flights for months, even as the issue remains under judicial consideration through a public interest petition in the High Court. The court has already flagged concerns over the underutilisation of airport infrastructure and the absence of dependable air connectivity to the hill state. While the state government's move is expected to restore limited air services, it has also revived the larger policy question surrounding the UDAN scheme.

Nitin Nabin set to take over as new BJP president today

AGENCY NEW DELHI, JAN 19

Union Minister and BJP President JP Nadda along with his colleagues Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh on Monday participated in the filing of Bharatiya Janta Party Working President Nitin Nabin's nomination for the post of party's National President. Other Union Ministers, including Piyush Goyal, Nitin Gadkari, Manohar Lal Khattar and G Kishan Reddy, also participated in the nomination process held at the party's headquarters in the national capital. In a post on X, Union Minister JP Nadda said, "Today, at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi, Shri @NitinNabin filed his nomination papers for the post of National President, along with the Bharatiya Janata Party Parliamentary Party." Ahead of the filing, BJP MP Anurag Thakur lauded the nomination of 45-year-old Nitin Nabin for the post of BJP National President, stating that his elevation is a "big message" from PM Modi to Gen Z, as it invites the youth to participate in the country's political arena. Speaking to reporters, the BJP MP

said that the party's decision to elect Nitin Nabin as National President is not only a matter of pride for the party but also for the nation. "BJP's decision to select Nitin Nabin is not only a matter of pride for the party but also the nation.

meeting, where the party is expected to formally announce Nitin Nabin's election as the new BJP National President, bringing Organisation Parv 2024 to its conclusion.



This is a big message from PM Modi to Gen Z, inviting them to join politics... In the coming elections, we will fight under the leadership of Nitin Nabin, and PM Modi's popularity will help us win," Thakur told. On Tuesday at 11 am, around 700 representatives are expected to assemble at the BJP headquarters in Delhi. PM Modi will be present at the

meeting, where the party is expected to formally announce Nitin Nabin's election as the new BJP National President, bringing Organisation Parv 2024 to its conclusion. Of these, 36 nomination papers were submitted from various states and Union Territories, while one was filed by the BJP National Council and Parliamentary Party, carrying the names of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, outgoing party president JP Nadda and 20 other senior central leaders as proposers.

Each nomination paper has been signed by 20 proposers, party sources said. The nomination process ends at 4 pm, with the window for withdrawal open between 5 pm and 6 pm. The election of the national president is the culmination of the BJP's large-scale organisational exercise under Organisation Parv 2024, a constitutionally mandated internal election process that began at the grassroots level and progressed upward to the national tier.

Bengal SIR: SC directs ECI to display names of electors under 'logical discrepancies' category

AGENCY NEW DELHI, JAN 19

The Supreme Court on Monday directed the Election Commission of India (ECI) to display the names of the electors falling under the 'logical discrepancies' category in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise in West Bengal. The apex court noted that the ECI has issued notices to certain persons described as falling under the category of 'logical discrepancies'. Thus, with a view to enabling persons included in the category, the Court issued a direction to display the names of such persons at Gram Panchayat Bhavans, Block Offices, and Ward Offices. The court asked the state government to provide adequate manpower to the ECI and the State Election Commission to entertain the documents and objections and to adhere to the hearing process for persons likely to be affected. In this regard, directions shall be issued by the ECI/

State Government for the deployment of adequate personnel. Persons likely to be affected shall be permitted to submit their documents before the authorised officers. The apex court instructed that an authority letter be issued in this

all interested persons. The Director General of Police (DGP) of West Bengal has been asked to ensure that there is no law and order issue and that the entire exercise is completed smoothly. The court stated that wherever the objection is



regard. The bench instructed the persons in the category who have not submitted their claims and objections to do so within 10 days. According to the directions issued by the court, notices for the submission of documents or objections may be submitted at the Gram Panchayat Bhavans. The Election Commission of India shall issue necessary instructions for facilitating the submission of documents by

found to be satisfactory, such persons shall be given an opportunity of hearing in accordance with the procedure already prescribed by the ECI in its Standard Operating Procedure. The hearing may be conducted at the time of submission of the objection itself. The Electoral Roll Officers' Network (ERONET) portal had flagged more than 1.2 crore names under the 'logical discrepancy' category etc.

Congress, Akali Dal and BJP have looted Punjab: CM Bhagwant Singh Mann

BUREAU AJNALA, JAN 19

Laying the foundation stone of a 15 crore Government Degree College in Ajnala, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Monday said that the Congress, Akali Dal and BJP had collectively looted Punjab for decades, hollowing out its institutions and forcing generations of youth to look abroad for opportunities. The Chief Minister said that the new college, which will be named after the revered scholar Baba Ghamchuk Ji, represents the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government's resolve to rebuild Rangla Punjab through education, opportunity and public participation.



said that infighting is at its peak among these parties as they lack any concrete agenda for the welfare of the people. "The opposition has no vision for Punjab. They are only waiting for their turn to loot the people and the state's resources. Their dreams will never be fulfilled because the people of Punjab are wise and brave, and they understand the dubious character of such leaders," he said, adding that Punjabis will never allow these forces to succeed in their nefarious designs. Urging people to remain cautious of opportunistic and power-hungry politicians, the Chief Minister stated that the sole aim of traditional parties is to exploit Punjab and its people.

SC suggests shifting Bikram Majithia to Chandigarh jail

UNI NEW DELHI, JAN 19

The Supreme Court on Monday suggested that Shiromani Akali Dal leader Bikram Singh Majithia be shifted to a jail in Chandigarh while hearing his plea seeking interim bail on the ground that he apprehended threat to his life.



"We are saying shift him to Chandigarh jail, what is the problem?" remarked Justice Sandeep Mehta during the hearing.

A bench comprising Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta was hearing Majithia's petition. On the issue of an alleged threat to life, Justice Mehta queried how many attempts had been made on Majithia since he was taken into custody. Senior Advocate Gaurav Aggarw-

al, appearing for Majithia, urged the court to grant interim bail, submitting that there was a genuine threat, as reflected in the state's own intelli-

gence report dated January 3.

In response to a specific query from the bench, Aggarwal said Majithia has been lodged in Nabha jail since June 2025.

During the hearing, Justice Mehta observed, "Rs 540 crore of public money (is involved)," to which Aggarwal responded that, as per the chargesheet, the allegation pertained to around Rs 40 crore.

Senior Advocate Siddharth Dave, appearing for the state, sought time to file a response. He informed the court that the Punjab and Haryana High Court was already seized of the issue and that the state had assured the High Court that all necessary steps were being taken to ensure Majithia's safety.

The matter was adjourned, granting time to the state to file a count-

er-affidavit. Before parting, the bench observed that Majithia's request for interim bail would be considered on the next date of hearing.

Majithia has approached the Supreme Court challenging a Punjab and Haryana High Court order, which dismissed his bail plea in an FIR registered by the Punjab Vigilance Bureau under Sections 13(1)(b) read with Section 13(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. Notice on the plea was issued by the Supreme Court in December 2025. The FIR was registered on the basis of a June 7, 2025, report of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing an earlier NDPS case against Majithia. The SIT alleged that Majithia and his wife had accumulated assets worth over Rs 540 crore, disproportionate to their known sources of income, through a network of domestic.

Death toll rises to 24 in Spain train crash

AGENCY MADRID, JAN 19

The death toll in a high-speed train collision in southern Spain has reached 24, while 73 others have been injured. Authorities confirmed that Spain has witnessed its worst rail crash in more than a decade, involving two high-speed trains.

Carriages on a Madrid-bound train derailed and crossed over to the opposite tracks, colliding with an oncoming train in Adamuz, near the city of Córdoba.

According to the rail network, around 400 passengers and staff were onboard the two trains. Of the injured, 15 remain in serious con-

dition, the Andalusia region's President, Juanma Moreno, announced, adding that medical teams had treated another 170 people for minor injuries at a field hospital, according to public broadcaster RTVE. The accident occurred around 7.40 pm local time (1840GMT) when a train traveling from Malaga to Madrid derailed near Adamuz, Córdoba, and encroached onto an adjacent track. This caused a second train heading south from Madrid to Huelva to derail as well. Transport Minister Oscar Puente confirmed on the US social media company X that the first two wagons of the second train were "thrown off" the tracks, acknowledging that reports from the scene were "very grave."

QR codes with regular progress updates to be put up at project sites: Hry CM

BUREAU CHANDIGARH, JAN 19

Under the directions of Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini, the Quality Assurance Authority (QAA)-Haryana is working with a comprehensive mandate to strengthen quality, transparency and accountability in engineering infrastructure projects across the state.

Chairman, QAA, Sh. Rajeev Arora (Retd. IAS) stated that in accordance with the Chief Minister's directions, the QAA has conducted detailed technical audits of major infrastructure projects across multiple departments in two phases, covering 25 large projects.

These audits focused on design adequacy, adherence to Detailed Project Report (DPR) provisions, construction quality, contract management, safety aspects and long-term sustainability. Based on these audits, Detailed Technical Audit Reports have been prepared and circulated to the concerned Administrative Departments and Executive Agencies for compliance and corrective action. The QAA has also been tasked with preparing a com-

prehensive consolidated presentation by 16th February, 2026, incorporating ATRs received from departments along with QAA's independent observations, comments and recommendations. This presentation will also include suggestions for action against officers or officials wherever required,



and additional measures necessary to ensure timely completion and high quality of projects. As per directions, all audit reports prepared by QAA shall be linked with the Haryana Engineering Works Portal and the Chief Minister's Dashboard at the earliest, with the Public Health Engineering Department acting as the nodal department for immediate implementation.

Luxury homes above Rs 1 crore capture 63% market share despite 11% volume decline

AGENCY NEW DELHI, JAN 19

Premium housing units priced at Rs 1 crore and above saw 6 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) growth in unit sales during 2025, highlighting market premiumization trends despite an 11 per cent decline in the overall residential market. According to a press release by JLL, total residential sales fell to 270,323 units in 2025, yet the market demonstrated a clear shift toward higher price segments. Apartments priced above Rs 1 crore increased their market share from 53 per cent in 2024 to 63 per cent in 2025, while the mass segment's share contracted from 47 per cent to 37 per cent. The surge in premium demand was most prominent in the Rs 1.5-3.0 crore category, which recorded a 19 per cent increase in sales compared to the previous year. Despite the drop in vol-

ume, the total sales value across India climbed by approximately 11 per cent Y-o-Y to around Rs 5,57,100 crore. This growth in value amid a decline in unit sales confirms a transition toward higher-value transactions as buyers prioritise quality projects.

"India's residential market experienced a premiumization shift in 2025, with properties above INR 1 crore growing 6% Y-o-Y while mass housing below INR 1 crore fell by 30% during the period. Despite an 11% drop in total pan India housing unit sales, total sales value climbed by around 11% Y-o-Y to around INR 5,57,100 crores, demonstrating buyers' preference for quality developments over price premiums. This healthy sales value performance amid sales



unit decline confirms the market's successful transition toward higher-value transactions, validating developers' premiumization strategies and buyers' appetite for premium offerings," said Samantak Das, Chief Economist and Head of Research and REIS, India, JLL.

Chennai emerged as the standout performer in 2025, recording a 31 per cent growth in annual sales, while major markets like Bengaluru and Delhi NCR experienced declines of 12 per cent and 22 per cent respectively. In the fourth quarter of 2025, Chennai and Delhi NCR maintained their momentum, with Chennai seeing an 86 per cent Y-o-Y growth in sales. Furthermore, Bengaluru, Delhi NCR, and Chennai led property price growth, each recording 13 per cent annual appreciation in capital values. "Housing supply premiumization was evident in 2025, with premium segments growing 6% Y-o-Y while total launches dropped 3% to 293,079 units. New launches captured 23% of annual sales, showing buyer confidence despite market softening.

NEWS BRIEF

Sub-Inspector Rajinder Singh takes charge as SHO of Sri Chamkaur Sahib police station

SRI CHAMKAUR SAHIB PARAMJIT SINGH PAMMA : Sub-Inspector Rajinder Singh has assumed charge as the Station House Officer (SHO) of the Sri Chamkaur Sahib police station. After taking charge, SHO Rajinder Singh said that he has been given the opportunity to serve for the second time in

Sri Chamkaur Sahib, the sacred land of martyrs. He said he would discharge the responsibility entrusted to him by senior with honesty and dedication, and would ensure that no unlawful activities are allowed to flourish in the area. Appealing to the public on the issue of drugs, he urged people to immediately inform the police if they come across anyone involved in selling or consuming narcotics. He assured that the identity of informants would be kept completely confidential. The SHO also issued a strict warning to youths involved in hotheadism. He said that any act of creating disturbance, including bursting crackers using bullet motorcycles, would not be tolerated. He added that anyone caught indulging in such activities would face strict legal action.

DC directs heads of departments



PARAMJIT SINGH JALANDHAR: Deputy Commissioner Dr. Himanshu Agarwal said that the date for sending recommendations of officers and employees to be honored on the occasion of District Level Republic Day has been extended. He directed all the heads of departments to ensure that the recommendations regarding the officers and employees under them who have shown outstanding performance while performing their services should be sent to Room No. 14 (P.A. Branch), District Administrative Complex, Jalandhar by 3 pm on January 20, 2026. He said that applications received after the specified date and time will not be considered. The Deputy Commissioner also directed the heads of all departments to ensure that the names of officers and employees who have received commendation letters in the last five years are not sent again.

Governor Gulab Chand Kataria lays foundation of Shastri Market Redevelopment Project

SHASHI PAL JAIN
CHANDIGARH, JAN 19

The Governor of Punjab and Administrator of Chandigarh, Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, today laid the foundation stone of the redevelopment work of Shastri Market located in Sector 22-C. He said that this project is an important initiative towards developing the city in accordance with modern requirements while preserving the original spirit of the "City Beautiful."

The Governor said that old markets of a city are not merely centers of trade, but are the heartbeat of social, cultural and economic life. While redeveloping such markets, it is essential to give priority to civic amenities, security and environmental protection so that development remains inclusive and sustainable. He informed that the



project, to be completed by the end of 2026 at a cost of ₹6 to ₹8 crore, will include raising the shop levels by approximately three feet, increasing the height of the roofs, developing the market on a solar energy basis, and installing 100 to 150 CCTV cameras for security. In addition, provisions will be made for water tanks, Wi-Fi facilities and well-organized parking. Shri Kataria said that this project is in line with the vision of Swachh Bharat, Smart City and Viksit Bharat being implemented under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He expressed confidence that the redevelopment of Shastri Market will also serve as an ideal model for other markets in Chandigarh. On this occasion, former Member of Parliament from Chandigarh and Additional Solicitor General of India, Shri Satya

PAU qualifies for national youth festival



LUDHIANA: Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) students have brought laurels to the institution by qualifying for the AIU National Inter-University Youth Festival after an impressive performance in the 39th AIU Inter-University North Zone Youth Festival, organized by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi at the Chitkara University, Rajpura from January 6 to 10, 2026.

Congratulating the students on their remarkable achievement, Dr Satbir Singh Gosal, Vice-Chancellor, PAU, lauded the talent, dedication and discipline of the participants and appreciated their consistent efforts in upholding the university's cultural legacy at the state/zonal/national platforms.

Anindita Mitra assumes charge as the Chief Electoral Officer, Punjab

CHANDIGARH, JAN 19

Anindita Mitra today assumed charge as the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Punjab. Prior to this appointment, she was serving as the Administrative Secretary, Department of School Education, Higher Education and Languages, Government of Punjab. A 2007-batch Indian Administrative Service officer, Mitra brings with her wide administrative experience and institutional knowledge of public governance.

After assuming charge as CEO, Punjab, Anindita Mitra said that she is honoured to have been entrusted with the responsibility of leading the constitutional and democratic institution in the State of Punjab.

She noted that over the past seventy years, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has consistently strengthened the framework



for conducting free, fair, and transparent elections, while continuously improving the accuracy and inclusiveness of electoral rolls.

She further stated that the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Punjab, will work with firm commitment to uphold democratic values and ensure voter-centric ease across all stages of the electoral process; from voter registration to polling day.

Mitra emphasised that

the office will continue to prioritise accessibility and transparency while ensuring strict adherence to the highest standards and guidelines prescribed by the Election Commission of India. She also highlighted that technology will continue to be a key enabler in enhancing transparency, improving voter services, and ensuring efficient election management and operations across the State.

Chandigarh police bust organised cyber fraud network under "Operation Mule Hunt"; 10 accused held

CHANDIGARH, JAN 19

In a major breakthrough against organized cyber-crime, Cyber Crime Police Station, UT Chandigarh has successfully arrested nine (9) key accused involved in an organized network of cyber fraud. The arrests were made in connection with multiple FIRs registered at Police Station Cyber Crime, UT Chandigarh, relating to large-scale misuse of mule bank accounts for cyber fraud activities.

The operation was carried out under the dynamic leadership of Ms. Geetanjali Khandelwal, IPS, Superintendent of Police, Cyber Crime, UT Chandigarh, with strategic guidance from Sh. A. Venkatesh, DSP Cyber Crime, and under the close supervision of Inspector Ms. Eram Rizvi, SHO, Police Station Cyber Crime, Sector-17, Chandigarh.

Based on information received from the I4C portal MHA, several bank accounts operating in the Chandigarh



jurisdiction were found linked to fraud complaints registered on the NCRP/I4C portal in other state.

After analysis revealed that these accounts were being used as mule accounts for cyber frauds such as digital arrest scams and part-time job frauds, involving illegal transfer, withdrawal, and layering of money through technical means.

Investigation Details- In Case FIR no. 11 U/S 112(2), 317(2), and 61(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) During the investiga-

tion, multiple suspicious bank accounts were identified involving the following accused persons:

Ritik, S/o Ved Prakash, resident of Mauli Jagran, Chandigarh

Rythem, S/o Balraj Kumar, resident of Mauli Jagran, Chandigarh

Akash, S/o Vinod Kumar, resident of SAS Mohali, Punjab Through these accounts, disputed amounts were transferred and withdrawn through cheques within the jurisdiction of Chandigarh.

Run for Swadeshi inspires youth as MRSPTU NSS wing celebrates National Youth Day



ANANTDEEP KAUR
BATHINDA, JAN 19

To mark National Youth Day, commemorating the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, and in accordance with the guidelines issued by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the NSS Wing of Maharaja Ranjit Singh Punjab Technical University (MRSPTU), Bathinda organized a "Run for Swadeshi" programme on Monday (January 19).

The event aimed to motivate young minds to adopt the ideals of Swadeshi, self-reliance, physical fitness, discipline, and national unity, inspired by the life and teachings of Swami Vivekananda. NSS volunteers and faculty

members participated enthusiastically, demonstrating their commitment to nation-building and the promotion of a healthy lifestyle. The programme began with the Run for Swadeshi, symbolizing the collective resolve of the youth to support indigenous products and actively contribute to the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat. An expert lecture was later delivered by Dr. Manjeet Bansal, Dean, Consultancy Cell, MRSPTU, Bathinda. In his address, Dr. Bansal highlighted the contemporary relevance of Swami Vivekananda's philosophy, emphasizing youth empowerment, innovation, self-confidence, and the crucial role of young minds in making India self-reliant and globally competitive.

