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✦CHANDIGARH ✦PUNJAB✦HARYANA ✦HIMACHAL PRADESH✦DELHI✦JAMMU & KASHMIR ✦UTTARAKHAND



GOVT APPROVES RS. 1617 CRORE FOR MODERNIZATION OF MEDICAL COLLEGES AND SUPER SPECIALITY INSTITUTIONS

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MEWAT'S TRADITION OF COURAGE AND SELF-RESPECT CONTINUES TO INSPIRE GENERATIONS: CM

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RANBIR KAPOOR NAMES 'DHURANDHAR' AS HIS "CURRENT FAVOURITE MOVIE"

PAGE 12



NEWS BRIEFS

Indian student found dead in California

NEW DELHI: Indian student Saketh Sreenivasaiah, 22, has been found dead in California, six days after he went missing, the Indian consulate said late Saturday. Sreenivasaiah was pursuing chemical and biomolecular engineering at University of California Berkely. He was missing since February 9.
"The Consulate deeply regrets to convey that the local police has confirmed the recovery of the body of the missing Indian student, Saketh Sreenivasaiah. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones," it said.
"The Consulate stands ready to provide all necessary assistance to the family, including coordination with local authorities and arrangements for the repatriation of the mortal remains to India at the earliest. Our consular officers are in direct contact with the family and will support them with all required formalities and services," it added.

Punjab CM admitted to Fortis Hospital

CHANDIGARH: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was admitted to Fortis Hospital in Mohali on Sunday afternoon after being in Sangrur earlier in the day. Sources said he arrived at the hospital around 3 pm, where a team of doctors is currently examining him. There was no official statement regarding the reason for his admission at the time of filing this report. In September last year, Mann was hospitalised at the same facility after experiencing fluctuations in his blood pressure. Earlier on Sunday, the Chief Minister, along with AAP National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab in-charge Manish Sisodia.

Punjab BJP leader Arvind Khanna joins SAD

CHANDIGARH: Bharatiya Janata Party leader Arvind Khanna on Sunday joined the Shiromani Akali Dal in the presence of party chief Sukhbir Singh Badal in Sangrur.
Khanna was the vice-president of the Punjab BJP. Badal on Sunday visited Khanna's house in Sangrur, where he inducted the former MLA into the SAD fold.

Portals of Shri Kedarnath Dham to reopen for devotees from April 22

DEHRADUN: The portals of Shri Kedarnath Dham will officially reopen for devotees on April 22, 2026, at 8:00 AM.On the occasion of Mahashivratri, the opening date for the Kedarnath temple gates was officially announced, based on Panchang calculations, at the Shri Omkareshwar Temple in Ukhimath on Sunday. The announcement was made in the presence of several key dignitaries, including Kedarnath Rawal Bhimashankar Ling, Kedarnath MLA Asha Nautiyal, and Shri Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee (BKTC) Chairman Hemant Dwivedi.

India, France set to renew defence pact; HAMMER Missile JV likely

UNI
NEW DELHI, FEB 15



Rajnath Singh will co-chair the sixth India-France Annual Defence Dialogue with Catherine Vautrin in Bengaluru, Karnataka, on February 17, where the two sides are expected to renew a key defence cooperation agreement for another ten years and witness the signing of an MoU for a joint venture to manufacture Highly Agile Modular Munition Extended Range (HAMMER) missiles.

The HAMMER precision-guided weapon is engineered to carry out accurate long-range strikes on high-value and fortified targets. With an operational reach of nearly 70 kilometres, it enables stand-off engagements and is particularly effective in complex terrains, including mountainous regions.

The system is compatible with advanced combat platforms such as the Dassault Rafale and the HAL Tejas, significantly enhancing their strike capability. Although it was not part of the original Rafale acquisition owing to financial considerations, the weapon was subsequently inducted under emergency procurement provisions.

The high-level dialogue will review the entire spectrum of bilateral defence ties between India and France, with a strong emphasis on expanding industrial collaboration and deepening strategic partnership in defence manufacturing and technology cooperation.

An announcement is also expected with respect to reciprocal deployment of officers at the Indian Army and French Land Forces establishments, a statement from the Ministry of Defence read.

The two ministers are also expected to witness the virtual inauguration of the H125 Light Utility Helicopter Final Assembly of Tata Airbus by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron at Vemagal, Karnataka.

Defence has traditionally formed an important pillar of the relationship between the two countries. The strong and enduring bilateral ties were vividly reflected in 2024-2025 through a series of high-profile exchanges. PM Modi was the Guest of Honour at the Bastille Day Parade in July 2023, before the French President graced the Republic Day Parade 2024 as the Chief Guest.

The recent India-EU Security and Defence Partnership marks a significant step in deepening collective engagement with European nations.

Military-to-military cooperation is on an increase. India and France have been regularly carrying out three major exercises - Exercise Shakti with Army, Exercise Varuna with Navy, and Exercise Garuda with Air Force, and several other opportunity engagements.

This would be the maiden visit of Vautrin to India after she took over as the French Defence Minister in October 2025.

The India-France Annual Defence Dialogue is a structured ministerial-level bilateral meeting to review and guide defence and security cooperation.

LS Speaker Birla to represent India at Rahman's oath ceremony in Bangladesh

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, FEB 15



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will represent India at the swearing-in ceremony of Bangladesh's next prime minister, Tarique Rahman, on February 17.

It is learnt that Bangladesh had invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the ceremony to be held in Dhaka.

Om Birla, the Lok Sabha Speaker, will represent the Government of India at the swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected government of Bangladesh led by Tarique Rahman, the external affairs ministry said on Sunday.

Rahman led the Bangladesh Nationalist Party to a spectacular victory in Bangladesh's parliamentary polls. "The speaker's participation at this important event underscores the deep and enduring friendship between the peoples of India and Bangladesh, reaffirming India's steadfast commitment to the democratic values that bind our two nations," the ministry said in a statement. "As neighbours united by a shared history, culture, and mutual respect, India welcomes Bangladesh's transition to an elected government under the leadership of Tarique Rahman, whose vision and values have received an overwhelming mandate of the people," it said.

Himachal Budget session to begin today with Governor's address

UNI



SHIMLA: The Budget session of the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly is slated to commence at the historic Council Chambers in Shimla on Monday.
Addressing mediapersons at the Assembly complex on Sunday, Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania said, "The session has initially been slated for three days." However, he indicated that the duration may be extended depending upon the volume of government business.
The Speaker informed, "A notice has been received from the state government under Rule 102 to hold a discussion on Revenue Deficit Grants. So far, 125 notices have been submitted by members under Rule 35, including 111 starred and 14 unstarred questions. A calling attention motion under Rule 61 has also been received." He clarified that, as per precedent, the discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the Governor's Address will not begin on February 16 and 17.

Govt committed for preserving Punjab's rich and cultural heritage for generations: CM Mann



SUMER GARG
DHURI: On the sacred occasion of Maha Shivratri, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) National Convener Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann paid obeisance at the revered Sri Rankeshwar Mahadev Temple and performed Pooja at the historic Siddh Peeth, seeking blessings for peace, prosperity and continued progress for Punjab and the nation. Greeting people at the festival, the AAP Chief described Mahashivratri as a civilizational celebration rooted in India's ancient spiritual tradition and prayed that Lord Bholenath's grace always remain upon every citizen.
CM Bhagwant Singh Mann reaffirmed that the Punjab Government remains firmly committed to preserving and promoting the state's rich spiritual and cultural heritage for future generations. He underscored that from commemorating the Shaheedi Diwas of Sri Guru Teg Bahadur ji to celebrating the Parkash Purab of Sri Guru Ravidass ji, Punjab continues to honour its glorious legacy with pride and devotion.
Sharing a few snippets from the puja on X, AAP National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal stated: "On the sacred occasion of Maha Shivratri, I had the privilege of offering prayers at Shri Rankeshwar Mahadev Temple in Dhuri along with Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann.

Nuh gets major development push as CM unveils projects worth Rs. 47.36 cr

BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, FEB 15



Marking a significant outreach in the Mewat region, Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini on Sunday inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for projects worth Rs 47.36 crore for Nuh district.

The Chief Minister laid the foundation stones and inaugurated these projects during the 'Viksit Sohna– Tauru Rally' held at the grain market in Tauru, in Nuh district.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister underscored the state government's resolve to strengthen grassroots infrastructure and ensure balanced development across districts. The projects unveiled include education, sports infrastructure, renewable energy, water conservation and civic amenities, reflecting the state government's multi-sector approach to regional growth. The Chief Minister laid the foundation for five key projects amounting to over Rs 25.58 crore. These include the construction of village libraries in 10 villages at a cost of Rs 2.62 crore through MDA, a state-of-the-art District Library-cum-Excellence Centre in Nuh to be built at an estimated Rs 15.46 crore and a residential facility for the CEO of MDA costing around Rs 2.25 crore. In addition, conservation and restoration works will be undertaken at the Maqbara complex with an outlay of approximately Rs 2.25 crore.

Modi greets nation on Mahashivratri, prays for prosperity, peace

UNI
NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday extended warm greetings to citizens across the country on the occasion of Mahashivratri, invoking the blessings of Adi Dev Mahadev for peace, prosperity, and collective well-being.

In a post on X, the Prime Minister said, "Warmest wishes of Mahashivratri to my family members across the country. I pray that Adi Dev Mahadev always bestows His grace upon everyone. With His blessings, may all be blessed with well-being, and may our India rise to the pinnacle of prosperity. Har Har Mahadev!"

Mahashivratri, one of the most significant festivals in Hindu tradition, is dedicated to Lord Shiva and is observed with fasting, night-long prayers, and special rituals in temples across the country. Devotees throng Shiva temples, offer milk and 'bilva' leaves to the Shivling, and chant hymns in praise of the deity. The Prime Minister's message resonated widely on social media, with many users responding with greetings of "Har Har Mahadev" and sharing images of celebrations from different parts of India. Over the years, Modi has consistently conveyed festival greetings through social media platforms, often emphasising unity, spiritual values, and national progress.

India to build Its 1st underwater road-rail tunnel at Rs 18,000 Crore

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, FEB 15



India has approved a Rs 18,662-crore project to build a four-lane access-controlled greenfield corridor between Gohpur and Numaligarh, featuring India's first road-and-rail tunnel under the Brahmaputra river in Assam.

At present, the distance between Numaligarh on National Highway 715 and Gohpur on NH-15 is 240 km. This goes via Kaliabhambhora near Silghat on NH-52, which takes six hours.

This route passes through Numaligarh, Kaziranga National Park, and Biswanath town.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the construction of the four-lane, access-controlled greenfield road on Saturday. It will be developed on an engineering-procurement-construction (EPC) model, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said.

This will be the first underwater road-and-rail tunnel in India and the second in the world. The project will provide significant benefit to Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and other northeast states. It will also enhance the efficiency of freight movement, reduce logistics costs and drive socio-economic growth in the region.

The project provides seamless connectivity to key economic, social, and logistics nodes across Assam.

Additionally, it will enhance multi-modal integration by connecting with 11 economic nodes, three social nodes, two tourist nodes and eight logistic nodes, providing enhanced connectivity with four major railway stations, two airports, and two inland waterways. Once completed, the project will play a pivotal role in strategic considerations, regional economic growth, strengthening connectivity between major economic centres and opening new avenues for trade and industrial development. Yesterday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a historic landing at the first emergency landing field in the northeast aboard a C-130J aircraft.

India set target of 176 for Pakistan



COLOMBO: India have set Pakistan a target of 176 runs. Ishan Kishan's 77 proved crucial for Suryakumar Yadav and Co. as they reached 175/7 in 20 overs. Barring Kishan, Pakistan's spin attack was able to keep the Indian batters quiet on a slow R. Premadasa Stadium pitch. Earlier, opener Ishan Kishan slammed a 27-ball half-century, with his innings including 10 fours and three sixes. Courtesy of his carnage at the top, India were eyeing a 180-plus total. The pitch at the R. Premadasa Stadium looked slow, but that did not deter Ishan Kishan. India captain Suryakumar Yadav and his Pakistan counterpart did not shake hands at the toss.

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FTAs boost farmers, fishermen, and MSMEs; Rahul Gandhi spreading misinformation: Sukhminderpal Singh Grewal Bhukhri Kalan

LUDHIANA : National BJP leader and Advocate Sukhminderpal Singh Grewal Bhukhri Kalan strongly backed Union Home Minister Amit Shah while criticizing Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his remarks on Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). In a statement shared across his official social media platforms, Grewal said the FTAs signed under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with major global partners including the United States, the United Kingdom and the European Union are strengthening India's global standing and creating large-scale opportunities for farmers, fishermen, youth, entrepreneurs and MSMEs. He asserted that these agreements have been carefully negotiated with national interest at the core, ensuring full protection to agriculture, dairy, livestock and other sensitive sectors while simultaneously boosting exports, employment and economic growth.



Ex-servicemen rally organised at Abohar Military Station

CHANDIGARH: The Indian Army's Amogh Division under Headquarters Sapta Shakti Command successfully organised an Ex-Servicemen Rally and medical camp at Abohar Military Station on 15 Feb 26 for the three districts of Punjab, namely, Fazilka, Sri Muktsar Sahib, Faridkot and two district of Rajasthan namely, Sri Ganganagar and Hanumangarh. The event witnessed an overwhelming participation of more than 3000 veterans, Veer Naris, Veer Matas and their Next of Kin (NoKs) from the region. The event was attended by Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh; Army Commander, Sapta Shakti Command, Mrs Barinder Jit Kaur; Regional President, Sapta Shakti AWWA and Lieutenant General Shamsher Singh Virk; GOC, Chetak Corps along with civil dignitaries. Senior Army officers, and representatives from various welfare organisations were also in attendance, reaffirming the duties of civil authorities in ensuring sustained support, timely delivery of entitlements and structured engagement with Ex-Servicemen welfare mechanisms.

Mohinder Bhagat prays for the progress and prosperity of the state and the countrymen on the occasion of Mahashivratri

PARAMJIT SINGH
JALANDHAR, FEB 15



Punjab's Horticulture, Freedom Fighters and Defence Services Welfare Minister Mohinder Bhagat today prayed to Lord Shiva for the progress and prosperity of the state and the countrymen on the occasion of Mahashivratri.

While attending the Sankirtan ceremony organized by Sanatan Sewa Samiti (Doaba Zone) District Jalandhar at Shri Laxmi Narayan Mandir located in Model House on the occasion of Mahashivratri, the Cabinet Minister extended his heartfelt greetings to everyone on the occasion of Mahashivratri. Mayor Vineet Dhir and senior 'AAP' leader Nitin Kohli, National President of the organization Vijay Sharma were also present on this occasion.

Shri Bhagat said that on the occasion of this holy festival, we should all pledge to strengthen love, unity and solidarity in the society. He said that such holy festivals and events play an important role in keeping us connected and strengthening the bonds of mutual brotherhood.

The event was also attended by the organization's General Secretary Alok Nagpal, Zone President Parvinder Bahl, Zone General Secretary Shant Gupta, Minister Subhash Sharma, Councilor Saurabh Seth, Councilor Rajiv Onkar Tikka, Councilor Romi Wadhwa, District Organization President Yash Chadha, District Vice President Rajesh Midda, Vishal Sharma, Arun Arora, Atul Nagpal, Dhawal Khanna, Deepak Sharma etc.

Road safety message echoes SGRM school of excellence; "Sadak Suraksha, Jeewan Raksha " becomes public

FEROZEPUR, FEB 15



With the objective of preventing road accidents and instilling a sense of responsibility among youth, Mayank Foundation organised a powerful Road Safety Awareness Campaign at SGRM Govt Sr Sec Girls School of Excellence, Zira. In collaboration with Kranti Kala Manch, an impactful street play - 'Bach Ke Moud To' was presented, leaving a deep impression on students and faculty members alike. Through the street play, strong messages were delivered on the mandatory use of helmets and seat belts, the dangers of overspeeding, adherence to traffic signals, and the priceless value of human life. The performance effectively conveyed that a moment of negligence can cost a lifetime of regret. With this event, the series of ten street plays were successfully concluded. The campaign reached thousands of students and members of the public, spreading awareness about responsible road behavior. Students collectively pledged to strictly follow traffic rules and promote road safety in their communities. The Principal, Rakesh Sharma, appreciated the dedicated efforts of Mayank Foundation and stated that such awareness initiatives are the need of the hour. He assured full support for future endeavours. Deepak Sharma , Founder Mayank Foundation said 'The series may have concluded, but the mission continues' we remain firmly committed to its pledge —"Sadak Suraksha, Jeewan Rakhaha."

MLA Bhullar flags off 5th bus to Amritsar under MMTY Yojana

FEROZEPUR, FEB 15



Ranbir Singh Bhullar today flagged off the fifth bus carrying devotees from the Ferozepur Urban constituency to Amritsar under Mukhtar Mantri Tirath Yatra Yojana. The bus was ceremonially sent off with a green flag, marking another phase of the state-sponsored religious tour.

MLA Bhullar said the objective of the scheme is to provide free and comfortable pilgrimage facilities to devotees, especially senior citizens and economically weaker sections.

He informed that some devotees from village Tediwala are travelling for the first time under the scheme and will be taken to prominent religious and heritage sites.

The itinerary includes visits to Sri Harmandir Sahib, Durgiana Mandir and Bhagwan Valmiki Tirath Sthal. Besides religious places, the pilgrims will also be shown the Partition Museum, Jallianwala Bagh and the Retreat Ceremony at the Wagah Border.

Ranbir Singh Bhullar said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, the Punjab Government is ensuring that pilgrims are provided free transportation, accommodation, meals and other essential facilities during the journey so that they do not face any inconvenience.

He extended his best wishes to the devotees embarking on the pilgrimage and expressed hope that the scheme would continue to benefit people across the state.

Kisan mazdoor morcha warns to intensify agitation against India-US interim trade agreement

CHANDIGARH, FEB 15



The Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM) termed the proposed India-US agriculture trade understanding a "death deal for the farm sector" and announced plans to intensify protests across Punjab and beyond at a meeting held at Kisan Bhawan in Chandigarh on Sunday.

Farmer leaders alleged that the Central government and BJP leaders were misleading farmers by portraying the agreement as beneficial, echoing claims made during the farm laws agitation.

They claimed the understanding could gradually open India's entire agricultural market, including wheat, paddy, maize, soybeans, fruits, dairy, and processed food, to foreign imports.

According to KMM leaders, heavily subsidised agricultural produce from the United States could hurt Indian farmers, who receive limited financial support, such as Rs 6,000 per year under PM-Kisan. They warned domestic farmers would not be able to compete with foreign produce backed by higher subsidies.

The organisation also expressed concern that the agreement could pave the way for genetically modified crops, patented seeds, and provisions under a new Seed Act that could restrict farmers from saving and reusing seeds. Leaders also feared the removal of non-tariff barriers and the opening of markets for processed foods, ethanol, maize, soy products, and dairy products, which they said could benefit multinational corporations at the expense of small traders and the rural economy. On domestic policy, the KMM opposed the proposed Electricity Amendment Bill and the installation of prepaid power meters, alleging they could lead to disconnections if balances run low.

The group also criticised the replacement of 29 labour laws with four labour codes and raised concerns about the weakening of MNREGA and worker protections. The farmers' body said it would question the Punjab Chief Minister on the legal guarantee of MSP, farm debt relief, the Centre's agriculture agreement, and compensation for damages during the Shambhu-Khanauri protest crackdown. KMM claimed that tractors, trolleys, and stage equipment were damaged, and compensation of about Rs 2.77 crore remains pending. Announcing protest plans, the organisation said a statewide agitation against the Punjab government would be held in the third week of March.

Classified

PUBLIC NOTICES

ਮੈਂ ਜਸਵੰਤ ਕੌਰ ਵਿਧਵਾ ਚੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਰਾਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਪਿੰਡ ਮੱਲ ਵਾਲਾ ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਤਲਵੰਡੀ ਸਾਬੋ ਦੀ ਰਹਿਣ ਵਾਲੀ ਹਾਂ। ਸ੍ਰੀ ਜੋਗਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਉਰਫ ਜੋਗਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਉਰਫ ਜੋਗ ਸਿੰਘ ਦੇ ਖੇਵਟ ਨੰਬਰ 111 ਅਤੇ 112 ਵਾਕਿ ਰਕਬਾ ਪਿੰਡ ਜੰਗਤ ਕਲਾਂ ਦੀ ਪਾਨਾ ਮਾਲਕੀ/ਪਾਨਾ ਕਾਬਜ਼ ਵਾਲੇ ਰਕਬ ਵਿੱਚ ਉਸਦਾ ਨਾਮ ਜੋਗਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਉਰਫ ਜੋਗ ਸਿੰਘ ਉਰਫ ਜੋਗਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਗੁਰਦਿੱਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਦਾ ਨਾਮ ਮਾਲ ਰਿਕਾਰਡ ਵਿੱਚ ਦਰੁਸਤ ਕਰਵਾਉਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੀ ਹਾਂ। ਜੇਕਰ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਇਤਰਾਜ ਹੈ ਤਾ ਉਹ ਆਪਣਾ ਇਤਰਾਜ ਦੇ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਜਸਵੰਤ ਕੌਰ ਵਿਧਵਾ ਚੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਰਾਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਪਿੰਡ ਮੱਲ ਵਾਲਾ ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਤਲਵੰਡੀ ਸਾਬੋ ਜਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਬਠਿੰਡਾ।87290-82134

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ਮੈਂ ਮਾਲ ਰਿਕਾਰਡ ਵਾਕਿਆ ਰਕਬਾ ਪਿੰਡ ਪਖਰਾਲਾ-1 ਜਮ੍ਹਾਂਬੰਦੀ ਸਾਲ 2022-2023 ਦੀ ਮਾਲ ਰਿਕਾਰਡ ਜਮ੍ਹਾਂਬੰਦੀ ਸਾਲ 2022-2023 ਦੀ ਖੇਵਟ ਨੰਬਰ 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539 ਵਾਕਿਆ ਰਕਬਾ ਪਿੰਡ ਪਖਰਾਲਾ-1 ਵਿੱਚ ਆਪਣੀ ਮਾਤਾ ਦਾ ਨਾਮ ਮੁਰਤੀ ਪੁੱਤਰੀ ਅਮਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਉਰਫ ਨਸੀਬ ਕੌਰ ਹਾਲ ਪਤਨੀ ਗੁਰਨਾਮ ਸਿੰਘ (ਮੋਗਾ) ਦਰੁਸਤ ਕਰਵਾਉਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦਾ ਹਾਂ। ਜੇਕਰ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਇਤਰਾਜ ਹੈ ਤਾ ਉਹ ਆਪਣਾ ਇਤਰਾਜ ਦੇ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਗੁਰਦਿੱਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰਨਾਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਪਿੰਡ ਮਾਹੂਆਣਾ ਜਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਮੁਕਤਸਰ ਸਾਹਿਬ-8360831051

63372

I, Army No. 15567887M Ex SPR Varinder Singh R/o Vpo. Dhudike (Moga) declare that correct name and DOB of my mother is Kusalya Devi, 01-01-1966 as per her Voter, Aadhar and PAN Cards. Please make corrections to her name & DOB in my service records accordingly. Her Aadhar No. is 4474-5438-1368. This is for general public information.

63372

I, Hitherto Known As Gurmeet Singh Gharu S/o Gurmail Singh , Resident Street No-22, Dogar Basti, Faridkot Punjab – 151203 Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Gurmeet Singh.

900013

I Ragni W/o Gulshan Kumar R/o Rafujia Wali Gali, Distt Muktsar Have Changed My Name Rajni Rani

900013

PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Vinod Kumar S/o Ramesh Chand R/o H.No.05, W.No.08, Ahmedgarh Teh-Ahmedgarh Distt. Malerkotla declare that my son Manik Kumar is beyond my control and is a victim of evil company. Therefore, I expel him from all my movable and immovable property. The person dealing with him will himself be responsible. I or the rest of my family members will not have any responsibility in this.

63372

ਮੈਂ ਮਾਲ ਰਿਕਾਰਡ ਵਾਕਿਆ ਰਕਬਾ ਪਿੰਡ ਪਖਰਾਲਾ-1 ਜਮ੍ਹਾਂਬੰਦੀ ਸਾਲ 2022-2023 ਦੀ ਮਾਲ ਰਿਕਾਰਡ ਜਮ੍ਹਾਂਬੰਦੀ ਸਾਲ 2022-2023 ਦੀ ਖੇਵਟ ਨੰਬਰ 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539 ਵਾਕਿਆ ਰਕਬਾ ਪਿੰਡ ਪਖਰਾਲਾ-1 ਵਿੱਚ ਆਪਣਾ ਨਾਮ ਮੁਖਤਿਆਰ ਕੌਰ ਉਰਫ ਚਿਤੀ ਉਰਫ ਸੁਖਦੇਵ ਕੌਰ ਪੁੱਤਰੀ ਗੁਰਬਖਸ਼ ਸਿੰਘ ਹਾਲ ਪਤਨੀ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਸਿੰਘ ਦਰੁਸਤ ਕਰਵਾਉਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੀ ਹਾਂ। ਜੇਕਰ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਇਤਰਾਜ ਹੈ ਤਾ ਉਹ ਆਪਣਾ ਇਤਰਾਜ ਦੇ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਮੁਖਤਿਆਰ ਕੌਰ ਉਰਫ ਚਿਤੀ ਉਰਫ ਸੁਖਦੇਵ ਕੌਰ ਪੁੱਤਰੀ ਗੁਰਬਖਸ਼ ਸਿੰਘ ਹਾਲ ਪਤਨੀ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਪਿੰਡ ਮਾਹੂਆਣਾ ਜਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਮੁਕਤਸਰ ਸਾਹਿਬ-9780848819

63372

I, Balbir Chand s/o Dhana Ram r/o Village Lallian Khurd, Po. Lambra District Jalandhar has changed my name Balvir Chand.

