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NEWS BRIEFS

Renowned Punjabi playwright Jatinder Brar passes away, leaves behind legacy of cultural excellence

AMRITSAR: Eminent playwright Jatinder Brar, who gave Punjabi theatre a permanent address in Amritsar with Punjab Natshala, passed away due to age-related illness. Brar, 81, was a celebrated name in Punjabi theatre circles, known not just for his plays but also for nurturing and mentoring theatre talent from the heart of Majha. Brar's death has sent shockwaves throughout the theatre, literary, and social circles. The demise of playwright Jatinder Brar marks the end of an era in Punjabi theatre as well as Amritsar's cultural space. During his lifetime, he was honoured with several accolades, including the Shriromani Natak award, Punjab Gaurav, and countless other literary awards. His theatrical journey is a living testimony to the saying, "Hum akehi hi chale the janib-e-manzil magar log milte gaye aur caravan banta gaya." His notable plays include "Lohe Di Bhatti", "Faasle", "Kudedan Ki Jaai", "Kadessan", and "Paydan".

Indian-origin man shoots dead wife, 3 relatives in US over family dispute

NEW YORK: A 51-year-old Indian-origin man has been arrested for allegedly shooting dead his wife and three relatives purportedly due to a family dispute in the US state of Georgia. Vijay Kumar was taken into custody a short distance from the residence in Lawrenceville city where the shooting occurred on Friday, Gwinnett County Police said in a social media post.

Gwinnett County Police identified the victims as Kumar's wife Meenu Dogra, 43, who is an Indian national, and the relatives Gourav Kumar, 33, Nidhi Chander, 37, and Harish Chander, 38.

Ahead of R-Day, blast near Punjab's Sirhind damages railway track, goods train engine derails

FATEHGARH SAHIB: Ahead of Republic Day, a portion of the railway track used for freight trains near Sirhind in Punjab's Fatehgarh Sahib district was found damaged on Friday night, following a blast. The track, located near Khanpur village, about 4-5 kilometres from Sirhind station, was damaged on railway poll number 1208, affecting a 600-metre stretch. The track is used exclusively for goods trains. Following the incident, the engine of a goods train derailed, and its loco pilot was injured.

Punjab CM Mann bows in reverence at Nanded Sahib says his govt will raise demand for granting holy city status to Nanded with Maharashtra Govt

BUREAU

NANDED,: Bowing in reverence at Takht Sachkhand Sri Hazur Sahib in Nanded, Maharashtra, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Saturday said his government would raise the demand for granting holy city status to Nanded Sahib with the Maharashtra Government, underscoring that the sacred town holds immense spiritual significance for Sikhs and humanity at large. Recalling that the Punjab Government has already declared Sri Amritsar Sahib, Sri Anandpur Sahib and Talwandi Sabo as holy cities, the Punjab CM asserted that his government remains fully committed to the Guru Sahibans.

CM Bhagwant Singh Mann also paid obeisance at the holy shrine of Kalgi Dhar Patshah Ji, met the shrine management and witnessed a strong turnout of devotees and local residents, underscoring the deep connect between the Panth, its historic institutions and the people who continue to draw inspiration from them.

Addressing the gathering, Punjab CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "Nanded Sahib is a sacred place not only for Sikhs but for entire humanity, as the Tenth Sikh Guru Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji spent a considerable part of his life on this holy land."

The Punjab CM asserted that the Punjab Government would impress upon the Maharashtra Government to accord holy city status to Nanded Sahib as a befitting tribute to Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji. The Chief Minister added, "The 350th Shaheedi Diwas (Martyrdom Day) of the Ninth Guru, Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Ji, who laid down his life for religious freedom and human rights, has been commemorated by the state government with deep devotion and reverence."

Recalling an important decision taken last year, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann stated, "In November, on the Shaheedi Diwas of Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Ji, the Punjab Government designated three Takht towns as holy cities." He said the official notification



granting holy city status to the walled city area of Amritsar, Talwandi Sabo and Sri Anandpur Sahib had already been issued, fulfilling a long-pending demand of the sangat across the world. "On similar lines, an announcement for Nanded Sahib should also be made by the Maharashtra Government, for which the Punjab Government will make all possible efforts," he said.

The Chief Minister also announced a complete facelift of the Punjab Bhawan in Nanded Sahib. "The Punjab Bhawan constructed by the Punjab government will be

upgraded with ultra-modern facilities to facilitate devotees," Bhagwant Singh Mann said, adding that the supply of Verka milk products in Nanded would also be further streamlined for the benefit of pilgrims. He asserted, "No stone will be left unturned to ensure every possible facility for the devotees visiting this sacred place."

Highlighting the contribution of Punjabis to the nation, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "Punjabis have played a stellar role in the freedom struggle, in making the country self-reliant in food production, and in safeguarding the unity,

integrity and sovereignty of India."

He said Punjabis are always at the forefront when it comes to defending the borders and are ever ready to make sacrifices. "It is a matter of immense pride that in times of any mishap, Punjabis often reach the spot even before organisations like the Red Cross to serve the needy," he said.

The Chief Minister said, "The Punjab government is duty bound to perpetuate the glorious legacy of the great Guru Sahibans among the younger generations. We are following the footsteps of the

great Guru Sahibans, who taught humanity to stand against tyranny and injustice while ensuring the welfare of all."

He added that as part of this commitment, the Punjab Government recently commemorated the 350th Shaheedi Diwas of Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Ji at Sri Anandpur Sahib. "Our sole aim is to keep the younger generations connected with the life, philosophy and supreme sacrifices of the Guru Sahibans for mankind," he said.

Meanwhile, at Takht Sri Hazur Sahib, the Chief Minister prayed for the progress and development of the state and the prosperity of its people. He said, "Takht Sri Hazur Sahib is one of the five highest seats of religious authority in Sikhism, providing spiritual, temporal and moral strength to the community." He listed the other four Takhts as Sri Akal Takht Sahib in Amritsar, Takht Sri Keshgarh Sahib in Sri Anandpur Sahib, Takht Sri Damdama Sahib in Talwandi Sabo and Takht Sri Patna Sahib in Bihar.

Paying tributes to Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "Dashmesh Pitaah Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji made unparalleled contributions to uphold the traditions of secularism, safeguard human rights and ensure religious freedom, even sacrificing his entire family for these ideals." He said the Guru Sahib spent a significant part of his life on the sacred land of Nanded Sahib.

The Chief Minister said he felt blessed to have the opportunity to pay reverence at the holy shrine. "I seek the blessings of the Almighty to give me the strength to serve the people of Punjab with humility and dedication," Bhagwant Singh Mann said. After offering prayers at the Gurdwara Sahib, he reiterated the firm commitment of his government to serve people of all castes, colours, creeds and religions and to work towards building a harmonious society.

Heavy snow brings life to a standstill in Himachal

DHARAMSHALA, JAN 24

Life has been put on a standstill in Himachal Pradesh following a heavy spell of snow in the state during the last 24 hours. Hundreds of roads remained closed for vehicular movement and electricity supply was disrupted at thousands of places statewide.

As per the state Meteorological Department, Kothi near Manali received the highest snowfall at 105 cm during the past 24 hours, followed by Gondla in Lahaul and Spiti with 85 cm. Keylong received 75 cm, Khadrula in Shimla district 68.6 cm, Kufri 66 cm, Manali 45.8 cm, Shillaroo 45 cm, Kukumseri 41.4 cm, Jot 32 cm, Hansa 30 cm, Sangla 27.5 cm, Shimla 27 cm, Bharmaur 26 cm, Kalpa 16.4 cm and Sarahan 11.5 cm.

Several places in the state also witnessed heavy rain during the period. Dharampur in Mandi district received 91.4 mm of rainfall, followed by Solan (68.6 mm), Kandaghat (67 mm), Una (54.2 mm), Palampur and Nagrota Suriyan (53.2 mm each) and Nahan (51.9 mm).

Shimla, the state capital, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 0.5°C, while Dharamsala recorded 5.2°C. Manali recorded minus 0.4°C, Kangra 1.7°C, Mandi 4.3°C, Solan 1.8°C, Bilaspur 4.5°C, Hamirpur 3°C, Kalpa minus 3.8°C, Sundernagar 3.7°C, Bhuntar 2.5°C, Nahan



6.2°C, Paonta Sahib 8°C, Kufri minus 2.5°C, Narkanda minus 4.2°C, Reekong Peo 0.1°C and Tabo minus 6.5°C. Kukumseri was the coldest place in the state, recording a minimum temperature of minus 7.2°C.

While weather conditions are expected to remain dry in most parts of the state, heavy snow is likely to continue in the higher reaches today. Meanwhile, government transport services were hit in Kangra district, with 58 bus routes suspended, after fresh snowfall in McLeodganj and surrounding villages of Naddi, Dharamkot and Bhagsunag on Friday night led to a sharp dip in temperatures.

ICC drops Bangladesh from T20 World Cup, brings in Scotland; informs all member nations

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, JAN 24

While Cricket Scotland has maintained that they haven't received any official confirmation but it seems that it is only a matter of time that they will be intimidated. Photo: X The International Cricket Council (ICC) has pushed Bangladesh out of the upcoming T20 World Cup, bringing in Scotland after BCB refused to let its team travel to India citing security concerns in the wake of Mustafizur Rahman's ouster from IPL.

Scotland's entry ended the month-long suspense after Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) repeatedly insisted that their matches be shifted to Sri Lanka and even suggested their group being swapped with Ireland.

The Irish Cricket board however categorically dismissed the suggestion.

At the ICC Board meeting, Bangladesh were taken to the cleaners with an overwhelming 14-2 verdict in favour of the 'Tigers' travelling to India for their games.

ICC gave BCB a 24-hour deadline to change its stance but with Asif Nazrul being adamant, the cricket crazy nation's hopes of playing the T20 World



Cup went up in smoke.

It has been learnt that top ICC officials including chairman Jay Shah were in Dubai on Friday and late evening an e-mail was sent to BCB chairman Aminul Islam Bulbul informing him about global body's decision.

"An e-mail was sent last evening to BCB chairman intimating him that his board didn't get back to ICC officially af-

ter the 24-hour deadline that was given to them to decide if they wanted to come to India," an ICC source said on condition of anonymity.

"BCB did a press conference in Dhaka before officially intimating the global body which is a violation of protocol. They have been categorically told that they are being replaced. Scotland is the new team in the World Cup."

ICC also intimated all the participating member nations separately about Bangladesh being dropped from the tournament.

Bangladesh Sports Ministry advisor Asif Nazrul had advised against national team travelling to India, citing security issues despite being given repeated assurances by ICC.

Scotland will thus play their four group league games against West Indies (February 7), Italy (February 9) and England (February 14) in Kolkata followed by a game against Nepal in Mumbai on February 17.

BCB, in a desperate measure, had also approached Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) of ICC, unaware about the terms of reference of the sub-committee which is not allowed to hear an appeal against a decision made by its own Board of Directors.

18th Edition of Rozgar Mela organized at ITBP 50th Battalion, Panchkula 109 appointment letters distributed at Rozgar Mela Organized by ITBP 50th Battalion in Panchkula

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
PANCHKULA, JANUARY 24

As per the directions of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, the 18th edition of the Rozgar Mela was organized at the 50th Battalion of Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force (ITBP), Sector-26, Panchkula (Haryana). The programme was graced by Hon'ble Shri Manohar Lal, Union Minister for Power and Housing & Urban Affairs, Government of India, as the Chief Guest. Shri Pawan Kumar Negi, Deputy Inspector General, Regional Headquarters (Shimla) was also present on the occasion.

During the programme, appointment letters were distributed to 109 selected candidates for recruitment in ITBP, CISF, BSF, SBI, GAIL and other Central Government organizations. Hon'ble Minister congratulated all the selected candidates and wished them a bright and successful future.



Addressing the gathering, Hon'ble Shri Manohar Lal congratulated all the youth and said that Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji is concerned

about the youth in every possible way. The Prime Minister's vision focuses on the education of the youth, their skilling, providing them appointment letters, and cre-

ating opportunities for self-employment. He said that today's youth is our future. The youth who are getting jobs today will be the witnesses to a 'Viksit Bharat'

in 2047. The responsibility being placed on the shoulders of the youth today will ensure that the country moves forward, becomes self-reliant, and achieves the goal of a developed India."

On the occasion, Shri Shailendra Singh Narkoti, Commandant, 50th Battalion, ITBP and Nodal Officer of the programme, stated that the Rozgar Mela initiative launched under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji aims to provide large-scale employment opportunities to the youth and is a significant step towards building an Atmanirbhar and Viksit Bharat. He informed that under the 18th edition of the Rozgar Mela, more than 61,000 appointment letters have been issued across the country, including the appointment letters distributed during today's programme.

