



SCAN QR CODE FOR EPAPER

# YUGMARG

- Follow us on
- @yugmarg.news
  - @yugmarg
  - @yugmargtv
  - @yugmarg
  - @yugmarg
  - @yugmarg

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



**CM MEETS UNION FINANCE MINISTER, SEEKS SPECIAL CENTRAL ASSISTANCE FOR 2026-27**

PAGE 5

**GOVT SETS \$1 TRILLION ECONOMY TARGET BY 2047; CM PRESENTS VISION-DRIVEN BUDGET**

PAGE 7



**SPIRIT OF SELFLESS SERVICE ESSENTIAL FOR BRINGING POSITIVE CHANGE IN SOCIETY: YOGENDRA RANA**

PAGE 12



NEWS BRIEFS

**Woman arrested with 1.84 kg gold at Delhi airport**

**NEW DELHI:** A woman passenger was held at Indira Gandhi International Airport for allegedly smuggling gold worth Rs 1.84 crore, customs officials said on Monday. A senior Customs official said that the woman arrived in New Delhi from Addis Ababa by flight number ET-686. During inspection, Customs officials grew suspicious of the woman and conducted a thorough search of her and her baggage. Upon examination, 1,843 grams of high-purity gold concealed inside her bag was recovered.

**EPFO fixes 8.25 pc interest rate on EPF deposits**

**NEW DELHI:** Retirement fund body EPFO, for the third year in a row, fixed the interest rate on employees' provident fund deposits at 8.25 per cent for 2025-26, a labour ministry statement said on Monday. In February last year, the EPFO had retained the rate of interest at 8.25 per cent for 2024-25. The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) in 2024 increased the interest rate marginally to 8.25 per cent for 2023-24, from 8.15 per cent in 2022-23.

**Delhi airport sees 87 flight cancellations**

**NEW DELHI:** As many as 87 international flights were cancelled at the Delhi airport on Monday as airline operations were disrupted for the third day due to the Middle East conflict. An official said that 37 departures and 50 arrivals have been cancelled at the Delhi airport. Indian airlines cancelled 760 overseas flights in the last two days owing to the escalating Middle East conflict due to which many airspaces in the region are closed.

**Oil tanker hit by unmanned boat off Muscat coast, 1 Indian killed**



**DUBAI:** An Indian national was killed on Monday when an explosive-laden unmanned boat struck an oil tanker off the coast of Muscat Governorate, according to reports. "The Maritime Security Centre reported that the oil tanker MKD VYOM was attacked by an unmanned boat 52 nautical miles off the coast of Muscat Governorate," Oman's Ministry of Defence said in a statement. It said that the attack resulted in a fire and explosion in the engine room and the death of one crew member.

# Israel launches broad strike on Tehran as Iran retaliates across Gulf

UNI TEL AVIV/TEHRAN/DOHA, MAR 2

The Israel Defense Forces on Monday announced it had begun "an additional broad strike" in central Tehran, targeting government sites, as loud explosions were reported across the Iranian capital. Iran's Tasnim News Agency said multiple blasts were heard in Tehran and claimed the air strike targeted an area near Revolution Square, where demonstrators had gathered to condemn what it described as aggression. Iranian air defenses intercepted the attack over central Tehran, the report added.

The latest escalation comes after joint US-Israeli strikes on Iran over the weekend killed Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei including senior officials. Iran has since retaliated with attacks across the region, targeting several US-allied Gulf states.

Residents in major Gulf cities, including Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Doha, woke to fresh explosions Monday morning. In Doha, missiles were seen being intercepted in the sky, while in



**Blasts in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Doha continue**

**NEW DELHI:** Air raid sirens were sounded in Tel Aviv, and blasts echoed across the Gulf cities of Dubai, Doha, Abu Dhabi and Manama on Monday, minutes after the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) reported a fresh wave of missile attacks by Iran. Since the start of the US-Israel campaign on Saturday - which killed Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and other top leaders - explosions have become a constant presence in the Qatari and Bahraini capitals as well as



in the UAE's most populous cities. As Tehran's strikes entered their third day, several missiles were intercepted over Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. In Iraq, an AFP photographer witnessed air defence systems intercepting at least two drones near Erbil airport. Drones have repeatedly been intercepted over Erbil, which hosts the US-led coalition troops and is also home to a major US consulate complex. In Kuwait, columns of smoke were seen rising from the American embassy. The oil-and-gas-rich Gulf neighbours of Iran - which host a clutch of US military bases - have seen significant damage to civilian infrastructure. From airports and seaports to residential buildings and hotels, the impact has been widespread. Live updates here. On Sunday, drones struck the airport in Bahrain's capital Manama, causing minor damage. In the UAE, which has borne the brunt of the attacks, debris from intercepted drones injured two people in Dubai's residential areas. On Saturday, the Iranian attacks sparked fires at landmarks such as The Palm seafont development and Burj Al Arab hotel.

**Punjab CM announces 24x7 helpline for Punjabis stranded amid Middle East conflict**

**BUREAU CHANDIGARH:** Amid escalating conflict in parts of the Middle East, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Monday announced a 24x7 helpline to assist stranded Punjabis, asking families to call 0172 2260042, 0172 2260043 or WhatsApp +91 94787 79112 for immediate support. Stating that the state government is in constant touch with the Government of India to ensure their safe and prompt return, he said Punjab will extend full support and cooperation to those affected. Assuring fulsome support and cooperation to the distressed families of the Punjabis stuck in strife torn Middle East, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann stated, "The state government was constantly in touch with the Government of India (GoI) to ensure safe and prompt return of the people stuck.



**Drone hit at Saudi Aramco facility in Ras Tanura**

**RIYADH:** The conflict between US-Israel and the Iranian regime has intensified on Monday. After a relative lull overnight, Iran launched new missile and drone strikes on Israel and other Gulf states. Multiple news outlets like Russia Today, Press TV Iran and Israel's 124 new reported a drone strike at Saudi Aramco's Ras Tanura refining facility. The facility is among the world's largest oil export facilities, critical for global crude flows. Jerusalem Post quoting a Semafor reporter said that a small, isolated fire is under control at Saudi Aramco's Ras Tanura refining facility following what appeared to be a drone strike earlier in the morning. Iran's Press TV also reported an Iranian missile strike at the Salman Port in Bahrain.

Dubai, witnesses reported back-to-back blasts and jets overhead. In Qatar, the Defence Ministry said two drones struck energy facilities in Ras Laffan Industrial City and Mesaieed, with no casualties reported. A drone hit a water tank at a power plant in Mesaieed, while another targeted a QatarEnergy facility in Ras

Laffan. Qatar's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Majed al-Ansari told that Iranian attacks had targeted civilian infrastructure, including the international airport. "Such attacks cannot go unanswered," he said, adding that Doha was not currently engaging with Tehran and reserved the right to retaliate.

## CM Saini presents Haryana Budget with focus on rural growth

UNI CHANDIGARH, MARCH 2

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, who also holds the finance portfolio, presented a state budget of 2,23,658.17 crore for the 2026-27 fiscal year in the state assembly on Monday.

This marks a 10.28 percent increase over the previous year's allocation. Drawing inspiration from the principles of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, Saini outlined a roadmap focused on technology, rural empowerment, and industrial growth.

Among the major highlights was the elevation of Hansi to a "Modern District" and the creation of a specialized electricity corporation, "Agri Discom," specifically to manage tubewell connections for farmers.

In a major push for youth empowerment and technology, the Chief Minister announced that one lakh youth would receive training in Artificial In-

telligence (AI) to enhance their employability.

The education sector received significant attention with the proposal to develop 250 schools as CM (EEE) institutions and a 200 crore provision to ensure double desks in all government schools by November 1, 2026.

Additionally, the 'Super 100' coaching scheme for JEE aspirants will see its capacity increased from 400 to 500 seats. To foster global skills, 100 teachers will be trained to teach German and Japanese.

The agricultural and dairy sectors were central to the budgetary proposals. Saini announced a daily incentive increase for desi cotton cultivation from 3,000 to 4,000 per acre and a 2,000 bonus for farmers shifting from paddy to pulses, oilseeds, or cotton.

To bolster the dairy infrastructure, two new milk plants with a capacity of 5 lakh liters per day will be established in Rewari and Ambala at a cost of 300



crore each. The budget also earmarked funds for 7 new animal dispensaries and 4 government veterinary hospitals, alongside a 30 crore epidemiological center in Hisar.

For the industrial sector, the Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC) will introduce a 'Land on Lease' policy for 2026-27, allowing long-term leasing of industrial plots with an option to convert to freehold.

To streamline investments, a digital 'Land Feasibility Certificate' system will be launched to provide clearances within 45 working days. Furthermore, Saini announced the development of "Wedding Cities" in Gurugram, Kharkhoda, and Pinjore, designed as one-stop hubs for marriage ceremonies from engagement to farewell. Sports and health also saw significant commitments, with the Chief Minister announcing a "Fit Haryana Campaign" to be launched by September 30, 2026.

## Permanent all-weather AC Tent City for devotees at Sri Anandpur Sahib: Bains

BUREAU CHANDIGARH, MAR 2

In a major step to strengthen pilgrimage infrastructure and promote environmental sustainability, Punjab Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains on Monday announced comprehensive arrangements, including a permanent all-weather tent city, for the ongoing Holi Mohalla celebrations at Sri Anandpur Sahib.

Addressing a press conference at Punjab Bhawan, Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains unveiled a series of landmark initiatives, including India's first permanent air-conditioned tent city and the observance of Green Holi Mohalla. "The permanent tent city was conceived after the success of a temporary structure last year



and a subsequent inspection by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, following which the facility has now been established in the holy city," he added. The Education Minister said,

"This is a historic moment for Punjab's religious tourism. We are dedicating a permanent, fully air-conditioned tent city to the public today. This facility, the first of its kind in the country, will address the accommodation shortage faced by devotees year-round. It will not only serve pilgrims under the Mukh Mantri Tirath Yatra Scheme but also provide a significant fillip to Sri Anandpur Sahib's tourism potential, offering visitors an experience of a lifetime."

Reaffirming the Bhagwant Mann Government's commitment to environmental conservation, S. Harjot Singh Bains announced that this year's Holi Mohalla will be celebrated as Green Holi Mohalla. He informed that a comprehensive ban has been enforced on single-use plastics, with the Punjab Pollution Con-

trol Board bearing the entire cost of providing biodegradable alternatives at all langar establishments. S. Harjot Singh Bains said, "Given the massive scale of langars serving lakhs of devotees, we have prioritised environmental concerns. Every plate, cup and utensil used will be made of biodegradable, non-plastic material." Extending an invitation to the global Sikh sangat, the Minister stated that after commemorating the sacred martyrdom anniversary of Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Ji Sahib and the Shaheed Sabha at Fatehgarh Sahib with deep devotion, the Bhagwant Mann Government now turns to Holi Mohalla with renewed vigour. He invited devotees to join the celebrations with their families and experience the spiritual grandeur of this historic occasion.

## Modi, Carney sign MoUs to power USD 50 billion trade ambition



**UNI NEW DELHI:** In a sweeping reset of ties after years of diplomatic strain, India and Canada on Monday signed a landmark long-term uranium supply agreement and inked five key Memorandums of Understanding spanning critical minerals, renewable energy, technology, artificial intelligence, talent and culture, underscoring what both sides described as a renewed partnership anchored in "strong confidence and shared democratic values."

The agreements were finalised following delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Canadian counterpart Mark Carney at Hyderabad House, culminating in a joint statement that laid out an ambitious roadmap to expand cooperation across strategic sectors and sharply scale up bilateral trade.

At the heart of the breakthrough is a 10-year, \$2.6 billion agreement between the Government of India and Saskatchewan-based Cameco for the supply of nearly 22 million pounds of uranium from 2027 to 2035 — a move that significantly bolsters India's civil nuclear energy programme and energy security. "In civil nuclear energy, we have reached a landmark deal for long-term uranium supply. We will also work together on small modular reactors and advanced reactors," Modi said after the talks, describing the agreement as a decisive step in deepening strategic trust. The two leaders also agreed to the Terms of Reference for a long-pending Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), confirming that chief negotiators had met in New Delhi and that both governments would move swiftly to conclude the pact this year.



Bollywood stars Ranbir Kapoor and Abhishek Bachchan on Sunday evening stepped out in the city for work commitments. The duo attended Indian Super Gaming League event in Mumbai in style. They were spotted in conversation with each other at the event. While Ranbir co-owns the Indian Super League team Mumbai City FC, Abhishek, also an ardent football enthusiast, holds a stake in Chennaiyin FC. Meanwhile, on the acting front, Ranbir, in the coming months, will be seen in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's film 'Love and War', alongside his wife Alia Bhatt and actor Vicky Kaushal. He will also be seen playing Lord Ram in Nitesh Tiwari's much-awaited two-part epic 'Ramayana'.

**SARBJIT SUFI LUDHIANA :** Sardar Harmeet Singh Kalka, President of the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee, informed that with the support of the Sangat and a spirit of selfless service, the Committee will celebrate the sacred festival of Hola Mohalla, a great symbol of Ascending Art, fearlessness, and Khalsa valor, on March 4, 2026, at Gurdwara Damdama Sahib, Nizamuddin, from Amrit Vela to evening, with full devotion, respect, and spiritual fervor, in accordance with Gurmat Maryada. He stated that Hola Mohalla is not just a historical day, but a living symbol of the spiritual power, discipline, valor, and organized strength of the Khalsa Panth. On this sacred occasion, Amrit Vela Divans will be organized, the Sangat will be connected to the Naam-Ras through Gurbani Kirtan, and special religious ceremonies will be held in accordance with Panthic traditions.



Sardar Kalka made a humble appeal to all the Sangats to grace this great Panthic gathering by attending it in large numbers along with their families, receive the immense blessings of the Guru and illuminate their lives with the light of Gurmat. He expressed confidence that with the presence of large numbers of Sangats, this holy event will spread the message of the ascendant of the Khalsa Panth far and wide and will fill the hearts of the Sangats with new spiritual enthusiasm.

### Simiran Kaur Dhadli owns love, power and narrative with new single 'Dilbarjaani', ft Sunny Singh

**CHANDIGARH:** Punjabi most distinctive and unapologetic voice, Simiran Kaur Dhadli returns with her latest single 'Dilbarjaani', a high energy love track that reimagines romance through a confident and self-assured women's lens. Written by a woman, from the gaze of a woman who knows how deeply she's desired, 'Dilbarjaani' reinforces a larger shift, one where women speak, lead and love on their own terms. Featuring actor Sunny Singh, the track brings together striking visuals and fearless lyricism with a narrative that places the woman as the center of her own story.



With Dilbarjaani, Simiran flips the script on usual romantic songs. This isn't about a woman waiting to be chosen, rather it celebrates someone who is aware of her worth, recognises devotion and chooses how she is loved. The song truly unpacks Simiran's genius in writing, composing & singing and cements her position as the next emerging Pop Icon from India. Speaking about the track, Simiran Kaur Dhadli shares, "For me Dilbarjaani is about owning your space - loud, honest & equal. She knows she is valued, she is loved and she stands strong in it. It's a reminder that you don't have to fit into someone else's idea of love. There's intensity and admiration, but the woman decides how she's seen and loved." Sharing his experience, Sunny Singh adds, "Simiran Kaur Dhadli is a power packed artist with a unique, bold vision. It was a great experience collaborating with her on Dilbarjaani."

## World Hearing Day: Simran speech and hearing clinic transforms thousands of young lives through early intervention

**BUREAU LUDHIANA :** On the occasion of World Hearing Day, Simran Speech and Hearing Clinic called for greater awareness about hearing health and the importance of early intervention. Experts at the clinic emphasized that hearing is not merely the ability to perceive sounds, but the foundation of communication, education, social participation, and self-confidence. The clinic urged parents, schools, and the wider community to prioritize regular hearing screenings to ensure that every child has an equal opportunity to listen, speak, and thrive. In collaboration with non-governmental organizations, the clinic has provided free cochlear implants, hearing aids, and regular speech therapy services to nearly 20 children from Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. As a result of these comprehensive efforts, the children have achieved age-appropriate language and communication milestones, significantly improving their quality of life.



Navdeep Kanwar. Simran Kaur holds an MASLP degree from Manipal University, Karnataka, while Navdeep Kanwar earned a Master's degree in Audiology from the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH), Mysuru. Under expert guidance, the clinic offers advanced hearing screening for newborns, children, and adults, cochlear implant assessment and rehabilitation, state-of-the-art digital hearing aid fitting, and structured speech and auditory-verbal therapy programs.

Kaur said, "Hearing loss is invisible, but its impact is profound. Hearing care is not a luxury—it is a basic necessity. When a child can hear, they can learn, and when they learn, their future brightens. Early hearing screening, especially for children under three years of age, is critically important."

Navdeep Kanwar added, "If hearing loss is not treated on time, it can significantly affect a child's speech development, academic performance, and social confidence. With timely diagnosis, cochlear implants, hearing aids, and consistent speech therapy, children can develop age-appropriate language skills. Speech therapy plays a crucial role in transforming sound into meaningful language."

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 1.5 billion people worldwide live with some degree of hearing loss, and nearly 430 million require rehabilitation services. Due to a lack of awareness and early screening, many childhood hearing issues remain undetected. WHO strongly emphasizes early identification and timely intervention to prevent delays in speech and language development.

