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NEWS BRIEFS

Govt approves
25 lakh tons of
wheat exports

NEW DELHI: The government on Friday allowed export of 25 lakh tonnes of wheat, along with an additional 5 lakh tonnes of wheat products and sugar each, to stabilise domestic markets and ensure remunerative returns to farmers amid a comfortable stock position. The decision was taken after a comprehensive assessment of the current availability and price scenario, reaffirming the government's commitment to protecting farmers' interests, the Food Ministry said in a statement. Wheat stock availability with private entities during 2025-26 stands at approximately 75 lakh tonnes, which is nearly 32 lakh tonnes higher compared to the corresponding period last year, indicating a comfortable supply position in the country, it added.

Sensex, Nifty
decline over 1%
amid heavy
selling in IT stocks

MUMBAI: The Indian stock market on Friday closed in the red as the benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty declined over 1 per cent. The indices were dragged by heavy selling in information technology (IT) shares. Sensex crashed 1.25%, or 1048 points to end at 82,626.76, while the Nifty 50 dropped by 1.30% falling 336 points at 25,471.10. Nifty IT fell for the third straight session, declining about 5 per cent, amid the fears of Artificial Intelligence driven automation. At the time of market closing, Nifty IT was down 1.44 per cent. At opening, the Nifty 50 index was down at 25,571.15, declining by 236.05 points or (-0.91 per cent). The BSE Sensex also opened lower at 82,902.73, falling by 772.19 points or -0.92 per cent. Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited said, "Domestic equities ended lower following a highly volatile session, weighed down by weak global cues ahead of the upcoming US inflation data."

PM shifts to new office, signs welfare
schemes for farmers, women, youth

Accident victims to get cashless treatment of up to Rs 1.5 lakh

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, FEB 13

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday shifted to his new office Seva Teerth from the colonial-era South Block building near Rashtrapati Bhavan on Raisina Hill.

The shift came on a day — February 13 — that marked 95 years since the formal inauguration of New Delhi as India's modern capital in 1931.

On Friday, the prime minister reached Seva Teerth Complex in a motorcade along with Union ministers Manohar Lal and Jitendra Singh and top PMO officials, and inaugurated the complex housing the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the National Security Council Secretariat and the Cabinet Secretariat.

Modi garlanded a statue of Lord Ganesha in the PMO and took important decisions targeted at welfare of women, farmers, youth and vulnerable citizens.

In the presence of National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Minister of State in PMO Jitendra Singh and top officials including principal secretaries P K Mishra and Shaktikanta Das, the prime minister signed files approving the launch of PM RAHAT Scheme for extending life-saving protection for every citizen and doubling the number of lakhpati didis to six crore.

Under the PM Rahat initiative, accident victims will get cashless treatment of up to Rs 1.5 lakh, ensuring that no life is lost due to lack of immediate medical help, officials said.

The government has crossed the landmark of three crore lakhpati didis, more than a year ahead of the original March 2027 timeline.



The prime minister has now set a new, ambitious target of six crore lakhpati didis by March 2029, doubling both scale and aspiration.

In a major boost to farmers, the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund has been doubled to Rs 2 lakh crore.

The move is aimed at strengthening India's entire agriculture value chain.

Modi also approved the Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 with a corpus of Rs 10,000 crore.

"To power India's innovation ecosystem, especially in deep tech, early-stage ideas, advanced manufacturing and breakthrough technologies, the Prime Minister has approved the Startup India FoF 2.0 with a corpus of Rs 10,000 crore," an official said.

Earlier, Modi unveiled the plaque of

Seva Teerth at the new complex — the name inscribed in Devanagari script on the wall of the complex. Below it is the motto 'Nagrik Devo Bhava' (citizen is akin to God).

The PMO will shift from the South Block on Raisina Hill to Seva Teerth, bringing together the offices of the Cabinet Secretariat and the National Security Council Secretariat that were located at different places.

Since 2014, the Modi government has taken steady steps to move away from symbols of India's colonial past and to usher a shift in mindset, officials said.

They pointed out that the PMO will now be called Seva Teerth, the Central Secretariat buildings have been named as Kartavya Bhawan, and Rajpath has been renamed as Kartavya Path.

After 17 years in exile, Bangladesh's
Tarique Rahman set to become PMAGENCY
NEW DELHI/DHAKA, FEB 13

Tarique Rahman-led Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) raced towards a decisive win in the crucial national election held on Thursday, setting the stage for Rahman, 60, to become Bangladesh's next prime minister.

Tarique, who returned to the country after 17 years in exile in the UK, has been elected from both Dhaka-17 and Bogura-6, according to unofficial results from the Election Commission (EC) and party sources, The Daily Star reported. The BNP entered the electoral race as the front-runner, contesting 292 out of 300 seats and sharing the rest with smaller partners. Facing the BNP was an 11-party alliance led by Jamaat-e-Islami.

BNP election committee spokesman Mahdi Amin told reporters the party was on track to win at least two-thirds of seats, adding that Tarique Rahman had won both seats he had run in.

Senior BNP leader Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, in a party statement, claimed a "sweeping victory," without giving figures, and called on followers to give thanks in prayer on Friday rather than celebrate on the streets. Tarique Rahman, 60, is the eldest son of former Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman and three-time Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. He returned to the country from exile

Modi speaks to Rahman,
reaffirms bilateral ties

UNI

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday spoke with Bangladeshi leader Tarique Rahman following his party's victory in the Bangladesh elections, congratulated him, and reaffirmed India's commitment to strengthening bilateral relations.

In a post on X, Modi said, "Delighted to speak with Tarique Rahman. I congratulated him on the remarkable victory in the Bangladesh elections."

[The Prime Minister added that he had conveyed his "best wishes and support" to Rahman as he seeks to fulfill the aspirations of the people of Bangladesh.

Highlighting the broader context of ties between the two countries, Modi emphasised the enduring partnership between New Delhi and Dhaka.

ile after nearly 17 years, following his mother's death, and quickly emerged as a frontrunner for the prime minister's post in the absence of the Awami League, which could not contest because its registration was suspended. Rahman

was elected BNP chief after Khaleda Zia died. He had been serving as the acting chairman of the BNP before that. Days after Khaleda Zia's demise, Rahman formally assumed office as Chairman of the BNP in December 2025.

LS, RS adjourned; to
reconvene on March 9

NEW DELHI: The first part of the Budget session concluded on Friday, marked by political debates over the India-US interim trade deal and the memoir of former Army Chief MM Naravane, whose publishing status remained a matter of controversy even outside the Parliament. The Lok Sabha will reconvene on March 9 after a three-week recess. The Rajya Sabha was also adjourned and is scheduled to meet again on March 9 after a three-week recess. The Parliament budget session, which began on January 28 with the President's address to a joint sitting of the two Houses, comprises 30 sittings over 65 days and is scheduled to conclude on April 2. The recess will allow Standing Committees to examine the Demands for Grants of various ministries and departments. Earlier in the day, the Opposition MPs staged a protest outside the Makar Dwar in the Parliament House complex while demanding the resignation of Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, who is under fire after Leader of Opposition (LoP) Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi questioned his links with the infamous Jeffrey Epstein. MPs from across the opposition parties held placards reading "Who's grip, who's choke" during the demonstration.

Pb to introduce 'on-screen' marking system for 2026 board exam evaluations

BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, FEB 13

The Punjab Government is set to introduce a major reform in the evaluation process for board examinations, with the Punjab School Education Board (PSEB) preparing to roll out an On-Screen Marking system for the March 2026 examinations. Announcing the initiative, Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains said Punjab will become one of the first state boards in the country to adopt end-to-end digital evaluation, marking a transformative shift in how answer sheets are assessed.

Divulging details of the project, Punjab Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains said, "This digital system will enable teachers to evaluate scanned answer sheets on computers, with marks calculated automatically by software, ensuring faster and more accurate results."

The Education Minister further

shared that the system has already demonstrated its effectiveness. "The system has already proved its mettle by evaluating 23,000 answer sheets swiftly and accurately during the September 2025 Supplementary Examinations," he stated.

Encouraged by these exceptional outcomes, the Punjab School Education Board will implement On-Screen Marking in one subject of the Matriculation Examination this year, with phased expansion in subsequent cycles.

Explaining the technical safeguards, Harjot Singh Bains said, "Each page of the newly designed answer sheet features a unique QR code, enabling secure scanning and seamless digital processing. Under the OSM system, answer sheets are scanned in a protected environment and uploaded to a centralized dashboard, where exam-



iners evaluate them online with automated totalling, structured marking schemes and real-time progress monitoring."

Describing the reform as far more than a technological upgrade, the Education Minister stated, "It is not just an upgrade, it's a complete overhaul of evaluating our children's future. It will ensure every student gets fair-

ness, speed and accuracy in examinations."

PSEB Chairman Dr. Amarpal Singh underlined the student-first vision guiding the reform. He said, "This initiative reinforces Chief Minister S Bhagwant Singh Mann led Punjab Government's commitment to integrity and efficiency. Students will benefit from reduced result timelines, standardised marking and complete transparency in

evaluation. Our teachers, too, will work with a clutter-free digital interface that ensures consistency and systematic record-keeping."

He added that the Board has completed all technical and administrative preparations for the March 2026 rollout. "The OSM system carries the guarantee of Punjab's commitment to its students," Dr. Amarpal Singh stated.

Allegations by AAP
MLA are fabricated:
Haryana CM

BUREAU

CHANDIGARH: Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini said that all allegations made by an Aam Aadmi Party MLA are baseless and fabricated. He said AAP is making such statements to hide its own failures. He alleged that AAP first showed false dreams to the people of Delhi and deceived them. Later, in Punjab, it made promises that remain unfulfilled, causing distress among the people there.

He said the people of Punjab first voted for Congress, but Congress betrayed them. Later, they voted for AAP, which he described as a "mega-deception." He claimed

that law and order in Punjab is in poor condition and farmers are facing severe hardships. Referring to flood compensation, he said that in Punjab, Sh. Arvind Kejriwal spoke of giving ₹20,000 as compensation to farmers, but in Gujarat he claimed that ₹50,000 had been given to Punjab farmers. He termed this as misleading farmers and reiterated that the MLA's allegations are factually incorrect and aimed at hiding shortcomings. He accused AAP of indulging

in pressure politics in Punjab and said the party should fulfill its promises made to the public.

Responding to a question related to Punjab, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said Punjab is like home. He said whenever he is invited to Punjab, he visits there. He added that Punjab is the land of the Gurus, and it is a matter of pride that the Gurus also blessed the land of Haryana with their presence.

Responding to a question regarding the inauguration of the new Prime Minister's Office complex, referred to as a "Seva Teerth," Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said it is a commendable initiative. He said while the Congress ruled over people, the spirit of the government led by Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi is one of service.

On being asked about municipal corporation elections, he said that preparations are complete and that the people of Haryana have extended their full support and blessings.

The Aam Aadmi Party has not fulfilled a single promise, because you can see how dire the law and order situation is in Punjab...



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District level health and awareness camp under 'Our Elders are Our Pride' campaign on Feb 16

PARAMJIT SINGH JALANDHAR: The district administration is starting the 'Our Elders are Our Pride' campaign on February 16 with a district level health and awareness camp at the local Red Cross Bhawan. District Social Security Officer Naresh Kumar gave information in this regard and said that apart from health check-up of the elderly, ortho and eye screening will also be done in the district level camp. Along with sharing information regarding health care with the elderly, registration of the elderly under the Chief Minister's Health Scheme will also be done during the camp. He said that during the camp, legal awareness will be made known by the Legal Services Authority and about the facilities provided to the elderly by the banks. He further said that under this campaign, special camps will be organized at different places in the district till March 16, 2026, in which apart from health check-up, other activities will also be organized for the betterment of the elderly. He appealed to the residents of the district to bring the elderly living in their homes and neighborhoods in maximum numbers to the health and awareness camps being organized under this campaign so that they can take full advantage of these facilities and lead a healthy and safe life.

MCM hosts awareness programme on Union Budget 2026



CHANDIGARH: The Postgraduate Department of Economics at Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women organised an Awareness Programme on 'Budget 2026: Analysis and Insights' to enhance students' understanding of the Union Budget and its economic implications. The resource person, Dr. Smrita Sharma, Chairperson, Department of Economics, Panjab University, Chandigarh, delivered an engaging and insightful lecture on the Union Budget 2026. She analysed the key highlights of the budget and discussed its implications across critical sectors, including taxation, infrastructure development, and social welfare. Her comprehensive presentation helped participants appreciate the broader economic vision and policy priorities reflected in the budget. The session witnessed enthusiastic participation from more than 150 attendees and featured a lively question-and-answer round, enabling students and faculty to gain deeper insights into the budget's potential impact on the national economy. Officiating Principal Ms. Neena Sharma lauded the initiative, emphasising the importance of such academic engagements in fostering economic awareness and analytical thinking among students.

The recitation of Baglamukhi Chalisa echoed at Akhand Yagya site in the evening, led by Mahant Praveen Chaudhary



LUDHIANA (SARBJIT SUFI): On the third day of the 243-hour, 11-day Akhand Maha Yagya at Baglamukhi Dham, devotees offered oblations, praying for the accomplishment of all their desires. The Sankirtan Mandal performed a musical recitation of the Maa Baglamukhi Chalisa. Mahant Praveen Chaudhary, head of the Baglamukhi Dham, recited mantras and prayed at the feet of Mother Goddess Bhagwati for the fulfillment of the wishes of the devotees who offered oblations. He urged that the business of businessmen from Punjab and around the world should flourish. Describing the glory of the Maa Baglamukhi Chalisa, Mahant Ji said that the courage and valor of the devotee who recites the Chalisa increases. With the elimination of negative thoughts and the destruction of negative forces in the mind, humans live a life free from fear. Praveen Agarwal MK, a devoted devotee of Maa Baglamukhi and a devotee of the Dham, while consuming the ashes from the Kund of the 243-hour Akhand Mahayagna, said that the business community of Punjab is deeply enthusiastic about the Mahayagna.

All India Adi Dharam Mission organises free eye check-up and lens camp at Dera Sant Tehil Das



DALJEET AJNOHA HOSHIARPUR, FEB 13

The All India Adi Dharam Mission (Regd.) India organised a free eye check-up and lens implantation camp at Dera Sant Tehil Das, Salempur Tawari, under the leadership of National President Adi Dharam Sant Samaj Sant Sarvan Das Ji, Senior Meeting President Guru Ravidas Sadhu Sampardiy Society Punjab, and Sant Satvinder Heera, National President of All India Adi Dharam Mission (Regd.) India. The event was held in collaboration with Shankara Eye Hospital. A team of specialist eye doctors conducted thorough check-ups for patients and distributed free medicines. Sant Sarvan Das and Sant Satvinder Heera informed that 180 patients received eye examinations during the camp, with 21 undergoing lens implantation by Shankara Eye Hospital. They added that while the mission promotes the revolutionary teachings of Satguru Ravidas Maharaj Ji and the great leaders of Adi Dharma through large-scale events, it also conducts extensive social work, including free medical camps, eye camps, and aid for the needy. The leaders extended heartfelt thanks to the entire team from Shankara Eye Hospital, as well as religious, social, and political figures who attended. Prominent participants included Sant Harjeet Singh, Happy, Manish Jagga, Kamal Janagall, Rakesh Mahim, Karan Kumar etc.

DC Komal Mittal starts community funeral van service donated by JREW foundation

SHASHI PAL JAIN MOHALI, FEB 13

Deputy Commissioner Komal Mittal today started a 'Community Funeral Van Service' donated by JREW Foundation for the residents of Mohali and surrounding areas. Deputy Commissioner formally handed over the keys of Van to the Pandit ji of Cremation Ground.

The Deputy Commissioner expressed gratitude to JREW Foundation for donating the funeral van for Balongi cremation ground. She said the service would prove extremely valuable in transporting mortal remains with dignity. She added that earlier only smaller vehicles were available at the cremation ground and there was a need for a larger vehicle, for which the administration is thankful to the foundation for its philanthropic initiative. Ms Vinita Grover,



Director, JREW Foundation, informed that the van will be stationed at the cremation ground in Balongi and a dedicated helpline number has also been issued for availing the service. The facility will be provided at a nominal fee of Rs 500, reducing the financial burden on bereaved families.

The funeral van donated by the foundation will be operated under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government Hospital, Phase-6, Mohali. Under this arrangement,

the van will be made available to all needy families for transportation of mortal remains for last rites, ensuring dignified final farewells. She also thanked the Deputy Commissioner and Government Hospital Phase-6 for their support.

Ms Grover further stated that the funeral van service is part of the foundation's continued commitment to healthcare, education, and community welfare. In the education sector, the foundation has

Surprise checking conducted at Mullanpur Dakha Railway Station under "Prahar-2"

JAGRAON (SUKH NAHAR): As a part of Operation Prahar-2, Ludhiana Rural Police conducted a surprise check at Mullanpur Dakha Railway Station under the leadership of DIG Ludhiana Range Satinder Singh and the directions of SSP Dr. Ankur Gupta. The checking was carried out by DSP Mullanpur Dakha Varinder Singh Khosa along with senior officers and police personnel. On this occasion, DIG Satinder Singh informed the press that Operation Prahar-2 has proven to be a highly successful campaign. Through this initiative, the police have achieved significant success in arresting gangsters, drug smugglers, absconders, and individuals facing serious charges including murder. He further stated that the police are actively reaching out to the public to restore confidence and assure citizens that the police are always with them and their safety is the department's top priority. He issued a clear warning to criminals and drug traffickers that anyone attempting to break the law or take it into their own hands will face strict legal action. The DIG also appealed to the public to cooperate with the police and share any information they may have without hesitation.



ADC (UD) pushes for faster progress on Nayagaon STP construction

SHASHI PAL JAIN MOHALI, FEB 13

In compliance with the directions of the High Court to ensure completion of the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) by February, ADC (Urban Development) Anmol Singh Dhaliwal today conducted the weekly review meeting at the STP site in Naya Gaon to monitor the progress of the ongoing construction work. During the inspection, ADC UD reviewed the status of civil, mechanical, and electrical works and directed the concerned departments to expedite the remaining tasks to ensure timely completion of the project.

He emphasized that all works must be carried out strictly as per the prescribed standards and within the stipulated timeline set by the Hon'ble Court. The meeting was attended by officials of the Punjab Water Supply &



Sewerage Board, Municipal Council (MC) Naya Gaon, the Public Health Department, the District Administration, and representatives of the Government of Punjab. ADC UD Anmol Singh Dhaliwal reiterated that the district administration is committed to ensuring that the STP project is completed within the given timeframe and directed all departments to maintain close coordination and submit regular

progress reports. He further instructed the executing agency to deploy adequate manpower and machinery to avoid any delay and ensure that the project is completed by the end of February, as mandated.

The meeting concluded with a collective assurance from all concerned departments to work in coordination and complete the project within the stipulated time frame.

Heartfelt rich tributes paid to Chinti Devi

SUMER GARG BARNALA, FEB 13

A condolence meeting for the eternal peace of the departed soul of Chinti Devi wife of late Desh Raj Garg, who breathed her last on 1st February, 2027 was held at Shanti hall, Ram Bagh here today. She was survived by two daughters and three sons.

On the occasion of the Bhog of Shri Garud Puran Ji, a large number of Saints, local MLA, former PPSC, Chairman, Jatinder Aulakh, IPS; Judicial Officers, including Justices, District Judges, doctors, advocates, Police and administrative officers, representatives of various political, religious & social bodies, prominent persons of all the walks of the local societies, while attending the bhog program said that Chinti Devi was a hard worker, religious, social and cooperative natured noble lady. On the occasion, Mr. Anil Sharma, stage secretary



read a large number of condolence messages sent by various prominent personalities and organisations.

Chinti Devi's son Mr. S.K. Aggarwal, who is working as a President Consumer commission, Mohali, while expressing his gratitude towards the attendees said that though my mother was an illiterate lady yet she was a mobile university.

Mr Aggarwal said, "Her mother said to me to speak less, work more. Her message was clear to me to stop wasting time in talking, planning, showing off, complaining, or announcing and to put that energy into actual action".