Family members of the selected candidates, senior officers of ITBP, and personnel were also present during the event.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Havan organised at Narsingh Das Public School for success in board examinations



KAMAL SHARMA
TARAORI: A formal havan–yajna was organised on the school campus of Narsingh Das Public School to pray for the success of students appearing in the upcoming board examinations. Acharya Munna Shastri conducted the ritual with Vedic chants and recitation of hymns, offering prayers to the Almighty for the bright future and academic success of the students. Garvit and Yashdeep Singh performed the role of chief yajmans during the ceremony. Addressing the students, school chairperson Madhu Gupta said that the path of truth, discipline and relentless hard work is the key to remarkable success and holistic development in student life. She encouraged students to remain focused and sincere in their efforts. School director Dharendra Kherra blessed the students and motivated them to prepare for the board examinations with dedication, perseverance and a positive mindset. During the havan, students and teachers collectively offered oblations with deep reverence.

Krishan Pal Gurjar distributes appointment letters to selected youth during Prime Minister's Rozgar Mela in Sonipat

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
SONIPAT : In line with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's resolve to provide government jobs to the youth of the country, the 18th edition of the Prime Minister Rozgar Mela was organised at the national level today, January 24, 2026 (Saturday). On this occasion, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, by pressing a remote button, distributed appointment letters to 61,656 select-candidates, including over 8,000 women, at 45 locations across the country for appointments in various government departments.

As part of this nationwide initiative, a programme was also organised at the Group Centre, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Kharkhoda (Khehra), Sonipat. On this occasion, Union Minister of State for Cooperation, Government of India, Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar distributed appointment letters to 103 selected candidates appointed in various Central Government departments, particularly in the



Central Armed Police Forces.

The live telecast of the programme was organised at the CRPF Group Centre, Kharkhoda. The Union Minister of State for Cooperation, Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar, attended the event as the Chief Guest and personally handed over the appointment letters to the selected youth.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has always laid emphasis on employment generation, innovation, use of technology and placing citizens at the cen-

tre of development. He stated that the appointment letter distribution programme in Sonipat is a concrete step towards achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat.

The Minister further informed that the newly appointed candidates are also being provided training through the "Karmayogi Prarambh" online module on the iGOT Karmayogi portal, which offers more than 1,588 e-learning courses. This training will enable the youth to effectively discharge their responsibilities and contribute meaningfully to the building of a developed India. He added that transparent, technology-based and fast recruitment processes are strengthening the participation of Young India in government services. Shri Gurjar congratulated all the newly appointed candidates and urged them to serve the nation with honesty, dedication and efficiency.

Grand and memorable Republic Day celebration in Panipat

RAKESH BHAYANA:
PANIPAT: Preparations for the district-level Republic Day celebration have reached their final stage. On Saturday, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Virendra Kumar Dahiya hoisted the national flag during the final rehearsal of the Republic Day Ceremony at Shivaji Stadium and inspected the arrangements, issuing necessary directions to the concerned officials. Earlier, he paid floral tributes to the martyrs at the Shaheed Smarak located in the District Secretariat.

After the inspection, Dr. Dahiya informed that the district-level Republic Day celebration will be held in a grand manner on January 26 at 10:00 a.m. at Shivaji Stadium. Development and Panchayat Minister Krishan Lal Panwar will be the Chief Guest and will hoist the national flag. He emphasized that, as every year, the celebration should leave a historic and unforgettable impression, and urged all officers, teachers, and students to work with dedication and commitment to ensure its success.

During the Republic Day ceremony, marching contingents of the Haryana Police (men and women), Home Guards, NCC Girls, NSS, Scouts and Guides, Red Cross, and Hindustan Scouts will participate in an impressive march-past. Various developmental tableaux presented by different departments will also add to the grandeur of the event. IPS Harshit Goyal will serve as the Parade Commander.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officials to ensure thorough cleanliness of the entire city and the stadium premises prior to the event, along with proper decoration and installation of flags. He also instructed that a ceremonial gateway (toran dvar) be erected at Ramlal Chowk, the turning point towards the stadium. Adequate arrangements for traffic management, law and order, and especially the safety of girl students will be ensured by the police.



Dr. Dahiya stated that as India is the world's largest democracy, Republic Day is a matter of pride as well as responsibility for all citizens. Therefore, all officials associated with the event should take personal interest and perform their duties with full sincerity and dedication.

On this occasion, SP Bhupender Singh, Additional Commissioner of Municipal Corporation Vivek Chaudhary, SDM Panipat Mandeep Kumar, DSP Headquarters Satish Vats, District Education Officer Rakesh Bura, along with several senior district officials, were present.

Hry Youth Cong lashes out at state govt

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, JAN 24

The Haryana Youth Congress has accused the state government of rigging government jobs and undermining reservations. They also stated that the BJP government claims to provide jobs without any expense, but as part of a conspiracy, Haryana's youth are being deprived of employment. On Saturday, Haryana Youth Congress in-charge Satiyawan Gehlot, co-in-charge Mimansa Arya, state senior vice president Somil Sandhu, state general secretary Aryan Chaudhary, Dinesh Poshwal, state secretary Pradeep, and state vice chairman of the media department Mukesh Chaudhary, along with Jitendra Narwal, Radaur Assembly Speaker, Pankaj Sharma Tamen, and Suraj Gharaunda, president, held a press conference at the Mangalsen auditorium in Karnal. Candidates protesting outside the Haryana Public Service Commission office in Panchkula were also present. Youth Congress leaders stated that the BJP government

ference at the Mangalsen auditorium in Karnal. Candidates protesting outside the Haryana Public Service Commission office in Panchkula were also present. Youth Congress leaders stated that the BJP government



in Haryana is deceiving the state's youth. The government and the HSPC are conspiring to disqualify qualified candidates under the guise of the 35 percent criteria. Congress leaders said that the Chief Minister of the state is remaining a mute spectator. The government is trumpeting transparency, fairness, and hon-

esty. They said that youth from other states are being given jobs in Haryana. This is completely wrong. Haryana has no shortage of educated and talented youth. The government wants to force them into forced labor.

The Saini government is promoting the contract system. Instead of providing permanent jobs, youth are being forced to work under the Haryana Skill Employment Corporation. The government's double standards are plunging the future of Haryana's youth into darkness. Congress leaders said that every Haryana Youth Congress worker stands with the aggrieved candidates to raise their voices. If the government does not listen, they will surround the Chief Minister's residence in Chandigarh and stage a protest.

Haryana, Himachal, and Punjab should be reunited : Simranjit Singh Mann

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, JAN 24

Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) President S. Simranjit Singh Mann said that Sir Chhotu Ram and my elder, Lieutenant Colonel S. Joginder Singh Mann, both served together in the Lahore Assembly of undivided Punjab. Colonel Joginder Singh Mann won the election in 1937, and Chaudhary Sahib, while serving as the Agriculture Minister, took significant initiatives in favor of farmers and the common people. At that time, the government completely waived the farmers' debts, which greatly helped the farming community to expand their businesses and strengthen their families' economies. He was a highly respected and popular personality among all sections of society. At that

time, the entire population of Punjab lived in a very comfortable environment because the people were happy and satisfied with the government's responsibilities. However, after the partition of the country,



the lack of that comfort for the entire population of undivided Punjab is still felt today. It is sad and regrettable that after the partition, the area of Punjab, which extended from Delhi-Yamuna to Jammu and Kashmir, Leh-Ladakh, and Afghanistan, was reduced due to

the division of our region into Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, which the rulers did to fulfill their political and selfish motives. This has caused great difficulties not only for Punjab but also for the people of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. It is our heartfelt desire that Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh should unite to form a larger state so that we can support each other as before and overcome all our economic, social, and religious difficulties. He said that while remembering the open-mindedness and humanitarian initiatives of Chaudhary Sir Chhotu Ram, he expressed regret over the actions of the leaders who divided Punjab into Haryana and Himachal Pradesh after the partition of the country and expressed his desire to reunite them.

Life of late Rajinder Prasad an inspiration of justice and service: Assembly Speaker Harvinder Kalyan

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

KARNAL: Haryana Assembly Speaker Harvinder Kalyan said that the life of the late Rajinder Prasad was imbued with the values of justice, discipline and human sensitivity, making him not only an outstanding judge but also a personality whose conduct continues to inspire society.

Paying tributes to the late Rajinder Prasad at a condolence meeting held at the Karneshwar Temple in Karnal, the Speaker said that during his judicial service, his judgments reflected a balanced blend of law, morality and humanity. He added that Rajinder Prasad's contribution as the first judge from the Valmiki community in Haryana stood as a symbol of social harmony and equal opportunity.

Harvinder Kalyan said that even after retirement, the late Rajinder Prasad continued to serve society through various platforms, demonstrating that true service goes beyond the boundaries of official position. Expressing condolences to the bereaved family, he said that the values adopted by Haryana Assembly Secretary Rajiv Prasad in public service are a direct reflection of the upbringing and values imparted by his father.



Self-Reliant and developed India should be every youth's resolve: Anurag Thakur

RAKESH BHAYANA
PANIPAT, JAN 24

During his Haryana visit, former Union Minister and Member of Parliament from Hamirpur, Anurag Thakur, received a warm welcome from BJP workers on his arrival in Panipat. At the Panipat Urban MLA's office and the railway station, MLA Pramod Kumar Vij, BJP workers, and office-bearers of the Yuva Morcha extended a cordial welcome to MP Thakur.

Under the leadership of BJP District President Dushyant Bhatt, MLA Pramod Vij's son Rahul Vij, Yuva Morcha State Secretary Rahul Rana, and Yuva Morcha District President Amit Pandit, Yuva Morcha workers welcomed Anurag Thakur at the Panipat Railway Station by garlanding him with flowers and raising slogans of



Bharat Mata Ki Jai.

Subsequently, Cabinet Minister Krishan Lal Panwar, MLA Pramod Kumar Vij, and Panipat Mayor Komal Saini, along with workers from the Panipat Urban Assembly constituency, felicitated MP Thakur and listened to his views.

While addressing the party workers, MP Anurag Thakur

said that a self-reliant and developed India should be the sole objective of every citizen. He stated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's youth is continuously bringing global recognition to the nation.

Praising the development works carried out by Panipat Urban MLA Pramod Vij, Thakur said that Panipat city

is consistently setting new benchmarks of development and is establishing a distinct identity for itself in Haryana.

Traditional Hukka Presented as a Mark of Respect

On the occasion, a hukka, symbolising Haryana's rich cultural heritage, was presented to MP Anurag Thakur by MLA Pramod Kumar Vij and Yuva Morcha workers. The MP expressed his gratitude to all the workers for this heartfelt gesture.

The event was attended by District General Secretary Sunil Kansal, Mahila Morcha District President Neha Sharma, former District General Secretary Krishan Chhokkar, District Secretary Sonia Gaba, senior BJP leader Sunil Soni, Yuva Morcha State Vice President Sanjeev Sanuma, Sunil Kapoor, Municipal Corporation councillors, Mandal presidents, and a large number of respected BJP workers.

Excellent results in BA fourth semester at Indira Gandhi Women's College



SANJAY SHARMA

KAITHAL: The BA fourth semester (NEP) examination results of Indira Gandhi PG Women's College have been declared and have been described as highly commendable, with students delivering an outstanding performance and bringing laurels to the institution.

Sharing details, the college principal said that as per the recently declared university results of the BA fourth year, as many as 129 students secured an SGPA of 9 at the university level. Among them, nine students achieved an impressive 9.80 SGPA to secure the first position in the college. Two students secured the second position with 9.70 SGPA, while 18 students stood third with 9.60 SGPA. In addition, 129 students scored 9 SGPA and 130 students secured 8 SGPA, reflecting the institution's strong academic standards and consistent quality of education.

The nine top-performing students who secured 9.80 SGPA include Sonia, Roma, Vandana, Muskan, Khushi, Tamanna, Kashish, Kiran and Savina.

Policybazaar for business introduced enroute

CHANDIGARH: Policybazaar for Business (PBFB), the corporate arm of one of India's largest insurance marketplace, has introduced Enroute, a platform designed to simplify marine and transit insurance operations. The issuance of certifications and declarations, a process that was traditionally time-consuming, can now be completed in just a few clicks. The platform empowers businesses to efficiently handle their domestic and international trade requirements.

Policybazaar for Business offers comprehensive marine insurance solutions covering inland transit, import and export shipments, annual marine policies, single transit covers, and tailored solutions for diverse industries such as manufacturing, retail, logistics, and e-commerce. These offerings are critical for businesses as marine and transit insurance protects goods against risks like damage, theft, loss, or accidents during transportation-risks that can significantly impact cash flows and business continuity if left uninsured.