100066

I Daljit Kaur W/o Jagjit Singh R/o Village Harlalpur,Distt Sas Nagar (Mohali) Have Changed My Name To Daljeet Kaur

666554

I Gurpreet Singh S/o Vazeer Singh R/o VPO Sihala,Teh Samrala,Distt Khanna (Ludhiana) Have Changed My Name To Gurpreet (Singh) As A Surname

666554

PUBLIC NOTICE

That Smt. Preeti W/o Sh. Parveen (Hereinafter referred to as the Mortgagor) is the owner of Property Property measuring 00 Kanal 06 Marla, bearing Khewat/Khatoni No. 1026/1332-1339, comprised under Khasra no. 2321/2/7/5-10), Kitte 01 (and measuring 795 Kanal 16 Marla, share of extent of 6/1158/16 i.e. 00 Kanal 06 Marla, situated at Village Karoran, Hadbast no. 352, MC and Sub-Tehsil Main, Tehsil Kharar & Distt S.A.S. Nagar Mohali, Punjab. According to the said Mortgage the below mentioned following document is registered:

1. Original Sale Deed dated 08.03.2011 Bearing Vasiki no. 5273 executed by Sh. Narain Singh S/o Sh. Harnam Singh in respect of land measuring 00 Kanal 06 Marla in favour of Sh. Jaswinder Singh S/o Sh. Kirpal Singh and Sh. Ajit Singh S/o Sh. Nishan Singh.

That Mortgagor have agreed to create mortgage in favour of my clients Avaas Financiers Limited, Chandigarh in respect of the mortgage of above said property. In this regard following DDR No.2026/004715 on dated 13.02.2026 in Punjab Police Station, lodged by Smt. Preeti for the mistake of original document All person's having any claim against or in respect of the said property more particularly described in the schedule hereunder or any part thereof by way of sale, exchange, otherwise), Gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, mortgage, encumbrance, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to me/us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned herein below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim of claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and my client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan and creation of mortgage in respect thereof. (Please contact Ashish Goel, Advocate, #2831, Sector-15, Panchkula, M. No. 9872133331)

Sd/-

So, if any individual/institution will claim anything regarding the missing documents, then contact undersigned. Ashish Goel & Associates, #2831, Sector-15, Panchkula.

I, Ravi S/o Karambir R/o Village Rajound Sub. Tehsil Rajound Distt Kaithal (Haryana) Have Changed My Name From Ravi To Ravi Rana. Concerned Please Note.

84451

I, Amarjeet Singh Dhillon S/o Balour Singh Dhillon Residing At Jaitu Road, Village Laleana, Kot Kapura District Faridkot Punjab-151204 Have Changed The Name Of My Son Prabhgun Dhillon Age 06 Years And She Shall Hereafter Be Known As Prabhgun Singh Dhillon It Is Certified That I Have Complied With Other Legal Requirements In This Connection

90002

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is hereby notified to all public and special that House No. 23-B, Basant Vihar, Karnal, measuring 183.33 sq. yards, was purchased by Mr. Trilok Chand Taneja, son of Mr. Daulat Ram, and Veera Devi, wife of Mr. Trilok Chand, in the division as per the deed no. 10817/1 dated 13.01.2005, Office of the Sub-Registrar, Karnal, and Mr. Trilok Chand, during his lifetime, got 1/2 part of the land registered in favour of Mr. Ved Prakash, son of Mr. Trilok Chand, resident of Basant Vihar, Karnal, as per the deed no. 3203 dated 13.08.2008, Office of the Sub-Registrar, Karnal. Through an unregistered will dated 30.07.2005, Smt. Veera Devi has bequeathed 1/2 Bhari area to Shri Vedprakash, son of Shri Trilok Chand, on the basis of which Shri Vedprakash has obtained a decree in his name for the total area of 183.33 sq. yards as per Lok Adalat Civil Suit 13.284/18 dated 08.12.2018, on the basis of which Shri Vedprakash has submitted an application to this office for registering and approving the transfer of the said area of 183.33 sq. yards. Through this notice, all the common and special people are informed that whoever has any objection in approving the said transfer, can present his written objection before the following signatory on any working day within 30 days. In case no objection is received, the said transfer will be approved. This notice is issued today under my signature and the seal of the court.

No.M. 126 Dated 12.02.2026

Assistant Collector, Second Division and Deputy Tehsildar, Karnal.

I, Ishu Gupta S/O Arun Gupta R/o 2477, Sec. 17 HUDA, Jagadhri, District Yamuna Nagar, Haryana, declare that my father's name is wrongly written as Arun Kumar gupta in my Passport, whereas the correct name is Arun Gupta.

524479

I, Ritu W/o Sh. Anshu Kumar, R/o OPP Community Hall, Ward No. 4, Mandi Dabwali, Distt. Sirsa, Haryana, have changed my name from Ritu to Ritu Rani.

524479

I, Jagdev Singh Gill S/o Sadhu Singh R/o patti Mahanta,kokri kalan, Dist Moga have changed my name Jagdev Singh Gill to Jagdev Singh

524479

I, Sunil Kumar s/o Ramphal r/o 284, M.C. Colony, Loharu Road, Dharambir M.P. Wali Gali, Charkhi Dadri 127306 have changed my minor son name from Arpit to Shaury Kumar.

989752

I Sucha Singh S/o Tarsem Lal R/o Vpo Kangna Bet Eh Balachaur Distt Sbs Nagar Punjab Have Changed My Name To Singh Sucha. Singh Is My Surname. All Please Note.

63372

I Joginder Kaur W/o Kulwant Singh R/o Vill Chankoi Po Gulpur Teh Balachaur Distt Sbs Nagar Punjab Have Changed My Name To Kaur Joginder. Kaur Is My Surname. All Please Note.

63372

I Rajbir Singh S/o Hari Singh Village Kale Tehsil Patti Dist Tarn Taran I Have change My Name Rajbir Singh to Singh Rajbir Singh My Surname

63372

I, Punit Kumar Singla S/o Dharampal Singla R/o H.No. 3/6, Shiv Mandir Street, Mullanpur, Dist. Ludhiana, Punjab, India, have changed the name of my minor Son Soumil Singla aged about 09 years and he shall hereafter be known as Yuvraj Soumil Singla.

63372

I, Harpreet Bashal S/o Santokh Ram R/o Vpo. Paddi Matwali Teh-Banga Distt. SBS Nagar have changed my name to Harpreet as given name and Bashal as surname.

63372

I, Sandeep Kaur W/o Harpreet Bashal R/o Vpo. Paddi Matwali Teh-Banga Distt. SBS Nagar have changed my name to Sandeep as given name and Kaur as surname.

63372

I, Bhawana D/o Balvir Kumar R/o B5/156 Hoshiarpur Road Mohalla Anand Nagar Phagwara Po. Phagwara Distt. Kapurthala (Punjab) have changed my name from Bhawana to Bhawana Kaul.

63372

I, Parminder Kaur Dhaliwal D/o Harjinder Singh R/o Vill Kot Ranjha Teh-Nawanshahr Distt. SBS Nagar have changed my name to Parminder Kaur.

63372

I Amarjeet Singh S/o Jang Singh R/o VPO Dalel Singhwala, Distt. Mansa. I have changed my name from Amarjit Singh to Amarjeet Singh.

63372

I, Ritu Bansal W/o Bimal Kumar R/o H.No. 13989 St.No. 10 Ganesh Nagar Bathinda have changed my name from Ritu Garg to Ritu Bansal.

63372

I, Jaspreet Singh Kalyan S/o Sarwan Singh R/o H.No. 5439 Mohalla AWE Jagraon (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Jaspreet Singh.

63372

I Mohammed Akhtar S/o Mohammed Jameel R/o H.No.B-7/890 Mohalla Haji Basti Eidgah Road Malerkotla District Malerkotla have change my name to Mohammad Akhtar.

63372

I Shilpa Wasson W/O Tarun Arora C/o Rajinder Oil Store, Ward No 01, Balachaur, Tehsil Balachaur, Distt.SBS Nagar ,Punjab, Pin-144521 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Shilpa.

63372

I Sham Singh S/o Balkar Singh R/o Kalu Arain Hithar Distt. Ferozepur Have Changed My Name Sham Singh to Singh Sham.

63372

I Monika W/o Sanjay Gupta R/o H.No.140-P, Sethi Ice Factory Ferozepur Cantt Distt. Ferozepur Have Changed My Name Monika to Monika Gupta.

63372

I Pakher Singh S/o Jagat Singh Village Takhar Kalan Tehsil & District Malerkotla Have Changed My Name Pakher Singh to Pakhar Singh.

63372

I Kuldip Kaur W/o Tejinder Singh Village Takhar Kalan Tehsil & District Malerkotla Have Changed My Name Kuldip Kaur to Kuldeep Kaur.

63372

I, Arshdeep Kaur Gill W/o Sharnpal Singh R/o Village Sakianwali, P/O. Jallupur Khera, Tehsil Khadoor Sahib and District Tarn Taran have changed my name from Arshdeep Kaur Gill to Arshdeep Kaur.

63372

I, Gurmeet Singh S/o Mukhtar Singh R/o Village Chamyari Tehsil Ajnala District Amritsar have changed my name from Gurmeet Singh to Gurmit as my Given Name and Singh as my Surname.

63372

I, Harmit Singh S/o Sajjan Singh R/o Village Bangla Rai, PO Kot Budha District Tarn Taran have changed my name from Harmit Singh to Harmeet Singh.

63372

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Governor of Punjab and Administrator of UT Chandigarh meets Union Defence Minister



NEW DELHI: The Governor of Punjab and Administrator of UT Chandigarh, Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, today paid a courtesy visit to the Union Defence Minister of India, Shri Rajnath Singh, in New Delhi. During the meeting, a meaningful and detailed discussion was held regarding the proposal to establish a Sainik School in Chandigarh. The Governor stated that the establishment of a Sainik School would significantly contribute to strengthening discipline, leadership qualities, and the spirit of national service among the youth. The meeting also included an in-depth discussion on ensuring effective control over the smuggling of narcotics and weapons through drones along the border areas. Emphasis was laid on further strengthening and modernizing the anti-drone system to reinforce national security.

NEWS BRIEF

On Maha Shivratri 7-foot-tall Shivling at Shri Prachin Panchmukhi Shiv Mandir, Nayagaon major attraction for devotees



J K BATTA

CHANDIGARH: On Mahashivratri, Raj Kumar Koshish, President of the Shri Prachin Panchmukhi Shiv Mandir, Main Bazaar, Nayagaon, said that the temple was opened to devotees at 3:00 am on the 15th, and a milk langar with dry fruits was organized from 7:00 am. This year, over 4,000 devotees visited the 7-foot-tall ice lingam, which was a major attraction in the area. President Raj Kumar Koshish stated that a langar will also be held today, February 15th. President Raj Kumar and all members of the temple committee have appealed to all residents to partake of the prasad from the langar.

Strong protests in villages against free trade agreement between the US and India



JAGDEEP SINGH GILL

JAITU : Recently, the agreement or the upcoming trade agreement between the US and India on free trade has created a lot of excitement among the country's farmers and they are expressing their opposition by burning copies of this free trade agreement at various places. Today, the farmers of BKU Ekta Sidhupur burnt copies of this agreement on a large scale in all the villages of Block Bajakhana like Okandwala, Jhakharwala, Wada Bhai ka, Ghania, Ramana Ajit Singh, Malla, Dod, Wander Ajitgarh, Lambhwali, Bajakhana etc. On this occasion, Block Bajakhana President Baljinder Singh Wada Bhai ka, Block Propaganda Committee President Modan Singh Ghania, Sakhpreet Singh Jhakharwala Block General Secretary, Garmail Singh Ghania, Youth Leader Pavitra Singh Ghania and District General Secretary Inderjeet Singh Ghania while talking to the reporters said that these decisions are being taken in the interest of corporate houses like Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Donald Trump of America. It will be fatal for the farmers of the country as well as for every class. He said that the farmers of India will never be able to compete with the large-scale agriculture being done in America because countries like America provide huge subsidies to their farmers to get them engaged in agriculture. He said that earlier, high duty was imposed on products made of soybean, corn and milk to make them competitive in India.

Review meeting held by Deputy Commissioner Ashika Jain regarding preparations for Nature Fest 2026

DALJEET AJNOHA
HOSHIARPUR, FEB 15



Deputy Commissioner Ashika Jain today chaired a review meeting with officers of various departments at the District Administrative Complex to assess the arrangements for the events scheduled on February 16 and 17 under Nature Fest 2026. She stated that only two days remain for the event and directed all departments to discharge their duties with full seriousness and finalize all preparations well in time.

The Deputy Commissioner informed that a huge turnout of spectators is expected for the Star Night of renowned Punjabi singer Gurdas Maan scheduled on February 17. On the same day, the star cast of the Punjabi film Bambukat 2 will also make a special appearance. Actors Simi Chahal, Ammy Virk, and Karamjit Anmol will interact with the audience. She emphasized that ensuring smooth, safe, and well-organized conduct of all events is the top priority of the district administration. During the meeting, detailed instructions were issued regarding traffic management, security arrangements, crowd control, parking facilities, drinking water supply, sanitation, lighting, and medical services. The police department was directed to deploy adequate security personnel at the venue and surrounding areas, while the traffic department was instructed to prepare a special plan to ensure smooth vehicular movement. The health department was asked to ensure the availability of ambulances and medical teams, and the municipal corporation was directed to maintain proper sanitation and uninterrupted drinking water facilities. Deputy Commissioner Ashika Jain stressed that there should be no shortcomings in the arrangements and all departments must work in close coordination to provide a safe and pleasant experience to the public attending the events. Present on the occasion were Additional Deputy Commissioner (Development) Nikas Kumar, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Amarbir Kaur Bhullar, SDM Mukerian Oyeshi Mandal, RTO Amandeep Kaur Ghuman, Assistant Commissioner Parmpreet Singh, DSP Dev Dutt, Additional Assistant Commissioner Gurpreet Kaur, along with other senior officials.

Vidhan Sabha Deputy Speaker Jai Krishan Singh Rouri flags off first pro run at PAU

DALJEET AJNOHA
HOSHIARPUR, FEB 15



Punjab Vidhan Sabha Deputy Speaker Jai Krishan Singh Rouri on Sunday flagged off the inaugural Pro Run at Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), marking a vibrant kickoff to the Shaheed-E-Azam Bhagat Singh National Marathon 2026.

MLAs Daljit Singh Bhola Grewal, Manwinder Singh Giaspura, and Ashok Parashar Pappi, along with PAU Vice-Chancellor Dr. Satbir Singh Gosal and other dignitaries were also present.

Starting at 6:30 am from the PAU campus, the 5-km Pro Run serves as the curtain-raiser for the main Shaheed-E-Azam Bhagat Singh National Marathon, scheduled for March 22, 2026 in Mahilpur, Hoshiarpur.

Organized as a heartfelt tribute to the supreme sacrifice of Shaheed-E-Azam Bhagat Singh, the marathon is a powerful collective push toward building a drug-free Punjab.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Speaker Rouri described the marathon as far more than a sporting event—it is a dynamic movement blending patriotism, physical fitness, and an unwavering fight against drug abuse. "Through sports and widespread community involvement, this initiative honours the ideals and sacrifices of India's freedom fighters while confronting one of Punjab's most pressing challenges head-on," he said.

He highlighted the Punjab Government's 'Yudh Nashian Virudh' campaign as a transformative, decisive battle against the drug menace. "The government is committed to leaving no stone unturned until the drug menace is completely eradicated and traffickers are brought to justice," Rouri affirmed.

Gillco International school conducts transparent draw of lots for nursery admissions (Session 2026–27)

SHASHI PAL JAIN
MOHALI, FEB 15



Gillco International School successfully conducted the Draw of Lots for admission to Class Nursery for the academic session 2026–27 in a fair, transparent, and well-organized manner on the school campus.

The process was carried out in the presence of school authorities and parents, ensuring complete openness and credibility.

The draw commenced with the School Principal, Dr. Kritika Kaushal, taking the first draw. In a unique and transparent gesture, the parent whose child's name was drawn first was invited to pick the second slip, followed by the next selected parent drawing the subsequent slip. The chain continued in the same manner, reinforcing the school's commitment to impartiality and trust.Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Kritika Kaushal emphasized the importance of maintaining fairness and transparency in the admission process. She expressed gratitude to parents for their cooperation and trust in the institution. Gillco International School remains committed to providing quality education and nurturing young learners in a safe and inclusive environment. The successful conduct of the Draw of Lots reflects the school's dedication to ethical practices and community engagement.

Shivratri celebration in SBI society



NEERAJ SHARMA
CHANDIGARH, FEB 15

The residents of SBI Society celebrated Maha Shivratri with great enthusiasm by organizing a Sports Meet at the society's ground for all age groups, including children and senior citizens.

The event was followed by a Bhandara attended by around 500 persons.The Sports Meet featured traditional Indian games along with various race formats, encouraging active participation from residents across generations. Winners were awarded prizes by the Chief Guest, Sh. Rajinder Pal Sharma, Councillor, Ward No. 35. He appreciated the initiative of SBI Society in fostering unity and harmony by celebrating festivals collectively.

Speaking on the occasion, Sh. Jagdish Kumar, President of the Society, said that the society is known for organizing important festivals and functions with enthusiastic in-house participation, which strengthens the spirit of community living and mutual bonding among residents.

The celebration turned out to be a joyful and memorable day for all, especially senior citizens, who participated wholeheartedly in the activities.

Ferozepur railway division launches campaign against ticketless travel, issuing 243 challans and collecting a fine of Rs 1.67 lakh



RAGHU NANDAN PRASHAR
JAITU, FEB 15

In a press release issued on Sunday, the Ferozepur Division of Northern Railway stated that in order to curb ticketless travel, a special ticket checking campaign, "Fortress Check," was conducted at Jalandhar City Railway Station on February 14, 2026. During this intensive checking campaign, a total of 243 ticketless travelers were caught, and revenue of approximately ?1.67 lakh was collected. The campaign ran continuously from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fourteen ticket checkers and RPF personnel jointly participated in the campaign. Under Fortress Check, intensive ticket checking is conducted without prior notice on the station premises. Passenger tickets are thoroughly checked and action is taken against those traveling without tickets or traveling irregularly. The primary objective of this campaign is to ensure the protection of railway revenue and to promote the habit of ticketed travel among passengers. Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Mr. Paramdeep Singh Saini has appealed to passengers to always travel with valid tickets. Keeping in mind passenger convenience and revenue protection, such special ticket checking campaigns will continue in the future.

SLIET Longowal successfully concludes IEI sponsored seminar



LONGOWAL (RAVI GARG): 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. The Guest of Honour, Prof. Jagtar Singh, Chairman ETDB, spoke about various funds available for research and projects for the students of SLIET, Longowal. He encouraged young researchers and engineers to actively contribute to indigenous development in the 6G domain.

Scientific advisory committee finalises agricultural development programmes for 2026-27

SUSHIL GOYAL
SANGRUR, FEB 15



The Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Kheri (Sangrur) of Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) organised its Annual Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting to finalise agricultural development programmes for the year 2026-27 under the chairmanship of Dr Makhan Singh Bhullar, Director, Extension Education, PAU, Ludhiana. Dr Gurjit Singh Mangat, Additional Director Research, PAU, graced the occasion as a special guest.

Dr. Mandeep Singh, in charge of KVK, Kheri, presented the progress report of the annual activities for the year 2025-26.

Dr. Ravinder Kaur, Assistant Professor (Horticulture) presented the planning of training programmes and extension activities to be undertaken during 2026-27. She briefed that the KVK, Kheri, has planned a total of 89 training programmes for the coming year 2026-27.

Of which 64 one-day, 15 vocational and 10 in-service training programmes would be conducted. On this occasion Dr. Makhan Singh Bhullar appreciated the training programmes and extension programmes planned for the year 2026-27. He said that advance training should be provided to the entrepreneurs who start their work after completing the basic training course.

He also invited the farmers and rural women to take up agricultural support businesses and promote agriculture as an agri-business.

Pawan Dewan slams AAP govt over "Abject Failure" to curb illegal colonies in Ludhiana

LUDHIANA (SARBJIT SUFI): Former President of the District Congress Committee, Ludhiana (Urban), and Ex-Chairman of the Punjab Large Industrial Development Board, Pawan Dewan, has launched a scathing attack on the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government, accusing it of an "abject failure" to curb the mushrooming of illegal colonies in Ludhiana.



In a strongly worded statement, Dewan said it was astonishing that the Local Government Minister hails from Ludhiana, yet illegal colonies continue to proliferate unchecked "right under his nose."

Dewan alleged that, flouting all norms, illegal colonies have mushroomed across Ludhiana and more continue to emerge, while Local Government authorities remain passive mute spectators. He castigated the "nonchalant" and "irresponsible" attitude of the government machinery and the minister concerned, stressing that the administration's silence amounts to complicity.

Holding the present regime responsible for haphazard urbanisation, Dewan said blatant violations have become the order of the day and the government is losing significant revenue as developers of unauthorized colonies evade legitimate fees and compliance costs. "This reckless urban sprawl," Dewan warned, "is destroying the city's beauty and posing a potential threat to its long-term sustainability."

MCM IIC empowers students through Innovative Ideas workshop

CHANDIGARH, FEB 15

The Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) of Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women organised a three-day workshop titled 'Innovative Ideas and Demonstration: A Hands-on Workshop'. The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from 51 students, offering them a valuable platform to explore innovation and practical applications of emerging technologies.

Day one commenced with an insightful session by Er. Harmesh Lal, who introduced participants to both theoretical and practical aspects of electrical devices integrated with the Internet of Things (IoT). The session laid a strong conceptual foundation while highlighting real-world applications of IoT-enabled systems.

Bathinda police arrest two with 6.5 kg opium



ANIL VERMA
BATHINDA, FEB 15

Under the directions of Sh. Gaurav Yadav, IPS, Hon'ble DGP Punjab, and as per the guidance of Sh. Harjeet Singh, IPS, DIG Bathinda Range, Bathinda Police is continuously taking action against drug trafficking under the campaign "Yudh Nashian Virudh.

In continuation of this drive, under the supervision of Dr. Jyoti Yadav, IPS, Senior Superintendent of Police Bathinda, and under the leadership of Sh. Narinder Singh, PPS, SP (City) Bathinda and Sh. Amritpal Singh Bhatti, PPS, DSP (City-1) Bathinda, the above-said case was registered on 14.02.2026. In this case, the police party of PS Canal Colony Bathinda achieved a major success by arresting two persons and recovering 6.5 kg opium along with one car from their possession.

On 14.02.2026, the police party of PP Vardhman, PS Canal Colony, had set up a naka near Maharaja Ranjit Singh Technical University on Badal-Bathinda Road for checking suspicious persons and vehicles. During checking, a Swift Dzire car bearing registration number PB-29AG-3454 coming from the Bathinda-Dabwali Road side was stopped. Two young men were found inside the vehicle, and during checking 4 kg opium was recovered from the car.

Maha Shivratri celebrated with devotion and enthusiasm at Rampura Phul

KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA
RAMPURA PHUL, FEB 15



On Sunday, the holy festival of Mahashivratri was celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm in Rampura Phul. Long queues of devotees were formed in various temples across the city to offer water to Lord Shiva. Like every year, this time too, a large number of Shiva devotees, Kanwaris, reached Rampura Phul with holy Ganga water from Haridwar to offer it to Lord Shiva.

All the Kanwaris were welcomed by the Sangh Kawar Sangh Rampura Phul at the Kanwari camp set up by Bajrang Kawar Sangh at the P.B. Cold Store of Rampura Phul located on the Bathinda-Barnala National Highway. Special arrangements were made for the devotees in the camp, from accommodation to food, bathing and health facilities. On Sunday morning, the devotees, led by the entire Kavar Sangh, took out a city tour of the city.

The devotees passed through various markets across the city and reached their respective temples.

On the way, the residents showered flowers on the devotees. The entire city echoed with the chants of "Bam Bam Bhole". After this, the devotees reached the respective temples and Shivalias and offered Ganga water to Lord Shiva. The entire Kavar Sangh President Neeraj Chaudhary, Vice President Dushyant Gupta, General Secretary Kewal Krishna Happy, Somnath Singla, Yuvraj Sharma, Rajesh Kumar Lovely and Press Secretary Mandeep Garg said that every year, on the occasion of Mahashivratri and Shivaratri in the month of Sawan, a large number of Shiva devotees from the city travel to Haridwar.

Mumbai Airport becoming 'Preferred Hub' for human trafficking by travel agents

SULTANPUR LODHI (ARVIND PATHAK): Rajya Sabha Member Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal raised the serious issue of human trafficking and Indian citizens stranded abroad on the final day of the first phase of the Budget Session of Parliament. He drew the House's attention to the exploitation of Indian women in Gulf countries and the alarming situation of young men from poor families being pushed into the battlefields of the Russia-Ukraine War.Sant Seechewal stated that gangs of travel agents are exploiting poverty, unemployment, and helplessness by targeting unmarried girls and economically vulnerable women. They lure them with false promises of high-paying domestic jobs and send them to Gulf nations. Upon arrival, the victims' passports are confiscated, they are forced to sign contracts written in Arabic, and subjected to physical and mental abuse. Many women are denied wages and cut off from contact with their families, forcing them to live in conditions akin to slavery.



While appreciating the efforts of India's Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Embassy in Oman, he informed that 135 Indian girls have been safely repatriated due to coordinated efforts.

However, he questioned how long this heinous trade of human trafficking would continue unchecked.He also raised concern over Indian youths trapped in the Russian military. He revealed that by July 2025, 127 Indians were caught in the conflict, a number that rose to 202 by December 2025. Among them, 26 young men have lost their lives. He expressed concern that they are being sent to the battlefield without adequate training, despite having no direct connection to the conflict.Sant Seechewal urged the government to implement strict screening systems at all international airports, including Mumbai, on the lines of Delhi.

He called for stringent monitoring of alternative routes being used for human trafficking and demanded firm action to dismantle the network of travel agents involved in these illegal activities. Additionally, he appealed for the safe and swift return of all Indian youths trapped in the Russian military.