Chandigarh traffic police organizes spl awareness campaign on road safety



NEERAJ SHARMA CHANDIGARH, FEB 13

In line with its ongoing efforts to raise awareness among public, specially youth, Chandigarh Traffic Police conducted a special awareness campaign across colleges in Chandigarh and Mohali, in collaboration with Value Life Foundation and Suzuki Motorcycle India Pvt Ltd. and a special drive to reduce vehicular emission and promote sustainable mode of transportation in the city in collaboration with Pollution Department, Chandigarh. The events were organized under the leadership of Dr. Sagar Preet Hooda, IPS, Director General of Police, UT Chandigarh, and the guidance of Sh. Pushpendra Kumar, IPS, Inspector General of Police, UT Chandigarh, Sh. Sumer Parth Singh, IPS, Senior Superintendent of Police (Security & Traffic), and under the close supervision of Sh. Shri Prakash, CPS, DSP/Traffic (R&D), Road Safety. The events were held at Post Graduate College, Sector-46, Chandigarh; DAV College, Sector-10; and CCET Diploma Wing, Sector-26, Chandigarh, where more than 550 students were educated about road safety, first aid, and emergency care. The programme was supported by teams from Value Life Foundation and Suzuki Motorcycle India Pvt. Ltd., including Ms. Shruti Adhav, founder, Value Life Foundation.

ance of Sh. Pushpendra Kumar, IPS, Inspector General of Police, UT Chandigarh, Sh. Sumer Parth Singh, IPS, Senior Superintendent of Police (Security & Traffic), and under the close supervision of Sh. Shri Prakash, CPS, DSP/Traffic (R&D), Road Safety. The events were held at Post Graduate College, Sector-46, Chandigarh; DAV College, Sector-10; and CCET Diploma Wing, Sector-26, Chandigarh, where more than 550 students were educated about road safety, first aid, and emergency care. The programme was supported by teams from Value Life Foundation and Suzuki Motorcycle India Pvt. Ltd., including Ms. Shruti Adhav, founder, Value Life Foundation.

Sukhmani Sahib Path & farewell ceremony of 12 students held at APJ Public School

SHASHI PAL JAIN KHARAR, FEB 13

A spiritually enriching and joyful programme was organized at APJ Public School, where the sacred recitation of Sukhmani Sahib Path was held along with a farewell ceremony for 12 outgoing students.

The event began with the peaceful recitation of Sukhmani Sahib Path, creating a divine and serene atmosphere in the school campus. Students, teachers, and staff members participated with devotion and sought blessings for the bright future of the departing girls and boys. The spiritual vibrations filled everyone's hearts with positivity and gratitude.

After the Path, the farewell ceremony commenced with great enthusiasm. The 12 students looked graceful and confident in



their colourful attire. The celebration included lively dance performances, music, and fun activities that added charm to the occasion. Classmates shared memorable moments and expressed their heartfelt wishes for their friends.

The Principal Sir addressed the gathering and encouraged the students to remain focused, hardworking, and honest in their future endeavors. He blessed them for a successful and bright journey ahead. The programme concluded with group photographs, smiles, and emotional goodbyes, making it a memorable day for the entire school family.

Radha Kishori Kirpa Mandal Kharar donates 201 cement bags for the construction of Shri Ram Temple



KHARAR (SHASHI PAL JAIN): People are openly supporting the construction of Shri Ram Temple in Kharar. Under this series, Radha Kishori Kirpa Mandal donated 201 cement bags to the administrators of Shri Ram Temple today.

On this occasion, among others, Parminder Sethi, Kamal, Arijit, Subham, Sanjay, Puneet Mandkan, Parvesh Bharti, Arvind Kanthapal, Harmanpreet, Rani, Meenakshi etc. were present.

Parminder Sethi and all others assured that they would participate in the Pran Pratistha to be held on 26 March and would also extend their full support in the future.

Akal University students go on educational visit for community living programme

ISHWER GARG TALWANDI SABO, FEB 13

The Students of B.A. B.Ed./B.Sc. B.Ed. Semester VI from the Department of Education, Akal University, Talwandi Sabo, Bathinda, undertook an educational visit to the Gurbanta Das Deaf and Dumb School, Bathinda, on 30th January 2026 as part of their Community Living Programme. The visit aimed not merely at observation but at gaining practical exposure to the field of special and inclusive education.

During the visit, pupil teachers explored various aspects of special education and developed an understanding of the diverse types of disabilities present among learners. The primary focus of the visit was to enhance awareness.

Brigadier H S Sandhu reviews NCC training facilities at BBSBEC; motivates cadets and NDA aspirants



FATEHGARH SAHIB (AJAY MALHOTRA): Brigadier H S Sandhu, Group Commander, NCC Group Headquarters Patiala, accompanied by Colonel Amitesh Verma, Commanding Officer, 10 Punjab Battalion NCC, Patiala, paid an official visit to Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Engineering College (BBSBEC), Fatehgarh Sahib, to review the NCC training infrastructure and interact with cadets. The visit commenced with a Guard of Honour presented to Brigadier H S Sandhu on his arrival. A cordial meeting was held with the Principal of BBSBEC, Dr. Lakhvir Singh, during which mementos were exchanged as a mark of mutual cooperation and continued institutional support for NCC activities.

The delegation later visited the CTO Office, where Dr. Arishu Kaushik, CTO, introduced the officers to the college Drone Team. A comprehensive discussion was held on the scope and structure of drone training for NCC cadets. Mr. Harnoor Singh briefed the Group Commander on the training methodology, safety protocols, and future expansion plans. The officers also witnessed a live drone flying demonstration, showcasing the technical expertise and practical skills being imparted to the cadets.

Young learners at Maxim Merry School honor parents on Matra Pitru Divas



KHARAR (SHASHI PAL JAIN): The Kindergarten Wing of Maxim Merry School observed Matra Pitru Divas (Kutumb Divas), creating a heartfelt celebration that highlighted the timeless values of family, gratitude and Indian cultural heritage.

The tiny tots expressed their love and reverence for their parents through thoughtful cultural representations that reflected tradition, identity and emotional connection. Parent child duos brought culture to life by presenting their shared heritage through traditional food, attire, language, music and expressive cultural storytelling.

Director Sir, Mr. Parthasarthi, shared that parents are the cornerstone of both personal growth and a value-driven society. Principal Mam, Mrs. Pooja Khosla, expressed that true education lies in nurturing character and values alongside academic excellence. Head of Junior Wing, Mrs. Pooja Madhok, appreciated the parents and children's sincere participation. The celebration reaffirmed the school's commitment to nurturing culturally rooted and emotionally strong learners prepared for a meaningful future. On Mon, 9 Feb 2026, 10:41:am Maxim Merry Staff, <maximmerrystaff@gmail.com> wrote: Young Champions Shine at Maxim Merry School's Grand Sports Fest.

NEWS BRIEF

Doraha girl honoured in South Australia for securing first position in physics



AMRISH ANAND DORAHA: In a proud moment for the town, Aikameen, daughter of Gurminder Singh Goidy and niece of Kaka Matharu, has brought laurels to Doraha by securing first position in Physics in South Australia. Aikameen, who hails from Doraha, was honoured by the Governor of Adelaide, South Australia, in recognition of her outstanding academic achievement. Her remarkable success has not only made her family proud but has also brought recognition to the entire Doraha community. Family members and well-wishers have congratulated her on this significant accomplishment and wished her continued success in the future.

AAP Patiala unit stages massive protest against Congress, surrounds MP Gandhi's house

TAPINDER SINGH PATIALA: The entire leadership of Aam Aadmi Party district Patiala and a large number of leaders and workers today raised the slogan 'Anti-Dalit Congress: Pratap Bajwa apologizes' and staged a massive protest in front of Patiala MP Dr. Dharamvir Gandhi's house. Led by AAP District President Urban and Chairman District Planning Committee Tejinder Mehta and Rural District President and Chairman Improvement Trust Harpal Singh Virk, the AAP leadership reached Gau Chowk near Officer Colony with a band playing and demanded that Congress leader Pratap Bajwa, who has an anti-Dalit mentality, apologize. These leaders said that Cabinet Minister S. Harbhajan Singh ETO is a very intelligent leader, bad statements made against him will not be tolerated. MLA Aitpal Singh Kohli, who specially arrived on the occasion of this drama, said that the Congress party and its leaders are not tolerating AAP leader S. Harbhajan Singh, who rose from the Dalit community and became a minister, due to which the anti-Dalit mentality of Pratap Bajwa has come to the fore. He said that the flame of Congress is about to be extinguished in the entire country and the Congress's power has to be completely stopped. MLA Kohli demanded that Pratap Bajwa and the Congress party apologize unconditionally. The MLA warned the Congress that if Bajwa does not apologize unconditionally, it will be made difficult for him to step out of his house. Mayor Kundan Gogia said that the people are very happy with the work of the Aam Aadmi Party government but this happiness is not being tolerated by these Congressmen, for which such ill-thinking leaders are expressing their sick mentality, which will not be tolerated. On this occasion, PRTC Chairman Harpal Juneja said that it is very regrettable that Pratap Bajwa, Raja Warring and other opposition leaders have completely lost their minds and have resorted to despicable acts today.

Book by Prof. Kulwinder Kaur Minhans released during State-Level function at Attari



AMRISH ANAND DORAHA: A state-level Function was organized recently near India Gate at Attari, at the statue of the Sikh warrior Sham Singh Attarwala. On this occasion, a book titled "Sikh Raj De Aakhri Thamm S. Sham Singh Attar" authored by renowned poet Prof. Kulwinder Kaur Minhans was formally released. The book was jointly released by Colonel Dr. Harinder Singh Attari, Col. Kuldeep Singh, Minister S. Harbhajan Singh, Deputy Commissioner of Amritsar S. Dalwinderjit Singh and Police Commissioner S. Gurpreet Singh Bhullar, along with other distinguished dignitaries. Colonel Dr. Harinder Singh Attari, who belongs to the fifth generation of S. Sham Singh Attarwala, along with other eminent guests, also signed the book and appreciated the author's significant historical effort.

Amita Sharma assumes duties as Principal at DPS, Dr. Ravindra Convent School, Malla



JAGDEEP SINGH GILL JAITU: Today, Mrs. Amita Sharma Principal assumed her duties at Delhi Public International School Malla Road Bajakhana here. On which the management and staff warmly welcomed her with a bouquet of fruits and sweets. Speaking on the occasion, Principal Madam Amita Sharma said that our main goal is to make the children aware of high education and moral values, which is the main need of the day and the entire staff is very hardworking regarding the education of the children, due to which the education of the children will be even better and she also said that these children are the future of tomorrow. The founder and chairman of the school, Dr. Vijay Pawar, said that with the arrival of Principal Amita Sharma, the children will get high education because Principal Madam is a very hardworking and capable person who has a rich experience of 25 years, which will be even better for imparting high education to the children and we would like to show that the Principal Amita Sharma is a state awardee and very hardworking. On this occasion, the management included Mrs. Astha Khushdeep Bhardwaj, Sarabjit Kaur, Mrs. Srishti Sharma, Mrs. Hardeep Kaur, Mrs. Sarabjit Kaur, Sukhpreet Kaur, Karanjit Kaur, Hasandeep Kaur, Babaldeep Kaur, and Madam Seeba Principal Nursing College and Sapna etc.

Nearly 9,000 registered in health camps under ‘Our Elders, Our Pride’ campaign: Dr. Baljit Kaur

GAURAV GOEL CHANDIGARH, FEB 13

The Punjab Government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, is strengthening its commitment to the welfare of senior citizens through focused grassroots interventions aimed at ensuring their health, security and dignity. Sharing details of the statewide outreach under the ‘Our Elders, Our Pride’ campaign, Social Security, Women and Child Development Minister Dr. Baljit Kaur said the initiative reflects the government's people-centric approach towards honouring and supporting the elderly population of Punjab.

Minister Dr. Baljit Kaur said, “The Punjab Government, under the leadership of CM Bhagwant Singh Mann, considers senior citizens a valuable asset of society and is taking effective, people-centric steps at the grassroots level to ensure their health, security and dignity. Under the ‘Our Elders, Our Pride’ campaign, nearly 9,000 senior citizens have so far registered and directly benefited from district-



wise health camps organised across the state.”

The Punjab Social Security and Women & Child Development Minister further shared detailed data highlighting the impact of the campaign. “Among the registered beneficiaries, 2,268 senior citizens underwent general health check-ups, 1,241 availed orthopaedic check-ups, while 2,607 received eye examinations. In addition, 631 senior citizens participated in yoga sessions, 551 availed homoeopathic treatment, and 791 benefitted from ayurvedic health services. These figures reflect the wide outreach and effective implementation of the

campaign across Punjab,” said Dr. Baljit Kaur.

Elaborating on additional welfare services, the Minister stated, “Under the ALIMCO scheme, 243 senior citizens were registered, out of which 89 were provided assistive devices such as wheelchairs, spectacles and hearing aids.

Besides this, old age pension forms of 233 senior citizens were processed and senior citizen cards were issued to 306 beneficiaries during the camps.” Providing district-wise details, Minister Dr. Baljit Kaur said, “Health check-up camps for senior citizens have already been successfully or-

VB nabs two senior industrial promotional officers and trade assistant red handed

CHANDIGARH: The Punjab Vigilance Bureau (VB) during its ongoing drive against the corruption in the state, has apprehended Jaspal Singh and Rishav Garg, both Senior Industrial Promotional Officer posted at District Industries Centre office, Ludhiana and Antarpreet Singh Trade Assistant posted at District Industries Centre office, Ludhiana, red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs. 30000/- . Disclosing this here today, an official spokesperson of the state VB said the above-mentioned accused have been arrested based on a complaint lodged by a resident of Focal Point, Ludhiana. He said that the complainant runs a production unit at focal point, Ludhiana. In this regard, complainant applied for exact date of production certificate thereby above mentioned accused demanded bribe of Rs 45000/- from the complainant. Complainant had recorded the conversation of demanding illegal gratification. After a preliminary enquiry of his complaint, the VB team laid a trap during which all three accused were arrested red handed while accepting bribe money of Rs 30000/- from the complainant in presence of two official witnesses.

Mann govt accelerates resolution process for 180 ETT Adhyapak Association



CHANDIGARH, FEB 13

Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema on Friday directed the Finance and Education Departments to convene an urgent joint meeting to address the concerns of the 180 Elementary Teacher Training (ETT) Adhyapak Association, reiterating that the Bhagwant Mann Government is committed to resolving the legitimate demands of its employees without delay.

The directive came after a detailed consultative meeting held at the Punjab Civil Secretariat, where representatives of the association presented their case comprehensively. Providing a patient

and exhaustive hearing to the delegation, Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema said, “The concerns raised by the 180 ETT Adhyapak Association deserve serious and time-bound consideration.

I have directed the Finance and Education Departments to hold an urgent joint meeting so that all legitimate demands are settled without any further delay.” The Punjab Finance Minister stated, “During today’s meeting, the teachers were given full opportunity to outline the specific administrative and professional hurdles they are facing. We have ensured that every aspect of their demands is examined carefully, includ-

ing the legal and financial implications, so that the final decision is both legally sound and fiscally viable.” The meeting witnessed detailed deliberations by key government functionaries, including Special Secretary Finance Showkat Ahmed Parryar, Additional Advocate General Ramandeep Singh Pandher, Special Secretary Personnel Upkar Singh and Joint Secretary Education Harpreet Singh. The Finance Minister underlined, “By integrating the expertise of the Advocate General’s office and senior finance officers, we are ensuring that the path towards resolution is structured, transparent and sustainable.”

AAP demands immediate apology from Partap Bajwa and Congress leadership

TAPINDER SINGH TAPINDER SINGH, FEB 13

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Punjab on Friday held massive protests across the state against Leader of Opposition (LoP) Partap Singh Bajwa over his casteist and derogatory remarks targeting Punjab Cabinet Minister Harbhajan Singh ETO. Senior leaders, ministers, MLAs, AAP karyakartas and local residents joined demonstrations in large numbers, raising slogans and demanding a public apology from Bajwa and the Congress leadership.

During this, senior AAP leader and Punjab Unit General Secretary Baltej Pannu said, “Partap Singh Bajwa’s shameful and casteist remarks against Cabinet Minister Harbhajan Singh ETO are not merely an insult to a minister but a direct attack on the entire Dalit community and the hardworking people and labourers of Punjab who earn their livelihood with dignity. We demand that Bajwa and the Congress



leadership publicly apologize to the Dalit community and to all hardworking people.”

The anti-Dalit mindset of the Congress party has once again been exposed before the people of Punjab. The AAP will not allow anyone to demean Dalits or insult the dignity of working-class people in the state.” He further stated, “Partap Singh Bajwa’s language clearly reflects the Congress party’s deep-rooted hatred towards Dalits and its long history of humiliating marginalised com-

munities out of political arrogance. While the AAP believes in governance, education, health, employment and public welfare, Congress leaders like Partap Singh Bajwa remain trapped in a feudal and casteist mentality that Punjab has repeatedly rejected.” The AAP leader further said, “Partap Singh Bajwa’s remark is also a direct insult to the hardworking people of Punjab, especially band-bajja artists, daily wage labourers and other artists who work tirelessly during weddings, religious events and social functions.”

Bathinda police solves blind murder case, accused arrested



ANIL VERMA BATHINDA, FEB 13

Bathinda police solves blind murder case and arrest the accused of murder FIR No. 31 dated 11.02.2026 under Sections 103, 238, 3(5) BNS was registered at Police Station Sadar Bathinda. Under the directions of Sh. Gaurav Yadav IPS, DGP, Punjab, and the guidance of Sh. Harjeet Singh IPS, DIG Bathinda Range, continuous action is being taken against anti-social elements.

In continuation of this drive, under the supervision of Dr. Jyoti Yadav IPS, SSP Bathinda, and under the leadership of Sh. Jasmeet Singh PPS, SP (Investigation) Bathinda, Sh. Harvinder Singh Sran, PPS, DSP Bathinda Rural, and Sh. Sandeep Singh Bhati, DSP (Investigation) Bathinda, the

above-mentioned case was registered on 11.02.2026. In this regard, the police teams of Police Station Sadar Bathinda and CIA Staff-1 achieved a major success by solving the blind murder case.

On 11.02.2026 at about 1:00 PM, the SHO of PS Sadar Bathinda received an information that a semi-burnt unidentified body of a young woman was lying inside a suitcase near village Behman Diwana.

A case was immediately registered and investigation was initiated. To solve the case two CCTV investigation teams were constituted under the supervision of Sh. Jasmeet Singh PPS, SP (Investigation) Bathinda, Sh. Harvinder Singh Sran, PPS, DSP Bathinda Rural, and Sh. Sandeep Singh Bhati, DSP (Investigation) Bathinda.

1.34 lakh Indians deported in five years; no state-wise data available including Punjab



ARVIND PATHAK SULTANPUR LODHI, FEB 13

In response to an important question raised in the Rajya Sabha, the Central Government has admitted that no detailed or verified state-wise data is available—including for Punjab—on Indians who travelled abroad illegally through routes like the ‘Dunki Route’ or were deported from foreign countries.

Replying to the question raised by Rajya Sabha MP Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal, Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh stated that many countries share information only during deportation or nationality verification processes. In several cases, deportation is

carried out directly by the concerned foreign governments, due to which complete information does not always reach Indian embassies. However, based on data received from various Indian missions abroad around 1,34,365 Indian nationals were deported between 2021 and 2025. These figures clearly highlight the alarming scale of illegal migration networks.

According to official data, the highest number of deportations occurred from Saudi Arabia (around 1.21 lakh), followed by nearly 22,000 from Dubai. Deportations have also been reported from the United States, Malaysia, Qatar, and Myanmar, among others.

SLIET Longowal successfully concludes IEI sponsored seminar on “6G and Beyond: Shaping future of wireless communication”



BALWINDER AZAD BARNALA, FEB 13

Two Days' All India Seminar on “6G and Beyond: Shaping the Future of Wireless Communication” was successfully concluded on 13th February, 2026 which was sponsored by Electronics and Telecommunication Divisional Board, Institution of Engineers (India). Prof. (Dr.) T S Kamal, Ex Vice President IEI was the Chief Guest of the function and Prof. (Dr.) Jagtar Singh Sivia, Chairman, ETDB was the

Guest of Honour. Prof. Kamal mentioned that 6G is anticipated to revolutionize the industry by incorporating AI at its core. In his address, Prof. Kamal emphasized the transformative potential of 6G technology, highlighting its capability to integrate artificial intelligence with next-generation wireless systems. He stressed that 6G will not only enhance speed and connectivity but will also enable intelligent automation, immersive communication, and sustainable digital ecosystems.

63rd Principal Harbhajan Singh All India Football Tournament begins with Grandeur



DALJEET AJNOHA HOSHIARPUR, FEB 13

The 63rd Principal Harbhajan Singh All India Football Tournament, being organized under the leadership of Kulwant Singh Sangha, President of Principal Harbhajan Singh Sporting Club, commenced today with great enthusiasm and grandeur at Shri Guru Gobind Singh Khalsa College, Mahilpur.

Member of Parliament Dr. Rajkumar attended the opening match as the Chief

Guest, while the sports event was presided over by Sikh Educational Council President Sant Sadhu Singh Kaharpur, Patron Dr. Jung Bahadur Singh Rai, Manager Inderjit Singh Bharta, Principal Dr. Parvinder Singh, and SP Shavinderjit Singh Bains.

Welcoming the distinguished guests, Club President Kulwant Singh Sangha said that the tournament, now in its 63rd year, has become one of the country's prominent football events.