Guru Ravidas Begumpura Sadan land dispute flares up at Khuralgarh Sahib



DALJEET AJNOHA
HOSHIARPUR, JAN 19

The long-standing dispute over 36 acres of land at Shri Guru Ravidas Begumpura Sadan, Khuralgarh Sahib, village Mahindpur, tehsil Nangal, district Rupnagar, has reignited. The land was purchased by the Guru Ravidas Sadhu Sampradaya Society (Regd.) Punjab, under the leadership of Sant Sarvan Das Ji Bohan (chairman) and with contributions from devotees in India and abroad, for the community's welfare. To resolve the issue, SC Commission chairman Jasvir Singh Garhi visited Dera Sant Pritam Das Babe Jorje, Raipur Rasoolpur. Representatives from the Guru Ravidas Sadhu Sampradaya Society, All India Adi Dharma Mission (Regd.)

India, various committees, and a large gathering of devotees were present. Society saints and leaders asserted that the 36 acres at Khuralgarh Sahib were bought with NRI support for community benefit. Despite repeated demarcations, the full land has not been handed over, with some portions allegedly encroached upon. They demanded that the registered land be cleared and handed to the society. They added that with government support, the society could soon build a school, college, and hospital at the site and dedicate them to the community. President Sant Nirmal Das and Sant Inder Das (general secretary) highlighted false cases filed against society saints and volunteers by a family allegedly occupying Charan Choh Ganga.

China dor seized, Morinda city police arrest one with 11 spoils

RADHE SHYAM SHARMA
MORINDA, JAN 19

Despite a strict government ban due to fatal accidents linked to its use, the sale and transportation of banned China wire continues unabated. Acting on the directions of SSP Maninder Singh and under the supervision of DSP Gurjeet Singh, Morinda City Police arrested a person and seized 11 spoils of banned China wire during a special operation.

Providing details, SHO Gurmukh Singh said that a police team led by ASI Angrej Singh was conducting routine checking and patrolling near Rangyan Morh in Morinda. During the operation, a ??? became nervous on spotting the police and attempted to flee after throwing away the bag he was carrying. The police immediately apprehended him.

On checking the abandoned bag, the police recov-



ered 11 spoils of China kite string marked "MONO KTC-Industrial Use Only," which is completely banned under law. The accused was identified as Gautam Dhiman, son of Muni Lal, a resident of house number 1802/1, Mohalla Pakka Bagh, Rupnagar. Police have registered a case against the accused under Section 223 of the Indian Penal Code and initiated further legal proceedings. Officials reiterated that strict action will continue against those involved in the sale, storage or transportation of banned China wire, keeping public safety in view.

Punjab police nabs 80 drug smugglers with 7kg heroin

CHANDIGARH, JAN 19

Continuing the war against drugs "Yudh Nashian Virudh" waged by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann to eradicate drug menace from state consecutively for the 324th day, Punjab Police conducted raids at 262 locations on Monday leading to the arrest of 80 drug smugglers after registration of 57 first information reports (FIRs) across the state. With this, the number of total drug smugglers arrested has reached to 45,331 in 324 days.

The raids have resulted in recovery of 7 kg heroin, 828 intoxicant tablets/capsules and Rs 5420 drug money from the possession of arrested drug smugglers.

Notably, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann has asked the Commissioners of Police, Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendent of Police to make Punjab drug free state. The Punjab government has also constituted a 5-member Cabinet Sub Committee led by Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema to monitor the war against drugs.

Over 100 Police teams, comprising over 800 police personnel, under the supervision of 59 gazetted officers have conducted 262 raids across the state. Police teams have also checked as many as 270 suspicious persons during the day-long operation.

The state government has enforced a three-pronged strategy—Enforcement, Deaddiction and Prevention (EDP)—to eradicate drugs from the state, the Punjab Police as part of 'De-addiction' has convinced 19 persons to undergo de-addiction and rehabilitation treatment today.

Medal distribution ceremony held at Punjab Convent School

KULWINDER KARWAL
SARDULGARH, JAN 19

Punjab Convent School organised a grand Annual Sports Meet on 18th, 19th and 20th December, in which students participated with great enthusiasm and sportsmanship. Various outdoor games were conducted during the three-day event.

After the successful completion of the sports meet, a Medal Distribution Ceremony was organised on the school campus. The Principal, Ms. Teesha Arora, graced the occasion and congratulated the winners for their excellent performance. She awarded medals to the students who secured first, second, and third positions in different events.



While addressing the students, Principal Teesha Arora highlighted the importance of sports in building discipline, teamwork

and a healthy lifestyle. She motivated the students to participate actively in sports along with academics.

The ceremony concluded

with a vote of thanks, and the event left behind joyful memories and a spirit of healthy competition among the students.

Sarvhitkari NCC Cadet 'A' certificate examination completed



KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA
RAMPURA PHUL, JAN 19

The NCC Cadet 'A' Certificate (Session 2025-26) examination under 3 PB Naval Unit Bathinda of Lala Kasturi Lal Sarvhitkari Senior Secondary Vidya Mandir was organized this year as per the guidelines of Captain Ishraj Singh. Under the examination, the cadets were evaluated as per the prescribed criteria in written and practical examination. In the practical examination, exercises related to drill, seamanship, weapon training, semaphore and ship modeling were conducted from the cadets. All the cadets participated in the examination with full disci-

pline, confidence and enthusiasm. During the examination, NCC The evaluation was conducted in a fair and impartial manner in the presence of officers and trainers. It was clear from the performance of the cadets that the information and practice given to them during the training was effective. On this occasion, NCC CTO Didi Mohdeep was present with the cadets. School Principal Sanjeev Kumar Sharma and Management Committee President Prem Prakash, Manager Gurpreet Singh expressed satisfaction over the successful organization of the exam by the NCC unit and wished the cadets a bright future.

Central Information Commissioner reviews RTI implementation in Punjab



CHANDIGARH, JAN 19

The Central Information Commissioner, Vinod Kumar Tiwari, IFS (Retd.), today visited the Punjab State Information Commission Headquarters in Chandigarh.

During his visit, he held a detailed and productive meeting with Chief Information Commissioner, Punjab, Sh. Inderpal Singh Dhanna, and State Information Commissioners of Punjab — Dr. Bhupinder Singh Bath, Harpreet Sandhu along with Additional Chief Secretary Mr. D.K. Tiwari. The meeting focused on the effective implementation of the Right to

Information (RTI) Act, 2005, with special emphasis on institutional reforms, transparency, accountability, and strengthening mechanisms for efficient information delivery.

V.K. Tiwari appreciated the work of the Punjab State Information Commission and said that Punjab has made commendable progress in implementing the RTI Act.

During the meeting, Chief Information Commissioner of Punjab, Sh. Inderpal Singh Dhanna, highlighted the state commission's commitment to ensuring efficient and timely delivery of information to citizens.

Youth as Ambassadors of peace & sustainability: SGGs World University concludes transformative interfaith SDG programme



AJAY MALHOTRA
FATEHGARH SAHIB, JAN 19

Sri Guru Granth Sahib World University (SGGSWU), Fatehgarh Sahib, marked the successful culmination of its three-month Interfaith Programme on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Environmental Awareness—an initiative dedicated to nurturing interfaith harmony, social responsibility, and youth-led action for a sustainable future.

Jointly organised by the Department of Education (SGSWU) and the Agriculture and Environment Awareness Centre, Fatehgarh Sahib, in collaboration with Rubaroo,

Hyderabad, the programme brought together 40 students from diverse academic disciplines and faith backgrounds. Over three months, the initiative fostered meaningful interfaith dialogue, mutual respect, and a deep understanding of global sustainability challenges.

Prof. (Dr.) Prit Pal Singh, Vice-Chancellor, appreciated the collaborative effort, noting that the blend of interfaith engagement and community-based learning is essential in shaping responsible, value-driven citizens. He emphasised the need to ground students in local realities while sensitising them to global concerns.

5-day organic farming course concludes at PAU, growers asked to produce residue-free crops for health safety



LUDHIANA: A five-day training course on "Organic Farming," organized by the Skill Development Centre and the School of Organic Farming of the Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), concluded here in the University.

The training invited the participation of 23 organic growers, who were provided hands-on demonstration on organic and natural farming techniques for chemical-free production, keeping in view the health concerns of the public. It was held under the guidance of Dr MS Bhullar, Director of Extension Education, PAU.

Dr Rupinder Kaur, Associate Director (Skill Development), emphasized on adopting organic manure and vermicomposting preparation as subsidiary occupations for better monetary returns. "The cultivation of aromatic, spice and medicinal crops is also picking up," she observed, while underlining the need to promote organic cultivation methods for pesticide residue-free crop production, and ensure safety of health of the masses.

The Course Coordinator Dr Lavlesh Garg, Extension Scientist, stressed upon maintaining standards, authenticity, and certification of organically-produced food products.

NEWS BRIEF

Protest against oppression of MNREGA workers by central govt on 21st January: Pawan Tinu

PARAMJIT SINGH JALANDHAR: A strong protest is being held at the district headquarters Jalandhar by the Aam Aadmi Party under the leadership of Halsa Incharge Shri Pawan Kumar Tinu against the oppression and injustice being done to MNREGA workers by the central government. In the past, the BJP government at the center has abolished MNREGA and converted it into the Ji Ram Ji scheme. Under this policy, many types of cuts have been made in the rights of MNREGA workers. Especially during the sowing and harvesting seasons, due to the non-availability of MNREGA work, poor workers have been deprived of employment, which has directly affected their livelihood.

Rupnagar police bust gang involved in creating and supplying fake "Q Forms"



BAHADURJEET SINGH RUPNAGAR: Rupnagar Police claimed to have busted an organized gang that was preparing and supplying fake "Q Forms" through a bogus/fake website/system. These fake Q Forms were being used for the illegal transportation of sand, gravel, and other construction materials, causing significant financial loss to the Punjab Government. Sharing details, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Rupnagar, Sh. Maninder Singh, stated that four accused—Arun Kumar alias Rana, resident of Village Nainwa, PS Garshankar, District Hoshiarpur; Harinderpal Bhalia alias Nonu (Nonu Bhalia), resident of Village Bharatgarh, District Rupnagar; Gurmeet Singh, resident of Sarsa Nangal, District Rupnagar; and Attilish Pratap Shahi, resident of Vivek Pura, Taramandal, Siddharth Enclave, SO Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh—have been arrested. An FIR No. 0014 dated 16/01/2026 has been registered at Police Station Nangal under Sections 318(4), 336(2), 336(3), 340(2), 338, 61(2) BNS and Sections 66, 66(C), 66(D) of the IT Act 2000.

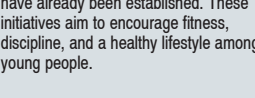
Dasuya set for sports & infrastructure boost: MLA

Advocate Karambir Ghuman

DALJEET AJNOHA HOSHIARPUR: MLA Dasuya Advocate Karambir Ghuman has reaffirmed his commitment to transform Dasuya into a model constituency by strengthening sports facilities and upgrading civic infrastructure. In a special conversation

MLA said that every possible facility will be provided to promote sports activities for youth. Advocate Ghuman announced that an open gymnasium under the overbridge is being launched for public use, while badminton and ground sports facilities have already been established. These initiatives aim to encourage fitness, discipline, and a healthy lifestyle among young people.

OSD Sukhveer Singh listens to journalists' 'Mann Ki Baat'



RAJESHWAR PINTU DHURI: Sukhveer Singh, Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, held a significant meeting with the journalist community of the Dhuri sub-division at a private hotel today. The primary objective of the meeting was to hear the grievances of journalists and understand their "Mann Ki Baat". Deputy Director of the Public Relations Department, Prabhdeep Singh Nathowal, and APPO Jastaran Singh were also specially present on the occasion. During the meeting, senior journalist Birbal Rishi raised a serious concern regarding the behavior of the police administration. He stated that whenever the Chief Minister visits the constituency, journalists often face allegedly discouraging treatment. He noted that reporters on duty are subjected to lengthy, suspect-like questioning, which not only wastes time but also creates a tense atmosphere. The journalists expressed resentment that instead of a sense of "belonging," they are made to feel like "outsiders" during the coverage of government events. Furthermore, various journalists demanded a robust "Media Policy" from the Punjab Government. They requested complete toll tax exemptions for journalists at National Toll Plazas, similar to the state government's existing policy. They also advocated for a pension scheme and a monthly honorarium for field journalists, emphasizing that these benefits should be extended beyond just accredited press members. After listening intently to the concerns, OSD Sukhveer Singh assured that the government is fully sincere about resolving the issues faced by the media. He announced that he would soon arrange a direct meeting between the journalist community and Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to find permanent solutions to these matters. He reiterated that the media is the fourth pillar of democracy.

Govt will go door to door to make Mukhyamantri Sehat Cards free for every household: Dr Balbir Singh

GAURAV GOEL
CHANDIGARH, JAN 19

Punjab Health Minister Dr Balbir Singh on Monday announced that the Punjab government's Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana, which provides cashless medical treatment up to Rs 10 lakh, will be formally launched on the 22nd, reiterating that the scheme fulfils the commitment made by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and AAP National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal to ensure quality healthcare for every citizen without any financial burden.

Addressing a press conference at the AAP office in Chandigarh, Punjab Health Minister Dr Balbir Singh made it clear that the scheme is entirely free and that the government itself is taking responsibility for reaching every household. Emphasising zero tolerance towards fraud or exploitation, he said, "The government is providing health cards completely free of cost and will deliver them door to door. Anyone who makes fake health cards or



Addressing a press conference at the AAP office in Chandigarh, Punjab Health Minister Dr Balbir Singh made it clear that the scheme is entirely free and that the government itself is taking responsibility for reaching every household.

charges people in the name of this scheme has already been arrested by the Bhagwant Mann government, and if anyone else attempts this, they will also be arrested." The Health Minister said the

entire cost of the scheme, from the preparation of health cards to medical treatment, will be borne by the government, and no individual or agency is permitted to charge even a single rupee at

any stage. Referring to complaints received from Muktsar and Mansa, Minister Dr Balbir Singh said the government has already taken strict action where some individuals were illegally charging Rs 50 for making health cards. He stated that both individuals have been suspended, their licenses cancelled, and FIRs registered against them, making it clear that such practices will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

Explaining the enrollment process, the Health Minister said youth club volunteers will go door to door to distribute tokens. Citizens will have to visit designated centres with the token, along with their Aadhaar card and voter ID, to get their health cards made completely free of cost. Reiterating the government's resolve, Minister Dr Balbir Singh said the Mann government is committed to transparent, people-centric healthcare and warned that strict action will continue against anyone trying to cheat citizens in the name of welfare schemes.

ADC Geetika Singh reviews Republic Day arrangements



LK BANSAL
MOHALI, JAN 19

Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Geetika Singh today reviewed the on-going preparations for the 77th Republic Day celebrations to be held at Shaheed Major Harminder Pal Singh Government College, Phase-6, Mohali.

The review meeting was held at the District Administrative Complex.

While taking stock of the arrangements, the ADC said that all requisite preparations would be completed well in time to ensure that the district-level Republic Day Celebrations is to be celebrated in a befitting and grand manner.

She directed the officials of Municipal Corporation Mohali to ensure complete cleanliness of the ground and its surrounding areas. The Public Works Department (PWD) was instructed to properly maintain the stadium and the main stage. The Health Department was asked to deploy medical teams during the rehearsals, which will commence from January 21.

The local police were directed to prepare a march-past and ensure robust security arrangements. The Education Department was asked to prepare a cultural programme that is dignified and imbued with patriotic spirit. All departments were instructed to prepare their tableaux showcasing the State Government's welfare initiatives and flagship schemes. The Republic Day celebrations will feature a march-past, tableaux display, yoga session, and cultural programmes. The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner (General) Dr Ankita Kansal, Chief Minister's Field Officer Gurmeet Singh, District Education Officer Dr Ginni Duggal, and other senior officers.

NDRF team sensitizes students to deal with natural disasters at Baba Gandha Singh Public School Barnala



BARNALA (BALWINDER AZAD): The NDRF (Bathinda) team sensitized students to deal with natural disasters under a safety and awareness campaign at Baba Gandha Singh Public School Barnala, a renowned educational institution of the area. The aim of this program was to provide information to the school staff and students about protection from different types of disasters, safety methods, first aid and life-saving techniques. This program was led by Sub-Inspector Rekh Singh Meen Ji. During this, the NDRF team explained in detail to the students and school staff about earthquake protection, fire response, bleeding control, C. P. R, F. B. A. O. and improvised floating devices used during floods. The team gave a demonstration to the students and school staff about first aid, safe evacuation procedures and necessary precautions during disasters. On this occasion, the school principal Dr. Sandeep Kumar Lath Ji thanked the team and made the students aware about the prevention of various disasters, safety methods and life-saving techniques so that we can keep our lives safe. On this occasion, the school MD S. Ranpreet Singh Rai, Vice Principal Madam Suman, staff and students were present.

Lehragaga police takes major action: 27 gamblers arrested

GURMAIL SINGH SANGATPURA
SEHRAGAGA, JAN 19

Under the direction of SSP Police Sangrur Shri Sartaj Singh Chahil Ji, under the campaign against bad men, under the leadership of S. Ranbir Singh DSP Lehra, Inspector Manpreet Singh, Chief Officer, Police Station Lehra, while taking action against bad elements, Lehra Police got a great success when, on receiving confidential information, a case was registered in Police Station Lehra under 13 A/ 3/ 67 Gambling Act, 112 BNS and a raid was conducted in a planned manner at Pawan Ji Garage Chural Kala and 27 people were caught red-handed while gambling and Rs. 7,23,000/- of gambling were recovered and arrested.