Speaking on the occasion, Simran

Serving Ludhiana since 2014, Simran Speech and Hearing Clinic has established itself as a trusted name in hearing and speech care across North India. The clinic is led by hearing and speech specialists Simran Kaur and Na-

## Rashmika-Vijay's wedding reception to be held on March 4

Newlywed bride Rashmika Mandanna on Sunday met with Telangana CM Revanth Reddy to formally invite him for her and Vijay Deverakonda's wedding reception in Hyderabad on March 4. Rashmika not only met with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, but also with his wife, Geetha, and their daughter. In the visuals from the meeting, Geetha is seen giving her blessings to Rashmika. Earlier on Sunday morning, Rashmika and Vijay stepped out in Hyderabad to offer prayers at a temple. Also, today, the couple, through their team, has distributed thousands of sweet boxes across 23 cities nationwide, including Hyderabad, Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, and several other major hubs. Simultaneously, Annadanam (sacred food offering) is being conducted at multiple temples across India, further reinforcing the couple's desire to seek blessings while giving back to the community. Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda got married on February 26 in Udaipur in the presence of their close friends and family members. A few days before they exchanged their vows, the couple met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to extend wedding invite to them. On Saturday, Taking to her X handle, Rashmika shared pictures from the meeting when she and Vijay visited PM Modi and invited him for their wedding. "Meeting Honourable Prime Minister @narendramodi sir and spending time talking about our culture and history was so special. The sweetest surprise was the thoughtful letter he wrote to my par-



## New International Film City inaugurated with 'Mom 2' shooting



Producer Boney Kapoor has expressed his excitement for the upcoming sequel of Sridevi starrer 'Mom', which has already gone on floors as the inaugural film to be shot in the new International Film City along the Yamuna Expressway near Greater Noida. While talking to ANI, Boney Kapoor shared the details of the project, saying that the film is directed by Girish Kohli and also stars Bengali actor Jishu and Karishma Tanna in the lead role. "The shooting of Mom 2 is going on here. The director is Girish Kohli, who was the writer of Mom 1. The producer is me and my partner, Akshai Puri. The action director is Vijayan from the South. He is among the most accomplished action directors. We have technicians from different places. We have an actor from Bengal, Jishu. We have a television and a movie actor, Karishma Tanna, who is also play-

ing a very important part in the film," said Boney Kapoor. The upcoming film Mom 2 is the first movie to be shot at the new International Film City along the Yamuna Expressway on Sunday. "Our effort is to make sure it (Film City) is different and is elaborate in every given sense. Besides Film City, this would have a theme park. This would have lots of entertainment sections. Which probably will surprise many. All kinds of films, OTT, drama, television, serial. We will make podcast sets. Everything. There will also be a media centre here. So everything that is related to entertainment and media will have a base here," said Boney Kapoor while talking to the media.

At the press conference of the inauguration of the International Film City, Boney Kapoor also announced that the shooting of OTT projects will be done

free of cost on the sets, which are currently placed at Film City. When asked about the free-of-cost OTT projects at the film city, the producer said, "Yes, but only on this set. It is because this set is a good luck. It is an incentive for other producers to come and for us, the more people who can benefit from this, the more people will come, and the more discussions will be about this film city. Everyone will know that the film city has started here." The producer also expressed his gratitude to Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for allowing him to build the film city. "I am thankful to God, I am thankful to Yogi ji, I am thankful to Modi ji, that they gave me this opportunity that I should be able to give something. And I have to make this thing (International Film City) bigger," said Boney Kapoor.

## DIGITAL SOLUTIONS FOR PENSIONERS

### SUBMIT YOUR

### DIGITAL LIFE CERTIFICATE

### TODAY

Manual life certificates accepted by banks are invalid. Please ensure submission of Digital Life Certificate before 31st March, 2026 to avoid any delay in pension disbursement.

### Where can you submit your digital life certificate:

- Nearest Treasury Office
- Your Bank Branch
- Sewa Kendras
- Through Door Step Delivery Services
- Through Jeevan Pramaan Patra App on your mobile phone

To book an appointment through our free doorstep delivery service ☎ 1076

For more information visit: [pensionersewa.punjab.gov.in](http://pensionersewa.punjab.gov.in)

Helpline number : 1800-180-2148 | 0172-2996385 / 86

Department of Information and Public Relations, Punjab



S. Bhagwant Singh Mann  
Chief Minister, Punjab

CHANDIGARH

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026

## NEWS BRIEF

**At Mehal Kalan, S. B. S Group of College and Sri Guru Ravidas Welfare trust married 10 needy girls**



BALVINDER AZAD

**BARNALA:** Dedicated to the 649th Parkash Purb of Sri Guru Ravidas Ji at Mehal Kalan, Sri Guru Ravidas Welfare Trust Barnala and Sushil Kumar Basil, Chairman Punjab Pharmacy Council and S. B. S Group of College and Malwa College of Nursing, Mehal Kalan, mass marriages of boys and girls were organized according to Gurmatiyada at S. B. S College campus. On this occasion, Anand Karja was performed for girls from 10 needy families. Kirtan of Rabbi Bani was performed by the great saints. In which Sant Davinder Hira All India Adi Dharma Mission Bharat Khuralgarh Wale, Baba Rajwinder Singh Ji Tibba, Sant Manpreet Singh Ji Khalsa Alipur Wale, Baba Gurreet Singh Barnala Wale, Dhali Sukhwinder Singh Ji Gehlan Wale connected it with Sikh history.

**Teachers protest by surrounding houses of cabinet ministers and MLAs**



JAGRAJ SINGH SANGHA

**MOGA:** The call of the Sanjha Adiyapik Morcha and teachers' organizations, a protest was held by surrounding the house of MLA Moga Amandeep Arora and a protest letter/demand letter was given to the Chief Minister of Punjab. On this occasion, teacher leaders Pargalit Singh Kishanpura, Digvijay Pal Sharma, Judge Pal Singh Bajje K, Inderpal Singh Dhillon said that the Supreme Court, ignoring the notification of NCTE, has imposed unnecessary TET condition on all teachers due to the decision of 01.09.2025. During this time, neither the Education Minister, the Chief Minister or the Punjab Government filed a review petition in the Supreme Court against this unconstitutional decision, nor did the teachers get relief by passing a bill in the Vidhan Sabha. However, some categories were exempted from TET at the time of promotions as per a letter of 2017. That letter was also withdrawn by the Education Department of the Punjab Government after the Supreme Court's decision and the promotions of teachers were put on hold. Teacher leaders Sukhpaljit Singh, Gurmeet Dholewala, Jagveeran Kaur, Kuldeep Singh, Jalinderpal Singh Bhola, Amandeep Machhike said that against this pressure, teachers' organizations had held a massive protest at the Education Minister's constituency Sri Anandpur Sahib on February 22.

**Khanna police conduct security checks at religious places to ensure peaceful gatherings**



AMRISH ANAND

**DORAH:** Acting under the directions of Senior Superintendent of Police, Dr. Darpan Kaur Ahluwalia, officials of the Khanna Police carried out inspections at various religious places to prevent any untoward incidents and to ensure public safety. During the checking drive, police personnel reviewed the existing security arrangements, assessed the functioning of CCTV surveillance systems, and coordinated with the respective management committees. The objective of the exercise was to ensure that religious gatherings and congregations are conducted in a peaceful and secure environment. Police officials also interacted with devotees and event organisers, urging them to remain vigilant and promptly report any suspicious activity to the authorities. Khanna Police remains fully committed to maintaining communal harmony, public safety, and law and order in the region.

**Legal action will be taken against those who break law during festival of Holi: SSP**

KARANPREET KARAN

**BARNALA:** SSP Mohammad Sarfaraz Alam appealed to the shopkeepers in the markets and main roads of the city in view of the festival of Holi that to keep their goods outside the shops so that

there is no traffic crowding in the city and only park the goods and vehicles inside the yellow belt. He appealed to report any mischievous activity, suspicious persons or unknown objects

to the police immediately. SSP Sarfaraz Alam said that strict security arrangements have been made and no one is allowed to break the law. No one trying to break the law will be spared. He gave a stern warning to the hooligans not to harass anyone unnecessarily and said that strict action will be taken against anyone harassing the elderly, children or women. A special blockade will be imposed in the city during the festival.

## One year of 'Yudh Nashean Virudh'; CM Mann congratulates people for fight against drugs

GAURAV GOEL  
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 2

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Monday congratulated the people of Punjab on the successful completion of one year of 'Yudh Nashean Virudh', declaring it as a decisive and unprecedented campaign to make Punjab free from the menace of drugs. Marking the first anniversary of the mass movement launched by the Punjab Government, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said that the campaign has fundamentally altered the fight against narcotics in Punjab by dismantling entrenched networks and ensuring strict enforcement.

In a statement, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "Yudh Nashean Virudh has been the biggest-ever crackdown on the drug network in Punjab.

The previous regimes in Punjab had patronized the drug trade, thereby ruining the generations of the state. On the other hand, the Punjab Government has broken



the backbone of the drug trade by snapping the pipeline of drugs and putting the big fishes involved in this heinous crime behind the bars."

Highlighting the scale and impact of the campaign, the Chief Minister stated that a comprehensive and multi-pronged strategy was formulated to transform this crusade against drugs into a mass movement with the proactive support of the common man.

"In the past one year

from March 2025 to February 2026, a zero-tolerance policy has been adopted against the drug menace," he said. Detailing the action taken under the campaign, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "A total of 36,178 FIRs have been registered against drug smugglers, 51,648 drug traffickers have been arrested, 2,277 kg of heroin has been seized and over 4.9 million in toxicant tablets and capsules have been confiscated."

He further added, "16.70 crore of drug money has been

recovered from drug peddlers and properties worth crores of rupees belonging to smugglers have been confiscated or demolished. The overall conviction rate under the NDPS Act stands at approximately 84%, improving steadily over the years and reaching around 88% in 2025.

This reflects robust case preparation, forensic support and prosecution."

Drawing a clear distinction from earlier governments, Bhagwant Singh Mann asserted, "Contrary to their predecessors, the Punjab Government has not sat idly and watched the smugglers bloom at the cost of the dead bodies and pyres of the drug victims. We have ensured exemplary action against drug smugglers."

Reiterating the unwavering resolve of the Punjab Government, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann asserted, "The fight of the Punjab Government is to protect Punjab's young generation and it will continue relentlessly and without a single pause."

## Deputy Speaker holds special meeting for 'Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh National Marathon'



CHANDIGARH: Further strengthen the Punjab Government's "War Against Drugs" campaign, a special meeting was convened today by Shri Jai Krishan Singh Rouri, Deputy Speaker of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha, regarding the organization of the 'Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh National Marathon.' The Deputy Speaker stated that under the leadership of the Chief Minister, Punjab, S. Bhagwant Singh Mann, a large-scale state-level campaign is being carried out to protect the youth of Punjab from drugs and to restore the vibrancy of "Rangla Punjab." In this connection, the 'Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh National Marathon' will be organized as a state-level event on 22 March 2026 at Mahilpur (Garhshankar), District Hoshiarpur—known as the soccer town of India.

## State attracts Rs 750 crore investment; Ganga Acrowools will create 1500 jobs: Sanjeev Arora

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 2

Industries and Commerce, Investment Promotion, Power and Local Government Minister Sanjeev Arora on Monday said that the Punjab Government is steadily transforming Punjab into a preferred destination for investors, as he announced a major expansion by Ganga Acrowools Limited, a leading manufacturer of worsted woollen and fancy yarns.

In a press conference, the Minister Industries and Commerce, Investment Promotion Minister, Sanjeev Arora, stated that Ganga Acrowools Limited exports to over 60 countries and currently provides employment to more than 5,600 persons, with an annual turnover of 750 crore.

"The company has generated employment opportunities for more than 3,000 persons over the last four to five years and has made consistent investments in Punjab under every industrial policy since 1998. This company will also generate additional 1,500 plus employment opportunities through this fresh investment," he said.



Highlighting the scale of the new project, Minister Sanjeev Arora said that the company is now investing 750 crore in Punjab, of which Rs 53 crore is being invested in a paddy stubble-based boiler and turbine.

"This plant will consume approximately 1,20,000 tonne of paddy stubble per year, nearly 10,000 tonne per month, and will help make an area of approximately 20 to 25 kilometre radius farm-fire free," he said, underlining that the project aligns industrial growth with environmental responsibility. Speaking on the occasion, Amit Thapar, President of Ganga Acrowools Limited, said that the company had earlier an-

nounced an investment of Rs 301 crore at the last investor summit. "With the friendly environment, changes in policies to promote ease of doing business and reduction in cost of doing business, we revised our investment to Rs 690 crore, which is now being increased to approximately Rs 750 crore. Out of this, Rs 400 crore has already been invested and the remaining amount will be invested over the next 24 months," he said. He further explained that the new expansion will manufacture yarns for knitting, weaving, carpets and segments of technical textiles. The expansion, he said, will strengthen Punjab's position in high-value textile manufacturing and exports.

## Silver Oaks School honours meritorious students in felicitation ceremony

KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA  
RAMPURA PHUL, MARCH 2

Strengthening its commitment to academic excellence and the spirit of healthy competition, an felicitation ceremony was organized in honour of the achievements of the students of Silver Oaks School Rampura Road, Bathinda.

The ceremony was presided over by School Director Barninder Pal Sekhon. Principal Chhaya Vinocha was also present on the occasion. The programme began with Jyoti Prachanda which symbolises dispelling the darkness of ignorance through knowledge.

Students from Nursery to Class VIII were felicitated for their excellent performance in inter-house, inter-class and intra-class competitions. Students who won Gold Medal of Excellence in the Olympiad organized by the Science Olympiad Foundation were also felicitated to enhance the pride of the school. The House Trophy was presented to Ud-



ham House, named after the great patriot Shaheed Udham Singh.

This achievement reflects the consistent teamwork, discipline and dedication of the House throughout the academic session.

Addressing the gathering, Director Barninder Pal Sekhon motivated the students to remain on the path of honesty and determination and said that hard work and discipline are what propel stu-

dents towards success. Principal Chhaya Vinocha also stressed on the importance of dedication and continuous hard work and learning to the students.

The ceremony concluded in an inspiring atmosphere and all the honoured students were heartily congratulated. This program once again helped to enhance the school's talent, appreciate ability, and inspire students to move forward in every field.

## Dhami objects to question raised over Amritdhari girl's turban in MP PSC exam

RAGHU NANDAN PRASHAR  
FARIDKOT, MAR 2

Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee President Advocate Harjinder Singh Dhami has expressed strong objection to the matter of dressing of Amritdhari Sikh girl's turban and kirpan during the examination conducted by Public Service Commission in Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh yesterday.

Advocate Dhami said that the people of the entire country are well aware of the principles and traditions of Sikhism and people are not ignorant of Sikh turbans. But despite this, raising questions on turbans is painful.

Repeatedly preventing Sikh children from wearing turbans in examinations is a violation of the country's constitution and is like making the Sikhs feel alienated in their own country. Along with this, he also said that although the examination staff has apologized, the Sikh sentiments have been hurt by this



incident. SGPC President Advocate Dhami said that the SGPC passes special resolutions during its general session regarding such incidents and sends them to the Central Government, on which action should be taken.

He demanded that the Central Government issue an order to the government of every state regarding the Sikhs' hats and religious symbols that the respect of Sikh hats should be maintained during any examination and if anyone violates this, strict action should be taken.

## Under the 'Meri Raso' scheme, historic decision by Mann government to provide free ration to 40 lakh families: MLA Rai

BIKRAMJEET SAHOTA  
FATEHGARH SAHIB, MARCH 2

In a historic initiative aimed at strengthening food and nutritional security on a large scale for the first time in Punjab, Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann has announced the launch of the 'Meri Raso' scheme. Under this scheme, 40 lakh families will start receiving free food kits (ration kits) on a quarterly basis from April.

These food kits will be provided separately from the wheat distributed under the National Food Security Act. Describing the decision of the Punjab Government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann as historic, Fatehgarh Sahib MLA Advocate Lakhbir Singh Rai said that this initiative reflects the state government's commitment to ensuring food and nutritional security for every family in Punjab. He said that under the scheme, the state government will provide food kits to 40 lakh



families. Each kit, meant for monthly consumption, will include 2 kg pulses, 2 kg sugar, 1 kg salt, 200 grams turmeric powder and 1 litre mustard oil. These kits will be distributed separately from the wheat already being provided to eligible beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act. He further informed that Markfed Punjab will act as the nodal agency for the implementation of this initiative.

Markfed will oversee the distribution process, while the Food and Civil Supplies Department will ensure the free supply of the kits. A robust mechanism has been put in place by the state government to ensure smooth distribution.

## PU signs academic agreement with Australian institution 'Universal Business School'

TAPINDER SINGH  
PATIALA, MARCH 2

Punjab University has signed an important agreement by establishing academic collaboration with Australian institution 'Universal Business School'.

This agreement was signed by Vice-Chancellor Dr. Jagdeep Singh on behalf of Punjab University and by Chancellor of GCA Australia Dr. Gary Malhotra on behalf of Universal Business School. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Jagdeep Singh said that this agreement will open new av-

enues for students of Punjabi University at the international level. He said that the main purpose of this collaboration is to provide international level opportunities to students and promote academic exchange between both the institutions.

He said that our aim is to provide all the facilities and opportunities to the students of Punjab University which are available to students from any developed country. This agreement will also pave the way for internships and placements in Australia for our students.

## Mahal family organizes uninterrupted langar for sangat heading to Sri Chola Sahib, sets example of interfaith service

VERMA  
QADIAN, MARCH 2

In a heartfelt gesture of devotion and service, the Mahal family organized an uninterrupted langar for the sangat (devotees) traveling to the annual Darshan-Deedar fair of the sacred robes of the First Sikh Guru, Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, at Sri Chola Sahib, located in Dera Baba Nanak. The langar was arranged by Mahal Electronic Electrical in collaboration with the sangat and volunteers of Dhan Dhan Amar Shaheed Baba Deep Singh Ji Sewa Sangh, Civil Line Chowk, Qadian. The program

commenced with the Bhog (concluding ceremony) of the recitation of Sri Sukhmani Sahib Ji, followed by an Ardas (prayer) seeking the welfare of all humanity. Thereafter, various types of Guru Ji's blessed langar were served to the devotees, with a large number of (devotees) partaking in the sacred meal. Providing details, Seward Gurdilbagh Singh "Neeta Mahal" of the Sewa Sangh stated that this historic annual foot pilgrimage begins on March 1 from village Khadiala Saini in Hoshiarpur district under the leadership of chief sewadar Jathedar Baba Randhir Singh.