Dev Samaj College for Women student Komal clears UGC NET exam in English

TAPINDER SINGH FEROZEPUR, FEB13

With the blessings of Dev Samaj College for Women Chairman Mr. Nirmal Singh Dhillon, proper guidance of Chairperson Dr. Agnes Dhillon and effective leadership of Secretary Mr. Ajay Kumar Batta and Principal Dr. Sangeeta, the college is on the path of continuous progress.

It is a matter of pride and happiness for Dev Samaj College for Women that Komal, daughter of Jaideep, a talented student of the college, has achieved a great achievement by successfully passing the UGC NET (University Grants Commission – National Eligibility Test) exam in English. With this important success, Komal not only brought glory to her family but also to the en-



tire college. According to the teachers, this success of Komal is a symbol of her dedication, discipline and unwavering hard work. She achieved this achievement by studying regularly for several months, gaining a deep understanding of the subject and under the guidance of her knowledgeable teachers. Talking about her success, Komal said that the support of her parents, the hard work of the teachers and the academic environment of

the college play a major role behind this success. Dev Samaj College for Women Principal Dr. Sangeeta congratulated Komal on this special achievement and said that this success is a testament to the high academic tradition of the college and the hard work and dedication of the students. She said that Komal's success will become a source of inspiration for other students and will motivate other students to achieve higher goals.

MLA Balkar Sidhu holds important meeting with VDC members as part of war against drugs campaign



RAMPURA PHUL (KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA): Constituency MLA Balkar Singh Sidhu held a special meeting with village level VDC members at SDM office as part of the war against drugs campaign. The main objective of the meeting was to decide on a strategy for preparations and arrangements for the grand rally to be held at Killi Chahal (Moga) so that the ongoing fight against drugs can be further strengthened. Addressing the meeting, MLA Sidhu said that this evil can be eradicated from the roots only with the joint participation of the entire society. He said that VDC members, Panchayat representatives and social leaders at the village level can play an important role in spreading awareness. MLA Sidhu said that the government is committed to breaking the supply chain of drugs and no culprit will be spared. On this occasion, DSP Manoj Kumar and SDM Sunil Phogat assured that the administration is adopting a zero tolerance policy against drugs. Instructions have been issued to all the police stations of the constituency to further strengthen the surveillance at the village level. A large number of BDC members and other prominent personalities including Aam Aadmi Party's War Against Drugs District President Gursewak Singh Bandi Halka Coordinator Rajwinder Singh Gill were present in the meeting.

Health Min directs to accelerate health card campaign in collaboration with MLAs and officials

RAKESH JINDAL PATIALA, FEB 13

To successfully complete the registration of the cards of the Chief Minister's Health Scheme, Punjab Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Balbir Singh held an important meeting with all the MLAs, SDM SMO and Sewa Kendra officials in Patiala today. The purpose of this meeting was to ensure that the scheme is implemented properly in the district and its benefits reach maximum people.

During the meeting, Dr. Balbir Singh said that under the Chief Minister Health Scheme, the Punjab government is providing free health services to the people. He said that under this scheme, treatment up to Rs. 10 lakh per family is being provided completely free of cost and all the



expenses are being borne by the government. He said that this scheme has been implemented for the first time in the country at this level which is proving to be a boon for the common people.

He said that under the leadership of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann and Aam Aadmi Party National Convener Arvind Kejriwal, public welfare schemes like Aam Aadmi Clinic, free medicines and

NHPC Limited earns great place to work certification™ for the 2nd year in row



CHANDIGARH: NHPC Limited, a Navratna enterprise of the Government of India has been Certified™ by Great Place To Work for the second consecutive year for the period January 2026 to January 2027, achieving an improved Trust Index Score over the previous year. Great Place To Work is a global organization focused on workplace culture, employee experience and leadership behaviours that help drive market-leading revenue, employee retention and increased innovation. The Certification is based on a rigorous assessment model that captures comprehensive employee feedback and evaluates organizational practices across five pillars-Credibility, Respect, Fairness, Pride and Camaraderie. On this proud occasion, Shri Bhupender Gupta, CMD, NHPC, congratulated all employees for earning the Great Place To Work® Certification for the second year in a row. He emphasized the importance of analysing insights received from the certification process and called for continued, concerted efforts to further strengthen NHPC's work culture. The Great Place To Work Certification reaffirms NHPC's steadfast commitment to nurturing a culture built on trust, respect, dignity, inclusivity, recognition and appreciation.

SANJAY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA: The Army Recruitment Office, Palampur (HP) has announced that the notification for the 2027 recruitment year has been released on the website. Interested youth from Kangra and Chamba can register by visiting www.joinindianarmy.nic.in. These positions include Agniveer General Duty, Agniveer Technical, Agniveer Clerk/SKT, Agniveer Tradesman (10th Pass), Agniveer

Tradesman (8th Pass), and Agniveer Women MP. Candidates can register online on the official Indian Army website from February 13, 2026, to April 1, 2026. If they encounter any issues with online registration, they can contact the Army Recruitment Office, Palampur, via email at aropalampur@gmail.com. Candidates are also informed that for registration it is mandatory to have e-mail ID and Aadhar Card linked with mobile number.

NEWS BRIEF

LIC to fill 50 insurance advisor posts; interviews on Feb 17 in Haroli

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA: The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) branch office in Una will recruit 50 temporary insurance advisors. Interviews will be conducted on February 17 from 10.30 am at the Sub-Employment Office, Haroli. District Employment Officer Akshay Sharma said candidates who have passed or even not passed Class 10 are eligible, with a minimum age of 18 years. Selected candidates will receive a monthly stipend for the first three years—Rs. 7,000 for women and Rs. 5,000 for men—along with incentives. Eligible and interested candidates should appear for the interview with copies of educational certificates, proof of date of birth, Employment Exchange registration card, Aadhaar card, two passport-size photographs, originals of certificates and a bio-data. For further details, candidates may contact 01975-226192 or 79860-17859. No travel allowance will be provided for attending the interview.

BJP leaders in dilemma, failed to clarify stand on RDG: CM Sukhu

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, FEB 13

An All-Party Meeting was held here today under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu to deliberate on the likely impact of the discontinuation of the Revenue Deficit Grant (RDG) in the recommendations of the 16th Finance Commission. Addressing media-persons after the meeting, the Chief Minister said that the meeting was convened as the proposed withdrawal of RDG is a matter of serious concern for the State and could adversely affect the State's economy. He criticized the BJP for walking out of the meeting midway, terming the move as highly condemnable. He said it reflected a lack of seriousness on their part and alleged that they attended only to politicize the issue, rather than to safeguard the interests of the people



of the State. Referring to Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur, the Chief Minister said that not only the Congress, but also the CPI(M), Aam Aadmi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party have expressed willingness to meet the Prime Minister to press for the reinstatement of the RDG. He added "It appeared the BJP was not willing to stand for the rights of the State and had attended the meeting only under public pressure before

leaving it midway." Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu stated that the previous BJP government had received Rs. 54,000 crore as Revenue Deficit Grant (RDG) and Rs. 16,000 crore as GST compensation during its tenure, whereas the present State Government has received only Rs. 17,000 crore as RDG so far.

SC extends Himachal panchayat election deadline

AGENCY
NEW DELHI/SHIMLA, FEB 13

The Supreme Court on Friday admitted a Special Leave Petition (SLP) filed by the Himachal Pradesh government against a High Court order on panchayat and municipal polls, and extended the deadline for conducting the elections. A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi directed the state government and the State Election Commission to complete the election process for panchayati raj Institutions and urban local bodies on or before May 31, 2026. The court further ordered that the reservation roster be finalised and implemented by March 31, 2026. Speaking to UNI, Advocate General Anoop Rattan stated that



the SC allowed the SLP and extended the timeline of the panchayat election in the state. The High Court had earlier directed the state to issue the reservation roster by February 28 and to conduct elections before April 30, 2026. Challenging this order, the state government had moved the apex court, citing practical difficulties arising out of heavy snowfall.

Cabinet clears 50-bed critical care block for Bhoranj Civil hospital

ANIL KUMAR
HAMIRPUR, FEB 13

In a major boost to healthcare infrastructure, the Himachal Pradesh Cabinet has approved the construction of a modern 50-bed critical care block at the Civil Hospital, Bhoranj. The decision is expected to significantly strengthen emergency and specialised medical services in the region. Following the approval, Bhoranj MLA Suresh Kumar expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and the state Cabinet, terming the decision a milestone for the



constituency. He said the new facility would bring a transformative change in local healthcare delivery. The MLA noted that until now, critically ill patients from Bhoranj had to be referred to the district headquarters in Hamirpur or to medical colleges for advanced treatment. With

the establishment of the critical care block, patients suffering from cardiac emergencies, serious injuries and other life-threatening conditions will be able to receive specialised treatment closer to home. According to Suresh Kumar, the proposed block will be

equipped with an intensive care unit (ICU), ventilators and advanced diagnostic facilities. The government will also ensure the deployment of specialist medical staff so that patients receive timely and quality care. Praising the state government's approach, the MLA said the present dispensation is working with the objective of "systemic transformation" by extending modern facilities to remote and rural areas. He added that prioritising Bhoranj's healthcare needs reflects the government's sensitivity towards public welfare and equitable development.

Nadda Ji, study the revenue deficit data and answer Himachal": Congress questions Centre's stand

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY

BILASPUR: In a sharp and pointed statement to the press, Congress has directly questioned Union Minister and outgoing BJP National President Jagat Prakash Nadda over the discontinuation and reduction of the Revenue Deficit Grant to Himachal Pradesh under Article 275(1) of the Constitution. Congress former State Congress Media Coordinator Sandeep Sankhyan asserted that the Revenue Deficit Grant is not a favor or charity from the Centre but a constitutional right of the state under the federal structure. Referring to official figures, he highlighted that when the previous BJP government was in power in Himachal Pradesh, the BJP-led Central Government provided a total of Rs 54,296 crore as Revenue Deficit Grant. However, after the Congress government assumed office in the state, the grant has reportedly reduced to Rs 17,563 crore over the last three years. Citing year-wise data, Sankhyan stated that Rs 8,449 crore was granted in 2018-19, Rs 8,271 crore in 2019-20, Rs 8,062 crore in 2020-21, followed by an interim grant of Rs 11,431 crore and Rs 10,249 crore in 2022-23. In contrast, under the present Congress government, the state has received Rs 8,590 crore, Rs 6,258 crore, and Rs 3,257 crore respectively. He urged Nadda, who hails from Himachal and has served twice as a Cabinet Minister in the state, to clarify the Centre's position. "This hilly state is yours too."



Historic budget 2026 to realise vision of Viksit Bharat: Kamlesh Kumari

ANIL KUMAR

HAMIRPUR: Former BJP MLA from Bhoranj and State General Secretary of the BJP Mahila Morcha, Kamlesh Kumari, has described the Union Budget 2026 presented under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a historic document that will steer the country towards self-reliance, inclusive development, and the goal of a developed India. Kamlesh Kumari said the budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is not merely a compilation of economic figures but a roadmap for India's future, placing investment, industry, job creation, social security, and the aspirations of common citizens at the centre of policy-making. She stated that the Modi government has prioritised people over populism and chosen reforms over rhetoric. Self-reliance, she said, has become the guiding principle of the Indian economy, and every decision of the government aims to deliver direct benefits to citizens. Due to decisive policy measures, India continues to maintain a high growth rate of around seven per cent while ensuring strong macroeconomic stability, she added. Kamlesh Kumari noted that the budget is historically significant as it is the first to be prepared at Kartavya Bhavan. The Finance Minister has outlined three key duties in the budget: accelerating economic growth by strengthening investment, industry and employment.



State interest is supreme; Congress cannot shift its financial mismanagement burden on Centre: Dr. Bindal

DINESH AGARWAL

SHIMLA: The Bharatiya Janata Party participated in the all-party meeting convened by the Himachal Pradesh Government at Hotel Peterhoff, Shimla, to discuss the financial situation arising after the discontinuation of Revenue Deficit Grant (RDG). The BJP delegation included State President Dr. Rajeev Bindal, Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur, MLAs Randhir Sharma, Vinod Kumar, Balbir Verma, Trilok Jamwal, and State Media Convenor Karan Nanda. Presenting the party's position, BJP State President Dr. Rajeev Bindal stated that Himachal Pradesh's development is a shared responsibility of all political parties and BJP has always worked in the state's interest — both in government and in opposition. He said the Congress government, despite being in power for nearly 40 months with a full majority, is attempting to shift the blame for its financial mismanagement onto the Central Government and BJP through a planned political narrative. Dr. Bindal clarified that the discontinuation of RDG is not a sudden decision but part of the structured recommendations of previous Finance Commissions, where it was clearly indicated that such grants would be reduced in phases and eventually discontinued. He said the state government should have prepared in advance by strengthening revenue generation, controlling non-essential expenditure, and improving fiscal discipline instead of creating panic now. He placed detailed figures before the meeting, stating that Himachal Pradesh has received substantial central assistance across heads over the last three years.



Una leads in 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' coverage



KISHORI LAL BAINS

UNA: Una district has achieved a major milestone in rural drinking water supply by providing 100 per cent functional household tap connections to all rural families. The achievement was confirmed by Deputy Commissioner Jatinder Lal while chairing a meeting of the District Water and Sanitation Mission. Reviewing schemes implemented under the Jal Jeevan Mission, the Deputy Commissioner said the target of universal functional tap connections was achieved through the collective efforts of the district administration, the Jal Shakti Department and rural communities, in line with the commitment of the state government. He directed officials to sustain this achievement while giving equal priority to water quality, regular supply and long-term conservation of water sources. The Deputy Commissioner emphasised that ensuring the continuous availability of clean, adequate and uninterrupted drinking water to every household on a daily basis remains the administration's top priority. He said systems for field inspections, technical monitoring and accountability are being strengthened on an ongoing basis. He also instructed officials to complete pending entries on the e-Gram Swaraj portal within stipulated timelines and to effectively implement regular water quality testing.

KIND ATTENTION RAIL PASSENGERS!

MORE HOLI FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2026

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during the upcoming Holi Festival, Northern Railway has decided to run the following additional Holi Festival Special Trains as per details given below :-

04054/04053 New Delhi-Barauni Jn-New Delhi Reserved Special Express (Daily)						30 Trips
Train No. 04054		↓ STATIONS ↑	Train No. 04053		Trips	
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.		
---	19:50	New Delhi	03:50	---	00:45	
22:00	---	Barauni Jn.	---	00:45		

Days of run : 04054 Ex. New Delhi from 20.02.2026 to 06.03.2026 (Daily) and 04053 Ex. Barauni Jn. from 22.02.2026 to 08.03.2026 (Daily).
Composition: Sleeper & General.
Stoppages: Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn., Tundia Jn., Etawah Jn., Kanpur Central, Unnao Jn., Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Barabanki Jn., Gonda Jn., Basti, Khalilabad, Gorakhpur Jn., Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn., Chhapra, Sonpur, Hajipur Jn. & Shahpur Patoree Stations.

04060/04059 New Delhi-Supaul-New Delhi Reserved Special Express (Daily)						30 Trips
Train No. 04060		↓ STATIONS ↑	Train No. 04059		Trips	
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.		
----	21:35	New Delhi	16:10	----	07:00	
04:00	----	Supaul	----	----		

Days of run : 04060 Ex. New Delhi from 20.02.2026 to 06.03.2026 (Daily) and 04059 Ex. Supaul from 22.02.2026 to 08.03.2026 (Daily).
Composition: Sleeper & General.
Stoppages: Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn., Tundia Jn., Etawah Jn., Kanpur Central, Unnao Jn., Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Barabanki Jn., Gonda Jn., Basti, Khalilabad, Gorakhpur Jn., Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn., Chhapra, Sonpur, Hajipur Jn., Shahpur Patoree, Barauni Jn., Begusarai, Khagaria Jn., Mansi Jn., Simri Bakhtiyarpur & Saharsa Jn. Stations.

04066/04065 Anand Vihar(T.)-Khurda Road Jn.-Anand Vihar(T.) Reserved Special Exp. (Daily)						10 Trips
Train No. 04066		↓ STATIONS ↑	Train No. 04065		Trips	
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.		
---	00:30	Anand Vihar(T.)	08:15	---	15:30	
12:30	---	Khurda Road Jn.	---	---		

Days of run : 04066 Ex. Anand Vihar(T.) from 27.02.2026 to 03.03.2026 (Daily) and 04065 Ex. Khurda Road Jn. from 28.02.2026 to 04.03.2026 (Daily).
Composition: 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General.
Stoppages: Ghaziabad, Govindpur, Subedarganj, Mirzapur, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabus Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone, Anugrah Narayan Road, Gaya Jn., Patna, Patna, Koderma, Hazratnagar, Patna, Patna, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Gomoh, Chandrapur, Bokaro Steel City, Purulia Jn., Barabhum, Chandi Jn., Tatanagar Jn., Ghatila, Hiji, Balasore, Bhadrakh, Jaipur Keonjhar Road, Cuttack & Bhubaneswar Stations.

04070/04069 Anand Vihar(T.)-Sheikhpura-Anand Vihar(T.) Reserved Spl Exp. (Bi-Weekly)						10 Trips
Train No. 04070		↓ STATIONS ↑	Train No. 04069		Trips	
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.		
---	00:20	Anand Vihar(T.)	19:00	---	22:30	
20:30	---	Sheikhpura	---	---		

Days of run : 04070 Ex. Anand Vihar(T.) and 04069 Ex. Sheikhpura from 20.02.2026 to 06.03.2026 (every Friday, Tuesday).
Composition: 1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC.
Stoppages: Govindpur, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patna Jn., Rajendranagar Terminal, Bakhtiyarpur Jn., Bihar Sharif Jn., Ashtwan & Barbiga Stations.

04081/04082 New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi Reserved Spl. Exp. (Daily)						32 Trips
Train No. 04081		↓ STATIONS ↑	Train No. 04082		Trips	
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.		
---	23:45	New Delhi	10:00	---	21:20	
12:00	---	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	---	---		

Days of run : 04081 Ex. New Delhi from 21.02.2026 to 08.03.2026 (Daily) and 04082 Ex. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra from 22.02.2026 to 09.03.2026 (Daily).
Composition: 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper and General.
Stoppages: Panipat, Kurukshetra Jn., Ambala Cantt., Ludhiana Jn., Jalandhar Cantt., Pathankot Cantt., Jammu Tawi & Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan Stations.

04010/04009 Delhi Jn.-Sitamarhi-Delhi Jn. Reserved Special Express (Weekly)						04 Trips
Train No. 04010		↓ STATIONS ↑	Train No. 04009			
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.		
---	23:05	Delhi Jn.	23:20	---		
22:30	---	Sitamarhi	---	23:55		

Days of run : 04010 Ex. Delhi Jn. on 26.02.2026 & 05.03.2026 (Thu.) and 04009 Ex. Sitamarhi on 27.02.2026 & 06.03.2026 (Friday).
Composition: 1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC Economy, Sleeper & General.
Stoppages: Ghaziabad, Hapur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjehanpur, Sitapur, Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur, Bagaha, Narkataganj Jn., Sikta, Raxaul Jn. & Bairagnia Stations.

04014/04013 Anand Vihar(T.)-Laukaha Bazar- Anand Vihar(T.) Reserved Special Exp. (Daily)						16 Trips
Train No. 04014		STATIONS		Train No. 04013		
ARR.	DEP.	↓	↑	ARR.	DEP.	
---	15:40	Anand Vihar(T.)		03:40	---	
20:15	---	Laukaha Bazar		---	21:30	

Days of run : 04014 Ex. Anand Vihar(T.) from 27.02.2026 to 06.03.2026 (Daily) and 04013 Ex. Laukaha Bazar from 28.02.2026 & 07.03.2026 (Daily).
Composition: 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper and General.
Stoppages: Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur Jn., Kaptanganj Jn., Siwa Bazar, Bagaha, Harinagar, Narkataganj Jn., Sikta, Raxaul Jn., Baignia, Sitamarhi, Shisho, Sakri Jn. & Jhanjharpur Jn. Stations.

04022/04021 New Delhi-Gorakhpur-New Delhi Reserved Special Express (Weekly)						06 Trips
Train No. 04022		↓ STATIONS ↑	Train No. 04021			
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.		
---	14:00	New Delhi	23:10	---		
05:00	---	Gorakhpur	---	07:00		

Days of run : 04022 Ex. New Delhi from 20.02.2026 to 06.03.2026 (every Friday) and 04021 Ex. Gorakhpur from 21.02.2026 to 07.03.2026 (every Saturday).
Composition: 1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General.
Stoppages: Ghaziabad, Hapur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjehanpur, Hardoi, Lucknow, Gonda Jn. & Basti Stations.

04203/04204 Lucknow-New Delhi-Lucknow Reserved Special Express (Weekly)					04 Trips
Train No. 04203		↓ STATIONS ↑	Train No. 04204		
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.	
---	06:05	Lucknow	06:35	---	
18:30	---	New Delhi	---	20:20	

Days of run : 04203 Ex. Lucknow and 04204 Ex. New Delhi on 23.02.2026 & 02.03.2026 (Monday).
Composition: 1st AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General.
Stoppages: Shahjehanpur, Bareilly, Moradabad & Ghaziabad Stations.