The arrested persons are Pramod Kumar alias Pinta son of Surajbhan resident of Prem Basti Gali No. 8 Sangrur Police Station, City Sangrur, Mahinderpal alias Chiriyu son of Raghvir Singh resident of Ward No. 12 Arora Colony Ratia, Sukhpal Singh alias Pal son of Ram Singh alias Ramu resident



of Ratia, Sandeep Singh son of Sita Ram Singh resident of Anaj Mandi Tohana, Bhuvnesh Kumar alias Pintu son of Shiv Kumar Garg resident of Ward No. 7 Model Town Ratia Police Station City Ratia, Raghvir Singh son of Om Prakash resident of Ward No. 2 Uklana Police Station Uklana, Manoj Kumar alias Meiji son of Harbant Lal resident of Ward No. 9 Patra, Varinder Singh son of Chandu Ram resident of Ward No. 3 Shasal Hospital Uklana Police Station Uklana, Praveen Kumar alias Sukar son of Vir Bhan resident of Ward No. 9 Kila Mohla Tohana Police Station City Tohana, Dimple Kumar son of Syam Lal resident of Ward No. 13 Rathi Ratia Police Station City Ratia, Ankit Kumar alias Bittu son of Harbans Lal resident of Ward No. 19 Saini Colony Tohana Police Station City Tohana, Dalip Singh alias Kala son of Chadi Ram Saini

resident of Ward No. 11 Saini Mohla Tohana Police Station City Tohana, Kuldeep Singla alias Deepu son of Nares Kumar resident of Budha Khera Hall Ram Nagar Tohana, Vinod Kumar son of Sadhu Ram resident of Near Bus Stand Gorakhpur Police Station Bhuna Haryana, Surinder Singh son of Bhim Singh resident of Masudpur Police Station Hasi Hall Dogra Mohla Kabir Chak Hisar, Mahans Kumar alias Moti son of Ramphal Tak resident of New Sakti Nagar House No. 75/A Street No. 1 Patiala, Sonu alias Bagti son of Sis Ram resident Gyan Rok Primary School Gorakhpur Police Station Bhuna, Sunil Kumar son of Virbhan resident near Radha Swami Satsang Ghar Gorakhpur Police Station Bhuna, Anil Saini alias Anil son of Ram Kumar Urr Pammi resident near Mata Vaisne Devi Temple Tohana.

Cabinet Minister Punjab starts work of 11 km road to be constructed at cost of Rs 10.25 crores



SHARANJEET
PATHANKOT, JAN 19

Before coming to power, the Aam Aadmi Party had promised the people to build new roads and fulfilling this promise, the work of building new roads in the Bhoja assembly constituency has been started. The Aam Aadmi Party government has laid a network of roads in the Bhoja assembly constituency. Along with this, the width of most of the roads has also been increased. Under which, the construction work of two different roads, which are about 11 kilometers long, has been started today and it is even more gratifying that the foundation stone of today's construction work has been laid by the elderly people of this place. This was stated by Lal Chand Kataruchak, Cabinet Minister, Punjab, after inaugurating the

road construction work in villages Kothe and Madinpur. He said that the construction work of two major roads has been started, including one from village Kothe to Khial-Majra and Joyan and the other road from Kothe to Jani Chak and Madinpur, which is about 11 kilometers long. Approximately Rs. 10 crore 25 lakh is to be spent on the construction of this road and along with this, the width of this road will now be increased to 18 feet wide. He thanked Bhagwant Singh Mann, Chief Minister of Punjab. On this occasion Naresh Saini, Nabi Saini, Sunita Block President, Rajni Bala, Pardeep Kumar XEN, Rajinder Kumar SDO, Gurmej Singh JE, Manisa Saini Sarpanch Begowal, Jagbir Sarpanch Madinpur, Chaman Sarpanch Jani Chak and other Aam Aadmi Party ofice bearers were present.

Punjab's first dog sanctuary inaugurated in Ludhiana, marks major step in stray dog management



AMRISH ANAND
DORAHA, JAN 19

Punjab Cabinet Minister for Local Government, Industries and Commerce, Mr. Sanjeev Arora on Sunday inaugurated the state's first Dog Sanctuary at the Haibowal Dairy Complex in Ludhiana, marking a significant initiative towards public safety and animal welfare. The facility, with a capacity to house around 500 dogs, has been launched as a pilot project and will function strictly in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Hon'ble

Supreme Court for the management and welfare of stray dogs. Mr. Arora stated that based on its success, similar dog sanctuaries would be established across Punjab. The event was attended by Ludhiana Mayor Principal Inderjit Kaur, Senior Deputy Mayor Rakesh Parashar, Deputy Mayor Prince Johar, Deputy Commissioner Mr. Himanshu Jain, Municipal Corporation Commissioner Mr. Aditya Dachalwal, animal welfare expert Dr. Sulbha Jindal, Councillor Indu Munish Shah, along with several other senior officials.

Vishwakarma Seva Samiti, Nabha, organizes monthly chawla da langar



RAKESH JINDAL
NABHA, JAN 19

Vishwakarma Sewa Samiti, Reg. Shri Vishwakarma Mandir Krishna Puri Nabha, organized a monthly Chawla Da Bhandara on Masya.

After the president and office bearers of the Vishwakarma Sewa Samiti offered the Chawla Rup Prasad prepared for Jagatguru Bhagwan Shri Vishwakarma Maharaj Ji, a langar of sweet Chawla as Prasad was served to all the devotees at Sri Vishwakarma Chowk. On this oc-

casional, President of Vishwakarma Welfare Society Charan Singh MD Malkit Combine, Avtar Singh Nanera President All India Combine Association, Babli Mathara, Sarabjit Singh Ramgarhia, Avtar Singh Dhind, Baljinder Singh Dhammu, Kuldeep Singh Chani, Narinder Singh Dev, Satnam Singh, Ishar Singh, Paramjit Singh, Harman Singh Gian Chand Virdi, Avtar Singh Panesar, Pardeep Singh, Kuldeep Chani etc., besides a large number of devotees were present.

KVK, Kheri organises training course on "Agro processing complex and jaggery production"

SUSHIL GOYAL
SANGRUR, JAN 19

A five-day vocational training course on "Agro Processing Complex and Jaggery Production", organised by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Kheri (Sangrur) of Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana, concluded here. As many as 12 trainees from different villages participated in the course.

Welcoming the participants, Dr. Mandeep Singh, Associate Director, KVK, Kheri highlighted the need and importance of the processing of agricultural produce for increasing farmers' income. He exhorted the farmers to set up agro-processing complexes for value addition of farm produce and gain the economic benefits. Besides this, he also



informed them about various other training programmes and activities, being conducted by KVK, Kheri for the welfare of farming and rural communities. Dr. Sunil Kumar, Assistant Professor, who acted as coordinator of this training course, deliberated on the concept of agro processing complex and different processing machines. Dr. Sandhya, Senior Research Scientist, delivered a techni-

cal lecture on establishment of wheat flour mill, mini rice mill and baby oil expeller. She also shared the processing practices for oilseeds in detail. Dr. Gurvir Kaur, Scientist, spoke about different machines involved in turmeric processing and the whole processing procedure for preparing turmeric powder. Dr. Kirandeep Kaur, Scientist shed light on the processing of pulses.

Patriotic spirit soars during grand Republic Day rehearsals at GHPS Auditorium



BALWINDER AZAD
BARNALA, JAN 19

G. Holy Heart Public School (GHPS) came alive with vibrant patriotic spirit as elaborate Republic Day rehearsals were conducted with great zeal and enthusiasm in the school auditorium. The spacious auditorium resonated with national pride as students showcased disciplined performances through cultural dances, patriotic songs, speeches, and coordinated formations, reflecting their dedication towards the forthcoming national celebration. Along with the enthusiastic

participation of GHPS students, students from various other schools of Mehal Kalan also assembled at the GHPS auditorium to rehearse collectively. This collaborative effort highlighted the values of unity, cooperation, and mutual respect among educational institutions, strengthening the spirit of togetherness and national harmony. The rehearsals were carried out under the guidance and motivation of the esteemed Managing Director, Mr. Sushil Goyal, whose constant encouragement inspired students to strive for excellence.

Century of service: Grand RSS centenary dharma conference held at Kotla Bajwara, saints honoured with reverence

AJAY MALHOTRA
FATEHGARH SAHIB, JAN 19

A grand Dharma Conference was organized at village Kotla Bajwara, Block Khera, in District Fatehgarh Sahib to mark the 100th anniversary of the All India Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). The event, dedicated to nation-building, harmony, and human values, witnessed an overwhelming participation of devotees from the region.

The programme was presided over by Senior BJP Leader and former Punjab Minister Dr. Harbans Lal, Patron of "Ha Da Naara Chetna Manch," Gaurav Bansal, along with All India Pracharak Advocate Raj Kumar Makkar, delivered insightful speeches on nation-building, humanity, environmental conservation, drug de-



addiction, and the importance of connecting youth with education and sports. Increasing plantation and ensuring proper care of trees emerged as a central theme in the conference, especially in view of rising pollution levels. Eminent spiritual leaders of the region—Sant Baba Gurmeet Singh Kheraj (Hansali Sahib), Sant Baba

Pratap Singh Sadhugarh, Mata Raj Kaur Sadhugarh, Sant Baba Mehar Singh Kaithal Wale, and Katha Vachak Baba Paramjit Singh Bhatmajra—graced the religious gathering and shared their spiritual messages. The saints paid heartfelt tributes to the supreme sacrifice of the Ninth Sikh Guru, Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji.

Cambridge International School Shahpurkandi plays Key role in shaping bright future for children

SHAHPURKANDI (VERMA): In the field of education, Cambridge International School Shahpurkandi, Pathankot, is making a significant contribution to shaping a bright and promising future for children. The school's Chairman, Vidhi Singh Jamwal, and Director, Renu Bangru, stated that the students at the school are not only academically talented but also have the potential to excel in all areas of life. They explained that keeping the students' bright future in mind, the school has employed a highly educated and experienced staff that provides quality education.

This effort is not limited to bookish knowledge alone but also promotes critical thinking, creativity, and the ability to learn independently among students. Vidhi Singh Jamwal and Renu Bangru further mentioned that the school encourages children to participate in sports and co-curricular activities alongside academics. This is crucial for their physical and mental development. Through sports, children develop essential qualities such as teamwork, leadership, and discipline. Director Renu Bangru said that the school's goal is to provide holistic education so that students can succeed not only in academics but in all aspects of life.



SHANTI GAUTAM
BADDI: A grand Hindu conference was organised at Mittiyian, where Swami Rammohan Das delivered a spiritual discourse and blessings to the gathering. He formally inaugurated the conference by lighting the ceremonial lamp. Addressing the audience, Swami Rammohan Das said that the Hindu society today appears to be complacent and entangled in personal interests, failing to learn lessons from incidents in regions such as Kashmir



and Bengal. He said people often focus only on accumulating property, recalling that many families in Kashmir were once forced to flee their homes, leaving their possessions behind. Swami Rammohan Das stressed that wealth collected in temples should be used for public welfare rather than remaining idle. He also appealed to women to actively contribute towards building a healthy and value-based society, stating that their role is crucial in shaping social character.

NEWS BRIEF

Road infrastructure in Nurpur set for major upgrade as Rs. 3.75 crore budget approved: MLA Ranbir Singh Nikka

SANJEEV MAHAJAN
NURPUR: In a major relief for residents of the Nurpur Assembly constituency, a budget of Rs. 3,75,77,313 (Rs 3.75 crore) has been approved for the repair and strengthening of damaged and dilapidated roads in the area. Sharing the information through a video message, Nurpur MLA Ranbir Singh Nikka said that improvement work on several key roads in the constituency will begin soon, ensuring smoother and safer movement for the general public. He said that road projects which are still pending will also be completed on priority. The MLA added that the government is fully committed to the overall development of the region and resolving public issues remains its top priority. Local residents have welcomed the decision, expressing hope that the condition of roads will improve soon.

Cancer care centre to be established at Medical College Hamirpur

Cabinet approves amendment in social security pension

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, JAN 19

The State Cabinet, in its meeting held here today under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, decided to establish a state-of-the-art Cancer Care Centre at Dr. Radhakrishnan Government Medical College, Hamirpur. The Cabinet also approved the creation of 11 new departments in Cancer Care Centre and the creation and filling up of requisite posts of various categories. The Cabinet decided to amend Social Security (Pension and Allowance) Rule, 2010 to ensure time-bound disbursement of social security pension to the beneficiaries. The Cabinet also gave its approval to adopt the National Policy on Geothermal Energy to



facilitate the exploration and development of untapped geothermal energy resources in the State. It approved the Directorate of Energy as the Nodal Agency for the implementation of this policy and sanctioned amendments to the Swarn Jayanti Energy Policy, 2021 to incorporate guidelines related to geothermal energy.

The State Cabinet gave its approval to promulgate an

Ordinance to levy 'Orphan and Widow Cess' on petrol and high-speed diesel at the point of first sale in the State, with the objective of strengthening welfare schemes for orphans and widows. The cess will be non-burdensome to consumers, while ensuring the availability of adequate financial resources for the effective implementation of these welfare schemes.

'Quality medicines to be made available in govt health institutions'

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA: Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today chaired a meeting of senior officers of Health Department and directed that patients visiting government health institutions be provided with quality medicines. He said that the State Government would soon invite tenders of approximately Rs. 100 crore for the procurement of medicines and would also ensure the participation of reputed pharmaceutical companies. He said that medicines would be procured directly from manufacturers, so that world-class drugs are made available to patients in government health institutions across the state.

Fresh snowfall warning in Lahaul-Spiti as tourist rush raises safety concerns

AGENCY
SHIMLA, JAN 19

The tourist movement continues to swell in the higher reaches of Himachal Pradesh, and the district administration of Lahaul Spiti has issued a strong advisory warning visitors against risky travel amid deteriorating weather conditions. Despite light snowfall and black ice already rendering roads slippery, a large number of tourists have been heading towards the tribal district, driven by largely dry conditions in other hill resorts.

Authorities say this sudden surge has placed immense pressure on traffic management, particularly on vulnerable mountain stretches such as the Darcha-Shinkula axis and interior roads leading towards Kaza and high-altitude villages.

Officials cautioned that fresh western disturbances expected from Thursday and Friday onwards are likely to intensify



snowfall and sharply worsen road conditions. In such a scenario, vehicles may get stranded for prolonged periods as rescue and evacuation operations become extremely difficult, if not impossible. Prolonged stranding in sub-zero temperatures, officials warned, could pose serious health risks, especially for tourists unprepared for harsh winter conditions. The police advisory strictly prohibits movement beyond permitted locations and urges visitors to return in time as per official instructions.

CM presides over Doctor's Award-2025

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, JAN 19

Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu while presiding over the 'Doctor's Award-2025' organized by Hindi daily newspaper in Peterhoff on Sunday said that the newspapers were doing commendable work in helping the people perform and achieve better in their life. The Newspapers were providing platforms for the women and youth by organizing various motivational programmes for them and Doctor's Award-2025 was one such platform.

On the occasion Chief Minister felicitated Head of the Department Nephrology AIIMS Bilaspur Prof (Dr.) Sanjay Vikram, Principal-cum-Professor and Head Atal Institute of Medical Super Specialities Prof (Dr.) Brij Sharma, Shimla, Vice Chancellor National Institute of



Ayurveda, Jaipur Prof. Sanjeev Sharma, Professor & Head Neurology AIIMS Chamiana Dr. Sudhir Sharma, Rheumatologist Department of Medicine, IGMC Shimla Dr. Vikas Sharma, Associate professor Urology AIIMS Chamiana Dr. Kailash Barwal, HOD Orthopedics Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru Government Medical College Chamba Dr. Manik Sehgal, Neurosurgeon (Brain and spine specialist) Dr. RPGMC Tanda Dr. Mukesh Kumar, Assistant professor Renal Transplant surgery Dr. RPGMC Tanda Dr. Amit

Sharma, Medical Officer Specialist (Orthopedics) Zonal Hospital Mandi Dr. Virender Negi, Medical Officer Specialist (OBG) Zonal Hospital Mandi Dr. Varun Kapoor, Medical Officer Specialist (General Surgery) Zonal Hospital Mandi Dr. Deepak Thakur, Medical Officer Specialist (General Surgery) Regional Hospital, Reckong Peo Kinnaur Dr. Bhartendu Nagesh, Retina and Uveitis expert Abhinav Eye Care Centre Solan Dr. Abhiraj Kumar for their selfless and extraordinary health services and Mr. Pankaj Rai.

Dy CM inaugurates community hall at Shri Guru Ravidas Temple, Bhadsali

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA, JAN 19

Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri on Sunday inaugurated the newly constructed community hall at Shri Guru Ravidas Temple, Bhadsali, in the Haroli Assembly constituency. A sum of Rs 71 lakh was provided by the Deputy Chief Minister for the construction of the hall, while the remaining amount was raised through public contribution and community support, making the completion of the grand structure possible.

Appreciating the efforts of the temple committee, Agnihotri said the community hall would prove highly useful for social, cultural and community activities in the coming years. He also



announced a grant of Rs 10 lakh for the installation of a statue of Shri Guru Ravidas Ji in the temple premises. In addition, he declared another Rs 10 lakh for the community hall of Guru Shri Ravidas Satsang Sabha, Saloh, for which Rs 25 lakh had already been sanctioned earlier.

The Deputy Chief Minister said he is continuously working in mission mode to make Haroli the country's 'number one'

Assembly constituency. He said that after strengthening basic amenities, development works are now being taken forward in line with the vision of a 'future-ready Haroli'. Recalling the hardships faced by the region in the past, he said the government's aim is to provide the coming generations with the best environment, modern facilities and a prosperous future.

Sukhu govt misleading people with hollow decisions and announcements: Suresh Kashyap

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA: BJP state president and MP Suresh Kashyap has strongly criticised the Congress government following statements made by a Congress minister after a recent cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, alleging that the Sukhu-led government is trying to conceal its failures through tall claims, figures and paper decisions.

Kashyap said that merely listing more than 50 agenda items in a cabinet meeting does not amount to good governance. The real test of any government lies in visible work on the ground, and on that count, he said, the present government has completely failed. He remarked that decisions related to the creation of posts in medical colleges, opening cancer departments, recruitment of technical staff and extension of the age limit for nurses may sound impressive, but the Congress government must explain who is responsible for the deteriorating condition of health institutions, acute shortage of doctors and growing difficulties faced by patients over the past two years. He added that while new posts are now being announced, already sanctioned posts have been lying vacant for years. The BJP leader further said that the huge backlog of cases in the revenue department and the shortage of tehsildars and patwaris reflect the government's administrative failure. He stated that the decision to reappoint retired employees is an admission that the government failed to carry out timely recruitments.



STP pipeline work halted in Bharyal over forest law violations

AGENCY

SHIMLA: Even as concerns over smoke emissions from the solid waste treatment plant in Bharyal village were yet to subside, a fresh controversy has erupted over the construction of a sewage treatment plant (STP) in the same area. Villagers on Sunday stopped work on the laying of a pipeline for the STP, alleging that the executing company has failed to obtain a mandatory No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Forest Department. Bharyal village, located about 10 km from the Shimla-Airport Road, has already been witnessing sustained protests against civic infrastructure projects that residents say are damaging the local ecology. Villagers claimed that excavation and pipeline laying were being carried out on forest land without permission. Following complaints, forest officials reached the site and directed that work be stopped until the issue is examined. Seema Kumari, a resident, said that when villagers questioned company representatives about the Forest Department NOC, they failed to provide a satisfactory reply. "This is a clear violation of the rules. We were forced to intervene; large tracts of forest land could have been damaged," she said. After receiving the complaint, the Range Officer deputed a forest guard to the spot and assured villagers that a departmental team would visit the area on Monday to conduct demarcation. Officials said the demarcation would determine whether the pipeline passes through forest land and under what conditions the work is being executed. Residents from Bharyal, Rampur, Daunti, Badhari, and nearby villages are also opposing the setting up of a liquid waste treatment facility near a rivulet adjoining the landfill site. They allege that both the solid and liquid waste treatment plants are being established at the origin of the Gambhar khud, threatening to pollute the entire downstream stretch and violating environmental norms.