To avoid claim denials, companies and businesses must submit monthly declarations for domestic policies. They are also required to provide transit-specific insurance certificates for import and export shipments under annual marine and transit insurance policies. The manual execution of these formalities would often be cumbersome for the customer. PBFB simplifies this process with an easy-to-use platform that reduces administrative workload, enhances accuracy and ensures smoother compliance. "Marine and transit insurance customers often faced operational hurdles due to fragmented platforms and complicated modes of declaration. The new platform is designed to benefit the customers by streamlining the entire process.

ASF Insignia secures Rs. 1,250 crore capital commitment from Alpha Alternatives

CHANDIGARH- ASF Insignia, a large integrated commercial IT office campus strategically located in Vatsal Valley, Gurugram, having good connectivity with South Delhi, Faridabad and the Gurugram CBD, has secured a commitment of equity and quasi-equity investment of approximately Rs. 1,250 crore from Mumbai-headquartered Alpha Alternatives. The transaction reflects continued institutional interest in high-quality office real estate assets in the National Capital Region. The investment will be infused in tranches - the first tranche of approximately 2450 crore from which is already received. The capital will be deployed to improve the capital structure of ASF entities through debt reduction, support targeted infrastructure & amenity upgrades, building refinements, and enhance occupier experience across the campus, with the objective of revitalising leasing momentum and repositioning the asset as a long term prime commercial office project. Commenting on the development, Mr. Anil Saraf, ASF Insignia, said that the investment from Alpha Alternatives reinforces the long-term fundamentals of ASF Insignia and our strategy of building an institutionally driven office ecosystem. The focus is on balance sheet strength, asset quality and creating a campus that continues to meet the evolving needs of large enterprises and global capability centres, on cost optimal basis.



Amway India launches Nutrilite Biotin C Plus

HISAR - Amway India, one of the leading companies supporting health and wellbeing, has launched Nutrilite Biotin C Plus (with Zinc & Beta Carotene)—a scientifically formulated nutraceutical that contains ingredients to support healthy hair, skin and nails from within. Positioned as a beyond biotin formulation, the product goes beyond single-ingredient supplements by delivering 100% of the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) of three essential nutrients, Biotin, Vitamin C and Zinc, along with Beta Carotene, reinforcing Amway's focus on science-backed nutrition and plant-forward wellness. Developed with Nutrilite's 90+ years of nutrition expertise, the product brings together essential nutrients aligned with recommended dietary allowances (RDA), reinforcing Amway's focus on everyday nutrition. Speaking on the launch, Rajneesh Chopra, Managing Director, Amway India, said that Consumers today increasingly recognize that overall wellbeing and external appearance are deeply interconnected. At Amway, our focus has always been on enabling people to lead more fulfilling lives through science-backed, nature-inspired nutrition. The launch of Nutrilite Biotin C Plus (with Zinc & Beta Carotene) strengthens our 'beauty from within' nutrition portfolio by offering a comprehensive nutrient, beyond-biotin formulation that supports everyday wellness needs. It also reflects our commitment to accelerating an innovative product pipeline that empowers individuals to take charge of their wellbeing from within.



EDITORIAL

‘Mother of all deals’ to redraw global economic map

The participation of European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in the Republic Day celebrations as the Chief Guest carries significance that goes beyond diplomatic optics. It sends a crucial message of realignment of the global economic map at a time when the world is grappling with unpredictable and whimsical tariff policies of the United States. During her recent address at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, she described the imminent trade agreement with India as the “mother of all deals”, indicating the potential of its impact on global geopolitics. The renewed momentum to finalise the historic Free Trade Agreement was evident during German Chancellor Friedrich Merz’s visit to India earlier this month, which underscored Europe’s growing recognition of India not merely as a market, but as a long-term partner in global growth, technology, and resilience. The signing of the FTA will be just the starting line for businesses on both sides. The real impact of the India–EU FTA will be shaped by how effectively it is implemented, how ambitiously industry engages with it, and how decisively both governments support collaboration beyond tariff reductions and legal frameworks. The deal presents a win-win situation for both. For Europe, struggling with energy shocks, slowing growth, and an uneasy dependence on China, India offers scale, stability, and a democratic counterweight in the Indo-Pacific. For India, it opens privileged access to one of the world’s largest consumer markets, accelerates technology transfers, and strengthens its ambition to become a global manufacturing and services hub. Europe brings deep expertise in advanced engineering, clean technologies, precision manufacturing, and trusted regulatory systems. India brings scale, cost competitiveness, a large and skilled workforce, and one of the world’s fastest-growing domestic markets. The FTA has the potential to align these strengths far more systematically than has been possible so far. Across India, European companies are increasingly moving beyond sales and assembly operations to establish manufacturing, design, and engineering hubs. When European technology and Indian capability are integrated effectively, the outcome is globally competitive. Today, nearly 6,000 European companies operate in India, supporting millions of jobs across sectors such as clean energy, mobility, digital infrastructure, aerospace, advanced materials, and manufacturing. These are sectors where India and Europe share long-term priorities. At present, India–EU trade and investment are concentrated in a limited number of Indian States and a handful of EU member countries. This leaves large parts of both economies underrepresented. Many European SMEs, particularly from Central and Eastern Europe, are actively seeking reliable global partners. At the same time, several Indian States are positioning themselves as manufacturing and services hubs with global ambitions. An effective FTA can help widen these corridors, connecting new Indian States with new European regions and integrating them into shared value chains.

PRAGATI and the Reorientation of India’s Infrastructure Governance



Giridhar Aramane

India’s recent progress in infrastructure development is often described through numbers—kilometres of highways built, airports operationalised, or capital expenditure expanded. These indicators are important and impressive, but they only partially explain the transformation underway. Equally consequential has been a change in how large public projects are governed, coordinated and executed. Over the past decade, this shift has altered outcomes across sectors, particularly for projects long constrained by administrative fragmentation and delayed decisionmaking. When the present government assumed office in 2014, the infrastructure sector was marked by significant stress. Projects worth nearly Rs 8.8 lakh crore—about eight per cent of GDP—were stalled. Infrastructure-linked non-performing assets had crossed 11 per cent, and delays in land acquisition, environmental

and forest clearances, and inter-agency coordination had become systemic. The policy challenge was therefore not limited to expanding investment; it required correcting institutional weaknesses that impeded execution. It was in this context that PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation) was introduced in March 2015. Conceived as a structured, whole-of-government review mechanism chaired by the Prime Minister, PRAGATI sought to address persistent bottlenecks through regular monitoring and coordinated resolution. Its purpose was straightforward: to ensure that large public projects did not remain stalled due to avoidable administrative delays. The Prime Minister’s role in chairing these reviews lent authority and urgency to the process. More importantly, it signalled that execution and timelines mattered, and that unresolved coordination issues would not be allowed to drift indefinitely. At the same time, PRAGATI was designed to function through existing institutional channels, strengthening accountability across ministries, states, and district administrations rather than bypassing them. The crucial distinction that set PRAGATI apart from other governance mechanisms was the singleminded focus of the Prime Minister, his grasp of sectoral detail, and the unwavering regularity of reviews. Three-hour sessions held every month, personally chaired by the Prime Minister, sent shockwaves through the administrative system. When the highest executive authority, armed with meticulous preparation, directly confronts inaction and blame-shifting, lethargy and red tape

have no place to hide. These meetings combined firm rebukes, pointed exposure of inconsistencies, and data-driven challenges to recalcitrant officials, with appeals reminding them of their duty to the nation. The outcome has been a remarkable surge in infrastructure delivery over the past decade, a momentum that continues. Supported by a digital project monitoring platform, PRAGATI enabled systematic tracking of issues and time-bound follow-up. Responsibilities were clearly assigned—from secretaries of central ministries and state chief secretaries to district collectors and field-level officers—reducing ambiguity in ownership, particularly where issues cut across jurisdictions. The impact of this change is best understood not only through aggregated data, but also through individual project trajectories. One such example is the Bhadrachalam–Kovur railway line. The foundation stone was laid in 1999, when I was the District Magistrate there. For nearly eighteen years thereafter, the project saw little progress, with no meaningful allocation or sanction, despite its regional importance. Only after PRAGATI reviews began flagging such long-pending projects did momentum return. In 2022, a major portion of the line was finally inaugurated—an outcome reflecting not a change in technical feasibility, but in institutional attention and follow-through. A similar shift was visible in the early months of PRAGATI itself. In 2015, while visiting the offices of MMRDA and CIDCO to study town planning schemes in the Mumbai metropolitan region, I was perplexed by the unusual urgency in the corridors. Officials were fielding tense

enquiries ahead of a PRAGATI meeting scheduled for that afternoon. At issue was a clearance from the Ministry of Environment for the Navi Mumbai International Airport—pending for several years without resolution. Shortly before the meeting, the approval arrived by fax. The clearance itself was not the achievement; what had changed was the expectation that long-pending decisions would now be scrutinized and explained. Over the past decade, PRAGATI has reviewed and facilitated progress on infrastructure projects worth over 85 lakh crore across transport, power and social sectors, resolving more than 3,000 issues across 382 projects. These figures reflect not only scale, but a move towards more predictable and coordinated execution. The transport sector, particularly national highways, illustrates this clearly. Through PRAGATI, 325 projects of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, valued at approximately 4.5 lakh crore, were taken up for focused intervention. Issues related to land acquisition, forest and wildlife clearances, and utility shifting were resolved with a success rate exceeding 95 per cent. The average time to address such constraints fell from over a year to less than three months. These governance improvements translated into tangible outcomes. Projects such as the Delhi–Mumbai Expressway, Urban Extension Road-II in Delhi, and the Ambala–Kotputli High-Speed Corridor progressed steadily after prolonged delays. Over this period, the pace of highway construction rose from about 12 km per day in 2014 to around 35 km per day, reflecting both higher capacity and improved coordination.

PRAGATI also operated alongside a broader set of reforms strengthening the infrastructure lifecycle. Integrated planning under the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan reduced siloed decision-making. Digital platforms for land acquisition and environmental clearances shortened approval timelines, while reforms in contracting, dispute resolution and project-readiness norms improved risk allocation and private-sector confidence. It also heralded a new phase in cooperative federalism. Setting aside political differences, several state governments used this forum to accelerate infrastructure development, translating the principle of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas into administrative practice. Taken together, these measures have supported a sustained increase in public capital expenditure and a more consistent delivery pipeline, with outcomes visible across highways, railways, airports and urban transport systems. The broader lesson is clear: infrastructure delivery depends as much on governance design as on financial commitment. As India moves towards Vision 2047, the scale of planned infrastructure expansion will place increasing demands on institutional capacity. Sustaining progress will require embedding these governance practices more deeply across sectors and states. In this sense, PRAGATI is best understood not as a one-time intervention, but as part of a continuing effort to align ambition with execution in India’s infrastructure programme. (The author is Former Secretary of MoRTH.)

Prince Harry, UK PM Starmer condemn Trump's remarks on NATO troops to Afghanistan



UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Prince Harry condemned the remarks by US President Donald Trump about sending troops to the Afghan frontlines, CNN reported. Their reactions came after Trump, in an interview with Fox News, spoke about the US involvement in NATO and said that Washington received little in return when compared to its contributions. "Will they be there if we ever needed them?" Trump asked, "I'm not sure of that."