04209/04210 Varanasi-Delhi Jn.-Varanasi Reserved Special Express (Daily)					22 Trips
Train No. 04209		↓ STATIONS ↑	Train No. 04210		
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.	
---	22:30	Varanasi	09:40	---	
13:30	---	Delhi Jn.	---	19:25	

Days of run : 04209 Ex. Varanasi from 24.02.2026 to 06.03.2026 (Daily) and 04210 Ex. Delhi Jn. from 25.02.2026 to 07.03.2026 (Daily).
Composition: 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General.
Stoppages: Maa Belha Devi Dham Pratappur, Rae Bareilly Jn., Lucknow, Moradabad & Ghaziabad Stations.

04213/04214 Ayodhya Cantt.-Anand Vihar(T.)- Ayodhya Cantt. Reserved Special Express						10 Trips
Train No. 04213		↓ STATIONS ↑	Train No. 04214			
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.		
----	18:20	Ayodhya Cantt.	22:00	----		
06:00	----	Anand Vihar(T.)	----	09:00		

Days of run : 04213 Ex. Ayodhya Cantt. on 24.02.2026, 26.02.2026, 01.03.2026, 03.03.2026 & 05.03.2026 and 04214 Ex. Anand Vihar(T.) on 25.02.2026, 27.02.2026, 02.03.2026, 04.03.2026 & 06.03.2026
Composition: 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General.
Stoppages: Barabanki, Lucknow, Bareilly, Moradabad & Ghaziabad Stations.

04227/04228 Varanasi-Chandigarh-Varanasi						04
Reserved Superfast Special Express (Weekly)						Trips
Train No. 04227		↓ STATIONS ↑	Train No. 04228			
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.		
---	14:50	Varanasi	01:20	---		
07:45	---	Chandigarh	---	00:30		

Days of run : 04227 Ex. Varanasi on 21.02.2026 & 28.02.2026 (Sat.) and 04228 Ex. Chandigarh on 22.02.2026 & 01.03.2026 (Sunday)
Composition: 1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC Economy, Sleeper & General.
Stoppages: Maa Belha Devi Dham Pratappur Jn., Raebareilly Jn., Lucknow, Bareilly, Moradabad, Saharanpur, Yamunanagar Jagadhari & Ambala Cantt. Stations.

04604/04603 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra- Varanasi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Reserved Special Express						08 Trips
Train No. 04604		↓ STATIONS ↑		Train No. 04603		
ARR.	DEP.			ARR.	DEP.	
---	18:15	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra		06:00	---	
10:00	---	Varanasi		---	06:00	

NEWS BRIEF

Dy CM to attend 11th Mega Cricket Tournament in Beetan today

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA: Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri will be on a one-day visit to Una district on February 14 (Saturday). He will attend the prize distribution ceremony of the 11th Mega Cricket Tournament, organised by the Chaudhary Sports Club, Beetan, in memory of martyrs, as the chief guest at 3 pm. A government spokesperson said the Deputy Chief Minister will stay overnight at Gondpur Jayachand.

Japan International Cooperation Agency to strengthen healthcare facilities

SANJAY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA: Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Anupriya Patel, informed Rajya Sabha MP Indu Bala Goswami in Parliament that the Himachal Pradesh government has applied for financial assistance through the Japan International Cooperation Agency for a project totalling Rs. 1,731 crore to strengthen healthcare facilities. She stated that of this Rs. 1,731 crore project cost, Rs. 1,384 crore will be provided by the Japan International

Cooperation Agency, while the remaining amount will be borne by the state government. She added that under this project, medical college hospitals will be upgraded and strengthened, strengthening patient treatment and care facilities in the state. Union Minister of State for Communications Dr. Pemmasani Chandrashekhar said that to provide internet facilities in rural, remote and backward areas of the country, the Department of Telecommunications has granted license to Starlink Satellite Communications Pvt. Ltd., One Web India Communications Pvt. Ltd. and Jio Satellite Communications Pvt. Ltd., which will provide satellite based internet services in the country. She said that through satellite based internet, internet services will be provided in those areas where internet services cannot be provided through optical fiber, microwave etc.

Administration acts tough on 200 CM Window complaints; DTP Karnal conducts detailed inspection of Alpha International City

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, FEB 13

The administration has taken a serious stance on nearly 200 complaints related to basic civic amenities in the prominent colony Alpha International City of Karnal. These complaints were filed on January 5, 2026, on the CM Window under the leadership of RWA Alpha. Acting promptly, the District Town Planner's office carried out a detailed field inspection of the colony on February 12. The inspection was led by Gunjan Verma, District Town Planner (DTP), Karnal. Junior engineers from the department, RWA representatives, local residents, and media personnel were also present. The complaints primarily pertained to the handover of sectoral roads, misuse of the community centre, and the

"Wants to instigate civil war": Giriraj Singh slams Rahul Gandhi amid Parliament row

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, FEB 13

Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh on Friday criticised Leader of Opposition (LoP) Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, accusing him of spreading misinformation and attempting to "instigate a civil war in the country". Responding to a question on Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Nishikant Dubey's allegations regarding Gandhi's conduct, Singh said the Congress leader was misleading the public on farmers' issues and the India-US interim trade agreement. He cited statements made by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, who had assured that farmers' interests would not be compromised. "What farmer issue? Lies, like Rafale. Spreading confusion among the people. The thing that the country's Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan



said and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said that there will be no tampering with the interests of the farmers. These people just want to spread confusion in the country. They want to instigate a civil war in the country," Singh told reporters here. This comes after Nishikant Dubey wrote a letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla urging the House

to constitute a dedicated Parliamentary Inquiry Committee to investigate Rahul Gandhi's "unethical conduct" following his recent speech in Parliament. In the letter, Dubey cited constitutional responsibility to highlight the alleged misdemeanours of the Congress leader, saying that he has become a major part of the "thuggery gang to

de-stabilise the country from within". He alleged that Gandhi is an active member of the "Ford Foundation," which is a very notorious organisation, further claiming that it funds all of Gandhi's lavish foreign travels. Speaking to ANI, Dubey said he moved a motion in the Lok Sabha against Rahul Gandhi, accusing him of misleading the country. Dubey is seeking termination of the Congress MP's parliamentary membership and a lifetime ban on the Congress leader from contesting elections. "I have moved a motion in Lok Sabha today against Rahul Gandhi on how he is misleading the nation with the help of forces like (George) Soros, who want to harm the nation. In the motion I have moved, I have requested that Rahul Gandhi's membership should be terminated and he should be barred for life from contesting elections," Dubey said.

Two-day 75th annual sports competition inaugurated at Dayal Singh College, Karnal

CHAMANLAL
KARNAL, FEB 13

The two-day 75th annual sports competition inaugurated at Dayal Singh College, Karnal on Friday by the alumni of the college and the guest of honor was Dr. Rishipal. Principal Babu Anant Ram Janta College inaugurated the event. Dr. Rishipal, who arrived as the guest of honor was welcomed by college Principal Dr. Ashima Gakkhar and members of the sports committee by garlanding him and presenting him with a green sapling, a symbol of prosperity. He was heartily greeted and welcomed. The Principal also welcomed Brigadier Randhir Singh, General Manager of the Dayal Singh College Trust Society by presenting him



with a shawl. Principal Dr. Ashima Gakkhar then hoisted the sports flag along with the honored guest, instilling a spirit of sportsmanship in all the guests, teachers, staff and students present on the campus. After the flag hoisting by the Guest, the NCC cadets and NSS volunteers marched past, led by the Senior Under Officer of NCC Army Wing. Ashish did it. Promising student Navin Bhatia received the sports flag and took an oath with the players to uphold the spirit of sportsmanship and compete honestly.

Principal Dr. Ashima Gakkhar welcomed the chief guest and other dignitaries in her welcome address. In her address, the Principal said that today was a very special day a day of celebration and inspiration. Sports in itself hold immense significance in our lives. Through sports, we learn how to embrace every challenge in life wholeheartedly and reach the highest level. Sports teach us to live a disciplined and collective life. All of you participants have made the college proud with your courage and hard work.

Barnala Sports & Social Welfare Club's "26th State-Level Academic and Sports Awards Ceremony" on Feb 22



KARANPREET KARAN

BARNALA: Barnala Sports & Social Welfare Club (Regd.), Barnala's 26th State-Level Academic and Sports Awards Ceremony is scheduled for February 22nd. Barnala Sports & Social Welfare Club President Vinod Sharma, Patron Rampal Singla and Chairman Subhash Mittal stated that, like every year, their club is organizing this memorable event with great fanfare on February 22nd at the Royal Green Palace, Dhanaula Road, Barnala this year. A meeting was held to outline the entire program. Club General Secretary Harish Bansal, PRO Rajinder Rimpi, and Project Chairman Sanjeev Sharma stated that Honorable Member Parliament (SANGRUR) S. Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer will present the awards at the 26th Annual Award Ceremony. He said that State Tollers from Grades 8,10, and 12 from across Punjab will be honored at this function, and approximately 300 students from various Government & Private schools in Barnala district who have achieved 90% marks in grades 10 and 12 will also be honored.

Subhash Chandra motivates NSS volunteers at day-night camp in DAV PG College

CHAMANLAL
KARNAL, FEB 13

Subhash Chandra, Executive Vice President of Swachh Bharat Mission Haryana, attended the sixth day of the seventh day day-night camp being held at DAV PG College as the chief guest. Upon his arrival, he was welcomed with a bouquet by NSS Program Officer Dr. Poonam Verma and Chief NSS Advisor Dr. Balram Sharma. Addressing the volunteers, Mr Subhash Chandra said that every young person should set a clear life goal and strive relentlessly to achieve it. He explained that in today's competitive world, only those who utilize their time wisely, work hard and have complete dedication to their goals are successful. He urged young people to draw



inspiration from the lives of great men, saying that we should not only study their ideals but also incorporate these into our behavior and lifestyle. He also emphasized that self-confidence is the first step to success.

If a person believes in themselves they can face any challenge. Failures are a part of life but instead of being afraid of them we should learn from them and move forward, says he. He encouraged volunteers to

make the spirit of social service an integral part of their lives and emphasized the crucial role of youth in nation-building.

Addressing the gathering, Professor Dr. Rampal Saini, Vice Chancellor of Chaudhary Ranbir Singh University, Jind and Principal of the college, said that the way volunteers were reaching out to slum areas to raise awareness was commendable.

Former CS accused of concealing records in Palampur land dispute

SANJAY AGARWAL

DHARAMSHALA: A fresh complaint has been filed against a former Chief Secretary and an ex-Revenue Secretary of Himachal Pradesh, alleging deliberate suppression of official records in the long-pending Palampur land case concerning Section 118 proceedings. The complaint, submitted by Anoop Dutta of Dharamshala, accuses senior state officials of concealing crucial documents while submitting replies to constitutional authorities and courts. According to the 21-page supplementary representation dated February 10, 2026, addressed to the Chief Minister and the Lokayukta, the complainant has alleged that during proceedings in Lokayukta Complaint No. 39/2023, senior officers, including the then Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue) Onkar Chand Sharma and former Chief Secretary Prabodh Saxen, submitted an incomplete record. The complaint states that Annexure-6, which ought to have contained 276 pages of the SDM Palampur report dated 05.12.2002 and the Deputy Commissioner Kangra's forwarding letter dated 08.01.2003, was reduced to only four pages, thereby allegedly concealing the agreement dated 03.07.2002 and related documents. The representation further claims that the agreement dated July 3, 2002, formed part of the official records and established lawful possession in favour of the complainant. It alleges that despite prior knowledge of this agreement, subsequent permissions under Section 118 of the H.P. Tenancy and Land Reforms Act were processed by suppressing relevant material. The complainant has also referred to earlier FIRs and inquiry proceedings conducted in 2002 under the directions of the then Chief Minister, contending that these records were not fully placed before the Lokayukta or other authorities.

UDAAN 2026: Grand farewell at DAV Public School, Yamunanagar



RAHUL KOHLI

YAMUNANAGAR: DAV Public School, Professor Colony Yamunanagar, organized a heartfelt farewell for Class XII on 12 February 2026 at 11:00 a.m. on the theme "UDAAN – From Dreams to Destinations." The programme began with a Hawan seeking blessings for the students' bright future, followed by a warm welcome ceremony. Principal V.K. Kashiv addressed the gathering, motivating students to pursue their goals with integrity, discipline, and confidence. Cultural performances added joy and nostalgia to the celebration. Prestigious titles were conferred: Mr. DAV – Master Arman; Miss DAV – Tejaswani Rana; Mr. Eve – Master Aditya; Miss Eve – Anvi Kamboj; Discipline Student – Master Yuvraj; Spirit of UDAAN – Miss Riddhi; Special Award – Master Divyansh Sehgal. The students presented a token of gratitude to the Principal. The ceremony concluded with games and emotional goodbyes, truly reflecting the spirit of new beginnings.

Dev Samaj College student Komal qualifies UGC NET, adds glory to institution

TAPINDER SINGH
FEROZEPUR, FEB 13

With the blessings of Dev Samaj College for Women Chairman Mr. Nirmal Singh Dhillon, proper guidance of Chairperson Dr. Agnes Dhillon and effective leadership of Secretary Mr. Ajay Kumar Batta and Principal Dr. Sangeeta, the college is on the path of continuous progress. It is a matter of pride and happiness for Dev Samaj College for Women that Komal, daughter of Jaideep, a talented student of the college, has achieved a great achievement by successfully passing the UGC NET (University Grants Commission – National Eligibility Test) exam in English. With this important



success, Komal not only brought glory to her family but also to the entire college.

According to the teachers, this success of Komal is a symbol of her dedication, discipline and unwavering hard work. She achieved this achievement by studying regularly for several months, gaining a deep understanding of the subject and under the guidance of her knowledgeable teachers. Talking about her success,

Komal said that the support of her parents, the hard work of the teachers and the academic environment of the college play a major role behind this success.

Dev Samaj College for Women Principal Dr. Sangeeta congratulated Komal on this special achievement and said that this success is a testament to the high academic tradition of the college and the hard work and dedication of the students.

Government is insulting elderly and misleading public: Wazir Poonia

MAHENDER GOYAL

HISAR: Senior Congress leader and All India Rahul Gandhi Congress Committee member Wazir Singh Poonia has said that BJP government is insulting elderly by cutting old-age pensions. By making false statements about pension cuts, government is misleading not only elderly but also general public. Wazir Singh Poonia said that BJP government which came to power by making populist promises during elections, later acts contrary to its promises. In its arrogance, BJP government has slashed pensions of approximately 75,000 elderly people. He said that there is no truth in Chief Minister's claim that no one's pension has been cut. He said that crime, inflation, unemployment and drug addiction are rampant under BJP rule and government has no control over them. Incidents of murder, robbery, extortion and rape are increasing daily in state. Under BJP government which champions slogan "Save Daughter, Educate Daughter," daughters are unsafe. Harassment of daughters has become a common occurrence. Wazir Poonia stated that recent molestation of a PhD student at Haryana Agricultural University considered a temple of learning, has exposed reality of safety of daughters. She was being harassed by two scientists at university and despite complaining to college dean, matter was suppressed for several days to protect accused.



Chandigarh University launches CUCET 2026 scholarship in Gurdaspur, RS Bawa highlights academic support initiative

VERMA
GURDASPUR, FEB 13

Gurdaspur, Punjab: Chandigarh University officially launched the CUCET (Chandigarh University Common Entrance Test) 2026 Scholarship during a press conference held in Gurdaspur, Punjab. Prof. Dr. R. S. Bawa, Advisor to the Chancellor of Chandigarh University, along with a student representative, unveiled the CUCET 2026 scholarship initiative. The event highlighted the university's continued commitment to providing academic opportunities and financial assistance to deserving students through its entrance-based scholarship program. Addressing the



media, Prof. Dr. R. S. Bawa, accompanied by university officials, shared insights into the objectives and benefits of the CUCET 2026 scholarship.

He emphasized that the initiative aims to support meritorious students and encourage innovation and academic excellence. During the event, Chandigarh University officials also launched the official CUCET 2026 Scholarship

Portal website, making the application process accessible and transparent for students.

The launch marks an important step in expanding educational access and outreach in the region. The press conference concluded with an interactive session with media representatives, where university officials discussed the impact and vision of the scholarship program.

NEWS BRIEFS

Sant Shri Asaramji Ashram in Dadola village holds Parents' Day worship programme

ASHOK CHUGH PANIPAT: The scriptures state that "Mother is God, Father is God, and Teacher is God." If there is a place on earth considered most worthy of worship, it is that of one's parents and teachers. With their blessings, one can achieve success in every aspect of life. Concerning this theme, volunteers from Sant Shri Asaramji Ashram in Dadola village organised a Parents' Day worship programme at Adarsh Sheela Vidyapeeth School and encouraged all students to pledge to worship their parents on February 14th. Ashram Director Abhishek Bhai extended his best wishes to all the teachers and students present at the school on Parents' Day. Subhash Malik and his fellow volunteers from Shri Yoga Vedanta Seva Samiti, Gaurav, Akash, Kamlesh Malik, Pushpa Ahuja, and others, were present at the event.

CM calls upon african nations to accelerate growth through partnerships with Haryana

BUREAU CHANDIGARH, FEB 13

With the objective of giving a new direction to industrialization and economic cooperation in Haryana, the Haryana-Africa Strategic Partnership Meeting was organized on Friday at Surajkund in Faridabad. During the meeting, extensive deliberations were held on the vast possibilities of cooperation between Haryana and African countries in the fields of industry, trade, investment and technological collaboration. Ambassadors and High Commissioners from 21 African nations, along with representatives from industry and policymakers, participated in the meeting.

Addressing the gathering, Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini welcomed the international representatives and said that from the sacred and culturally rich land of Surajkund, a new chapter of India-Africa partnership has begun. The Surajkund International Crafts Mela serves as a global platform for folk traditions, handicrafts, creativity and human skill, strengthening cultural connections and economic cooperation.

The Chief Minister stated that India-Africa relations are founded on the principles of equality, mutual respect and shared development. In line with the vision of Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi, Haryana is committed at the state level to building long-term and strong relationships with African countries. Haryana is the first state in the country to establish a separate Department of Foreign Cooperation to promote international collaboration.



He said Haryana is emerging rapidly as a growth engine in agriculture, manufacturing, MSMEs, food processing, automobile components and startups. Due to its connectivity with the NCR, the state enjoys global connectivity and logistical strength, offering vast possibilities for multi-sectoral cooperation with African nations. Highlighting agriculture as a key area of India-Africa collaboration, he said Haryana's expertise in irrigation management, improved seeds, crop diversification, agricultural mechanization, dairy and post-harvest management can help strengthen food security in African countries.

He also mentioned the possibilities of joint farming, training programmes and technical partnerships with Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia and Rwanda. Agreements signed with the Tanzania Investment Centre and other agricultural and institutional bodies will promote trade, investment and agricultural cooperation. He added that there is significant scope for collaboration in automobiles, healthcare, IT, construction, skill development, startups, fintech and MSME sectors. Region-specific industrial and agriculture-based partnerships can be developed with countries across Southern, Western, Eastern and Northern Africa.

Describing renewable energy, water conservation and green development as shared moral responsibilities, the Chief Minister said joint efforts in solar energy, water management and environmental sustainability are essential for securing the future of coming generations.

Modi's "Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child" campaign has changed people's mindset, improved sex ratio: Krishan Bedi



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, FEBRUARY 13

Haryana's Social Justice and Empowerment Cabinet Minister Krishan Kumar Bedi said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has worked to eradicate the stigma of female foeticide in Haryana by launching the "Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child" campaign. As a result of this campaign, people's attitudes toward girls have changed, and the sex ratio has increased from 820 to over 900. Today, girls in the state are educated and safe, becoming a symbol of women's empowerment, which is a matter of pride. Bedi was speaking as the chief guest at the Prarambh Scholarship Awards ceremony organised by the Young India Academy in the auditorium of KVA DAV Women's College in Karnal on Friday, as part of his scheduled programme. On this occasion, Chief Guest Minister Krishna Bedi, MLA Jagmohan Anand, HIRD Director Prof. Virendra Chauhan, BJP District President Praveen Lather, Sugar Mill MD Aditi, and Provision DSP Rakhi Vishwakarma were honoured with bouquets, mementos, and shawls.

Minister Krishan Bedi distributed scholarships and awards on behalf of Young India. In his address, he said that the scriptures also state

that where women are worshipped, gods reside there. We must all respect women's power. Women are the only force that plays a vital role in changing the direction and condition of society. He added that women's power will also play an important role in realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of a developed India by 2047. He said that today, daughters of the country and the state are advancing in every field, and the government is boosting their morale and empowering them. He called on young students to understand their responsibility towards water conservation, environmental protection, and cleanliness campaigns and play their part in fulfilling the resolve of a developed India. He said that the Young India Academy is doing commendable work by providing scholarships, especially to girls. He thanked the academy's chairman, Dr. Anil Singhania, and his team for this.