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Maha Shivratri celebrated with religious fervour in Doraha; grand shobha tatra taken out

DORAHA (AMRISH ANAND): MahaShivratri was celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm in Doraha today, with devotees thronging temples since early morning to offer prayers and observe fasts. Long queues were witnessed at Sanatan Dharam Mandir, Shiv Mandir , Kali Mata Mandir, Shiv Dayala Mandir, Shivpuri Shamshan Ghat and Shri Bhadrakali Mandir,Shiv Shakti Mandir where chants of "Har Har Mahadev" created a spiritual atmosphere.A grand Shobha Yatra was also taken out in the city by Shiv Shakti Mandir Gurthli & Neel kanth Sewa dal to mark the occasion, witnessing enthusiastic participation from a large number of devotees. Representatives of various political parties, religious and social organisations visited temples and joined the public in the celebrations.Local temple management committees made elaborate arrangements for the convenience and security of devotees. Community langars were also organised at several places in the main market area, where a large number of people partook of the prasad.



NEWS BRIEF

Tiny Tots of pre-primary unleash magic in Vasant Valley's Science Lab!



RAVI GARG

LONGOWAL : In a burst of curiosity and wonder, the little tiny tots of Vasant Valley Public School, Sangrur, stepped into the school's vibrant lab area today. These young explorers dove headfirst into the fascinating world of inventions, conducting age-appropriate science experiments that sparked joy and amazement.With hands-on learning at the heart of the activity, the children marveled as simple setups turned into "magic" before their eyes—watching colors mix, bubbles erupt, and objects defy gravity. Their laughter echoed through the lab as they discovered the thrill of science, blending play with profound learning.
Chairman Mr. Sanjay Gupta shared his delight: "Seeing our tiniest learners embrace science with such enthusiasm fills me with pride. This hands-on exploration ignites the spark of innovation that will shape their bright futures." School Principal Mrs. Anitha R. added, "At Vasant Valley, we believe in making learning magical. These experiments not only build scientific curiosity but also foster confidence and creativity in our youngest students." The session was a resounding success, proving once again that science is best discovered through joyful exploration!

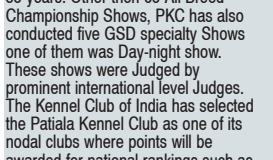
Governments changed, but no one granted Gau Mata status of national mother: Salaria



VERMA

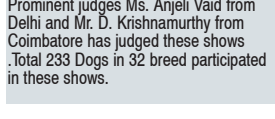
GURDASPUR: Dr. Joginder Singh Salaria, founder of PCT Humanity, stated that although governments have changed over the years, none has granted Gau Mata (the cow) the status of National Mother. He said that even today cows are seen wandering helplessly on the streets and are being slaughtered in abattoirs. He emphasized that since ancient times, Gau Mata has been revered and worshipped in Sanatan Dharma and has been given the status of a mother. However, he alleged that cow slaughter began during the Mughal period and continues to this day. He pointed out that although India has been independent for nearly 78 years and several governments have come to power, none has been able to completely stop cow slaughter. Dr. Salaria further said that it has been around 12 years since a Sanatan-supporting government came to power at the Centre, yet Gau Mata has still not been granted the status of National Mother. He claimed that in government-approved slaughterhouses, thousands of cows are killed daily, which he described as a matter of deep shame for followers of Sanatan Dharma.

Lal Chand Kataruchakk pays obeisance at Chatpat Bani Shiv Temple on Maha Shivratri



SHARANJEET PATHANKOT: On the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivratri, Punjab's Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Forest and Wildlife Protection Minister Lal Chand Kataru chak paid obeisance at the historic Chatpat Bani Shiv Temple near village Kataruchak in the Bhoa Assembly segment. The minister offered prayers and performed jal abhishek to Lord Shiva, seeking peace, prosperity and harmony for the region. Extending his greetings to residents, he said that religion unites humanity and festivals promote communal harmony and brotherhood. Temple Mahant Yogi Shankar Nath honored the minister with a memento. Among those present were his wife Urmila Devi (Sarpanch, village Kataruchak), Robin Singh, Pawan Kumar, Thakur Bhupinder Singh Muna, Lovely Manjiri, Vikas Nangal Farida, Mittu Dhobara, Pankaj Kataruchak, Hemraj, Bhupinder Singh and Sumit Kataruchak, along with several party workers.

All Breed championship dog show attracts people



TAPINDER SINGH

PATIALA: Under the aegis of "Patiala Heritage Festival 2026" Patiala Kennel Club Organized its 64th and 65th All Breed Championship Dog Shows on Sunday the 15th day of February, 2026 at Raja Bhalendra Singh Stadium (Polo Grounds) Patiala.Patiala Kennel club has been conducting shows for the last 35 years. Other then 65 All Breed Championship Shows, PKC has also conducted five GSD specialty Shows one of them was Day-night show. These shows were Judged by prominent international level Judges. The Kennel Club of India has selected the Patiala Kennel Club as one of its nodal clubs where points will be awarded for national rankings such as "The Dog of the Year," "Reserve Dog of the Year," "Best Puppy of the Year," and "Best Bred in India Dog of the Year." Prominent judges Ms. Anjeli Vaid from Delhi and Mr. D. Krishnamurthy from Coimbatore has judged these shows .Total 233 Dogs in 32 breed participated in these shows.

Gangstran Te Vaar: Punjab police conducts 571 raids; 193 held

GAURAV GOEL
CHANDIGARH, FEB 15



As the decisive 'Gangstran Te Vaar' campaign launched under the directions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann enters its 26th day, Punjab Police on Sunday conducted 571 raids at the at identified and mapped locations linked to associates of gangsters across the state.

As per the information, the "Gangstran Te Vaar"— a decisive war to make Punjab a gangster-free state was launched by the Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav on January 20, 2026. Police teams from all the districts in coordination with Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) Punjab has been conducting special operations across the state.

On Day 26, Police teams arrested 193 individuals and recovered three weapons from their possession, taking the total arrests to 9437 since the launch of the campaign.

Apart from this, preventive action has been taken against 66 persons, whereas, 108 persons were verified and released after questioning. Police teams have also arrested nine proclaimed offenders (POs) during the operation. People can anonymously report information related to wanted criminals and gangsters, and also share tips on crime and criminal activity, through the Anti Gangster Helpline number 93946-93946. Meanwhile, Police teams have continued its drive against drugs "Yudh Nashian Virudh" for 351st day with 44 drug smugglers arrested on Sunday and recovered 20.7 kg heroin, 210 intoxicant tablets/capsules and Rs 2.28 lakhs drug money from their possession. With this, the number of total drug smugglers arrested has reached to 49,674 in just 351 days.

As per the information, the "Gangstran Te Vaar"— a decisive war to make Punjab a gangster-free state was launched by the Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav on January 20, 2026.

As part of De-addiction, the Punjab Police has convinced 19 persons to undergo de-addiction and rehabilitation treatment today.

Relief amount of Rs. 10.68 crore released to families with 1,708 houses damaged by rain: Dr. Raj Kumar Chabbewal



DALJEET AJNOHA
HOSHIARPUR, FEB 15

Lok Sabha Member from Hoshiarpur Dr. Raj Kumar Chabbewal and Dr. Ishank Kumar, MLA from Chabbewal, distributed relief checks amounting to Rs. 10.68 crore issued by the government to the families whose houses were damaged due to heavy rains in the district. It is noteworthy that the government has given these amounts to affected families ranging from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 1,20,000.

On this occasion, Dr. Raj Kumar Chabbewal said that Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann has fulfilled the promise he made to the affected families. He said Aam Aadmi Party government is a government of the people and, therefore, is a companion to the people in their joys and sorrows everywhere.

Dr. Raj Kumar Chabbewal said that the state government has fulfilled all its promises on time, while other political parties believe in making promises but never fulfill them.

He further stated that under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, record development work has taken place in the state, and a large-scale project is still underway.

Dr. Raj Kumar Chabbewal said that the condition of the district's roads will soon improve in the coming days. On this occasion, MLA Dr. Ishank Kumar said that government-provided services are being extended to every household in the Chabbewal assembly constituency. He added that the people of the area are members of our family, and it is our duty to develop every family, which is being done with utmost dedication.

Dr. Ishank Kumar said that just as relief funds have been provided to rain-affected families, relief will continue to reach people under other government policies.

Silver Oaks School Rampura road organizes kids carnival with enthusiasm and joy

KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA
RAMPURA PHUL, FEB 15



Silver Oaks School Rampura Road, Bathinda organized Kids Carnival with enthusiasm and joy. This carnival was a festival specially designed for young children. The aim was to increase physical activity, confidence and participation.

The school campus was filled with energy as the young children participated in various fun-filled activities. The program began with the traditional lamp lighting ceremony, which symbolizes positivity, education and new beginnings. On this occasion, the Director of the school, Mrs. Barninder Pal Sekhon, was the chief guest.

The presence of esteemed guests further added to the grandeur and excitement of the ceremony. The school welcomed the principals of various play areas and other distinguished guests. The Kids Carnival was inaugurated by the school director, Barninder Pal Sekhon, in a joyful atmosphere with a balloon release ceremony, which symbolized happiness, hope and childhood dreams soaring high into the sky.

The occasion filled the entire atmosphere with enthusiasm, excitement and positive energy. The Kids Carnival was thoughtfully planned keeping in mind different age groups, so that every child got a chance to showcase their talent. Physical activities like Frog Hop, Popcorn Race, Color Sort Sprint etc. were specially organized to develop the agility, coordination and balance of the children. Apart from this, a fancy dress competition, drawing and coloring competition, dance competition, photogenic face competition and English poem recitation competition were also organized. Every activity was not designed as a competition of victory or defeat, but as a celebration of participation, confidence and happiness. Parents were overjoyed to see their children performing with confidence and enthusiasm. Special prizes were also given to the children who performed exceptionally. Director Barninder Pal Sekhon appreciated the efforts of the school.

Students and teachers at Chunnilal Sachdeva DAV School perform havan to commemorate Mahashivratri



RAGHU NANDAN PRASHAR
JAITU, FEB 15

Students and teachers of Chunnilal Sachdeva DAV Centenary Public School, Jaito, performed a havan to commemorate Mahashivratri.

The havan was performed at the ancient Fatehchand Temple under the leadership of Sushil Sharma and the Gayatri Parivar of Bathinda. This havan was performed to encourage children to remain connected to their Vedas and culture. Addressing the students, Sushil Sharma said that by connecting with their culture and the Vedas, they can fulfill their duties towards their parents and society. Meanwhile, the Gayatri Parivar Bathinda team encouraged the students and teachers to continue performing the havan.

Principal Jyoti Sharma expressed her heartfelt gratitude to Sushil Sharma and the Gayatri Parivar Bathinda team. Principal Jyoti Sharma, on behalf of herself and the DAV Management, congratulated the students, parents and residents of Jaito on the occasion of Mahashivratri.

Devinder Satyarthi memorial event organized in Miri Piri Khalsa College Bhadaur



BALWINDER AZAD
BHADAUR, FEB 15

Miri Piri Khalsa College Bhadaur, which is working under the management of Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, Sri Amritsar Sahib. This institution organizes religious, cultural and literary programs for the development of the personality of the students. Keeping this purpose in mind, Devinder Satyarthi Memorial Event was organized in the institution. Regarding which, the Head of the Punjabi Department, Dr. Mandeep Kaur, while giving information, said that in collaboration with Punjabi Lok Sabhajan Manch, Devinder Satyarthi Sahitya Sabha, Bhadaur and Panj Aab Punjabi Sahitya Sabha, Devinder Satyarthi Memorial Event was organized dedicated to the memory of Krishan Korpal, Krishan Bargari and Hardeep Singh Handiya. During this, Ma. Ram Kumar welcomed the guests and cultural songs were presented by the Folk Music Group Bhadaur. Discussions were held on literature, education and other topical issues. Master Gurmel Bhatal read a pamphlet on the revolutionary literary work of Krishna Korpal. Dr. Amaninderpal Singh reviewed the new education policy and motivated the people to take it to the general public. Which is possible only through educational institutions.

Thrilling matches on day 3 of 63rd All India Principal Harbhajan Singh football tournament



DALJEET AJNOHA
HOSHIARPUR, FEB 15

Shri Guru Gobind Singh Khalsa College Mahilpur hosted exciting football clashes on the third day of the 63rd All India Principal Harbhajan Singh Tournament, organized under the leadership of Kulwant Singh Sangha, president of Principal Harbhajan Singh Sporting.Football enthusiasts were treated to riveting action in various matches. Chief guests including Wing Commander Hardev Singh Dhillon, Tajinder Kumar, Balvir Singh, Sohan Singh Gill, Gursevak Singh Bains, Daljit Singh UK, Santosh Singh Saini, Kuldeep Singh Khabda, and Amrik Singh Bains attended. They interacted with players and assured organizers of full support.In the college category opener, Khalsa College Mahilpur defeated Football Academy Baddowal 2-0. In the club category, Rail Coach Factory Kapurthala beat Namdhari Football Club 2-0 to advance, while BSF thrashed RT Hyderabad 5-0 in another clash. Large crowds of local sports lovers turned up to cheer.

Kaliyugi mother kills her son and daughter by giving them rat poision



KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA
RAMPURA PHUL, FEB 15

A Kaliyugi mother killed her two innocent children by giving them poison in Phulewala village of Bathinda district. Based on the father's statement, a case of murder has been registered at Phul police station against mother Jassi Kaur, her sister, Moto Kaur and a person named Lakhbir Singh alias Lakhi. Jassi Kaur and Motto Kaur have been taken into custody. Meanwhile, the alleged friend, Lakhbir Singh alias Lakhi, is absconding. Preliminary investigation by the police has revealed that the mother had killed the two children by giving them rat poison. According to reports, Budh Singh, a resident of Phulewala village, lost his almost 7-year-old daughter a few days ago. The family had cremated him, considering it a natural death. On Friday night, Budh Singh's almost 5-year-old son died suddenly.

This led the distressed father Budh Singh to question the sudden deaths of his two innocent children.

Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh promotional marathon gets good response from residents in support of 'War Against Drugs' campaign



LUDHIANA, FEB 15

The 'War Against Drugs' campaign launched by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann received overwhelming public support in Ludhiana, where the district administration organized the first 5-kilometre promotional marathon.

The objective of the event was to raise awareness among youth about the harmful effects of drugs and to channel their energy in a positive direction.The marathon commenced from the Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) Sports Ground and was flagged off by Punjab Vidhan Sabha Deputy Speaker, Shri Jai Krishan Singh Rouri.Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Deputy Speaker stated that approximately 1,200 runners participated in the marathon. He said the run was dedicated to the supreme sacrifice of Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh and marked a strong collective step toward building a drug-free Punjab.

He also announced that the Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh National Marathon will be organized on March 22 at Mahilpur (District Hoshiarpur), and appealed to all citizens to participate enthusiastically. He emphasized that such initiatives would further strengthen the public movement for a drug-free Punjab.The Deputy Speaker added that alongside strict action against drug traffickers, the Punjab Government is also organizing awareness programs under preventive measures to involve every section of society in the fight against drugs. He highlighted that sports events like marathons promote teamwork, discipline, and a healthy lifestyle among youth.

Important meeting of Nasha Mukti Morcha regarding preparations for Moga mega meeting February 16



JALANDHAR (PARAMJIT SINGH): With the aim of realizing the concept of a drug-free Punjab, an important meeting was organized by Nasha Mukti Morcha in collaboration with Police Commissionerate Jalandhar. The meeting was attended by the President and Convener of Village Defence Committee (VDC), Councilors of various wards, Sarpanch Sahibans and representatives of Jalandhar Urban.

The meeting was especially attended by Atin Agnihotri (Doaba Zone Vice Coordinator, Nasha Mukti Morcha), Nitin Kohli ji, Madam Rajwinder Thiara ji, Atul Bhagat ji and Dinesh Dhall ji. All of them discussed in detail the preparations for the Moga Mega Meeting to be held on 16 February 2026 and assigned responsibilities to make it successful. The main objective of the meeting was to make the joint strategy against drugs more effective by creating better coordination between the administration, police department and social organizations. The speakers said that to make the mega meeting to be held in Moga historic, a village-to-village awareness campaign will be launched and special efforts will be made to keep the youth away from drugs.

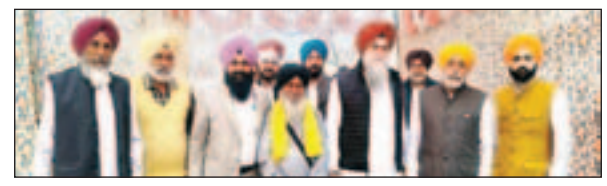
Mahashivratri: Chants of 'Bam Bam Bhole' echo across Machhiwara Sahib



DEEPAK KUMAR
MACHHIWARA SAHIB, FEB 15

Mahashivratri was celebrated with devotion and enthusiasm in Machhiwara Sahib as chants of "Bam Bam Bhole" reverberated across the town. From early morning, devotees thronged temples to offer water on the sacred Shivling and seek blessings of Lord Shiva. At Shivala Brahmachari Temple, devotees paid obeisance to the Panchmukhi Shivling believed to have been established by the Pandavas. The temple committee arranged community langars with a variety of dishes for devotees arriving from distant places. A grand religious procession was also taken out from Durga Shakti Temple featuring tableaux depicting episodes from the life of Lord Shiva. Decorative gates were erected across the town, and residents showered flowers on the procession as it passed through the streets. Shopkeepers also organised food stalls and langars for visitors. Among those present were Samrala constituency MLA Jagtar Singh Dayalpura, Congress constituency incharge Rupinder Singh Raja Gill, Akali Dal leader Parmjeet Singh Dhillon, BJP Mandal president Sukhwinder Lal Sharma, Market Committee chairman Sukhwinder Singh Gill, Parminder Tiwari, Niranjan Sukham, Sanjeev Lehal, Arvinderpal Singh Vicky, Rajinder Verma, Shivcharan Sharma, Gaurav Goyal, Vijay Jain, Sushil Luthra, Vishal Jain, Anchit Bhatia, Sonu Nagpal, Durga Shakti Temple Committee president Nand Kishore Kaushal, Umesh Sui, Prem Aggarwal, Shiv Kumar Shivli, Rajesh Lehal, Jagdish Lal, Ashwani Sharma, Madan Lal Bittu, Pandit Anuj Sharma, Naresh Kheda, Subhash Bittan, Chetan Kumar, Sukhwinder Rinka etc.

Sandhwan attended social and religious functions



KOTKAPURA (SURINDER DAMDAMI): Punjab Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan today attended various social and religious functions of the constituency. He attended the Bhog of Shri Akhand Path organized by Jagdev Singh as a Shukrana to Waheguru Ji at Dera Farmahan Wala, Gali No. 2, Old City Kotkapura near his residence, and the Bhog of Shri Sehaj Path organized at the house of Didar Singh Dhaliwal at Nanak Nagari, Moga Road, Gali No. 6, Kotkapura. Apart from this, he also attended the Shivratri function at Dudhadhari Dera. After this, S. Sandhwan attended the Bhog of Shri Akhand Path held at the house of Balour Singh Chahal in village Faridkot, the Bhog of Shri Akhand Path Sahib held at the house of Gursewak Singh Dhillon in village Dhilwan Kalan, Kothe Mahal and the Path of Shri Sukhmani Sahib held at the house of Jagdev Singh and Soni Hunjan in village Tehna and prayed to Guru Maharaj for the welfare of all. After this, S. Sandhwan, while sharing the sorrow and happiness of the common people, paid obeisance at the Bhog of Kulwinder Kaur at Gurdwara Sahib Kothe Warring and the Bhog of Gurdarshan Singh Sandhu at Gurdwara Sahib Village Hardialeana.

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Govt to construct Asia's Longest Zipline Project at Naddi to Boost Tourism

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA: To give a major fillip to tourism in the Kangra region, the State Government led by Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has decided to develop Asia's longest zipline project at Naddi in the picturesque Dhauladhar valley of Kangra district. The proposed 4.3 kilometre long Naddi Zipline Project, with an estimated cost of Rs. 7.41 crore, is envisioned as a landmark adventure tourism initiative. The project will feature four stations, Gallu (starting point), Ball village, Naddi and Maggie Point Khad (terminating point), offering visitors a thrilling experience while showcasing the breathtaking natural beauty of the Dhauladhar ranges. The project is proposed to be completed within a period of 36 months.

NEWS BRIEF

First-ever online e-auction for retail liquor vends and entry toll barriers in state

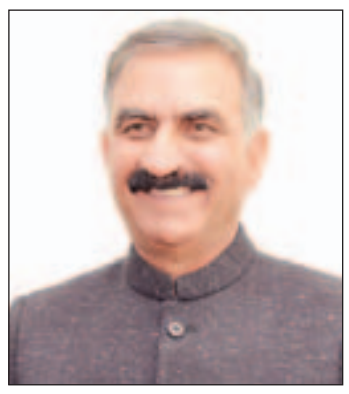
DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA: To enhance transparency, accountability and ease of doing business, the Department of State Taxes & Excise, will allot retail excise liquor vends and entry toll barriers for the financial year 2026–27 through a fully transparent online e-Auction process for the first time in the State's history. The e-Auction will be conducted unit-wise, with separate online bids for each unit comprising retail excise liquor vends. Applicants will be able to participate in the bidding process remotely from their homes or offices. The Commissioner, State Taxes & Excise, Dr. Yunus, stated that all applicants must mandatorily register on the designated e-Auction portal using a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC). Only bids submitted online through the official portal will be accepted. The link to the e-Auction portal will be made available on the Department's official website www.hptax.gov.in.

Govt approves Rs. 1617 crore for modernization of medical colleges and super speciality institutions

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, FEB 15

With the objective of providing affordable, high-quality healthcare services across the State, the Government has approved Rs 1,617 crore in the first phase of Rs. 3,000 crore comprehensive healthcare modernization initiative. This investment will upgrade infrastructure in Government Medical Colleges, Super Speciality Centres and Adarsh Swasthya Sansthans. The project is scheduled for implementation from 1st April 2026 to 30th April 2031.

Timely medical intervention is critical to patient outcomes. Delays in diagnosis and treatment not only worsen health conditions but also significantly escalate costs. Studies suggest that late diagnosis can increase a patient's medical expenses by 30–50 percent, underscoring the importance of strengthening healthcare infrastructure and ensuring prompt access to quality care. A Government Spokesperson stated here today that under this ambitious initiative, institutions will be equipped with high-end diagnostic facilities, simulation-based medical training systems, AI-enabled handheld X-ray devices and integrated digital health platforms. The project aims to ensure timely access to specialized care, reduce referral-related costs, improve patient outcomes and strengthen emergency response systems in remote and far-flung areas. It will also promote gender-equitable and climate-resilient healthcare, positioning Himachal Pradesh as a pioneering State in accessible and technology-driven public health



modernization.

The Spokesperson stated that the first component of the project focuses on strengthening physical infrastructure. This includes new construction, renovation and upgradation of academic blocks, outpatient and inpatient facilities in Government Medical Colleges. High-fidelity simulation centres, AR/VR-based training facilities, digital libraries and skill labs integrated with e-learning platforms will also be established. Advanced imaging and diagnostic equipment such as MRI, CT scanners, digital radiology systems and molecular diagnostic laboratories will be installed. Digital platforms including PACS, LIMS, Telemedicine and Learning Management Systems (LMS) will be integrated to enable interoperable data exchange in accordance with ABDM standards. Under the second component, tertiary care centres at IGMC Shimla, AIMSS Chamiana and Dr. Radhakrishnan Government Medical College, Hamirpur will be further strengthened. Services such as renal and bone marrow transplant, neurosurgery, cardiothoracic surgery, advanced endoscopic procedures, pediatric care and robotic-assisted surgeries will be expanded. Institutions will be equipped with cutting-edge technologies including O-arm 3D imaging, neuro-navigation systems, robotic surgery platforms and integrated critical care monitoring systems. An Advanced Pediatric Care and Innovation Centre will also be established to integrate critical, surgical and tele-enabled pediatric healthcare delivery. The third component of the project envisages strengthening Adarsh Swasthya Sansthans by equipping them with modern diagnostic and surgical facilities, including CT scanners, mobile X-ray units, ultrasound machines, laparoscopic systems, and ophthalmic surgical units. Telemedicine services and digital referral networks will be expanded to seamlessly connect district hospitals with tertiary and Super Speciality centres. Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu stated that the State Government is fully committed to providing specialized and quality healthcare services to the people. He emphasized that several initiatives have already been undertaken to modernize health institutions across the State. The Government has introduced robotic surgery facilities at AIMSS Chamiana and Dr. Rajendra Prasad Government Medical College, Tanda and similar facilities will soon be extended to other medical colleges for the benefit of patients. He further added that the State Government plans to invest Rs. 3000 crore in the coming period to equip health institutions with state-of-the-art medical equipment.

Rs 68 lakh development push in Luharwin & Fatoh: Dharmani accelerates rural transformation in Ghumarwin

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY
BILASPUR, FEB 15



In a significant boost to rural infrastructure, Minister for Town and Country Planning, Housing, Technical Education, Vocational and Industrial Training, Rajesh Dharmani, laid the foundation stone for development projects worth Rs 68 lakh in Luharwin and Fatoh Panchayats of the Ghumarwin Assembly constituency on Sunday. The Minister inaugurated works including the Basti Dhardi link road in Fatoh Panchayat costing Rs 34 lakh and a bridge on the Court Complex to Racheda link road, also estimated at Rs 34 lakh. These projects are set to significantly improve connectivity, ensure safer transportation, and strengthen rural mobility for local residents. Addressing a large public gathering, Dharmani reaffirmed the state government's unwavering commitment to balanced and inclusive rural development. He emphasized that road connectivity, sports infrastructure, and disaster restoration projects are being prioritized to transform remote regions into hubs of opportunity and growth. Highlighting ongoing initiatives, he informed that Rs 25 lakh has been sanctioned under AMP Scheme 2025-26 for the Tarotda-Barota road, Rs 26 lakh for the Jungi Barota link road under AMP 2024-25, and Rs 20 lakh under PDNA for additional link road works. Furthermore, Rs 2.01 crore is being invested in the Kandaur-Panoh-Takerda-Ghumarwin road, while Rs 1.90 crore has been utilized for restoring the Jogindernagar-Dharampur-Sarkaghat-Ghumarwin road under disaster management efforts.