## GMC & Rajindra hospital, Patiala performs first cochlear implant surgery

TAPINDER SINGH  
PATIALA, MARCH 2

Government Medical College (GMC) & Rajindra Hospital, Patiala, has achieved a major milestone in advanced ENT care by successfully performing its first cochlear implant surgery on February 26, 2026. This landmark achievement marks a significant advancement in providing specialized hearing rehabilitation services in the region.

The historic procedure was performed by Prof. (Dr.) Sanjeev Bhagat, Head of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology (ENT) and Surgical team. While talking with media today at ENT Department Dr. Sanjeev Bhagat said that under the able guidance of Media Educators and Research Minister Dr. Balbir Singh, the whole team of department is fully



dedicated to providing better quality treatment to the patients. Dr. Bhagat further said that the surgery was conducted under the expert mentorship of Prof. (Dr.) Surinder Kumar Singhal from GMCH -32 Chandigarh, whose guidance played a crucial role in clinical planning and execution of the procedure. The Department of ENT worked in close coordination with the Department of Anaesthesia, Audiology team, Operation Theatre staff, and Nursing Officers to ensure smooth and safe conduct of the

surgery. The patient, suffering from severe-to-profound sensorineural hearing loss, underwent successful implantation and is stable post-operatively. The patient will now undergo regular auditory-verbal rehabilitation. Dr. Sanjeev Bhagat said that this milestone was achieved under the dynamic leadership of Prof. (Dr.) Raminderpal Singh Sibia, Director-Principal, GMC Patiala, whose vision and administrative support have strengthened tertiary-level healthcare services in the institution.

## Zero tolerance against fake encounters, Misl Satluj Socio-political body announce struggle for justice

ANANDPUR SAHIB: The President of Misl Satluj, Ajay Pal Singh Brar, addressing a public gathering today in Anandpur Sahib, expressed serious concern over the murder case of Ranjit Singh and firmly stated that this killing will not be allowed to go unpunished. He announced that Misl Satluj will struggle at every constitutional and democratic level to secure justice for

the fake encounters on the soil of Punjab will not be tolerated at any cost.

He firmly declared that their policy is of zero tolerance against fake encounters and that they will never accept such practices. During his address, he raised questions about the legal processes, stating that even if a person is accused of wrongdoing, it is mandatory to present him before a court of law and ensure punishment through due legal procedure. He said, "If the police conduct the investigation themselves, act as a judge themselves, and deliver the verdict — this is not the rule of law, but a sign of an unjust system." Brar claimed that in Ranjit Singh's case, the judicial process was bypassed and he was directly killed, creating an atmosphere of devastation in the village. He stated that images of vandalism in homes and the spreading of terror are deeply concerning.



## Beacon of women empowerment: Er. Sukhchain Kaur assumes charge as SDO at PSPCL's model town

PATIALA, MARCH 2

Under the distribution South zone of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, the Model Town Sub-Division at Patiala stands out as a model administrative unit distinguished by its strong representation of women officers and employees. With unwavering dedication, professional integrity, and resolute commitment, these women professionals are diligently serving thousands of electricity consumers.

The Sub-Division is not only recognized for its operational efficiency but has also emerged as a proud symbol of women empowerment within the PSPCL framework. Today, Er. Sukhchain Kaur formally assumed charge as Sub-Divi-



sional Officer (SDO) at the Model Town Sub-Division. On the occasion, Senior Executive Engineer Er. Abhiraj Singh Randhawa, along with the entire staff, extended a warm welcome and conveyed their best wishes for her successful tenure. The Model Town Sub-Division is currently staffed by a dedicated team of 22 employees catering to nearly 35,000 electricity consumers. The workforce com-

prises 16 technical, 2 clerical, and 4 non-technical employees. Of the total staff strength, 13 are men (11 technical and 2 clerical), while 9 are women (5 technical and 4 non-technical). Notably, the women workforce includes one SDO, one Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE), one Junior Engineer (JE), and two Linemen—reflecting a progressive and inclusive professional environment.

## Dr. Balbir Singh listens to problems of urban estate residents



PATIALA (TAPINDER SINGH): Punjab Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Balbir Singh today chaired a meeting with Patiala Development Authority CA Aparna MB, ACA Paramdeep Singh and members of Residents Welfare Associations to resolve the major problems faced by the residents of Urban Estate, Patiala. Dr. Balbir Singh, after listening to all the problems raised by the residents, assured that all the major problems of Urban Estate would be resolved within a specified time frame. He announced that a Community Health Centre would be set up in Urban Estate to provide better health services. He further informed that the proposal to open a new government school in the area would be discussed with the Education Minister. Meanwhile, suitable land is being identified for the project. He said that health and education are top priorities of the Bhagwant Singh Mann government, due to which the urban estate residents will also get the benefit of it. The Health Minister also assured the residents that he will hold a review meeting with the Residents Welfare Association again in the third week of March to assess the progress made by the department.

KISHORI LAL BAINS

UNA : Indian kabaddi team vice-captain and Himachal kabaddi team captain Pushpa Rana has urged the state government to provide her with a permanent and respectable government job, citing her contributions to the sport and the nation. Speaking to mediapersons in Una, Pushpa Rana said she has been associated with kabaddi since 2014 and has represented the country in four international tournaments. She said she has consistently won medals for the country and the state and delivered an impressive performance at the Asian Games. Highlighting her 12-year journey of struggle and dedication, she credited her parents and coaches for supporting her through rigorous training and perseverance. Pushpa Rana encouraged young athletes to participate in sports competitions with patience and determination. She said she is currently preparing for upcoming international competitions to be held in Japan and remains committed to bringing further laurels to the country.

Board examinations will be monitored from a control room

SANJAY AGGARWAL

DHARAMSHALA: The Himachal Pradesh Board of School Education's board management has gone into full action mode regarding the 10th and 12th grade examinations. Board Chairman Dr. Rajesh Sharma clarified that a special digital monitoring system has been put in place this time to ensure transparency, fairness, and peace during the examinations. Under this system, sensitive examination centers across the state will be monitored directly from the board's main control room through CCTV cameras, ensuring the integrity of the examinations. Dr. Rajesh Sharma explained that the purpose of CCTV monitoring is not to instill fear in students, but to provide them with a safe and equal opportunity. He emphasized that there is no need for students who take the exams honestly to be nervous. This technology has been adopted primarily to strengthen the system and prevent any external interference, allowing each student to demonstrate their abilities without any pressure. The Board Chairman has instructed the superintendents, deputy superintendents, and other related staff deployed at the examination centers to discharge their duties with utmost dedication. He clarified that negligence at any level in exam management will not be tolerated.

Formation of three new panchayats will accelerate development in Renuka constituency: MLA Vinay Kumar

SHIMLA: Renuka MLA Vinay Kumar has said that the formation of three new panchayats in his विधानसभा constituency will give a significant boost to development in the area. He informed that the state government has issued a notification for the creation of the new panchayats. According to him, Gata Mandwach has been carved out as a new panchayat from Sangra panchayat in the Haripur Mahal area, Chadna has been formed from Bhatgarh panchayat in the Renuka area, and Kufar Kenhu has been created from Bhawai panchayat. Vinay Kumar said that residents of these areas had been demanding the formation of separate panchayats for a long time. He added that with the creation of new panchayats, people will no longer have to travel long distances for official and developmental work.

Panchayats to be plastic-free: Kewal Singh Pathania

SANJAY AGGARWAL

DHARAMSHALA: Today, Kewal Singh Pathania, MLA Shapur and Deputy Chief Whip, formally inaugurated the Common Service Center (CSC) building constructed at a cost of ₹13 lakh and the plastic management unit established at a cost of ₹6.50 lakh in Sihuwan Panchayat, under the Shapur Assembly constituency. On this occasion, he stated that with the opening of the Common Service Center, residents of the Panchayat will have access to various government and non-government services, including Aadhaar, PAN card, income, caste, and residence certificates, within their own area. This will save people both time and money and ensure transparency in operations. He stated that the establishment of the plastic management unit is a concrete step towards making Sihuwan Panchayat plastic-free.

Jindal IVF enables pregnancy after 21 years of infertility

KANGRA/SHIMLA: Jindal IVF, a leading institute in Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) and In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) in North India, has helped a couple from Himachal Pradesh achieve a successful pregnancy after 21 years of prolonged infertility. The couple from Mandi approached the centre in July 2025 with a long-standing history of infertility due to tubal blockage. At the time of consultation, the wife was 38 years old and the husband 43. After a comprehensive medical evaluation, they were advised to undergo IVF treatment, considering the extended duration of infertility and maternal age. The IVF procedure was carried out at Jindal IVF's Chandigarh facility in September 2025. During the cycle, 12 eggs were retrieved, leading to the formation of nine good-quality embryos after fertilisation.

Holi symbolises social harmony, nation-building: Anurag Thakur

HAMIRPUR: Former Union Minister and Hamirpur MP Anurag Singh Thakur extended heartfelt greetings to the people of Himachal Pradesh and Hamirpur constituency on the auspicious occasion of Holi. In his message, Thakur said that Holi is not merely a festival of colours but a symbol of the victory of good over evil, social harmony and brotherhood. He said the festival conveys the message of eliminating discrimination, embracing unity and moving forward with positivity. Drawing a parallel with governance, he stated that just as the colours of Holi unite every section of society, the central government under the leadership of Narendra Modi has worked with the core mantra of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas" to bring all sections into the mainstream of development.

# CM meets Union Finance Minister, seeks special central assistance for 2026-27



NEW DELHI: Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu called on Union Finance Minister Nirmala

Sitharaman at New Delhi today and sought a financial package under special central assistance to cover the

revenue deficit for Financial year 2026-27. The Chief Minister apprised the Union Finance Minister that

discontinuation of Revenue Deficit Grant ( RDG ) will have far reaching adverse impact on the financial health of the state and added that Himachal Pradesh cannot be compared to other states whose RDG has been discontinued. He said that RDG contribution for the state was about 12.7 percent which was second highest after Nagaland. He said that big states can withstand the discontinuation but the economy of Himachal Pradesh cannot. He added that assessing all states on a single yardstick was neither healthy nor transparent.

He termed the discontinuation as 'undermining the spirit of cooperative federalism'. He said that the Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India provides for such grants to the state which cannot bridge the gap between their revenue

receipts and expenditure. He said that this was for the first time that the Finance Commission has totally ignored the developmental needs of small hill states.

He also informed the Finance Minister that since last two-three years several measures were taken to reduce expenditure, no off-budget borrowing was resorted to and about Rs. 600 crore annually was raised through various cess. He said that state suffered revenue losses due to GST and added that despite raising tax rates wherever feasible and rationalizing subsidies, the gap in revenue deficit cannot be bridged.

Sh Sukhu requested the Union Finance Minister to constitute a committee to properly assess the economies of hill states and recommend corrective measures.

## US-Israel attack on Iran has left many with sleepless nights



SHIMLA, MAR 2 (UNI) Anxiety has gripped thousands of families in Himachal Pradesh as fresh war-like situation in parts of the Gulf region have raised concerns over the safety of their relatives working abroad.

More than 45,000 to 46,000 people from the state are employed in countries such as Dubai (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain.

Sohan Lal, who hails from Sundernagar, told UNI that they were having sleepless nights as their only son is currently working at Dubai. He said that after a fresh round of shelling, the entire Gulf region was in the state of war, forcing them to call his son back home.

Considering the gravity of the situation, the state government has directed officials to remain in touch with Himachali youths and their families in Gulf nations. Labour and Employment Minister Harsh Vardhan Singh Chauhan said the department has been put on alert.

He stated that if workers or their families seek evacuation, the state government will take up the matter with the Centre to ensure their safe return. Social organisations and family members have urged coordination with the union government for arranging special flights if required, as several flights from India have reportedly been cancelled following the escalation and security concerns.

## AAP workers celebrate Kejriwal's acquittal with sweets and drums in Bhoranj



ANIL KUMAR

BHORANJ: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) workers in Bhoranj celebrated after party convenor Arvind Kejriwal was acquitted by the court. Party members marked the occasion by beating drums and distributing sweets, expressing happiness over the verdict. During the programme, Dr Sumit Punyal said the court's observations had clarified the situation and described the case as a political conspiracy rather than a scam. Referring to the alleged liquor case,

he said the matter, which had been projected as a major corruption issue, did not stand legal scrutiny due to lack of concrete evidence. He said Kejriwal and former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia were targeted despite implementing reforms in education and healthcare and introducing welfare measures such as affordable electricity and free water. He claimed these policies strengthened transparency and public-oriented governance.

## State SC Commission to organise mega awareness camp in Samoorkalan on March 5: Kuldeep Kumar



KISHORILAL BAINS

UNA: The Himachal Pradesh State Scheduled Caste Commission will organise a mega public awareness camp on March 5 at Samoorkalan in the Kulehar Assembly constituency of Una district. Commission chairman and former minister Kuldeep Kumar Dhiman said the primary objective of the camp is to create awareness among members of the Scheduled

Caste community about their constitutional rights and provide detailed information about various government welfare schemes.

The camp will be held from 10 am onwards at the temple ground in front of Lata Mangeshkar Kala Kendra, Samoorkalan. Dhiman reviewed the preparations during a meeting with officials from Una and Bangana subdivisions at the commission office.

Commission members advocate Vijay Dogra, advocate Dignvijay Malhotra, and advocate Shalini, along with officers from various departments, were present. He said the state government is implementing several welfare schemes for the upliftment of the Scheduled Caste community, but due to lack of awareness, many eligible beneficiaries are unable to avail themselves of these benefits.

## 750-metres escape tunnel of Bhanupali-Beri Railline breakthrough in 7- Months



AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY

BILASPUR: Bilaspur witnessed a moment of pride and engineering triumph as India's ambitious Bhanupali-Beri Rail Project marked a major breakthrough on Monday with the successful connection of Escape Tunnel ET-7 to ET-8 in Package No. 3 of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited. The

challenging construction work is being executed by Max Infra India Limited.

In a remarkable feat of precision engineering, nearly 750 metres of tunnel excavation was completed and seamlessly connected despite extremely complex and mountainous geological conditions. The breakthrough stands as a testament to

resilience, advanced planning, and technical excellence. Although initial progress had faced delays due to local issues, the dedicated team overcame every hurdle and accomplished the massive excavation target within just seven months — a significant achievement in infrastructure development.

## AIIMS Bilaspur shines nationally: Dr Rajesh Kanna wins first prize at prestigious PGI Chandigarh MSK conference

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY

BILASPUR : AIIMS Bilaspur has once again illuminated the national academic stage with a stellar achievement that underscores its growing reputation in medical research and excellence. Dr Rajesh Kanna secured the First Prize in Oral Paper Presentation, along with a cash award of Rs 4,000, at the prestigious Musculoskeletal (MSK) Conference held at PGI Chandigarh.

Representing the Department of Radiology, Dr Kanna presented an insightful and scientifically robust research study titled "MRI Evaluation of RAMP Lesions," conducted under the expert guidance of Dr Lokesh Rana. The study emphasized the pivotal role of MRI in accurately diagnosing RAMP lesions of the knee—an area of



critical importance in sports injury evaluation and musculoskeletal imaging. The presentation was widely appreciated for its clinical relevance, clarity, and research depth.

Register AIIMS Rakesh Singh told in a release that this remarkable

accomplishment further strengthens AIIMS Bilaspur's standing as an emerging hub of academic distinction. Over the past year, the Department of Radiology has consistently demonstrated excellence by winning accolades at major national platforms including

USCON Rajasthan, PGI Head & Neck Conference Chandigarh, and IRIA Hyderabad.

The achievement reflects the unwavering dedication and mentorship of distinguished faculty members — Dr Narvis S. Chauhan, Dr Lokesh Rana, Dr Varun Bansal and Dr Resham Thakur — who continue to nurture a culture of innovation and scholarly pursuit.

Lt Gen Dr Daljit Singh AVSM, VSM (Retd), Executive Director of AIIMS Bilaspur, congratulated Dr Rajesh Kanna and the entire Radiology team, commending their commitment to advancing medical research and encouraging continued excellence at national and international academic forums.

AIIMS Bilaspur continues to set new benchmarks, proudly carrying Himachal's name to greater heights.

## Farewell ceremony organised for Class 5 students at PM Shri Centre School Chamboh

ANIL KUMAR

CHAMBOH: A farewell ceremony for Class 5 students was organised at PM Shri Centre School, Chamboh, in a joyful and celebra-

and students with a garland and a memento.

The school is among the few institutions in the district with a student strength exceeding 200 and has consistently excelled in academic and co-curricular activities. Senior teacher Rajesh Sharma has been making dedicated efforts to ensure the school maintains top performance across all activities.

Students of Class 4 presented colourful cultural performances for the outgoing class. A special standing food arrangement was also made for the children, adding to their excitement. The students were delighted with the arrangements, making the occasion a memorable experience for them.

Representatives from the Senior Secondary School, including Dender Singh Thakur, Subhash Sharma, Manoj Kumar, DP Hoshiar Singh, and Ajitendra Kumar, were also present on the occasion.

## 'Rishabh Rehabilitation Centre' Inaugurated in Amb City

AVINASH CHAUHAN

AMB: A new facility dedicated to children with special needs, the Rishabh Rehabilitation Centre, was formally inaugurated in Amb city, offering hope and comprehensive support to families in the region.

Established by Sarjivan Kumar and his family, the centre aims to serve as a one-stop destination for specialised treatment, training and education. It is designed to promote the holistic development of children requiring support in physical, mental and sensory domains, using modern therapeutic and educational methods to enhance their overall quality of life.

Key facilities at the centre include: Oral Motor and Speech Therapy – To develop communication and speaking skills. Occupational Therapy – To enhance independence in daily activities. Sensory Integration Therapy – Specialised training for children with sensory challenges.

Special Education –



Individualised learning tailored to each child's needs. Cognitive Development Therapy – To strengthen memory, thinking and comprehension skills. Physiotherapy – For physical development and muscle strengthening. Group Teaching Sessions – To build social and behavioural skills. Former Himachal Pradesh Minister Virendra Kanwar attended the event as the chief guest. In

his address, he congratulated Sarjivan Kumar and his family for the commendable initiative, stating that such centres are essential for an inclusive and compassionate society.