Municipal Council stands firm with elected leadership on development works

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY
BILASPUR, JAN 19

In a sharp escalation in political discourse as the Municipal Council issued a strong and unambiguous response to former MLA Bamber Thakur, firmly asserting that only elected representatives have the democratic right to inaugurate development projects. The Council categorically rejected the allegations against MLA Trilok Jamwal, calling them misleading and detrimental to the city's progress. Addressing the media, Municipal Council President Kamal Gautam described the statements made by the former MLA as anti-development and politically motivated. He emphasized that Trilok Jamwal is a people's representative and a special invited member of the Municipal Council, who



actively cooperates with civic bodies for the city's welfare. Gautam questioned the rationale behind demanding inauguration rights for someone who currently holds no constitutional position, stating that dragging politics into development harms public interest. Highlighting ongoing progress, the Council underscored that Bilaspur is rapidly transforming with the support of central government schemes. A total of 578 houses are under construction under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, while 14

beneficiaries have already received assistance under the Modi Awas Yojana. Additionally, a massive Rs 100 crore grant from the central government has been sanctioned for the Sewage Treatment Plant, with work already underway. Gautam clarified that seeking cooperation from MPs and MLAs for such projects is both appropriate and necessary. The council clarified that the site for the sewage treatment plant has already been identified. With water levels receding, machinery installation will commence soon.

Bilaspur cooperative society employees study functioning of Kakkar Cooperative Society in Bhoranj

ANIL KUMAR
BHORANJ, JAN 19

Around 30 employees from various cooperative societies of Bilaspur district undertook a study visit to the Kakkar Cooperative Society located in Bhoranj subdivision to understand its working model. The study tour was organised under the leadership of Dr Jagdish Sharma, Director, HP State Cooperative Bank, along with senior faculty member Dola Singh Thakur and faculty member Meghna Thakur from the Cooperative Training Institute, Shimla.

During the visit, participants were given detailed insights into the Kakkar Cooperative Society's accounting system, loan disbursement mechanism, recovery process, digital transactions, record maintenance, member services and overall



administrative operations. The objective of the training was to strengthen cooperative institutions by making them more transparent, efficient and self-reliant.

Employees from cooperative societies across Bilaspur district took part in the study tour, including Jai Pal, Ramesh Chand, Naresh Kumar, Lekh Ram, Anup Kumar, Nikku Ram, Sandeep Kumar, Sanjeev Kumar, Subhash Chand, Satpal, Mukesh Kumar, Rajesh Kumar, Lenin

Chandel, Bhag Singh, Chaman Lal, Rajesh Sharma, Shubham Kumar, Suresh Kumar, Gaurav Kumar, Shami Chandel, Nar Dev Kumar, Devender Kumar, Amrit Pal, Anita Kumari, Som Dutt Sharma and others.

Addressing the participants, Dr Jagdish Sharma said that practical training of employees is essential for strengthening cooperative societies. He said such study tours motivate staff to adopt better and more effective working practices.

Altering structure of MGNREGA is betrayal of panchayats and rural people: Suman Bharti

RAJNEESH SHARMA
HAMIRPUR, JAN 19

Calling the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) the world's largest rural employment scheme, Hamirpur District Congress president Suman Bharti said that the Act was enacted by former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh to guarantee the right to employment for rural households, inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's ideals. He alleged that efforts are now being made to dilute the scheme and deviate from its original spirit. Under the All India Congress Committee's call for the "Save MGNREGA Movement", an interaction programme titled "Dialogue with Panchayat Representatives and



MGNREGA Workers" was organised in Gram Panchayat Brahlari of the Hamirpur Assembly constituency under the chairmanship of Suman Bharti. Rural residents, women, youth and MGNREGA workers participated in the programme in large numbers. Addressing the gathering, Bharti alleged that the Centre is acting with a sense of vendetta against non-BJP-ruled states and is weakening welfare-oriented schemes like MGNREGA. He said the Congress party will continue

its struggle in every village to protect the original framework of MGNREGA, Gandhian ideology and the rights of the rural poor. Senior party workers Kamla Devi, panchayat pradhan Arjun, ward member Sumna Kumari, Mukesh Kumar, retired ASI Joginder Singh, ASI Chhuni Lal, retired subedar Som Dutt, subedar Rakesh, Avneesh, former pradhan Amandeep, Suresh and a large number of MGNREGA workers, panchayat representatives and other prominent residents were present on the occasion.

Awareness program on importance of early detection of breast cancer

SANJAY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA, JAN 19

The Department of Pathology at Dr. Rajendra Prasad Government Medical College, Tanda, organized a breast cancer awareness program under the DIAMONDS project (DHR-ICMR Advanced Molecular Oncology Diagnostic Services). The main objective of the program was to create awareness about the importance of early detection of breast cancer, dispel common fears and misconceptions, and educate participants about simple techniques for breast self-examination. The program was inaugurated by Dr. Rashmi Kaul, Head of the Department of Pathology. The program was attended by Principal Nursing Officer Mrs.



Suman, nursing students, and Dr. Sukesh, Medical Officer from Primary Health Center, Serathana, along with ASHA workers and Anganwadi workers from the Chanwar area. Sixteen nursing students, four ASHA workers, and Anganwadi workers, along with 40 women, participated in the program. The program commenced with an awareness play presented by

the nursing students, highlighting the signs and symptoms of breast cancer, with a particular emphasis on the importance of early diagnosis. This was followed by a myths vs. facts session and an interactive discussion, where participants actively shared their concerns and questions, which were addressed by Dr. Rashmi and Dr. Sukesh.

MP Mobile Health Service's health check-up and awareness camp on diabetes and high blood pressure in Pandoga



AVINASH CHAUHAN
AMB: Under the guidance of Anurag Singh Thakur, the MP Mobile Health Service Team, in collaboration with the Prayas organization, organized a health check-up and awareness camp on diabetes and hypertension in the village of Pandoga. At the camp, 80 people were screened, while 42 patients underwent necessary medical tests. During the camp, people were informed about the causes, symptoms, and preventive measures for diabetes and high blood pressure. It was explained that these diseases are increasing due to irregular eating habits, excessive salt and sugar intake, lack of physical activity, and stress. To prevent these diseases, a balanced diet, regular exercise, limited salt and sugar intake, regular checkups, and medical advice are essential. On this occasion, Dr. Pradeep Kumar, Ruchi, Manish Thakur and Nihal Singh along with the health team and Asha-Anganwadi workers were present.

VERMA GURDASPUR: Senior BJP leader Gagan Vidhu said that the manner in which Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has raised India's stature across the world is truly commendable and beyond adequate praise. He stated that under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, India has carved out a distinct

global identity and today the world looks at the nation with respect and confidence. Gagan Vidhu remarked that earlier India was not taken very seriously on international platforms, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi, through his decisive leadership and effective foreign policy, has placed India



among the world's leading powers. He said that the Prime Minister's frequent overseas visits and his consistent efforts to present India's ancient culture, rich traditions, and core values before the global community have significantly enhanced the country's soft power.

NEWS BRIEF

Traffic to remain suspended on Jogipanga-Tanda-Tlai-Lidkot road for 30 days

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA: Vehicular traffic on the Jogipanga-Tanda-Tlai-Lidkot road (from kilometre 5/360 to 11/500) will remain suspended for 30 days, from January 21 to February 20. Deputy Commissioner Una Jatin Lal, exercising powers under Sections 115 and 116 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, issued the order to facilitate the speedy and smooth execution of upgradation and allied construction works on the road under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. The Deputy Commissioner has directed the concerned departments to adequately inform the public about the road closure and ensure that advance signage is installed to guide commuters about alternative routes.

Sauta clinches Vishal alias Anku Cricket Tournament title at Nagrota Gajjan



ANIL KUMAR HAMIRPUR: The Vishal alias Anku Cricket Tournament concluded successfully at Gram Panchayat Nagrota Gajjan in the Bhoranj subdivision, witnessing enthusiastic participation and competitive cricket. A total of 42 teams from the region took part in the tournament, showcasing their sporting talent. The final match was played between Sauta and Khuthri. Batting first, Khuthri scored 65 runs in 10 overs. Chasing the target, Sauta reached 66 runs for the loss of five wickets in nine overs to emerge as the tournament champions. At the closing ceremony, the vice-pradhan of Gram Panchayat Nagrota Gajjan, Shashikant, attended as the chief guest. He felicitated the winning team Sauta with a cash prize of Rs 15,000 along with a trophy, while the runner-up team Khuthri received Rs 10,000 and a trophy. The organising committee was also awarded an encouragement amount of Rs 11,000. For individual performances, Anirudh Sharma was named Man of the Match, while Sparsh Sharma received the Man of the Series and Best Player of the Tournament awards.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan slams opposition over 'VB-G RAM G' Bill

AGENCY NEW DELHI, JAN 19

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan countered the Opposition's criticism of the Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G Ram G) Act, accusing Congress leaders of spreading misinformation and creating unnecessary confusion around the legislation, stating that it is not "Gandhi's truth". Addressing a press conference here on Monday, Chouhan defended the intent of the VB-G RAM G act, stating that the scheme promotes coordinated efforts between farmers and labourers at the grassroot level. "If our labourer brothers and sisters and farmers work together, what's wrong with that? I would like to urge once again, Rahul ji and Kharge ji, that this kind of lie



doesn't suit you," Chouhan said. He urged the Opposition to refrain from what he termed a "shop of lies" and misrepresentation of facts. Referring to statements and online posts by Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, Chouhan asked, "AI-generated photos are being posted to spread misinformation. Is this right in a democracy? Why are you posting AI-generated photos? Aren't you getting support from the people?" He further called on the Opposition, stating, "I would like to urge once again that they

close down this shop of lies." "This is not Gandhi's truth; this is a mockery of the truth. I've heard of movements and campaigns, but 'Sangram', what kind of terminology is this?" he added, referring to the Congress's nationwide "Bachao MNREGA" campaign. Chouhan further stressed that Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, women, persons with disabilities and the poor remain at the core of the government's employment commitment. Highlighting the rural context, Chouhan noted that over 85 per cent of Indian farmers are small and marginal cultivators who require additional support during sowing and harvesting seasons. He said the proposed law empowers gram panchayats to take decisions based on local needs, ensuring transparency and decentralised planning.

Shed to be built at Kail waste treatment plant at Rs 7.24 crore: Mayor Suman Bahmani



RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR, JAN 19

Waste disposal work at Yamunanagar Kail waste treatment plant will now continue uninterrupted even during rainy season. Municipal Corporation will construct a sturdy tin shed at a cost of Rs 7.24 crore. Ground will also be paved. With construction of shed, waste disposal work will continue even during rainfall. In addition, machinery used for waste disposal will also remain safe. Shed will ensure timely management of waste arriving at plant. Mayor Suman Bahmani said during inspection of Kail waste treatment

plant. She along with Additional Municipal Commissioner Dheeraj Kumar, Chief Sanitation Inspector Harjeet Singh and other municipal officials, inspected plant and reviewed the various processes of waste management. During inspection, Mayor also observed waste segregation process at plant. Here, RDF (Refuse Derived Fuel), bio-soil, and bricks and pebbles are being separated from waste. Along with this, organic fertilizer is being prepared through bioremediation technology. Mayor checked quality of all these processes and expressed her satisfaction. During inspection, she also reviewed site designated for shed.

Kurukshetra University strengthens global academic footprint with high-level Japan visit

DALBIR MALIK KURUKSHETRA, JAN 19

Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra has taken a significant step towards global academic integration with Vice-Chancellor Prof. Som Nath Sachdeva's representation in a national-level delegation to Japan from January 12 to 17. The delegation, comprising representatives from 30 leading Indian universities, visited Japan under the banner of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) to advance the agenda of internationalisation of higher education envisioned in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Deputy Director, Public Relations, Dr Jimmy Sharma informed that during this visit, Prof. Sachdeva played an active role in high-level deliberations held in Tokyo with the University of



Tokyo, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), Sophia University and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). During a conversation, Prof Sachdeva informed that the discussions focused on expanding student and faculty exchange programmes, facilitating international internships, promoting collaborative research in science,

Felicitations ceremony held by Yuva Nayak Jan Kalyan Seva Samiti and Nayak Samaj



SANJAY SHARMA KAITHAL: BJP Kaithal District President Jyoti Saini along with senior BJP leader Ramratap Gupta were special guests at a felicitation ceremony organized by Yuva Nayak Jan Kalyan Seva Samiti and Nayak Samaj, Kaithal. Reinforcing spirit of social service, senior BJP leader Ramratap Gupta contributed 71,01,000 from his personal funds for construction of Nayak community's community hall. Kaithal Municipal Council Ward No. 20 Councillor Rinku Saini was also present. Presence of prominent members of community added prestige to event. BJP Kaithal District President Jyoti Saini assured Nayak community that BJP would always stand with them and provide any necessary grants or assistance for construction of community hall. She praised leadership of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini stating that state government is continuously working for upliftment of every section of society and encouraging social service activities. Senior BJP leader Ramratap Gupta said that serving society is true nation-building. Projects like community halls unite community and provide support to those in need.

Shishya School of Pathankot sets new benchmarks in education

VERMA GURDASPUR: Shishya School, located on Jugial Road in Pathankot, has drawn widespread attention for its remarkable progress and excellence in the field of education.



Under the able leadership of Director Jarnail Singh Patial and Principal Kamlesh Patial, the school has achieved notable success not only in academics but also in sports and physical development. Special emphasis is being placed on providing quality education to students at Shishya School. A team of highly qualified and experienced teachers focuses not only on academic learning but also on the personal and social development of every child. The school staff ensures that each student is encouraged to explore their potential and achieve new milestones of success according to their individual abilities. The academic environment of the school inspires students to move forward with creative thinking and self-confidence. The school administration stated that their continuous efforts are dedicated to shaping a bright and promising future for the students. Director Jarnail Singh Patial and Principal Kamlesh Patial emphasized that along with academic excellence, equal importance is given to the physical development of students. From time to time, children are provided opportunities to participate in sports and various co-curricular activities, ensuring balanced mental and physical growth.

Social worker Jai Reghubir distributes warm caps and notebooks to slum children

VERMA GURDASPUR, JAN 19

In a heart-warming humanitarian initiative, social worker Jai Reghubir distributed warm caps and notebooks among children from slum areas, spreading comfort, care, and encouragement during the winter season. The initiative was supported by renowned social worker and National Award recipient Romesh Mahajan through the Preliminary Education Study Centre being run for underprivileged children.



along with his dedicated team, reflecting their strong commitment to social welfare and child development. On the occasion, the team lauded the philanthropic contribution of Romesh Mahajan, terming the initiative a meaningful and impactful step towards the holistic development and well-being of children from vulnerable sections of society. They also assured that every possible support

NCC Cadets salute veterans at Rayat Bahra University on Armed Forces Day

LK BANSAL MOHALI, JAN 19

The NCC Department of Rayat Bahra University (RBU) organised a special programme to mark Armed Forces & Veterans Day. The event was dedicated to honouring Armed Forces veterans and acknowledging their invaluable contribution to the security, unity and integrity of the country. The programme was graced by Group Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Sanjay Kumar, Air Commodore (VSM) Veteran, as the Special Guest. Director NCC, Prof. (Major) A.S. Chahal formally welcomed the veterans by presenting garlands and conveying heartfelt appreciation for their invaluable contribution to the nation. Bouquets of roses were also presented as a symbol of love, honour and



gratitude. Several veterans associated with Rayat Bahra University participated in the event, adding dignity and inspiration to the occasion. Addressing the gathering, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor delivered an impactful and inspiring address, highlighting the supreme sacrifices, discipline and unwavering commitment of the Armed Forces. He emphasized that veterans are role models for society, whose lives reflect courage, leadership and an unshakable sense of duty towards the nation. NCC cadets presented speeches expressing deep respect and admiration for the Armed Forces, reaffirming their resolve to serve the nation with the same spirit of dedication. Poster-making competitions on the theme of Veterans Day were also organised to encourage awareness, patriotism and creative expression among the cadets. Director NSS, Prof. (Major) A.S. Chahal, delivered a motivational lecture, asserting that service to the nation does not end with retirement from uniform.

Mukhammantri Tirth Yatra Yojana registration from Jan 23, Yatra from Feb 2: DC

JAGRAJ SINGH SANGHA MOGA: The pilgrimage under the second phase of the 'Mukh Mantri Tirath Yatra Yojana' by the Punjab Government under the leadership of the Chief Minister of Punjab, Mr. Bhagwant Singh Mann is being started from February 02, 2026 and the pilgrims can get their registration done from January 23. The registration forms will be filled at the booth level. The selection of the pilgrims going on the pilgrimage will be done through a draw in a completely transparent manner. Sharing this information, Deputy Commissioner Moga Mr. Sagar Setia said that a medical team will also go with the pilgrims during the pilgrimage so that immediate assistance can be provided in any emergency situation. The Deputy Commissioner said that devotees of 50 years of age or above will be eligible for the yatra. Therefore, voter card will be mandatory for registration. He said that 40 devotees will be selected from each booth through draw from each registered person. The devotees will be provided with accommodation for three days and two nights during this yatra. The Deputy Commissioner said that the pilgrims will be selected from all the four assembly constituencies of Moga, Moga, Baghapurana, Nihal Singh Wala and Dharamkot. The pilgrims will be taken on a pilgrimage to Sri Harmandir Sahib, Sri Anandpur Sahib and other religious places. He said that under this scheme, people belonging to all classes, religions, different income groups and regions are going on a pilgrimage.



Patriotic spirit soars during grand Republic Day rehearsals at GHPS Auditorium

KARANPREET KARAN BARNALA, JAN 19

G. Holy Heart Public School (GHPS) came alive with vibrant patriotic spirit as elaborate Republic Day rehearsals were conducted with great zeal and enthusiasm in the school auditorium. The spacious auditorium resonated with national pride as students showcased disciplined performances through cultural dances, patriotic songs, speeches, and coordinated formations, reflecting their dedication towards the forthcoming national celebration. Along with the enthusiastic participation of GHPS students, students from various other schools of Mehal Kalan also assembled



at the GHPS auditorium to rehearse collectively. This collaborative effort highlighted the values of unity, cooperation, and mutual respect among educational institutions, strengthening the spirit of togetherness and national harmony. The rehearsals were carried out under the guidance and motivation of the esteemed Managing Director, Mr. Sushil Goyal, whose constant encouragement inspired students to strive for excellence. The event was further enriched by the visionary leadership of the respected Principal, Ms. Geetika Sharma, who meticulously supervised the practices, ensuring discipline, perfection, and confidence among the participants.