Himachal experiences mild nights as dry spell continues

AGENCY
SHIMLA, FEB 15



Dry weather conditions continued to prevail across Himachal Pradesh during the past 24 hours, with minimum temperatures in many parts remaining a couple of degrees above normal. The Meteorological Centre in Shimla reported no rainfall or snowfall in the state, while shallow fog was observed in Mandi during the early morning hours. Minimum temperatures showed a little variation, with several stations recording readings two to four degrees above normal. Shimla recorded a minimum temperature of 8.0 degrees Celsius, about three degrees above normal. Other major stations also experienced relatively mild nights, including Dharamshala at 7.2 degrees, Una at 8.4 degrees, Mandi at 7.1 degrees, Kangra at 6.5 degrees, and Bilaspur at 8.0 degrees. Sundernagar recorded 5.7 degrees, Bhuntar 5.5 degrees, Solan 4.3 degrees, and Palampur 7.0 degrees. Jubbarhatti airport registered 9.2 degrees. In the tribal belt, Kalpa recorded minus 0.4 degrees, Kukumseri minus 6.3 degrees, and Tabo the lowest in the state at minus 6.9 degrees C. Day temperatures remained markedly above normal, bringing relief from cold weather conditions. Una recorded the highest maximum temperature in the state at 27.8 degrees, followed by Mandi at 25.4 degrees and Bilaspur at 25.5 degrees C.

Dy CM offers prayers at historic Bathri Shiva temple on Mahashivratri

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA: Himachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri participated in a grand Mahashivratri celebration at the historic Shiva temple in Bathri and performed traditional Puja rituals, praying for the prosperity and welfare of the people of the state. Extending greetings on the auspicious occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister said Mahashivratri conveys a message of spiritual energy, discipline and positivity. He called upon citizens to strengthen mutual brotherhood, harmony and moral values in society. He added that the state government is fully committed to the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage. The aim, he said, is to ensure better and more accessible facilities for devotees while maintaining the sanctity of traditional worship practices and developing temples in a modern, digital and well-organised manner. Public representatives, dignitaries and officials from various departments were also present on the occasion.



Governor's address to mark start of Himachal Assembly budget session on Feb 16: Speaker



DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA: Kuldeep Singh Pathania, Speaker of the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, announced that the 11th session of the 14th Assembly and the fourth budget session of the current government will begin on February 16 at 2 pm with the Governor's address in the House. He shared the information while addressing a press conference after chairing a meeting of the Press Gallery Committee held at 12.15 pm in the main conference hall of the Assembly Secretariat. Pathania said the first phase of the session is scheduled for three days and may be extended if required. He informed that a total of 125 questions have been received from members so far, including 111 starred and 14 unstarred questions submitted through the online system, which have been forwarded to the government for further action. Additionally, two notices under Rules 62 and 101 have also been received online and sent to the government as per procedure.

Rail line section will be inspected soon: Anurag Thakur

SANJAY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA, FEB 15



Former Union Minister and Member of Parliament from Hamirpur Lok Sabha constituency, Anurag Thakur, is committed to expanding rail services, building infrastructure, and enhancing connectivity in Himachal Pradesh. In response, when the Chakki River Railway Bridge on the border between Himachal Pradesh and Punjab was washed away by floods in August 2022, disrupting rail traffic, Mr. Thakur consistently raised the strong demand for its reconstruction with the Central Government, leading to the commencement of work on the Chakki River Railway Bridge four years ago. He said, "Due to the special affection of respected Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the expansion of rail services in Himachal Pradesh has gained new momentum in the last 12 years. The Modi government has played a significant role in approving new projects and increasing funding for existing ones. Rail connectivity in the state faced a major disruption when the Chakki River railway bridge on the border between Himachal Pradesh and Punjab was washed away due to floods in August 2022. I raised the strong demand for the reconstruction of this bridge with the Central Government, and prompt action was taken and the Ministry of Railways initiated the construction of the bridge. It is a matter of great joy that the construction of this bridge, which connects the narrow gauge train service (Kangra Valley Railway) between Pathankot and Jogindernagar, is now complete. As per the communication issued by the Railway Safety Commissioner, Dinesh Chand Deswal, Railway Safety Commissioner (Northern Circle), will conduct a statutory inspection of the newly constructed bridge over the Chakki River and the restored railway line section on February 24/25, 2026.

Major cracks appear on the Ghaluwal-Jhalera bridge, people in Una dist push for new bridge

AGENCY
UNA, FEB 15

People of Una district who travel to Hoshiarpur through Ghaluwal-Jhalera bridge are a worried lot as the 65-year-old bridge has developed serious cracks at different places raising questions about its safety. People are upset as the concerned department is not paying adequate attention to the continuously deteriorating condition of this important bridge which is a vital link connecting two states. According to reports, this bridge over the Swan River between Jhalera and Ghaluwal was constructed in 1962. Over the past 63 years, the bridge has withstood numerous floods. It has been repaired from time to time, costing crores of rupees, but each time only temporary solutions have been provided. About two years ago, a portion of the bridge was damaged by a strong current, forcing it to remain closed for several days. During that time, local residents demanded the government and administration construct a new bridge. In June last year, the central government approved the construction of a new double-lane bridge, but construction work has yet to begin and that is the main cause of peoples concern. Currently, cracks are visible in the pillars and slabs of the old bridge, raising concerns about potential danger. Approval has been granted for the construction of a new double-lane bridge near the old bridge at a cost of Rs 36.93 crore. Local residents demand that the construction of the new bridge is taken up on war-footing before it's too late. Thousands of vehicles from Punjab and Himachal Pradesh travel across the Jhalera-Ghaluwal bridge daily, with approximately 90 per cent of these vehicles originating from Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. Vehicles bound for Nangal, Hamirpur, Bilaspur, Mandi, and other areas also use this route. This route is also important for travellers travelling to Jalandhar and Amritsar.

National Highway officialS informed that the situation is being monitored and necessary steps are being taken. Rajesh Sharma, Assistant Engineer of National Highway said that the construction of the Jhalera-Ghaluwal bridge is expected to begin within a month with the project being awarded to the contractor.

Mukhyamantri Kanyadan Yojana supports poor families' daughters in Una

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA, FEB 15

The Himachal Pradesh government's Mukhyamantri Kanyadan Yojana is emerging as a significant support system for economically weaker families by providing financial assistance for the marriage of their daughters, helping them conduct the occasion with dignity and self-respect.

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, the state government has been prioritising social security schemes to ensure real relief for vulnerable sections and equal opportunities in society. Under the scheme, eligible families receive Rs. 51,000 as assistance for a daughter's marriage, offering crucial support to disadvantaged households.

District Programme Officer (ICDS) Narendra Kumar said that during the past three years, 325 eligible families in Una district have received a total financial assistance of Rs. 1,65,75,000 under the scheme, reflecting its effective role in strengthening social welfare in the district.

He added that under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Jatin Lal, the district administration is ensuring smooth implementation of the scheme by identifying eligible beneficiaries on time and facilitating benefits through a simple process.

At the grassroots level, Child Development Project Officers, supervisors and anganwadi workers are conducting awareness campaigns to inform eligible families about the scheme.

The scheme covers destitute girls whose fathers have passed away, daughters of women who are abandoned, divorced or formerly residing in care institutions, as well as girls whose fathers are unable to earn due to physical or mental disability, provided the guardian's annual income does not exceed Rs. 50,000.

Applicants must submit the prescribed form along with an income certificate verified by the concerned tehsildar.

Eligible beneficiaries can apply through the District Programme Officer, Child Development Project Officer, supervisor or nearest anganwadi worker. Applications may be submitted from two months prior to the wedding date up to six months after the marriage.

Devotees throng Gasota Mahadev temple on Mahashivratri

ANIL KUMAR
HAMIRPUR, FEB 15



Thousands of devotees gathered at the historic Gasota Mahadev Temple, located about nine kilometres from the district headquarters, to celebrate Mahashivratri with religious fervour as a special fair was organised on the occasion. Chants of Lord Shiva's name echoed across temples throughout the district, with the largest turnout seen at the Gasota shrine, where devotees offered prayers with traditional rituals and bowed before the deity. The temple complex and surrounding areas were lively with fair stalls, swings and shops, where visitors, especially children, enjoyed themselves. Inside the shrine, the Shivling was beautifully decorated, and devotees began arriving as early as 4 am after the morning aarti. On Mahashivratri, pilgrims from distant places visit the temple in large numbers, many observing fasts and offering milk, water, bel leaves and flowers to Lord Shiva. Temple Mahant Raghavanand Giri said elaborate arrangements had been made for the festival and that four rounds of special prayers would be conducted throughout the day. He added that facilities had been arranged for the convenience of devotees, noting that the temple remains a major centre of faith where people visit year-round with prayers and wishes. Temple committee president Prakash Chand Patial said the Shivratri celebrations would continue for two days.

Mother and son seriously injured in cylinder blast in Bhoranj



ANIL KUMAR
HAMIRPUR: A mother and her son sustained serious burn injuries after a powerful explosion occurred while changing a cooking gas cylinder at a residential house in the Bassi area under Bhoranj subdivision of Himachal Pradesh's Hamirpur district on Saturday night. According to reports, the incident took place while the family was preparing food. When the LPG cylinder ran out, a new cylinder was fitted, but during the attempt to ignite the stove, gas leakage occurred and flames suddenly flared up. Within moments, the cylinder exploded with a loud blast. Inderjeet Dogra and his mother Sunita, who were present in the kitchen at the time, were caught in the flames and suffered severe burns. Neighbours rushed to the spot after hearing the explosion and helped shift the injured to a hospital, where they are undergoing treatment. The intensity of the blast can be gauged from the fact that the kitchen structure shook, doors were dislodged and windowpanes shattered, with glass fragments scattering to a considerable distance. The explosion also caused panic in nearby houses. Fortunately, the fire did not spread to engulf the entire building, which could have led to greater damage. Confirming the incident, Balbir Singh Thakur, Superintendent of Police, Hamirpur, said the case appears to be an accidental incident. He stated that a police team inspected the site and recorded statements of the victims, adding that preliminary investigation has found no indication of criminal negligence and necessary legal formalities are being completed.

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RBU Cadet awarded roll of honour for prestigious DG NCC Medal

LK BANSAL

MOHALI: Rayat Bahra University organised a special felicitation ceremony to honour its NCC cadet, Senior Under Officer (SUO) Anuradha, who has been awarded the prestigious Director General NCC Commendation Medal. The medal was conferred by Lt Gen Varindra Vats in New Delhi for her meritorious service and outstanding



performance during the Republic Day Parade 2026. Her achievement has brought pride and recognition to the university. Anuradha was honoured by the University with a Roll of Honour and a cash prize. The felicitation ceremony was held on the university campus in the presence of Chancellor Gurvinder Singh Bahra, Group Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Sanjay Kumar and Director A.S. Chahal from the NCC/NSS Department.

NEWS BRIEF

On occasion of Mahashivratri, Shiv Kailash Triveni Temple organises Langar



KULDEEP SOOD

BARNALA: Under the leadership of Jagdeep Sharma alias Jaggi, President of Shiv Kailash Triveni Temple located at Valmiki Chowk, like every year, the festival of Maha Shivratri was celebrated with great devotion by offering prayers and lighting lamps. On this occasion, the priest of the temple, Pandit Ratan Prakash, performed Aarti of Lord Shiva by chanting Vedic mantras. Different forms of the Lord and Shivlings have been installed in the temple. Langar of hot bread, tea, pakoras and fruits was also organized for the visiting devotees. Jagdeep Sharma, Sukhjit Kalkatta, Sukhwant Singh Sukha, Gurpreet Singh Gora, Dev Baba, Gaurav Sharma, Bharti Pandit, Kamalpreet Kaur, Shehnaz Kaur etc. were present on this occasion.

Sri Guru Ravidass Maharaj Ji's Avatar Day celebrated at Gursevak Nagar



KULDEEP SOOD

BARNALA: Like every year, this time the 649th birth anniversary of Sri Guru Ravidass Maharaj Ji was celebrated with reverence by all the members of the Gursevak Nagar Dhanaula Road Government Primary School Barnala under the able leadership of President Kuldeep Singh Dagon. On this occasion, the special guest was the MLA Kuldeep Singh Kala Dhillon and the chief guest was the senior advocate and former member of Parliament Sardar Rajdev Singh Khalsa Ji who shed light on the life of Guru Ravidas Ji and said that along with devotion to the Lord, Bhagat Ravidas Ji holds an important place among the devotees who have made a valuable contribution to social reform.

PM to lay foundation for Silchar-Guwahati corridor this March: Assam CM

AGENCY
GUWAHATI, FEB 15



Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit the state in March to lay the foundation stone for the highly anticipated Silchar-Shillong-Guwahati high-speed corridor. The project, which carries a massive investment of Rs 22,864 crore, aims to reduce travel time between Silchar and Guwahati to just 4.5 to 5 hours, transforming regional connectivity. "We have recieved sanction for several projects. Under the Guwahati Ring Road, the Kurua-Narengi bridge will also be included. Under this project, the Union government and Assam Government will spend Rs 5,729 crore, with land acquisition of Rs 7,000 crore. The Union government will spend Rs 6,957 crore under the Kaziranga elevated corridor project," Sarma said while adressing a press conference here."Prime Minister Narendra Modi will again visit Assam in March, and he will lay the foundation stone of the Silchar-Shillong-Guwahati high-speed corridor project, and this will become a game-changing road as this project will reduce the time from Silchar to Guwahati to 4.5 - 5 hours. This is the biggest project which will be implemented by the Union government in Assam with a cost of Rs 22,864 crore," he added. The Assam CM also announces major infrastructure projects, including the Brahmaputra tunnel and Kamakhya ropeway."The Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs on Friday sanctioned the twin-tube under water road cum rail tunnel on the river Brahmaputra, which will connect Numaligarh and Gohpur with a cost of Rs 18,662 crore. When Advantage Assam 2.0 (Investment & Infrastructure Summit) was held, the Union government had assured us to implement projects worth Rs 80,000 crore. So far, we have been able to get sanctions of projects worth Rs 55,000 crore. In the coming days, a few interesting projects are coming, and we will lay the foundation. One is the Kamakhya ropeway project (Kamakhya railway station to Kamakhya temple), a tender has done for this project, and we will get the selected party among the two tenders within 10 days. We will lay the foundation of this project during the Prime Minister's next visit."On Saturday, PM Modi also inaugurated the Kumar Bhaskar Varma Setu across the River Brahmaputra.

Panch Kalyanak is the journey from human to Tirthankar: Acharya Vinishchay Sagar

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, FEB 15



Acharya Vinishchay Sagar said that Panch Kalyanak represents the spiritual journey from an ordinary human being to a Tirthankar, and emphasised that the misuse of science without wisdom can lead to destruction. He was addressing devotees during the commencement of the Panch Kalyanak Pratishtha Mahotsav and World Peace Mahayagya organised in Karnal with traditional rituals. The Acharya, accompanied by his monastic disciples including Muni Pranchal Sagar, Muni Praveer Sagar, Muni Pratyaksh Sagar and Kshullak Pragyan Sagar, arrived at the city as part of a ceremonial procession. Hundreds of followers welcomed the Jain monastic group and escorted them in a grand mangal yatra from GT Road to the event venue. Earlier, the Acharya visited Digambar Jain Mitun Mohalla temple for darshan before proceeding to the venue, where devotional chants filled the hall as he took his seat. During the ceremony, the Jain five-coloured flag was hoisted amid Vedic chants by devotees including Ajay Jain and Madhu Jain, while several families performed ceremonial rituals such as inauguration of the venue, lighting of the eternal lamp and unveiling of sacred images. Scholars including chief ritual preceptor Pandit Jaykumar Nishant and co-preceptor Naman Bhai conducted the proceedings.

Shri Ram Hanuman Ramlila Committee Ladwa organises procession of Lord Shiva

KARAMBIR
LADWA, FEB 15



The city's religious platform, the Shri Ram Hanuman Ramlila Committee, in collaboration with other social and religious organizations, organised a procession of Lord Shiva in the city. Committee Vice President Naresh Garg stated that with the support of the city's residents, a grand procession of Lord Shiva began at the Khede Temple, travelled through various routes throughout the city, and culminated at the Hindu High School. Committee Vice President Naresh Garg stated that after a series of morning processions in the city on the occasion of Mahashivratri, a Shiva procession was held in Ladwa, following the example of Ujjain. Thousands of Shiva devotees and devotees, including a large number of city organizations and women, participated in the procession. The entire city was filled with Shiva. Gods, goddesses, and ghosts led the procession. The markets reverberated with the sound of conch shells, drums, cymbals, and chants of "Bam Bam Bhole" along with flower showers along various city streets. The Shiva procession was inaugurated by Municipal Council President Sakshi Khurana, as the chief guest, by performing an aarti to Lord Shiva and waving the saffron flag. Chief guest Sakshi Khurana extended her greetings to all residents on the occasion of Mahashivratri, stating that Lord Shiva is the destroyer of suffering, the deity who drinks poison himself to give the world nectar, and who directly inspires us to serve the society.

MSO Group and Jat Mahasabha celebrate birth anniversary of Maharaja Surajmal



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

KARNAL: To commemorate the birth anniversary of Maharaja Surajmal, a function was organised by the MSO Group and the Jat Mahasabha at the Jat Dharamshala in Karnal. A Kabaddi competition was held, in which players from several districts participated. Jat Mahasabha President Bhupinder Lathar Bhuppi welcomed and thanked all the guests, players, and officials and members of both organizations. Bhupinder Lathar said that Maharaja Surajmal possessed a unique physical personality, a radiant image, and a powerful leadership. During his reign, cows, Brahmins, saints, sages, and the weak received protection. He fought nearly 80 wars and remained undefeated. He said that Maharaja Surajmal was not only a brave warrior but also a just and public-spirited ruler. His ideals still inspire society to remain united, promote education, and strengthen organisational strength. People who attended the programme remembered Maharaja Surajmal's unique courage, efficient administration, foresight and contribution to the national interest.

Lord Shiva worshipped at SMS Memorial Public School

KAMAL SHARMA

TARAORI: A special programme was organised at SMS Memorial Public School, Taraori, to commemorate Mahashivratri. The programme began with the worship of Lord Shiva, offering flowers, and lighting lamps. Students performed hymns and devotional songs, filling the school campus with a devotional atmosphere. The Mahamrityunjaya Mantra was also chanted during the prayer meeting, with students and teachers praying for health, prosperity, and positive energy in life. School Principal Dr. Vibha Kaushik said that Mahashivratri inspires us to follow the path of self-control, patience, and truthfulness. She encouraged students to adopt discipline and good conduct in their lives. She also emphasized that such religious and cultural festivals connect us to our Indian traditions and strengthen moral values. The programme concluded with the Shanti Path.



Huge procession takes out for installation of idol in Shiva temple

KARAMBIR
LADWA, FEB 15



A huge procession was taken out for the installation of the idol in the Shiva temple located in Shiv Colony of Ward No. 7 on Ladwa-Hinauri road. The procession started from Shiv Temple, passed through the main markets and ended at Kheda Temple and back to Shiv Temple. While the idol of Lord Shiva and Pavarti remained the center of attraction in the procession, the beautiful tableaux that were brought out captivated everyone. The procession was flagged off from the temple by the temple director Saint Maluk Giri, in which a large number of Shiva devotees participated. Temple director Saint Maluk Giri told that after the installation of the idol, a Bhandara of Lord Shiva will be organized in the temple on Monday. Before the Bhandara, Aarti will be organized in the temple at 6 am, Havan at 11 am and a huge Bhandara at 1 pm. Crowd of Shiva devotees gathered in Shiva temples, performed Jalabhishek on Shivling. On Maha Shivratri on Sunday, a huge crowd of Shiva devotees was seen in Shiva temples. Since morning, Shiva devotees had started performing Jalabhishek on Shiva in Shiva temples. While Shiva devotees worshiped Lord Shiva, they also performed Jalabhishek on Shivalinga. In the major Shiva temples of Ladwa, Shiva devotees started standing in queues from four in the morning. Shiva devotees went to their respective Shiva temples and anointed Lord Shiva with Ganga water and Panchamrit by the Kanvadis who brought Ganga water in Kanwad. Crowds of Shiva devotees were seen in all the Shiva temples.

Geeta Modern Sr Sec School pays tribute to brave soldiers martyred in Pulwama attack

KAMAL SHARMA
TARAORI, FEB 15



A tribute ceremony was held at Geeta Modern Senior Secondary School, Taraori, in memory of the brave soldiers martyred in the Pulwama attack. All students, teachers, administrative officers, and staff were present. An atmosphere of solemnity and patriotism pervaded the entire school campus. The program began with the laying of a wreath in honor of the martyrs. Following this, everyone observed two minutes of silence in their sacred memory. During this time, everyone paid homage to the immortal martyrs of the country with reverence and gratitude. School Managing Director Balkrishna Tripathi said that the supreme sacrifice of the brave soldiers of Pulwama will forever remain immortal in the history of the country. They sacrificed their lives for the security of the nation, a sacrifice that can never be forgotten. We should draw inspiration from their courage, dedication, and patriotism and pledge to strengthen the unity and integrity of the nation. Students are the future of the country, and therefore, they must imbibe discipline, dedication, and a sense of service in their lives. Following this, the school's Principal, Ragini Rai, in her inspiring message, said that the sacrifice of the Pulwama martyrs teaches us all that nothing is more important than the motherland. Remembering their sacrifice, we must faithfully fulfill our duties. Students should incorporate moral values and patriotism into their lives, along with education. She encouraged students to unite and contribute to the nation's development.

School's annual fest Alankaran-2 ceremony organised at New Oxford Convent School, Ladwa



KARAMBIR

LADWA: Monica Bansal, head of Inner wheel Club, a social organization of Ladwa, attended the function as the chief guest, while advocates Poonam Saini and Nidhi Kasal attended as special guests. The function was presided over by school directors Sudhir Rana and Jitendra Rana. The function was started by the chief guest by lighting the lamp in front of Goddess Saraswati, in which the school children enthralled everyone by presenting a cultural program. The chief guest and guests were also stunned to see the presentation of the school children.

Baba Siddhanath Public School organises special prayer meeting on Maha Shivratri

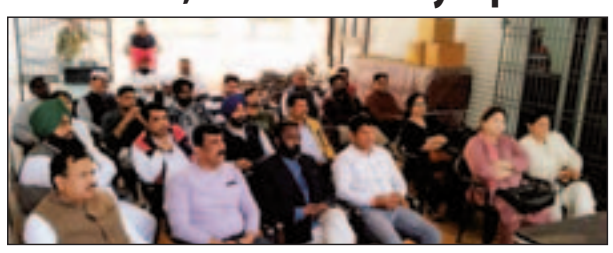
HANS SRAJ YADAV
KURUKSHETRA, FEB 15



Baba Siddhanath International Public School organized a special prayer meeting on the auspicious occasion of Mahashivratri. The programme began with the lighting of lamps and the remembrance of Lord Shiva. The school campus reverberated with a devotional atmosphere. During the meeting, students engaged in group meditation, which infused the atmosphere with peace and positive energy. Following this, the students performed a beautiful hymn dedicated to Lord Mahadev on stage, which was deeply appreciated and appreciated by all. The captivating dance performance by the young students captivated everyone and mesmerized the audience.School Manager Ishwar Singh Ji said in his address that Lord Shiva is a symbol of sacrifice, patience, and strength. We should strive to become good citizens by adopting his ideals in our lives. Rekha Devi Ji said in her message that such religious and cultural programs develop moral values and spiritual spirit in students.

He inspired all students to prioritize values along with their studies. In her message, Principal Geeta Sharma said that Mahashivratri inspires us to introspect, follow the path of self-control and truth. She encouraged students to adopt discipline, hard work, and positive thinking in life.

Congress holds monthly review meet in Karnal, submits activity reports



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

KARNAL: The district unit of the Indian National Congress on Sunday held its monthly meeting at the DCC office here to review organisational activities, public outreach programmes and upcoming events. The meeting was chaired by district Congress (Urban) president Parag Gabba, during which district vice-presidents submitted detailed reports on their respective areas, highlighting door-to-door contact drives and efforts to strengthen the organisation at the booth level. Addressing the gathering, Gabba said the Congress was moving ahead with renewed strength, with workers committed to reinforcing the party at the grassroots and prioritising public issues. He appreciated the efforts of office-bearers and workers and called for sustained momentum. He further informed that, as per the directions of the Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee, a district-level protest will be held on February 16 on various public issues, following which a memorandum addressed to the President will be submitted through the Deputy Commissioner, Karnal.

Sai Angels Academy's annual festival cultural extravaganza, showcasing patriotism and values

JAIBEER RANA THAMBER
BARARA, FEB 15



The annual prize distribution ceremony of Sai Angels Academy School was held with great pomp at a private palace. Pradeep Garg, founder of MBS Pharma Group, was the chief guest, and Deepak Sharma, the Chief Minister's personal secretary, was the special guest. The highlight of the ceremony was a presentation on Mother and Father's Day, in which children highlighted the importance of family values amidst modernity. A soldier act dedicated to the martyrs of Pulwama moved the audience. In a confluence of folk culture, performances of Haryanvi, Punjabi Bhangra, and Marathi Veerangna dance received thunderous applause. Through a play, young artists on stage raised awareness about the increasing ill effects of mobile phones. At the end of the programme, Atul Kumar Bhardwaj and Nivedita Bhardwaj from the school management expressed their gratitude to the guests and parents. Several prominent educationists and social representatives from the area were also present. Principal and Director Rajesh Dhiman, Dilpreet Singh, Gunwinder Singh, Sahil Verma, Renu Sahota, Dilbag Singh, and others were present. Senior journalists including Jaiveer Rana, Sandeep Kumar, Balkar Singh, Rahmadin, and others were present. Finally, Atul Kumar Bhardwaj, Nivedita Bhardwaj, Anshuman Bhardwaj, and the school staff expressed their gratitude on behalf of the school management.