He encouraged parents to believe in their children's abilities and provide consistent support, while urging the staff to work with dedication and sensitivity to ensure every child receives proper guidance and care.

## Rs. 110 Crore advance unaccounted, BJP targets Congress govt

DINESH AGARWAL

SHIMLA: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has strongly criticised the Congress-led Himachal Pradesh government over alleged financial irregularities flagged in the 2023-24 audit report of the Himachal Pradesh State Agricultural Marketing Board. BJP Chief Spokesperson and MLA Rakesh Jamwal said the audit has revealed that advances exceeding ₹110 crore remain unadjusted and unaccounted for. In addition, a discrepancy of nearly ₹49 crore has reportedly been identified in deposit works. Describing the findings as serious governance failures, Jamwal stated that several advances have been pending for years without submission of proper utilisation certificates. The audit also highlighted variations between CPF accounts and bank balances, raising concerns about financial

controls and transparency within the Board. Targeting the Congress government, he said that despite promises of "system change," the state is witnessing administrative breakdown. "When funds meant for farmers and mandi committees cannot be properly accounted for, it

reflects gross negligence," he alleged. The BJP has demanded a thorough and independent probe into the matter, immediate criminal proceedings against those found responsible, and a public clarification from the Chief Minister on the status of the unadjusted ₹110 crore and the ₹49 crore discrepancy. Jamwal warned that if corrective action is not taken, the BJP will raise the issue both inside and outside the Assembly and mobilise public opinion across the state, asserting that Himachal Pradesh deserves transparency and accountability in governance.



**Mayor Principal Inderjit Kaur meets Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia during Delhi visit, expresses satisfaction over Court verdict**



DORAHA (AMRISH ANAND): Ludhiana Mayor Principal Inderjit Kaur, during her visit to Delhi, paid a courtesy call on Aam Aadmi Party National Convenor and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal at his residence. She also met former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister and Punjab in-charge Mr. Manish Sisodia and extended her congratulations. During the meeting, discussions were held on the prevailing political situation, democratic values, and the party's future strategies. Mayor Principal Inderjit Kaur expressed satisfaction over the recent court verdict, stating that truth ultimately prevails and cannot be suppressed for long.

CHANDIGARH  
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026

**NEWS BRIEF**

**Self-defence training is essential for women and girls: Vijay Lama**



**JK BATTA**  
**NEW CHANDIGARH:** Vijay Lama, owner of the Khukri Martial Arts Academy, explained that the training is primarily based on the traditional martial arts of the Gorkha soldiers. The self-defence training aims to empower women and youth to deal with any untoward situation through physical techniques such as MMA, Taekwondo, Karate, Judo, and Kickboxing. Vijay Lama explained that this training builds self-confidence, teaches situational awareness, and develops practical skills to anticipate and avoid threats. Self-defence techniques are taught using martial arts such as Karate, Muay Thai, and specifically the Khukri. Vijay Lama explained that this training develops physical strength, mental balance, concentration, discipline, and quick decision-making. It provides physical exercises to increase strength and stamina.

**Demand letter given to DC Barnala regarding installation of railings on bridges of watercourses, sub-watercourses, drains**



**KULDEEP SOOD**  
**BARNALA:** The Punjab, a constitutional watchdog organization formed for the welfare of the poor, under the leadership of its head Gurjit Singh Khudi, submitted a demand letter to DC Barnala Mr. Harpreet Singh regarding installation of railings on bridges of watercourses, sub-watercourses, drains in district Barnala and Punjab. On this occasion, head of the organization Gurjit Singh Khudi, advocate Kulwant Singh Dhillon, Kuldeep Singh Chahal said that on December 14, 2025, a couple died when their car fell into the bridge due to fog while going to duty at village Sangatpura (Moga) on a bridge without railings. Such incidents happen often in Punjab. Due to which it becomes difficult to compensate the families due to loss of life and property. There are thousands of such bridges in Punjab, which do not have railings.

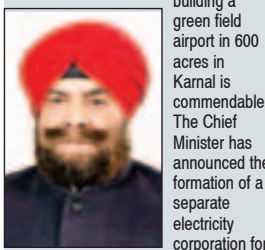
**Celebrate Holi in peace; strict action against miscreants: SP Bhpender Singh**



**RAKESH BHAYANA**  
**PANIPAT:** On the auspicious occasion of Holi, Panipat Superintendent of Police Bhpender Singh extended warm greetings to the residents of the district and appealed to them to celebrate the festival in peace and harmony. In his message, SP Bhpender Singh said, "Panipat Police extends heartfelt wishes to the people of Panipat on the festival of Holi. We hope that everyone will celebrate this festival peacefully and with respect for each other's sentiments." He made it clear that no hotheadism or disturbance of law and order will be tolerated during the festival. The police administration has already issued a detailed written programme regarding security arrangements. Police personnel will remain fully alert and deployed on duty for both days of the festival, with special checkpoints set up across various locations in the district. Appealing for public cooperation, the SP said, "The police are here to serve and support you. I request all residents of Panipat to cooperate with the police and help ensure that the festival is celebrated in a peaceful manner."

**Karnal takes flight: 600-acre greenfield airport set to redefine regional connectivity**

**CHAMANLAL**  
**KARNAL:** Senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader Trilochan Singh said that Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has focused on every section while presenting the pro-people budget. This budget will accelerate the pace of development works in Haryana. Provisions have been made in the budget for farmers, employees, women and youth. The announcement of



building a green field airport in 600 acres in Karnal is commendable. The Chief Minister has announced the formation of a separate electricity corporation for farmers. One lakh youth will be given jobs after training in AI. Trilochan Singh said that CM Nayab Singh Saini has presented a historic budget. Big development projects will be started in cities as well as villages. He said that Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini was rapidly carrying forward the development journey which was started by Union Minister Manohar Lal when he was the Chief Minister of Haryana. He said that the CM arrived to present the budget wearing a turban, which helped in increasing the respect of the Sikh community.

**MHA warns states to brace for possible violence after US-Israel strikes on Iran**

NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has issued a cautionary letter to all state governments, urging heightened vigilance against potential communal violence in India following the recent military strikes by the United States and Israel on Iran.

The correspondence, circulated on February 28, warned that the developments abroad could have "ripple effects" domestically, particularly through inflammatory rhetoric in religious gatherings.

In its advisory, the MHA asked state authorities to monitor and identify "pro-Iran radical preachers giving inflammatory sermons" that could incite unrest or communal tensions within local communities.

The letter underscores the need for intensified intelligence sharing and preventive action to avert any law-and-order breakdown. The alert from the Home Ministry



comes amid a sharp escalation in the Middle East, where a reported joint military operation by the US and Israel targeted Iranian cities and military infrastructure, heightening fears of a broader regional conflict.

India has responded by urging restraint from all parties and stressing the importance of safeguarding the safety of its citizens, including

many residing in the Gulf.

Officials in New Delhi have been closely watching the situation not only for its geopolitical ramifications but also for the possibility that heightened emotions over international events could be exploited by extremist elements within India to stir local tensions.

The government's advice to states blends routine law-

and-order preparedness with a specific focus on speeches and sermons that might "aggravate communal sentiments" at a sensitive moment. Security analysts say that India's diverse social fabric makes it susceptible to rapid escalation of tensions if not carefully managed, particularly after major global incidents that resonate with domestic communities.

**Arindam Modak, Union Joint Secretary visits PM Shri schools**

SHARANJEET PATHANKOT, MARCH 2

For the last two days, Arindam Modak, Joint Secretary, Government of India, and Harpreet Singh PCS, Additional Secretary, Education Department, Punjab have been specially visiting the PM Shri schools in Pathankot district to inspect them.

They have inspected the PM Shri schools in the district. He held a special meeting with the principals of the schools in the District Administrative Complex, Malikpur. On this occasion, Dr. Pallavi Deputy Commissioner Pathankot, Sanjeev Sharma Additional Deputy Commissioner (J), Kamaldeep Kaur District Education Officer Elementary/Secondary, Aman-

deep Kumar Deputy DEO Secondary, DG Singh Deputy DEO Elementary, Rupinder Singh, Principal Jatinder Kaur, Principal Swatanter Kumar, Principal Subhas Chandra, Principal Poonam, Principal Raghuraj Kaur,



Principal Balwinder Saini, Lecturer Kausal Kumar, Balkar Attri and other departmental officers were present. During the meeting, Arindam Modak Joint Secretary instructed the principals of various PMC schools to bring about drastic changes in the working system and techniques of education.

He said that more successful experiments can be done to keep the interest in studies while reading the mind of the student. He said that currently 19 schools have been covered under PMSRI Yojana in Pathankot district. Out of which 5 are affiliated to the Central Government, one is Jawahar Navodaya

Vidyalaya Najoachak and 13 schools are affiliated to the Punjab Government. He said that today he inspected PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya Air Force Station, PM Shri Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, PM Shri Government Senior Secondary School Manwal and PM Shri Government Senior Secondary School Badhani.

During the visit, the infrastructure of the schools was inspected, smart classrooms, modern labs and sports facilities were reviewed in the schools. Along with this, the process of utilization of funds and settlement of bills under financial transparency was also reviewed.

**Mann government's launch of "Meri Raso" scheme is commendable step: Rajiv Lubi**

BALWINDER AZAD BARNALA, MAR 2

After the Aam Aadmi Party government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann first gave schemes like electricity waiver for all Punjabis, free bus service for women and free treatment up to Rs 10 lakh in the past, now it is a commendable step for the Chief Minister of Punjab to launch the "Meri Raso" scheme again.

This was expressed by the Chairman of Punjab Government Trade Commission District Barnala, Rajiv Lubi. He further said that the "Meri Raso" scheme launched by the 'AAP' government for the welfare of the poor and needy class will be a big help for lakhs of families, because in today's inflationary era, this scheme will prove to be a big gift for daily wage earners, laborers and economically weak helpless families. Now he further said that the Meri Raso scheme started by Chief Minister Bhagwant



Singh Mann is not just a scheme but will play an important role in the service of humanity, because when the Aam Aadmi Party government was formed in the state, efforts have been made to fully implement every promise made by the government before the elections.

He said that so far the governments formed in the state have made promises to the people of Punjab during the elections, but very few of the promises made by them have been fulfilled, but the Aam Aadmi Party government is not limited to just announcements but has shown by fulfilling what it has said.

**Rahul Gandhi addresses massive Congress rally in Barnala led by Vijay Sharma Tinku**



J K BATTA CHANDIGARH, MARCH 2

A large number of Congress workers and leaders reached the Barnala rally of the Congress under the leadership of Vijay Sharma Tinku from Kharar assembly constituency under the Mgnrega Bachao Sangram. While sending off a large convoy including buses and vehicles from village Jazheri, he said that our popular leader Shri Rahul Gandhi reached Barnala as the voice of the people in this rally of the Congress party! Let us witness this historic meeting with our comrades and strengthen the power of democracy and stand firm for our poor laborers and farmers brothers. On this occasion, Mr. Tinku thanked all the workers and leaders who

came to this rally along with the workers from their respective villages. On this occasion, Manjeet Singh Sidhu, Senior Vice President of Nayaagon District Congress Committee, Mohali, along with about 200 Congress members along with former Nayaagon Congress President Kuldeep Singh Sidhu, Madan Singh Block President Majri, Hansraj Singh Chairman SC Wing District Mohali, Aman Sharma Jhanjeri, Gagandeep Singh Tole Majra, Ajit Singh Bhadonjia, Master Sukhjit Singh Sawara, Gurmeet Singh Dhaghora, Harpinder Singh Sarpanch Majat, Rajesh Verma Kurali, Darshan Singh Kheda Kisan Leader, Dhanwant Singh Khizarabad, Charanjit Singh Takipur Kisan Leader, Baba Ram Singh Manakpur Sharif etc.

**Two smugglers arrested with truck full of cow dung**



KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA RAMPURA PHUL, MARCH 2

News has been received that a truck full of cows has been seized by the people of the village and the Gau Suraksha Sewa Dal Punjab in village Ramunwala.

Sandeep Verma, President of Gau Suraksha Sewa Dal Punjab, said that we received a secret information that a truck was brutally tied with a rope and the truck was covered with a tarpaulin and was to be taken to slaughterhouses in states outside Punjab with the aim of slaughtering it, so the

organization and the people of the village started searching for it. After some time, a truck was seen coming from Ramunwala on the Bhodipura link road, so the people of the village and the members of the organization arrested 2 smugglers along with the cow in the truck. This was reported to the Bhagta Bhaika police station and the smugglers handed over the truck along with the truck to the police party that reached the spot. After checking the truck in the presence of the police, 16 cows were brutally tied and tied in it.

**Businessmen disappointed from the annual budget of Haryana : Garg**

SUMER GARG HISAR, MAR 2

Provincial President of Haryana Pradesh Trade Board and former Chairman of Haryana CONFED, Bajrang Garg said, "The businessmen and industrialists of the state are completely disappointed in the annual budget of Haryana".

There is resentment among traders due to not giving any kind of exemption in VAT tax and market fees in the annual budget. Neither VAT on petrol and diesel was implemented nor market fees on vegetables, fruits and grains were removed, while small and medium industries are continuously being closed in Haryana. There is resentment over Haryana's budget not giving any kind of concessions to promote small and medium industries. Mr. Garg



said that the businessmen and industrialists of the state had huge expectations from this budget. All the suggestions that the Chief Minister had received from businessmen and industrialists to provide facilities in the budget turned out to be a hoax. By throwing all those suggestions in the waste basket, the Chief Minister has played a cruel joke with businessmen and industrialists. Whereas the Haryana government has increased the loan every year and has imposed a debt burden of lakhs of crores of rupees on the public.

**Chairman and Councillors at loggerheads in Barara Municipality over lack of development**

JAIBIR RANA THAMBER BARARA, MARCH 2

The situation in the Barara Municipality is not normal these days. The ongoing tussle between employees, councillors, and the Chairman has now come to the fore.

On Monday, more than half a dozen councillors united and submitted a memorandum to the Municipal Secretary, accusing Chairman Rajat Malik of arbitrariness, bias, and deliberately stalling development work in their wards.

In their memorandum, the Municipal Councillors stated that the sanitation system in many wards of the city has completely collapsed. Garbage is piled up everywhere, and streetlights have been out for a long time, causing significant inconvenience



to residents at night. Councillors allege that despite repeated complaints and proposals, their concerns are being met with neither hearings nor concrete action. Councillor representative Deepak Rana alleged that the development work they suggested is being deliberately suppressed.

He said that instead of progressing proposals, files are locked in drawers, and it is

clearly stated that work will be done only at the Chairman's discretion.

He described this as against the democratic system and said that elected representatives are being ignored. Nominated councillor Sohanlal Prajapat also expressed his displeasure, saying that the rainy season is near, but there is no preparation in sight to address waterlogging.

**Holi celebrated with Raja Venkateshwar Hanuman Ji Maharaj in Panipat, gujiya bhandara organized**



PANIPAT (RAKESH BHAYANA): On the auspicious occasion of Chhoti Holi, the festival of colors was celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm at the renowned Raja Venkateshwar Hanuman Temple in the city. A special traditional Holi celebration was organized in honor of Raja Venkateshwar Hanuman Ji Maharaj.

On this occasion, devotees arranged a Gujiya Bhandara in the temple premises and offered a traditional dry fruit garland to Hanuman Ji. The idol was beautifully adorned with a variety of colorful flowers, and rituals, prayers, and offerings were performed with proper religious customs.

Temple President Ramesh Bansal and Cashier Sanjay Goyal informed that worshipping Hanuman Ji on Chhoti Holi holds special significance. Keeping this belief in mind, a special prayer ceremony was organized, which also included a confidential (private) ritual.

**Family reunion ceremony and evening program in name of Baba Khatu Shyam" successfully concludes**

SANJAY SHARMA KAITHAL, MARCH 2

On the auspicious occasion of Holi, the "Family Reunion Celebration and an Evening in the name of Baba Khatu Shyam" program organized by the Agrawal Yuva Sabha, Kaithal, concluded successfully in a grand and devotional atmosphere. A large number of dignitaries, women, youth, and family members participated in the program and took a dip of faith in the stream of Baba's hymns.

Sabha President Rampratap Gupta expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all the devotees, guests and workers for the success of the program. He said that such religious and social events serve to strengthen unity, love and values in society. All the Bhanja singers who attended the



event filled the atmosphere with devotion with their melodious performances. Principal Rampratap Gupta expressed special thanks to all the singers, saying that their Bhajans moved the audience and made the event unforgettable. Shri Giriraj Mitra Mandal, Kaithal was also specially thanked for their beautiful presentation of Sankirtan whose melodious Sankirtan

immersed the devotees in the devotion of Baba.

On this occasion, the Sabha's Chairman, Ramkumar Bansal, stated in his statement that the Agrawal Yuva Sabha is always committed to social welfare and religious activities. Praising all the associates and workers, he said that such successful events were possible only through collective efforts.

**Respect for women in Swadeshi Mela is a sign of rapid development of India: Tikka**



LUDHIANA (SARBJIT SUFI): The Swadeshi Mela organized at the local PAU ground became a special attraction for Punjabis living in the country and abroad. Amarjit Singh Tikka, a member of the Punjab executive of BJP and former chairman of Punjab Medium Industries Development Board, who arrived as a special guest at this fair, said that today women are making more progress than men in many fields, but in every field women are definitely showing their performance at par with men, due to which their work is being seen as an example for people living all over the world. Tikka said that we are extremely proud that our sisters and daughters are earning great fame by working with great pride in the army, medicine, law, business and other professions in the country and abroad and in the coming time they will work even harder and achieve great heights. In the Swadeshi Mela, many women including the Chairperson of Spring Dale Public School Mrs. Avinash Kaur Walia, Malvika Sood, renowned industrialist Rajni Vector, film actress Nirmal Rishi and the Chairperson of the Women's Commission were highly honored for their achievements.