14th Battalion NDRF celebrates 21st Raising Day with enthusiasm in Nurpur



SANJEEV MAHAJAN NURPUR: The 14th Battalion of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), stationed at Baudh, Nurpur in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh, celebrated the 21st Raising Day of the force with great enthusiasm and dignity at its camp premises on Sunday. On the occasion, an impressive parade was organised under the leadership of Assistant Commandant (GD) Santosh. The parade was reviewed by Officer Commanding of the 14th Battalion National Disaster Response Force, Rajneesh Sharma. Officers, personnel of the battalion and their family members participated in the programme with zeal. Extending greetings on the Raising Day, Rajneesh Sharma said that the NDRF was established on January 19, 2006, under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, and since then, January 19 is observed every year as the Raising Day of the force. He said the NDRF was constituted with the objective of ensuring quick and effective response during disasters to safeguard lives and property.

SVSU to partner with leading Japanese institutions

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA PALWAL, JAN 19

Shri Vishwakarma Skill University (SVSU) is set to strengthen its partnership with Japan by collaborating with several leading Japanese institutions. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dinesh Kumar, who recently returned from a week-long visit to Japan, said the tour under the India-Japan Higher Education Mission was highly successful. During the India-Japan University Leaders Summit 2026, multiple Japanese universities expressed strong interest in academic and institutional partnerships with SVSU. Prof. Kumar noted that these collaborations would be significant not only for academics and research but



also for enhancing employment opportunities for Indian youth. As part of the visit, the Vice Chancellor interacted with senior officials and leadership teams of prominent institutions, including Kyoto University, Kansai University, Sophia University, and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO). An important meeting was also held in Tokyo with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan. Prof. Kumar emphasized that Japan views India as a key strategic partner and is keen to deepen cooperation in higher education, research, student and faculty mobility, talent development, and skill training. The summit, organized under the aegis of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), focused on aligning collaboration opportunities with India's National Education Policy 2020.

NEWS BRIEFS

Janta Public School Alahar team wins final match by defeating Kurukshetra team



NIRMAL SAINI RADAUR: Janta Public School Alahar team has emerged victorious in All Open Kabaddi Tournament held by Dada Surajmal Sports Club in Barara. Team secured first place in tournament. Alahar school team defeated Kurukshetra team to win title. Upon players' return to school, celebrations were held and sweets were distributed. Team coach Himanshu Sharma said that a one-day kabaddi tournament was organized by Dada Surajmal Club in Barara in which teams from four surrounding districts participated. Janta Public School Alahar team won final match by defeating Kurukshetra team. Organizers honored team with cash prize of Rs 11,000 and a trophy. School Chairman Mukesh said that school team participates in all such sports tournaments.

International Saraswati Mahotsav begins with devotion and enthusiasm

BUREAU CHANDIGARH, JAN 19

The International Saraswati Mahotsav-2026 began with deep devotion and enthusiasm at the sacred origin site of Goddess Saraswati at Adi Badri, coinciding with the auspicious occasion of Basant Panchami. The Haryana Saraswati Heritage Development Board marked the beginning of the Mahotsav with a 'hawan yajna' and Vedic chanting at the holy site. Haryana's Tourism Minister, Sh. Arvind Sharma, attended the ceremony as the chief guest and offered oblations during the hawan yajna.

Speaking on the occasion, Sh. Arvind Sharma said the rivers Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati have a deep connection with India's culture, civilisation and values, and continue to define the country's identity even today. He stated that in Indian culture, all rivers have traditionally been regarded as sacred. In this tradition, the Saraswati River is considered the mother and nurturer of ancient Indian civilisation. He said that Vedic culture flourished on the banks of the Saraswati River, where sages and



seers established their hermitages and composed Vedic literature. Owing to this vast body of knowledge, India earned recognition as a "Vishwaguru" across the world. According to descriptions in the Mahabharata, the Saraswati River originated from Adi Badri, slightly below the Shivalik

hills. He further said that the river flowed for nearly 1,600 kilometres through Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat before finally merging into the Arabian Sea. It is the great river on whose sacred banks the hymns of the Vedas were composed and the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita was delivered at Kurukshetra. The ancient and major city of the Indus-Saraswati civilisation, Rakhigarhi, was also located on the banks of this great river, where living examples of a civilisation dating back nearly 7,000 years are still found. He added that it is a matter of pride that Haryana is today recognised across the world as the land of origin of Vedic culture, a distinction that is owed to the flow of Mother Saraswati in the region. On the sacred banks of the Saraswati, sages composed the Vedas and other world-famous religious texts.

Former Minister Sh. Kanwar Pal, MLA Sh. Ghanshyam Dass Arora, OSD to the Chief Minister Sh. Bharat Bhushan, and Vice Chairman of the Saraswati Heritage Development Board Sh. Dhuman Singh Kirmach were also present on the occasion.

Subhash Chandra meets Dr R P Saini, VC of Jind varsity on cleanliness issue

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, JANUARY 19

Subhash Chandra, Vice Chairman of the Swachh Bharat Mission, held discussions with Dr. R.P. Saini, Vice Chancellor of Jind University, at the DAV College premises to further accelerate the cleanliness campaign. Subhash Chandra is continuously engaged in public awareness campaigns regarding cleanliness. In this connection, he visited DAV College today and discussed with everyone how they can take the cleanliness campaign in Karnal to new heights. It is noteworthy that last year Karnal secured the third position in cleanliness across the country. Today, the focus was on how to increase public participation in cleanliness efforts so that Karnal can achieve the top position in the entire country.

Subhash Chandra, Vice Chairman of the Swachh Bharat Mission, emphasised how to make Karnal number one in cleanliness and how to further increase public participation. Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini is continuously running campaigns related to cleanliness. The Chief Minister is stressing how ev-



ery city in Haryana can become number one in cleanliness. Dr. R.P. Saini, Vice Chancellor of Jind University, emphasised how awareness programs can be conducted in DAV College and across Karnal to further educate people about cleanliness, and that all cleanliness standards will be met on the college campus. Dr. Balram Sharma, Head of the Political Science Department and NSS In-charge of the college, said that public awareness rallies will be organised in the city through NSS and all possible cooperation will be extended to the Karnal Municipal Corporation.

NIILM University, Kaithal players excel at inter-university level

SANJAY SHARMA KAITHAL, JANUARY 19

The All India Inter-University Badminton (Men's) Tournament 2025-26 is being held at KLEF Deemed to be University, Vaddeeswaram, Guntur (Andhra Pradesh). The men's badminton team from NIILM University, Kaithal, had a fantastic start in the league matches. The team defeated Mumbai University 5-1 in their first league match, and then secured a reversing 5-0 victory against Sambalpur University, Odisha, showcasing their strong potential. The team will play its third league match tomorrow,



generating considerable enthusiasm among players and sports enthusiasts. Similarly, NIILM University, Kaithal players also performed exceptionally well in the North Zone Inter-University Judo (Men and Women) Tournament 2025-26, recently held at Lovely Professional University, Phagwara (Punjab). The university's judo players won a total of four medals, securing their place in the team for the upcoming All India Inter-University Judo (Men and Women) competition. The selected players include two men and two women, who will represent the university at the national level.

GVM Taekwondo players win 8 medals at first Bharat Cup Open National Taekwondo Championship

AMIT KUMAR KHATRI SONEPAT, JANUARY 19

Students of GVM Girls College won eight medals, including five silver medals, at the First Bharat Cup Open National Taekwondo Championship. The institution's president, Dr. OP Paruthi, and Principal Dr. Manjula Spah congratulated the winners and wished them a bright future. GVM's sports in-charge, Anu, informed that the First Bharat Cup Open National Championship was held at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi from January 16 to 18. GVM students also participated in it. In the Kyorugi (fight) competition of the championship, Simran, a second-year BA student of GVM, won a silver medal in the Under-67 kg weight category, Shivanshi, a first-year BA student, won a bronze medal in the Under-46 kg category, Atika, a first-year BA stu-



dent, won a bronze medal in the Under-53 kg category, Shivanshi Dhakad, a BA Geography student, won a bronze medal in the Under-49 kg category, Karishma, a first-year BA student, won a silver medal in the fresher category, and Vaishnavi, a second-year BCA student, won a silver medal in the Over-73 kg weight category. In the Poomsae competition of the championship, Shivani Tyagi, a second-year

BA student, won a silver medal, and Vandana, a second-year BSc Medical student, also won a silver medal. Upon their return to the college, Principal Dr. Manjula Spah felicitated the winners. She said that a golden career can be built in sports in today's era. Sporting talents should lay the foundation for their future by excelling in the field of sports. The college administration will provide all possible support for this.

Patwari, kanungo and police demarcate common land

PRITI SAINI SADHAURA, JANUARY 19

In Ismailpur village of Sadhaura block, the Patwari and Kanungo, along with the Duty Magistrate and a large police force, arrived to demarcate the common land, but after protests from the villagers and the farmers' union, the administration had to return empty-handed once again. The administration has tried several times before to demarcate the common land in Ismailpur village, but the farmers and villagers do not want the demarcation to take place. On Thursday, the Patwari and Kanungo, along with the Duty Magistrate and a large police force, arrived in the village once again. Upon receiving this information, leaders of the BKU Shaheed Bhagat Singh Kisan Union also reached the village and strongly protested against this move by the administration. Farmer leader Jaisingh Jalbera informed that this land has been in the possession of

the farmers since 1923. Farmers have been cultivating these lands for more than 100 years. Now the government wants to demarcate these lands, snatching them from the farmers and giving them to the Panchayat. However, the Panchayat has no claim on this



land. He clearly stated that the farmers will not allow the government to fulfill this intention. Farmer leaders Vikram Rana and Harman Singh said that this matter is pending in the High Court, and the court has issued a stay order to the state, which means that no

kind of tampering or demolition can be done on this land. But even after that, the administration wants to carry out the demarcation, which is a violation of the High Court's orders.

The farmers demanded that the officials present on the spot arrange a meeting with the Dis-

trict Commissioner to resolve the issue. Meanwhile, Duty Magistrate and Veterinary Doctor Vikrant Singh said that the farmers have been given a week's time to meet with senior officials and resolve the matter, otherwise the demarcation will be carried out.

Praveen Gaba, Sumit complete 4 marathon races and win Procam Slam Finisher title

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL

Praveen Gaba and Sumit Mann, well-known social workers from Karnal, have won Procam Slam Finisher title by completing four marathon races held in different parts of country. To achieve this title, one has to complete four marathon races held at different locations in a year. Meanwhile, eleven runners from Karnal participated in Tata Mumbai Marathon held in Mumbai.

Praveen Gaba and Sumit Mann completed 10-kilometer race in Bengaluru, 21-kilometer race in Delhi, 25-kilometer race in Kolkata, and 42-kilometer race in Mumbai this year. For this achievement, Praveen Gaba and Sumit Mann were honored with the Procam Slam Finisher title along with medals and certificates.



Besides Dr. Balbir Singh Virk, Dr. Divyanshu Kalra, Surendra Chauhan, Rahul Chaudhary, Kavita Sandhu, Javed, Sushil Kumar, Angela Panth and Varun Sareen participated in 42-kilometer marathon in Mumbai. Kavita Sandhu from Karnal secured 7th position in her age group in 42-kilometer race, while Javed secured the fourth position in his age group. It is worth noting that more than 65,000 runners participated in this marathon. Along with this, prominent personalities from film industry and political field from across country also participated in this marathon. It is noteworthy that Karnal Marathon Runners Group regularly participates in various marathon races held across country. Through this, they spread message of fitness. Children should participate in outdoor games to stay fit and healthy, said Dr. Virk said that sports keep a person healthy and fit. Since he started participating in marathon races, he feels better and fitter.

Railway team led by Rohit Jaglan wins gold medal

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL

Railway team under captaincy of Rohit Jaglan of Karnal has won gold medal at 72nd Senior National Volleyball Championship, bringing glory to region. On Monday, Civil Lines SHO Ram Lal visited railway station and congratulated team members, including Chief Superintendent Mahendra Singh. SHO Ram Lal said that it is a matter of pride for our region that many members of this volleyball team are from Karnal. More than 30 teams participated in this tournament held in Varanasi under leadership of Captain Rohit Jaglan and Vice-Captain Aman Chaudhary. Final match of tournament which lasted for a week, was played between Kerala and Railway team. Railway team emerged victorious in a thrilling match. He also mentioned that Gaurav is also from this region. He said that Railway team's victory will inspire other players as well. Such performances will encourage other young people to participate in sports and lead healthy lives, staying away from drugs. He added that officers and employees should also engage in sports to relieve stress of daily life and adopt a healthy lifestyle.



Gita is foundation of life and pride of national culture: Madan Mohan Chhabra

HANS RAJ YADAV KURUKSHETRA, JAN 18

Gita Pravah seminar was organized at Gita Gyan Sansthanam. Seminar was presided over by Madan Mohan Chhabra, National Secretary of Geo Gita. Gita was formally worshipped and seminar commenced with lighting of lamp. Madan Mohan Chhabra, National Secretary of Geo Gita said that Gita is foundation of life and pride of national culture. Lord Krishna gave message of performing one's duty to world and this message remains relevant even today. This seminar will prove to be milestone in propagation of Gita and its innovative applications. He informed that inspired by Gita scholar Swami Gyananand Ji Maharaj, a plan has been prepared to organize a Gita Pravah seminar every month at institute for propagation of Gita. Objective of this seminar is to provide a new platform to scholars, students and research scholars conducting research on Gita. It aims to present their

research papers in a new format so that information from their research can reach general public. He informed that seminar is planned to be held on the last Saturday of every month. In Gita Pravah seminar, Dr Vijay from Sanskrit Department of Kurukshetra University, through his re-



search paper, explained that Shrimad Bhagavad Gita is not merely religious text but a complete philosophy of human life. Prasthanatrayi, Upanishads, Shrimad Bhagavad Gita and Brahma Sutras are philosophical foundation of Hindu-

ism which imparts knowledge of fundamental truth, its rational analysis and method of applying that knowledge to life. Meaningful message of Bhagavad Gita is - "Samatvam Yoga Uchyate" (Equanimity is called Yoga). Dr Sangeeta Dheer expressed her insightful views, connecting the verses of the Gita with modern corporate world and personal life management.

In her address, Sangeeta said, "Great principles of modern management were given by Lord Krishna to Arjuna on battlefield of Kurukshetra thousands of years ago." Sangeeta explained that we should cultivate concentration of Arjuna and foresight of Krishna in our lives, as this is only way to achieve our goals. She added that the Bhagavad Gita is not just a religious text, but the world's greatest "management guide." Gita Pravah program will be continued next month with lectures by Dr. Shyamal, Dr. Chandrika, Dr. Sunita Dalal and Dr. Seema among others.

Awareness camps organised under 'Think Before You Share' campaign

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, JANUARY 19

Under the guidance of District and Sessions Judge and Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority, Ajay Kumar Sharda, the District Legal Services Authority is organising awareness camps at various locations in the district under the 'Think Before You Share' campaign. Dr. Iram Hasan, Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority and Chief Judicial Magistrate, said that under the orders of HALSA, Panchkula, awareness camps are being organized at various places in the district under the 'Think Before You Share' campaign, in which panel lawyers and paralegal volunteers are providing information about cybercrime to the general public. In this series, today at MS



Senior Secondary School Kutail, Government High School Basghara, New Star Public School Bastara, and Senior Secondary School Mubarakabad, Inspector Rajesh Lata

provided information about cybercrime, urging people not to click on any unknown links and to be vigilant when receiving calls from unknown numbers.

Govt, admin, and consumers all have a crucial role in preventing cybercrimes: DC

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL

Deputy Commissioner Vishram Kumar Meena stated that the government, administration, and consumers all have a significant responsibility in preventing the increasing number of cyberattacks and cybercrimes. Consumer awareness and vigilance play a crucial role in preventing such attacks. To prevent cyberattacks, consumers should not share their sensitive information such as email IDs, passwords, and credit card details on forums or websites. They should use strong passwords and check if a website is legitimate before clicking on any link. He said that to secure their systems, users should keep their systems updated and install reliable software. He advised avoiding opening spam messages and not using open Wi-Fi. He also recommended using a single Virtual Private Network (VPN). By connecting to a secure network and exercising caution and vigilance, you can avoid becoming a victim of cyberattacks or cybercrimes. In this regard, the police department has also launched helpline number 1930 to deal with cybercrimes. He explained that attackers use malicious code to attack and gain control of vulnerable systems. Cyber security attacks can be carried out in many ways. This can be done through malware, phishing attacks, denial of service, and man-in-the-middle attacks. This can be used to hack systems, demand money in the form of cryptocurrency, or sell data on the dark web. In such attacks, sensitive and important information available on the user's website can be hijacked without the knowledge of the website or the user.

Let everyone introspect on how much change has come into lives in new year, says Darshan

RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR, JAN 19

On auspicious occasion of New Year, special Nirankari Sant Samagam was organized at Sant Nirankari Satsang Bhavan, Mahatma Darshan Singh, Vice President of Sant Nirankari Mandal, Delhi, was special guest. Repeating sacred message of Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj, he said in his discourse that new year comes every year, dates change, but we should see how much change we have brought into our lives. How far are we able to walk on this path of devotion? We ourselves must do this self-reflection. He further said that just as a child cries out for its mother when separated from her, do we also remember God in the same way? Thousands of devotees from many areas of surrounding districts attended congregation and received the blessings of Satguru. As special guest at congregation, Surender Pal Singh, Zonal In-charge of Shahabad Markanda Zone also shared Nirankari Mission's message of human unity. During congregation, many speakers, singers and poets presented their compositions, beautifully conveying Satguru's message to devotees. Conventer, Mahatma Baldev Singh, welcomed the



visiting Mahatmas by presenting them with the white scarf, a symbol of Mission, and expressed his gratitude to the thousands of devotees who attended. On New Year 2026, a special Nirankari Sant Samagam (spiritual congregation) was organized at Sant Nirankari Satsang Bhavan, Mahatma Darshan Singh, Vice President of Sant Nirankari Mandal, Delhi, was special guest. Repeating sacred message of Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj, he said in his discourse that new year comes every year, dates change, but we should see how much change we have brought into our lives. How far are we able to walk on this path of devotion? We ourselves must do this self-reflection.