Yugmarg
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NEWS BRIEFS

Mahashivratri celebrated by constructing 501 earthen Shivlingas



MAHENDER GOYAL
HISAR: On auspicious occasion of Mahashivratri in month of Phalgun at Divya Dev Sthanam, Sarasaud, founding members of Manohar Lal Gyani Devi Jan Kalyan Society, Sarasaud and villagers constructed 501 earthen Shivlingas with utmost devotion and faith. Ritual was completed with ritualistic worship abhishek of Lord Shiva and Rudrabhishek under guidance of Pandit Ganesh Shastri. Society President Madanlal Goyal explained that according to scriptures, pouring water on one earthen Shivlinga yields same merits as worshipping one hundred Shivlingas. He also explained that according to mythological belief, first Shivlinga was worshipped by Lord Vishnu and Brahma. At conclusion of program, Sanwak kheer and fruit prasad were distributed among devotees. This divine event became a special occasion filled with worship, devotion and spiritual energy dedicated to Lord Shiva.

Mewat's tradition of courage and self-respect continues to inspire generations: CM

BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, FEB 15

Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini while addressing a large gathering at 'Viksit Sohna Tauru-Rally' in Tauru, Nuh district organized on Sunday said that the Tauru region, nestled in the lap of the Aravallis, is known across the state for its hardworking, self-respecting and resilient people. He said that the soil of Mewat has always upheld the traditions of courage, sacrifice and dignity. From the First War of Independence in 1857 to the country's eventual freedom, the contribution of the people of this region remains etched in golden letters in history, said Sh. Nayab Singh Saini.



Extending warm greetings on the auspicious occasion of Mahashivratri, the Chief Minister said the sacred festival provides an opportunity to connect with the life philosophy of Lord Shiva. He said Mahashivratri teaches that when darkness deepens in life, one must light the lamp of self-reflection. He prayed that the festival bring health, peace, courage and success to every household, and that people's efforts be filled with energy and guided by wisdom.

Prior to the rally, the Chief Minister inaugurated and laid foundation stones for 16 development projects worth Rs. 47.36 crore. These include inauguration of 11 projects at a cost of Rs. 21,77,25,000, 5 projects inaugurated at a cost of Rs. 25,58,58,000

Addressing the gathering, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said the overwhelming turnout at the rally is proof of people's deep faith in the BJP government's intent, policies and welfare initiatives. It is this trust, he said, that has given the Bharatiya Janata Party the opportunity to serve Haryana for a third consecutive term. He assured that no stone would be left unturned in ensuring rapid and inclusive development of the region.

Highlighting progress in the Sohna assembly constituency, he said that during the past 11 years, 62 Chief Minister announcements were made for the area. Of these 49 have been completed and 13 are under progress.

Dr. Vuppu, Raju Khan, and Dr. Suneet Anand among top leaders

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, FEBRUARY 15

National Chief Supremo Narendra Arora released the list of top leaders of the Anti-Corruption Foundation of India and Human Rights International Federation for their outstanding work in the field of corruption eradication and human rights awareness in the second week of February. On this occasion, Narendra Arora said that every week a list of top leaders from various states across India who have done outstanding work in the field of corruption eradication and human rights awareness is released, and they are presented with award certificates and appreciation gifts. He said that the Anti-Corruption Foundation of India is the country's leading organization, which has been working for the Anti-Corruption Awareness Campaign, Integrity Pledge Campaign, Corruption-Free India Campaign, and Humanity Campaign for the last eight years. In the list of top leaders for the second week of February, the first rank was secured by Dr. Vuppu Sanjeeva Rao from Telangana, the second rank by Raju Khan from West Bengal, and the third rank by Dr. Suneet Anand from Madhya Pradesh.



Others who also secured the top rank were Dr. Nandipati Raja Shekhar Reddy, Maduri Varalakshmi Chaudhary, Sanjay Arora, Vipin Agarwal, Athinaara Shanmuga Perumal, Amir Malik, Dr. Mrinal Inamdar, Dr. Sanjeevani, Chandramani, Arun Kumar, Surinder Kumar Sehgal, Achin Namdev, Narendra Kumar Narang, Satish Kumar Prajapat, Varun Chhabra, Gurpreet Singh Panesar, Mohan Singh Rana, Ishwar Chandra Dhiman, M.M. Abdullah, Pradeep Kumar, Gunjan Mandalia, Ankush Bansal, Sohan Lal Sharma, Sham Sundar, Kripal Singh Kataria, Amrik Singh, Apsen Misal, P. Krishna Rao, Shabir Ahmed Shah, Shabir Ali Khan, Sunny Guliani, Ashok Kumar Mishra, Santosh Tejan, Mohammad Sarwar, Vijay Narayan, Roshan, Sandeep Sharma, Pawan Kumar Patel, Ankur Jindal, Archana Mary, Dr. Meenakshi D, and Piyush Names of Bhatia, Patel Nikunjkumar, Pooja Rajput etc. were included.

Parents' Day celebrated at Bhagwan Mahavir Digambar Jain Girls' High School

RAHUL KOHLI



YAMUNANAGAR: Parents' Day was celebrated with devotion and enthusiasm at Bhagwan Mahavir Digambar Jain Girls' High School, Patthar Wala Bazaar, Jagadhri. DSP Rajiv Miglani and Karnail Singh Sandhawa (Deputy District Education Officer, Jagadhri) were the chief guests. The program was presided over by renowned homeopath Dr. Jitendra Sharma. The programme began with hymns and prayers to parents by the chief guests. Speakers on the occasion noted that while some young people today celebrate Valentine's Day under the influence of Western culture, the school has been celebrating Parents' Day on February 14th for the past several years, spreading a strong message of Indian culture and family values to society. Colorful cultural programmes were presented by the students and teachers, in which Avni and Aarushi, along with other students, captivated everyone. Parents present at the programme also participated enthusiastically and appreciated the school's efforts.

Mahashivratri celebrated with devotion and enthusiasm in Nilokheri

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
NILOKHERI, FEB 15

Mahashivratri was celebrated with great enthusiasm across Nilokheri, with major participation of devotees at Shri Sanatan Dharam Mandir, Neelnagar, and other temples in the town. Long queues of devotees were seen from early morning as worshippers offered jalabhishek on the Shivling and performed rituals with deep devotion.

According to Sabha president Shiv Nath Kapoor, as in previous decades, Acharya Jagdish Sharma conducted an all-night Rudrabhishek ceremony in which a large number of devotees remained present throughout the night to participate in the sacred ritual.

Besides Neelnagar temple, celebrations were also held at Vedic Sanatan Mandir in the Poultry Area, temples in Kisan Basti and Hospital Area, and



Lakshmi Narayan Mandir, where special prayers and community feasts were organised. At the Arya Samaj Mandir, the occasion was observed as Rishi Bodhotsav, where office-bearers from various organisations were honoured with mementoes by the Arya Samaj Sabha.

Among those present were Shiv Nath Kapoor, Nikhil Malik, Praveen Anand, Mahendra Munjal, Kamal Arora, Bholanath Kapoor, Naveen Kapoor, Rajiv Anand, Ashwani Sharma, Ashok Pujani, Virender Verma, Bharatpal Batra, Subhash Chaudhary, Chaudhary Inder Singh, Kanwal Nain and several others, along with a large gathering of devotees. Children from Arya Samaj School also presented cultural programmes on the occasion.

Say Om Namaste instead of hello to promote Vedic culture,' says Vijay Ved Pal

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, FEBRUARY 15



Speakers at a programme organised by the Arya Kendriya Sabha to mark the birth anniversary and enlightenment day of Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati called upon followers to adopt Vedic practices in daily life, including greeting others with "Om Namaste Ji" instead of "Hello" to promote Vedic culture and spiritual growth.

Chaudhary Vijay Ved Pal, chief guest at the event and president of the Sarvajatiya Mahasabha, said returning to the Vedas, rejecting superstitions and living according to the teachings of the Satyarth Prakash can ensure holistic development—spiritual, physical, intellectual and mental. He added that the sacred thread, or yajnopavita, symbolises not merely three strands but a pledge toward self-protection, protection of dharma and protection of the nation, while also reminding the wearer of the three debts—to mother, father and sages.

Vijay Ved Pal, son of former Haryana Deputy Speaker Chaudhary Ved Pal, participated in the ritual yajna along with his wife as chief yajman and extended good wishes to all Arya followers for performing what he described as one of the noblest deeds. During the programme, president Prof Anand Singh Arya honoured Vijay Ved Pal with an Om plaque, while Pradhana Kaushal Sachdeva felicitated Mrs Pooja. The event also featured addresses by main speaker Vivek Chaitanya Arya, bhajan exponent Dinesh Pathik, Prof Anand Singh Arya, Swatantra Kukreja, Kaushal Sachdeva, Priya Arya, Indu Gulati, Rajiv Arya, Shivprasad, Nirmal Shastri, Dharm Prakash, Rajkumar Arya, O.P. Sachdeva, Subhash Arya and others.

Subhash Gupta appointed president of Shri Krishna Kripa Samiti



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
TARAORI: A new religious and social organisation, Shri Krishna Kripa Samiti, has been formally constituted in Tarawadi with the aim of promoting spiritual awareness and community service. Office-bearers were appointed during the formation ceremony and entrusted with responsibilities to lead the committee's activities.

CMD of BD Overseas Praveen Garg has been appointed patron, while Tarawadi Anaj Mandi Association president Subhash Gupta has been named president of the committee. Industrialist Naresh Arora has been assigned the role of vice-president, Ranjit Bhardwaj will serve as secretary and Municipal Chairman Virender Bansal has been given the responsibility of cashier. Social workers Mukesh Garg, Rakesh Hans, Randeep Chaudhary, Sachin Garg, Rameshwar Sharma and Rajiv Narang have been appointed as members.

Newly appointed president Subhash Gupta said the committee has been formed under the guidance and inspiration of spiritual saints to systematically promote Gita teachings, satsang and service activities in the region. He said the organisation will not be limited to religious programmes but will also undertake social welfare initiatives, assistance for the needy and community service works on a regular basis. He added that the committee will organise Gita recitations, discourses, satsangs and service camps from time to time to provide positive direction to youth and other sections of society. Members present at the formation meeting described the initiative as commendable for Tarawadi and assured their full support. During the ceremony, Subhash Gupta was honoured by Swami Gyananand Ji Maharaj.

Hisar administration holds camps with little or no preparation: Krishna Gurri

MAHENDER GOYAL
HISAR: From February 9 to 15, camps for prosthetic limbs for the disabled were organized by Alimko Company through Red Cross in various blocks of Hisar. Forum's General Secretary Rishikesh Rajli stated that government's preparations for camps clearly demonstrate that they have set up camps with little or no preparation. By extending deadline from three to five years, most disabled individuals were forced to return home disappointed. Administration provided no prior notice to disabled. Despite invalidating UDID cards based on old medical certificates, many disabled individuals were unable to register, which administration did not inform them of. There were no proper drinking water and seating arrangements, adequate wheelchairs, and no adequate volunteer arrangements by Red Cross. Forum leader Krishna Guri stated that most village sarpanches, Anganwadi workers and ASHA workers were unaware of camps, resulting in very few disabled individuals from village reaching them. It was only through efforts of Disabled Rights Forum that disabled individuals were able to reach most of camps.Sandeep Hisar said that administration did not hold any meeting with disabled organizations regarding preparation of these camps, if they had done so, more disabled people could have participated in it. Government did not organize these camps honestly nor did it consider it necessary to invite many disabled people, they only made a show. Disabled Rights Forum registers its protest against this and demands government to organize camps again.



Groundbreaking ceremony for construction of Agarwal Yuva Sabha Kaithal office

SANJAY SHARMA
KAITHAL, FEBRUARY 15

The groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the Agarwal Yuva Sabha Kaithal office (located at Kothi Gate) was held with reverence and enthusiasm today under the chairmanship of President Rampratap Gupta. Suresh Garg Noch, representative of the Kaithal Municipal Council Chairperson, was present as the chief guest. The construction work was inaugurated with a ritualistic worship. It is noteworthy that Kaithal Municipal Council Chairperson Surabhi Garg has approved a tender worth 50 lakh for the construction of the Agarwal Yuva Sabha's grand office building, creating an atmosphere of joy in the community.



Chief Guest Suresh Garg Noch stated in his address that no shortcomings will be allowed in the construction work. This center will not only be a building, but a hub of faith, unity, and social activities for the community, and it is our goal to give it a grand look.

President Rampratap Gupta said that the dream the community had seen years ago is coming true today. This office will become a major center for social, religious, and service activities in the future. He expressed gratitude to Chairperson Surabhi Garg on behalf of the entire community and expressed confidence that they will continue to receive full support in the construction work. During the program, Suresh Garg Noch was honored with a memento on behalf of the Agarwal community. Former Chairman Arun Saraf said that this building will symbolise the unity and organizational strength of the community and will connect future generations with social values. Former President Navneet Goyal said that such works are possible only through social uplift and organised efforts. This building will serve as a medium to give new direction to the youth.

Former President Prayagraj Balu said in his statement that with the community's cooperation and dedication, this construction work will be completed soon and will prove useful for everyone. Vyapar Mandal President Sikandar Gupta said that this building will become a powerful center for social, cultural, and service activities and will also strengthen business and social coordination.

Subhash Barala listens concerns of residents at his residence.

MAHENDER GOYAL



HISAR: Rajya Sabha MP Subhash Barala held cordial meeting with citizens, party workers and well-wishers at his farmhouse in his native village of Dangra today. MP inquired about well-being of citizens and discussed in detail problems, development projects and public expectations of area. Citizens raised issues related to roads, drinking water, electricity, irrigation, social pensions, youth employment and other basic amenities in village and surrounding areas.He listened to each problem seriously and issued necessary guidelines to officials of concerned departments and assured speedy resolution of pending matters. He stated that responsibility of a public representative is not limited to Parliament; understanding problems of every citizen of area and continuously striving for their resolution is his priority. He stated that public relations are essential to ensure that benefits of Central and State government's public welfare schemes reach last person.

Speaker hears people's grievances at Gharaunda Rest House

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, FEB 15



Speaker Harvinder Kalyan today heard people's grievances at PWD Rest House in Gharaunda and directed concerned officials to address them. He listened to grievances of people for more than 4 hours at rest house premises. Gharaunda Bhola Colony residents demanded drainage of sewage, paving of streets, legalization of colony and provision of sewerage. Area residents demanded adequate availability of hemophilia medication in government hospitals. Residents of Nagla Farm requested construction of road from Sheikhpura Pulia to Rasulpur Kalan and residents of Chaura requested construction of a concrete hall and drain. Residents of villages Garhi Khajur and Basi urged Speaker to find a permanent solution to protect their crops from drain water. He reported that a breach in drain had flooded 10 acres of land previous day. Crops have already suffered significant damage. Speaker directed officials from Irrigation and Municipal Corporation departments to inspect site and take appropriate steps to find a permanent solution to problem. In response to questions from journalists regarding budget session, Kalyan stated that it will begin on February 20. Haryana Assembly Secretariat is fully prepared for session. He recently held a meeting with officials and instructed them to ensure all arrangements proceed smoothly. Efforts will be made to ensure a fruitful budget session. There will be as many discussions as possible and as many members as possible will have opportunity to express their views. Many members come up with good suggestions and solutions through serious discussions. Such meaningful discussions help resolve people's problems.

Grandparents Day celebrated with great enthusiasm at Ganpati Convent Smart School

PREETI SAINI



SADHAURA : Grandparents Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and dignity at Ganpati Convent Smart School. Program aimed to strengthen love, respect and family values between children and their grandparents. Students captivated everyone with colorful presentations and sports activities. Village sarpanches namely Krishna Lal of village Pando, Anil Kumar, Rishipal Saini, Charanjeet Rana and Satish Kumar. School family welcomed and honored all guests. Entertaining fun and useful activities such as Gida, Bhangra, Zumba, skits, and yoga were organized at event in which grandparents and children participated enthusiastically. These activities filled entire atmosphere with joy. Welcoming all guests, school's Principal, Ravneet stated that experience, blessings and affection of grandparents are crucial to a child's overall development. She described school's event as a meaningful effort to instill values, respect, and family values in children. Finally, participants were honored and program concluded with a group photo.

Mahashivratri symbolises cosmic union of Shiva and Shakti, victory of light over darkness: Anil Narang

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, FEBRUARY 15



Social worker and industrialist Anil Narang said Mahashivratri represents the cosmic union of Shiva and Shakti and symbolises the victory of light over darkness, while also promoting social harmony and cultural unity.

He said the festival is not only a celebration of the divine union of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati but also a sacred occasion that encourages peace, cooperation and mutual understanding in society. According to him, Mahashivratri offers people an opportunity to reconnect with their cultural roots and strengthen community spirit.

Narang noted that the festival reminds individuals of moral values such as honesty, forgiveness and compassion. He said the special night of Mahashivratri holds unique spiritual significance, representing the eternal truth that everything originates from a single source and ultimately returns to it. He added that the occasion inspires millions to embrace peace, meditation and higher consciousness. He also stated that Mahakal Swami Kailashpuri Ji Maharaj, head of the Mahakal Bhairav Akhara, has been making continuous efforts to protect nature and preserve the sacred environment associated with Lord Shiva. He urged people to come forward to prevent environmental degradation and safeguard natural resources. Narang explained that Shiva symbolises universal energy, power and consciousness, and when the human body, mind and soul align with this energy through devotion and meditation, life transforms into a blissful experience. He described Mahashivratri as a spiritually significant time that can enhance physical and mental well-being while elevating human consciousness.

YUGMARG

CHANDIGARH

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2026

Opinion

The regional parties have emerged as a strong force, and they, too, deserve a place in national politics.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee

EDITORIAL

"Power Must Speak Through Law, Not Through Public Command"

When authority is exercised in public glare without procedural discipline, institutions suffer silently. The recent exchange in Haryana between a cabinet minister and a district Superintendent of Police is not merely a political episode—it is a constitutional reminder. Democracies are governed by law, not by instantaneous public directives.India's governance structure rests on a carefully balanced design. The political executive draws legitimacy from electoral mandate; the permanent executive draws legitimacy from statute and constitutional obligation. Institutions such as the Indian Administrative Service and the Indian Police Service were conceived to provide continuity, neutrality, and professional integrity to administration irrespective of political change.This equilibrium is safeguarded by Rule 3 of the All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968. It requires civil servants to maintain integrity, devotion to duty, and conduct befitting their service. More significantly, it provides that directions from superiors should ordinarily be in writing. This clause is not clerical formalism—it is constitutional insurance. Written instructions ensure accountability, clarify responsibility, and protect governance from arbitrariness.A Superintendent of Police or District Magistrate does not exercise power as a personal delegate of a minister. They exercise statutory authority. Decisions relating to suspension, investigation, or enforcement must be legally defensible. Acting on verbal commands, especially in public forums, undermines procedural fairness and exposes officers to personal liability.India has seen comparable concerns before. During the 'Janmanch' programme initiated by former Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur in Himachal Pradesh, grievance redressal forums brought governance closer to the people. The objective was commendable. However, the public questioning and instant directions issued to officials sometimes created an impression that institutional process could be overshadowed by public spectacle. Even well-intentioned public reprimand risks eroding administrative dignity and confidence.Accountability remains non-negotiable. Civil servants must answer for inefficiency or misconduct. Yet accountability must operate through lawful channels, documented directions, and procedural fairness. Public humiliation or impulsive direction may generate immediate optics, but it weakens institutional morale and professional independence.The Supreme Court of India has consistently underscored that administrative and police authorities must function free from extraneous pressures. Insulation from informal influence is not protection of bureaucracy; it is protection of rule of law.Punjab and Haryana face complex governance challenges requiring firm yet lawful administration. Officers must feel confident that adherence to procedure will be respected, not perceived as resistance. Political leadership, in turn, enhances its own authority when it operates through institutional channels.Written direction strengthens democracy. It ensures transparency, records responsibility, and reinforces legitimacy. Institutional dignity is not a personal entitlement of officers—it is a public safeguard.The lesson is clear and enduring. Power that flows through law strengthens democracy. Power that bypasses procedure weakens it. In a constitutional republic, public authority must reinforce institutions—not overshadow them.

Artificial Intelligence in transportation and logistics: building the backbone of India's future mobility



Prof. Manoj Choudhary | Dr. Vipul Mishra

Transportation and logistics are the growth engines of economic growth. Every product we consume, every journey we undertake, and every city we inhabit depends on the smooth movement of people, goods and services. Yet, across the world and particularly in rapidly developing economies like India, transportation systems face mounting challenges such as urban congestion, rising accident rates, escalating fuel costs, carbon emissions, and increasingly complex supply chains. Traditional planning and operational methods are no longer sufficient to manage this scale and complexity. It is in this context that Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Science have emerged as transformative forces, redefining how transportation and logistics systems are designed, operated, and optimized.

AI & Data Science in Transportation: A Paradigm Shift

Transportation systems today generate unprecedented volumes of data from traffic sensors, GPS-enabled vehicles, and electronic tolling systems to ticketing platforms, surveillance cameras, weather feeds, and logistics management networks. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Science transform this raw, high-velocity high-volume data into actionable intelligence, enabling transportation systems to become predictive, adaptive, and resilient. This shift is especially visible in India, where large-scale digital platforms and new infrastructure projects are redefining how mobility and logistics are planned and operated.

In urban and highway mobility, Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) powered by machine learning are increasingly central to traffic and toll operations. A prominent example is FASTag, which has digitized toll collection across national highways, generating real-time data on vehicle movement, traffic density, and corridor utilization. This data enables congestion analysis, dynamic traffic management, and evidence-based infrastructure planning. Similarly, AI-enabled traffic signal control systems deployed in several Indian cities analyse live camera feeds and sensor data to optimize signal timings, reduce idling time, and improve intersection safety.

In logistics, data integration platforms such as the Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) represent a significant step toward AI-driven decision-making. By integrating datasets from railways, ports, road transport, and customs, ULIP creates a unified digital backbone for India's logistics ecosystem. AI and advanced analytics applied to such platforms support demand forecasting, route optimization, and bottleneck identification across multimodal networks. These capabilities are particularly important as India develops multimodal logistics parks, gati shakti cargo terminals and expands dedicated freight corridors to reduce logistics costs and improve supply chain reliability.

New infrastructure developments further amplify the role of AI and Data Science. Landmark projects such as the Chenab Rail Bridge: the world's highest railway arch bridge—rely extensively on sensor data, structural health monitoring, and predictive analytics to ensure safety and long-term reliability in challenging terrain. Similarly, the deployment of Vande Bharat trains introduces high-frequency, data-rich operations where AI can optimize scheduling, energy consumption, passenger flow, and maintenance planning. As India moves toward high-speed rail corridors, data-driven control, real-time monitoring, and predictive maintenance will be indispensable for ensuring safety, punctuality, and operational efficiency at high velocities.

Predictive maintenance remains one of the most impactful applications of AI across railways, aviation, and highways. By analysing data from tracks, rolling stock, signalling systems, bridges, and aircraft components, AI models detect early signs of degradation and failure. This proactive approach enhances safety, minimizes service disruptions, and significantly reduces lifecycle costs of infrastructure assets.

Complementing these applications are enabling technologies such as computer vision for automated inspection, digital twins for simulating complex transportation systems, Internet of Things (IoT) for continuous monitoring, and real-time analytics platforms. Together, they signal a fundamental transition from reactive and fragmented operations to predictive, integrated, and intelligence-driven transportation systems. This paradigm shift is central to India's ambition of building a safe, efficient, and globally competitive transportation and logistics ecosystem.

WHY TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS NEED SPECIALIZED AI PROFESSIONALS India's massive investments in railways, expressways, ports, airports, and multimodal logistics parks demand professionals who understand both AI techniques and domain-specific constraints. At the core of this transformation is the demand for a new class of engineers, professionals who not only understand algorithms and data, but also grasp the unique dynamics of transportation networks, logistics flows, and infrastructure systems.

To address this critical national and global requirement, Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya was established with a singular academic mission of creating future-ready talent for India's transportation and logistics ecosystem. As the country's first university dedicated exclusively to this domain, Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya is intrinsically aligned with India's infrastructure expansion and integrated mobility vision. Its academic approach extends beyond conventional engineering education, emphasizing applied technologies, multimodal transportation, logistics efficiency, and data-driven decision-making at scale.

A defining strength of the university lies in its deep industry–academia integration. Continuous engagement with railways, highways, ports, aviation, and logistics sectors ensures that learning remains rooted in real operational challenges. This close alignment exposes students to live datasets, contemporary systems, and emerging technologies—enabling them to translate theory into impact and contribute meaningfully from the outset of their professional careers.

Shaping the Future of Mobility and Logistics

AI and Data Science are no longer optional enhancements; they are foundational to the future of transportation and logistics. As India advances toward integrated, efficient, and sustainable mobility systems, the demand for skilled professionals who can harness these technologies will only intensify. By offering a specialized, forward-looking academic programs rooted in national priorities, Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya stands at the forefront of this transformation—educating engineers who will design, optimize, and lead the transportation systems of tomorrow. Cutting-edge research that enhances operational efficiencies through optimized route planning, revenue management and predictive/assistive technologies for maintenance and safety shall be the foundation stones of our country becoming Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Prof. Manoj Choudhary is Vice-Chancellor, Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya.

Dr. Vipul Mishra is Associate Professor, Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya.

Phone: A medium of communication or a means of consumption?



Dr Tanu Jain

Last night, during a celebration at a friend's home, I witnessed a sight that many of us have quietly accepted as normal — children glued to mobile screens for hours. While elders chatted, laughed, and enjoyed the festive warmth, the kids sat silently, their eyes fixed on glowing screens. What struck me most wasn't their immersion, but the parents' comfort — as if the phone had become a convenient babysitter, a digital pacifier.

That moment sparked a thought — the phone was invented for communication, yet somewhere along the way, we began being consumed by it.

When Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone, his vision was to bridge distances. Yet today, despite being constantly connected, we feel more isolated than ever. The irony of our age is captured perfectly in the words of Albert Einstein:

\"I fear the day technology will surpass our human interaction. The world will have a generation of idiots."

We are living that fear today. What began as a medium of communication has turned into a means of consumption — of time, attention, and even emotion.

We no longer talk to express; we talk to fill silence. We message not to convey meaning, but to maintain presence.We scroll not to seek information, but to escape reality.