At the event, MLA Jagmohan Anand said that the current central and state governments are taking innovative steps to advance girls in every field. Women's empowerment is being achieved by providing them education, security, better health, and employment. He said that former Chief Minister and current Union Minister Manohar Lal worked to transform the system in the state during his tenure.

Kids Planet Prem Public School incorporates outdoor sports into its educational programme

HANS RAJ YADAV KURUKSHETRA, FEB 13

Prioritising the all-round development of students, Kids Planet Prem Public School has incorporated outdoor sports into its educational program. School Manager Parminder Singh Bath believes that education should not be limited to bookish knowledge; sports and physical activities are equally instrumental in children's mental, physical, and emotional development. Toward this end, the school organised a special sports exposure visit for students in grades 2 and 3 at the Shivay Tennis Sports Academy in Sushant City, Sector 32. Under the guidance of professional coaches, the students learned the basic techniques of tennis and gained practical experience in sports discipline, team spirit, and self-confidence.

Encouraging the students, Shivay Tennis Sports Academy coach Ramandeep Kaushik

said that early involvement in sports plays a crucial role in developing children's personalities. He commended the school's efforts, saying that such initiatives inspire children to pursue



sports and expose them to new possibilities. It is a matter of great pride for the school that Suman Saini, a coach at Kids Planet Prem Public School and a

former national-level athlete, is training the students. Her experience, dedication, and guidance are a source of inspiration for the students. Under her leadership, sports activities at the school are gaining new direction and energy, motivating students to excel in sports.

School Principal Sunita Rani said that such efforts play a vital role in the overall development of children, and the support of parents is the school's greatest strength. The school will return the students to the academy after their exams to provide them with even better training and experience. School Manager Parminder Singh Bath believes that such events develop self-confidence, leadership skills, and a sense of discipline in children. "Let us all work together to make our children active, confident, and future-ready—because a healthy mind resides in a healthy body."

Speed up the verification of applications on the National Scholarship Portal: Uttam Singh

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, FEBRUARY 13

Deputy Commissioner Uttam Singh stated that the objective of the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme is to encourage students from economically weaker sections to pursue higher education. The concerned officials should ensure that no eligible student is deprived of this benefit due to technical reasons or lack of information. Deputy Commissioner Uttam Singh was giving instructions to officials at a review meeting on the Post-Matric Scholarship in the auditorium of the Mini Secretariat on Friday. Earlier, Chief Minister's Principal Secretary Arun Gupta held a meeting with all Deputy Commissioners via video conferencing from Chandigarh and provided necessary guidelines for the successful implementation of the scheme.



During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner stated that the deadline for applications on the scholarship portal is February 28. To ensure timely benefits are provided to eligible students from Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, the concerned departments and educational institutions should expedite the verification of applications on the National Scholarship Portal and process pending applications on priority. No eligible student in the district should be deprived of

benefits due to technical reasons or lack of information. The DC directed officials to make students aware of the scheme in all educational institutions. Staff at all educational institutions should encourage students to fill out forms so that more needy students can benefit from this financial assistance for higher education. CTM Monica Sharma, District Higher Education Officer Anita June, and officials from the Education Department were present at the meeting.

Sewerage line repair campaign begins on a war footing



KARAMBIR LADWA **LADWA:** The Public Health Department in Ladwa city has launched a war footing campaign to repair and thoroughly clean major sewerage pipelines. In light of the frequent sewage blockages in the city, the department has deployed specialized machinery, and residents are expected to receive immediate relief. Vijay Kankarwal, JE of the Public Health Department, stated that two large super-soaker machines have been brought from Ambala. These machines are being used to thoroughly clean and repair the city's main and major sewerage pipelines. He stated that the cleaning and repair of all major sewerage pipelines on Tehsil Road was completed on Thursday. On Friday, the cleaning and repair of major sewerage pipelines on Ladwa's Main Road continued. The drainage system is being streamlined by removing dirt, mud, and solid waste accumulated in pipelines using machines. JE Vijay Kankarwal appealed to city residents not to throw polythene, plastic, cloth, or other solid waste into the sewerage system, as this can clog pipelines and cause inconvenience to the public. He specifically urged dairy operators not to flush cow dung and straw into the sewerage system. This can cause blockages in the pipes, and the debris can get stuck in the mesh, causing complete blockages. He stated that the department's goal is to complete the cleaning and repair of major sewerage pipelines throughout the city by Saturday, so that residents do not face any sewerage-related problems in the future. This campaign by the Public Health Department is expected to strengthen the city's sanitation system.

Aditya Surjewala 9th free bus service departs for Khatu Shyam and Salasar Balaji

SANJAY SHARMA KAITHAL: Monthly free pilgrimage bus service to Baba Khatu Shyam and Salasar Dham, a popular initiative by Kaithal MLA Aditya Surjewala, continues. Ninth bus of this service departed from Old Bus Stand carrying devotees. MLA Aditya Surjewala flagged off bus. Devotees present at departure of bus expressed their heartfelt gratitude to MLA Aditya Surjewala and his family for this unique service. Devotees expressed their gratitude that in this era of inflation, free travel, accommodation and food are a boon for economically disadvantaged families. Devotees Praveen Thapa, Raju Kodol, Narendra, Krishna Sharma, Chetan, Prakash Chand, Krishna and others said that previously, their dream of visiting Baba remained unfulfilled due to lack of money but now thanks to Aditya Bhai, they have this opportunity every month. Just sing bhajans, have darshan and return—no worries. Other devotees traveling on bus, Ganga, Prem, Kailash, Ramprasad, Keshav, Shankar, Basu, Vishnu Devi, Maya Devi, Deepali, Deepak Kumar and others enthusiastically expressed that this service is example for Kaithal region.



Khair trees axed from reserved forest area of Darpur seized

PRITI SAINI SADHAURA: A Wildlife Inspector is posted in Kalesar. On February 11th, at around 8:00 am, employee Mobin Khan, Deputy Forest Officer, received information from a special informant that some people would be cutting Khair wood from the Darpur forest and loading it on a motorcycle. Upon receiving the information, employee Mobin Khan, Deputy Forest Officer, Darpur Block In-charge, Sandeep Singh, Forest Guard, Darpur, set up a checkpoint on the village road outside the Darpur forest. At around 9:00 am, a motorcycle was seen coming from the forest. When the staff signaled it to stop with a torch, the rider abandoned the motorcycle and ran towards the fields. Sandeep, Forest Guard, identified the motorcycle as Alim, son of Qayamudin, resident of Darpur. Upon checking the motorcycle, three pieces of Khair wood were found hidden in the grass, which the department seized. The next day, on the morning of February 12, Forest Guard Sandeep Singh conducted a search of the Darpur forest. He discovered the trunks of three freshly cut Khair trees, along with six unpeeled pieces of Khair. These were brought to the headquarters and, after being brought to the Wildlife Inspector's office in Kalesar, a log list was prepared of the wood loaded on the Hero Splendor Black motorcycle and the nine pieces of wood recovered from the forest. The departmental investigation revealed that this crime was committed by Alim, son of Qaymuddin, Talim, son of Qaymuddin, Akbar, son of Fakruddin, and Dilshad, son of Sharif, residents of Darpur village. The wood was cut from the Darpur area of the Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary. This area is a reserve area under Section 26A of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, where entry is prohibited under Section 27 and destruction of wildlife habitat is prohibited under Section 29.

RANVIR PARASHAR CHANDIGARH, FEB 13

Haryana's Energy, Transport and Labor Minister, Anil Vij today chaired the District Public Grievances Redressal Committee meeting in Kaithal and issued strict directions in several cases, reaffirming the government's commitment to accountability and prompt redressal of public grievances. During the hearing of a land dispute case, the Minister ordered the immediate suspension of an Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) and directed that a case be registered. In another matter, he instructed that an FIR be lodged against a Junior Engineer (JE) following allegations of bribery. A total of 15 complaints—nine pending and six new—were taken up during the meeting. The Minister maintained a firm stance and emphasized that officers must act swiftly and responsibly on complaints received from the public. Acting on a complaint



alleging financial irregularities in works executed over the past three-and-a-half years by the Rajound Municipal Committee, Sh. Vij ordered a detailed investigation by the Haryana Vigilance Department. In a separate matter concerning illegal borewell connections in a housing scheme colony in Village Pai, he directed the constitution of an inquiry committee under the chairmanship of the ADC, with instructions to submit its report

at the next meeting.

The Minister made it clear that if any complaint is found to be false, action will also be taken against the complainant as per rules. He further ordered recovery of financial assistance disbursed under the Marriage Shagun Scheme to a beneficiary found ineligible. In a complaint filed by Sandeep Malik of Village Titram and others, alleging improper transfer and cancellation of a land-related case with-

Central Bank of India organises mega agricultural outreach programme in Karnal

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, FEBRUARY 13

The regional office of the Central Bank of India organised a mega agricultural loan outreach programme at the auditorium of the Block Development and Panchayat Officer's office in Karnal.

Asandh Tehsildar Navjot Kaur Brar attended the programme as the chief guest. Senior officials of Central Bank of India, including Kavita Thakur, General Manager from the Central Office, and Mahavir Prasad Meena, Regional Head of the Karnal Regional Office, were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Kavita Thakur highlighted the importance of the agricultural sector in the country's economy and elaborated on the various agricultural schemes

being implemented by Central Bank of India for the benefit of farmers. Following this, Mahavir Prasad Meena provided detailed information about the



services being offered by the bank's branches in the Karnal region.

During the programme, loan sanction letters amount-

ing to 100 crore were distributed to beneficiaries. The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Anil Rana, Assistant General Manager of

the Karnal branch, who expressed gratitude to all the dignitaries and participants for attending the programme.

Cong on the move to strengthening roots, solving civic issues

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL:

The District Congress Committee held an important meeting which was chaired by District President (Urban) Parag Gaba to strengthen the organization. Party officials and workers enthusiastically participated in the meeting and discussed organizational expansion and other city issues. The meeting began with the agenda of strengthening the organizational structure. Speakers stated that activating the organization at the booth level will be a priority in the future. Responsibilities will be assigned to workers in each ward and area so that public concerns can be immediately addressed. Workers were urged to intensify public relations campaigns and reach out to every household. District President Parag Gaba and Congress workers noted that many of the city's roads were in poor condition causing a lot of significant inconvenience to citizens, businesses and motorists. Regarding healthcare, they noted the shortage of doctors at Kalpana Chawla Medical Hospital and the patients were not getting timely treatment. They urged the government and administration to urgently recruit the necessary staff at the hospital. Concerns were also expressed about the rising crime rate in Karnal. Finally, the District President called on all officials and workers to unite and strengthen the organization.



Congress increased old age pension fivefold, BJP only doubled it: Bhupinder Singh Hooda

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA CHANDIGARH: Former Haryana Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda has strongly objected to the alleged cutting of old age pensions by the BJP government, accusing it of targeting the poor and elderly.

Addressing mediapersons at his residence, Hooda said that the BJP, emboldened by winning power for the third time, is "indiscriminately" cancelling ration cards of poor families and stopping pensions of senior citizens. He claimed that in Ambala district alone, around 54,000 Below Poverty Line ration cards and pensions have been discontinued.

Referring to central government data, he alleged that after securing votes in the Haryana Assembly elections, the government has cancelled more than 14 lakh ration cards in the state, the highest in the

country. He further claimed that pensions of thousands of elderly beneficiaries are also being withdrawn.

Hooda said that while elder-

Congress government, old age pension was increased from ₹300 to ₹1,500, marking a fivefold rise of 400 per cent. In contrast, he said, the BJP government has increased the pension by only twofold, or 100 per cent, over 11 years, despite inflation rising three to four times during the same period.

The Leader of Opposition further alleged that during the Congress tenure there was no system like the Family ID to determine income eligibility for pension. He said the Congress treated old age pension as a "Samman Bhatta" linked to the dignity of senior citizens, whereas the present government has turned it into a discretionary benefit. He alleged that since complete control of Family ID data rests with the government, incomes can be revised overnight, leading to pension cancellations.



ly citizens are repeatedly visiting government offices to get their pensions restored, the government is claiming that no pension has been stopped. He termed this attitude as adding "insult to injury" for affected families.

He stated that during the

EDITORIAL

Afghanistan-Iran trade tops \$5 billion, boosting provincial economies

Trade between Afghanistan and neighboring Iran has surged, with officials reporting that the total volume of commercial exchanges between the two countries has reached approximately \$5 billion in the current solar year, according to a report by Tolo News. The announcement highlights the growing economic ties and the expanding role of cross-border commerce in Afghanistan's provincial markets. The figure was disclosed at an event in Herat province, where local and Iranian officials gathered to mark the 47th anniversary of Iran's Islamic Revolution. At the ceremony, Iran's Consul General in Herat, Ali Reza Marhamati, emphasised the dramatic increase in trade flows, noting: "Last year, we transported about 5,000 tons of goods per month, and now this figure has reached more than 90,000 tons." This jump reflects both enhancements in logistics infrastructure and greater facilitation of customs and border procedures between the two nations. According to the Herat Chamber of Industries and Mines, the expanding commerce is driven largely by the Herat-Khaf railway, which has significantly eased the movement of goods. Local officials described Iran as Afghanistan's largest trading partner, with the bulk of commercial goods either imported directly from Iran or routed into Afghanistan through Iranian territory - a trend that has become especially important in light of disruptions to trade routes with Pakistan. Economic analysts in the region say the expanding trade corridor is helping provincial economies absorb supply chain shocks and stabilise local markets. One analyst, Sayed Agha Farzan, said: "It is beneficial for both countries because we need to import certain raw materials from Iran, and Iran also needs raw materials available in Afghanistan. The border we share with Iran is considered the most independent economic border between the two countries." This uptick in trade comes amid broader efforts by provincial authorities to diversify economic partnerships and strengthen commercial links beyond traditional channels. For many provincial traders, Iranian markets now serve as key hubs for importing machinery, construction materials and consumer goods, while small amounts of Afghan products continue to find buyers across the border. Herat's trade boom also reflects a pragmatic response to shifting regional dynamics. With border crossings with Pakistan remaining closed or restricted, Afghan traders have increasingly turned to Iranian and Central Asian routes for moving goods. The growth in bilateral trade thus serves as both a lifeline for provincial businesses and a signal of Afghanistan's adaptation to changing economic realities. Local officials and business leaders are now calling for continued investment in infrastructure, from rail links to storage facilities at border points, to sustain and further expand this trade momentum. They argue that deepening these economic connections could bolster employment and generate revenue for provinces long affected by conflict and limited market access.

India-Bangladesh: From Frosty to Warmer Climes

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi who has on Friday morning tweeted his congratulations to BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman following his party's landslide victory in Bangladesh's national elections may make a personal effort to cultivate the newly minted leader.

Top Bangladesh officials said there was a distinct possibility of the two talking to each other soon, marking a new chapter in relations between the two neighbours, which have been frosty for some time.

India's discomfort with an evidently inimical Mohammad Yunus-led government in Dhaka has been well know. Relations had dipped to a new low when it was suspected that the current regime had engineered protests outside Indian missions in Bangladesh which included instances of attacks.

However, analysts do not expect an immediate rush towards bonhomie but rather a measured and structured approach.

Despite the BNP's victory, Rahman is unlikely to move too swiftly in warming ties with India.

Anti-India sentiment has long been a potent political instrument in Bangladesh's domestic politics. Any perception of being overly eager to court New Delhi could hand ammunition to his political opponents seeking to portray the new government as compromising national interests.

As a result, progress on two of the most sensitive bilateral issues, trade and river water sharing, is expected to be steady but not necessarily on the fast lane.

Bangladesh has consistently sought expanded market access and resolution of long-pending water-sharing agreements. India,



for its part, remains concerned about security cooperation and its regional strategic alignment. "The negotiations are likely to proceed in a pragmatic but measured manner," top Indian officials said. Zafar Sobhan, a prominent Bangladeshi intellectual and editor, argues that the incoming BNP government faces multiple challenges beyond foreign policy recalibration.

"The relationship with India is certainly one," he notes, "but it is only one among several major tests."

A second major challenge will be managing the political future of

the Awami League. The BNP has long demanded restrictions on its principal rival. However, outright political exclusion carries risks, both domestically and internationally. Some degree of accommodation may ultimately prove necessary to preserve political stability and democratic credibility.

The most sensitive issue, however, revolves around former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Bringing Hasina back to Bangladesh would be politically explosive. It could inflame domestic tensions, provoke street mobilisation, and complicate

Dhaka's internal politics to the extent that there could be a swift change in government.

Not to speak of complicating relations with New Delhi, where she currently resides. At the same time, the BNP cannot openly advocate her continued exile in India without appearing politically compromised.

For the new government, therefore, allowing Hasina to remain abroad may be the least destabilising option, while paying lip-sympathy to the old Yunus demand for her return.

The coming weeks will test the BNP's political dexterity. It must

reassure domestic constituencies, stabilize a polarised political landscape, and recalibrate relations with India without appearing subservient.

BNP's sagacity will also be tested on other fronts. Journalists and academics such as Shyamal Dutta, Prof Abul Barkat, who were carted off to jail on various charges ranging from murder, spying, to corruption, may not immediately be freed. But with Zthe gag earlier seen on Dhaka's media taken off, their cases may not be adjudged in the perfunctory and vengeful manner that was clearly visible.

SKT-based exclusion an attack on Dalit and backward class rights



Public recruitment processes are meant to ensure fairness, representation and equal opportunity. However, when selection criteria function less as tools to assess competence and more as mechanisms of exclusion, they raise serious constitutional, social and ethical concerns. The mandatory 35 per cent qualifying benchmark introduced in the Subject Knowledge Test under the Haryana Public Service Commission now appears disturbingly similar to the discredited administrative tag of "Not Found Suitable", a device historically used to deny appointments without transparent justification. In its present form, the 35 per cent rule risks institutionalising a modern form of caste hierarchy, concealed in the language of merit. In earlier recruitment systems, particularly in universities and the judiciary, the "Not Found Suitable" label was frequently applied to reject large numbers of candidates,

disproportionately affecting Dalits and backward classes. Despite its questionable legal standing, the tag survived as a convenient method to keep posts vacant while maintaining the illusion of a fair process.

The 35 per cent qualifying criterion in the Subject Knowledge Test now seems to be performing the same function. Presented as a neutral measure of minimum competence, its outcomes tell a different story. Instead of facilitating selection, it has resulted in mass disqualifications, extensive vacancies and a visibly unequal exclusion of reserved category candidates.

The current three-tier recruitment process comprises a screening test with a minimum qualifying benchmark, followed by the Subject Knowledge Test with a 35 per cent cut-off, and finally an interview. On paper, this structure appears orderly. In practice, however, the Subject Knowledge Test has become a bottleneck. While candidates are shortlisted for the screening test in proportion to advertised vacancies, the Subject Knowledge Test applies an absolute cut-off. The result has been that even advertised posts remain unfilled. In PGT Computer Science, for instance, 1,672 out of 1,711 posts remained vacant. In the case of AMO, 275 posts were left unfilled, while in English assistant professorships, 468 posts remained vacant. The issue is not the absence of candidates, but the systematic exclusion of otherwise eligible applicants. The impact on reserved categories has been

disproportionately severe. In subjects such as PGT Physics, Sanskrit, Physical Education and posts in the Mewat region, the number of qualified candidates was often limited to one or two against dozens of vacancies. In assistant professor recruitments, the pattern is stark. Out of 298 candidates in BC-A, only 47 qualified; in BC-B, 46 out of 130; in SC categories including OSC and DSC, just 29 out of 392; and in EWS, 44 out of 196. In several subjects, results for reserved categories were zero or in single digits despite vacancies remaining unfilled. This raises an unavoidable question: is this merely coincidence, or a structured exclusion of Dalits and backward classes? Supporters of the 35 per cent benchmark, including the HPSC leadership, argue that it safeguards academic quality.

This claim does not withstand scrutiny. If merit were genuinely the objective, posts would not remain vacant despite a large pool of applicants. Merit cannot be divorced from social context, as centuries of exclusion, unequal access to resources and institutional discrimination directly influence examination outcomes. The mechanical application of a uniform cut-off ignores the constitutional principles of representation and social justice. What emerges instead is a hierarchy in which those who cross the 35 per cent threshold are deemed "worthy", while those who fall short, largely from SC, BC and EWS backgrounds, are silently labelled unfit. This logic echoes the caste order

where social position determined access to knowledge, power and profession. The instruments have changed, with score sheets replacing scriptures, but the outcomes appear alarmingly similar. Dalits and backward classes were excluded then, and they are being excluded now. The irony is stark. On one hand, the government speaks of an acute shortage of qualified teachers and professors. On the other, hundreds of posts are deliberately left vacant. Students suffer, institutions weaken, and public resources are wasted.