EDITORIAL

Address structural flaws in higher education

Despite having one of the world's largest higher education networks, including over 1,300 universities, the academic and research standards in India are woefully short of international standards. They fare poorly in the global rankings, puncturing the oft-repeated narrative of being a 'Vishwaguru'. A recent nationwide survey has revealed several structural flaws in the higher education sector, particularly concerning the faculty. Nearly one in three faculty members reported receiving no formal training on how to teach before entering the classroom, and among those who did, almost 70% found that training ineffective, the Jetri Faculty Worklife Report 2025 has pointed out. There are over 1.6 million faculty members teaching over 40 million students spread across higher education institutions in the country. One of the key findings of the study, based on responses from 547 faculty members across public and private institutions, was that nearly a quarter of faculty end up spending most of their time on administrative tasks that are primarily critical to institutions rather than students. This imbalance suggests that institutional priorities may crowd out time for student-focused interactions. In contrast, globally ranked institutions prioritise faculty-student interactions and project-based learning more than anything else. Faculty members who spend more time on student-centred work tend to remain longer at their institutions, suggesting that meaningful teaching may help retain the faculty. When faculty feel unable to do the work they value most, disengagement follows. Similarly, lecture-based teaching remains the dominant mode in India, even as nearly two-thirds of faculty report persistent struggles with student engagement.

Many faculty members juggle teaching, research and administrative duties without enough support to manage competing demands, leaving them overwhelmed, feeling caught between priorities and struggling to maintain balance. As they are increasingly pulled away from student-focused tasks, the critical bonds that drive both student and faculty engagement risk fraying — affecting the heart of the academic experience. The surveyed faculty members admitted to feeling ill-equipped to address students' mental-health issues, diverse learning needs, and the responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools. Another big challenge pertains to student motivation. Nearly two-thirds of the respondents cited lack of student engagement as a huge challenge. It was observed that student commitments did not come from a place of genuine passion, as they seemed to care more about collecting activities they could put on their resume or on social media. Teaching methods also play a major role in driving student engagement. The survey has shown that lecture-based abstract teaching remains the overwhelming default for faculty.

India to grow at a healthy 7% in 2026-27 despite global uncertainties

Even with external uncertainties lingering, the Indian economy is expected to record healthy growth of seven per cent in the upcoming financial year 2026-27, CareEdge Ratings has asserted. The growth momentum, according to the rating agency, will be supported by factors such as low inflation, lower interest rates, and a lower tax burden.

"While India's merchandise exports have come under pressure amid tariff uncertainties, the healthy services exports are expected to remain supportive of the external position," it said. The Indian economy has demonstrated relative resilience in the current financial year 2025-26, with the GDP growth pegged at 7.4 per cent, as per the First Advance Estimate (FAE) by the government.

The growth momentum has been supported by income tax cuts, GST rate rationalisation, continued momentum in services exports, easing inflationary pressures and RBI rate cuts, the rating agency added. "Overall, the domestic fundamentals remain largely resilient despite a turbulent global economic landscape," the CareEdge Ratings report read. For 2026-27, CareEdge projected real GDP growth at 7 per cent, with nominal GDP growth estimated at 10.1 per cent. India's macroeconomic outlook remains constructive heading into 2026-27. For 2025-26, the



RBI has projected GDP growth at 7.3 per cent. Sachin Gupta, Chief Rating Officer and Executive Director, CareEdge, said, "As India steps into 2026, the macroeconomic picture appears, at first glance, remarkably encouraging."

Gupta said inflation is largely under control, interest rates remain reasonable, and the banking sector is in its strongest shape in over a

decade, supported by low non-performing assets and robust corporate credit quality. "Add to this a steadily declining fiscal deficit, a stabilising public debt profile, political continuity, and an increasing emphasis on structural reforms, and the narrative seems overwhelmingly positive," Gupta asserted.

Yet beneath this optimistic surface lie emerging

challenges that warrant closer attention. One concerning trend is the weakening of the Indian rupee, not only against the US dollar but also more sharply against other major currencies. Over the past year, the rupee has depreciated by over 15 per cent against the British pound and the euro. Foreign investment trends also paint a sobering picture, it added.

According to CareEdge, foreign portfolio investors recorded net outflows of nearly USD 18 billion in 2025, while net FDI has fallen sharply over the past four years, from USD 44 billion in 2021-22 to barely USD 0.5 billion in 2024-25. These declines, however, signal more than a cyclical shift in sentiment, CareEdge added. India's ambition to become a "Viksit Bharat" hinges not only on strong domestic fundamentals but also on its ability to attract long-term investment and compete effectively in global markets. "While the growth story remains intact for now, the warning signs—weak capital inflows, currency pressures, and rising trade barriers—suggest that sustaining this momentum will require a careful recalibration of economic strategy."

"This year's Union Budget will be presented in the backdrop of healthy domestic growth and low inflation, even though on the external front, there continues to be a threat amidst Rajani Sinha, Chief Economist, CareEdge, suggested that the government must focus on R&D and innovation, job creation, and concerted support to the agriculture sector. As has been the convention, the Union Budget for 2026-27 will be presented in the Parliament on February 1, 2026.

Surge of returning refugees deepens shelter crisis in Afghanistan



Housing has launched land distribution step-by-step in all provinces, and the program will, God willing, expand to ensure the fair distribution of plots to all returnees," Afghan said. Meanwhile, returnees arriving from Pakistan said they continue to face serious difficulties due to a lack of shelter and essential facilities, and urged faster allotment of land and the provision of basic services, Tolo News reported. "Now I'm

With a rising number of Afghan refugees returning home, access to shelter has emerged as a major challenge, as many returnees struggle to secure housing and basic necessities, Tolo News reported. Officials of the Islamic Emirate said measures are being taken to address the issue, with land distribution continuing in several provinces. Hamdullah Fitrat, deputy spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate, said more than 3,000 plots of land have been provided so far to forcibly deported returnees. "So far, 3,046 plots of land have been distributed in various provinces among returnees who were forcibly expelled. The distribution process is ongoing. Also, under the directive of the esteemed

Amir al-Mu'minin, emergency aid for returnees has accelerated, including food, non-food items, and cash assistance," Fitrat said. In a related development, the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing said the Joint Permanent Committee for the Resettlement of Migrants has distributed land to over 2,800 families in Kunar, Laghman, Maidan Wardak, Kandahar, Kunduz, Paktia, and Bamyan, Tolo News reported. The ministry also said that land distribution for another 5,000 families has begun in Nangarhar, according to Tolo News. Kamal Afghan, the ministry's spokesperson, said the land distribution programme is being expanded province by province. "The Ministry of Urban Development and

going to Baghlan, but I have nothing there. We sold everything we had just to pay rent. We ask the Islamic Emirate to help us with land and food distribution," said Yar Mohammad, a returnee. Another returnee, Sher Mohammad, called for urgent support amid harsh weather conditions. "Our request to the government is to give us blankets and cash aid because it's cold here and we're struggling," he said. According to statistics cited in the report, nearly seven million Afghans have returned from various countries since the return of the Islamic Emirate to power, underlining the need for sustained planning to resettle and support returnees.

Taxes won't push Delhi towards green transport

Delhi's latest electric vehicle proposal makes one thing clear: when policymakers run out of ideas to make cleaner technology attractive, they reach for taxes. The Delhi government is considering extending its green cess to petrol and CNG vehicles, on top of higher diesel levies, explicitly to make conventional cars more expensive and electric vehicles seem relatively cheaper. That is not climate leadership. It is fiscal coercion dressed up as environmental policy.



The premise is simple: make conventional vehicles more expensive and consumers will switch. But that assumes EV adoption is being delayed by attitude, not access. For many buyers, petrol and CNG vehicles remain the rational choice because they are cheaper upfront, easier to refuel, and more reliable for daily use, advantages that taxes do nothing to erase.

Delhi already offers some of India's most generous EV incentives: zero road tax, waived registration fees, and purchase subsidies of Rs 5,000 per kilowatt-hour. Yet electric vehicles still account for only about 12-14 per cent of new registrations. If subsidies alone have not delivered mass adoption, a 1-2 per cent cess on conventional vehicles is unlikely to do so either. For middle-income households buying two-wheelers or small cars, this tax is not a behavioural nudge, it is a price shock. For commercial drivers, delivery fleets, and small businesses, this shift functions less as an incentive and more as a penalty. EVs remain an impractical option for many operators: charging infrastructure is limited to few urban corridors, electricity supply is unreliable in large parts of the country, and resale markets for electric vehicles are still immature. Raising the cost of petrol vehicles does nothing to address these structural gaps, it simply increases operating costs for those who have no viable alternative. Global experience points in a different

direction. In countries where EV adoption has accelerated, such as Sweden, Norway, and Finland, the transition followed a sequence: build strong charging networks, ensure availability of vehicles across price segments, foster competition among manufacturers, and only then phase in penalties on high emission vehicles.

POEMS

Ballad of Birmingham

"Mother dear, may I go downtown
Instead of out to play,
And march the streets of Birmingham
In a Freedom March today?"

"No, baby, no, you may not go,
For the dogs are fierce and wild,
And clubs and hoses, guns and jails
Aren't good for a little child."

"But, mother, I won't be alone.
Other children will go with me,
And march the streets of Birmingham
To make our country free."

"No, baby, no, you may not go,
For I fear those guns will fire.
But you may go to church instead
And sing in the children's choir."

She has combed and brushed her night-dark hair,
And bathed rose petals sweet,
And drawn white gloves on her small brown hands,
And white shoes on her feet.

The mother smiled to know her child
Was in the sacred place,
But that smile was the last smile
To come upon her face.
For when she heard the explosion,
Her eyes grew wet and wild.
She raced through the streets of Birmingham
Calling for her child.

By Dudley Randall

Investing in women's employment key to resilient, inclusive economy: WEF's Ebru Ozdemir

Investing in women's employment is the most efficient way of achieving a resilient, inclusive and future-proof economy, according to Ebru Ozdemir, Chairperson of the Board, Limak Holding, and Chair of World Economic Forum Engineering and Construction Industry Group.

In an article ahead of the annual Davos summit, Ebru Ozdemir noted that reskilling and upskilling programmes must be gender-focused to truly keep pace with the evolving digital economy. Her article also suggested that integrating more women into STEM professions is

essential for finding the human capital needed to solve planetary-scale issues. "We cannot achieve a sustainable economy without gender parity in STEM. Putting women at the forefront of engineering and technology is the most crucial investment for growth and resilience," she writes.

In her article titled 'From digital divide to investment dividend: Why women are the key to a future-proof workforce,' she argues that the world must reframe the investment in women and girls not as a social expense, but as the highest-return capital expenditure for the resilient, inclusive



and future-proof economy the world desperately needs. "The foundational truth remains: Investing

in women is investing in humanity's most underutilized economic engine," she writes. Investing in the

skills of female engineers is not just a matter of social justice; it is the most direct way to secure the specialized

human capital necessary to solve the trillion-dollar, planet-sized problems discussed in Davos every year, she continued. "It's how we ensure that our infrastructure investment is not just built, but built sustainably and inclusively." "Let us ensure that 50 per cent of that future workforce - the women who are ready to lead - are given the tools to shape it," she writes. "The dividend is a world that is not just sustainable, but truly equitable, resilient and ready for whatever the next revolution brings. Let's make that investment now."

"The World Economic Forum (WEF)

will convene its 56th Annual Meeting in Davos from January 19 to January 23, 2026, bringing together nearly 3,000 leaders from more than 130 countries at a moment of heightened geopolitical tension, economic uncertainty and rapid technological transformation.

Held under the theme "A Spirit of Dialogue," Davos 2026 seeks to provide an impartial platform for global leaders from government, business and civil society to reconnect, rebuild trust and explore collaborative solutions to challenges that increasingly transcend borders.

This year's programme is shaped by ongoing geopolitical realignments, slowing global growth, trade frictions and accelerating technological change. Across sessions on geopolitics, growth and global governance, participants will explore how cooperation can be renewed amid contested norms, strained alliances and eroding trust. The Annual Meeting is expected to see record levels of government participation, with around 400 top political leaders, including nearly 65 heads of state and government and six leaders from the G7, taking part.

ASHOK CHUGH PANIPAT: Chairman of the Haryana Human Rights Commission and former judge Lalit Batra on Monday inspected the district jail in Panipat and issued important directions concerning the human rights, health, education and rehabilitation of inmates. On his

arrival at the jail premises, inmates welcomed the Commission chairman with garlands, while a police contingent presented a guard of honour. Earlier, at the PWD Rest House, Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr Pankaj and SDM Mandeep welcomed him by presenting bouquets. After the inspection, Justice Batra held a

review meeting with concerned department officials and said that prisons should not be treated merely as places of punishment, but as centres of reform and rehabilitation. He said inmates are an inseparable part of society and if they are provided with education, healthcare and employment opportunities, they

can return to the mainstream with dignity and self-respect. He directed District Legal Services Authority secretary Varsha Sharma to ensure regular monitoring of all shelter homes and old-age homes, and asked the concerned departments to provide basic facilities in all night shelters.

NEWS BRIEF

District Level Chess Championship organised at Barnala Sports Club



KULDEEP SOOD BARNALA: District Level Chess Championship was organized at Barnala Sports Club. During this competition, players in Under-11, Under-15, Under-19 and Open categories showed their talent. Children and youth from all over the district participated in the competitions with great enthusiasm. On this occasion, Income Tax Officer Amarjit Khpal and Kapil Garg (Smile Forever) from Moga were specially present as the chief guests. On reaching the Sports Club, they were warmly welcomed with flowers and garlands by club members Neel Kant Sharma, School Kaushal, Saurav Goyal, Mohit Bansal, Rakesh Kumar, Harpreet Singh, Ashutosh Kaushal, Robin Gupta, Rahul and Juninder Joshi. The president of the organization, Skul Kaushal, said that participation in sports can reduce the growing trend of mobile among children.

Government strengthening basic amenities with commitment to public service: Jagmohan Anand

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, JAN 19

In view of strengthening basic amenities in the Karnal Municipal Corporation area, MLA Jagmohan Anand and Mayor Renu Bala Gupta formally launched 13 development works worth Rs. 6.41,84,000 in 6 wards on Monday. These works will be carried out in wards number 3, 7, 17, 18, 19 and 20. On this occasion, ward councilors Pappu Lathar, Joginder Sharma, Mamta Saini, Harjeet Singh Laddi Sandhu, Rajesh Aggi and Sudhir Yadav, councilor representatives, Municipal Corporation engineers and many other dignitaries including BJP workers were present. These works include 3 development works in ward number 3 at a cost of Rs. 1,16,51,000, 2 works in ward number 7 at a cost of Rs. 96,54,000, 4 works in ward number 17 at a cost of Rs. 2,01,30,000, 1 work in ward number 18 at a cost of Rs. 1,18,52,000, 1 work in ward number 19 at a cost of Rs. 52,34,000 and 2 development works in ward number 20 at a cost of Rs. 56,64,000. MLA



Jagmohan Anand said that with a commitment to public service and development, continuous work is being done to strengthen basic amenities, keeping public interest paramount, and development projects are being advanced uniformly in the municipal and rural areas, keeping in mind every demand and problem of the people of Karnal. He said that the expansion of basic amenities helps in making the lifestyle of the common man easier. This allows even the poorest

families to benefit from being included in the mainstream of society. The government and public representatives are making decisions to expand basic facilities, keeping in mind the needs of the general public. On Monday, development work was started in 6 wards. The completion of these development works will directly benefit the people of Karnal and make their lives easier. Mayor Renu Bala Gupta said that development works worth approximately Rs. 6.41 crore have

been inaugurated in various wards. The wheel of development in the city is continuously moving forward. All development works are being carried out keeping in mind the convenience of the city residents, and every citizen is benefiting from them. She said that our priority is to take the development of Karnal to new heights. No stone is being left unturned in the development of the city. She said that under the able leadership of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, Union Minister Manohar Lal, and the guidance of MLA Jagmohan Anand, continuous development works are being carried out, which are benefiting the public. The works to be undertaken are: In SP Colony of Ward 3, rainwater drainage pipelines will be laid and streets will be constructed with interlocking paver block tiles. This work will cost Rs. 54.38 lakh. In Nirmal Vihar Colony of Ward 3, rainwater drainage pipelines will be laid and streets will be constructed with interlocking paver block tiles. This work will cost Rs. 45.21 lakh.

MLA Vinod Bhayana receives grand civic reception in Garhi village



DINKAR GAWRI

HANSI: MLA Vinod Bhayana said that after becoming a district, Hansi will develop rapidly. This will benefit people in both urban and rural areas. The District Collector has already started working in Hansi, and very soon all district-level facilities will be available to the people here. MLA Vinod Bhayana said this while addressing a large gathering at a felicitation ceremony organised in his honour in Garhi village. He said that he was successful in getting the district declared only with the cooperation of the people. Serving the people has always been a priority in his life. In the future too, the process of public service and development of the area will continue uninterrupted. He said that no stone has been left unturned in the development of the area in the past, and no stone will be left unturned in the future

either. The doors of his house will always be open for every person in the area. During this time, the citizens of Garhi village put forward several demands regarding the development of the village before the MLA. He assured them that all the demands would be fulfilled. Fulfilling the demands, the MLA said that Garhi village would be connected to Hansi tehsil. He also announced the construction of an Atal Park near the school, a crop purchase center, the installation of a water cooler in the government school premises, the construction of a boundary wall for the crematorium, and the establishment of a library, among other things. Regarding the demand for establishing a cowshed in the village, he said that if the Gram Panchayat provides the land, then efforts will be made to fulfill this demand as well.

Indian handicrafts emerge as major attraction at International Saraswati Mahotsav in Pehowa



YAGYADUTT SHASTRI

PEHOWA: The International Saraswati Mahotsav has also become a major platform for showcasing Indian handicrafts along the sacred Saraswati riverbank in Pehowa. Artisans from different states across the country have set up stalls displaying traditional craftsmanship, drawing large crowds of tourists and devotees. Visitors are witnessing a wide range of handicrafts, including wooden artefacts, hand-crafted home décor items, clay pottery and other traditional products made by skilled artisans. The initiative by the Haryana Saraswati Heritage Development Board has provided a unique opportunity for residents and pilgrims to experience the diversity of Indian craftsmanship at one place. Sub-Divisional Magistrate Anil Kumar Dune said that, like previous years, the International Saraswati Mahotsav is being organised around Basant Panchami and will continue till January 25, 2026. He said artisans from various parts of the country have been specially invited, ensuring that only high-quality craftsmanship is showcased at the festival. Along with handicrafts, folk artists from different regions are also performing at the venue, adding to the festive atmosphere.

International Saraswati Mahotsav and Saras Mela inaugurated at Saraswati riverbank in Pehowa



YAGYADUTT SHASTRI

PEHOWA: The International Saraswati Mahotsav was inaugurated on Monday at the sacred Saraswati riverbank in Pehowa with ceremonial lamp lighting and devotional fervour. The event was formally opened by Amarpal Rana, Chairman of the Haryana State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Board, by cutting the ribbon. Municipal Council Chairman Ashish Chakrapani, district president Tijender Singh Goldy and Market Committee Chairman Tarandeep Singh Waraich were also present on the occasion. Cultural programmes began with the lighting of the lamp before the idol of Goddess Saraswati, followed by devotional and cultural performances by schoolchildren. The dignitaries later visited the exhibitions organised by the Haryana Saraswati Heritage Development Board, the Saras Mela, and stalls showcasing Haryana's cultural heritage. Addressing the gathering, Amarpal Rana said that organising the International Saraswati Mahotsav on such a large scale in Pehowa was a matter of pride.