This is the age of over-communication — a strange paradox where more words are spoken, yet less is understood. We are constantly talking, typing, replying, forwarding — and yet, somewhere, listening has disappeared. The more we communicate, the less we truly connect. The more accessible we become, the less available we are — emotionally, mentally, even spiritually.

"We have mastered the art of communication but forgotten the essence of connection."

Over-communication has created an illusion of closeness. We feel we know people because we see their updates, but we rarely know how they feel. We are surrounded by hundreds of conversations, yet suffer from the loneliness of digital noise.

We no longer wait to meet someone to share our day; we send it instantly through a photo. We no longer cherish silence; we fear it. In trying to stay in touch with everyone, we are slowly losing touch with ourselves.

"Silence is the language of the wise, while noise is the refuge of the restless."

Maybe it's time to pause and reclaim our relationship with our phones — to remind ourselves that it's a tool, not a lifeline.

Communication was meant to build bridges, not bind us in invisible chains of compulsive connectivity.

Let's bring back the art of real conversation — where eyes meet, pauses speak, and hearts listen.Let's teach children that comfort doesn't lie in a glowing screen, but in a glowing face across the table.Let's remember that not every thought needs to be shared, not every message needs an instant reply, and not every silence needs to be filled."We were not designed to communicate endlessly — we were designed to feel deeply."

Because real communication is not about how much we talk — it's about how deeply we connect.

And maybe, the next time we reach for our phone, we should ask ourselves —"Am I using it, or is it using me?"

CEO BAREILLY MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Celebrating Madhubala — A legacy written in grace and etched in our hearts forever

Every February 14, when the world pauses to celebrate love, cinema lovers remember a different kind of romance, one born not of fairy tales but of celluloid magic and real-life poignancy. Madhubala, Bollywood's immortal "Queen of Beauty," entered this world on Valentine's Day, a poetic coincidence for a woman whose life and art were inseparable from love itself.

Known for her luminous screen presence and ethereal grace, Madhubala's stardom was as early as it was meteoric. Beginning her career as Baby Mumtaz, she went on to dazzle audiences and critics alike through the golden era of Hindi film, captivating a generation in roles that ranged from playful charm to tragic elegance.

Much of Madhubala's enduring aura springs from her peerless performance in Mughal-e-Azam, where she embodied the doomed courtesan Anarkali, pining for her beloved Prince Salim. In that role, art and life converged in an almost poetic symmetry-Anarkali's yearning eyes and the heartbreak in Madhubala's own heart echoing through decades of cinema history.

Her Anarkali wasn't just a character; she became a symbol of undying allure and romantic tragedy, making an indelible mark on Indian film lore that no retrospective can ever fully encapsulate.

If Mughal-e-Azam brought her



immortality, her personal life brought narratives that were as romantic- and as heartbreaking-as any of her films. Long before she tied the knot, Madhubala's most publicized romance was with her Mughal-e-Azam co-star Dilip Kumar- a love affair that became the stuff of legend in its own right.

Yet it was with Kishore Kumar — the beloved singer, actor, and filmmaker — that she stepped into marriage in 1960. The union was as unconventional as it was deeply human. Madhubala, then already battling a congenital heart condition, embraced marriage—even as doctors warned her of a prognosis that would cut her life tragically short.

Their relationship defied labels. Behind the cheerful screen pairings in films like Dhake Ki Malmal, Chalti Ka Naam Gaadi, and Half Ticket, there lay a complex bond shaped as much by tenderness as turmoil. Some accounts from those close to Madhubala suggest moments of emotional distance between them during her illness; others remember Kishore's deep commitment, choosing to care for her through years that doctors said she might not survive.

Through all of it, their marriage lasted until her last breath — a union marked not only by its affection but by the very human imperfections of two artists living in the public eye.

Study shows how climate change affects rain and floods

Climate change may lead to more precipitation and more intense floods. A new study shows that to understand the details of this relationship, it is important to distinguish between different types of rainfall and flood events -- namely, between short-term events that occur on a time scale of hours, and longer-term events that last several days. In each case, climate change has a different impact.An Austrian research team has now shown for the first time that short-term precipitation and flood events on the scale of a few hours are particularly affected by the temperature increase caused by climate change.For events on a longer time scale, the relationship is more complicated. This finding was made using detailed data collected in Austria over more than a century -- but it can also be applied to other regions of the world.It also allows conclusions to be drawn about which regions will experience changes in the probability of flooding, and how they will be affected. The results have now been published in the journal Nature.Climate change is affecting water cycles all over the world. A look at Austria is particularly revealing: "We are in the very fortunate situation of having excellent data available," says Prof. Gunter Bloschl of TU Wien (Vienna), who led the research project. Since 1900, precipitation in Austria has been recorded



by two separate institutions: by the meteorological service, now Geosphere Austria, and by the Austrian Hydrography, which is managed by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Austrian data are therefore particularly reliable and can be used to make forecasts for other countries.

These data sets have now been analysed in a cooperation of TU Wien, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BML), GeoSphere Austria and the University of Graz.The analysis showed that short-term precipitation events lasting only a few hours have increased significantly in the last 30-40 years -- by about 15%.

"This had already been predicted by climate models, albeit with uncertainties. We have now been able to confirm it," says Gunter Bloschl.However, if longer-term rainfall events lasting several days are analyzed, a different picture emerges.

In that case, global weather phenomena such as El Nino, a climate process influenced by ocean temperatures, play a much more decisive role. Rainfall events on this timescale are therefore not changing everywhere in the same way.In the Mediterranean, in some regions of Italy, Spain and Greece, long periods of precipitation may even become rarer as a result of climate change.

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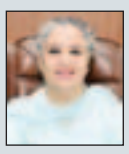
Sukhmani Sahib Path and Prize Distribution Ceremony Organised at Guru Nanak Model School, Doraha



AMRISH ANAND
DORAHA: A recitation of Shri Sukhmani Sahib was organised on February 14, at Guru Nanak Model Senior Secondary School. On this occasion, students presented Shabad Kirtan, spiritually connecting the gathering with the teachings of the Guru. As per tradition, prayers were offered for the well-being and progress of the school and its students.During the programme, members of the school management committee, including President Harpratap Singh Brar, Vice-President Pavitarpal Singh Pangli, Director Roopinder Kaur Brar, Inder Singh, Bhupinder Singh Oberoi.

NEWS BRIEF

Ban on use of drones during wedding ceremonies



RAGHU NANDAN PRASHAR
JAITU: District Magistrate Faridkot Madam Poonamdeep Kaur IAS, exercising the powers vested in her under Section 163 of the Indian Civil Protection Code 2023, has imposed a complete ban on the use of drones or other flying objects within the limits of Faridkot district.
He said that in the past few days, there was an attempt to smuggle weapons with the help of drones in Tarn Taran district. Therefore, he said that mischievous elements can disrupt the law and order situation with the help of drones.Therefore, to protect the lives and property of the common people, orders have been issued to ban the use of drones. He said that if any person wants to use drones for weddings and other religious and cultural programs, then prior approval will be taken from the office of the Deputy Commissioner for using the drone. He said that if anyone is found using drones without the approval of the office, then appropriate legal action will be taken against him. These orders will be in force till April 8, 2026.

Harvinder Kalyan pays respects to Swami Dayanand Saraswati

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, FEB 15



Haryana Assembly Speaker Harvinder Kalyan, while paying his respects to Swami Dayanand Saraswati, said that Swamiji's thoughts provided them energy to follow the right path even in adverse circumstances. The progress of the nation is not possible without our culture. The way Arya Samaj is trying to connect our next generation with its roots and glorious culture, it is indeed a sacred work.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the closing ceremony of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati Janmotsav and Bodhotsav program organized by Arya Samaj Kendriya Sabha Sector 6 on Sunday. On this occasion, he announced to give Rs 11 lakh to the Sabha from his personal fund. Mr Kalyan said that their great men fought for their culture, religion and country at a time when circumstances were extremely adverse. We achieved independence after a long period of slavery, but even today we face many challenges. The idea of taking the country back to those heights is not possible without the cooperation of every citizen. To fulfill our resolve to be a developed nation, it is essential for us to be self-reliant.

He said that the role of every citizen was important in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve to make the country a developed nation by 2047. For this, only new technology and self-reliance are not enough, but it is essential for our young generation to connect with those values, which should include the feeling of well-being of the society along with their own progress.

On the challenges of the present time, the Speaker of the Assembly said that today they have a big responsibility to save the society from problems like drug addiction and environmental pollution. He urged the youth to follow the path shown by Swami Dayanand ji and make a strong contribution in removing social evils and making the country self-reliant by adopting Swadeshi campaign. He said that their first responsibility was within their home and family. We should make our children not only successful people but also good and cultured human beings, so that they can contribute to the prosperity of the country as responsible citizens.

On this occasion, Chairperson Megha Bhandari, Haryana Staff Selection Commission member Kapil Atreja, Arya Samaj Samiti member, Arya Samaj Kendriya Sabha President Prof. Anand Singh Arya, Treasurer Omprakash Arya, General Secretary Swatantra Kukreja, Principal Kaushal Sachdeva, Treasurer Indu Gulati, Minister Priya Arya, Acharya Gan and dignitaries were present.

Rise of the green crusade from the land of Kurukshetra, the place of the Gita

HANS RAJ HANS
KURUKSHETRA, FEB 15



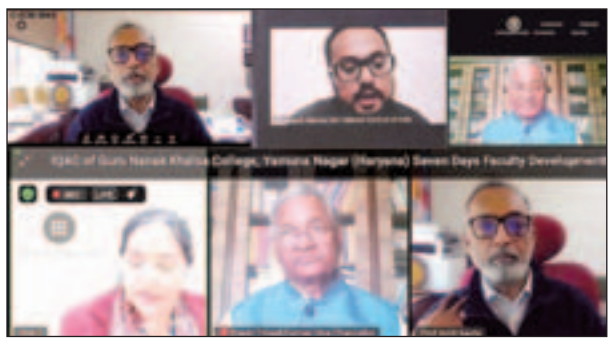
A name not just a geographical landmark, but an eternal center of Indian consciousness. It was on this sacred land that Lord Krishna, under the banyan tree at Jyotisar, imparted to Arjuna the immortal message of life, action, and duty, showing humanity the path to self-realization. This banyan tree is now becoming the vehicle for the Green War from Kurukshetra. A green crusade, not one involving weapons, but a pledge to protect trees, water, air, and the earth. This war begins not with the blowing of conch shells, the beating of drums, or the roaring of elephants. This war is fought with greenery, awareness, and social responsibility, in which environmental protection will be the only victory. The Banyan tree, which has been flourishing as a guide to the path of culture, spirituality and humanity for years at the preaching place of Geeta, will now become a symbol of justice, spirituality and religious war at the global level. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Geeta Sthal Jyotisar, to welcome him, Chief Minister Nayab Saini presented him a sapling (seed plant) of Banyan tree as a memento, this sapling of Banyan tree will not only become the vehicle of Green Revolution but will also give the message to the entire world that "Karmanye Vadhikaraste Ma Phaleshu Kadachan" i.e. Man has the right only on his actions and not on the fruits, which will make India guide the world in environmental protection along with spirituality. Planting trees on the land of Kurukshetra on auspicious occasions like the International Gita Mahotsav and the 350th Martyrs' Day in 2025 is not just a program, but a spiritual resolution.

Road problems will be resolved quickly citizens can register their complaints on 'Mhari Sadak' app: DC Aparajita



RANVIR PARASHAR
KAITHAL: The Haryana government has adopted technology to improve the condition of roads in the state and address public complaints. Sharing information about the government's ambitious "Mhari Sadak" app, Deputy Commissioner Aparajita explained that any citizen of the state can directly report complaints about poor condition of roads to the government. She explained that this app is specifically designed to ensure transparency and accountability. If a road in an area is broken or has potholes, citizens can upload a live photo of the road on the app. Along with the photo they can provide a brief description of the problem in up to 50 words. The special feature of the app is that all the roads of the state have been mapped with the concerned departments (like PWD, HSVP, Marketing Board etc.), due to which the complaint reaches the concerned officer directly. DC Aparajita said that this system was not limited to filing complaints, but also closely monitors their resolution. Once a complaint is resolved, the department will upload a resolution report and feedback on the app. A special review team from the Chief Minister's Office will contact the complainant directly to ask if they are satisfied with the resolution. DC Aparajita said that if the work was found to be of poor quality, the concerned officials will be held accountable. The government's goal is to ensure that every road in the state is passable and safe.

Guru Nanak Khalsa College, Yamunanagar holds FDP on NEP 2020, focuses on research excellence and academic integrity



RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR: Guru Nanak Khalsa College, Yamunanagar, under the aegis of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell successfully organized Day 6 of its Seven-Day Faculty Development Programme on “Empowering Faculty for Quality Education under New Education Policy 2020.” The session was designed to equip faculty members with essential insights into research design, methodological frameworks, academic writing skills, and publication ethics, thereby fostering a culture of research excellence and innovation. The session was formally initiated by Dr. Varsha Nigam, who revisited the objectives of the FDP and introduced the distinguished speakers. The programme began with an inspiring welcome address by Dr. Jaswinder Kaur Head Department of Commerce who emphasized that strengthening competencies in research methodology and academic writing is crucial for building a vibrant research culture in alignment with NEP 2020.

Sharmrock International School branch inaugurated in Shahabad



GOLDY CHUGH
SHAHABAD: Shamrock International School branch was inaugurated on Shahabad Barada Road on Sunday. On this occasion, Shamrock India's Chief Executive Officer Meenal Arora, Managing Director Anmol Arora, Academic and Training Officer Anju Rampal and Principal Babita Rana were especially present. Parents were given detailed information about Shamrock's education system, achievements and reputation established at the national level. Everyone inspired the parents to enroll their children in this school. There was special presence of parents, distinguished guests and local citizens in the program. During the program, Chief Executive Officer Meenal Arora said that with the opening of Shamrok Shamrok, a new chapter of education has started in Shahabad. She said that it was not just a school but a platform for the all-round development of children and here modern education system, moral values and global outlook were coordinated. Managing Director Anmol Arora said that more than 650 branches of Shamrock were functioning in India as well as in other countries and more than four and a half lakh children were receiving education from this institute.

Sang Mahotsav from Feb 23 to 27 on Dhanpat Singh Sangi Memorial Award



HANS RAJ YADAV
KURUKSHETRA: District Information and Public Relations Officer Dr Narendra Singh stated that as per orders of KM Pandurang, Director General of Information, Public Relations and Languages Department, Haryana, and under guidance of Deputy Commissioner Vishram Kumar Meena, Sang Mahotsav 2026 will be organized to commemorate Dhanpat Singh Sangi Award. Important aspect is that this Sang Mahotsav will be held from February 23 to 27 in auditorium of Bharatmuni Auditorium of Kalakriti Bhawan, Haryana Kala Parishad. District Information and Public Relations Officer Dr Narendra Singh stated that in recognition of contributions of Haryana's renowned singer Dhanpat Singh to Haryana folk culture, Dhanpat Singh Sangi Award will be announced this year in memory of Dhanpat Singh Sangi following announcement by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini.Sang Mahotsav 2026 will be organized from February 23 to 27, 2026, in auditorium of Bharatmuni Auditorium of Kalakriti Bhawan, Haryana Kala Parishad. This Sang Mahotsav will be a five-day festival. He stated that Sang Mahotsav 2026 will be organized in memory of Dhanpat Singh Sangi, a renowned singer from Haryana.Sang Mahotsav is a major traditional folk theatre festival in Haryana which features performances of social morals and mythological stories through music, dance and folk tales by sangis. He stated that plays presented in this Sang Mahotsav are typically based on triumph of good over evil, including mythological tales such as Prahlad Bhagat, Raja Harishchandra, historical tales, and social issues like women's empowerment.

Burglary worth lakhs reported in Village Mojowal Majara; victim family raises security concerns



DALJEET AJNOHA
HOSHIARPUR: A case of burglary involving valuables worth lakhs of rupees has been reported from village Mojowal Majara in Balachaur tehsil of SBS Nagar district. The victim family has alleged that despite the seriousness of the incident, no concrete police action has been taken so far. Retired school teacher Madam Kulwinder Kaur, wife of Harbhajan Singh, a resident of the village, stated that she lives alone with her daughter, who is a lawyer. She informed that on January 22, she had gone to her relatives’ village Samudra and could not return home the same night due to unavoidable reasons. When she returned the next day, she found the main door of her house broken. On entering the house, she saw that clothes were scattered in the rooms and the locker of the almirah had been broken open. She immediately informed the village Sarpanch and, in his presence, the Balachaur police were notified.

Reserve Bank of India organizes financial literacy camp in Ferozepur district



TAPINDER SINGH
FEROZEPUR: Reserve Bank of India Chandigarh organized a financial literacy camp in Ferozepur district during the financial literacy week. Financial Literacy Camp was organized in the office Mallanwala. Smt. Geeta Mehta LDM Ferozepur said that Financial Literacy Week was celebrated in district Ferozepur under the theme 'KYC - Your First Step towards Safe Banking'. During this, financial literacy camps were organized at various places including villages and semi-urban areas by all the bank branches of the district, Financial Literacy Center and Center for Financial Literacy. In the same context, a mega financial literacy camp was organized by the Reserve Bank of India, Chandigarh at the MC office Mallanwala under Block Makhu (Akankshi Block). On this occasion, Mr. Sudhir Sidhu AGM RBI Chandigarh; Mr. Sunil Kumar, Circle Head, PNB Moga.

Harvinder Kalyan consoles bereaved family, assures all possible help



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
GHARAUNDA/KARNAL: Haryana Assembly Speaker Harvinder Kalyan visited the village of Barsaat in the area today, where he met the family members of 34-year-old Surendra, who lost his life after being crushed under a machine. The Assembly Speaker consoled the bereaved family. He assured them of all possible help and said that he is with them in this hour of grief. It should be noted that two days ago, Surendra, son of Nafe Singh, a resident of Barsaat, was working on unloading a machine at a factory. He died after being crushed under the machine. Surendra has three daughters.

Under the Rahveer scheme the helper will get a reward takes the injured to hospital

RANVIR PARASHAR
KAITHAL: Deputy Commissioner Aparajita stated that the Central Government's Rahveer Scheme has been implemented in Haryana by the state government led by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini. Under this scheme, a reward of Rs 25,000 will be given to anyone who helps an accident victim reach a hospital within the golden hour (one hour). The main objective of the scheme is to encourage the public to provide timely assistance to those injured in accidents. She stated that pedestrians will also receive legal protection under Section 134-A of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019, and the Government of India's notification of September 29, 2020. Anyone who helps a road accident victim within seven days will receive a reward of 25,000 rupees and a citation. If more than one person helps the accident victim, the reward amount will be divided equally. Citations will be given to all. A person can receive this award five times a year. DC Aparajita said that the person receiving the accident will have to provide their name, mobile number, details of the incident site, and bank account details. For this purpose, a certificate from the police station area where the accident occurred and a certificate from the hospital where the person was admitted will also be submitted. The evaluation committee at the district level will consist of four officers: the Deputy Commissioner as the chairman, the DTO-cum-RTA as the secretary, the SP as the member, and the CMO/SMO as the members.

PCT Humanity Founder Joginder Singh Salaria calls for strict implementation of UCC and Population Control Law



VERMA
GURDASPUR: PCT Humanity founder Joginder Singh Salaria has expressed strong views on key national issues, stating that India urgently needs the implementation of a Uniform Civil Code (UCC). He emphasized that introducing a common set of civil laws for all citizens would strengthen social harmony and promote national unity. Speaking on the matter, Salaria said that it is the right time for serious consideration of the UCC. According to him, replacing separate personal laws with a unified civil code would enhance equality and make the justice system more effective. He also clarified that, at present, social harmony prevails in the country and communities are living together in mutual respect and brotherhood. Salaria further stressed the need for a strict population control law. He warned that if concrete and firm measures are not introduced in time, future generations may face severe challenges.

BSP intensifies ‘Punjab Sambhalo Muhim’, slams rival parties over state crisis



DALJEET AJNOHA
HOSHIARPUR: The BSP held a key meeting in Punjab with district committees and assembly constituency presidents in attendance. Leaders expressed deep concern over the state's political, economic, and social conditions, deciding to intensify the 'Punjab Sambhalo Muhim' (Save Punjab Campaign). Chief guest Randhir Singh Beniwal, central in-charge, and special guest Pratap Singh, central in-charge for BSP Punjab, joined state president and former Rajya Sabha member Dr. Avtar Singh Karimpuri. Addressing the gathering, they highlighted worries over farmers' debts, citing parliamentary data showing Punjab farmers burdened with three times the national average debt. BSP leadership resolved to expand the campaign's reach to farmers and urban residents alongside Dalits and backward classes, assigning duties to various leaders. They noted the plight of laborers in a state where farmers are crushed by debt, asserting only BSP's campaign can provide solutions.

Anti-Narcotics Cell team arrests woman with 50 grams of heroin



RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNA NAGAR: Working under the guidance of Superintendent of Police Kamaldeep Goyal, the Anti-Narcotics Cell team successfully arrested a woman with 50 grams of heroin. The woman accused has previous drug trafficking cases. A case was registered against her under the NDPS Act, and she was produced in court and remanded to judicial custody. In-charge Anil Kumar stated that his team received a tip-off that a woman, Meenakshi, a resident of Bari Majra Tirth Nagar, was selling drugs in her own colony. Based on this information, a team consisting of Sub-Inspector Satish Kumar, female police officers Poonam, Jasvir Singh, Pankaj, and Amit was formed. The team went to the scene and arrested the woman. Duty Magistrate Abhishek Wale, ETO (Excise and Taxation), was called to the scene. The woman was searched in front of her and 50 grams of heroin was recovered from her.

Ashtakosi Parikrama, religious pilgrimage of Kurukshetra will be organised on March 18



HANS RAJ YADAV
KURUKSHETRA: Ashtakosi Parikrama, the ancient religious pilgrimage of Kurukshetra, will be organized with reverence and tradition on March 18. A joint meeting of KDB, Haryana Saraswati Heritage Board and various religious institutions was held at the Kurukshetra Development Board (KDB) office located in Brahmasarovar on Saturday regarding the preparations and arrangements for the parikrama. For the first time in the meeting, an important decision was taken to form a formal organizing committee for the systematic organization of Ashtakosi Parikrama. KDB Honorary Secretary Upendra Singhal, Saraswati Board Deputy Chairman Dhuman Singh Kirmich, Mahant Vishal Mani of Nabhi Kamal Temple along with KDB members Ashok Rosha, Rajesh Shandilya, Harmesh Saini, Alkesh Moudgil and Roshan Bedi were present in the meeting. Everyone laid emphasis on conducting the Parikrama in a grand, safe and orderly manner. On Krishna Chaturdashi of Chaitra month, on March 18 next, Ashtakosi Parikrama will move towards the destination at 5.15 am after worship at Nabhi Kamal Temple.

CHANDIGARH

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Match enters in interesting phase after Kush's double ton

CHANDIGARH Despite a massive double century from Dipender Kush, the hosts UT boys piled up a mammoth 609 in their first innings but Uttarakhand fought back strongly to close Day 3 at 197/2 by trailing by just 78 runs as the Col CK Nayudu Trophy match entered an interesting phase at the Cricket Stadium, Sector-16 on Sunday. The star of the show was Dipender Kush, who crafted a magnificent 240 studded with 24 boundaries. He was well-supported by arush Bhandari (125) and Dushyant (104). The duo stitched together crucial partnerships, including a 220-run stand. Earlier, Uttarakhand was bundled out for 334 and hosts secured a substantial first-innings lead of 275. In their second essay, Uttarakhand showed their patience and managed 197/2.. After an early setback with Aditya Naithani dismissed cheaply, Uday Sharma (33) and Ishagra Jagoori steadied the innings. Jagoori remained unbeaten on 86 while skipper Harsh Rana stood firm with an unbeaten 71. The duo shared a vital 122-run partnership to frustrate the Chandigarh bowlers.

NEWS BRIEF

Iconic Category Leader, Blenders Pride Announces The Launch Of Zenith Black Edition

AMBALA : Blenders Pride, a leader in India's premium whisky segment, proudly announces the launch of the Blenders Pride Zenith Black Edition—a limited-edition expression that unites a bold black aesthetic with the iconic Blenders Pride blend to create a truly distinctive experience.Encased in a striking black design that signifies elevated luxury and distinction, the Zenith Black Edition is meticulously crafted for discerning whisky connoisseurs—for the One in a Million. With only one million bottles available, this edition is as rare as it is refined.In the world of luxury, black represents more than just a colour—it is an attitude, a statement of sophistication and power. Long associated with Blenders Pride, black now takes centre stage in an innovative design expression that redefines the codes of premium whisky.

THINK Gas Swiftly Restores City Gas Supply After Pipeline Damage

BARNALA : A THINK Gas pipeline near St. Joseph Convent School Sanghera, Barnala was damaged during excavation work being carried out for water boring. The damage occurred due to negligence during the digging activity, resulting in a gas leak. The THINK Gas emergency response team acted promptly by isolating the affected section and restoring the gas supply within a short time, ensuring public safety and minimizing inconvenience to residents. THINK Gas has established a robust pipeline infrastructure in Barnala district to supply Piped Natural Gas (PNG) for households and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for transport users.

Chandigarh thrash Arunachal Pradesh by 235 runs in Senior Women's ODI



CHANDIGARH: Chandigarh registered a commanding 235-run victory over Arunachal Pradesh in the Senior Women's One Day match played at Vadodara on Saturday.
After being put in to bat, Chandigarh produced a dominant batting display to pile up an imposing 314/8 in their allotted 50 overs. The innings was powered by Taniya Bhatia (76) who struck 10 boundaries She was well supported by Aaradhana Bish (53) and Shivangi (69)For Arunachal Pradesh, Chukhu Anam (2/30) and Nabam Yapu (2/53) shared two wickets each. In reply, Arunachal Pradesh struggled against a disciplined Chandigarh bowling attack and were bundled out for 79 in 34.3 overs. Captain Nabam Yapu top-scored with 36. Tarunika (6/24) delivered a match-winning spell by claiming six wickets.