In a video message on X, the UK PM paid tributes to the 457 armed forces personnel who lost their lives in Afghanistan and recalled their courage, bravery and sacrifice and several of those injured with life-changing injuries. "I consider President Trump's remarks to be insulting and frankly appalling", he said. A key principle of the NATO alliance is Article 5, under which all members agree to come to the defence of any member state if it is attacked. Article 5 has been invoked once, by the United States after the

troops to Afghanistan, or this or that. And they did - they stayed a little back, a little off the front lines," he said. In a video message on X, the UK PM paid tributes to the 457 armed forces personnel who lost their lives in Afghanistan and recalled their courage, bravery and sacrifice and several of those injured with life-changing injuries. "I consider President Trump's remarks to be insulting and frankly appalling", he said. A key principle of the NATO alliance is Article 5, under which all members agree to come to the defence of any member state if it is attacked. Article 5 has been invoked once, by the United States after the

Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu engages global leaders at WEF 2026 in Davos

Minister of Civil Aviation, Ram Mohan Naidu, held a series of high-level engagements, strategic meetings and multilateral interactions at the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2026 in Davos, reaffirming India's growing leadership in aviation, infrastructure, sustainability, innovation and global economic cooperation. According to a press release, at WEF 2026, the Minister participated in the session on "Scaling up Autonomous Mobility", where he outlined India's structured approach of "Enable, Deploy and Scale." Highlighting progressive policy frameworks such as the Drone Rules 2021, real-world applications, including medical deliveries in remote regions, and India's preparedness for eVTOLs and autonomous aviation, he underscored how regulation, digital infrastructure, and manufacturing strength are being leveraged to address congestion, access, and logistics challenges at scale. The Minister held a strategic discussion with Francisco Gomes Neto, CEO of Embraer, at the Congress Centre in Davos, focusing on strengthening Embraer's presence in the Indian aviation ecosystem through strategic partnerships with Indian industry stakeholders. On the sidelines of the Forum, Ram Mohan Naidu conducted a series of productive bilateral meetings with Pragati Group, SkidAI, and IndianOil Corporation Ltd, exploring opportunities for collaboration across aviation, infrastructure and energy sectors, as per the release. He noted that the WEF platform provides a vital opportunity to engage with global stakeholders and strengthen partnerships to unlock new growth avenues for India amid global economic uncertainty. In a significant diplomatic engagement, the Minister held discussions with Apostolos Tzitzikostas, EU Transport Commissioner, focusing on sustainability, innovation and EU-India cooperation in the transport ecosystem, including coordination between EASA and DGCA to further enhance aviation safety standards. As per the release, Ram Mohan Naidu was honoured to be welcomed at the Maharashtra Pavilion by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, acknowledging Maharashtra's governance reforms, investor-friendly policies and future-ready development vision that position the state as a key driver of India's growth. At the Country Strategy Dialogue session, the Minister spoke as a panellist alongside Ashwini Vaishnav and Pralhad Joshi, highlighting India's emergence as a global innovation and investment destination under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He noted that with Indian airlines set to induct nearly 100 aircraft annually over the next 15 years and a vision of 350+ airports by 2047, India is rapidly emerging as a global hub for aircraft component manufacturing.



POEMS

The Before Picture

It's complicated, my relationship status with progress. I often prefer

the “before” picture. The future is where I’m going only because

I have no choice, because time moves in one direction, dragging

a bit of itself behind like meat. An unseen hand keeps

tugging it—time’s rabbit leg, time’s hunk of red venison—

just out of reach. Did I just describe the future as bait? Am I strung

along? I know, when I arrive there, it won't be there. Won't be that.

It'll be now, the way it is right now. And again. Refresh,

refresh, refresh. The before's pile up behind me. It's now again.

By Maggie Smith

"Reflects India's commitment to justice, national sovereignty": Iran thanks New Delhi for opposing "unjust" UNHRC resolution

Iran's ambassador to India, Mohammad Fathali, appreciated India's stand on the United Nations Human Rights Council's (UNHRC) 39th special session to address the deteriorating human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran. India voted against the resolution at the UNHRC calling for increased scrutiny of the human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran, aligning itself with a group of countries that opposed what they described as a selective and politically driven initiative. The resolution sought to address what sponsors termed a deteriorating human rights situation in Iran. India's vote placed it among a minority of states rejecting the measure, while several others abstained. The resolution was adopted at the session by 25 votes in

favour, seven against and 14 abstentions. Reacting to India's vote, in a statement on X, Iranian Ambassador to India Mohammad Fathali welcomed New Delhi's stance, saying, "I extend my sincere gratitude to the Government of India for its principled and firm support of I.R. of Iran at the UN HRC, including opposing an unjust and politically motivated resolution. This stance reflects India's commitment to justice, multilateralism, and national sovereignty." Earlier, noting that the history of the relationship and collaboration between Iran and India dates back hundreds of years before the emergence of Islam, Abdul Majid Hakeem Ilahi, the Representative of Iran's Supreme Leader, said that India philosophical texts were studied in Iran. He said India's



achievements in mathematics, astronomy, and medicine were studied in Iran and people of Iran have always learned about the relationship between the two ancient civilisations. "The Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran always insists on good relations and collaboration between Iran and India...I hope that in Chabahar they will work nicely...The history of the relationship and collaboration between Iran and India goes to 3,000 years ago, before the emergence of Islam. Even at that time, we were using philosophical books of India," he said. "Even at the university, we studied philosophical books of India, and in mathematics, astronomy, and medicine, we were also using your civilisation, your knowledge, and we always learned through our schools the

relationship between Iran and India," he added. Meanwhile, Iranian state television has released the first official death toll from the recent anti-government protests that engulfed the country, reporting that 3,117 people were killed during the crackdown, as reported by Al Jazeera. In a statement carried by Press TV on Wednesday, Iran's Martyrs Foundation said that 2,427 of those killed in the demonstrations were civilians and security forces. The US-based Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA) has said 4,519 were killed during the wave of demonstrations, including 4,251 protesters, 197 security personnel, 35 people aged under 18 and 38 bystanders who it says were neither protesters nor security personnel.

NEWS BRIEF

Children of Bal Ashram
Sujanpur to visit Jaipur
during February
holidays: Gandharva
Rathore

ANIL KUMAR
HAMIRPUR: Deputy Commissioner
Gandharva Rathore has said that



as part of the state government's efforts to ensure a dignified life for destitute children, along with providing all essential facilities, arrangements are also being made for their recreation and educational exposure. In this continuation, children of the Bal Ashram in Sujanpur will be taken on a tour of Jaipur during the February holidays. The Deputy Commissioner said that the tour for 13 children of the Bal Ashram along with staff members is being sponsored under the Corporate Social Responsibility scheme through the Venus Foundation. Coordination regarding the tour is being carried out with Venus Foundation official Ekta Thakur. According to the proposed programme, the children will depart for Chandigarh by road on February 8 and from there travel to Jaipur by the Vande Bharat Express. They will stay at a hotel in Jaipur. On February 9, 10 and 11, the children will visit several historical, religious and tourist sites

Snowfall boosts tourism hopes but disrupts life in Himachal, over 600 roads blocked

AGENCY
SHIMLA, JAN 24

While tourists are rejoicing over fresh snowfall in Himachal Pradesh, local residents, farmers, and orchardists are pinning long-term hopes on a good tourism season and a productive agricultural year.

However, heavy snowfall has also caused widespread disruption, with transportation severely affected across several districts.

Due to snowfall in the upper reaches of Shimla, Kullu, Lahaul-Spiti, Chamba, and Kinnaur districts, more than 600 roads have been blocked, creating difficulties for both locals and visitors. Efforts are underway to restore connectivity.

Speaking to an news agency, Himachal Pradesh PWD Minister Vikramaditya Singh said that the snowfall came after a long dry spell and has brought relief to farmers and orchardists. "After a very long dry spell, this snowfall has occurred in our state, which has brought happiness among farmers and orchardists. However, snowfall also leads to road blockages. I am in



constant touch with departmental officials. JCBs and Poclain machines are continuously engaged in clearing roads in hilly areas," he said.

The minister added that higher reaches have received 2.5 to 3 feet of snow, while high-altitude areas have recorded up to 4 feet, making road clearance time-consuming.

"As per the latest information, around 600 small and big roads have been affected, including link roads and major district roads. We are making all efforts to open them at the earliest," Singh told ANI.

Appealing to tourists, Vikramaditya Singh urged patience and cooperation. "I request all tourists visiting Himachal Pradesh to maintain the beauty of the state and not panic if there are temporary difficulties. The administration, police, PWD, and all concerned departments are working round the clock to ensure people reach safe places," he said.

He further informed that snow-clearing machines have been deployed extensively, including within Shimla Municipal Corporation

areas, and that 350 to 400 machines have been kept on standby across divisions. "Snow blowers have also been deployed. There may be some inconvenience, but road clearance after snowfall takes time. I request everyone to maintain patience," he added. Meanwhile, tourists on the ground shared mixed experiences. Mohit Kumar, a tourist from Delhi, told ANI that heavy snow has brought traffic to a halt. "There is a lot of snow in Shimla. Vehicles are not moving, so we are walking to Mall Road. Traffic is moving very slowly, but we are still enjoying it," he said.

Another tourist, Vijay Kumar, said that excessive snowfall and black ice have made driving risky. "Due to heavy snowfall, black ice has formed and vehicles have stopped moving. People are walking to Mall Road. There is a bit of difficulty, but the weather is pleasant, and this is the best time for tourists," he told ANI.

A taxi driver from Kalka, Ratan Lal, highlighted the challenges faced by transport operators. "I have been stuck near Shimla crossing since 8:30 am. Due to snow, vehicles are not moving ahead.

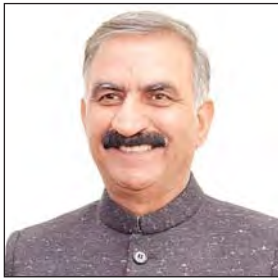
CM extends warm greetings on 56th Statehood Day: Reaffirms vision for prosperous Himachal

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, JAN 24

Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has extended his heartiest congratulations to the people of Himachal Pradesh on the historic occasion of the state's 56th Statehood Day. In his message, the Chief Minister underscored the significance of this milestone, noting that the day serves as a reminder of the state's remarkable journey and the collective resilience of its people.

Reflecting on the state's architectural and political heritage, the Chief Minister paid rich tributes to the visionary leaders who championed the cause of formation of Himachal Pradesh. He specifically honored the "Architect of Himachal," Dr. Y.S. Parmar, along with other prominent personalities whose dedication and foresight paved the way for the state's socio-economic development and unique identity.

The Chief Minister also



expressed deep gratitude for the unforgettable contribution of the then Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi. He recalled the historic day of 25th January 1971, when, amidst a heavy blanket of snow at Shimla's iconic Ridge Ground, she officially announced the grant of full statehood to Himachal Pradesh. This moment, he noted, remains etched in the state's history as the dawn of a new era of self-governance and progress. Looking toward the future, Chief Minister Sukhu emphasized that the state government is working with a mission-driven approach to transform Himachal Pradesh's economic landscape.

Youth Congress holds key meeting in Hamirpur to strengthen 'MGNREGA Bachao'



Sangram'

ANIL KUMAR
HAMIRPUR: A significant meeting of the Himachal Pradesh Youth Congress was held in the Hamirpur Assembly constituency on Saturday under the chairmanship of Rajat Rana. The meeting focused on a detailed discussion on public interest issues, including the 'MGNREGA Bachao Sangram'. The meetings were organised as part of the "Chalo Panchayat Ki Ore – MGNREGA Bachao Sangram" campaign, aimed at strengthening the organisation at the panchayat level, raising a strong voice against attempts to weaken the welfare-oriented MGNREGA scheme, and deliberating on upcoming protest programmes and strategies. Youth members were urged to visit villages, create public awareness, unite to protect the rights of labourers, and strengthen the movement from panchayats to the streets. Speakers emphasised that a strong panchayat ensures the security of workers and contributes to building a stronger India. Several senior leaders of the Youth Congress were present on the occasion, including Himachal Pradesh Youth Congress vice president Abdul, district Hamirpur

Voters' Day celebrated with enthusiasm at Govt Sr Sec School,



Chamboh

ANIL KUMAR
CHAMBOH: Voters' Day was celebrated with enthusiasm at the Government Senior Secondary School, Chamboh recently, with a series of awareness-oriented activities involving teachers and students. The programme began with an address by Manoj Verma, Lecturer in Physics, who spoke on the importance of voting in a democracy. Following his address, he administered the Voter Awareness Pledge to teachers and students, urging them to actively participate in the electoral process. On the occasion, students Sanjana Thakur and Diya Sharma recited poems highlighting the significance of voting. Students also displayed posters and charts focusing on Voters' Day and the importance of electoral participation. The exhibition of posters and charts emerged as the main attraction of the programme. The event concluded with an address by Sweep Nodal Officer Devender Thakur, who congratulated

Himachal Pradesh sets historic education push, over Rs 10,000 cr allocated as Rohit Thakur lays foundation stone of Rs 1cr examination hall in Bilaspur

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY
BILASPUR, JAN 24

Himachal Pradesh has taken a decisive and visionary leap towards transforming its education system, with the State Government earmarking more than Rs 10,000 crore for the education sector in the upcoming financial year. This bold commitment, amounting to nearly 17 percent of the total state budget, underlines the government's resolve to build a future-ready, inclusive, and employment-oriented education ecosystem. Education Minister Rohit Thakur on Saturday laid the foundation stone of a modern examination hall to be constructed at a cost of Rs 1 crore at Government Senior Secondary School, Panjgain, in Bilaspur sub-division. On the occasion, he also presided over



the school's prize distribution ceremony, felicitating meritorious students and encouraging them to strive for excellence. Addressing the gathering, the Minister highlighted that massive investment in education infrastructure, teacher recruitment, and academic reforms is yielding visible results. He said Himachal Pradesh continues to strengthen its educational foundations, supported by

thousands of government institutions and a robust teaching workforce. Administrative efficiency has been enhanced through the reorganization of education directorates to ensure focused governance. In a major reform aligned with the National Education Policy, English medium education has already been introduced in Classes 1 and 2 and will soon be extended up to Class 5, equipping students with global

competencies from an early age. Pre-primary education is also being expanded across thousands of schools, supported by the appointment of ECCE tutors and child-centric learning material. The Minister informed that around 8,000 teachers have been appointed, with more recruitments underway to ensure optimal student-teacher ratios. Smart classrooms, digital libraries, virtual learning, teacher training, international exposure programs, and inclusive education initiatives have further elevated academic standards. Significantly, Himachal Pradesh has recorded notable improvement in national education rankings, reflecting the success of sustained reforms and the government's unwavering commitment to quality education.