NEWS BRIEFS

**From Census to Public Welfare—Census 2027 to be fully digital for first time: DC**

**MAHENDER GOYAL**  
**FATEHABAD:** DC and Chief Census Officer Dr Vivek Bharti stated that Census 2027 will be conducted in district for first time using a fully digital system, under theme of Census to Public Welfare. This is not merely a collection of data, but important process for determining outline of development policies, welfare schemes and infrastructure for coming decade. DC stated that census work will be implemented under a zero-tolerance policy. Approximately three to four thousand officers and employees will be involved in this massive campaign. Officers and employees assigned to task will be required to work with complete dedication, transparency and responsibility. DC extended Holi greetings to all district residents. Census will be conducted in two phases. DC Dr. Vivek Bharti stated that census will be conducted in two phases. Phase 1: House listing and house enumeration will be conducted from May 1 to May 30, 2026. Phase 2: Population enumeration will be conducted from February 9 to February 28, 2027.

**Govt sets \$1 trillion economy target by 2047; CM presents vision-driven budget**

**BUREAU CHANDIGARH, MAR 2**

Reaffirming the State's long-term development roadmap, Haryana Chief Minister, Nayab Singh Saini, who also holds the portfolio of Finance Minister, on Monday presented the 12th consecutive State Budget of the government during the ongoing session of State Vidhan Sabha. While presenting the State budget 2026-27, the Chief Minister reiterated his government's firm commitment to transform Haryana into a one trillion dollar economy by 2047.

Describing the 2026-27 Budget as far more than a statement of income and expenditure, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said it is a comprehensive vision document aimed at building a "Viksit Haryana" in alignment with the national vision of Viksit Bharat. He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi India is rapidly emerging as one of the world's leading economies, and Haryana, inspired by the same resolve and momentum, is moving ahead to scale new heights of development.

Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that the target of making Haryana a one trillion dollar economy by 2047 has been formally set, and the Haryana Vision Document-2047 will serve as the guiding framework in this direction. He empha-



sized that the Budget has been prepared through extensive public consultation. Meetings held across the State with various sections of society yielded 2,199 suggestions, while nearly 12,400 suggestions were received through an AI chatbot. Of these, approximately 5,000 suggestions have been incorporated into the Budget proposals. He asserted that this is truly a Budget shaped by the people of Haryana.

While presenting the financial proposals, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini

placed five key points before the House, stating that their impact would extend beyond the current fiscal year and remain visible in State Budgets up to 2031. Referring to the recommendations of the 16th Finance Commission, he said Haryana's share in central taxes for the period 2026 to 2031 has been increased to 1.361 per cent, reflecting a historic growth of 24.52 per cent over the previous period. He further shared that this is the highest increase among all 28 States in the country and termed it a strong testament to the effectiveness of the double-engine government, highlighting the direct benefits of coordinated policies between the Centre and the State.

He further elaborated that Haryana's share in central taxes stood at 1.075 per cent during 2005-10 and declined to 1.048 per cent during 2010-15, when the State ranked 20th nationally in terms of growth. During 2015-20, the share rose to 1.084 per cent, improving the State's ranking to 17th. As per the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission, the share further increased to 1.093 per cent during 2021-26. Now, under the 16th Finance Commission's recommendations, the share will rise significantly to 1.361 per cent for 2026-31, marking the highest growth among all States.

**M.A.S.D Public School Celebrates 'Holi Utsav 2026' with Great Zeal and Festivity**



**RAKESH BHAYANA PANIPAT, MARCH 2**

At M.A.S.D. Public School, the auspicious festival of Holi was celebrated with immense joy and enthusiasm. On this occasion, a special program titled "Holi Utsav 2026" was organized, in which the tiny tots and teaching staff participated wholeheartedly.

The celebration began with a melodious Holi song that filled the entire atmosphere with devotion to Radha and Krishna. The soulful presentation created a festive and spiritual ambience. Following this, students recited a beautiful poem dedicated to the festival of colors.

Continuing the program, children spoke on the topic "Why and How Holi is Celebrated?"

highlighting its cultural, social, and historical significance. Their confident presentations were appreciated by everyone present.

Adding vibrancy to the celebration, the young students presented an energetic dance performance on lively Holi songs, which immersed the audience in the colorful spirit of Braj's Holi.

Addressing the gathering the Principal, Dr. Babita Bhardwaj, explained the mythological significance of Holika Dahan. She stated that Holi symbolizes the victory of good over evil and urged students to remove feelings of jealousy and hatred from their lives and embrace love, unity, and positivity. She also emphasized environmental protection and encouraged everyone to celebrate a safe and eco-friendly Holi using only herbal colors, gulaal, and flowers.



**Students at Navyug Sr Sec School give unique message by playing Holi with flowers**

**HANS RAJ KURUKSHETRA:**

Navyug Senior Secondary School, Kurukshetra, celebrated Holi with joy and enthusiasm. School campus was decorated with colorful flowers. Program began with a prayer meeting in which teacher Renu highlighted significance of Holi and its cultural heritage. She encouraged all students to celebrate the festival with peace and harmony. Flower Holi played by students captivated everyone. Through flower Holi, students conveyed message of celebrating Holi in a natural way. School Director B.D. Gaba, along with his Holi greetings urged everyone to celebrate dry Holi, avoiding use of colors and water. He also conveyed message of celebrating Holi while protecting environment and respecting sentiments of others.

**Thanesar's booth 145 creates history by creating annual almanac**

**DALBIR MALIK KURUKSHETRA, MAR 2**

Today, the Working Committee of Booth 145 of Thanesar Assembly constituency created history by creating the booth's annual almanac, marking a remarkable initiative within the BJP organisation. Dr. Rishipal Mathana stated that in order to make their booth a model booth not only in Haryana but also in the country, the booth's Working Committee has planned a total of 46 programs for the year 2026-27, four of which will involve contacting every household in the booth. The Booth Working Committee prepared the booth's annual almanac and presented a copy to District President Sardar Tajinder Singh Goldy. The District President congratulated the booth workers, stating that their Booth 145 will truly become an ideal booth. He added that the



annual almanac will give their workers an idea of what programmes they will be doing and how to do them.

Dr. Mathana stated that the first event will be to go door-to-door to invite people to the Indian New Year, Chaitra Shukla Pratipada, which falls on March 19th. A havan (fire sacrifice) will be performed at the booth office on the occasion. Similarly, the second and third events will be to go door-to-door to highlight the achievements of the Central and

Haryana governments on the completion of 12 years of their rule. The fourth event will be to visit every home during Diwali and urge people to buy indigenous products. Mandal President Narendra Jangra, Shakti Kendra Chief B.L. Arora, Booth President Rampal Saharan, Booth Minister Ravindra Sachdeva, B.L.A. 2 Pan-kaj Bansal, Soldier Chief Vinod Sharma, Business Chief Sunil Vashisht, Co-Business Chief Joginder Singh, Teacher Chief Narendra Chaudhary.

**Haryana budget is a people-centric blueprint for development, say BJP leaders**

**RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR, MAR 2**

Cabinet Minister Shyam Singh Rana has praised the annual budget presented by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, describing it as a people-oriented budget aimed at inclusive growth. He said that under the leadership of the Chief Minister, Haryana is progressing with the spirit of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas."

Rana highlighted key provisions in the budget, including the proposed establishment of an Agri DISCOM to strengthen the agriculture sector. He said the budget also focuses on reinforcing crop protection schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and the Bhavantar Bharpai Yojana. He added that special incentives for farmers adopting natural and organic farming practices, along with expansion of irri-



gation resources, would provide renewed momentum to the agricultural community. Yamunanagar MLA Ghanshyam Dass Arora termed the budget a "revolutionary blueprint" for the state's holistic development. He said the budget balances economic stability with human resource de-

velopment and includes provisions for international-level sports facilities, educational reforms, and new employment opportunities for youth. Former Cabinet Minister Kanwarpal Gurjar also lauded the budget, calling it a historic step towards economic strengthening and upliftment of the last person in society. He said it reflects the vision of "Viksit Haryana-2047" and includes measures to ensure prosperity and financial security for farmers, along with expansion of healthcare services. BJP district president Rajesh Sapra described the budget as balanced, inclusive, and future-oriented, with a strong focus on rural development, urban modernisation, education, healthcare, and infrastructure. He said the Chief Minister prepared the budget after consulting people across various regions of the state, making it truly a "budget for every citizen."

**Budget promoting public welfare and development: Ex Mayor Madan Chauhan**

**RAHUL KOHLI**

**MADAN CHAUHAN:** Madan Chauhan, State President of the OBC Front and former Mayor of the Yamunanagar Municipal Corporation, reacting to the budget presented by the Haryana Government, described it as a budget that is pro-people and accelerates development. He stated that this budget meets the expectations of every section of society and has been prepared with the youth, industrialists, farmers, businessmen, and the middle class in mind. Chauhan stated that the government has placed special emphasis on job creation, industrial promotion, and providing new self-employment opportunities, which will greatly benefit the youth of the state. He added that with the aim of empowering the youth, schemes related to startups and industrial establishment have been strengthened, providing opportunities for new entrepreneurs to thrive. He added that the budget also makes significant provisions for infrastructure development, expansion of education and health services, and improving facilities in rural and urban areas. This will accelerate the overall development of the state and directly benefit the general public. Madan Chauhan said that the government has prioritised the interests of farmers and the working class. Efforts have been made to strengthen the agricultural sector, improve irrigation facilities, and transform villages through rural development schemes. He stated that this budget will strengthen the state economically and provide a new direction for development. Finally, expressing gratitude to the Chief Minister, he said that this budget will prove to be a catalyst for Haryana's progress, and the people of the state will see its positive results in the future.



**Dr Rajesh Valmiki honoured with Rashtriya Gaurav Award at Kurukshetra ceremony**

**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA**

**KARNAL:** Dr Rajesh Valmiki was conferred the Rashtriya Gaurav Award at the 11th National Gaurav Award ceremony held at Shri Geeta Sansthanam Hall in Kurukshetra. The award was presented by Dr Radheshyam Sharma, Managing Director of Ujala Aaj Tak and former Vice-Chancellor.

On the occasion, Dr Rajesh Valmiki appealed to the media fraternity to practise positive journalism without discrimination. He expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Ujala Aaj Tak family for the recognition.

The Ceremony was attended by several distinguished personalities, including former Vice-Chancellor Prof Vijay Khat, Director of Nilokheri Institute of Rural Development Prof Virendra Chauhan, Mahamandaleswar Gyan Swaroop Brahmachari of Akshardham Temple Delhi, Indian Overseas Congress delegate Bhai Tejendra Mann, Satnam Singh Virk, Ayan International School director Niti Malhotra, Pooja Malhotra, and hundreds of representatives from media and political circles.



**Two firefighters martyred in Faridabad blaze; Questions raised over government's response**

**RAKESH BHAYANA PANIPAT, MAR 2**

In Faridabad, Haryana, two firefighters—Ranbir Singh and Bhagwat Sharma—were martyred on the 16th while attempting to douse a massive fire at a chemical factory. Following the tragic incident, a condolence meeting was organized by the Sarv Karamchari Sangh and affiliated organizations, where serious questions were raised regarding the government's attitude toward fire service employees.

During the meeting, State Vice President Kashmir Singh stated that on one hand, the government has adopted a negligent approach toward fire department personnel, while on the other, ministers allegedly make insensitive remarks about them in the media. He accused the authorities of neither regularizing the employees nor providing them with essential facilities.

Union leaders claimed that fire brigade personnel are not provided with modern equipment or adequate resources. Many fire engines are outdat-



ed, and essential tools often fail to function properly. Despite these limitations, firefighters continue to serve tirelessly like soldiers, safeguarding the public and government infrastructure round the clock.

Speakers at the gathering emphasized that firefighting is an extremely hazardous profession. Accidents are frequent during fire operations, yet the government has not seriously considered longstanding demands such as a risk allowance.

The organization demanded that the Haryana government confer 'martyr' status

upon the two deceased firefighters, provide financial assistance of 10 million (1 crore) to each family, and offer one government job to a family member of each martyr. Additionally, compensation of 1 million (10 lakh) was sought for injured personnel.

Fire officer Amit stated that in Delhi, martyred firefighters are granted an honorarium of 10 million, and a similar policy should be implemented in Haryana to boost the morale of fire service staff. Naresh Kumar, President of the Municipal Corporation, announced that after the condolence meeting, a memorandum would be submitted to the Deputy Commissioner during a protest demonstration. Three separate memorandums—on behalf of the Municipal Corporation, Fire Brigade, and CITU (affiliated with the Sarv Karamchari Sangh)—are set to be presented. CITU leaders also alleged that the administration is attempting to suppress the ongoing prolonged strike at IOCL. They warned that if the government fails to accept their demands, sanitation workers, sewer workers,

**Renu Bhatia, Chairperson, Haryana State Women's Commission, demands immediate action in a case of desecration of religious idols in Nandgaon**

**RAHUL KOHLI**

**YAMUNANAGAR:** Renu Bhatia, Chairperson of the Haryana State Women's Commission, expressed serious concern over the incident involving the desecration of religious idols in Nandgaon, Uttar Pradesh. The Commission has learned that an individual has treated religious idols in an objectionable and derogatory manner, hurting the religious sentiments of the community. The Chairperson stated that such incidents not only undermine faith but also pose a challenge to social harmony and law and order. Such acts can cause unnecessary tension and unrest in society, which cannot be tolerated under any circumstances. In this regard, the Haryana State Women's Commission has written a letter to the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and the Member Secretary of the Uttar Pradesh Women's Commission, requesting them to initiate a prompt and impartial investigation into the matter and ensure strict legal action against the culprits. It also urged them to take effective steps to prevent such incidents from recurring in the future.



**Shri Siddheshwar Brahmarsi Gurudev's message in Dubai: Make life a celebration, patience and balance will lead to success**

**KARNAL/ DUBAI:** The Dubai Chapter of Sri Siddheshwar Teerth, Sri Brahmarsi Ashram Tirupati, organized a prestigious spiritual event at Hotel Taj. In the presence of "Siddhaguru" Sri Siddheshwar Brahmarsi Gurudev, many prominent citizens, industrialists, social workers, and devotees of the city of Dubai attended the event. An atmosphere of spiritual energy and devotion was palpable in the auditorium. Devotees from various parts of the country and abroad listened to the blessings with full concentration. On this occasion, Gurudev blessed the devotees present by giving them Shaktipat (powerful energy). His tradition of reaching out to each individual and offering blessings made the event even more intimate. Gurudev also emphasized the importance of mental bal-

ance and relationships. He said that good friends and true relationships are the greatest assets in life. A relationship is one who supports you in happiness, and a true companion



is one who stands by you in sorrow. If a person maintains good relationships in life, he can avoid conditions like depression. Citing the example of the Mahabharata, he said that Shakuni was the advisor of the Kauravas, resulting in destruction. Krishna was the guide of

the Pandavas, leading to victory. One should choose a guide and friend very carefully. One becomes what one associates with. Gurudev said that today some people only display outward religiosity, but are far removed from the values of Sanatan Dharma. He urged that religion should not be limited to clothing, but should be embodied in practice.

Explaining the profound meaning of "Attached to nothing, connected to everything," he said that humans should not shy away from worldly duties. They should fulfill them, but remain detached from within. When excessive attachment to things, positions, and relationships diminishes, the mind becomes lighter. Consciousness expands when the urge for "I" and "mine" diminishes.

**Public got nothing in the budget: Congress district rural president Narpal Gurjar**

**RAHUL KOHLI**

**YAMUNANAGAR:** The Congress party has strongly reacted to the state budget presented by the Haryana government. District Congress Rural President Narpal Gurjar said that this budget has completely failed to meet the expectations of the general public of the state. He alleged that the budget makes no concrete provisions to address the basic problems of farmers, youth, employees, the middle class, and the weaker sections. Narpal Gurjar said that farmers' production costs are continuously increasing, but the government has not presented any effective plan to ensure remunerative prices for crops, expand irrigation facilities, and strengthen the agricultural infrastructure. He said that farmers, considered the backbone of the state's economy, were hoping for relief from this budget, but they were disappointed. Adequate budget allocation has not been made for the expansion of canals and strengthening the irrigation system. Regarding the issue of youth, he said that unemployment is continuously increasing in the state, but the budget does not provide a clear roadmap for creating sustainable employment. The government is promoting contract and outsourcing-based appointments instead of permanent government jobs, which is making the future of the youth insecure.



**Young skater Puneet Singh sets world record with 10,000-km journey to Sikh Takhts**

**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, MAR 2**

Nineteen-year-old skater Puneet Singh, who completed a 10,000 kilometre journey on skates covering the five Takhts of Sikhism, has earned a place in the World Record of Excellence, England. The world record certificate was presented to him in Karnal by Pritpal Singh Pannu, Asia Vice-Chairman of World Record of Excellence.

Puneet Singh is currently undertaking another journey on skates from Sul-tanpur Lodhi to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh, associated with the historical visit of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. He received a warm welcome upon reaching Karnal.

President of the Shiromani Gatka Federation of India, Gurtej Singh Khalsa, honoured Puneet Singh with a shawl and siropa. Pritpal

kund Sahib, known for its high-altitude terrain, difficult pathways, and extreme weather conditions. The documentation was submitted to the World Record of Excellence office, which recognised it as a world record and issued the certificate.



Puneet Singh said he has been skating for the past eight years and aims to promote Sikh values through his sport while inspiring youth to stay away from drugs. He encouraged young people to channel their energy into sports rather than substance abuse, stating that pursuing a sport can improve health and bring pride to one's family, community, and nation.

He encouraged young people to channel their energy into sports rather than substance abuse, stating that pursuing a sport can improve health and bring pride to one's family, community, and nation.