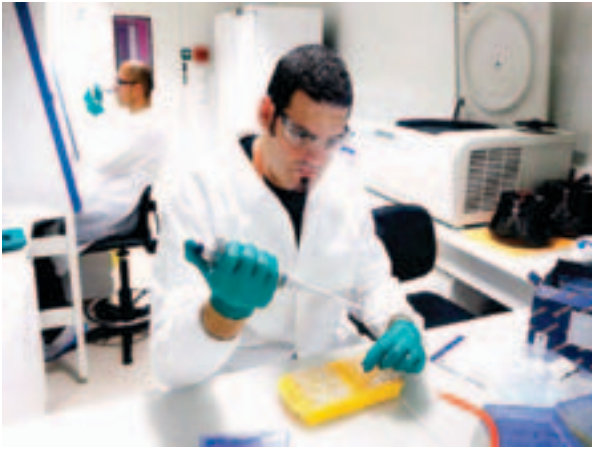
The 35 per cent Subject Knowledge Test criterion has effectively replaced the "Not Found Suitable" label, appearing legally sanitised but operating as a socially regressive mechanism of exclusion. It weakens the spirit of reservation, violates the principle of proportional representation and recreates a graded notion of merit that resembles a modern caste system. If recruitment institutions truly believe in merit, transparency and social justice, this criterion must be revisited. Options include aligning selection with the number of vacancies, rationalising cut-offs, or ensuring genuine category-wise fairness. Otherwise, the 35 per cent rule will not stand as a symbol of excellence, but as evidence of how old injustices are revived in new administrative forms.

Former member, Haryana Public Service Commission

Scientists find clue to human brain evolution in finger length: Study

Human evolution has long been tied to growing brain size, and new research suggests prenatal hormones may have played a surprising role. By studying the relative lengths of the index and ring fingers, a marker of prenatal exposure to oestrogen and testosterone, researchers found that higher prenatal oestrogen exposure was associated with larger head size in newborn boys. Human evolution is closely tied to a steady increase in brain size. New research suggests that this expansion may be partly influenced by pre-birth oestrogen levels, with an unexpected indicator in the length of our fingers. Professor John Manning, part of Swansea's Applied Sports, Technology, Exercise and Medicine (A-STEM) research team, has spent years studying what is known as digit ratio. This measure compares the length of the index finger to the ring finger, a relationship called the 2D:4D ratio. Scientists have shown that this ratio reflects the balance of

oestrogen and testosterone a fetus is exposed to during the first trimester of pregnancy. When prenatal oestrogen levels are higher relative to testosterone, the index finger tends to be longer than the ring finger. In these cases, the 2D:4D value



is considered high. In his latest study, Professor Manning worked with researchers from Istanbul University's Department of Anthropology. Their findings were recently published in the journal Early Human Development.

Because head circumference in newborns is strongly linked to brain size and later measures of intelligence, the research team examined both finger ratios and head size in a group of 225 newborns. The group included 100 boys and 125

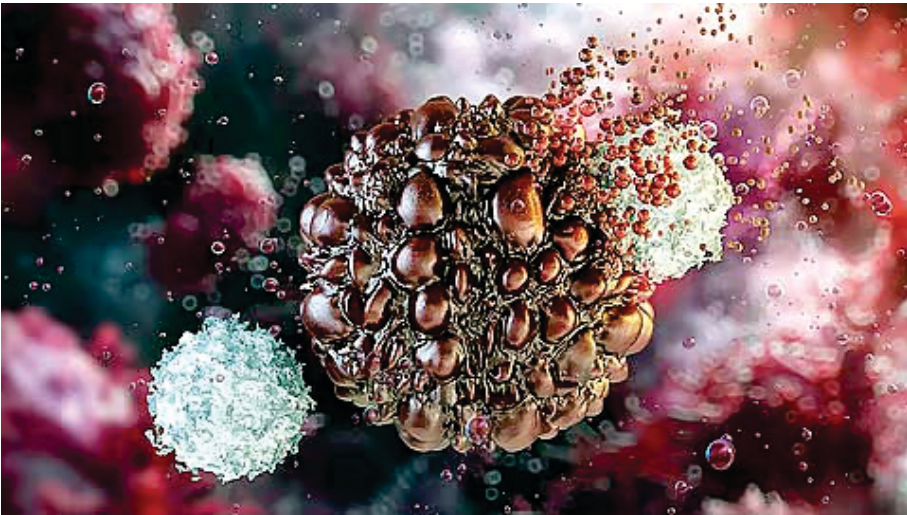
girls. The results showed a clear pattern in boys. Higher 2D:4D ratios, which point to greater prenatal estrogen exposure, were associated with larger head circumference. This relationship did not appear in girls. Professor Manning explained the broader significance of the findings. "This finding is relevant to human evolution because increases in brain size are found alongside feminisation of the skeleton, what is known as the estrogenized ape hypothesis. High values of

2D:4D in males have been found to be related to elevated rates of heart problems, poor sperm counts and predisposition to schizophrenia. However, increases in brain size may offset these problems.

Scientists solve a major roadblock in cancer cell therapy: Study

Researchers have found a reliable way to grow helper T cells from stem cells, solving a major challenge in immune-based cancer therapy. Helper T cells act as the immune system's coordinators, helping other immune cells fight longer and harder. The team discovered how to precisely control a key signal that determines which type of T cell forms. This advance could lead to ready-made cell therapies that are cheaper, faster, and easier to access. For the first time, researchers at the University of British Columbia have shown how to consistently produce a crucial type of human immune cell, known as helper T cells, from stem cells in a controlled lab setting. The research, published on January 7 in Cell Stem Cell, removes a major barrier that has slowed the development, affordability, and large-scale production of cell therapies. By solving this problem, the work could help make off-the-shelf treatments more accessible and effective for

conditions such as cancer, infectious diseases, autoimmune disorders, and more. "Engineered cell therapies are transforming modern medicine," said co-senior author Dr. Peter Zandstra, professor and director of the UBC School of Biomedical Engineering. "This study addresses one of the biggest challenges in making these lifesaving treatments accessible to more people, showing for the first time a reliable and scalable way to grow multiple immune cell types." The Promise and Limits of Living Drugs Over the past several years, engineered cell therapies such as CAR-T treatments have produced dramatic, sometimes lifesaving results for people with cancers that were once considered untreatable. These therapies work by reprogramming a patient's immune cells to recognise and destroy disease, effectively turning those cells into 'living drugs'. Even with their success, cell therapies remain costly, complex to manufacture, and out of



reach for many patients around the world. One key reason is that most existing treatments rely on a patient's own immune cells, which must be collected and specially prepared over several weeks for each

individual. "The long-term goal is to have off-the-shelf cell therapies that are manufactured ahead of time and on a larger scale from a renewable source like stem cells," said co-senior author Dr. Megan Levings, a

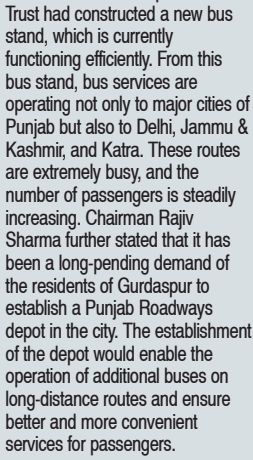
professor of surgery and biomedical engineering at UBC. "This would make treatments much more cost-effective and ready when patients need them," added Dr. Megan. Cancer cell therapies are most

effective when two types of immune cells work together. Killer T cells directly attack infected or cancerous cells. Helper T cells, which act as the immune system's conductors, detecting health threats, activating other immune cells and sustaining the immune responses over time, play a central coordinating role. While scientists have made progress using stem cells to create killer T cells in the lab, they have not been able to reliably generate helper T cells until now. "Helper T cells are essential for a strong and lasting immune response," said Dr. Levings. "It's critical that we have both to maximise the efficacy and flexibility of off-the-shelf therapies." A Key Advance Toward Stem Cell-Based Immune Therapies In the new study, the UBC research team addressed this long-standing challenge by carefully adjusting biological signals that guide how stem cells develop. This approach allowed them to precisely control whether stem cells

became helper T cells or killer T cells. The scientists found that a developmental signal known as Notch plays an important but time-sensitive role in immune cell formation. Notch is necessary early in development, but if the signal stays active for too long, it blocks the formation of helper T cells. "By precisely tuning when and how much this signal is reduced, we were able to direct stem cells to become either helper or killer T cells," said co-first author Dr. Ross Jones, a research associate in the Zandstra Lab. "We were able to do this in controlled laboratory conditions that are directly applicable in real-world biomanufacturing, which is an essential step toward turning this discovery into a viable therapy," said Dr. Ross Jones. The team also confirmed that the lab-grown helper T cells functioned like real immune cells, not just in appearance but in behaviour. The cells showed signs

of full maturity, carried a wide variety of immune receptors, and were able to develop into specialised subtypes with distinct immune roles. "These cells look and act like genuine human helper T cells," said co-first author Kevin Salim, a UBC PhD student in the Levings Lab. "That's critical for future therapeutic potential." Researchers say the ability to generate both helper and killer T cells, and to carefully control their balance, could greatly improve the effectiveness of stem cell-derived immune therapies. "This is a major step forward in our ability to develop scalable and affordable immune cell therapies," said Dr. Zandstra. "This technology now forms the foundation for testing the role of helper T cells in supporting the elimination of cancer cells and generating new types of helper T cell-derived cells, such as regulatory T cells, for clinical applications," added Dr. Zandstra.

Rajiv Sharma urges CM Mann to approve Punjab Roadways Depot in Gurdaspur



DINKAR GAWRI
HANSI, FEB 13

On Friday, Vinod Bhayana formally inaugurated the wall of the newly constructed Dhoobi Patra Pond in Garhi village of the Hansi assembly constituency. Approximately 11 lakh rupees were spent on this development project. During the event, the village Sarpanch, Sajjan Berwal, and the Panchs of the Gram Panchayat announced their joinings to the Bharatiya Janata Party. MLA Vinod Bhayana formally inducted them by presenting them with the party's turban. Addressing the

villagers present on the occasion. MLA Vinod Bhayana said that the construction of the wall of the Dhobi Patra Pond in Garhi village had been a long-standing demand of the villagers.

He said that the construction of a strong pond wall would promote water conservation and provide a clean and safe environment to the surrounding area. The MLA stated that the BJP government's goal is to provide basic amenities to every village, and that no shortages will be allowed in development work to achieve this.

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

KARNAL: A meeting was held today with all municipal councilors from Karnal Assembly constituency at the SDM office today under Electoral Registration Officer Pradeep Kumar. Meeting discussed councilors' cooperation with booth-level officers regarding mapping and ancestry matching related to upcoming Special Intensive Revision (SIR) for which special camps will be held at all polling stations in Karnal constituency on

February 14 and 15 from 9 am to 5 pm. Electoral Registration Officer Pradeep Kumar stated that during camp, all BLOs will map and match voters associated with their polling stations. He also requested councilors to cooperate with booth-level officers in mapping and matching voters in their areas, so that all information related to upcoming SIR can be made available to public and voters will not face any difficulties or problems in future work.

RAKESH BHAYANA
PANIPAT, FEB 13

A clear and firm message from the administration emerged during the weekly review meeting of the Samadhan Cell held at the District Secretariat auditorium on Friday. The meeting was chaired by Municipal Corporation Additional Commissioner Vivek Chaudhary, where pending complaints related to various departments were reviewed in detail. Officials were given strict instructions to ensure time-bound, transparent, and quality disposal of public grievances. The Additional Commissioner categorically stated that negligence in addressing public complaints would not be tolerated. He emphasized that citizens' issues are a priority for

the administration and any laxity at any level could invite accountability for the responsible officials. Addressing the officers during the meeting, Vivek Chaudhary said, "Public grievances are not merely files for us; they represent the hopes of the people. Ensuring fair, quality, and timely redressal of every complaint is our responsibility." During the review, clear directions were issued that no case should remain pending unnecessarily. If resolution of any complaint is not possible for valid reasons, the concerned complainant must be informed, and clear reasons should be recorded in the Action Taken Report (ATR). The Additional Commissioner directed all departments to work in coordination to prevent delays in resolving grievances.

SAJANJAY SHARMA
KAITHAL: Maharaja Surajmal was remembered by paying tributes on his 319th birth anniversary at the local Jat Educational Institute, Kaithal on Friday. A special program was organized on this occasion, in which the President of the Jat High School Society, Rajkumar Bainiwal, attended as the chief guest, along with the entire management committee. At outset of the program, the chief guest, along with the entire management committee, paid their respects to the brave warrior Maharaja Surajmal before his statue. On this occasion, Bainiwal said that Maharaja Surajmal was a great ruler, a skilled strategist, and a valiant warrior. He fought nearly 80 wars during his lifetime and emerged victorious in all of them. He was also a skilled administrator and implemented a well-organized governance system for farmers and merchants. Bainiwal concluded by saying that we should adopt his ideals and work style and continuously work towards realizing his dreams. On this occasion, Vice President of Jat High School Society Baljinder Banwala, General Secretary Advocate Rashmi Dhull, Treasurer Balkar Nain and Executive members Dr. Satyawar Majra, Dalbir Kairo, Mahavir Ravish, Mahavir Kundu, Kuldeep Singh, Vikram Songal, Rajat Rapadia, Jasvir Manas, Rajpal Guhna.

MAHENDER GOYAL

HISAR: Free emergency ambulance service provided by Bhai Kanhaiya Manav Seva Trust, Sirsa was inaugurated at Yadav Dharamshala by Ashok Kumar Garg, former Divisional Commissioner who arrived as chief guest. The program was presided over by social worker Rakesh Agarwal. Ashok Kumar Garg said that service to humanity is service to God and Padmashree Gurvinder Singh, chief servant of Bhai Kanhaiya Ashram, is a living example of this. Having turned his pain into medicine and setting an example for society. Such individuals truly deserve to be called saints who have made service to humanity their religion and despite being physically disabled, are ready to help people 24 hours a day. Gathering of all social organizations from Hisar and surrounding areas for this program is also an unparalleled example. Bhai Kanhaiya Manav Seva Trust, Sirsa, runs a free school for 400 underprivileged students and an ashram for over 420 destitute individuals. Free emergency ambulance service is available in Sirsa, Dabwali, Ellenabad, Rania and Fatehabad.

DALBIR MALIK

KURUKSHETRA: Jan Kalyan Manch Kurukshetra held painting competition based on portraits of great personalities at St. Peter's Convent School. Students from several schools in city participated. Students were extremely enthusiastic about painting competition. Upon arrival of Jan Kalyan Manch Kurukshetra officials, Principal Vipin Sharma warmly welcomed them. Painting competition began with Gayatri Mantra. All participants completed their paintings within stipulated time. Jury carefully evaluated paintings of all participants, with Krishna from VSN Model School winning first prize, Bhumika Bedi from St. Peter's Convent School winning second prize and Lalita from Guru Govind Nath Vidya Mandir winning third prize, bringing honor to their respective schools. All remaining participants in painting competition were honored with certificates of appreciation. All officials of social service organization Jan Kalyan Manch encouraged participants and said that competition is an opportunity to get ahead of each other, therefore work with double morale to participate in other competitions in future. Principal of St. Peter Convent School, Vipin Sharma, honoured all members of organization by giving them mementos on behalf of school.

RAHUL KOHLI

YAMUNANAGAR: To ease stress, fear and burden of board exams and to leave Class 12 with some fond memories, a farewell ceremony was held at DAV Public School. Class 11 students presented colorful program. Titles were awarded to Class 12 students, including Mr. Farewell Lavish, Miss Farewell Prachi, Miss Eve Hansika and Mr. Eve to Lakshya. All students made the day memorable with dancing, singing and lot of fun. Class 11 student Anamika gave an emotional speech and Himanshi recited a beautiful poem and sang, reliving old memories and wishing her seniors a bright future. Stage was conducted by Class XI students Kashish and Prabnoor. School Principal Anoop Kumar Chopra said that while departure of Class XII students from this school is matter of sadness on one hand, it is also a matter of happiness, satisfaction and hope considering bright future of children. If students of school choose right direction in their lives and progress, then everyone will be happy and school will also be proud of them. Principal said that support, cooperation and blessings of all teachers will always be with children. It is everyone's wish that all children progress in life.

KAMAL SHARMA

TARAORI: A special prayer meeting was held at SMS Memorial Public School, Taraori on Friday to pay tribute to the martyrs of Pulwama terrorist attack and marked it a black day. The school community paid heartfelt tributes to the 40 CRPF soldiers martyred in the horrific attack. The meeting began with a prayer service. Following this, the students filled the atmosphere with reverence and emotion through patriotic songs and inspiring performances. Expressing their thoughts the students remembered the martyrs' unparalleled courage, dedication and supreme sacrifice for the nation. On this occasion, the entire school family observed two minutes silence and paid tribute to the brave soldiers. School Principal Dr. Vibha Kaushik said that the sacrifice of the brave martyrs of Pulwama would always remain immortal in the hearts of the countrymen.

RAKESH BHAYANA

PANIPAT: M.A. S.D. Public School, Panipat celebrated its Annual Sports Day with great enthusiasm and excitement. The primary objective of the event was to highlight the importance of sports alongside academics in students' lives. The school management believes that along with mental development, physical development of children is equally essential. Keeping this in mind, the school organizes various sports competitions from time to time. The Chief Guest on the occasion was Om Prakash Narwal, Inspector General of Police, HAP Madhubani (Karnal), who graced the event with his presence. Among the distinguished guests were Anup Kumar Garg (President, S.D. Education Society), Naresh Goyal (Secretary), Pawan Garg (Chairman, S.D. International School), Umesh Aggarwal (Chairman, APIT Panipat), Shrawan Mittal (Vice-Chairman), Vikul Bindal (Auditor).

KAMAL SHARMA

TARAORI: Pratap Public School, Taraori, organized an annual tribute paying ceremony in memory of the brave soldiers martyred in the Pulwama terrorist attack. The ceremony was held in the august presence of school director Pithi Chaudhary and Principal Vikas Utreja. The atmosphere throughout the event was filled with patriotism and respect. The young students of Class II paid tribute to the martyrs through special performances. The children's short play, which depicted the courage, sacrifice and patriotism of the brave soldiers in a simple but powerful manner moved everyone present. The students also recited inspirational poems in honour of the martyred soldiers. Many children, holding the tricolor in their hands, raised thunderous slogans of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and 'Jai Hind,' filling the campus with patriotic fervor. On this occasion, Director Pithi Chaudhary praised the children's performances and said that it was essential to cultivate the spirit of patriotism and unity from childhood.

BUREAU
DHARAMSHALA: Vishwa Hindi Parishad has appointed Dr. Omprakash Prajapati, Assistant Professor, at Central University of Himachal Pradesh (CUHP), as President of Himachal Pradesh Academic Cell. This appointment was made official through a formal letter issued by Dr. Vipin Kumar, National General Secretary of the Parishad. Dr. Vipin Kumar stated that Dr. Prajapati has been actively engaged in Hindi teaching, research, and language promotion since long time. His academic experience and research perspective will provide a new direction to Hindi-related educational programs, workshops, and research activities in Himachal Pradesh. Vishwa Hindi Parishad is a leading organization dedicated to the global promotion, development, and strengthening of the Hindi language. Its aim is to establish Hindi as a powerful international language through organizing international conferences, seminars, and workshops on regular basis. Among its major activities are the global dissemination of Hindi, promotion of international academic discourse, and encouragement of cultural dialogue. The Parishad organized a grand conference on "Sri Aurobindo: Hindi Language and Developed India" on 25–26 July 2024 at the NDMC Convention Centre, New Delhi, in which scholars from India and abroad participated.

DALBIR MALIK

KURUKSHETRA: Prioritising the holistic development of students, Kids Planet Prem Public School has given outdoor sports activities a prominent place in its educational programme. School Manager Parminder Singh Bath believes that education should not be limited to

bookish knowledge; sports and physical activities are equally helpful in children's mental, physical, and emotional development. Toward this end, the school organized a special sports exposure visit for students in grades 2 and 3 at the Shivaay Tennis Sports Academy in Sushant City, Sector 32.



Paras Health Panchkula Detects Hidden Uric Acid Disorder During ACL Surgery, Successfully Restores Knee Stability

PANCHKULA : Persistent joint pain, repeated injuries, or delayed recovery should never be ignored, as they may indicate an underlying metabolic or systemic condition. Reinforcing this important public awareness message, Paras Health Panchkula successfully treated a 42-year-old fitness enthusiast after discovering a hidden uric acid disorder during what was initially planned as a routine ACL reconstruction surgery. The patient, who had been living with a previously diagnosed ligament tear for nearly five years, reported worsening symptoms after twisting his right knee during a workout. MRI findings revealed a partial tear of the Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) along with meniscus damage. Arthroscopic ligament reconstruction was advised to restore stability.