CM's historic decisions creating new opportunities for talented sportspersons: Sunil Sharma Bittu

RAJNEESH SHARMA
HAMIRPUR, JAN 24

Chief Minister's Political Advisor Sunil Sharma Bittu on Saturday said that Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has taken several major decisions to motivate, encourage, and train talented sportspersons of the state, while also providing them with the best possible opportunities to showcase their abilities.

Addressing talented athletes during an award ceremony organised by the Hamirpur District School Sports Association at the Town Hall here, Sunil Sharma Bittu said that soon after assuming office, the Chief Minister doubled the diet money for school sportspersons. He said this



step was aimed at strengthening the nutritional support system for young athletes.

He further said that for school sportspersons participating in national-level competitions, the Chief Minister has provided the facility of AC class railway travel and, in special circumstances, air travel. He described these decisions as

unprecedented, noting that no previous government had taken such significant steps for budding athletes. Highlighting infrastructure development, Sunil Sharma Bittu said a world-class indoor stadium is nearing completion at Nadaun at a cost of around Rs 125 crore, calling it a major gift from the Chief Minister to the sportspersons of the state.

'Apna Vidyalaya' programme gains momentum in Una under CM Sukhu's vision

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA, JAN 24

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's visionary initiative, Apna Vidyalaya – Himachal School Adoption Programme, is being implemented in mission mode in Una district, leading to a visible strengthening of the academic environment in government schools and renewed confidence among students. With continuous monitoring by Deputy Commissioner Jatin Lal and active participation of administrative officers, the programme has not only improved learning conditions but has also instilled clarity of goals and strong motivation among students. The Deputy Commissioner said the core spirit of the programme lies in active involvement of officers



and regular interaction with students to create a qualitative and inspiring educational atmosphere in government schools. He said the initiative aims to provide guidance and motivation to students, ensure meaningful exchange of knowledge, address school-related issues in a time-bound manner, and accelerate the development of essential facilities. Officers have been directed to devote regular time to their adopted schools and maintain continuous engagement with students.

Under the first phase of the programme, 83 government schools in Una district have been adopted by various administrative officers. Jatin Lal himself has adopted four government schools, including Government Senior Secondary School (Girls), Una; Government Senior Secondary School, Haroli; Government Senior Secondary School, Thanakalan, Bangana; and Government Senior Secondary School, Dhusara, Amb.

National Voters Day celebrated at PM Shri Govt Model Sr Se School, Amb



AVINASH CHAUHAN

AMB: National Voters' Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and awareness at PM Shri Government Model Senior Secondary School, Amb. On this occasion, Ganesh Lath, Nodal Officer of the school's ELC Club, and Banwari Lal Bhogal, NSS Program Officer, informed the students about the importance of voting. They explained why National Voters' Day is celebrated and how an informed voter strengthens democracy. They also conveyed the message that all citizens should be vigilant about voting and strive to increase the voting percentage in the country to 100%. During the program, Palak, a student from the ELC Club, administered the voter awareness pledge to the students and encouraged them to exercise their right to vote responsibly. Principal Vinod Vanyal also informed the students about the importance of Voter's Day and said that we should all become aware voters. In this context, a group of students from the school's retail department departed for the Smart Bazaar in Una today for on-the-job training.

Bhu-Bhu Tunnel receives in-principle approval, DPR to be prepared soon-Sunder Thakur

ASHISH SHARMA
KULLU, JAN 24

The Bhu-Bhu tunnel project has received in-principle approval from the central government. A Detailed Project Report (DPR) for this ambitious project will now be prepared. This information was given by Kullu Sadar MLA Sunder Singh Thakur during a press conference. MLA Sunder Thakur said that due to the special efforts of Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, the need and importance of this tunnel were effectively presented to the central government, after which it received in-principle approval. He said that the Chief Minister explained the importance of this project to the central ministers, which made this approval possible.

He said that the construction of the Bhu-Bhu tunnel will give a new dimension to tourism in the Lag Valley and will significantly reduce the distance between Kangra and Kullu. Along with this, the tunnel will also prove to be extremely important from a strategic point of



view, ensuring better and safer access to the border areas. The MLA informed that he himself, along with the Chief Minister, had met with Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari regarding this project. He has also discussed this matter with the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister. He said that only after positive discussions at all these levels was this project able to receive in-principle approval. Sunder Thakur assured that the state's Congress government and he himself will continuously strive to bring this project to fruition so that the DPR can be prepared as soon as possible and construction work can begin.

Rs. 28 cr land scam in Dy CM's home constituency exposes Congress corruption: Sanjeev Katwal

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, JAN 24

BJP state general secretary Sanjeev Katwal has launched a sharp attack on the Congress over an alleged Rs. 28-crore land scam that has surfaced in the Haroli Assembly constituency of Una district, describing it as a "living proof" of the party's entrenched culture of corruption, Katwal said the scam, which allegedly occurred in the home constituency of the Deputy Chief Minister, demonstrates that under the Congress regime, scams have become policy and public funds are being openly misused for private gain. Katwal alleged that land purchased by HIMUDA and the revenue



department for flat construction was, in reality, full of pits, ravines and natural drains. He questioned who declared such unusable land as fit for construction and whether this was done through manipulation of records or as part of a deliberate conspiracy to cause losses to the state exchequer. Accusing the Congress government of turning public agencies into

tools for commission-taking and corruption rather than development, Katwal said the land was allegedly purchased at prices many times higher than the circle rate, leading to blatant misappropriation of government money. He said the registration of an FIR by the vigilance agency itself indicates that preliminary investigations have already revealed concrete evidence of wrongdoing. The BJP leader asserted that responsibility for the scam does not rest solely with the landowners. He said officers, employees, valuers and senior officials who signed the files are equally accountable, adding that such a large-scale fraud could not have taken place without political patronage.

Thousands throng to witness sacred flame from Ayodhya Ram Temple and Ram Darbar in Baddi

SHANTI GAUTAM

BADDI: A massive gathering of devotees was witnessed in the industrial town of Baddi during the fifth grand Ram Mahotsav, where a divine Ram Darbar reminiscent of Ayodhya was beautifully recreated, leaving devotees deeply moved. Thousands of Ram bhakts gathered for the darshan of the sacred flame brought from the Shri Ram Temple, Ayodhya and the magnificently adorned Ram Darbar. The atmosphere turned intensely devotional with discourses and presentations by renowned kathavachak Rishi Kumar Swami and Mahant Shri Shri 1008 Balram Das Maharaj of Hanuman Garhi. Devotees were seen swaying to bhajans such as "Raj bhakt hi raj karega," as the entire venue resonated with chants of "Jai Shri Ram." The event made January 22 a historic day not only for Himachal Pradesh but for the entire country. A grand Ram Temple-style Darbar was set up in Baddi, with saffron flags fluttering across the town and dazzling decorative lights adding to the festive splendour. Since the establishment of the temple, Shri Ram Sena and its associate organisations have organised Ram Mahotsavs in Baddi on four previous occasions, while this fifth edition was held to mark the completion of the temple construction. Markets, main roads and public places were illuminated, drawing huge crowds to the Dussehra Ground, where devotees began gathering from 4



NEWS BRIEF

Aaditya Dachalwal takes over as DC Rupnagar



BAHADURJEET SINGH RUPNAGAR: 2016 batch IAS officer Aaditya Dachalwal assumed his office as the Deputy Commissioner of Rupnagar today. Talking to the media after assuming office, Aaditya Dachalwal said that solving the problems of the people of Rupnagar district on priority basis, providing transparent administration, taking the benefits of government schemes to the common people and taking the district to heights in every field by implementing development works will be his main priority. He said that the focus will be on making the benefits of government services reach the homes of residents of the district in a simple way. Along with this, health, education, drinking water, sanitation and infrastructure will be further strengthened.

Republic Day celebrated with pomp at green field convent school Dangarh



BALWINDER AZAD BARNALA : Republic Day was celebrated with pomp at Green Field Convent (Senior Secondary) School Dangarh. On this occasion, Principal Dr. Manpreet Kaur, Vice Principal Jasvir Kaur, Incharge Ajinderpal Tiwana and all the staff saluted the tricolor flag and a parade was also held by the children. On this occasion, Madam Mala Garg enlightened the children about Republic Day. She said that Republic Day is celebrated across the country every year on 26th January. She also said that our Constitution came into effect on 26th January 1950. On this day, our country became a secular and democratic country. On this occasion, a cultural program was presented by the children.

CM Health Insurance Scheme to become historic milestone in Punjab's healthcare sector: Saurabh Behal

VERMA GURDASPUR: Newly appointed Chairman of the Improvement Trust and senior Aam Aadmi Party leader Saurabh Behal stated that the Chief Minister Health Insurance Scheme will prove to be a historic and transformative milestone in Punjab's healthcare sector. He said that Punjab has become the first state in the country to implement a scheme providing free medical treatment up to Rs 10 lakh. Saurabh Behal informed that on January 22, the Punjab government took a historic step by launching the Chief Minister Health Insurance Scheme.

Under this ambitious scheme, every family in the state will be entitled to free and cashless medical treatment up to Rs 10 lakh. He added that the scheme was formally launched from Mohali by Aam Aadmi Party's National Convenor Mr. Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab Chief Minister Mr. Bhagwant Singh Mann.

AICTE-ATAL sponsored FDP organised at Bharat Group of Colleges

SARDULGARH (KULWINDER KARWAL): The Department of Mechanical Engineering, Bharat Group of Colleges, Sardulgarh, successfully organised a six-day online Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on the theme "Performance Characteristics of Internal Combustion Engines Using Alternative Fuels." The programme was held from January 19 to January 24 under the sponsorship of AICTE-ATAL.

Only 13 colleges and universities across Punjab were selected to conduct this prestigious FDP, including renowned institutions such as NIT Jalandhar, Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology, Patiala, Lovely Professional University, and Chandigarh University.

Bharat Group of Colleges was among the selected institutions, marking a significant achievement for the campus. College CEO Mr. Rajesh Garg and Admission Director Mr. Mohit Kumar Jain expressed pride over the institution being chosen for this opportunity, stating that it reflects the academic credibility and commitment of the college towards quality education and research.

Arora listens, industrialists' problem on ITC reversal of solar panels

SUMER GARG
SUNAM, JAN 24

A deputation of Sangrur District Industrial Chamber (SDIC), block Sunam submitted a memorandum to Mr. Aman Arora, cabinet minister to the GoP regarding the harassment to them by the department of GST officials on the reversal of Input Tax Credit (ITC) on the solar panels installed on the roof top of factory premises for the self consumption of electricity. The deputations urged the minister that the officials of the GST State department have verbally ordered them to reverse the ITC availed by them on the purchase of solar panels.

They added, "GST law is uniformly applicable across India, and GST is a single national tax. The ITC on solar panels has been availed strictly in accordance with the



provisions of the CGST Act, 2017 and the applicable GST rates notified by the GoI". They further submitted, "Other State's GST authorities are not demanding reversal of ITC on solar panels, under similar circumstances. Since GST is a unified tax structure applicable uniformly across all states, differential interpretation or demand by a single department causes hardship to taxpayers. The solar panels are taxable goods and ITC on such inward supplies is eligible. There is

no explicit provision under the Act or Rules that mandates reversal of ITC on solar panels when it is used for manufacturing taxable outward supplies".

In view of the above facts, the deputations also urged the minister to clarify the legal provision under which reversal of ITC is being demanded, and reconsider the direction for reversal of ITC, as the same is not being required by GST authorities in other states and is contrary to the principle of 'One Nation,

One Tax'.