Croma Unveils Summer Sale Delivers Up to 71% Off* on ACs and Premium Tvs

MOHALI: Croma, India's leading omni-channel electronics retailer from the Tata Group, has announced the Croma Summer Sale 2026, offering customers value-packed deals on cooling solutions and everyday tech essentials as temperatures begin to rise. Running until February 28, 2026 across Croma stores nationwide, the sale features special prices, category offers, and limited-period benefits on select products, along with cashback and easy EMI options on eligible items subject to partner bank or finance terms. "The months leading into summer see customers going in for cooling solutions and home upgrades to prepare for the warm days ahead. With customers increasingly looking for genuine value, convenient financing and trusted expert guidance, the Croma Summer Sale brings together standout offers on air conditioners and big-screen televisions, along with a wider set of deals across categories.

HDFC Bank to Organise 'Mega Auto Loan Mela' in Punjab

CHANDIGARH/ LUDHIANA: HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector bank, will organise 'Mega Auto Loan Mela' across its over 500 branches in Punjab on 16th February 2026. Leading automobile brands and regional dealerships will be present at the branches to showcase their car models to customers. For eligible customers, the Bank will provide on-the-spot loan sanctions. Customers can also use the Bank's 'Xpress Car Loan' facility. It is a state-of-the-art digital platform which facilitates the loan applications to be completed within 30 minutes. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Mr. Dinesh Luthra, Branch Banking Head said, "The Mega Auto Loan Mela offers a great opportunity for customers to avail finance with ease for their favourite car. We have invited leading carmakers and auto dealers to display their top models at our branches. We are confident that customers will benefit from this Mela."

L&T Finance Ltd. scales Gold Loan footprint to over 260 branches

CHANDIGARH/ SHIMLA: L&T Finance Ltd. (LTF),(formerly known as L&T Finance Holdings Ltd.), one of the leading Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) in the country, today announced a major milestone in its retail strategy by doubling its Gold Loan branch network to over 260 branches nationwide. This rapid expansion was marked by the launch of its 130th new branch earlier this month since the acquisition of the gold loan business in June 2025. By matching its acquired portfolio with over 130 new branches in under a year, LTF has signalled a high-velocity play in India's secured credit landscape. Commenting on this development, Mr. Raju Dodti, Chief Operating Officer, LTF, said, "We are elated to share that we have successfully doubled the Company's dedicated gold loan branch network in record time since our entry into this business, bringing the total count to over 260 branches nationwide, which will continue to increase.

Amazon Prime Delivered Fastest Delivery Speeds with savings for customers in India in 2025

AMRITSAR/LUDHIANA, Amazon today announced that 2025 marked its fastest delivery speeds for Prime members with more than 55 crore products being delivered the same or next day— a 40% year-on-year increase. Prime members in India also saved an average of more than twice the cost of an annual Prime membership in 2025, underscoring the value Prime delivers to customers across the country. With the top 10% of Prime members saving more than eight times the cost of their Prime membership, Prime in India is helping customers save even more through free and fast delivery along with multiple rewards, exclusive deals, offers and cashbacks when they shop on Amazon.in. "Our customers are at the centre of everything we do, and it's incredibly humbling to see how Prime has become a meaningful part of their everyday lives" said Abhinav Agarwal - Director and Head of Prime, Amazon India. "Whether it's a last-minute essential, a planned purchase or entertainment.

Masol Govt School transformed from shambles to model institution under Punjab Sikhya Kranti: Bains



CHANDIGARH : Punjab Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains today highlighted the remarkable transformation of the Government School in Masol village, located barely 20 minutes from the Punjab Civil Secretariat-1 in Chandigarh, stating that the institution now stands as a powerful testament to the Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann-led Punjab Government's commitment to revitalising public education under the "Punjab Sikhya Kranti".
Recalling his visit to the school nearly two years ago, Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains said, "When I visited the Government School in Masol village about two years ago, the condition of the school was deeply distressing. The building was in shambles, classrooms were broken, and students were struggling even with basic reading and writing skills. Masol village had remained in the headlines across newspapers and television channels because of the deplorable state of its Government School."
The Education Minister further stated, "I personally visited the school at that time, becoming the first Education Minister to do so. What I witnessed was deeply painful. It was not just the infrastructure that required rebuilding, the confidence of the students and the community had to be restored."
Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains said that after assessing the situation, he had vowed to transform the school into a model institution. "Following my visit, the School Education Department initiated comprehensive development works under the Punjab Sikhya Kranti campaign. Today, the school has been completely transformed with a new building, improved classrooms, better facilities and a conducive learning environment."
Highlighting the academic progress, he said, "The academic performance of students has improved significantly, reflecting the positive outcomes of focused interventions. The school today stands as a shining example of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann-led Punjab Government's unwavering commitment to strengthening the public education system."

Regular meditation, balanced diet and positive Many diseases can be prevented by thinking



PANCHKULA: A grand event, a confluence of health and spirituality, was successfully held at BKM Vishvas School, Sector 9, in collaboration with Vishvas Foundation Panchkula and Jeena Sikho. The program began with a guided meditation by Gurudev Shri Swami Vishvas Ji. Sadhvi Neelima Vishvas, President of Vishvas Foundation, and Acharya Manish, Founder of Jeena Sikho, were present as chief guests. Sadhvi Neelima Vishvas, President of Vishvas Foundation, explained that meditation empowers our lives physically, mentally, and morally. She urged all parents to encourage their children to meditate for 15 minutes daily. She emphasized that imbalances in the daily routine of children and youth today and the consumption of junk food can cause mental stress. Regular meditation, a balanced diet, and positive thinking can prevent many diseases.
In his address, Acharya Manish elaborated on the permanent solutions to diseases through Ayurveda and meditation. He explained that if a person makes positive changes to their daily routine, diet, and mental state, even the most serious illnesses can be overcome. He also explained that it is possible to reverse many diseases by adopting a proper diet, a natural lifestyle, and self-discipline. CMD Arun Grover, Amartex Panchkula thanked Sadhvi Neelima Vishvas and Acharya Manish, saying that such programs are very beneficial.

Shaping Tomorrow's Spaces: Featherlite Unveils 8,000 sq. ft. Exclusive Experience Centre in Mohali



MOHALI: Featherlite has officially launched its largest Experience Centre in North India with the inauguration of an 8,000 sq. ft. exclusive space in Mohali, Punjab, on 14 February 2026. Strategically located to serve the Tricity region of Chandigarh, Mohali, and Panchkula, the new centre represents a significant milestone in the company's ongoing mission to redefine how businesses, educational institutions, and government bodies experience workspace and learning environment design. Designed as a fully immersive destination, the Experience Centre offers architects, corporate leaders, entrepreneurs, campus planners, and procurement teams a comprehensive, hands-on view of modern, adaptive furniture solutions tailored to evolving work and education ecosystems. This center is located in Plot No. 163, JLPL, Sector 82, Mohali, Punjab. The 8,000 sq. ft. Experience Centre, now the largest Featherlite facility of its kind in North India, showcases a wide spectrum of workspace and institutional solutions, including ergonomic seating, collaborative office systems, tech-enabled classroom furniture, laboratory benches, library systems, auditorium seating, and specialized solutions for government and public-sector projects. Every section of the centre has been thoughtfully curated to demonstrate how furniture today goes beyond function to actively shape productivity, collaboration.

Eye-Q Expands Presence in Rohtak; Crosses 1 Crore Patients Treated Nationwide



ROHTAK : Eye-Q Eye Hospitals, one of India's most trusted eye care hospital chains, has further strengthened its presence in Rohtak while crossing a significant national milestone of treating over 1 crore patients across its network.
Seeing the growing demand for quality eye care in Rohtak and surrounding areas, Eye-Q now operates across two locations, helping patients access timely treatment with reduced waiting time. The hospitals offer a wide range of eye care services supported by modern infrastructure and an experienced team of eye specialists.
With a strong focus on personalised consultations and quicker clinical decisions, this expansion enhances overall care delivery. Retina and Refractive Surgery services are now offered six days a week for timely management of critical vision conditions.
The inauguration ceremony was held at Eye-Q Eye Hospitals, Rohtak – Sonipat Road, in the presence of Shri Manish Grover, Former Minister, Government of Haryana, as the Chief Guest, and Dr. Anand Rai Bansal, Professor, Department of Surgery, PGIMS Rohtak, as the Guest of Honour.
Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ajay Sharma, Founder & CMD, Eye-Q Eye Hospitals, said, "Our vision has always been to bring world-class eye care closer to patients. By partnering with highly experienced surgeons and introducing advanced retina and refractive services, we are ensuring faster diagnosis, better outcomes, and continuity of care for patients. Crossing the milestone of 1 crore patients further strengthens our resolve to expand responsibly and meaningfully.

Seminar on Fire Safety in High-Rise Buildings held



CHANDIGARH: The Fire Awareness and Safety Association organized a seminar and Fire Safety Leadership Award ceremony on the topic "Fire Safety in High-Rise Buildings" on 13 February 2026 at the Conference Hall, Parade Ground, Sector-17, Chandigarh. The prestigious event received special support from Minds Media and Management Private Limited. The seminar witnessed the notable presence of renowned architects, engineers, social workers, and fire safety experts from across the country. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Guest, former Member of Parliament and Additional Solicitor General of India, Shri. Satya Pal Jain, stated that in today's era of rapidly developing urban areas, the number of high-rise buildings is continuously increasing, and therefore prioritizing fire safety measures has become extremely essential. He emphasized that merely framing rules is not sufficient; strict implementation and periodic inspections are equally important. He called upon citizens, builders, and the administration to collectively fulfill their responsibilities.
As the Guest of Honour, former Mayor of Chandigarh Shri. Davesh Moudgil stated that expanding awareness regarding fire safety in society is the need of the hour. He said that safety standards should be adopted from the initial stage of building construction and that regular inspection of firefighting equipment and mandatory training programs must be conducted.

Legendary Singer Mohammed Rafi's Songs Mesmerise Audience at 'Rafi Nite'



CHANDIGARH: A grand musical evening, 'Rafi Nite', dedicated to the legendary playback singer Mohammed Rafi, enthralled music lovers at Tagore Theatre, Sector 18, Chandigarh, on Friday evening. Organised jointly by the Rafi Memorial Cultural Society and GB Realty, the event witnessed a packed auditorium filled with admirers of Rafi Sahab's timeless melodies. The Chief Guest on the occasion was Harpal Singh Cheema, Minister for Finance, Excise, Taxation and Planning, Government of Punjab. Gurinder Bhatti, Founder & Chairman, GB Realty, graced the event as Guest of Honour.
Welcoming the dignitaries and audience, President of the Rafi Memorial Cultural Society, G.S. Grewal said that Rafi Sahab's music transcends time and boundaries. He noted that the overwhelming response to 'Rafi Nite' reflects the deep emotional connection people continue to share with his songs and reaffirmed the Society's dedication to preserving and promoting his musical heritage. Gurinder Bhatti stated that cultural initiatives like 'Rafi Nite' strengthen the social fabric by bringing communities together through shared artistic experiences. He added that GB Realty remains committed to supporting meaningful platforms that celebrate India's rich musical traditions.

Nitin Sharma Cracks JRF in English, Brings Pride to Una



UNA, (H.P.) February 14 : In a remarkable academic achievement, Nitin Sharma, a resident of Village Kohra Dohak in District Una, has successfully cracked the prestigious Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) in English conducted by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in December 2025. His success has brought immense pride to his family and the entire district. Coming from a remote village where English is often considered a challenging subject, Nitin's accomplishment stands as a powerful example of determination and hard work. The moment he checked his roll number online and confirmed his success, it marked a life-changing milestone in his academic journey. With this achievement, Nitin will receive a monthly scholarship of approximately ₹40,000, enabling him to pursue advanced research in a subject of his choice. The JRF qualification also opens doors for him to seek appointment as an Assistant Professor in state and central universities and colleges across the country.

Kriti Sanon and Abhishek Sharma unveil "The Beauty Secret" : A Whiter Smile with Colgate Visible White Purple



CHANDIGARH : Colgate-Palmolive India has launched its latest campaign for Colgate Visible White Purple, featuring Bollywood star Kriti Sanon and Indian cricketer Abhishek Sharma, bringing together two of India's biggest cultural forces of cinema and cricket to redefine teeth whitening as an integral part of every beauty routine. The campaign elevates teeth whitening from just an oral care routine to a modern beauty essential. Coming on board for the campaign, Kriti Sanon said, "What drew me to this campaign was the idea of treating a smile as being crucial & central to beauty. As actors, we spend so much time on skincare and makeup, but a beautiful white smile is what truly sets you apart. Colgate Visible White Purple is that secret, literally the makeup you can start your day with. It's backed by the science of color theory that I have seen work in other beauty categories which have been part of the regimen for a long time."
Abhishek Sharma on his association with Colgate Visible White Purple shared, "For me, confidence comes from feeling & looking good whether on or off the field. With the added spotlight & cameras around now, grooming has even come to the picture.

Manipal Hospital Patiala Organises Awareness Session for Kidney Transplant Patients on Post-Transplant Care



PATIALA : Manipal Hospital Patiala organised an awareness and counselling session for Kidney Transplant Programme (KTP) patients, focusing on post-transplant lifestyle care and long-term kidney health. The session was led by Dr. Nitin Kumar, Dr. Sandeep Kumar, and Dr. Yogesh Garg, in the presence of Dr. Simica Tuli, Chief of Medical Services, and Mr. Sanjay Roy, Hospital Director, Manipal Hospital, Patiala. The interactive session witnessed active participation from KTP patients, who were guided on routine precautions after kidney transplant, including medication adherence, infection prevention, dietary care, hydration, and the importance of regular follow-ups. The doctors also addressed common concerns related to immunity, physical activity, and recognising early warning signs to ensure long-term graft health.
Dr. Nitin Kumar, Consultant- Nephrology, Manipal Hospital Patiala, said, "A kidney transplant offers patients a second chance at life, and its long-term success depends on consistent post-transplant care. Adhering to prescribed medications, maintaining regular follow-ups, and seeking timely medical advice are essential to protect the transplanted kidney and prevent complications."

Amazon Prime Delivered Fastest Delivery Speeds with savings for customers in India in 2025

AMRITSAR/LUDHIANA:-Amazon today announced that 2025 marked its fastest delivery speeds for Prime members with more than 55 crore products being delivered the same or next day— a 40% year-on-year increase. Prime members in India also saved an average of more than twice the cost of an annual Prime membership in 2025, underscoring the value Prime delivers to customers across the country. With the top 10% of Prime members saving more than eight times the cost of their Prime membership, Prime in India is helping customers save even more through free and fast delivery along with multiple rewards, exclusive deals, offers and cashbacks when they shop on Amazon.in.
"Our customers are at the centre of everything we do, and it's incredibly humbling to see how Prime has become a meaningful part of their everyday lives" said Abhinav Agarwal - Director and Head of Prime, Amazon India. "Whether it's a last-minute essential, a planned purchase or entertainment the whole family can enjoy, Prime is designed to deliver speed, unmatched value and convenience. We're excited to continue innovating on behalf of our customers and offer disproportionate benefits to our members through faster deliveries across the country, access to the best deals and widest selection, more content and entertainment options, and exclusive benefits that make every day more convenient and rewarding for Prime members."

Bajaj Finance & Himachal Police Join Hands to Combat Digital Fraud

NADAUN: Bajaj Finance Limited (BFL), a subsidiary of Bajaj Finserv and India's largest private-sector Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), conducted a 'Knockout Digital Fraud' awareness session at the Ved Dhara Global School campus in Gram Dhanaut. The programme aimed to educate digital users on emerging cyber threats and best practices to safeguard their personal finances.The event is part of Bajaj Finance's broader 100-city cyber security initiative, designed to empower citizens against the rising tide of digital scams.



The 'Knockout Digital Fraud' programme is aligned with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) 2024 Fraud Risk Management Guidelines for NBFCs. These mandates prioritise early detection of fraudulent activities, employee accountability, and public participation to fortify the digital ecosystem for all stakeholders. Organizers focused on alerting citizens to common tactics used by scammers, such as Fraudsters posing as company employees or representatives.Malicious WhatsApp groups and social media accounts mimicking legitimate financial institutions. Websites claiming false associations with established brands. Addressing the gathering, Inspector, Nazar Singh of Jwaladevi Police Station urged the public to maintain strict digital hygiene.

JK Tyre Strengthens Farm Portfolio with Launch of 'Shresth Plus'

HISAR: JK Tyre & Industries Ltd., one of India's leading tyre manufacturers, today launched its all-new premium farm tyre, 'Shresth Plus', at Krishi Darshan Expo 2026 in Hisar. The new product was unveiled by Shri Subhash Barala, Member of Rajyasabha, Parliament of India in the presence of Mr. Srinivasu Allaphan, Director – Sales & Marketing, JK Tyre & Industries, along with other company officials.



The launch further expands JK Tyre's premium farm tyre portfolio and reinforces the company's commitment to advancing innovation for modern agricultural applications.
Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Srinivasu Allaphan, Director – Sales & Marketing, JK Tyre & Industries, said, "Indian agriculture is rapidly embracing mechanization and higher horsepower tractors. With premiumisation at the core of our business strategy, we are focused on bringing advanced, high-performance solutions to the farm segment. 'Shresth Plus' reflects this direction, combining superior traction, durability, and stability to meet the evolving needs of modern farming. The product has been designed to help farmers achieve better efficiency, reliability, and consistent performance across varied agricultural applications."
'Shresth Plus' has been developed for the evolving realities of modern farming, where higher horsepower tractors, longer working hours, and varied soil conditions demand tyres that deliver consistent performance. With high Non-Skid Depth (NSD), broader lug design, and optimized land distribution, the tyre offers better traction, longer mileage, and improved roadability.

Sanjay Tandon hails Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for green transport; calls e-bus rollout a historic gift to Chandigarh



CHANDIGARH: Senior BJP leader Sanjay Tandon today hailed the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for spearheading green and sustainable public transport across the country, following the virtual flagging off of 25 electric buses for Chandigarh under the PM e-Bus Sewa Scheme.
Shri Tandon attended the flag-off ceremony along with Punjab Governor and UT Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria and termed the introduction of electric buses as a "historic and invaluable gift" to the people of Chandigarh. He said the induction of electric buses will help provide a pollution-free environment and significantly improve the quality of public transport. He expressed happiness that 100 electric buses will soon be put into service and added that the entire fleet in this phase is expected to be commissioned by May 2026. Shri Tandon extended his heartfelt gratitude to the Prime Minister and the Governor for their commitment to transforming Chandigarh into a model city for clean and eco-friendly mobility. He said the initiative reflects the Prime Minister's farsighted vision of promoting green transport and ensuring sustainable urban development. On the occasion, Shri Tandon also raised the issue of re-induction of transport department employees with the Administrator, stating that with the expansion of electric bus services.

Bajaj General Insurance launches 'NRInsure', offering 35% premium discount for NRIs

LUDHIANA : Bajaj General Insurance Limited (formerly known as Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Limited), one of India's leading private general insurers, today announced the launch of NRInsure, a new add-on offering to its flagship retail health insurance product, My Health Care Plan (MHCP). Designed for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs), the add-on offers a 35% discount on the base policy premium across MHCP plans.



NRInsure is aimed at addressing a long-standing need among NRIs who continue to maintain health insurance coverage in India for themselves, despite residing overseas. The add-on can be opted for at the time of purchasing a new policy, enabling eligible customers to avail the discount upon declaration of their NRI/OCI status and submission of prescribed documents.
Available to customers buying a new policy of My Health Care Plan, NRInsure allows NRIs and OCIs to retain continuity of their health cover in India while benefiting from lower premiums. All features, benefits and waiting periods under the base policy continue to apply, ensuring consistency in coverage.
Speaking about the launch, Mr. Amarnath Saxena, Chief Technical Officer – Commercial, Bajaj General Insurance, said, "For many NRIs, India remains home, not just emotionally, but also when it comes to long-term healthcare planning and preparing for a return to India. However, accessing and managing health insurance back home while living overseas can often be complex. With NRInsure, we are responding to this need by offering a premium discount to NRIs and OCIs.

Croma Unveils Summer Sale Delivers Up to 71% Off* on Acs and Premium Tvs

GURUGRAM / FARIDABAD : Croma, India's leading omni-channel electronics retailer from the Tata Group, has announced the Croma Summer Sale 2026, offering customers value-packed deals on cooling solutions and everyday tech essentials as temperatures begin to rise. Running until February 28, 2026 across Croma stores nationwide, the sale features special prices, category offers, and limited-period benefits on select products, along with cashback and easy EMI options on eligible items subject to partner bank or finance terms. Prices and offers may vary by brand, model, store, day, city, and availability, and customers using the HDFC Tata Neu credit card can also enjoy up to 10% discount on select products. "The months leading into summer see customers going in for cooling solutions and home upgrades to prepare for the warm days ahead. With customers increasingly looking for genuine value, convenient financing and trusted expert guidance, the Croma Summer Sale brings together standout offers on air conditioners and big-screen televisions, along with a wider set of deals across categories, to help customers upgrade confidently and make the most of the season," said a spokesperson from Infiniti Retail Ltd.

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BJP will form a majority government on its own in Punjab 2027 elections - Amit Gosa



LUDHIANA, FEBRUARY 15 (SARBJIT SUFI) Former minister late Satpal Gosai's grandson and prominent leader of Punjab BJP Amit Gosai said during an interview today that just as big faces from every party are joining BJP for the first time in Punjab and BJP is getting support from villages as well as cities, I can confidently say that BJP will form a government in Punjab on its own in 2027. He said that it is a tragedy of Punjab that whatever government is formed in Punjab is not formed at the center, but this time I can confidently say that Punjabis will form a double engine government in Punjab as well and will take Punjab on the path of progress. Speaking on the alliance with Akali Dal, he said that it will be the decision of the central high command alone and he will not say anything on it. He further attacked the AAP government and said that Punjabis have tasted change and now Punjabis will not experiment any further.

NEWS BRIEF

Excise Department cracks down on illicit liquor, FIR registered

JALANDHAR: (PARAMJIT SINGH) Acting on the directions of Deputy Commissioner (Excise) S.K. Garg, the Excise Department conducted two successful raids in Jalandhar, leading to the recovery of a significant quantity of illicit liquor and the arrest of two individuals. The operations were carried out under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner (Excise), Jalandhar Range-II, Navjeet Singh.

In the first raid, a team comprising Excise Officer Jaspreet Singh, Excise Inspector Manjit Singh Dhindsa of Circle Basti Bawa Khel, along with Excise Police, conducted a search in the basement of a shop located behind a Juice Corner in Raj Nagar, Basti Bawa Khel, Kapurthala Road, following a tip-off. During the checking, 230 nips (41.4 litres) of "Punjab King" liquor were recovered. The accused, Baldeep Singh, son of Mohinder Singh, a resident of Basti Bawa Khel, was apprehended on the spot. FIR No. 36 dated 14.02.2026 has been registered at Police Station Basti Bawa Khel.

In another operation, Excise Inspector Somant Mahi of Excise Circle Jalandhar North, along with local police of Police Station Maqsudan, raided village Kanpur. The team recovered 57 pints (21.375 litres) of "Punjab King" liquor. The accused, Gopi Bhagat of Paschimi Manoharpur, Madhepura (Bihar), was arrested. An FIR is being registered at Police Station Maqsudan. Assistant Commissioner Navjeet Singh reiterated that strict action against illegal liquor trade will continue in coming days.

Office bearers of Saini Bhawan Rupnagar managing committee elected

RUPNAGAR(BAHADURJEET SINGH) Kaka Ram Saini Charitable Trust ,Saini Bhawan Rupnagar held a special meeting of all the trustees and committee members today to elect a new Managing Committee as per the constitution of the organization. Giving information about the proceedings of the meeting, PRO of the organization Rajinder Saini said that in the meeting, Rajinder Singh Nanuan was unanimously elected as the President of the organization and Balbir Singh Saini was again elected as General Secretary. During the meeting,.

Tarsem Saini Patiala was elected as Chief Patron, Captain Hakam Singh as Patron, Dr. Ajmer Singh Tambar as Chairman, Gurmukh Singh Saini as Vice Chairman, Ram Singh Saini as Senior Vice President, Devinder Singh Jatana as Joint Secretary, Rajinder Saini as PRO, Ravinder Singh Mundra as Legal Advisor, Amarjit Singh as Joint Secretary (Education), Dr. Jaswant Kaur Saini as Vice President (Saini Sansar Magazine), Daljit Singh as Joint Secretary (Blood Donation), Jagdev Singh as Treasurer and Manager Magazine Circulation, Bahadurjeet Singh as Vice President (Media), Dr. Harcharan Das Sair as Vice President (Activities), Eng. Harjit Singh Saini as Technical Advisor, Ravinder Kaur as Joint Secretary (Education), Rajinder Singh Giran as Auditor, Surinder Singh as Joint Secretary Matrimonial, Tekpal Singh, Pritpal Singh, Rajiv Saini, Baldev Singh Mudra, Harjit Singh Giran and Gurpal Singh will be the advisors to the Management Committee. During the meeting, it was decided that all the members of the organization will perform their services with dedication, these positions have been given only to run the work of the organization smoothly. On this occasion, Dr. Ajmer Singh Tambar and General Secretary Balbir Singh Saini congratulated the newly formed management .

Chandigarh's Shiv Kumar Sharma Honored at the Prestigious 24th CavinKare Ability Awards

Chandigarh: Shiv Kumar Sharma from Chandigarh has been honored with the prestigious 24th CavinKare Ability Awards.

Born visually impaired in a small village in Himachal Pradesh, Shiv is now based in Chandigarh. He received the National Mastery Award for his contribution to India's first multi-inclusive film "Rabb Di Awaaz" and for his work in social advocacy. Shiv Kumar Sharma's journey from a remote village in Himachal Pradesh to the national stage in Chennai is a story of perseverance and resilience. During his address at the ceremony, he emphasized that his lead role in the landmark film "Rabb Di Awaaz" was not about seeking fame or stardom, but about a deep commitment to authenticity and accurate representation of persons with disabilities in cinema. zhe award ceremony was held recently in Chennai. He was accompanied by the film's director, Ojaswii Sharma, also from Chandigarh, who has previously been honored by the President of India with the Rajat Kamal (Silver Lotus) and the Special Jury Award at the 68th National Film Awards. Ojaswii has also been recognized by the United Nations, UNESCO, and Brotherhood India, as well as twice by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.