Prisons should be centres of reform, not just punishment: Justice Lalit Batra



RAKESH BHAYANA

PANIPAT: Justice Lalit Batra, Chairperson of the Haryana Human Rights Commission, conducted an inspection of the District Jail, Panipat, on Monday. During the visit, he reviewed arrangements related to human rights, health, education, and rehabilitation of inmates and issued necessary directions to the concerned officials. Upon his arrival at the jail premises, inmates welcomed the Chairperson with floral garlands, while a police contingent accorded him a guard of honour. Earlier, at the PWD Rest House, Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. Pankaj and SDM Mandeep Kumar welcomed him by presenting bouquets. During the inspection, ADC Dr. Pankaj informed that, as per his directions, recitation of the Constitution is being conducted in night shelters, while SDM Mandeep Kumar recently inspected several night shelters and ensured the distribution of blankets to the needy. Addressing a review meeting held after the inspection, Justice Lalit Batra emphasized that prisons should not be viewed merely as places of punishment but as centres of reform and rehabilitation.

Nalagarh hosts 69th National School Games Under-19 Kabaddi Championship for first time



ANWAR HUSSAIN

NALAGARH: A golden chapter was added to Nalagarh's sporting history on Sunday as the town hosted the 69th National School Games Under-19 Kabaddi Championship for the first time. The championship was formally inaugurated by Himachal Pradesh Education Minister Rohit Thakur, who unfurled the flag to mark the official commencement of the national-level event. Doon MLA Ram Kumar Chaudhary and Nalagarh MLA Hardeep Singh Bawa were also specially present on the occasion, lending their support to the historic sporting event. The championship has drawn participation from around 300 players representing nearly 28 states across the country. Teams from Chandigarh, Odisha, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar and several other states are competing, showcasing their talent and competitive spirit on the kabaddi mat. The tournament will continue from January 19 to January 23. The closing ceremony will be graced by Himachal Pradesh Health Minister Dhani Ram Shandil as the chief guest. The hosting of the national championship in Nalagarh is being seen as a major boost to sports culture in the region and a significant milestone in Himachal Pradesh's efforts to promote school-level sports at the national stage.

Kataline demonstrates road marking interventions at HaRRIDA road safety learning session in Panchkula



BUREAU

CHANDIGARH: The Haryana Rural Roads Infrastructure Development Agency (HaRRIDA) and the Haryana Public Works Department (PWD), along with the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), hosted a dedicated Road Safety Solutions session being organised yearly at the PWD Rest House, Panchkula. The session was held in collaboration with Kataline Ltd as part of National Road Safety Month, being observed across India under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) theme "Sadak Suraksha, Jeevan Raksha." It was attended by senior government officials including Chief Guest Ranbir Gangwa, Minister, PWD B&R & PHED, Haryana; and Guest of Honour Shri Anurag Agarwal, IAS and Additional Chief Secretary Public Works (B&R), Government of Haryana. The knowledge exchange session spotlighted the need for improved road safety infrastructure in Haryana and neighbouring regions, highlighting solutions across rural roads, highways, blackspots, school zones, and high-density pedestrian corridors.

Om Prakash Saroha appointed district secretary of Kurukshetra Congress



DALBIR MALIK

KURUKSHETRA: Newly appointed District Secretary of District Congress, Om Prakash Saroha expressed his thanks and gratitude to State President Mr Rao Narendra Singh, Leader of Opposition Mr Bhupendra Singh Hooda, MLA Mr Ashok Kumar Arora, District President Mr Meva Singh, MLA Mr Mandeep Singh Chhattha, MLA Ram Karan Kala. They congratulated and wished Mr Saroha by feeding him sweets and expressed hope that he will work with loyalty and honesty on this post. He expressed happiness on heading a district level organization. He congratulated District President Mr Meva Singh and all the senior colleagues and the newly appointed district executive and expressed hope that by strengthening the organization at the district level under the leadership of senior colleagues, he will strengthen the hands of National President Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi.

Former MLA Ramchandra Kamboj visits Manokamna Siddh Vrindavan Dham Gaushala, Sambhali



KAMAL SHARMA

TARAORI: Former MLA from Raniya, Ramchandra Kamboj, visited the Manokamna Siddh Vrindavan Dham Gaushala, Sambhali. He was extended a grand and traditional welcome on the occasion. Patron of the Gaushala, Mahendra Garg and President Gaurav Garg honored him with garlands. During the visit, former MLA Ramchandra Kamboj inspected the ongoing development work at the Gaushala and he informed about various government schemes for cow protection. He appealed to the Gaushala management to further strengthen cow protection by taking maximum advantage of central and state government schemes. Ramchandra Kamboj stated that Union Minister Manohar Lal and Chief Minister Nayab Saini have a clear resolve to ensure that no stray cattle wander the streets in the state.

Shamgarh village adopted by Union Minister Manohar Lal becomes an example of development



KAMAL SHARMA

TARAORI: BJP Yuva Morcha District General Secretary Rajneesh Shamgarh stated that Shamgarh, the village adopted by Union Minister Manohar Lal, has been writing a new chapter of development today. Due to unprecedented and record-breaking development work in the village, rapid changes are visible in every sector and directly benefiting the villagers. Rajneesh Shamgarh stated that modern streetlights have recently been installed throughout Shamgarh. Streetlights have been systematically installed on the entire village's drains, making nighttime travel safer and easier. Furthermore, the drains have been newly paved and strengthened besides strengthening the village's infrastructure. He added that the village cremation ground will soon be beautified, ensuring basic amenities and a clean environment. A proposal to install tiles in the village hospital has also been approved to improve healthcare services. He informed that, keeping in mind the bright future of the students three modern digital e-libraries have been constructed in the village, where students are regularly studying. Additionally, the bus stop on the Delhi-Chandigarh National Highway has been renovated and refurbished, providing better convenience to travelers.

NHPC Sewa-2 Power Station organises free medical camp



SUBHASH MAHAJAN

CHAMBA: A free medical camp under CSR-CD scheme for the year 2025-26 at Primary School Darkodi Draman Basohli, in Kathua district. The primary objective of the camp was to provide essential healthcare services to residents of remote and rural areas, especially beneficiaries from Draman and Tanu Panchayats. A total of 262 patients were examined during the camp and were provided with free medicines and medical consultation. The medical camp was formally inaugurated by the MLA Basohli, Thakur Darshan Singh, along with the Head of Sewa-2 Power Station, Madan Lal Sharma. Both dignitaries appreciated NHPC's humanitarian initiative and highlighted the importance of such outreach programs in strengthening healthcare access in rural regions. On the occasion, Kalpataru Nayak, General Manager (Electrical), along with other senior officials of NHPC, were also present and extended their support to the initiative. A specialized medical team led by Dr. R.K. Chintan from NHPC conducted health check-ups and ensured the distribution of required medicines free of cost, emphasizing quality healthcare delivery to the villagers.

Guru Nanak Khalsa College Yamunanagar's student wins Bronze at Haryana State Weightlifting Championship



RAHUL KOHLI

YAMUNANAGAR: Shah Aman Khan, a student of B.Sc. Sports (1st Year) at Guru Nanak Khalsa College Yamunanagar brought laurels to the institution by winning a Bronze Medal at the Haryana State Weightlifting Championship, held at Murthal, Sonapat. Competing in the 60 kg weight category, Aman Khan showcased remarkable strength and determination by lifting a total weight of 205 kg, earning him a podium finish at the state-level championship. Dr. Arvinder Singh Bhalla, Principal, GNKC, congratulated Aman Khan on his commendable achievement and appreciated his hard work, discipline, and dedication towards sports excellence. Dr. Sanjay Vij, Head of the Department of Sports & Physical Education, applauded the achievement and encouraged him to set higher goals and strive for greater success in upcoming championships. Sardar Randeep Singh Jauhar, President, Governing Body and Managing Committee, extended his best wishes and praised Aman Khan's outstanding performance, stating that it has brought immense pride to the institution and the Sports Department.

MLA Pramod Vij inspects under-construction auditorium in Sector-11, Panipat



RAKESH BHAYANA

PANIPAT: Panipat Urban MLA Pramod Vij inspected the under-construction grand auditorium in HUDA Sector-11. During the inspection, officials of the Municipal Corporation briefed the MLA in detail about the progress of the project and its key features. Speaking to the media after the inspection, MLA Pramod Vij said that Panipat is set to receive several major development projects in the coming months. MLA Pramod Vij expressed happiness over seeing the development vision for Panipat turning into reality. He stated that development works are progressing rapidly in every corner of the city. He also expressed gratitude to former Chief Minister and Union Minister Manohar Lal and current Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, saying that Panipat is touching new dimensions of development due to their full support. The MLA said that construction of underpasses, overbridges, flyovers, railway overbridges, auditoriums, indoor stadiums, fire stations, school buildings, and road widening projects is progressing at a fast pace across Panipat.

Commemoration event for Great Martyr Sardar Sewa Singh Thikriwala



KULDEEP SOOD

BARNALA: Directions have been issued to the district administration regarding the estimated expenses for renovating and maintaining Sewa Singh Thikriwala's haveli in Thikriwala village, according to which funds will be released by the Punjab government. Punjab Finance Minister Mr Harpal Singh Cheema said here today while addressing a gathering at the 92nd death anniversary of martyr Sardar Sewa Singh Thikriwala ji - the hero of the Praja Mandal movement in Thikriwala village. He, along with Cabinet Minister Aman Arora, MP Meet Hayer, MLA Mahil Kalan and Chairman of the Special Powers Committee (Legislative Assembly) Kulwant Singh Pandori, Chairman of Planning Board Barnala Parminder Singh Bhangu, and other leaders, paid tributes to great martyr Sardar Sewa Singh Thikriwala. On this occasion, Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema said that the work on the Nursing College in Thikriwala village will be expedited on time. Regarding this, there are some shortcomings; directions have been issued to the Health Department to remove these.

Shop for Lohri Celebrations during Amazon India's Great Republic Day Sale 2026 - early deals now live CHANDIGARH : Amazon India's much-anticipated Great Republic Day Sale 2026, will go live from 12:00 AM on 16th January. Elevate your Lohri celebrations with exciting new launches and great deals across a wide selection of categories including smartphones, fashion, beauty & kitchen, consumer electronics, large appliances, groceries, everyday essentials and more.

Governor stresses need for quality education in rural areas



SHIMLA : Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla emphasized the importance of providing quality education, particularly in rural areas of the state, and said that educational institutions should be judged not merely by infrastructure but by the quality of education imparted and the manner in which students' talents are nurtured.

by that of a 'teacher', but in Indian tradition, the guru has always been revered as a guide and torchbearer of society," he remarked. Citing examples from Indian tradition, the Governor said that Lord Ram and Lord Krishna also followed the guru-shishya tradition and adhered to the teachings of their gurus.

400 Blankets Distributed in City Markets as Part of Annual Donation Drive



CHANDIGARH : Neighbourhood Development Association in collaboration with Society for Divine Reiki Meditation (NGO) launched Annual Blanket Donation Drive. With a mission to protect the homeless living in corridors of city markets from the bitter cold, around 400 Blankets were distributed in Sector 20 and 21.

protection against freezing nights. The blankets are cold & harsh and a simple blanket can bring warmth & dignity to the persons sleeping in open. Marjeet Singh Bakshi, Cashier of Chandigarh Senior Citizens Association Eastern Chapter urged the community to come together and help those who are most vulnerable during winters.

Dove Soft Limited Launches (CPaaS 2.0

CHANDIGARH : Dove Soft Limited, a growing cloud-communications and CPaaS provider, has announced the launch of CPaaS 2.0, an AI-powered communication platform designed to help enterprises simplify, automate, and scale customer engagement through a unified communication ecosystem.

Thums Up Reimagines its Visual World for a Limitless New India

CHANDIGARH/LUDHIANA : Thums Up, India's homegrown cola giant, has one of the most recognizable logos. Today, the brand unveiled a new identity that signals a strategic shift, reflecting a new India defined by ambition, confidence, and a drive to maximize every moment.

Paras Health Panchkula Leads City-Level 'Ambulance Rally 2026' to Honour Frontline Emergency Responders



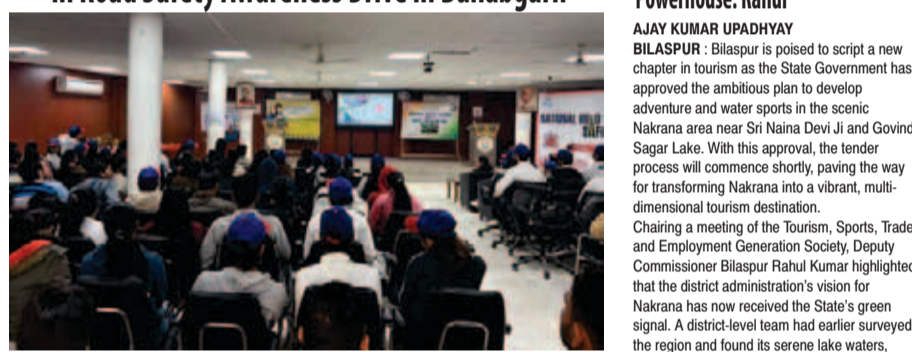
PANCHKULA : Reinforcing the critical importance of emergency medical services in saving lives, Paras Health Panchkula organised Ambulance Rally 2026 at its Panchkula facility on Monday to recognise the contribution of ambulance staff, emergency responders, and frontline healthcare professionals.

Lions Club Hisar A Firoza distributes 80 tracksuits to Bhoomi Ashram residents



MAHENDER GOYAL HISAR : Under the auspices of Lions Club Hisar A Firoza, a program was organized to distribute approximately 80 tracksuits to the residents of Bhoomi Ashram, Hisar. Bhoomi Ashram is a place where mentally challenged, abandoned or needy people who have no one to care for them are provided with proper arrangements for shelter, food and care.

Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India Engages Youth in Road Safety Awareness Drive in Ballabgarh



BALLABGARH : Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) continued its nationwide road safety initiative by organising an awareness campaign in Ballabgarh, Haryana, engaging over 2,500 students of Aggarwal College in interactive learning sessions focused on responsible road behaviour.

HMSI emphasised that road safety is not merely about following rules but about adopting responsible habits that impact both personal and collective well-being. The programme featured interactive learning formats, with safety riding theory sessions forming the core of the initiative and enabling students to grasp key concepts in a relatable and effective manner.

AU Small Finance Bank & ICSI sign MoU for exclusive banking solutions for Company Secretaries

CHANDIGARH : AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB), India's largest small finance bank and the first in a decade to receive in-principle approval for transitioning into a Universal Bank, today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) to offer exclusive solutions of banking and credit card solutions tailored for Company Secretaries (CS) across the country.

L&T Finance Ltd. (LTF) records highest ever Core Profit After Tax (PAT) of Rs. 760 Crore

CHANDIGARH : L&T Finance Ltd., formerly known as L&T Finance Holdings Ltd. (LTF), one of the leading Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) in India, has recorded its highest ever core Profit After Tax (PAT) of Rs. 760 Crore (before one-time impact of New Labour Code provision), up 21% YoY (Year-on-Year) in the third quarter ended December 31, 2025 (Q3FY26). PAT after one-time impact of New Labour Code stands at Rs. 739 Crore, up 18% in Q3FY26. Commenting on the financial results, Mr. Sudipta Roy, Managing Director & CEO, LTF, said, "Q3FY26 for the financial services sector has been defined by a powerful convergence of favourable macro-tailwinds.

Nuvoco expands customer outreach in Haryana with 'NUVOCO ASHWAMEDH'

CHARKHI DADRI : Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd., India's trusted building materials company, has launched NUVOCO ASHWAMEDH, a knowledge-on-wheels mobile experience centre aimed at educating customers, creating product awareness, demonstrating applications and showcasing Nuvoco's comprehensive product portfolio under one roof across Haryana.



Launched in December 2025, the initiative is currently being rolled out through two mobile experience centres operating across the state. The programme follows a structured, district-by-district route plan to ensure deep regional penetration and consistent customer outreach. The mobile centre features curated product displays, live demonstrations, technical guidance and interactive engagements, enabling visitors to better understand product performance, application benefits and right construction practices.

Free eye surgery camp organized at Disability Center with DHBVN; 24 patients benefited

MAHENDER GOYAL HISAR : A second phase of free eye surgery camp was organized at Disability Rehabilitation Center with support of Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam



(DHBVN). Under this initiative, 24 needy patients suffering from cataracts underwent surgery and had their eyesight restored. Previously, in first phase, 25 elderly patients also underwent eye surgery at Disability Center's modern operation theater with the support of DHBVN. DHBVN will also organize third, fourth and fifth phases of camps. Third phase of free eye surgery camp will be held on January 20, fourth phase on January 23 and fifth phase on January 28.

Layer It Up: Texture Art Workshop at Sector 7 SOCIAL

CHANDIGARH : Looking to elevate your weekend? Whether you're in the mood to master a new craft or dive into a high-energy festive sundowner, SOCIAL has curated the perfect lineup to keep you connected and inspired. Ready to let texture do the talking? Step away from the screen and join us for a hands-on canvas art workshop in collaboration with Deepakriti Institute of Art. This guided, immersive experience is designed to be creatively satisfying, allowing you to explore tactile techniques in a vibrant, collaborative space.

Chandigarh Ranji Trophy Squad departs for Kerala clash

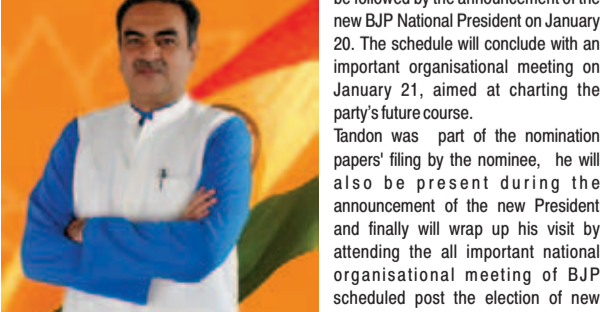


CHANDIGARH : The Chandigarh Ranji Trophy squad departed today for Trivandrum ahead of their upcoming Ranji Trophy match against host Kerala from January 22. Chandigarh Ranji Trophy Squad includes Manan Vohra

AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED (A SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANK) REGD. OFFICE : 19-A, Dhuleswar Garden, Ajmer Road, Jaipur-302001, CN 138911R/1996PLC/011381 APPENDIX IV [SEE RULE 80] POSSESSION NOTICE

Sanjay Tandon to Take Part in Election Process For Electing The National BJP President

CHANDIGARH : Senior BJP leader and BJP National Council Member from Chandigarh, Sanjay Tandon, is in Delhi to take part in the electoral process for electing the National President of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The election schedule has been chalked out in New Delhi from January 19 to 21. The election process commenced with the filing of nominations on January 19, which will be followed by the announcement of the new BJP National President on January 20.



important national exercise underscores his stature as a trusted and senior leader within the party, as well as his role in representing Chandigarh in key organisational and decision-making processes at the national level. What's more, Tandon's presence at these proceedings reflects the BJP leadership's confidence in his experience and his contributions to the party.