After carefully hearing the problems of the industrialists, Mr. Arora took up the ITC concern with the finance minister to GoP. Mr. Harpal Cheema; Director, excise department, Mr. Jitendra Jorawal and ATC Sangrur, Rohit Garg. Mr. Arora emphasized that discouraging solar energy would be counterproductive. He addressed the tax reversal issue and pressure from the department, and committed to update the industrialists soon.

Cards of Chief Minister Health Insurance Scheme will be made by visiting every house- Chairman Darshan Sohi

RAMPURA PHUL (KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA):The Punjab government has started the process of making cards for free treatment worth Rs 10 lakhs under the Chief Minister Health Insurance Scheme. Giving information about this, Chairman Darshan Sohi said that now under the Chief Minister Health Insurance Scheme, cards will be made by visiting every house-to-house of every family so that no eligible family is deprived of this scheme.

Chairman Darshan Sohi said that the leaders of the Youth Wing associated with the Rampura Phul constituency will reach out to the families in their respective villages and wards and after obtaining the necessary documents from the families, they will give them slips. After which the beneficiary families will reach the CSC centers near them and submit these slips, after which health cards will be provided to all the members of the respective families.

Chairman Darshan Sohi said that the documents required for making a health card are Aadhar card and voter card, apart from this, the documents required for children below 18 years of age are Aadhar card and birth certificate. The special thing to note here is that the details of these documents should match each other and if there is any mistake in anyone's documents, then they should get it corrected in advance so that there is no problem while making a health card.



Brahmin Sabha Rampura Phul worships Maa Saraswati on the occasion of Basant Panchami



KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA
RAMPURA PHUL, JAN 24

Brahmin Sabha (Regd.) Rampura Phul organized a puja and kirtan ceremony of Maa Saraswati on the occasion of the holy festival of Basant Panchami with devotion and enthusiasm. The ceremony was led by the President of Brahmin Sabha Gurtej Sharma, while the Treasurer Hari Om Shastri supported. In this religious ceremony, Ramskal Tripathi, Ramswaroop Sharma, Pankaj Tripathi, Rohit Sharma, Bharat Har Sharma, Mohinderjit Kaur, Priyanka Sharma, Aman Sharma, Suman Sharma, Pooja Rani, Rani Sharma, Billa Sharma and the dignitaries of the city Surinder Joura, Suresh

Leela, Dr. Bharthari Sharma, Dr. A large number of devotees including Rajinder Kumar Tripathi were present. During the event, Maa Saraswati Bhajan Mandal Deepak Matwala and Party presented beautiful bhajans in praise of Maa Saraswati, which made the entire atmosphere devotional. During this, the bhajan "Je Main Hovan Mor Tere Bagan Da" presented by Deepak Matwala touched the hearts of the devotees and the congregation was enthralled by the bhajans. Along with the members of the bhajan mandal, Bikramjit Vicka ji, Pawan Jindal, Aman Arora, Davinder Rana, Rakesh Rinka, Paramjit Pammi, Sanjay Garg and Gora also provided full support in the event.

Central University of Punjab students qualifies for Khelo India Games



BATHINDA (ANANTDEEP KAUR): Simranjeet Kaur, a promising athlete from the Central University of Punjab, has brought laurels to the University by becoming its first sportsperson to qualify for the Khelo India Games. She secured her qualification with an impressive throw of 14.42 metres in the shot put event at the All-India Inter-University Athletics Competition. The national-level championship was organised under the aegis of the Association of Indian Universities and jointly hosted by the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences and the Alva Education Foundation, Mangaluru, Karnataka, from January 12 to 16, 2026.

The event witnessed participation from athletes representing universities across the country, making it a highly competitive platform. Simranjeet Kaur's achievement reflects her dedication, discipline, and consistent performance in track and field athletics. She has been training under the expert guidance of Dr. Somanpreet Singh, Assistant Professor and athletics specialist in track and field, whose technical mentorship has played a crucial role in her success. Congratulating the athlete, Prof. Raghavendra P. Tiwari, Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Punjab, lauded her perseverance and remarked that her accomplishment exemplifies the University's commitment to promoting excellence in both academics and sports.

DIG Nank Singh reviews railway track incident near Khanpur

BIKRAMJEET SAHOTA
FATEHGARH SAHIB, JAN 24

DIG Rupnagar Range Nank Singh reviewed the incident of an explosion that occurred late last night on the railway track near Sirhind and stated that the police are fully alert to investigate the causes of the incident and arrest those responsible.

Speaking to mediapersons, he said that immediately after receiving information about the incident, district police teams swung into action and initiated an investigation from various angles. Coordination with inter-agency units has also been established.

He assured that the miscreants behind the incident would be arrested soon. The DIG clarified that there was no loss of life and no major damage to property



in the incident. He said the locomotive driver suffered only minor injuries and is out of danger and able to communicate. The train engine and railway track also did not suffer significant damage.

He added that the police are on high alert in view of Republic Day and every aspect of the incident is being thoroughly investigated.

On this occasion, SSP Shubham Agarwal informed that around 10 pm, a railway foot-plate inspection (patrolling) vehicle was travelling from Mandi Gobindgarh towards Sirhind

Republic Day celebrated in Guru Amar Dass Adarsh Institute, Goindwal Sahib

KHADOOR SAHIB (SARBJOT SINGH SANDHA): The Republic Day was celebrated with great respect, devotion, and National spirit at Guru Amar Dass Adarsh Institute, Goindwal Sahib. A special assembly was organized, where teachers and students expressed their respect and dedication to the country. The students presented patriotic performances, including choreography, songs, and dances, which captivated the audience. The students showcased the country's unity, integrity, and sacrifices



through their performances. The Managing Director Dr. Jatinderpal Singh Randhawa and the Principal of the school, Mrs. Manisha Sood congratulated everyone on Republic Day, praising the students and teachers for their hard work, saying such events strengthen patriotism.

Dr. V.K. Paul, Member NITI Aayog graces IMTECH's 42nd Foundation Day

GAURAV GOEL
CHANDIGARH, JAN 24

CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (IMTECH), Chandigarh today celebrated its 42nd Foundation Day by organizing several events including the much-anticipated Foundation Day Lecture delivered by Dr. Vinod K Paul, Member, NITI Aayog. Dr. Paul who is leading the health, nutrition and education verticals at NITI Aayog, delivered this year's foundation day lecture on "Future Pandemic Preparedness: What we must do now".

Dr. Paul mentioned that entire efforts of the Government of India for mitigating challenges posed by COVID-19 pandemic was driven by science and evidence with Government, Nation and Society being stakeholders of the action plan. He appreciated IMTECH's efforts during the pandemic for undertaking



RT-PCR testing for detection and surveillance, developing COVID-19 subunit protein based vaccine and initiating antiviral screening against SARS-COV-2. For future pandemic preparedness, he stressed that scientists need to be prepared well in advance with strategies and countermeasures which can be made available within the first 100 days of the outbreak.

Speaking at the occasion Dr Paul said that "We prepare for war, when we are not at war and a lot of work for tackling future pandemic should be done now in microbial labs like IMTECH. Governance, Surveillance, Research and Partnership are

the cornerstones of future pandemic strategy". He laid down a road map for IMTECH scientists exhorting them to pursue research on priority pathogens that have the potential to cause future pandemics.

Developing counter measures upto Phase II clinical trial, working in partnership with the industry, creating efficient supply chains and demonstrate capabilities and speed should be the key for India for any pandemic mitigation strategy.

Dr. Sanjeev Khosla, Director, CSIR-IMTECH while welcoming the guests and faculty to IMTECH's 42nd foundation day apprised the audience with the institute's achievements in the last one year. Speaking at the occasion he said "Innovating with Microbes and Impacting lives has been the guiding force for the scientists and researchers of IMTECH family over the last 4 decades.

Guru Kripa Sewa Sansthan to hold 28th free piles & eye check-up and operation camp on February 8

AJAY MALHOTRA
FATEHGARH SAHIB, JAN 24

A comprehensive meeting of the Guru Kripa Sewa Sansthan (GKSS) was convened today at Sirhind, during which the President of the Sansthan announced the organization of the 28th Free Piles & Eye Check-up and Operation Camp. The camp, being held in collaboration with Vishav Jagriti Mission, Sirhind, will take place on Sunday, February 8, 2026, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Guru Kripa Sewa Sansthan, Cinema Road, Opposite Rakesh Mitter Factory, Sirhind, District Fatehgarh Sahib.

According to the members, this annual camp aims to provide free, accessible, and quality healthcare to the economically weaker and needy sections of society. Over the years, thousands of



patients have availed the benefit of free consultation, check-ups, and surgeries, making the initiative a major social support system for the region.

During the meeting, it was highlighted that Guru Kripa Sewa Sansthan has always been at the forefront of social welfare activities, including free medical camps, eye donation drives, and blanket distribution.

The Sansthan also operates laboratory services at highly nominal charges, ensuring that essential diagnostic tests remain within reach of the general public. Adding to its healthcare initiatives, GKSS

has also established a Jan Aushadhi Kendra on its premises, where essential medicines are provided at significantly reduced prices, promoting affordable healthcare for all.

The meeting was chaired by CA Ashwani Garg (President) and attended by Dr. Hitenr Suri (Secretary), Jagdish Verma Arun Suri, and Parveen Garg.

The members collectively appealed to the public to take maximum benefit of the upcoming medical camp and continue extending their support to the noble efforts of Guru Kripa Sewa Sansthan.

On 37th RSM, safety awareness and eye camp held



BHAWANIGARH (SUMER GARG): In connection with the 37th road safety month (RSM), a road safety awareness and eye check-up Camp was organised at the truck union, Bhawanigarh, by the RTO office, Sangrur; Traffic Police, Sangrur; and the CMO office, Sangrur.

Mr. Karnbir Singh Chheena, RTO Sangrur; Mr. Karnbir Singh, ADTO Sangrur; Mr. Hardev Singh, ASI (traffic education cell); ASI Randhir Singh (Traffic In-charge, Bhawanigarh); and head constable Ranjit Singh (traffic Police, Bhawanigarh) participated in the camp.

The eye check-up camp was conducted by Kulveer Singh, ophthalmic officer, health department. During the camp, participants were made aware of various aspects of road safety, traffic signs, first aid, and essential documents. In addition, truck drivers were also given a lecture on safe and responsible driving practices.

Using Punjab VS photos and videos as weapons to issue copyright strikes and Shut Down Independent Media channels is illegal: Pargat Singh

JALANDHAR (PARAMJIT SINGH): Former Education Minister and MLA Pargat Singh has raised a serious and sensitive issue by writing a letter to the Election Commission. He has demanded clarification and directives on this matter from the Election Commission. He has also written a letter to Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan. In these letters, he has accused the Aam Aadmi Party of illegally issuing copyright strikes from its official page on social media channels, leading to their suspension or deletion. He has demanded an investigation into this dictatorial decision by the government and action against those found guilty. Mr. Singh stated that the ruling Aam Aadmi Party in Punjab is using photos and videos from the Punjab Vidhan Sabha, along with images related to the Chief Minister's official duties, from its official social media platforms to initiate copyright strikes. As a result, some independent media platforms and journalists' social media accounts, which have been raising legitimate questions about government policies or misuse of government resources, have been suspended or shut down.



Admission Mela at Sahibzada Ajit Singh School on 28th

HOSHIARPUR (DALJEET AJNOHA): Sahibzada Ajit Singh Public School, Ladhewal Mahilpur, run under the management of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, is organising an admission mela to offer special facilities for new students. Students enrolling for the next session will receive special discounts on fees.



According to Principal Rajvinder Kaur, no fees will be charged from admitted students until March. The school provides high-quality worldly education alongside Gurubani-based instruction to instill moral values, shape them into good human beings, and contribute to building a better society. This helps children steer clear of the growing darkness of addictions and live up to their parents' aspirations.

Full dress rehearsal of Republic Day function, Deputy Commissioner hoists the tricolor

**JS SODHI
JALANDHAR, JAN 24**

The full dress rehearsal of the district level function to be held on January 26 on the occasion of Republic Day was held today at the local Guru Gobind Singh Stadium, in which Deputy Commissioner Dr. Himanshu Agarwal hoisted the national flag. The Deputy Commissioner then inspected the parade. On this occasion, Police Commissioner Dhanpreet Kaur was also present. Later, Dr. Agarwal took salute from the march past led by Parade Commander Ashok Meena IPS. The parade included ITBP, Punjab Police (men and women), Punjab Home



Guards, NCC (Boys and Girls), Lyallpur Khalsa School (Boys), Government Girls Senior Secondary School Nehru Garden, DSSD Senior Secondary School, Lyallpur Khalsa School (Girls) and the band of CRPF were included. After this, tableaux depicting the public welfare schemes of the Punjab Government were displayed. After this, various cultural performances were presented by students of

BJP Nayagaon Mandal's newly elected president, Bhopinder Singh Bhupi, who is serving his third term

**J.K. BATTA
CHANDIGARH:** The newly elected president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Nayagaon Mandal, Bhopinder Singh Bhupi, who is serving his third term, has formally announced his new executive committee, following the guidelines of the Honorable District President of Mohali, Sanjeev Vashisht. The formation of this new executive committee reflects the BJP's commitment to strengthening its organisational structure and serving the people of the area. President Bhopinder Singh Bhupi has appointed dedicated workers to important positions in the executive committee, including Suresh Yadav, who is serving his fourth term as General Secretary, and Sanjay Gupta, who is serving his second term.