## EDITORIAL

## Pakistan paying for the sins of its past

Karma has come back to bite Pakistan hard. The ongoing military conflict with Afghanistan has its roots in Islamabad's duplicitous policy on terrorism: nurturing 'good terrorists' on its soil to target India while fighting 'bad terrorists' who, it alleges, are trained in Afghanistan. Its long-standing strategy of using terrorism as an instrument of state policy to inflict a 'death by a thousand cuts' on India is proving to be its nemesis. The military bosses in Rawalpindi must realise that the time to pay for their sins has finally come. They cannot take cover under an innocuous-sounding argument that they, too, are victims of terrorism. The latest standoff is the result of simmering tensions between the two countries over a long period, with Islamabad accusing Kabul of backing Pakistani Taliban militants who have been carrying out repeated attacks inside the country. What makes the latest round of Pakistani strikes significant is that they have targeted Taliban government facilities instead of terrorist camps in Afghanistan. In a dramatic escalation of cross-border strikes, Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has declared an 'open war' against Afghanistan, soon after his country carried out airstrikes in Kabul and two other provinces. This was in retaliation for a series of terror attacks in Pakistan, blamed on the Taliban. Kabul has rubbished Islamabad's allegations that the Afghan Taliban is harbouring terrorists to stage attacks on Pakistan. Afghanistan, on the other hand, has often accused Islamabad of providing "safe havens" to ISIS fighters in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Afghanistan's Taliban authorities have claimed that at least 55 Pakistani soldiers were killed in cross-border fighting after Pakistan carried out airstrikes in Kabul and other Afghan cities — one of the most serious flare-ups between the neighbours in years. They also announced that 19 check posts were captured, and several Pakistani soldiers taken prisoner, a claim denied by a Pakistani government spokesperson, who said 133 Taliban fighters were killed, more than 200 wounded, and dozens of posts destroyed or captured. For decades, Islamabad nurtured the Taliban for strategic reasons and provided military assistance. Now, the same group has turned against it. The irony is too obvious to ignore. Pakistan now faces a dual Taliban challenge: The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which operates against Islamabad from areas along the Afghan-Pakistan border, and the Taliban regime that has been in power in Afghanistan since 2021. Relations between Islamabad and Kabul have soured since the banned TTP stepped up operations against Pakistani military and police forces. When the Taliban took over Afghanistan nearly five years ago, influential sections within the Pakistani military establishment celebrated the development. But things started deteriorating soon, with the Taliban moving away from an image of being overly dependent on Pakistan's military, which had supported the group for decades. A visible manifestation of this shift was the Taliban's refusal to crack down on the TTP.

## Khamenei, the longest-serving Head of State in the Middle East

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei (1939–2026), the second Supreme Leader of Iran, was killed on February 28 in coordinated US and Israeli airstrikes on Tehran. His death was confirmed by the Iranian state media on March 1, 2026, following an initial announcement by US President Donald Trump.

Khamenei was killed at his office in a joint operation code-named Operation Epic Fury." Several other high-ranking officials, including the commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and the Defence Minister, were also killed.

Iran has declared 40 days of state mourning and seven public holidays. There is no designated successor of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Under the Iranian constitution, a council consisting of the President, the Head of the Judiciary, and a member of the Guardian Council will temporarily assume leadership duties.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei served as the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran for over 36 years, from 1989 until 2026, making him the longest-serving Head of State in the Middle East.

Born in 1939 in Mashhad, he was a key figure in the 1979 Islamic Revolution and served as President of Iran from 1981 to 1989. A theologian, he was defined by his deep-seated hostility toward the West, particularly the United States and Israel, and his unwavering commitment to the theocratic system established by his predecessor, Ayatollah Khomeini.

The 36-year rule of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei built Iran into a powerful anti-US force, spreading its military sway across the Middle East, while using an iron fist to crush repeated unrest at home.

At first dismissed as weak and indecisive, Khamenei seemed an unlikely choice for supreme leader after the death of the charismatic Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who founded the Islamic Republic



of Iran. But Khamenei's rise to the pinnacle of the country's power structure afforded him a tight grip over the nation's affairs.

Khamenei long denied that Iran's nuclear programme was aimed at producing an atomic weapon, as the West contended. In 2015, he cautiously supported a nuclear deal between world powers and the government of President Hassan Rouhani that curbed the country's nuclear programme in return for sanctions relief. The hard-won accord resulted in a partial lifting of Iran's economic and political

isolation. Khamenei's hostility toward the US was undimmed, intensifying in 2018 when Trump's first administration withdrew from the nuclear agreement and reimposed sanctions to choke Iran's oil and shipping industries. The Ayatollah criticised Washington throughout his rule, continuing to deploy barbs after the start of Donald Trump's second term as US President in 2025.

Following the US withdrawal from the nuclear talks, Khamenei sided with headline supporters who criticised Rouhani's policy of

appeasement towards the West.

As Trump pressed Iran to agree to a new nuclear deal in 2025, Khamenei condemned "the rude and arrogant leaders of America." Khamenei often denounced "the Great Satan" reassuring hardliners for whom anti-U.S. sentiment was at the heart of the 1979 revolution, which forced the last shah of Iran into exile.

His religious commitment was clear when he became a cleric at the age of 11. He studied in Iraq and in Qom, Iran's religious capital. His father, a religious

scholar of ethnic Azeri descent, was a traditionalist cleric opposed to mixing religion and politics. In contrast, his son embraced the Islamist revolutionary cause.

In 1963, Khamenei served the first of many terms in prison when, at 24, he was detained for political activities. Later that year, he was imprisoned for 10 days in Mashhad, where he underwent severe torture, according to his official biography.

After the Shah's fall, Khamenei took up several posts in the Islamic Republic. As Deputy Minister of Defence, he became close to the military and was a key figure in the 1980-88 war with neighbouring Iraq, which claimed an estimated total of one million lives.

A skilled orator, he was appointed by Khomeini as a Friday prayer leader in Tehran. There were questions about his rapid, unprecedented rise. He won the presidency with Khomeini's support — the first cleric in the post — and was a surprise choice as Khomeini's successor, given that he lacked both Khomeini's popular appeal and superior clerical credentials.

His ties to the powerful Guards paid off in 2009. That year, the force crushed protests after President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad won re-election amid opposition accusations of vote fraud. He also presided over a vast financial empire through Setad, an organisation founded by Khomeini but expanded hugely under Khamenei, with assets worth tens of billions of dollars. Khamenei expanded Iranian influence in the region, empowering Shiite militias in Iraq and Lebanon, and propping up then-President Bashar al-Assad by deploying thousands of soldiers to Syria.

He spent billions over four decades on these allies — the "Axis of Resistance" which also included Hamas, the Palestinian terrorist group, and Yemen's Houthis — to oppose Israeli and US power in the Middle East.

## IREF urges rice exporters to exercise caution amid West Asia crisis

## Deferred customs duty payment introduced for eligible manufacturer importers



while concluding new orders and to avoid open-ended, unhedged positions," it added. India's rice trade with Africa and the Middle East together accounts for roughly half of national rice exports. During April-December 2025, exports to the Middle East totalled 3.90 million MT and to Africa 7.16 million MT, as detailed below, it said.

The five leading basmati destinations are in the Middle East-Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, UAE and Yemen—are therefore among the most directly affected and account for about 50 per cent of all basmati rice exports from India, IREF said.

"IREF is monitoring developments closely and is in touch with exporters whose consignments are in transit or awaiting clearance at destination ports. Any member facing such issues may seek the Federation's assistance. With basmati wholesale prices up 10-15% over the past month and Iran being a key market, heightened volatility in basmati prices is expected in the coming days. The Federation will issue further advisories as the situation evolves," the IREF said.

container and bulk vessel availability," IREF said in a statement.

"In such circumstances, container and bulk freight could increase sharply at short notice, exposing exporters to losses on fixed delivered-price contracts. The situation may also lead to steep increase in insurance premiums. Exporters are also advised to exercise restraint

commitments for these destinations and, wherever feasible, to conclude sales on FOB (free on board) terms so that freight and insurance and related risks remain with the international buyer.

"Developments in Iran and the United Arab Emirates can have an immediate impact on bunker (ship fuel) prices and, if oil prices rise, may also disrupt

Indian Rice Exporters Federation (IREF) has issued an advisory to its members in view of the deteriorating situation in Iran and parts of the Gulf, and reports that movements through the Strait of Hormuz could be restricted.

IREF members are advised not to undertake new CIF (cost, insurance and freight)

As announced in the Union Budget for 2026-27, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has introduced a new facilitation measure for trusted manufacturers by enabling the facility of deferred payment of Customs duty to a new category of importers called Eligible Manufacturer Importers (EMIs).

CBIC has issued detailed eligibility conditions, application process and operational guidelines through a circular on Saturday in this regard. Under this initiative, Eligible Manufacturer Importers (EMI) will be able to clear imported goods without paying Customs duty at the time of clearance. Instead, the applicable duty can be paid on a monthly basis as prescribed under the Deferred Payment of Import Duty Rules, 2016, helping manufacturers better manage cash flows and working capital. The facility will be available from April 1, 2026 and will remain in force till March 31, 2028.

"The deferred payment facility shall be available to EMI meeting the prescribed criteria related to Customs and GST compliance, turnover, financial standing and past track record. Existing AEO-T1 entities, including MSMEs, that fulfil the



eligibility conditions are also eligible to participate," the Ministry of Finance said in a statement. The EMI scheme is designed as a trust-based facilitation measure, encouraging compliant manufacturers to benefit from simplified procedures while nudging them towards higher levels of compliance. During the validity period of the scheme, approved Eligible

Manufacturer Importers are expected to progressively obtain AEO-T2 or AEO-T3 status, enabling access to enhanced facilitation, faster clearances and priority treatment under the AEO Programme. Applications under the EMI scheme can be submitted online from March 1, 2026, on the AEO portal."

## Iran-US War has repriced globalisation, impacting markets

The Iran-US war is no longer being measured only in missiles fired or bases hit.

Nations across Asia are now pricing the cost of the war, by the barrel, by the stock market crash, and by the cancelled flight.

What is unfolding is not a temporary shock but a repricing of risk across energy, mobility, finance, and supply chains that were built on the assumption that chokepoints would remain open even in crisis.

Everything begins with the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow maritime corridor between Iran and Oman, that carries roughly 25 per cent of global oil consumption and about one-fifth of the world's liquefied natural gas.

"Markets are already assigning a structural geopolitical premium as the straits has virtually shut down in the face of a war, and this is being reflected by rising oil prices, insurance costs, convoy risks, and slower flows," pointed out Prof Biswajit Dhar, former WTO Chair at the Indian Institute of

Foreign Trade.

Brent crude deliveries with settlement on March 20, traded at over USD 67 on Saturday, and is expected to cross USD 70 in the days ahead. War-risk insurers have already issued cancellation notices for shipping vessels transiting the critical oil chokepoint ahead of markets reopening on Monday. Some market experts expect the insurance risk premium for ships going through the war-ravaged straits to go up to 50 per cent from a current 0.25 per cent of ship replacement value.

The price trajectory now hinges on three escalation paths. If hostilities stop short of major disruption, oil markets could mirror past regional shocks, with prices settling into an increased but manageable range. If the strait is shut down, the loss of oil and LNG flows would almost certainly push prices sharply higher, embedding inflation into the global economy.

The most destabilising scenario would combine a closure with direct



attacks on Gulf production facilities, sending prices surging into territory that would overwhelm import-dependent economies with crude crossing USD 100 a barrel.

The crux of the problem is that the Gulf and Suez canal-way represents the waterways for routing oil and shipping between Asia and Europe at reasonable costs.

Rerouting tankers via the Cape of Good Hope or relying on naval escorts for cargo shipping slows delivery, inflates insurance premiums, and locks inefficiency into the system. Otherwise, a Hormuz shutdown makes higher prices almost inevitable.

The economic epicentre of this shock lies in Asia, with China, India, Japan, and South Korea being hit the most as these energy-deficient powerhouse economies remain heavily reliant on Gulf energy that transits Hormuz. For them, rising prices translate quickly into inflation, wider trade deficits, and pressure on their currencies.

India's rupee has started depreciating again and is trading at over ₹91 to the dollar, up by ₹1 in a month, and is expected to fall further if the war continues. India's exposure is particularly acute. Two-thirds of India's crude oil imports and over half of India's merchandise trade with Europe and North Africa pass via Suez or Hormuz. The cost of shipping all these supplies and exports has been going up for quite some time, and can be expected to rise further. A sustained rise feeds directly into transport and food inflation, eroding household purchasing power, hitting the poorest hardest, as much of the rise would be in food inflation, which takes up the largest chunk of the typical budget of a poor family. Growth and fiscal management, of course, are the other two areas that take a hit.

Diversification toward suppliers in Russia, the United States, and West Africa could reduce dependence but cannot fully offset Gulf volumes in the short term.

## Joyous Holi celebrations at Rayat Bahra University



MOHALI (LK BANSAL): The campus of Rayat Bahra University came alive with colours and festivity as students celebrated Holi with great enthusiasm and cultural fervour. Dressed in white attire and carrying vibrant gulal, students assembled on the university lawns, transforming the surroundings into a lively canvas of hues. The atmosphere resonated with music, laughter and cheer as participants danced to energetic DJ beats, creating a spectacular display of colour and camaraderie. Students and faculty members participated wholeheartedly, reflecting the inclusive and harmonious spirit of the institution. Addressing the gathering, Chancellor Gurvinder Singh Bahra highlighted the cultural significance of Holi as a festival symbolising the triumph of good over evil and the arrival of spring.

CHANDIGARH

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026

### NEWS BRIEF

#### Workshop on robotics and artificial intelligence conducted at Akal University

ISHWER GARG  
TALWANDI SABO: The Department of Computer Science & Engineering and the Training & Placement Cell of Akal University, Talwandi Sabo hosted a high-impact workshop on "Artificial Intelligence & Robotics" on 11th February 2026. Attended by over 250 B. Tech and BCA students, the session aimed to bridge the critical gap between academic theory and real-world industry practice. Industry experts from Techcadd Ms. Asmita Sehgal - Senior Manager, Mr. Arun - AI Engineer, Ms. Eakumpreet - Generative AI Engineer and Ms. Ronika - Company Representative & Resource Person provided hands-on exposure to advanced domains, including Machine & Deep Learning, Computer Vision & NLP, Robotic Automation and career pathways, effectively fostering a culture of innovation and project development among the next generation of aspiring engineers.

#### Sandhwan listens to problems of people during public meeting



SURINDER DAMDAMI  
KOTKAPURA: Kullar Singh Sandhwan Speaker Punjab Vidhan Sabha heard the problems of the people of the constituency at his home village Sandhwan and at the home of Harvinder Singh Happy Brar in village Wander Jatana under the Lok Milani program and issued directions to the officials for on-the-spot solutions. He said that Aam Aadmi Party is the people's own government and they will leave no stone unturned to provide facilities to the people. Speaker S. Sandhwan said that the government is committed to resolving the problems of the people in a timely manner and to provide full benefit of government facilities to every citizen. He said that people have met him with their problems and complaints related to various departments and he has ordered the officials of the concerned departments to resolve them in a timely manner. He said that no deficiency will be left for the collective development of the constituency and the infrastructure will be further strengthened. He ordered the officers to spread the information about the public welfare schemes to the village level so that no deserving person is deprived of the benefits. After this, he participated in the celebrations of happiness and sorrow. Chairman Gurmeet Singh Arewala, Kulwinder Singh, Jagtar Singh Jagga, Sarpanch Khara, Harvinder Singh Brar and villagers were present on this occasion.

## One Year of 'Yudh Nashean Virudh' - 36,178 FIRs, 51,648 arrests, Mann govt's relentless war on drugs intensifies: Baltej Pannu

SHASHI PAL JAIN  
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 2

Marking one year of the Mann Government's 'Yudh Nashean Virudh' campaign, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Punjab Media In-charge and Chief Spokesperson of Nasha Mukti Morcha Baltej Pannu said Punjab is fighting a systematic and multi-dimensional war against drugs unmatched anywhere in the world. Addressing the media, Baltej Pannu declared the campaign as a historic and people-driven movement that has transformed the fight against narcotics into a structured and result-oriented mission.

AAP Punjab State General Secretary and Media In-charge Baltej Pannu said,



"Drug abuse is a global menace. We are witnessing developments in countries like Mexico and Canada, and even other Indian states have reported large recoveries. But no state or country is fighting this battle as systematically as Punjab." Sharing official data from the past year, Baltej Pannu stated, "In one year, 36,178 FIRs have been registered and 51,648 arrests made. Drug money worth ?16.70 crore has been recovered. Major recoveries include 2,276.98 kg heroin, 29,299 kg poppy husk, 686 kg opium, 807.96 kg ganja, 36.47 kg ice, 68 kg charas, and 4.46

kg cocaine, along with 50k tablets and capsules and 1,965 injections. Punjab has recorded the highest major recoveries in the country."

He stated that the campaign was launched after long preparation, with the understanding that no fight directly connected with people can succeed without public participation.

"Under the Nasha Mukti Morcha, Punjab was divided into five zones: Doaba, Majha, Malwa East, Malwa West and Malwa Central. We further built district and constituency-level structures. Village Defence Committees were formed across Punjab, and lakhs participated in a massive gathering at Killi Chahal near Moga," Baltej Pannu said.

## The Unirise World School conducts graduation ceremony 2026

SUKH NAHAR  
JAGRAON, MARCH 2

The Unirise World School conducted "Kindergarten Graduation Ceremony" in the school premises. Tiny tots of UKG smartly dressed up in their Graduation robes and Caps.

The program started with an invocation by UKG teachers and students followed by a Graduation song and dance item by the students of UKG. A Speech was also delivered by UKG Student.

The Chairman-Mr. Rakesh Aggarwal, the Managing Director-Mr. Shifu Aggarwal and the Director-Dr. Pallavi Aggarwal congratulated the Graduates.

Distributing the certificates Principal Mrs. Neha Ratan complimented the graduates on their achievements. Addressing all present there, the Principal Mrs. Neha Ratan said, "It is a momentous event and the faculty deserves all appreciation for the hard



## The program started with an invocation by UKG teachers and students followed by a Graduation song and dance item by the students of UKG. A Speech was also delivered by UKG Student.

work". She also wished that God may bless these tiny graduates as they continue their education in the mainstream of the school. In the end, the Coordinator Mrs. Neeru Joshi extended a vote of thanks for and congratulated the teachers for their dedication in shaping the students through education and other co-curricular activities.