VFS Global and Korea Association of Travel Agents collaborate to promote inbound tourism to South Korea



VFS Global, the global leader in trusted technology services, empowering secure mobility for governments and citizens, and the Korea Association of Travel Agents (KATA) has agreed to mutually cooperate to support inbound tourism to the Republic of Korea and facilitate seamless international travel to the country. The meeting to explore cooperation measures was organised at the KATA office

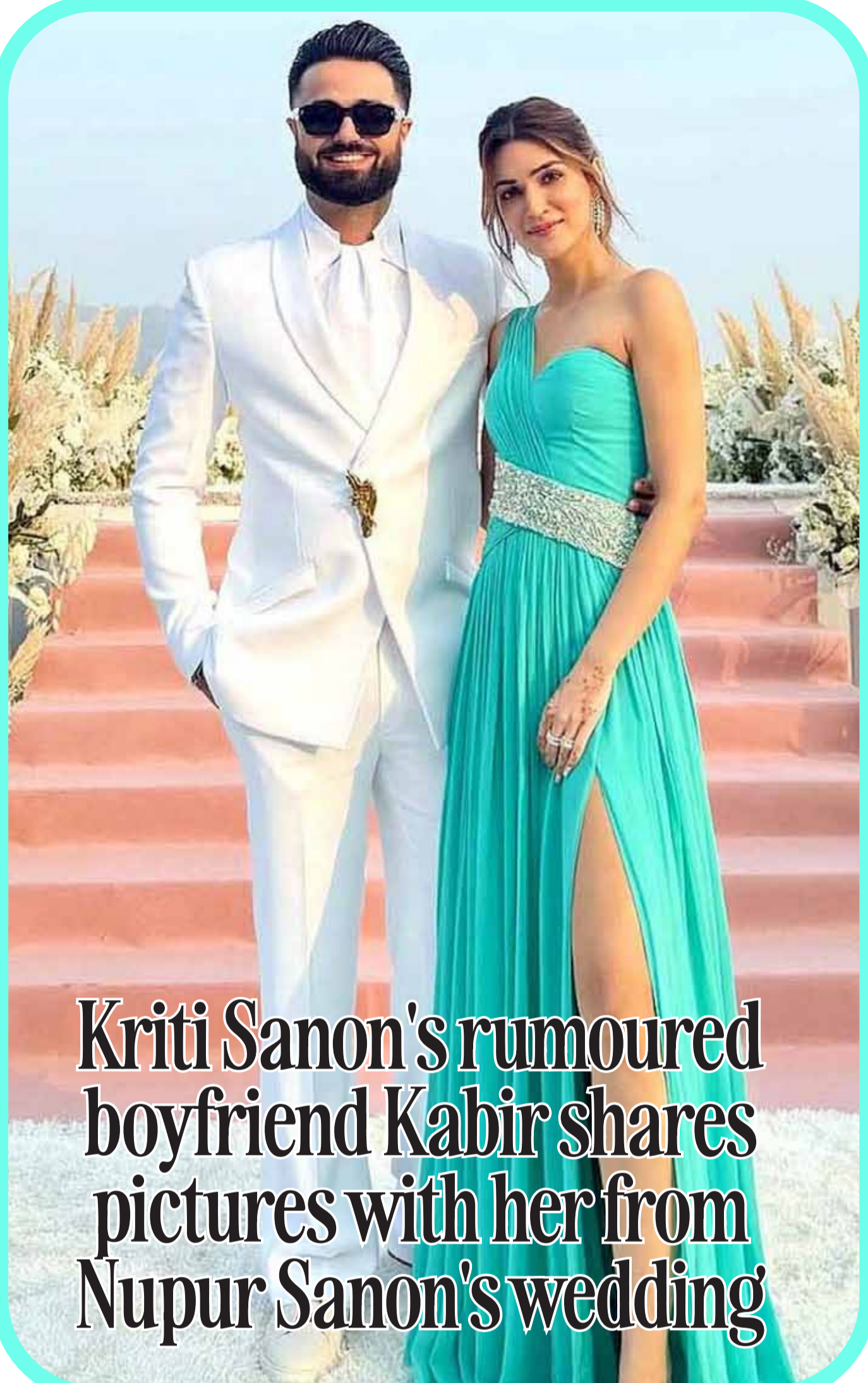
region; and Ms. Kim Eun-hye, Country Manager for South Korea. At the meeting, both organisations exchanged insights on visa facilitation and agreed to leverage their respective networks to support Korea's inbound tourism growth, while continuing close collaboration going forward. Speaking on the collaboration, Mr. Lee Jin-seok, Chairman, KATA, said, "We welcome this collaboration with VFS Global as an important step towards strengthening inbound tourism to the Republic of Korea. By working together and leveraging our respective networks, we aim to enhance accessibility, support travel partners globally, and further position Korea as a preferred destination for international travellers."

Explore up to 80% off on ultra-affordable everyday finds on Amazon Bazaar during Amazon Great Republic Day Sale 2026

SHIMLA : Amazon Bazaar is bringing its customers great saving across a wide range of products across categories like fashion, electronic accessories and more, with items starting at INR 99. During the Amazon Great Republic Day Sale 2026, customers can unlock great deals and offers of up to 80% on top products, with cashbacks up to INR 50. Customers can also earn INR 50 in cashbacks on items starting at INR 99, and on their first Amazon Bazaar order. With its ultra-affordable selection and crazy low prices, Amazon Bazaar caters to every customer's diverse needs and choices, and providing access to trendy, budget-friendly products across Bharat. Customers can shop smarter and save more with Amazon Pay through a wide range of payment and reward benefits, including unlimited 5% cashback for Prime members and 3% for non-Prime members on the Amazon Pay ICICI Bank Credit Card, along with welcome rewards worth up to INR 2,500. Eligible customers can also access instant credit of up to INR 60,000 via Amazon Pay Later, enjoy exclusive shopping rewards, and shop affordably through the INR 99/day EMI store across mobiles, electronics, fashion and appliances. With Rewards Gold, customers can earn assured 5% cashback across 15plus brands and categories by completing payments in three months, while shoppers can also avail up to 10% instant discounts.

Amazon Business brings great deals and bulk purchase benefits for B2B customers

CHANDIGARH : Amazon Business is enabling Indian businesses to unlock significant savings across a wide range of categories during the Amazon Great Republic Day Sale 2026. Businesses and corporate customers can avail incredible deals across laptops, monitors, office furniture, industrial equipment, and packaging supplies. Customers can also enjoy up to 80% off on bestselling products from leading brands such as HP, Samsung, Havells, Prestige, BOSCH, Philips, Whirlpool, LG, Xiaomi and more. To maximize savings, Amazon Business is offering up to 6% discount on bulk deals, and up to INR 9,999 in cashback on special orders. Customers can take advantage of prepaid discounts across key product categories, including up to: -80% off on Office Chairs and additional 5% off on purchase of 10+ units. 80% off on Packaging Supplies and additional 5% off on purchase of 5+ units.



Kriti Sanon's rumoured boyfriend Kabir shares pictures with her from Nupur Sanon's wedding

Nazar na lage" - This is how fans reacted to the viral pictures of actor Kriti Sanon with her rumoured boyfriend Kabir Bahia from her sister Nupur Sanon's wedding festivities in Udaipur. On Sunday, Kabir took to Instagram to share a bunch of pictures with Team Bride from Nupur and Stebin's dreamy wedding. While all the photos were absolutely adorable, what truly caught everyone's attention were his pictures with Kriti. Have a look at those snaps here. Aren't they looking adorable? For the Christian wed-

ding ceremony of Nupur and Stebin, Kriti opted for a turquoise blue gown. Kabir looked dapper in a white tuxedo. This picture is from Nupur and Stebin's Haldi ceremony. As soon as Kabir shared pictures with Kriti, her fans, in no time, chimed in the comment section and dropped heartfelt reactions for the rumoured couple. "Nazar na lage," a social media user commented. "Finally kabir and kriti in one frame," another netizen wrote. "No nazar... lovely," an Instagram user wrote. Kriti did not comment but did react to the post with a like.

Last November, Kriti extended a cute birthday wish to Kabir Bahia. Taking to her Instagram story, Kriti shared a selfie with Kabir from what appears to be a beachy vacation. The 'Cocktail 2' star looks stunning in green beachwear, while Kabir could be seen in a black outfit. The duo cheerfully posed for the camera, showcasing their strong bond. "Happy Birthday to the one I can be stupid with! May this world never change the good heart you have!" Kriti wrote in her sweet and small message.

Ram Gopal Varma predicts 'Dhurandhar 2' to be biggest "multi-starrer" movie ever

Director Ram Gopal Varma predicts the upcoming film Dhurandhar 2 to be the biggest "multi-starrer" movie of Bollywood after the success of its first instalment. Taking to his X handle, the director explained the reason for the upcoming film Dhurandhar 2's success saying that the actors in the first instalment have now become huge stars after the first part, hence making the upcoming film a "biggest multi-starrer" movie ever in Indian cinema. "Dhurandhar 2 will be the biggest multi-starrer ever, in the history of cinema, because each and every character in the 1st film has become enormously huge in the audiences mind, in terms of both their value and impact, which is what true stardom is really about. In the 1st part the characters could have been small or big, but now all of them have become giant superstars and hence Dhurandhar 2 will be the BIGGEST MULTI STARRER ever," wrote Ram Gopal Varma. Ranveer Singh's 'Dhurandhar', has rewritten the box office books by beating 'Pushpa 2: The Rule' to become the highest-grossing Hindi film of all time. According to veteran trade expert Taran Adarsh, 'Dhurandhar' surpassed the lifetime business of the Allu Arjun film, taking the total collection to over Rs 831.40 crore in its fifth week. "This is THE biggest moment in the HISTORY of #Hindi film business. Till not long ago, surpassing the 'lifetime business' of #Pushpa2 #Hindi - the highest-grossing film in the #Hindi market - seemed unthinkable. But records are meant to be challenged... and shattered - and #Dhurandhar has done exactly that.

Farman Haider on Jagadhatri's fake marriage twist: "The emotional weight behind it is very real"

CHANDIGARH : Zee TV's popular fiction show Jagadhatri continues to strike a chord with viewers, thanks to its gripping storyline, emotional depth, and the strong on-screen chemistry between its lead characters, Shivaay (played by Farman Haider) and Jagadhatri (played by Sonakshi Batra). The show has been performing well, keeping audiences hooked with constant twists and high-voltage drama.

The current track revolves around a major turning point in the story, Shivaay and Jagadhatri getting married. However, this marriage comes with a shocking twist, as it is a fake one, undertaken with a larger purpose in mind. The duo enters the Deshmukh house to uncover the truth behind Jagadhatri's mother's death. Alongside this, they are also determined to prove that Mahesh Deshmukh is Shivaay's real father. Maya is left completely stunned upon learning about Mahesh Deshmukh's connection to Shivaay and has given Jagadhatri-Shivaay a month to prove this. As Shivaay and Jagadhatri step into the Deshmukh household, the tension escalates further. With secrets lurking in every corner, Shivaay and Jagadhatri now have just one month to uncover the truth and expose the reality behind the dark past.

While the storyline intensifies on screen, the camaraderie off screen has been just as engaging. Speaking about the on-screen bond with co-star Sonakshi Batra, actor Farman Haider shared, "She is extremely sharp, disciplined, and fully present during Shivaay-Jagadhatri scenes, which makes performing scenes with her very easy. Our teamwork in such moments is very strong, and that comfort clearly reflects on screen. When your co-actor understands your rhythm so well, scenes automatically look very impactful. Off screen too, Sonakshi and I share a great bond. We rehearse, discuss scenes, and support each other, which really helps when the emotions get intense. I think that connection has translated beautifully into the ongoing marriage sequence. Marriage is a very significant milestone for Shivaay and Jagadhatri, especially because both have lost their parents at a very young age. Though they are entering a fake marriage for now, the emotional weight behind it is real, and it will be interesting for viewers to see how they navigate this new phase and manage their relationship under such circumstances."

From sketches to songs: How Priya Thakur finds comfort and focus on the sets of Vasudha

CHANDIGARH: Actress Priya Thakur, who essays the role of Vasudha in Zee TV's Vasudha, has turned her make-up room into her personal safe corner, reflecting her warm and grounded personality.

During the shoot hours on the set, Priya has carefully decorated her make-up room to make it feel comfortable and positive. From sketches made by her to thoughtfully placed posters, every corner of the room has been designed by the actress herself. The inviting vibe of her space often draws her co-actors and friends, who enjoy spending time there between shoots. Opening about the same, Priya shared, "Because I spend 12 to 15 hours on the set and only go home to sleep, I try to make sure my makeup room is the best one and decorated like my own safe corner. I have multiple dove sketches in my room, made by me, as doves are the symbol of peace. I changed my makeup room's wallpaper last year and adorned it with many motivational posters about positivity and peace. I also used fairy lights to give it that warm feeling which makes me feel at ease. Most of my co-actors and friends prefer to hang out in my room because of its vibe. Doing this also makes my makeup room feel like a safe corner for me to go and relax after a long shift."

The actress also revealed how she emotionally prepares for her scenes in the same space. "One ritual I follow is that if I'm shooting a sad scene, I often listen to very sad songs to get into that mood. My room is where I practice most of my lines and remember them. I usually put on the music according to the type of scene I would be shooting" she added.

Blenders Pride Fashion Tour 2025 concludes with groundbreaking Fashion Showcases Across India

CHANDIGARH : Blenders Pride Fashion Tour 2025 concluded its spectacular edition, setting a new benchmark for fashion experiences across Gurugram, Jaipur, and Kolkata. Creating 'The One and Only' stage that set the tone for what's next in fashion, the tour presented three groundbreaking narratives that pushed the boundaries of how fashion is experienced, celebrated, and imagined.

Each city witnessed how Blenders Pride Fashion Tour made fashion move—Gurugram thrust fashion into the future where technology and couture collided in real-time, Jaipur accelerated fashion onto the fast lane with high-octane motorsport aesthetics, and Kolkata challenged traditional notions of craft, transforming them into a bold, modern form. The tour distinguished itself by setting a new benchmark for immersive, multi-sensory fashion experiences. Gurugram's 'The Futureverse of Fashion' by designers Falguni and Shane Peacock merged haute couture with humanoid robots, holographic technology, and motion-sensing projections, featuring Shahid Kapoor and Tamannaah Bhatia. Jaipur accelerated into 'High Octane Couture' with designers Namrata Joshipura and Abhishek Patni reimagining motorsport aesthetics alongside Miss Universe Harnaaz Sandhu and rapper Raftaar, complete with chrome-wrapped supercars and a three-lap runway experience. The Kolkata finale presented 'Future Is Crafted' through a breakthrough narrative that shattered moulds of craft as it was known. Set against the iconic Howrah Bridge, AK | OK Anamika Khanna deconstructed traditional craft through futuristic tailoring, with Ishaan Khatter as showstopper, transforming the Hooghly River into a floating theatre of fashion.

Debasree Dasgupta, CMO, Pernod Ricard India, said, "Blenders Pride Fashion Tour powered by FDCI has been Indian fashion's most iconic stage. Guided by our 'The One and Only' ambition, we continue to set new benchmarks shaping the evolution of fashion & style in collaboration with India's finest designers."

Virat Kohli makes cool appearance at Mumbai airport hours after scoring century against NZ

Star cricketer Virat Kohli continues to inspire fans not only with his exceptional cricketing skills but also with his sharp fashion sense. His recent airport looks, in particular, have grabbed attention, especially among men. Hours after scoring a century against New Zealand at Indore on Sunday, Kohli returned to Mumbai during the early hours of Monday. He was spotted in a cool look, donning an off-white long-sleeve knit shirt with a deep V-neck. Beneath the V-neck, a dark under-shirt provides contrast and depth. He paired them with black pants and white sneakers. The navy blue cap added a sporty edge to his overall look. Soon after landing in Mumbai, he was spotted at the airport again, this time departing from the city. He might be heading to London, where he usually spends much of his personal time with his wife Anushka and children Vamika and Akaay. Coming to the match, while team India failed to seal the ODI series win against New Zealand, Virat slammed a valiant century, almost a lone warrior effort, which gave Men in Blue and fans some hope, and to him, plenty of records and milestones. Once again, just when India looked down and out at 71/4, Virat, who scored a 108-ball 124 with 10 fours and three sixes, gave India hope with an 88-run stand for the fifth wicket with Nitish Kumar Reddy and a 99-run stand for the seventh wicket with Harshit Rana. This is Virat's 85th international century, and the chase for Indian icon Sachin Tendulkar's record of 100 international centuries continues. Also, this is Virat's 54th ODI ton, a record-extending one.



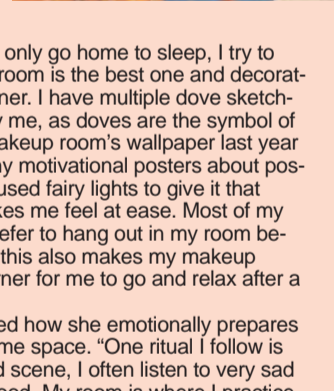
Govinda prays for family's happiness amid marriage rift rumours



Actor Govinda extended his prayers to god to spare him from the "conspiracy" against him amid rumours surrounding him and his wife Sunita regarding their married life. For months, reports have been circulating about a possible rift between Govinda and Sunita. Govinda believes a major conspiracy has been hatched against him, causing significant strain on his professional and personal life. While talking to ANI, Govinda said, "This wealth and fame don't spare anyone, and conspiracies like these don't happen with everyone. I know a very well-known actor who was the victim of it, and now it's me,

though I am not as big as he is. I pray to god that he saves me from this problem, and I also pray for the welfare of my children. There has been a lot of struggle." "I am a simple man with the blessing of my mother," Govinda said, adding that he is a religious person. The 'Raja Babu' actor also broke his silence regarding the reports of a rift in his married life. Speaking to ANI, Govinda said he chose to speak now because staying quiet made him look "weak" and added to the "problematic" image people were forming about him. "What I've been observing lately is that sometimes when we don't speak, we either appear weak or it seems like we are simply the problem. So, today, I'm re-

sponding. I was told that the people in my family might be unknowingly involved, and they won't realise that they are being used in the initial stages of a big conspiracy." "First, the family gets affected, and then it circulates in society. I've been disconnected from work for so many years; there's no market for my films, and please don't mistake this as me complaining or crying. I've rejected many films myself, so I don't cry about it," he added. Govinda and Sunita, married since 1987, are proud parents to Tina and Yashvardhan. While Tina made her Bollywood debut in 2015 with 'Second Hand Husband', Yashvardhan is preparing for his acting debut soon.



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