Turkish Airlines Unveils Its 500th Aircraft Featuring a Special Livery of 100,000 Employees

Chandigarh: Turkish Airlines, operating one of Europe's youngest fleets, has reached another significant milestone in its journey that began in 1933 with a modest fleet of five aircraft. Joining the fleet at the end of 2025, the 500th aircraft named "TK Family" was unveiled during a special launch event today by the Turkish flag carrier. Turkish Airlines Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee Prof. Ahmet Bolat stated at this special event: "Our 500th aircraft represents far more than a new addition to our fleet; it stands as a symbol of 93 years of dedication, determination, and shared vision.

The Truecaller Community Blocked Nearly 1,200 Crore Unwanted Calls in 2025

CHANDIGARH: Indians received more than 4,000 crore spam calls in 2025, reflecting the growing scale of fraud, disruption, and digital risk in everyday communication. In India, every phone call carries meaning - it can open doors to opportunity, deliver vital information, or even expose individuals to serious risk. As the country accelerates towards becoming a digitally empowered and globally competitive economy under the vision of Viksit Bharat, trust in communication has become a defining pillar of progress. Truecaller's latest report shows that 1,189 crore of these unwanted calls were blocked before reaching users, helping millions avoid scams, wasted time, and unnecessary stress in an increasingly connected economy. With over 100 crore active phone connections in the country powering commerce, governance, and personal relationships, Truecaller today released its 2025 India Insights Report, offering a data-driven view of how spam and fraud are reshaping the nation's communication landscape and how technology is helping protect crores of people every day.

Axis Max Life Reports 20% YoY growth in Individual Adjusted First Year Premium in 9M FY'26

CHANDIGARH: Max Financial Services Limited has recorded consolidated revenue excluding investment income at Rs. 24,625 crores, growing 18% year-on-year in 9M FY'26. The consolidated revenue including investment income stands at Rs. 36,891 crores and consolidated Profit after tax (PAT) at Rs. 137 crores in 9M FY'26. Continuing to outpace the private life insurance industry in 9M FY'26, Axis Max Life Insurance Limited, has reported new business growth (Individual Adjusted First Year Premium) of 20% in 9M FY'26, reaching Rs. 6,396 crores. This has resulted in a private market share gain of 53 basis points (bps) to 9.8%. As one of the fastest growing life insurers, Axis Max Life has delivered a 21% YoY Annualized Premium Equivalent (APE) growth in the first nine months of the fiscal.

Jindal Stainless partners with Indian Railways to develop India's first corrosion-resistant stainless steel salt container

HISAR: Reinforcing its focus on modernising transport logistics, Jindal Stainless, India's leading stainless steel manufacturer, has developed the country's first stainless steel container for salt transport for Indian Railways. The integration of stainless steel into salt transport logistics marks a pioneering step towards more durable and sustainable freight operations. The prototype successfully underwent loading and unloading trials at Bhimnagar, Gandhinagar, Gujarat on February 10, 2026, underscoring the government's active engagement with innovative, future-ready logistics solutions and signaling an important step towards potential commercial adoption. The 20-foot salt container has been fabricated entirely in stainless steel, including all their structural and load-bearing components. Jindal Stainless has used stainless steel 304 grade, known for its superior corrosion-resistance in chloride-rich environments, for the container body, while JT Grade (N7 as per BIS 6911), recognised for its high strength.

Shri Katar Raj Dham (Pakistan) Yatra on Mahashivratri

RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR : Thousands of pilgrims from across country will be deprived of Yama Shri Katar Raj Dham (Pakistan) Yatra this time. Therefore, they will not be able to celebrate the holy festival of Mahashivratri on the banks of Shri Katar Raj Amarkund, the second eye of earth, established by holy tears of Lord Shiva Shankar Ji Maharaj, who has been going there for last 40-50 years. These words were shared by Shiv Pratap Bajaj, coordinator of Shri Katar Raj Yatra and National President of Central Sanatan Dharma Sabha, Northern India, while speaking with journalists here. In view of the mutual situation between India and Pakistan, Central Sanatan Dharma Sabha has decided not to send a pilgrimage team there on the occasion of Mahashivratri this time. We had to take this decision amidst explosive situation within Pakistan.

Asian Paints Where The Heart Is returns with five exquisite home tours in Season 9

LUDHIANA—Asian Paints, India's leading paint and décor company, returns with the 9th season of its much-loved home décor and storytelling property, Asian Paints Where The Heart Is. This season opens the doors to five distinctive homes of some of India's most admired personalities, Sonakshi Sinha and Zaheer Iqbal, Gautam Gambhir, Keerthy Suresh and Antony Thattai, Archana Puran Singh and Parmeet Sethi, and Aman and Priya Gupta. While each home is different in style, geography and personality, they are united by a shared sense of warmth, authenticity and emotional depth. Across the season, viewers witness how homes become living canvases, shaped by relationships, routines, memories and the everyday moments that make life meaningful. Speaking on the launch, Amit Singhal, MD & CEO, Asian Paints said "With the ninth season of Asian Paints Where The Heart Is, we are proud to continue a journey that Asian Paints has been committed to for decades, helping Indians see their homes.

Health Secretary visits the reopened drug de-addiction and treatment centre



CHANDIGARH: The Drug De-Addiction and Treatment Centre (DDTC) at Government Multi-Specialty Hospital, Sector-16, Chandigarh, was reopened on 27th January 2026. Sh. Mandip Singh Bar, Health Secretary, UT Chandigarh visited the hospital today for the inspection of the newly established De-addiction Centre and to review the facilities and services provided for substance abuse treatment. The Centre, which has 10 beds and 2 additional beds reserved for women and VIP patients, is once again prepared to admit individuals seeking recovery from addiction and substance dependence. Present during the visit were Dr. Suran Singh, Director Health and other officials of health department. The admission process is simple and supportive. Patients are first screened in the OPD

by psychiatrists to check their readiness and motivation for treatment. Admission is voluntary, with

written consent taken from both patient and family. A family member stays with the patient throughout, offering constant encouragement and emotional support. The ward environment is warm, clean, and well-organised. Hygiene is maintained carefully, making the space safe and reassuring for patients and their families. A structured daily routine, including lights out at 10:00 p.m., helps patients build healthy habits. Group therapy, counseling, and other therapeutic activities form part of the recovery program. Recreational facilities such as newspapers, books, television, and sports

equipment keep patients engaged and motivated. Strict rules prohibit substances, gadgets, and outside food, with routine checks ensuring discipline and safety. The health secretary noted during his visit that patients would benefit from motivational study aids to help them during their stay. These will be implemented as soon as possible. The reopening reflects a renewed commitment to fight addiction with compassion, structure, and family involvement. With medical care, emotional support, and a supportive atmosphere, the DDTC provides the right conditions for patients to recover and rebuild their lives.

ARCHEX Expo Showcases 3,000+ Innovative Building Products in Chandigarh

CHANDIGARH: The four-day ARCHEX Expo, a premier architectural exhibition featuring interiors, exteriors and building materials, commenced today at Parade Ground, Sector 17, Chandigarh. The expo is being organised by Minds Media Management Pvt. Ltd. from February 13 to 16 and brings together over 250 stalls showcasing nearly 3,000 new products from leading national and international brands. The exhibition was inaugurated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony by Chief Guest Mandip Singh Bar, Home Secretary, UT Chandigarh. The event was graced by Guest of Honour Divesh Moudgil, former Mayor of Chandigarh and Member, Administrator's Advisory Council, UT Chandigarh. Directors of Minds Media Management Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Inder Dhirg and Mr. B.S. Rana, interacted with the media and highlighted the significance of the expo. Mr. Rana stated that the exhibition will be highly beneficial for individuals planning to build their dream homes, as it provides exposure to the latest industry trends and innovative products. Prominent entrepreneurs from the Tricity—Chandigarh, Panchkula and Mohali—along with renowned architects from across the country, are participating in the event. The opening day witnessed an overwhelming response, with visitors thronging the venue despite it being a weekday. Mr. Dhirga remarked that the strong exhibitor line-up and diverse product range are expected to draw even larger crowds over the weekend. The expo features a wide spectrum of categories, including decorative lighting, bath fittings, sanitary ware, tiles, safety and security systems, home automation, modular kitchens, furniture, doors and windows, elevators, electricals, wires and cables, water management solutions, roofing, hardware, building materials, glass, plumbing, pipes and fittings, solar systems, landscaping, garden solutions and flooring. Innovative stalls by top-performing companies will be awarded on the concluding day.



Projects worth Rs 7.03 crore gifted to the citizens of Ladwa city



KARAMBIR LADWA-Haryana State Child Welfare Council Vice President Suman Saini said that Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini's Ladwa was now illuminated with chandelier lights. Under his leadership the foundation stone of a development project or inauguration was being laid every day in the Ladwa Assembly. Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini was ensuring no shortage of funds for development projects in the urban and rural areas of the Ladwa Assembly. Ladwa will be the state's leading constituency in terms of development and other assemblies will recognize Ladwa as a model assembly. Haryana State Child Welfare Council Vice President Suman Saini was speaking at the inauguration and foundation stone laying ceremony of various projects held in Ladwa on Friday. She presented projects worth Rs 7.03 crore to the citizens of Ladwa city. These included the inauguration of lights installed at a cost of Rs 2.86 crore, a paved road to be built on the Rakshi River at a cost of Rs 2.8 crore, and the laying of the foundation stone for an underground pipeline to be laid at a cost of Rs 1.38 crore for the drainage of dirty water in the city. Vice President Suman Saini said that chandelier lights have been installed in the middle of the roads in the city at a cost of Rs 2 crore 86 lakh 39 thousand. These lights have been installed from Ambedkar Chowk to Indri Road, from Ambedkar Chowk to Yamunanagar Road and from Ambedkar Chowk to the municipal area on Kurukshetra Road.

RG Hospitals, Ludhiana joins prestigious “Mission Swasth Kavach” initiative

LUDHIANA: Strengthening its commitment to preventive healthcare and community well-being, RG Hospitals, Ludhiana (Ferozepur Road), became part of "Mission SwasthKavach", a public health awareness initiative aimed at promoting early detection through routine health monitoring. Inaugurated by Mr. Himanshu Jain, Honourable Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana, alongside renowned cardiologist Dr.Bishav Mohan, Professor & Head, Cardiology, Hero Heart DMC Hospital, the launch drew hospital leaders and medical experts to champion proactive wellness. Mission SwasthKavach is a major public health initiative in Ludhiana, Punjab, launched



in late 2025 by the district administration and Dayanand Medical College & Hospital (DMCH). It aims to train 50,000+ students and teachers in life-saving skills like CPR and blood pressure monitoring to combat hypertension. The program focuses on early detection, community health, and school-based screenings. Inspired by the ICMR's Hypertension Control Initiative, it unites health, education and industry for lasting impact. Deputy Commissioner Himanshu Jain called it "a community-driven movement for a healthier, stronger Ludhiana," praising the administration-academia-healthcare collaboration as a national benchmark and crediting Dr Bishav Mohan for its successful launch in the society last year. Now as part of the mission, RG Hospitals Ludhiana, established a dedicated free Blood Pressure (BP) checkup counter within the hospital premises for visitors and attendants. The initiative was designed to identify individuals with undiagnosed or borderline high blood pressure and guide them toward timely medical evaluation.

Union Budget 2026 Lays Strong Roadmap for 'Viksit Bharat 2047'

CHANDIGARH:Describing the Union Budget 2026 as growth-oriented and forward-looking, CS Arjun Tyagi said the Budget presents a bold and visionary roadmap towards achieving the goal of

Regional Council Member of The Institute of Company Secretaries of India – NIRC, stated that the Budget goes beyond being a routine financial statement and reflects a long-term development vision for the nation.



'Viksit Bharat 2047'. Speaking at a programme held in Chandigarh, CS Arjun Tyagi, Chairman of the CLGC Committee of the Punjab Chambers of Commerce and Industry and

He noted that the Budget offers significant relief to the middle class while extending strong support to industry and the MSME sector. Highlighting key measures, Tyagi pointed to record capital expenditure on infrastructure, policy backing for startups and innovation, simplification of the tax regime, promotion of digital compliance, and continued fiscal discipline as steps that will strengthen investor confidence. Tyagi further emphasized that the special focus on manufacturing expansion, employment generation, green energy, and the digital economy will play a pivotal role in transforming India into a developed nation by 2047. He expressed confidence that the Budget will enhance India's global competitiveness and accelerate the journey towards building a self-reliant, inclusive, and economically robust nation.

Intellect's Purple Fabric, India's Judgment-Centric Open Business Impact AI Platform, now available as “Enterprise AI on Tap”



CHANDIGARH : Intellect Design Arena Ltd., a global leader in AI-first enterprise financial technology, has announced that its Judgment-Centric Open Business Impact AI platform, Purple Fabric, is now available as "Enterprise AI on Tap" at a monthly subscription of ₹99,500. The offering enables up to 50 users to deploy and scale decision-grade AI without the need for heavy infrastructure investments. Positioned as a disruptive alternative to high-cost global probabilistic AI platforms, Purple Fabric aims to democratise enterprise AI adoption by delivering governance-ready, reliability-first artificial intelligence infrastructure. Conceptualised and engineered in

India since 2016 under the company's Enterprise AI Research Program, the platform reflects a structural shift in institutional AI deployment. Designed for mid-market enterprises, financial institutions, IT services firms, academic ecosystems and government bodies, Purple Fabric allows organisations to implement consequence-aware AI without building large in-house AI teams or committing to capital-intensive projects. Arun Jain, Chairman and Managing Director of Intellect Design Arena and Chief Architect of Purple Fabric, said enterprises now require trustworthy, judgment-centric AI capable of supporting accountable decisions across finance, healthcare and governance.

RBI approves reappointment of Sanjay Agarwal as MD & CEO of AU Small Finance Bank for a further three-year term

CHANDIGARH: AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB), India's largest Small Finance Bank and the first SFB in over a decade to receive in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to transition into a Universal Bank, today announced that the RBI, vide its letter dated February 12, 2026, has approved the reappointment of Sanjay Agarwal (DIN: 00009526) as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer for a further period of three years, effective April 19, 2026. On his reappointment, Sanjay Agarwal, Founder, MD & CEO, AU Small Finance Bank said, "I sincerely thank the Reserve Bank of India for its continued trust and approval of my reappointment. Their confidence in AU's governance, culture and long-term vision is deeply humbling. Over the years, we have built a Bank powered by inclusion, innovation, integrity and a strong sense of responsibility towards every stakeholder.

Subhash Barala praises Haryana's Meri Fasal Mera Byora model in Rajya Sabha

MAHENDER GOYAL

FATEHABAD: Rajya Sabha MP Subhash Barala on Friday raised the issue of Haryana's Integrated Fertilizer Management System and its integration with the Meri Fasal Mera Byora portal in the Rajya Sabha, calling it an effective example of transparent and accountable governance. He said that this digital initiative represents a structural reform in fertilizer distribution and subsidy management, ensuring financial discipline and protecting farmers' interests. The MP informed the House that the integration of the Integrated Fertilizer Management System and Meri Fasal Mera Byora has integrated the entire process of



farmer registration, digital verification of land and crop, fertiliser distribution, and subsidy monitoring into a single authentic digital platform. Now, urea, DAP, and other subsidized fertilisers are distributed only when the land and crop details recorded on the Meri Fasal Mera Byora portal are duly matched on the POS machine.

This technological system has effectively controlled irregularities such as unauthorised purchase, excess use, and fertiliser diversion. He stated that significant public savings have been achieved since the implementation of this

system. The Government of India has realised an estimated subsidy savings of approximately ₹700 crore due to the logical reduction in fertiliser consumption after October 8, 2025. This savings is proof that subsidies are now being limited to actual and verified agricultural use. MP Barala also stated that this model has proven helpful in accurately assessing fertiliser demand based on real-time data, planning better logistics, and ensuring timely availability. This has ensured farmers receive the necessary fertilisers on time and has brought transparency to the distribution system. He urged the Central Government to conduct a detailed study of Haryana's successful model and consider implementing it in a phased manner in other states, so that the national fertiliser subsidy system becomes more transparent, efficient, accountable, and sustainable.

Three- day athletic meet concludes at Sant Mohan Singh Khalsa Girls College, Barara

JAIBEER RANA THAMBER

BARARA—The three-day athletic meet organized at Sant Mohan Singh Khalsa Girls College, Barara concluded on Friday in an enthusiastic atmosphere. The program was organized under the guidance of College Principal Dr Daljeet Kaur and Head of Physical Education Department Madam Mini. During the athletic meet, the girls participated enthusiastically in various sports competitions and displayed their sporting skills brilliantly. This event encouraged the all-round development of the girl students and developed self-confidence, discipline and sportsmanship in them. Barara SDM Satendra Siwach was the chief guest and special guest Dr DS Kang participated in the closing ceremony. He honored the winning students and wished them a bright future. In his address, he said that the girl students should excel in the field of sports as well as education and through their all-round development. They should bring glory to the country and the state in the country and abroad. He also gave the message to the girl students to discharge their responsibilities towards the country honestly. College Principal Dr. Daljeet Kaur, while guiding the girl students, highlighted the importance of physical development along with education. She said that sports not only kept the body healthy but also played an important role in personality development. She inspired the girl students to actively participate in sports activities in future also.



A New Language of Love: Valentine's Gifting That Reflects Care and Intent

India: Valentine's Day is no longer just about grand gestures or one-day indulgences. Today, gifting is becoming more personal, thoughtful, and rooted in everyday care. As people look for ways to celebrate not just romantic partners, but also friends, family, and themselves, gifts that feel meaningful and practical are taking centre stage. This shift is opening the door to modern alternatives that move beyond chocolates and flowers with California Almonds emerging as a thoughtful gifting choice - combining great taste with everyday nourishment. They fit naturally into daily life, making them a gift that feels relevant long after Valentine's Day has passed. Naturally nutrient-rich and incredibly versatile, California Almonds blend effortlessly into daily routines, especially in the morning. From soaked almonds and smoothies to breakfast bowls, they support a growing lifestyle focus on balance, intention, and well-being. Gifting almonds is a simple way to say you care, not just for a day, but every day. A gift that celebrates care, every morning Small, consistent habits often make the biggest difference, and mornings set the tone for the day ahead. Adding California Almonds to a morning routine is an easy

step towards feeling nourished and energised. Packed with 15 essential nutrients, including protein, fibre, and healthy fats, almonds offer everyday goodness in a form that feels effortless. Ritika Samaddar, Regional Head of Dietetics, Max Healthcare – New Delhi, said, "I often recommend starting the day with California Almonds because of its protein and dietary fibre content. When included regularly, especially in the morning, almonds can support better blood sugar response, help manage fasting insulin levels, and contribute to weight management through their natural satiety. It's a simple habit that supports long-term lifestyle health." Sheela Krishnaswamy, Nutrition and Wellness Consultant, added, "A thoughtful gift today is one that supports wellbeing and Almonds can exactly be that. They are naturally nutrient-rich, convenient, and easy to include in everyday routines, especially as a morning habit. With protein, fibre, healthy fats, and some of the vitamins and minerals, regular consumption can support heart health, weight management, and even skin health. It's a gift that reflects care in the most practical way."

Official Mozambique e-Visa platform goes live for travellers from 183 countries, including India

CHANDIGARH—As Mozambique opens its doors to the world, the new digitally enabled e-Visa system forms part of the Government of Mozambique's broader digital transformation and border modernisation agenda, aimed at improving efficiency, transparency and traveller convenience in supporting increased tourism and investment flows into the country. Powered by VFS Global- the global leader in trusted technology services, empowering secure mobility for governments and citizens, the modernised digital platform introduces advanced automation, secure data processing and cloud-based infrastructure, enabling travellers from 183 countries worldwide, including India, to apply online for Mozambique visas through a secure, fully integrated e-Visa solution that manages non-judgmental and administrative aspects of visa applications. The solution covers multiple categories of VISA and ETA, including Tourist, Business, Crew Transhipment, Sports and Culture, Humanitarian Assistance, Oil and Gas, with stay durations ranging from short-term visas to long-term visas of up to two years, all through a single, unified system. Commenting on the initiative, Mr. Jiten Vyas, Chief Commercial Officer of VFS Global, said, "We are privileged to partner with the Government of Mozambique on this important digital transformation initiative, which reflects a shared commitment to facilitating secure and efficient global mobility.

JSW MG Motor India Unveils the MG MAJESTOR, India's first D+ Segment SUV

CHANDIGARH: JSW MG Motor India today showcased the India's MAJESTOR, its all-new offering as India's first D+ SUV crafted for customers who seek a lifestyle defined by bold presence, unyielding dominance, superior capability, rock-solid reliability, and unmatched refinement. After breaking cover at the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025, the MAJESTOR now claims center stage as MG's most rugged, durable, and premium SUV tailored for the Indian roads and beyond. Built for peak performance and to deliver commanding road presence and all-terrain performance, premium comfort, and advanced safety, the MAJESTOR showcases cutting-edge 4x4 prowess raising the bar with segment-leading innovations, luxury features, top-tier safety, and enduring build quality. Starting today the MAJESTOR is available for pre-booking while full range pricing and market availability will be announced closer to launch.