## OSD Sukhveer Singh holds public grievance redressal meeting at Dhuri

SUMER GARG  
DHURI, MARCH 2

OSD to the Chief Minister, Sukhveer Singh, today held a public interaction at the CM Facilitation Centre, where he met residents of Dhuri and listened to their grievances in detail. Reaffirming the government's commitment to responsive governance, he directed the concerned departmental officials to ensure prompt, transparent and time-bound redressal of all issues brought to notice.

He stated that under the leadership of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, the State Government is firmly committed to safeguarding public interest and delivering citizen-centric services efficiently. He emphasized that no individual should have to make unnecessary rounds of government offices and that accountability at every level of administration must be ensured. Sukhveer Singh further informed that immediate ac-



tion has been initiated on the applications received during the interaction, and clear instructions have been issued to the concerned officials to submit compliance reports within the stipulated timeframe. Highlighting the government's pro-people approach, he said the overarching objective is to strengthen last-mile delivery of public services and rein-

force people's trust in the administration through transparency, efficiency and responsibility. Joint Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Sundeeep Singh Garha, Chief Minister Field Officer Arvind Kumar, Chairman, Market Committee Dhuri Rajwatar Singh Ghullu, and Ramandeep Singh were also present on the occasion.

## DC directs ensuring registration of every family in district under Chief Minister Health Scheme



ANIL VERMA  
BATHINDA, MARCH 2

Shri Rajesh Dhiman, Deputy Commissioner Bathinda while reviewing the progress of enrolment under the Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojna in the district, directed officials to ensure that every family of district is registered under this scheme. He added that in order to ensure that the benefit of free health services upto Rs 10 lakh reaches every person, it is mandatory that everyone is registered duly.

The Deputy Commissioner appealed to the district residents to get themselves registered without any delay through their nearest CSC and special camps, avail the benefits of this scheme, and provide health security to their families. Presiding over a meeting

with ADC (G) Madam Kanchan, SDM Bathinda Mr Balkaran Singh, SDM Maur Mr Harpreet Singh Atwal, Madam Harshita IAS (UT), DMC Dr Navpreet Kaur, SMOs of various sub divisions, district in charge of CSCs Mr Tarsem Singh Brar and others were present. DC directed all the SDMs, health department officials from government and private sector to accelerate the registration work. He added that people be made aware of the scheme and special counters be put up outside every health facility to make it easier for people to enroll themselves. He added that for registration procedure two people above the age of 18 years should visit the CSC center or nearest government health facility with their Aadhar card and voter I card.

## Broken cement slabs on Landran road to Gilco Valley inviting accidents



SHASHI PAL JAIN  
KHARAR, MARCH 2

The cement slabs lying on the drain at the beginning of the road leading from Landran Road to Gilco Valley in Kharar have been broken due to large loaded trucks and accidents are happening here every day.

Today, Gilco Welfare and Culture Society and Gilco Palm Residents Welfare Committee have said that they will hold a protest against the builders concerned if the broken slabs on the road leading to Gilco Valley are not repaired within a week. They said that the slabs lying on the side of the road leading to Gilco Valley have been broken and holes have come out of them due to

heavy vehicles. They said that a large number of motorists pass through this road and there is an accident here every day. They said that some builders are responsible for the breaking of the slabs but despite saying so, they do not care about it. Brij Mohan, a resident of the place, said that the office bearers and active members of Gilco Welfare and Culture Society and Gilco Palm Residents Welfare Committee themselves alerted the people by putting indicators on the broken slabs.

They said that the officials were also told about this many times but no action was taken. Now he said that if this problem is not solved in a week, then he will be forced to stage a protest.

## MCM hosts national seminar on light music



CHANDIGARH: The Department of Music at Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women, in collaboration with Chandigarh Sangeet Natak Akademi, organised a one-day national seminar on 'Understanding the Ethos, Roots and Culture of Light Music with the Basic Elements of Classical Music'. The seminar brought together eminent musicians, scholars, and students to explore the deep interconnections between classical traditions and contemporary light music.

The seminar aimed to examine Light Music through a research-oriented lens, emphasising its foundations in raga, tala, gayaki, and gharana traditions. Academic discussions, paper presentations, and lecture-cum-demonstrations highlighted how classical aesthetics, voice culture, and ornamentation techniques shape Light Music performance and pedagogy.

Prof. Pankaj Mala Sharma, former Chairperson, Department of Music, Panjab University, delivered the keynote address, underscoring the enduring relevance of classical principles in modern musical expressions. The resource person, Pt. (Dr.) Harvinder Sharma, a renowned sitarist and National SNA awardee, shared practical insights into stylistic nuances and performance traditions.

## Conference on social welfare schemes on March 16: Satya Pal Jain



CHANDIGARH: The Chandigarh Administrator's Advisory Council and the Social Welfare Committee Department are organizing a big conference on March 16th, 2026, to inform citizens about various Central Government schemes.

This decision was taken at a special meeting of the Chandigarh Social Welfare Committee held today at the UT Guest House, chaired by Mr. Satya Pal Jain. The conference, which will be held at the Tagore Theatre, will be chaired by Chandigarh Administrator Mr. Gulab Chand Kataria.

It is noteworthy that the Social Welfare Committee has made efforts to disseminate various beneficial Central Government schemes to the public. Mr. Jain stated that the administration has a total about 77 such beneficial schemes, including those for children, women, the elderly, the disabled, inter-caste marriages, and the Shagun Scheme etc. etc. The committee is organizing this conference so that the general public can be informed about these schemes so that they benefit from them. Representatives from various social organizations in the city will be invited to this conference. Officials informed Mr. Jain that the old-age pension, which has been pending for the past four to five months in Chandigarh, is likely to be released within two to three days.

## Glimpse of patriotism in land of Shaheed Udhham Singh



SUNAM (SUMER GARG): Sunam, known as the sacred land of Shaheed Udhham Singh, witnessed a special and inspiring moment recently when former Indian hockey team captain and Padma Shri awardee Sardara Singh visited the town to attend a private function. His presence created a wave of patriotism and pride across the area.

Upon his arrival, Sardara Singh first paid homage to the land of Shaheed Udhham Singh. The spirit of patriotism and deep respect for the martyrs was clearly reflected in his words and expressions. He said he felt honoured to visit this holy land, describing its soil as a symbol of sacrifice, courage and unwavering love for the nation.

Born on July 15, 1986, in Sirsa district of Haryana, Sardara Singh has been one of India's most accomplished hockey players. He represented the country in three Olympic Games, Beijing 2008, London 2012 & Rio 2016 and led India to a historic gold medal at the 2014 Asian Games.

His performances in the Commonwealth Games and other international tournaments brought immense pride to the nation. In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the sport, he was conferred with the Padma Shri and the Arjuna Award in 2015.

## Gopa foundation chairtable trust helped 126 children of weaker section



CHANDIGARH (R N KHERA): Gopa Foundation is a registered charitable trust in India (Chandigarh) and UK and is established in the memory of Late Mrs. Brijinder Dargan (Gopa), former Associate Professor and Head Botany, SGGGS College, Chandigarh. The primary objective of the foundation is to promote education of the underprivileged children. The Foundation presided by Dr. J.S. Dargan started working in July 2020 with only 20 children drawn from various economically weaker section of the society. At present the foundation has 128 registered children of various school classes in Chandigarh and its surrounding areas. Every year the Foundation celebrates its Anniversary and funds are distributed to the children. This year Foundation celebrated its 6th Anniversary on March 01, 2026 at Nagpal Super speciality hospital, sector 19, Chandigarh. Dr. Atul Sachdev Principal Director of Gastroenterology at Max Super Speciality Hospital, Mohali and former Director Principal GMC Chandigarh was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Dr. Harpal Singh Dhingra, a well known General Practitioner in medicine from UK, was the guest of honour. Many other dignitaries such as Dr. Mrs. Mangla Dogra, a well known Gynaecologist, Dr. Jyotsna Sachdev an established Paediatrician, many colleagues of Late Brijinder Dargan from S.G.G.S. college Chandigarh.

## Rayat Bahra Professional University organizes skill development workshop at Government Senior Secondary School



HOSHIARPUR (DALJEET AJNOHA): The University School of Fashion, Beauty, and Lifestyle Design, under the aegis of Rayat Bahra Professional University, organized a skill development workshop at the Government Senior Secondary School, Jallowal, under the aegis of the NSS unit.

The program was organized under the guidance of Vice Chancellor Dr. Chander Mohan and the leadership of Charanpreet Singh, Head of the University School of Fashion, Beauty, and Lifestyle Design. The program aimed to promote creativity, business awareness, and community engagement among school students.

NSS Teacher Coordinators Pankaj and Jasneet Kaur coordinated the program with the support of the school administration. A practical workshop was organized for the University's NSS volunteers and students. The workshop provided students with practical training in hand painting, embroidery, and crocheting. These sessions provided opportunities for creative expression and taught them craft-based skills that can help them become self-reliant in the future.

## 108 ambulance service provides critical emergency response during night hours in Punjab, records 38,715 cases in 2025



RUPNAGAR (BAHADURJEET SINGH): The 108 Ambulance Service operated by Zenplus Private Limited continued to serve as a lifeline for the people of Punjab during night hours, responding to 38,715 emergency cases between January 2025 and December 2025. The report specifically reflects emergencies attended during nighttime operations, highlighting the system's round-the-clock preparedness and commitment to saving lives. During the year, 12,762 pregnancy-related emergencies were handled at night, ensuring timely transportation and safe medical assistance for expectant mothers. The service also responded to 11,798 medical emergencies, 4,637 road accident cases, and 4,601 cardiac emergencies during late hours, when immediate response often becomes even more critical. In addition, 4,917 other emergency cases were attended by trained Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and pilots. The highest number of night responses was recorded in August 2025, with 3,908 cases, demonstrating the operational strength of the service even during peak demand periods. Commenting on the performance, Manish Batra, Project Head, said, "The 108 Ambulance Service remains fully committed to providing uninterrupted emergency care across Punjab, especially during night hours when timely intervention can make the biggest difference."

## ISA inaugurates a new chapter of anaesthesia excellence



PANCHKULA (SUMER GARG): The local branch of Indian society of anaesthesiologists (ISA) marked a significant milestone with its inauguration yesterday, bringing together 40 Anaesthesiologists from Panchkula and the Tricity region to explore the latest advancements in Anaesthesia for various medical treatments.

The event was graced by ISA President, who inspired the gathering to strive for excellence. Five senior Anaesthesiologists were felicitated for their lifetime achievement and dedication, including Professor YK Batra, Professor Balbir Chhabra, Col JS Johar (Retd), and BRIG Amarjit (Retd).

The ISA Panchkula office bearers took an oath to uphold the highest standards of professionalism, followed by a vibrant Holi Milan and interactive lunch, fostering camaraderie and networking among attendees.

## Retired employees of irrigation department organize family reunion and Holi celebration



KHARAR (SHASHI PAL JAIN): Retired Senior Citizens of Irrigation Department Ranjit Sagar Dam organized a family reunion and Holi celebration at Radius Hotel, Mohali under the supervision of K.C. Bhagat, Rajinder Sharma, Sudhir Sharma, Jatinder Arora and Amrit Verma. In this celebration, the present senior member Mahesh Pal Fazal was honored with a memento and a garland of flowers by his family.

All the senior citizens along with their families celebrated Holi with songs, bhajans, ghazals and flowers to the beat of the drums. The present sisters sang beautiful bhajans and praised the Lord. On this occasion, with the consent of all the members, the next celebration was scheduled for April. On this occasion, senior citizens including Sumil Sharma, Naresh Goyal, Suba Singh, Harbhajan Singh, Jassar, Kuldeep Singh, Balwinder Sharma, Ram Saran Sharma, Prem, Parasotam, Mohan Singh, Shiv Arora, Mulkhraj and their families were present.

**GURGAON** :-Haryana Budget's strong focus on urban development, infrastructure enhancement, and community-centric planning is a progressive step toward building future-ready cities and an empowered Tier 3. The proposed provisions for structured parking, city beautification, parks, community centres, and libraries will significantly elevate the quality of urban living while strengthening social infrastructure in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities said Mr. Ravi Saund, Founding Director, Emperium Group He further said, 'The dedicated ₹500 crore allocation towards the 'Saksham Fund' for infrastructure development across key cities like Sonapat, Hisar, Ambala, Yamunanagar, and Panipat reflects the government's commitment to balanced regional growth. Additionally, the construction of 21 new sports stadiums and the 'Mission Olympic 2036' talent hunt initiative will not only nurture sporting excellence but also inspire youth participation across the state.



# Eighth bus flagged off under CM pilgrimage yatra scheme in Mohali



**MOHALI, MARCH 2:** Under the Chief Minister Tirath Bus Yatra Scheme launched by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, the eighth pilgrimage bus was flagged off in Mohali by MLA Kulwant Singh. The bus, arranged through the efforts of Councillor

Ravinder Bindra of Kumbra, will take devotees on a three-day, two-night pilgrimage. Addressing mediapersons, MLA Kulwant Singh said the joy and peace visible on the faces of the pilgrims was heartening. He noted that while many people may have access to essential

comforts, they often lack the opportunity to undertake such spiritual journeys individually. Through this scheme, devotees are able to travel together as a congregation, fostering unity and shared devotion. He expressed hope that all pilgrims would complete

their journey safely and return home with blessings and happiness. During the tour, the devotees will visit the sacred Sri Harmandir Sahib in Amritsar, followed by Durgiana Temple, Jallianwala Bagh, Ram Tirath, and the Wagah Border.

## Airtel and Google Collaborate to Advance Spam Protection in India With Secure RCS Messaging

**PUNJAB, AMBALA, SHIMLA, 2026, NEW DELHI (INDIA):** Bharti Airtel, one of India's leading telecommunications service providers, and Google have announced a collaboration to offer a secure and engaging messaging experience for millions of users in India. By combining Airtel's network intelligence with Google's Rich Communications Services (RCS) platform and spam filtering, users get to experience RCS messaging with high-quality photo/video and interactive elements like message reactions, all while benefiting from

enhanced protections that significantly reduce mobile spam and digital fraud. Over the last 1.5 years, Airtel has led India's fight against spam and digital fraud through a series of industry-first, AI-powered initiatives aimed at protecting customers across calls and messages. Proving a track record in protecting customers, Airtel has, to date, through all its innovative spam fighting initiatives, blocked a staggering 71 billion spam calls and 2.9 billion spam SMSes that has led to a huge 68.7% decrease in the

value of financial losses on its network. A critical protection gap however continues to exist within the digital ecosystem. While traditional mobile networks that offer messaging operate under safety standards and telco-grade safeguards, many other non-telco communication platforms and standalone apps lack these safeguards. These channels have therefore increasingly been exploited by sophisticated bad actors, becoming common tools for financial fraud and invasive spam.

## Ramadan Energy Guide: Staying Active Through the Fast

**CHANDIGARH:** The holy month of Ramadan is a time of spirituality, reflection and community. Fasting from dawn to dusk for 30 days can be physically demanding, especially for mothers, college students and working professionals managing daily responsibilities. The key to maintaining steady energy throughout the fast lies in a thoughtfully planned Sehari. Sehari should focus on balanced, slow-releasing foods that sustain energy and prevent fatigue. Nutrient-dense meals provide steady fuel and prolonged satiety. In contrast, starting the day with fried or sugary foods can cause rapid spikes and crashes in energy levels, often leaving one tired and dehydrated as the day progresses. Making mindful, nutritious choices at Sehari

can make fasting more comfortable and energising. Here are five foods to include for sustained energy:  
1. California Almonds  
Rich in Vitamin B2, Vitamin E, magnesium and phosphorus, almonds support energy release from food. They offer a healthy and sustained energy source. Soaked overnight or blended into smoothies, they help maintain consistent energy levels during long fasting hours.  
2. Oats  
A bowl of oats prepared with milk or plant-based alternatives provides complex carbohydrates and fibre. This combination ensures a gradual release of energy, helping you feel fuller for longer and reducing midday fatigue.

3. Eggs  
Packed with high-quality protein and essential amino acids, eggs promote lasting satiety and support muscle health. They can be enjoyed boiled, scrambled or as a vegetable omelette.  
4. Greek Yoghurt with Seeds  
Greek yoghurt is high in protein and probiotics. Adding chia or flaxseeds enhances fibre and healthy fat content, supporting digestion and sustained energy throughout the day.  
5. Bananas  
Bananas contain natural sugars, potassium and fibre, offering quick yet balanced energy while helping maintain electrolyte balance during fasting.

## Mynta Glamfest Tour Rocks CGC Mohali, Jasmine Sandlas Draws 14,000+ Crowd

**CHANDIGARH:** Mynta, in collaboration with Vistoso '26 — the annual cultural festival of Chandigarh Group of Colleges Mohali — brought the Mynta Glamfest Tour to the city with a high-energy campus celebration that drew a footfall of over 14,000 students and music lovers. Hosted at CGC Mohali, the event transformed the campus into a vibrant hub of fashion, music and youth culture. Students actively participated in fashion-led activities, campus showcases and interactive experiences throughout the day. A major highlight was the Mynta Experience Zone, which featured engaging styling sessions, immersive installations and playful activities designed to spark creativity and self-expression. Student performances showcased local talent, while reward-based engagements seamlessly connected on-ground participation with Mynta's digital ecosystem. The evening culminated in a power-packed performance by Punjabi pop star Jasmine Sandlas. Her electrifying stage presence and chart-topping hits turned the venue into a massive sing-along, creating an unforgettable experience for attendees. Commenting on the event, Abhishek Gour, Senior Director — Brand, Mynta, said the initiative reflects the brand's evolving approach to youth engagement. "With the Mynta Glamfest Tour at CGC Mohali, we connected with young audiences in a way that felt authentic to the campus environment and aligned with how Gen Z interacts with fashion — making trend discovery more intuitive, social and community-driven," he said.