Police of Longowal police station took out flag march



**RAVI GARG
LONGOWAL :** The new police station chief Sardar Baljit Singh, who has been transferred from Patiala, has taken over his duties. As soon as he took over his duties, he took out a flag march with his police party in the market, town and nearby villages in the context of 26 January. Talking to the media, he said that our main purpose of taking out the flag march is that no untoward incident of any kind should happen on the coming 26 January, so we are taking full vigilance. Talking to the media about drugs, he said that I am giving a strict warning to those involved in drug dealing through you that either they should leave my area or stop doing drug dealing, otherwise strictest action will be taken against them. Any kind of hoodliganism is not tolerated. On this occasion, Sardar Baljit Singh was present with his entire police team.

Fancy dress competition organised at Euro kids and dream Berry Convent School



**AMRISH ANAND
DORAHA:** A fancy dress competition was organised at the local Euro Kids and Dream Berry Convent School under the able leadership of Director Rajat Sharma. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from young students, who impressed the audience with colourful fancy dress presentations along with vibrant group and solo dance performances. The children not only showcased their artistic talents but also conveyed inspiring messages through their performances, earning appreciation from parents and staff alike. The lively event reflected the creativity, confidence, and enthusiasm of the young participants. On the occasion, Director Rajat Sharma and Principal Surinder Kaur stated that as children's talents are nurtured and encouraged, they show greater interest not only in academics but also in co-curricular activities. They added that the school continuously strives to promote creativity and develop new interests among students.

CM Health card removes treatment worries of Punjabis: Tholi



**GURMAIL SINGH SANGATPURA
LEHRAGAGA:** The Aam Aadmi Party government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has given a big gift of 'Chief Minister Health Card' (Chief Minister Health Insurance Scheme) to Punjabis by providing world-class health facilities. With this, people will no longer worry about their treatment. This idea was expressed by AAP party coordinator and social worker Ajay Kumar Tholi from Ward No. 3. Today, Tholi went door to door to make people aware about the Chief Minister Health Card and while giving detailed information about the facilities available under this scheme, he said that the Mann government has proven to be the most successful government in Punjab during its tenure.

DC Komal Mittal and SSP Harmandeep Singh Hans inspect final Republic Day rehearsals

**SHASHI PAL JAIN
MOHALI, JAN 24**

Punjab Minister for Defence Services Welfare , Welfare of Freedom Fighters and Horticulture Departments, Sh. Mohinder Bhagat will unfurl the National Flag on January 26 at Shaheed Major Harminder Pal Singh Government College, Phase-6, Mohali during the District-Level Republic Day celebrations, informed Deputy Commissioner Komal Mittal here today.

The Deputy Commissioner, along with SSP Harmandeep Singh Hans, inspected the parade, march past, tableaux and



cultural performances during the final rehearsal held today at the venue. Expressing satisfaction over the preparations, DC Komal Mittal said that the performances of all participants during the final rehearsal were impressive. She appreciated the

enthusiasm of students who presented mesmerising cultural programmes despite the prevailing cold wave conditions. She said that around 1000 students from APJ School, Kharar; Saint Soldier Convent School, Mohali; Government High School, Daun; Ajit Karam

Singh International School, Mohali; and Shiwalik Public School actively engaged the audience with their performances. NCC contingents from Government College, Mohali; Laxmi Tara Rathour School, Sialba Majri; Mata Sahib Kaur Public School, Swara; and Government Girls Senior Secondary School, Kurali also participated. Band contingents from Government Girls Senior Secondary School, Sohana and School of Eminence, Phase-3B1 followed the male and female police contingents led by DSP City-1, Prithvi Singh Chahal.

Senior citizens & artists Association celebrates Rafi Nite in Chandigarh



CHANDIGARH, JAN 24

Today Senior Citizens and Artists Association Chandigarh celebrated Rafi Nite at Chandigarh Community Centre Sector 50 Chandigarh in which 35 singers participated (list herewith).

Sh Balbir Singh Dhol, Advisor to Sh Satnam Singh Sandhu was the chief guest and Sh Rajinder Sharma Councillor was the guest of honor.

Sh Vimal Trikha (President), Sh Rakesh Jethi (Vice President), Sh Ashwani Sharma (General Secretary), Dr Vinod Kapila (Finance Secretary), Sh Ashok Bansal

Sh Balbir Singh Dhol, Advisor to Sh Satnam Singh Sandhu the chief guest and Sh Rajinder Sharma Councillor was the guest of honor.

(Convenor) and Sh B B Malhotra (Advisor) were honored by Sh Balbir Singh Dhol.

This Association is going to organize a big show of singers at Tagore theatre soon. Vimal Trikha President Singers and Artists Senior Citizens Association.

“Integrity, choice & life”: Dr. Sukhmani Kaur’s captivating Solo Art exhibition opens at Punjab Kala Bhawan



FATEHGARH SAHIB (AJAY MALHOTRA): A mesmerizing solo art exhibition titled “Integrity, Choice & Life” by acclaimed conceptual abstract artist Dr. Sukhmani Kaur opened at Punjab Kala Bhawan, Sector 16, Chandigarh, on January 24. The exhibition will remain open to visitors till January 28, daily from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, offering art enthusiasts an enriching visual experience.

The show was formally inaugurated at 12:30 pm on January 24 in the esteemed presence of S. Swaranjit Singh Savi, Honourable Chairman of the Punjab Art Council, Mr. Gurdeep Dhiman, President of Punjab Lalit Kala Akademi, and Mr. Bheem Malhotra, President of Chandigarh Lalit Kala Akademi, who joined as Guests of Honour.

Dr. Sukhmani Kaur, a Finance Ph.D. and Assistant Professor, is a self-taught artist whose creative journey stems from deep personal introspection. Her works draw inspiration from geodes and natural crystal formations, mirroring the concealed layers of human psychology, emotional resilience, and the many choices that define one’s journey. Through her vibrant palette and abstract compositions, she attempts to translate profound themes—integrity, identity, emotional balance, and personal transformation—into compelling visual forms.

PPCB and Police checked shops of Kites & Chinese dor

SANGRUR (SUMER GARG): The Govt of Punjab, department of science, technology & environment has issued directions on 05.07.2023 regarding the complete ban on the manufacture, sale, storage, purchase, supply, import and use of kite flying thread made of nylon, plastic or any other synthetic material including the popularly known as Chinese dor alias manjha and any other synthetic kite flying thread, which is coated with synthetic substance and is non-biodegradable as well as any other kite flying thread that is sharp or made sharp such as being laced with glass, metal or any other sharp material, in the State of Punjab.

Any person, who contravenes the provisions of above directions issued under the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 or the Rules made therein, shall be liable for penalty not less than Rupee 10 thousand, but it may extend up to 15 lakh rupees.

The concerned department has numerous appeals have been made to the public of the State through public notices not to use banned Chinese dor, nylon, synthetic thread for kite flying and help the Govt. In a noble cause. Punjab pollution control board (PPCB) has even announced a cash price of maximum up to Rs. 25,000 to anyone, who informs about the above at toll free number 1800-180-2810.



Two new transformers installed by powercom



**SHASHI PAL JAIN
KHARAR, JAN 24**

To improve the electricity supply in Kharar city and considering the long-standing demand of the public, one transformer was installed today in Golden City and another in the park behind the school.

On this occasion, officials of Powercom, Municipal Council President Mrs. Anju Chander, APJ School Principal Jasvir Chander, along with residents of the entire ward were present. The ward residents thanked the Electricity Department and the Municipal Council President for installing these new transformers.

MCM renews institutional membership with CII



CHANDIGARH: Reaffirming its commitment to strengthening academia-industry linkages, Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women has renewed its institutional membership with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), North Region.

The renewed collaboration envisions to open up diverse opportunities for students, including industry-oriented training, internships, and mentorship from seasoned industry experts. Through this association, students will gain valuable exposure to contemporary industry practices, enhancing their employability and professional readiness.

The partnership will also provide a supportive ecosystem for emerging student start-ups by facilitating guidance, networking, and access to industry insights. By aligning academic learning with industry expectations, the collaboration aims to nurture innovation, entrepreneurship, and skill development among students.

Officiating Principal Ms. Neena Sharma asserted that the renewed association with CII is a significant step towards bridging the gap between academics and industry.

People made aware about health insurance scheme by going door to door



PATHANKOT (SHARANJEET): Halqa Incharge Vibhuti Sharma visited various wards of Pathankot and made people aware about the Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme and also cut stamps on the spot to make health insurance cards. Speaking on the occasion, Halqa Incharge Vibhuti Sharma said that the Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann was the first to launch the Chief Minister Health Insurance Scheme in Punjab and I am very grateful to Arvind Kejriwal, the national convener of the Aam Aadmi Party, for providing such a great relief to the people.

The Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme, under which every family is provided with the facility of free treatment worth Rs. 10 lakh, has done a great job. He said that on that occasion, tokens have also been given to make cards to provide the benefits of the health insurance scheme to the people. Through this token, the beneficiary can go to his nearest CSC center and make a Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme card.

He said that with the launch of the health insurance scheme in Punjab, Punjab has become the first state in India where no one will have to lose their life due to lack of money.

77th Republic Day: Full-Dress Rehearsal held at police lines ground DC hoists Tricolour

**DALJEET AJNOHA
HOSHIARPUR, JAN 24**

A full-dress rehearsal for the district-level celebrations of the 77th Republic Day, observed across the country, was held today at the local Police Lines Ground. Deputy Commissioner Ashika Jain, the chief guest, hoisted the national flag. Following the flag-hoisting, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the various contingents in the parade.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (Rural Development) Nikas Kumar and Parade Commander Dheerendra Verma accompanied her.

She took the salute from contingents including PRTC Jahan Khelan, PRTC Jahan Khelan Women's Wing, District Police, District Police Women's Wing, Punjab Home Guards, Paisco (ex-servicemen),



NCC Cadets of 12 Punjab Battalion Hoshiarpur, Scouts boys from School of Eminence Khwas Puraheera, Police Cadets from Government Senior Secondary School Bhunga, Girls Guide from Government Girls Senior Secondary School, Railway Mandi, and bands from PPA Phillaur and PRTC Jahan Khelan. Informing about the district-level function on January 26, the Deputy Commissioner said all preparations have been finalized by the district administration.

She stated that Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann will hoist the national flag. Tableaux showcasing Punjab government welfare schemes, achievements and initiatives in various fields will also feature in the event, she added. The Chief Minister will honour freedom fighters, their family members, brave women, and individuals for exemplary work in different sectors. Needy persons will be distributed motor tricycles and sewing machines. She directed officers of concerned departments to celebrate Republic Day with full enthusiasm and discharge their duties diligently.

PSPCL engineers and non-technical staff continue to work tirelessly in the field. Power supply has been restored in almost all areas, barring a few pockets with extensive damage, which are also expected to be fully restored by this evening.

This collective effort stands as a strong testament to the unwavering commitment, selfless service, and professionalism of PSPCL employees, who remain ever-dedicated to ensuring reliable power supply and serving the people of Punjab in every circumstance.



11,636 power-related complaints were received across South Zone cities. Of these, power supply has already been restored in 11,552 cases.

Work is underway on the remaining 84 complaints, all of which are expected to be resolved by 8:00 pm, including locations where poles and key infrastructure suffered severe damage.