KRAFTON India Brings Nationwide College Campus Tour to Goswami Ganesh Dutta Sanatan Dharam College in Chandigarh

CHANDIGARH : KRAFTON India is bringing its nationwide College Campus Tour to Goswami Ganesh Dutta Sanatan Dharam College in Chandigarh on 15th and 16th February marking a significant milestone for the local Esports community. As part of the second edition of its flagship grassroots initiative, the campus activation will integrate professionally structured tournaments directly into Furfest, giving students their first opportunity to compete in an organized competitive environment. Students at GGSDS will compete in BGMI and Real Cricket tournaments with standardized formats, experienced tournament oversight, and clear advancement pathways. Unlike casual gaming, participants will experience the structure and competitive intensity of

professional Esports - complete with official rules, live commentary, and recognition for top performers. The Chandigarh leg is part of a nationwide expansion to 128 colleges, driven by overwhelming student demand. The tour's first edition engaged over 50,000 students across India, with the program initially planned for 64 colleges but expanding to 85 - a 32% increase—before scaling to its current reach. This growth reflects the rising appetite for credible competitive platforms at the college level, particularly in emerging Esports hubs beyond metro cities. Karan Pathak, Associate Director - Esports, KRAFTON India, said: "What we're seeing across campuses is a clear appetite for serious competition and recognition.

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)					
The Executive Engineer, BAR Division, HPPWD Sangrah, District Sirmour, H.P. on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the percentage rates bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of Contractors registered with HPPWD for the works detailed in the table:					
Sl. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Starting Date for Downloading Bid	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Deadline for Submission of Bid
1	Annual Maintenance Plan-I for the year 2026-27 On Nahar Dadashu Hanspurthar road Km. 36/00 to 87/00 MDR-I & Sola Meenars Road Km. 61/00 to 110/00 MDR-4 (Non PMGSY)(SH: Repair of pot holes and 30mm thick bituminous concrete Nahar Dadashu Hanspurthar road Km. 36/00 to 39/00 62/00 to 63/00 & 64/00 to 66/00 & Sola Meenars Road Km. 61/00 to 62/00, 65/00 to 67/00 & 68/00 to 69/00 = 10.000 kms.	1,55,62,970/-	13.02.2026	3.11,700/-	21.02.2026
2	Annual Maintenance Plan-I for the year 2026-27 On Renka Sataun Road Km. 0/00 to 13/450, Daliyano Gatta Mandawath Road Km. 0/00 to 12/00 Motha to Lana Mashhour Road(Mageva Suan) Km. 0/00 to 16/015 & Hanspurthar Kupri Road Km. 0/00 to 6/500 VR Road (Non PMGSY)(SH: Repair of pot holes and 30mm thick bituminous concrete on Renka Sataun Road Km. 2/00 to 4/00, Daliyano Gatta Mandawath Road Km. 8/00 to 9/00 & 11/00 to 12/00, Motha to Lana Mashhour Road(Mageva Suan) 0/00 to 1/00 Bituminous Concrete 30 mm thick using plastic based road =1.000 km & 4/00 to 7/00 30mm thick bituminous concrete & Hanspurthar Kupri Road Km. 0/00 to 2/00 & 5/00 to 6/500 = 12.500 kms.	1,81,50,332/-	13.02.2026	3.63,000/-	21.02.2026
3	Construction of Primary Health Centre Building Level-II at Chokar Tehsil Sangrah District Sirmour H.P.(SH - Balance work of Building portion etc.)	30,33,137/-	13.02.2026	60,700/-	21.02.2026
Bidders are advised to submit their bids as per instructions issued by the Engineer-in-Chief, HPPWD Shimla vide his office letter No. PW/CTR/32/20/Gent. Int. CPWD/2025-19111-210 dated 25.10.2021 and even file letter No. 37996-38995 dated 13.03.2023 in compliance of the Principal Secretary (PW) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh guidelines dated 07.10.2021 in continuation to notification issued by the Additional Chief Secretary (PW) to the Govt. of HP vide notification No. PBW(R/A)(3)/12020 dated 22.7.2020. Tenders are called on percentage rates as per directions of the Chief Engineer (SZ), HPPWD Shimla conveyed vide letter No. PW-CTR-29/Msc/2023-36299-329 dated 16.02.2023. The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in .					
DPR:HP-6410/2025-2026					
Sd/- Executive Engineer, HPPWD (R&R) Division Sangrah, Tel:Fax: 01703-248297 E-mail: ee-san-hp@nic.in On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh					

Mira Kapoor praises Shahid Kapoor's "best yet" performance in 'O' Romeo'

As 'O' Romeo' hit theatres on February 13, Mira Kapoor placed husband Shahid Kapoor firmly in the spotlight with a deeply personal Instagram tribute celebrating his latest release. Calling him her "ROMEO" and "destiny's child," Mira shared a heartfelt post that blended romance with professional pride, just as the film opened in cinemas nationwide. The post featured a series of intimate monochrome photographs capturing candid moments between the couple rather than posed, red-carpet frames, from the movie screening that took place on February 12. In one striking image, Mira is seen wearing a top emblazoned with "Juliet" while Shahid sits close beside her, a subtle yet symbolic nod to the film's Shakespearean echoes. In her caption, Mira praised Shahid's "relentless spirit" and described his craft as "talent beyond belief." "Spectacular is an understatement," she wrote, expressing admiration for his performance and cheering



for the film's theatrical run. She called 'O' Romeo' his "best yet" and urged audiences to watch it in theatres. https://www.instagram.com/p/DUq_AQdQcX/?img_index=2 Through her Instagram Stories, Mira also extended her appreciation to the wider team, including co-star Triptii Dimri, and applauded the film's background music. "TEAM O'ROMEO You'll created a world and a whirl. @vishalrbhardwaj you are a genius of finesse. And I will always cherish the times we laughed and laughed. To catch your tropes is like playing a thrilling game while relishing this new world. That BGM @triptldimri ferocity with innocence. I almost typed Afshan, you became het A woman of power, who doesn't wield it heavily @iamnnapatekar looks can kill. @tamannaahspeaks ETHEREAL. @nadiadwalagrandson evi-nashtiwari 15 @hussain.dalal @dishapatani And their entire cast & crew of O'Romeo: Ta Tha Thaiya! @shahidkapoor My Romeo, your best yet. Not a beat that missed."

Jagadhatr stars Sonakshi Batra and Farman Haider open up about #Shivdhatr's new romantic track Har Janam: "Nothing less than a movie song!"

CHANDIGARH : Zee TV's popular show Jagadhatr continues to receive immense love and appreciation from audience. With its gripping storyline, emotional depth, and powerful performances, Jagadhatr has struck a chord with viewers, making it one of the most talked-about shows on television. Among the many highlights of the show, the chemistry between Shivaay (played by Farman Haider) and Jagadhatr (played by Sonakshi Batra) has especially captured hearts, turning #Shivdhatr into a fan-favourite love story. Taking this love story a step further, the makers recently unveiled a brand-new romantic track, Har Janam, beautifully picturised on Shivaay and Jagadhatr. Fans have been showering praise on the song, calling it nothing less than a movie-style love anthem that perfectly reflects the depth of their bond. Sharing her excitement about the song, actress Sonakshi Batra said, "As an actor, getting the opportunity to explore different shades of love through music is always special, and shooting for Har Janam has truly been a beautiful experience for me. In Jagadhatr, this song captures the pure and unconditional love that Shivaay has for Jagadhatr. It shows how he stands by her through every phase of life like a shadow that never leaves. That unwavering support and silent strength define their bond so beautifully. Shooting this song with Farman Haider, who plays Shivaay, was truly memorable. We shot it for almost 3 days across various locations, paying attention to every little detail to ensure it looked nothing less than a movie song. The scale, the emotions, the visuals, everything was crafted with so much care."



Legendary singer Mohammed Rafi's songs to resonate at 'Rafi Nite'



CHANDIGARH: A grand musical evening 'Rafi Nite', dedicated to the legendary singer Mohammed Rafi, will be organised on February 14 at 5:00 pm at Tagore Theatre, Sector 18, Chandigarh, under the joint aegis of the Rafi Memorial Cultural Society and GB Realty. The special evening will feature soulful renditions of Mohammed Rafi's evergreen songs. Addressing a press conference at the Chandigarh Press Club, Sector 27, President of the Rafi Memorial Cultural Society, G.S. Grewal said that Mohammed Rafi was not just a singer but the very soul of Indian music. Through 'Rafi Nite,' the society aims to carry forward his immortal legacy to the younger generation. He informed that internationally acclaimed singer Dr. Saurav Kishan (Chhota Rafi) and renowned Mumbai-based singer Sampada Goswami will mesmerize the audience with popular songs of Rafi Sahab. He also stated that the renowned corporate - GB Realty is supporting the event. Jatinder Bajwa, Vice President, GB Realty, said that the company is not limited to real estate alone, but promoting art and culture is an important part of its corporate social responsibility. Events like 'Rafi Nite' provide positive energy and cultural enrichment to society. He added that Gurinder Bhatti, Chairman of GB Realty, will be present as the Guest of Honour during the event. General Secretary of the Society, Bal Mukand Sharma, informed that the Chief Guest of the programme will be Harpal Singh Cheema, Minister for Finance, Excise, Taxation and Planning, Government of Punjab. He said that the Rafi Memorial Cultural Society was formed in 2019 and has successfully organized six Rafi-themed programmes so far in Patiala and Chandigarh. On this occasion, Dr. S.K. Batish, Senior Vice President of the Society, said that Rafi Sahab's singing was a unique confluence of emotion and melody and the society's objective is to keep his musical legacy alive.

Cardi B hits back at Homeland Security over ICE remark, raises Epstein files question

In a sharp escalation of her ongoing criticism of US President Donald Trump, Grammy-winning rapper Cardi B has entered a public spat with the Department of Homeland Security following remarks she made about ICE during a recent concert. The controversy began on Wednesday night at her Palm Desert, California show on the 'Little Miss Drama Tour.' As per Variety, addressing the crowd from the stage, Cardi B spoke out against potential Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents attending the concert. "If ICE comes in here, we gon' jump their asses," she said, adding that she would not allow her fans to be taken away. The Department of Homeland Security's official X account responded to a TMZ report on her comments with a pointed remark. "As long as she doesn't drug and rob our agents, we'll consider that an improvement over her past behaviour." The post referenced Cardi B's past admission that, during her time working as a stripper,



she had drugged and robbed men. In 2019, the rapper addressed those claims, stating, "Whether or not they were poor choices at the time, I did what I had to do to survive," while also acknowledging she never claimed to be perfect, as per Variety. Cardi B quickly fired back at the agency, shifting the focus to the recently released files linked to Jeffrey Epstein. "If we talking about drugs let's

talk about Epstein and friends drugging underage girls to rape them. Why y'all don't wanna talk about the Epstein files?" she wrote in response.

The renewed attention comes as the Department of Justice recently unveiled more than three million additional documents related to Epstein. According to Variety, Trump's name appears more than 5,300 times in the files. He has denied any wrongdoing and has not faced legal consequences in connection with the documents. The Epstein revelations have also had ripple effects in the entertainment industry. Casey Wasserman, founder of Wasserman Group, is facing scrutiny over past ties to Ghislaine Maxwell, who was sentenced to 20 years in prison for sex trafficking. Artists, including Chappell Roan and Orville Peck, have since parted ways with the agency and publicly called for leadership changes.

Farhan Akhtar to play Pandit Ravi Shankar in Sam Mendes' four-film Beatles biopic

Farhan Akhtar is set to portray Bharat Ratna awardee and legendary Indian musician Pandit Ravi Shankar in director Sam Mendes' ambitious project, 'The Beatles: A Four-Film Cinematic Event.' The four-part biographical series on the iconic British band has officially begun production in the UK and is slated for a global theatrical release in April 2028 under Sony Pictures. Variety has confirmed Akhtar joins an expanding international ensemble that includes Lucy Boynton as Jane Asher, Morfydd Clark as Cynthia Lennon and Harry Lawtey as Stuart Sutcliffe. The films will chronicle the lives of the Fab Four, with each instalment focusing on a different



member of The Beatles. Akhtar, known for his performances in 'Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara', 'Bhaag Milkha Bhaag' and 'The Sky Is Pink,' as well as appearances in Marvel's Ms. Marvel and most recently 120 Bahadur, takes on the role of Shankar, the globally celebrated sitar virtuoso

who shared a deep musical association with George Harrison. The principal cast features Harris Dickinson as John Lennon, Paul Mescal as Paul McCartney, Joseph Quinn as George Harrison and Barry Keoghan as Ringo Starr. Additional casting includes Saoirse Ronan as Linda McCartney, James Norton as Brian Epstein, Anna Sawai as Yoko Ono, Aimee Lou Wood as Pattie Boyd, Harry Lloyd as George Martin and Mia McKenna-Bruce as Maureen Starkey, as per Variety. Behind the camera, Mendes directs all four films and produces alongside his Neal Street Productions partner, Pippa Harris and Julie Pastor, with Alexandra Derbyshire also producing.

Valentine 2026: Jaane Anjaane Hum Mile's Aayushi Khurrana on how playing Reet shaped her bond with husband Suraj Kakkar

CHANDIGARH: Zee TV's Jaane Anjaane Hum Mile, starring Bharat Ahlawat (Raghav) and Aayushi Khurrana (Reet), has been widely appreciated for its sensitive portrayal of love and relationships. While Raghav is intense and often struggles with anger rooted in past trauma, Reet represents patience, empathy, and a deep understanding of true love. As Valentine's Week celebrates the spirit of togetherness, Aayushi Khurrana reflects on how playing Reet has shaped her understanding of love and how those lessons influence her real-life relationship with her husband, Suraj Kakkar.

Aayushi Khurrana shares that portraying Reet helped her truly understand the deeper meaning of love. The actress says, "I got married to my partner Suraj within just a month of Jaane



Anjaane Hum Mile going on air. It felt almost surreal. Whatever Reet was going through on screen, I was experiencing similar emotions in my real life too. Portraying Reet made me understand that

love is not just about big gestures; it's about patience, understanding, compromises, and choosing your partner every single day." The actress further added, "Reet prioritises her family no matter what, and somewhere that stayed with me. It made me value my relationships more deeply and believe even more in love and marriage." Talking about Jaane Anjaane Hum Mile, the show is currently focusing on how Reet, even after many attempts, failed to stop Unnati's wedding as she was unable to reveal Vikrant's true face. Reet also failed to make her brother Dhruv understand how Kriti is a wrong partner for him. While Reet and Raghav are soon going to be parents, the recent chaos has added more drama to their lives. Catch all the drama of Jaane Anjaane Hum Mile on Zee TV every day at 10:30 PM!

Yeh Pal Hai Fans Ka - Vote Now to Make Your Favourite Stars Win at Maruti Suzuki presents 24th Zee Cine Awards 2026

CHANDIGARH: The Zee Cine Awards have stood as one of Bollywood's most prestigious platforms, celebrating cinematic excellence by honouring outstanding performances, blockbuster films, and moments that have shaped the legacy of Indian cinema. From spectacular award presentations to iconic on-stage performances, the awards have evolved into a cultural phenomenon that seamlessly blends credibility, scale, and fan love. Continuing this legacy, Maruti Suzuki presents 24th Zee Cine Awards 2026 is going live with an even bigger, bolder celebration on 28th February and 1st March at NSCI Dome, Worli, Mumbai. While the night promises dazzling performances, unforgettable moments, and the biggest stars under one roof, the heart of this year's celebration again belongs to the fans. Taking FANtertainment to the next level with its powerful theme 'Yeh Pal Hai Fans Ka', Zee Cine Awards puts the spotlight firmly on the audiences who make cinema what it is. From shaping careers to turning stories into blockbusters, fans are the true force behind Bollywood—and this year, their voice takes centre stage. Adding to the excitement, Viewers' Choice voting is now LIVE starting February 11, 2026, giving fans the power to decide the winners. Audiences can vote for their favourite films, actors, and songs across multiple platforms, including the official website, social media, the ZEE5 app, and WhatsApp. Every vote counts in celebrating the stars and stories that resonated the most. As Bollywood's biggest night draws closer, Maruti Suzuki presents 24th Zee Cine Awards 2026, promises to be more than just an award show; it's a shared celebration where fans don't just witness the magic, they create it. Because when fans shine, cinema shines brighter than ever.



Sooraj Barjatya's 'Sangamarmar' Celebrates Love That Survives Time, Distance, And Duty - Coming Soon On Jiohotstar

CHANDIGARH : Behind every successful woman stands an understanding man. Presented by Jio Studios, Sangamarmar is a Rajshri Productions (P) Ltd presentation, produced by Jyoti Deshpande and directed by Vikram Ghai, and will be streaming on JioHotstar. The series is a heartfelt drama rooted in the emotional fabric of Indian families, exploring love, responsibility, and the quiet strength that holds relationships together over time. Carrying the signature warmth and emotional depth associated with Sooraj Barjatya's storytelling sensibilities, the series stars Sheen Savita Dass and Sourabh Raaj Jain in pivotal roles, alongside Smita Bansal, Khalid Siddiqui, Farooq Saad, Jaya Ojha, Avinash Wadhvani, and others. Tracing a woman's deeply personal journey, Sangamarmar is grounded in timeless romance and emotionally rich relationships, reflecting how certain connections remain unshaken even as life moves forward. The teaser hints at a world of silences that speak louder than words, shared glances, restrained emotions, and moments where love is felt more than expressed. Moving fluidly across time, Sangamarmar looks at the choices people make, the responsibilities they carry, and the feelings they often keep to themselves. It is a story about love that doesn't seek attention, but stays steady through patience, sacrifice, and the quiet belief that some relationships are meant to last, even as life moves on. Sangamarmar will stream soon, exclusively on JioHotstar.



Ajay Devgn Turns Narrator for Shatak | Trailer Out Now

CHANDIGARH : The makers of Shatak: Sangh Ke 100 Varsh have unveiled the film's much-awaited trailer, powerfully narrated by Bollywood superstar Ajay Devgn, whose iconic voice adds depth, scale, and emotion to the stirring first glimpse. Rooted in themes of sacrifice, resilience, and nation-first values, the trailer traces a century-long journey inspired by Guruji M. S. Golwalkar Ji's words on the Sangh's enduring spirit. Drawing from documented sources, the film aims to present a perspective on the untold chapters of history, symbolised through the powerful imagery of the Bhagwa. Sharing his thoughts on being associated with the film, Ajay Devgn said, "Congratulations to the RSS on completing one hundred years. A century is not merely a milestone in time — it represents generations of commitment, sacrifice, and contribution towards nation-building. Over these hundred years, the Sangh has played a significant role in shaping conversations around service, unity, and cultural identity. Shatak seeks to shed light on that long and layered journey. For me, being the voice that narrates this story is truly an honour. This is not just the story of an organisation, but of an idea — one that endured challenges and continued to stand firm with the passage of time. Lending my voice to a narrative that speaks of resilience, belief, and collective purpose has been a meaningful experience." Made in association with Panorama, produced by Vir Kapur, directed by Ashish Mall and co-produced by Ashish Tiwari, Shatak releases nationwide on 20 February 2026.



Asian Paints Where The Heart Is Season 9 begins with Archana Puran Singh and Parmeet Sethi's intimate story of home and belonging



CHANDIGARH: Some homes are built with walls and windows. Others are shaped by laughter, shared memories, late-night conversations, and the quiet comfort of belonging. The premiere episode of Asian Paints Where The Heart Is Season 9 opens the doors to one such deeply personal space — the Spanish-style villa of Archana Puran Singh and Parmeet Sethi, nestled in a serene corner of Mumbai's Madh Island. Created by thoughtfully merging two bungalows into one, the home reflects a long-held dream of owning a standalone house in the city. Over nearly two decades, it has grown with the family, adapting, evolving, and settling into a space that feels unmistakably their own. "This home has been very, very lucky for us. I get goosebumps when I say that," Archana shares in the episode. Set amidst the quiet charm of Madh Island, surrounded by trees and open skies, the house has shaped not just their lifestyle but their lives. "All our beginnings were here, and I think it's proved lucky for us. I truly believe we would have been very different people had we not shifted to this house." At the heart of the home is the expansive living room, a space layered with stories. "This living room has hosted hundreds of people. My children have had musical nights here because this room has a raised platform, and part of the room becomes a stage," Archana shares. One of the coziest corners within this room is the memory wall, filled with family photographs. Created against a subtle lime-based finish using Asian Paints Nilaya Arc, the wall feels less like décor and more like an emotional anchor. "It brings so much warmth to the space," Archana says. "I've fallen in love with it and want more of it around the house." The house unfolds across two floors, with the eldest son Aryamann's room and the grandparents' rooms on the lower level. Upstairs, Archana's office, the master bedroom, and the younger son Ayushmann's room open out to balconies overlooking the garden below, keeping nature close and present throughout the home.

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