India-UK free trade agreement likely to be implemented from April this year



AGENCY

NEW DELHI: The India-UK free trade agreement is likely to come into effect from April this year, paving the way for an increase in Indian exports to the European nation, according to a senior official on Sunday.

The agreement was signed between the two countries in July last year and has to be now approved by the UK Parliament for it to come into effect.

The process has already started with the debate on the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) having begun in the both Houses of the British Parliament.

"Under the free trade agreement, 99 per cent of Indian exports to the UK will get the benefit of zero duty. This opens up massive export opportunities for labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, marine products, leather, footwear, sports goods and toys, gems and jewellery, and other important sectors such as engineering goods, auto parts and engines, and organic chemicals," according to an official statement.

Besides, India has ensured that non-tariff barriers are suitably addressed to ensure free flow of goods and services and that they do not create unjustified restrictions to India's exports.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Keir Starmer announced the successful conclusion of the mutually beneficial India-UK FTA in May last year.

The deal was sealed after PM Modi spoke to the UK Prime Minister on the phone.

Apart from the FTA, a Double Contribution Convention has also been signed to take care of the interests of Indian workers in the UK. There will also be a significant boost to trade in services, such as Information Technology/Information Technology Enabled Services, financial services, professional services, other business services and educational services.

India has also secured an exemption for Indian workers, who are temporarily in the UK and their employers from paying social security contributions in the UK for a period of three years under the Double Contribution Convention.

This will make Indian service providers significantly more competitive in the UK.

Delegation submits memorandum on retirement age issue of disabled employees



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

KARNAL 15A delegation of Viklang Sangh Umang's Karnal district unit met Assandh MLA Yogendra Rana and Indri MLA Ram Kumar Kashyap to raise concerns regarding the retirement age of employees with disabilities and submitted a memorandum addressed to Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini.

The delegation explained in detail the recent notification issued by the Haryana Finance Department on February 3, 2026, under which Rule 143 of the Haryana Civil Services Rules, 2016 was amended. According to the amendment, the retirement age benefit of 60 years for employees with 70 per cent or more disability has been withdrawn and reduced to 58 years. The organisation termed the move contrary to the interests of disabled employees and social welfare principles and demanded restoration of the earlier retirement age of 60 years.Both MLAs listened to the issue seriously and assured the delegation that they would personally discuss the matter with the Chief Minister and raise it at the state level on priority to seek justice for disabled employees.Those present included Coordination Committee president Dr Sitendra, state unit representative Richa Bajaj, district president Pradeep Atri, Om Singh Rana, Asbir Mangalor, Subhash, Sunil, Virendra Kumar, Rajesh Mehla, Sunil Mehla, Mahendra Jangra, Dushyant Rana and other members.

Commendable Initiative by Shri Ram Sewa Samiti, Sherpur

BARNALA(BALWINDER AZAD):- In a praiseworthy social initiative, Shri Ram Sewa Samiti, Sherpur solemnized the marriages of 12 underprivileged daughters in a dignified manner. The event was organized at Maharaja Palace with the support of local residents under the leadership of the committee's president, Rakesh Kumar Garg, and his dedicated team.



On this occasion, the marriages were conducted according to the respective religious traditions of the brides. The ceremony included Sikh Anand Karaj, Hindu pheras (sacred vows around the fire), Muslim Nikah, and one Christian wedding performed according to Christian customs. Specifically, two Nikahs, one Hindu marriage ceremony, and several Anand Karaj ceremonies were conducted.

The chief guest at the event was Jasmail Singh Dairywala, a prospective Congress Party candidate from Halka Mahal Kalan and Chairman of the SC Cell Department, District Barnala. In his address, he stated that arranging the marriage of daughters in today's time is a noble and virtuous act. Due to increasing dowry demands, many families find this responsibility burdensome, but the committee's efforts serve as an inspiration to society.

He further remarked that the joy of a father seeing his daughter happily depart for her new home with dreams in her eyes cannot be expressed in words. He appealed to the public to contribute a portion of their honest earnings toward such social causes so that more underprivileged daughters can be supported in this way. He congratulated the entire committee and assured his full cooperation in the future.

Among those present on the occasion were Balwinder Singh Chhanna, Ramdas Singh Bittu (Block Chairman, SC Department), and several other distinguished guests.

President Rakesh Kumar Garg informed that all the brides were also provided with essential household items for their new lives, made possible through the generous contributions of donors, ensuring they could begin their married life with dignity.

Major action against illegal construction in Saily Kulian Mohalla



SHARANJEET

PATHANKOT: As part of the 'War on Drugs' campaign being run by the Punjab Police against drugs, the district police and civil administration have taken a major action in the Saily Kulian Mohalla.

The Municipal Corporation, in a major crackdown against the illegal construction carried out by an alleged culprit, demolished it with a strong police presence. Giving information, SP Headquarters Rajinder Kumar Sharma said that a person named Manav alias Manu, a resident of Saily Kulian Pathankot, has already been booked against the accused for murder, illegal weapons, NDPS Act, and other fights and about 25 cases have been registered under other serious sections and the person who is said to have been in jail for the last four to five months, had carried out construction without permission in violation of government orders. Despite several notices issued by the Municipal Corporation, when the construction was not stopped, the administration took a strict stance. During the operation, the police force maintained complete law and order in the area. To avoid any untoward incident, the area was cordoned off and made safe, allowing the operation to be completed peacefully. During this operation, SP Headquarters Rajinder Kumar Sharma was present on behalf of the district police, while the Assistant Town Planner supervised the administration. Officers clarified that strict action will continue against property generated from drug-related black trade, illegal occupations, and illegal constructions.

The city residents are appreciating this action of the police and administration. People say that if such firm action continues, then illegal construction and those violating the law will be stopped. Officers said that no one is above the law in the city and strictest action will be taken against anyone who

ignores government orders. The agility of the police and the strictness of the Municipal Corporation have made it clear that the administration is fully committed to enforcing the law.

24th Annual Athletic Meet Organised at Mata Ganga Khalsa College, Kottan



DORAHA, AMRISH ANAND): The 24th Annual Athletic Meet was organised with great enthusiasm on February 13, 2026 at Mata Ganga Khalsa College under the leadership of Principal Dr. Gagandeep Singh. The event was inaugurated by Chief Guest S. Yadvinder Singh Yadu, General Secretary, Shiromani Akali Dal, who hoisted the flag to mark the commencement of the meet.Students presented an impressive march past and took the sports oath. Various events including 100m, 200m, 400m races, Long Jump, Discus Throw, Shot Put and Tug of War were conducted, in which both boys and girls participated enthusiastically. Vishwajeet Singh and Simardeep Kaur were declared the Best Athletes in the boys' and girls' categories respectively. The winners were honoured with medals and trophies. Principal Dr. Gagandeep Singh stated that sports play a vital role in developing discipline and teamwork among students. The programme concluded with a prize distribution ceremony and the National Anthem.

Mukh Mantri Tirath Yatra Scheme Conveys Message of Religious Harmony and Togetherness, Meet Hayer*

GULSHAN KUMAR

BARNALA: A 100-year-old Jagan Singh from Karamgarh village in Barnala district considers himself fortunate to have had the opportunity to visit the religious sites of the holy city of Amritsar through the Punjab Government's "Mukh Mantri Tirath Yatra" scheme.

The elderly Jagan Singh shared that he visited these religious places for the first time in his life and paid obeisance at Harmandir Sahib.

He mentioned that due to some reasons including his family's financial constraints, he could not afford to travel such a distance earlier and now he considers himself blessed to have had the 'darshan' of the sacred sites at the final stage of his life.



Notably, Jagan Singh had joined a jatha (group) to the holy city of Amritsar in December. He expressed his gratitude to Chief Minister S. Bhagwant Singh Mann for this initiative. Similarly, an elderly couple from Sekha village 66-year-old Pal Singh and 63-year-old Amarjit Kaur paid obeisance at Harmandir Sahib for the first time on February 9. In Sekha village alone out of 43 pilgrims, 16—including 71-year-old Joginder Kaur, 73-year-old Pritam Singh, and 61-year-old Pargat Ram have had the 'darshan' of the sacred sites for the fisrt time.

Deputy Commissioner Barnala Harpreet Singh IAS stated that under the second phase of the Mukh Mantri Tirath Yatra Yojana more than 2,200 devotees from Barnala district have already visited the religious and historical sites of the holy city Amritsar.

Since November 2025, jathas from villages Amla Singh Wala, Bhaddalwadh, Karmgarh, Sekha, Jhaloor, Nangal, Thulliwal, Sanghera, Lohgarh, Kutba, Hardaspura, Bahmanian, Nihaluwal, Gangohar, Pandori, Mahal Khurd, Sahaur, Sehjra, Ramgarh, Majhuke, Talwandi, Bhadaur, Alkara, Jangiana, Patti Mehar Singh and Khark Singh Wala have visited religious and historical places under the scheme.

Member Parliament Sh. Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer said that tirath yatra is open to people of all religions, castes, income groups. Under the scheme devotees pay obeisance at Sri Harmandir Sahib, Durgiana Temple, Bhagwan Valmiki Tirath Sthal, Jallianwala Bagh, the Partition Museum, and other sacred sites in Amritsar. Mukh Mantri Tirath Yatra scheme conveys message of religious harmony and togetherness. Under the second phase since November.

PRTC Chairman reviews the performance of the department and gives instructions to the officers



TAPINDER SINGH

PATIALA: Pepsu Road Transport Corporation (PRTC) Chairman Advocate Harpal Juneja held a meeting with the top officials of the department and reviewed the ongoing activities of the department. During this, he reviewed the ongoing processes for the purchase of new buses, ETM (Electronic Ticket Machine) and spare parts of buses and gave instructions to complete it more quickly. Chairman Juneja, while discussing suggestions for bringing more efficiency in the functioning of the department and appropriate steps for modernization in the internal structure of the department, directed the concerned officers to take all possible steps to pay the salaries and pensions of the employees of the department on time. Advocate Harpal Juneja asked the General Managers of all the depots to immediately get the buses coming for repair in the depots under them repaired and then instruct the workshop staff to send them on the routes so that the route service is not affected and the department is saved from financial loss as well as continuous smooth service can be provided to the passengers. He directed that orders be issued to refrain from playing loud music in buses and to keep the seats and buses clean in every respect. Apart from this, the General Managers were directed to pay special attention to making the bus stands and depots clean and green. Advocate Harpal Juneja, Chairman, directed the officers to make joint efforts to further improve the departmental efficiency and provide better services to the people. During the meeting, Additional Managing Director Navdeep Kumar, Chief Accounts Officer Jaspal Singh Walia, GM Patiala Depot Executive Engineer Jatinderpal Singh Grewal, General Manager Sangrur Depot.

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Ranbir Kapoor names 'Dhurandhar' as his "current favourite movie"



Actor Ranbir Kapoor has shared his admiration for Ranveer Singh's blockbuster release 'Dhurandhar', even listing the film's songs among his current favourites.In a special video, shared on the official Instagram page of the actor's lifestyle brand 'ARKS', Ranbir responded to fan questions when he expressed appreciation for Ranveer's latest work."My current favourite song...I am still listening to all the amazing tracks from Dhurandhar. That's right up there," Ranbir said, further mentioning music sensation Talwiinder. The 'Animal' star also went on to call 'Dhurandhar' his current favourite movie."My current favourite movie is Dhurandhar. I think the entire cast and crew really smashed it...Really good times at the movies," he added. Earlier in the day, Ranbir Kapoor stepped out in the city to visit the 'ARKS' Bandra store, marking one year of his lifestyle brand.Before entering the outlet, he met with paps, fan and happily posed for them. And as expected, he once again won the hearts of fashion aficionados with his look.

On the work front, Ranbir will be seen playing Lord Ram in Nitesh Tiwari's much-awaited two-part epic 'Ramayana.' He also has Sanjay Leela Bhansali's directorial 'Love and War' and 'Brahmastra 2' in the pipeline. Coming to 'Dhurandhar', the film is currently regarded as the biggest hit, achieving cult status. It has rewritten box office history by surpassing 'Pushpa 2: The Rule' to become the highest-grossing Hindi film of all time. Apart from Ranveer Singh, the film features Akshaye Khanna, Sanjay Dutt, Arjun Rampal, and R Madhavan in pivotal roles.The makers are set to bring the sequel 'Dhurandhar: The Revenge' in March this year. The official teaser for the film was unveiled earlier this month, featuring a relentless, blood-soaked action montage that underscores the psychological and physical transformation of Jaskirat Singh Rangi into the spy Hamza Ali Mazari. Glimpses of returning cast members Sanjay Dutt, Arjun Rampal and R. Madhavan are featured.Produced by Jio Studios and B62 Studios, with T-Series taking over as the music label, 'Dhurandhar: The Revenge' is slated for a pan-India theatrical release on March 19, 2026, coinciding with Eid, Gudi Padwa and Ugadi.It will release in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam.

Viineet Kumar Siingh calls 'Chhaava' his "second birth" as film clocks one year



Actor Viineet Kumar Siingh is marking one year of the blockbuster historical drama 'Chhaava', tracing his journey as a part of the film - which he has described as a "second birth."Taking to his Instagram handle, Viineet shared a nostalgic tribute to 'Chhaava' with a special video featuring audience reactions, behind-the-scenes footage, award-night moments, premiere visuals, and powerful scenes from the film.In his caption, the actor celebrated being a part of the project and wrote, "A journey of sweat, scars, silence, and roars of the audience. From rehearsals to roars, from lines on paper to lines remembered...Thank you for making this warrior live beyond the screen. A year ago, this roar echoed... and it still does. Your love, the media's words, the hours of practice, and those dialogues, every frame became history because of you. #Chhaava lives on. #1YearOfChhaava." Further in a statement, Viineet opened up on what the film and the character of Kavi Kalash meant for him."Chhaava is not just a film for me, it is my second birth. Becoming Kavi Kalash was not merely about playing a character; it was about living a part of my own soul.

Imtiaz Ali, Ektaa Kapoor set to bring timeless love legend of 'Heer Ranjha'



Marking an epic reunion, filmmakers Imtiaz Ali and Ektaa Kapoor have once again come together for yet another timeless love legend of 'Heer Ranjha'.Set to be directed by Sajid Ali, 'Heer Ranjha' serves as the second chapter of the beloved 'Laila Majnu' franchise, carrying forward its deep connection with the audience, the makers said, as per a statement."Rooted in classic romance yet shaped for today's time, Heer Ranjha reimagines love for a new generation, promising a poetic and emotionally immersive cinematic experience. The title reveal has already sparked strong excitement among fans of the Laila Majnu franchise," they added.Shooting for the film is expected to commence soon.

On Saturday, the makers also shared a short clip, teasing the upcoming love story against soulful music. "Some Love stories never die... From Laila Majnu to Heer Ranjha - The Love Legacy Continues," the caption read. Speaking about the announcement, Ektaa Kapoor said, "Imtiaz and Sajid have the rare ability to capture love with honesty and depth. While Laila Majnu found its audience over time and became a cult classic! Heer Ranjha is a love story that aims to transcend time and emotions. We hope to touch audiences across the Indian diaspora and beyond, with our storytelling."Presenter Imtiaz Ali added, "Heer Ranjha has its own world and rhythm -- it speaks the love language of this generation while staying rooted in something eternal. Collaborating with Ektaa again feels like a natural continuation of a shared emotional language."Presented by Imtiaz Ali, directed by Sajid Ali and produced by Shobha Kapoor, Ekta Kapoor and Preety Ali (Pi - Films Pvt Ltd), 'Heer Ranjha' builds on an iconic romantic franchise, making this Valentine's Day announcement a special moment for fans.Further details about the film's cast and plotline are yet to be announced.

243-hour Akhand Mahayagna filled with spirituality and patriotism on the occassion of maha shivratri

Former CM Charanjit Singh Channi to offer oblations along with his family at the Akhand Mahayagna







SARABJIT SUFI

LUDHIANA: On the fifth day of the Akhand Mahayagna, an eight-hour worship was performed at the Akhand Mahayagna site, and offerings were made to the Shivalinga form of Lord Shiva. Mahant Praveen Chaudhary performed the worship by bathing the Shivalinga with Ganga water, milk, and yogurt, chanting mantras, and then applying a tilak of Bael leaves, sandalwood, and honey. Congratulating the gathering, Mahant Praveen Chaudhary elaborated on the significance of Shivratri, the worship, and the benefits of fasting. He said that Shivratri is not just a religious festival but an opportunity for introspection and faith for followers of Sanatan Dharma. On this day, devotees experience balance and peace in life through Shiva worship. In the evening Bhajan Sandhya, Bhajan singer Kumar Sanjeev spread the colors of patriotism by presenting Bhajans of Bhole Nath and national songs. In Maa Anna Purna Rasoi situated at Bagalmukhi Dham, special arrangements were made for food offerings for the devotees observing fast on Shivratri festival. Chief Sevadaar Manpreet Chhatwal, while describing the Akhand Yagya organized in the evening by Mahant Praveen Chaudhary ji, said that Yagya is the identity of Indian culture. He told that former Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi has accepted the invitation of Akhand Yagya given by the Dham and has described the opportunity of offering oblations along with his family as his good fortune. The devotees who had come from India and abroad were provided with rest by the volunteers Navanjot Chhatwal, Karan Shandilya, Sunil Mahajan, Raman Ghai, Jatinder Sood, Mohit Sood, Prashottam Chaudhary, Rana Ranjit Singh, Sudhir Mahajan, Gaurav Kalia, Jatin Sood, Sandeep Sood, Sunil Handa, Narinder Singla, Iqbal Singh, Baljeet Tarika, Gautam Sachdeva, Sunil Gera, Ankush Singla, Narinder Mahajan, Tarun Chaudhary, Chetan Tandon, Sahil Singla, Raj Solanki, Pankaj Gupta, Deepak Garg, Dinesh Ralli, Varun Jain, Manish Gupta, Vijay Gupta, Raman Sharma, Aditya Gupta, Varun Chopra, Baljeet Tarika, Tushar Bansal, Dheeraj Gupta, Janakraj Singla, Bobby Makkad, Nitesh Sood, Rakesh Pasi, Guneet Khera, Ajay Jain, Ravinder Singh Walia, Tejinder Miglani, Varun Dutt. He also assisted in the arrangements for food and drinks.

Sonakshi Batra, Priya Thakur, Indira Krishna and other Zee TV stars open up about their faith in Lord Shiva this Maha Shivratri

CHANDIGARH: Maha Shivratri is a deeply revered festival that celebrates the boundless power and compassion of Lord Shiva. Observed with immense devotion across the country, the sacred night signifies inner awakening, renewal of faith, and the triumph of calm strength over chaos. Devotees mark the occasion through fasting, meditation, chanting, and performing the holy abhishek of the Shivling with milk, water, honey, and bel leaves, believing that sincere prayers on this night invite divine blessings, protection, and peace into one's life.







For many, Maha Shivratri goes beyond ritual and tradition, it becomes a moment of personal reflection and surrender. Zee TV actors Sonakshi Batra from Jagadhatri, Priya Thakur from Vasudha, Mohak Matkar from Saru, Vandana Pathak from Tumm Se Tumm Tak, Abhishek Sharma from Vasudha, Indira Krishna from Ganga Mai Ki Betiyan, Jayati Bhatia from Jaane Anjaane Hum Mile, and Akshita Mudgal from Lakshmi Niwas opened up about how Lord Shiva has been a constant source of strength and guidance in their lives. Each of them shared that their faith in Bholenath has helped them stay grounded, overcome challenges, and move forward with confidence and positivity.

Sonakshi Batra, who plays the titular role in Jagadhatri said, "I have immense faith in Lord Shiva, and for me, He is always with me, protecting me and ensuring that nothing wrong ever happens. Since my childhood, visiting the Shiv mandir with my family has been a deeply rooted tradition, and those moments have played a big role in strengthening my belief and devotion. Every year on Mahashivratri, I also observe a fast with complete devotion, as it makes me feel even more spiritually connected to Bholenath. Over the years, he has been my biggest strength, especially during challenging times, giving me the courage to stay strong and move ahead with positivity. His presence fills me with peace and confidence, and I truly feel his guidance in every step of my journey. I am extremely grateful for lord Shiva's blessings and love."

Priya Thakur who plays the titular role in Vasudha said, "Since my childhood, I have always had an immense faith in Lord Shiva. His blessings have been my guiding light through every challenge and every milestone in my life. I truly believe that it is because of his divine grace that I have been able to achieve all the success I have today. Mahashivratri is a beautiful reminder to reconnect with him, to seek his guidance, and to offer our devotion with a pure heart. I am forever grateful to Bholenath for always being by my side and showing me the path of strength, perseverance, and humility." Mohak Matkar who plays the lead role in Saru said, "Mahashivratri holds a very special place in my heart, as it brings me even closer to Lord Shiva. On this auspicious day, I find a sense of peace, strength, and inner clarity through my devotion to him. I truly believe that Bholenath has always guided me through every phase of my life, showing me the right path whenever I felt lost or unsure. His blessings give me strength, clarity, and balance, and he constantly keeps me grounded and on the right track. On this sacred occasion, I pray for his continued guidance and grace in everything I do."

Vandana Pathak who plays the role of Gayatri in Tumm Se Tumm Tak said, "Mahashivratri is a very special day for me. Since childhood I love celebrating it by fasting, praying and offering sweets to Lord Shiva with complete devotion. Mahadev is always with me and my family, protecting us from all the negative energy. Whatever I am today is because of his blessings. On this auspicious occasion, May Lord Shiva bless us with strength, good energy, clarity, wisdom and inner peace. Om Namah Shivay, Har Har Mahadev!"

Abhishek Sharma who plays the role of Devansh in Vasudha said, "For me, Lord Shiva is not just a deity I pray to on Mahashivratri, but a constant presence I feel connected to every single day. I always feel His presence with me, walking alongside me through every phase of life. His energy gives me strength, clarity, and balance in all that I do. Whenever I am in doubt or find myself wondering what I should do, I know that Bholenath will always guide me and remain beside me. Whenever I've faced confusion, challenges, or moments of self-doubt, I truly believe that He has protected me, guided me, and kept me on the right path.

New Year, New Narrative: How 2026 Could Be the Year India Normalises Fertility Conversations

CHANDIGARH: Infertility in India has rarely been discussed as much as it needs to. According to the Indian Council of Medical Research, even today, an estimated 3.9% to 16.8% of Indian couples experience infertility, yet for decades, conversations around delayed conception have remained coloured with shame, misinformation, and endurance. What is changing now is not biology, but recognition that silence delays care, and delay often narrows options, says Dr Rakhi Goyal, Fertility Specialist at Birla Fertility & IVF, Chandigarh.India's fertility landscape has shifted decisively. The National Family Health Survey-5 shows that India's total fertility rate has fallen to 2.0, below replacement level in many urban states. People are marrying later, prioritising careers, and starting families in their mid-to-late thirties. Medically, this matters. Female fertility declines gradually after 32 and more sharply after 35, while sperm quality is increasingly affected by lifestyle factors such as obesity, smoking, and metabolic disease. These are not moral failures or personal shortcomings; they are predictable biological realities that require timely conversations. Early, informed dialogue changes how fertility journeys unfold. When couples understand that seeking advice does not automatically mean IVF—but may involve simple diagnostics, lifestyle correction, or time-bound planning—they are more likely to seek help earlier. Normalisation removes fear. Fear postpones decisions.What feels different heading into 2026 is visibility. Fertility is being discussed beyond clinics—at workplaces, in social circles, and within families. Men are increasingly part of these conversations, challenging the outdated notion that infertility is primarily a woman's issue. Younger adults are asking informed questions about egg freezing, fertility testing, and genetic screening not out of panic, but preparation.

Jindal Stainless and Amida Cleantech team up for Sanjeevan

HISAR: Jindal Stainless, India's leading stainless steel manufacturer, is funding an innovative, indigenous advanced air purification system at the Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham (SKVD) Ramp Building encompassing the historic Manikarnika Ghat. This initiative, named Sanjeevan (translating to 'restoring to life'), marks Jindal Stainless' largest CSR initiative and is being undertaken in collaboration with Amida Cleantech Private Limited (AMIDA) for implementing Amida's novel ambient air purification technology. The programme is aligned with the National Clean Air Programme launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for healthier air at city, regional and national level. The initiative followed approval by the SKVD Authority for implementation of the unique air purification system at the Ramp building of SKVD premises, adjacent to the Manikarnika Ghat cremation area, to cleanse the air emanating from burning pyres at Manikarnika Ghat.



From right to left: Mr Abhyuday Jindal, Managing Director, Jindal Stainless, Shri Vishwa Bhushan Mishra - PCS, CEO - Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple Trust, and Mr Siddharth Dixit, Managing Director, AMIDA, at the MoU signing ceremony for the installation of air-purifying units at Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham, Varanasi

This one-of-its-kind, innovative project deploys AMIDA's ACE+ technology, which has been tested, validated, and approved by leading government bodies, including NITI Aayog. Designed to neutralise (ACE - Attract, Capture, and Eliminate) diverse airborne pollutants, the system effectively captures and eliminates not only a wide range of particulate matter including nano-black carbon, pollens, and organic matter (100 nm to 50 microns) from the ambient air, but also neutralises toxic vehicular emissions like SOx and NOx as well as microbial contaminants (viruses and bacteria) to create a cleaner and healthier environment. This project comprises 58 air-purifying units made of stainless steel, to accomplish a total air purification volume of over 3,00,000 cubic meters per hour.

Commenting on this initiative, Jindal Stainless stated: "This initiative is in line with company's ongoing commitment to environmental preservation. By improving air quality at Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham, we aim to enhance the environment for both local residents and the millions of devotees who visit this revered landmark. Our collaboration with Amida Cleantech showcases our support for innovative Indian technology while driving meaningful change and delivering tangible environmental benefits."

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