Across Punjab, a total of 53,432 complaints were registered following the storm. By midnight, 32,508 complaints had been successfully resolved. To address the remaining cases,



Shah Rukh Khan announces release date of ‘King’ with a ‘roar’



IIT Madras’ SWAYAM Plus launches ‘AI for All’ courses in Hindi

CHANDIGARH : Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)-led digital learning platform SWAYAM Plus has launched its flagship ‘AI for All’ initiative in Hindi, reinforcing its commitment to inclusive and accessible AI education. The six free online courses will enable learners from across the country to acquire essential AI skills in their preferred language. The courses do not require any prior knowledge of AI or coding. Basic digital literacy and an interest in learning are sufficient, making the programme suitable for first-time learners as well as educators and faculty members. All courses are curated by experts from the IIT Madras ecosystem, drawing on deep academic and industry experience, and emphasise hands-on activities, real datasets and case study-based learning with a strong focus on employability. The last date to register using the following link for all six courses is 26th January 2026 - <https://swayam-plus.swayam2.ac.in/ai-for-all-courses>. For clarifications or to request a callback, learners may write to pmu-sp@swayam2.ac.in. The SWAYAM Plus is an initiative of IIT Madras under the Ministry of Education, Government of India, created to deliver high-quality, employment-oriented online learning at scale. Welcoming students and learners from all over India to benefit from this program, Prof. R. Sarathi, Dean (Planning), IIT Madras, said, “With the launch of the Hindi versions, all six ‘AI for All’ courses are now accessible to a wider and more diverse learner base, including students and professionals from arts, science, commerce and allied disciplines.

How high blood pressure affects heart valves over time

ROHTAK: Hypertension is one of the most significant factors behind several heart diseases, including valve disease. What people often treat as a simple condition can act as a silent trigger and gradually damage the heart and blood vessels over time. High blood pressure happens when the force of blood against the arterial walls remains high, which strains the arteries and increases the risk of heart attack, stroke, and valve disorders. Dr. Jatin Yadav, HOD & Consultant -Cardiothoracic Vascular Surgery, Manipal Hospital, Gurugram, said, “Uncontrolled high blood pressure silently affects the structure of the heart and its valves. When detected early, hypertension can be managed effectively with certain lifestyle changes, preventing long-term valve damage. However, many patients remain unaware until symptoms become severe. Early detection, regular monitoring, and timely treatment can significantly slow valve deterioration. In conditions where high blood pressure has already affected the heart valves, minimally invasive therapies like heart valve repair, replacement, and balloon Valvuloplasty can be the best option. How Valves Get Damaged Over Time?

1. Valve leakage: When the valve does not close fully, it results in a leak. This causes blood to flow backwards in the heart, and less blood can be pumped in your body.
2. Valve Narrowing (Stenosis): The heart valve flaps thicken, resulting in valve narrowing, and blood flow becomes restricted, making the heart work harder to pump.
3. Increased Wear and Tear: Constant pressure overload leads to valve degeneration and weakens the structure with the passage of time.
4. Calcium Buildup: Persistent hypertension leads to calcium deposits on the valve, resulting in the rigidity and narrowing of the valves, further obstructing blood flow.

Dr. Jatin Yadav, HOD & Consultant -Cardiothoracic Vascular Surgery, Manipal Hospital, Gurugram, regularly visits Rohtak to offer consultations to patients suffering from heart conditions. He will be available for OPD consultation on 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month from 11:30AM - 1PM at Nobel Health City Hospital, Rohtak.



SAEL commissions 1 GWp Solar Project at World’s Largest RE Park, Group’s total operational capacity crosses 2 GWp

CHANDIGARH : SAEL Industries Ltd. (SAEL), a vertically integrated renewable energy (RE) company, commissioned a 1 GWp (800 MW) solar power plant at the world’s largest Renewable Energy Park in Khavda, Gujarat, through its subsidiaries SAEL Solar P4 Private Limited and SAEL Solar P5 Private Limited (400MW, 500MWp each). The projects are backed by 25-year long-term Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited (GUVNL), ensuring revenue stability. The projects deploy over 15 lakhs TOPCon bifacial modules. Over 60% of the modules were assembled at SAEL’s solar manufacturing facilities located in Punjab and Rajasthan, in-line with the ‘Make in India’ initiative. Mr. Laxit Awla, CEO & Executive Director, SAEL Industries Ltd. said, “Khav-



da Renewable Energy Park is a vision of Hon’ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji in his efforts to position India as a global RE powerhouse. Turning Gujarat’s terrain into a clean energy zone at scale will not only unlock development of large RE capacity but will also reduce reliance on conventional sources of power, generating green jobs and meeting India’s non-fossil fuel target by 2030. With the commission-

ing of our 1 GWp solar power plant in Gujarat, we are excited to be part of this journey. We are committed to supporting India’s solar ambition by deploying our technologies and continuing to add value in the clean energy ecosystem”. Spanning almost 3,600 acres near India’s western frontier, these projects demonstrate SAEL’s project execution and engineering capacities in a challenging terrain with saline soil and seasonal flooding, where parts of the site remain under nearly a meter of water during peak rainy season. The commissioning of SAEL Solar P4 Private Limited and SAEL Solar P5 Private Limited further strengthens SAEL’s expansion across India’s renewable energy value chain. In November 2025, YEIDA (Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority) allotted 200 acres.

Post-Delivery Fatigue: When tiredness signals an underlying health risk

PATIALA: Becoming a mother brings immense joy, but it also demands significant physical and emotional energy. Many new moms expect tiredness after childbirth, but when fatigue becomes overwhelming or persistent, it may signal deeper health concerns rather than normal postpartum recovery. Dr. Goldy Kamboj, Senior Consultant – Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Manipal Hospitals, Patiala, explains that while some tiredness after childbirth is expected, persistent or severe fatigue should not be ignored as it may indicate an underlying health issue. When Post-Delivery Fatigue Is Not Normal Postpartum fatigue should gradually improve as the body recovers. Medical evaluation may be needed if fatigue: Persists beyond a few weeks despite adequate rest Interferes with daily activities or infant care Is accompanied by dizziness, breathlessness, or weakness



Comes with mood changes, anxiety, or emotional distress Common Health Conditions Linked to Postpartum Fatigue Anaemia: Blood loss during childbirth can lead to low haemoglobin levels, causing weakness, palpitations, and shortness of breath. Thyroid Disorders: Postpartum thyroiditis may cause extreme fatigue, weight fluctuations, and mood disturbances.

Nutritional Deficiencies: Low levels of iron, vitamin B12, or vitamin D can delay recovery. **Infections:** Undiagnosed infections after delivery can result in persistent exhaustion and fever. **Postpartum Depression or Anxiety:** Emotional distress often presents as constant fatigue, sleep disturbances, and difficulty bonding with the baby. Timely medical evaluation helps identify the cause of persistent fatigue. Doctors may recommend some blood tests, screening for postpartum depression and treatment options such as nutritional supplements, medications, hormonal therapy, or mental health support. New mothers should consult their gynaecologist if fatigue feels overwhelming, does not improve, or is accompanied by additional symptoms. Prioritising maternal health is essential, as a healthy mother is central to a healthy postpartum journey.

LG Electronics India Limited leads the industry: Among the First to Launch 2026 BEE Star Rated Air Conditioners in India

CHANDIGARH :Ahead of the peak summer season, LG Electronics, India Limited (LGEIL), Most Trusted Brand (in Electronics segment)* has announced its emergence as among the first brands to introduce its comprehensive range of Air Conditioners fully compliant with the new 2026 Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) Star Rating norms. LGEIL proactive rollout ensures that Indian consumers have immediate access to the most advanced, energy-efficient cooling technology available today. The updated BEE norms represent a significant leap in energy benchmarks, raising the bar for the entire industry to align India with global energy performance standards. LGEIL has upgraded its portfolio well in advance, reinforcing its commitment to sustainability and responsible product development. Sanjay Chitkara, Co-Chief Sales & Marketing Officer, LG Electronics India Limited Commented on the launch: “As India moves towards stricter energy efficiency norms, LG Electronics India Limited remains committed to supporting this transition through early compliance and future-ready product innovation. With our portfolio already aligned to the new BEE standards, LGEIL enters the new season well-prepared to offer reliable, energy-efficient air conditioning solutions that help our consumers save money while enjoying superior cooling.” To ensure a smooth transition for consumers, LGEIL is launching a comprehensive awareness campaign across print, digital, and retail channels to explain the benefits of the new star ratings. Furthermore, LGEIL manufacturing and supply chain operations have fully aligned with the new guidelines. While the new 2026-compliant models are the focus, air conditioners manufactured under the previous standards will remain available until existing stocks are liquidated, offering consumers flexibility in their purchasing decisions.

Stitching Awareness Into Lives: Sanjeevani Launches ‘The Pink Tag Project’



CHANDIGARH: The third edition of Sanjeevani: United Against Cancer – a transformative initiative by Federal Bank Hormis Memorial Foundation, News18 Network, and knowledge partner Tata Trusts, launches The Pink Tag Project, a pioneering behavioral change campaign that meets women in their most personal, intimate moments to remind them that self-care is not a luxury - it is survival. In India, every four minutes, a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer. Every eight minutes, a woman loses her life to the disease. In small towns and villages where awareness remains low and stigma run high, conversations around breast health are almost non-existent. Women rarely find time for themselves - caught between household chores, earning livelihoods, and caring for families. Until a crisis forces their hand, their personal health remains invisible, postponed, forgotten. The Pink Tag Project is born from a single insight: the most intimate moment in a woman's day - when she gets dressed - can become the most powerful reminder to check her own health. The solution is elegantly simple. A small, pink-colored tag with clear instructions for self-breast examination is stitched inside every blouse, kurta, or innerwear - right next to the wash-care tag. Placed exactly where women are alone, focused entirely on themselves, the Pink Tag becomes an unavoidable, intimate reminder. Not a campaign that demands their time or attention, nor a seminar they need to attend. Just a whisper, stitched into the fabric of their daily lives. The Pink Tag Project is documented in a powerful short film that captures the journey from insight to action. Voiced by acclaimed actor Sheeba Chaddha, the film opens with the harsh reality - every four minutes, a woman in India is diagnosed with breast cancer, yet the silence in small towns is deafening. It shows women doing what they do every day: drawing water, sweeping courtyards, preparing meals, getting dressed. Talking about the initiative, M V S Murthy, Chief Marketing Officer of Federal Bank said, “At Federal Bank Hormis Memorial Foundation, we believe that real change doesn’t come from heightened campaigns. It comes from interventions that whisper, consistently, intimately, and with empathy. The Pink Tag Project is a testament to the power of behavioral design. By partnering with local tailors and volunteers, we’ve turned a simple garment into a life-saving tool.

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Ltd announces its Financial Results

CHANDIGARH : Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Ltd. today announced its financial performance for the quarter ended December, 2025. Mr. Sanjeev Nautiyal, MD & CEO, Ujjivan Small Finance Bank said “India’s macroeconomic environment continues to remain conducive, with strong GDP growth at 8.2% for Q2 FY26 translating into supportive environment for credit growth and improved asset quality. For Ujjivan SFB deposits grew 7.7% QoQ and 22.4% YoY to ₹42,223 Crore, with Credit-Deposit ratio at 88% as of Dec’25. With a clear focus on acquiring quality New to Bank customers and dedicated channels to engage better with Existing to Bank customers CASA% stayed above 27% for 2 consecutive quarters. Cost of funds continued to trend lower due to the deposit rate cuts already taken in H1 FY26 and better overall liquidity planning. CoF for the quarter was 7.08% down 49 bps YoY. Gross Loan Book for the quarter grew 7.1% QoQ and 21.6% YoY to ₹37,057 Crore, driven by highest-ever quarterly disbursements, at ₹8,293 Crore. This was due to all round performance across unsecured and secured products. Secured portfolios such as Housing, MSME, Gold, Vehicle and Agri loans, scaled up in line with our long-term diversification strategy. The secured book share increased to 48% as of Dec’25. PAR for the bank stood below 4%, Slippages moderated to ₹221 crore in Q3FY26 with GNPA at 2.39% and NNPA at 0.58% as of Dec’25. Credit costs for the quarter, stood at ₹195 crore and expect a further moderation over the current operating quarter. PCR improved to 76% as of Dec’25. Provisioning requirements have begun to taper with Microfinance Bucket X Collection Efficiency trends touching 99.7% as of Dec’25. Our Net Interest Margins for Q3 FY26 improved to 8.23%, up 33 bps QoQ supported by lower CoF, favorable product mix, lower interest reversals and CRR relaxation. We reported highest ever NII for the quarter of ₹1,000 Crore. This translated into a robust profitability, with profit after tax strengthening to ₹186 Crore for Q3 FY26, representing a healthy YoY growth of 70.8%. Adjusted for one time Gratuity expense towards new Labor Codes effective Nov’25, our PAT would have been around ₹200 Crore. For Q3FY26 RoA of 1.5% and RoE of 11.5%, underscore the steady improvement in our return metrics. With healthy capital adequacy at 21.6%, robust liquidity buffers, and a disciplined approach to growth, the Bank remains well positioned to deliver sustainable and profitable growth in the coming quarters.

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