## Powerade Enters India as Official Sports Drink of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026



**CHANDIGARH/LUDHIANA:** Powerade, The Coca-Cola Company's iconic sports hydration brand, made its debut in India at one of the world's most significant sporting events, the ICC Men's T20 World Cup. Powerade's presence as the official sports drink of the tournament aims to reinforce Coca-Cola India's focus on expanding its portfolio with brands rooted in sport, activity and evolving lifestyles. Speaking on the launch, Ankit Mahna, Senior Director, Marketing, Hydration, Sports & Tea Category, Coca-Cola India and Southwest Asia said, "Sport in India lives in streets, playgrounds, gyms and everyday routines. Powerade's entry into India is about meeting people in those moments of intense effort, whether they're training professionally or simply pushing themselves a little further every day."

## SBI General Insurance launches an integrated brand campaign with Pankaj Tripathi as its Brand Ambassador



**AMRITSAR:** SBI General Insurance, one of India's leading general insurance companies, has announced acclaimed actor Pankaj Tripathi as its Brand Ambassador and unveiled an integrated brand campaign 'Chuniye Bharosa, Apno Sa'. The association unites a personality known for credibility and authenticity with a brand rooted in trust

and transparency. Pankaj Tripathi's grounded persona makes him a natural embodiment of the brand's core promise — "Trust" that feels personal and reassuring. The brand has launched a new health insurance film as part of its 'Chuniye Bharosa, Apno Sa' campaign, highlighting its promise of being a trusted partner in safeguarding families

## Powering India's Semiconductor Rise: IESA Technovation Awards 2026



**CHANDIGARH** The IESA Technovation Awards, the most prestigious recognition in India's Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM) and semiconductor industry, once again took centre stage at the IESA Vision Summit 2026 at The Leela Bharati City Convention Centre, Bangalore. Bringing together the brightest minds from industry, government, Start Ups and academia, the two-day summit — themed 'Design to Manufacturing: Synergy of Product, Production and Skill' — signalled a decisive shift in India's ambition to become a Product Nation. Congratulating to this year's Technovation Award winners for their exceptional contributions to strengthening India's semiconductor and electronics ecosystem, Mr. Ashok Chandak, President, IESA said, "The winners' achievements represent the innovation, depth, entrepreneurial spirit, and execution excellence that are shaping India's technology future. By spotlighting excellence across the semiconductor and ESDM value chain, these awards continue to set new benchmarks for technology leadership and ecosystem impact in India." Over the years, the Technovation Awards have evolved in step with the rapid transformation of India's electronics and semiconductor landscape. The categories now span Startups, MSMEs, Enterprise & Services, Techno-Visionary Leaders, and Skilling & Academia — reflecting the full spectrum of innovation, manufacturing strength.

## Engines Roar as Chandigarh Set to Host 39th SJOBA Extreme Rally

**CHANDIGARH** is set to feel the rumble once again as the 39th edition of the St. John's Old Boys' Association (SJOBA) Annual Extreme Rally, presented by Robins Machines, roars into action from March 12 to 15th March, 2026. The ceremonial flag-off will take place at St. John's High School, Sector 26, Chandigarh. The rally strictly adheres to all rules, regulations and safety protocols laid down by the Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India (FMSCI), the country's apex governing body for motorsports, ensuring world-class safety and sporting standards. Addressing the media SJOBA President Kunal Sekhri said, "The SJOBA Extreme Rally has grown into a landmark on India's motorsport calendar. Each edition raises the bar, and the 39th promises to deliver both competitive intensity and organizational excellence. This year approximately 110 competitors will line up to tackle 12 stages during three days "Participants will encounter a diverse blend of non-concrete stretches, river beds, fast tarmac and technical hilly sections. The addition of UNA ensures that even experienced rallyists will need to recalibrate their approach."

## FEM Launches New Single-Use Facial Kits with Gurleen Pannu & Swati Sachdeva

**CHANDIGARH:** Fem, India's leading and most trusted facial bleach brand from the House of Dabur has announced the launch of two advanced single-use facial treatment kits: Niacinamide Glass Glow and Hyaluronic Lumi Bright. The launch is supported by a digital-first campaign featuring popular Indian comedians Gurleen Pannu and Swati Sachdeva, pivoting the conversation from romantic heartbreak to radical self-love. The narrative centers on a compelling brand truth: "Love's glow may be ephemeral, but FEM's glow is designed to last." The campaign gained nationwide traction through viral clips of Pannu and Sachdeva engaging in salirical banter regarding the "etiquettes of a breakup." By anchoring the launch in the culturally relatable post-breakup phase—a time when self-worth often takes a temporary hit—FEM positions skincare not just as a routine, but as a "comeback ritual." As a market leader in at-home professional skincare, FEM continues to bridge the gap between salon-grade results and consumer accessibility. FEM has consistently focused on driving innovation that expands the category and enhances consumer access. With our new advanced single-use facial kits, we are further democratising premium skincare experiences by making high-performance, trend-led formulations accessible at home. This campaign blends sharp cultural insight with innovative marketing to reinforce our leadership while shaping the future of the category." Mr. Abhishek Jugran, Executive Vice President, Marketing, Dabur India Ltd. "We see skincare as a powerful tool for self-expression and a core pillar of self-love. By anchoring this launch in the concept.

## Amazon announces Zero Referral fees on over 12.5 crore products: Sellers to save up to 70% in fees

**PANIPAT** : Amazon India today announced a landmark fee reduction aimed at accelerating growth for lakhs of sellers across the country. Building on last year's fee revision, the company has expanded zero referral fees coverage more than 10x from 1.2 crore products in 2025 to over 12.5 crore products priced under ₹1,000 across 1,800+ categories. In addition, Amazon has reduced Easy Ship fees by over 20% for products priced below ₹300. Easy Ship allows sellers to store products at their own premises while Amazon handles pickup and delivery, making it a preferred choice for sellers starting or scaling their e-commerce journey due to its lower upfront logistics costs. Sellers shipping multiple units in a single box can also see savings of up to 90%+ on selling fees for the second unit, further improving overall savings. The revised fees come into effect from March 16, 2026. Amit Nanda, Director, Selling Partner Services, Amazon India, said, "Building on the strong impact of last year's fee reductions, we are now expanding that commitment to benefit a much larger cohort of sellers. This move is designed to make selling on Amazon.in more lucrative and simpler particularly for small businesses and entrepreneurs in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. By eliminating referral fees across 1,800+ categories covering over 12.5 crore products, and reducing logistics costs, sellers can save up to 70% in fees.

## Asian Paints Brings the Colours of Cricket Alive with a Powerful Cricket Anthem



**GURUGRAM** : In India, the game of cricket is more than a sport. It brings people together with pride, hope and excitement. It is this spirit of togetherness that Asian Paints brings alive with the launch of the Asian Paints Rang De India (Cricket Anthem) - a powerful musical expression that celebrates the colours, emotions and unity that cricket breathes into every Indian home. From living turning into mini stadiums to balconies echoing with chants. The

anthem captures the joy and passion of match days that bind generations of fans across regions, languages and traditions. As the Official Colour Partner of India Home Cricket, with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Asian Paints has consistently deepened its association with the game through colour-led, fan-first interventions. The anthem reflects the brand's belief that colour is an expression of emotion and a force that brings people closer.

## Class Four Employees Union, Education Department Organises Felicitation Ceremony for Retired Employees



**CHANDIGARH:** The Class Four Employees Union, Education Department, UT Chandigarh, organised a felicitation ceremony in honour of retired employees at Government Model Senior Secondary School, Sector 10. The event was graced by Member of Parliament Satnam Singh Sandhu as the Chief Guest, along with his advisor Dr. Balbir Singh Dhol, who were specially present on the occasion. During the ceremony, retired employees — Daljit Singh, Avtar Singh, Maya Devi, Chanchal Kumari, Kashmir Singh, Swarn Singh, Tirathpal, Rajey Lal, Jagan Nath and Darshana Kaur — were honoured with shawls, mementoes and certificates of appreciation. In his address, Union President Annu Kumar stated that the dedication and honesty of employees are the real strength of the department, and that they should receive their full rights

under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972. He also demanded that better policies be framed for temporary Class Four employees — such as Mid-Day Meal workers, DC Rate employees and outsourced staff — to ensure a secure and dignified life after retirement. Annu Kumar appealed to MP Satnam Singh Sandhu to introduce a security insurance scheme for temporary employees of Chandigarh, similar to the initiatives he has taken in Parliament in the interest of Punjab's farmers, so that they may receive assistance during emergencies. All union office bearers were also present at the ceremony, including Chairman Pal Singh, Vice-Chairman Pravesh, General Secretary Jony Kumar, Cashier Sanjay Kumar, Shricharan, Sittu, Rajkumar, Rita Rani, Kanta, Purushottam, Mahender, Sompal, Shyam Lal, Ishwar, Kawar, Vinod, Ram Murat and Lallan Verma.

## Chandigarh Strengthens Bid for Asian Relay Championships 2027



**CHANDIGARH** has significantly strengthened its bid to host the Asian Relay Championships scheduled for June 2027, following a successful inspection visit by senior officials of the Asian Athletics Association. The Association's Secretary General Shugurman and Technical Director C K Valson conducted a detailed assessment of the city's sports infrastructure. The delegation inspected the synthetic athletic track in Sector 7, along with hotels, the airport, and other key facilities essential for hosting an international event. During their visit, they held discussions

with representatives of the Chandigarh Athletic Association and senior officials of the Chandigarh Administration regarding technical requirements and logistical arrangements. Authorities assured the delegation that all necessary upgrades which included installation of floodlights, warm-up track planning, VIP lounge facilities, and additional toilet blocks would be completed well in time to meet international standards. Addressing a press conference at the Press Club, the visiting officials described Chandigarh as a promising and capable host city.

## 'The Last Letter' by Maan Panu Will Take Over Your Feed & Your Heart

**CHANDIGARH** : Not every story gets a closure, some simply fade into memory, leaving behind a void. Emerging as one of the most promising names in India's indie pop space, singer-songwriter Maan Panu is known for his quietly expressive songwriting and honest storytelling. His latest release 'The Last Letter' is a song that feels more like a confession, a quiet conversation with the past. With its mellow sound and introspective lyrics, 'The Last Letter' doesn't dramatise heartbreak. Instead, Maan leans into the stillness that follows it, transforming the absence of closure into music that feels deeply personal and universally relatable. He voices the sentences that never found their way out, to conversations that only lived in your head and a kind of love that doesn't ask for attention but refuses to be forgotten. Speaking his thoughts on the release, Maan Panu shares, "The Last Letter" carries the weight of endings, but also the quiet strength of new beginnings. It's about making peace with what was, and finding the courage to step into what's next. In many ways, this isn't just the last letter to someone else, it's the first letter to myself. Even before its official release, the track had already begun to resonate with listeners.



Maan's video performing the song when viral on social media, garnering nearly 10 million views before release. Since then, the hints and teasers across his social media have only deepened the anticipation, turning the track into a quiet fan favourite among his listeners. At its core, 'The Last Letter' is Maan's final act of love, born from the realisation that some people don't come back. Not now, not ever. And in that silence, he chose to write the closure he never received. With this release, Maan continues to carve a space for himself as an artist who creates emotional experiences, the kind that stays with you even when music fades.

## Welcome 4 Hum Phir Saath Mein Karengé: Anil Kapoor Teases Reunion with Akshay Kumar

**CHANDIGARH** : The Holi special episode of Wheel of Fortune will see Akshay Kumar joined by guests Anil Kapoor, Radhika Madan, and Saurabh Shukla in a lively and engaging episode. During the show, an audience member shared that he is a big fan of Anil Kapoor and Akshay Kumar, and an even bigger fan of the movie Welcome. He revealed he had brought the famous Majnu Bhai painting and wanted to know the story behind it. Anil Kapoor then revealed that he still has the original Majnu Bhai painting. He added, "sabse pehle toh Akshay Sahab ke saath maine ye film ki thi Welcome 1, fir 2 mein ye nahii the, fir 3 mein mujhe nikal diya aur Welcome 4 hum fir saath mein karenge," leaving audiences excited. Speaking about the painting, Anil Kapoor said, "Log ye painting ke saath memes banate rehte hain, magar iske peeche ek depth hai, ek story hai, aur ek seriousness bhi hai. Aap log iska mazaak uda dete ho, memes bana ke, aur log sochte hain, kaisi painting hai." The audience member then mentions that there are also t-shirts available of this painting. Radhika revealed that she also has the t-shirt. To this, Anil Kapoor revealed that he earns money from those t-shirts, leaving Akshay Kumar visibly

CHANDIGARH: Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, reacting to the bank scam of more than ₹500 crore in the neighbouring state of Haryana during the rule of the Bharatiya Janata Party government, said that in Punjab, after the Aam Aadmi Party government assumed power in 2022, a modern e-Deposit Management System was implemented with the assistance of National Informatics Centre (NIC), eliminating any possibility of fraud in the banking sector. He stated that the BJP has completely failed in adopting new technology, which is why people's money is being looted in Haryana. Finance Minister Cheema explained that after the Aam Aadmi Party government was formed in Punjab in 2022, the e-Deposit Management System was implemented with the help of NIC to further strengthen the banking sector. He stated that under this system, whenever any government department, corporation, institution, or undertaking in Punjab wants to deposit its funds in a bank, it must go through an open bidding process.

**NEWS BRIEF**

**People-centric budget gives fresh momentum to development:**

**Dharmveer Rateria**

HANSI  
DINKAR GAWDI: Reading to the Haryana government's 2026-27 budget presented by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini in the state Assembly, BJP Hansi district general secretary Advocate Dharmveer Rateria described it as a people-centric budget that provides new energy to the pace of development.



He said the budget reflects the government's firm commitment to holistic development, economic strength, and public welfare. According to him, the budget presents a clear roadmap for empowering common citizens, farmers, and youth, while steering the state towards self-reliance and a stronger economy. Rateria said the budget lays a strong foundation for inclusive growth, ranging from welfare measures for the poor to industrial promotion. He added that comprehensive provisions have been made for employment generation, skill development, and encouragement of startups, which will create new opportunities for youth and accelerate economic growth in the state. He further stated that several significant provisions have been introduced for the welfare of women, youth, and farmers, which will strengthen the social and economic framework of Haryana.

**Farmer trust will erode due to anti-farmer budget, alleges BKU state president Ratanman**

**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA**

KARNAL: Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) state president Ratanman has termed the Haryana government's 2026-27 budget as anti-farmer and anti-rural, alleging that it fails to address ground realities. He said while the government has made tall claims, there are no clear or concrete provisions to increase farmers' income, ensure remunerative prices for crops, waive loans, or expand irrigation facilities. Ratanman said farmers form the backbone of the state's economy, yet the budget does not reflect the required enhancement in allocations for the agriculture sector. He demanded a legal guarantee for Minimum Support Price (MSP) for wheat, paddy, and all other crops. He also called for a special subsidy package to offset rising input costs of diesel, fertilisers, seeds, and pesticides. The BKU leader further stated that compensation procedures for farmers affected by natural calamities should be made simple and transparent. He urged the government to rectify shortcomings in the crop insurance scheme and ensure timely settlement of claims. He also raised concerns about deteriorating rural roads, the need for canal desilting, and irregular electricity supply in villages.

**"We didn't start this war, but under President Trump, we are finishing it": US War Secy Pete Hegseth**

WASHINGTON DC: US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth on Monday criticised the Islamic regime of Iran, accusing it of waging a "savage, one-sided war against America", which he said the Trump administration will finish.



Addressing a press conference at the White House, Hegseth amplified US President Donald Trump's remark, "now is wartime," and lauded Operation Epic Fury, stating that it aims to destroy Iranian offensive missiles, security infrastructure, and ensure the country will "never have nuclear weapons."

"The mission of Operation Epic Fury is laser-focused. Destroy Iranian offensive missiles, destroy Iranian missile production, destroy their Navy and other security infrastructure, and they will never have nuclear weapons. We're hitting them surgically, overwhelmingly, and unapologetically. With every passing day, our capabilities get stronger and Iran's get weaker. We set the terms of this war from start to finish. Our ambitions are not utopian. They are realistic... President Trump has been clear - now is wartime..." Hegseth said.

The War Secretary said that the Iranian regime's propagation of prophetic Islamist delusions, targeting global shipping lanes, and developing an arsenal of ballistic missiles as a shield for what he described as their "nuclear blackmail ambitions" are no longer tolerable risks. "Crazy regimes like Iran, hell-bent on prophetic Islamist delusions, cannot have nuclear weapons. Many have said it, but it takes guts to actually enforce it, and our president has guts. Iran's stubborn and self-avid nuclear pursuits, their targeting of global shipping lanes, and their swelling arsenal of ballistic missiles and killer drones were no longer, are no longer tolerable risks. Iran was building pow-

erful missiles and drones to create a conventional shield for their nuclear blackmail ambitions... Iran had a conventional gun to our head as they tried to lie their way to a nuclear bomb," he said.

He further criticised the Barack Obama administration for signing the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (an agreement to limit the Iranian nuclear program in return for sanctions relief and other provisions) and said that the Trump administration will "finally draw the line after 47 years of Iranian belligerence."

"It almost worked under President Obama and his terrible deal, but not under this president. Turns out the regime that chanted 'death to America and death to Israel' was gifted death from America and death from Israel. This is not a so-called regime change war, but the regime sure did change, and the world is better off for it..." Hegseth said.

**Madhya Pradesh CM participates in 'Bhagoriya Fest' in Barwani**



**AGENCY**

BARWANI: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav participated in the 'Bhagoriya Fest' in Barwani district on Monday, describing it as a celebration of joy in harmony with nature.

According to an official release, CM Yadav also announced various agricultural and development initiatives while addressing a gathering on the occasion.

"Bhagoria is not merely a festival, but a celebration of joy in harmony with nature. During the festival, men and women dance together in unison, adorned in traditional attire, showcasing the vibrant beauty of folk culture. The enjoyment of traditional beverages such as Tadi is also part of the celebration. Tribal culture has its own distinct identity and significance. To preserve this rich tradition, the State Government has accorded Bhagoria the status of a State Festival, thereby enhancing its dignity," the CM said.

The CM further said, "The Nimar region is renowned for its cultural richness, festive spirit and joyful outlook on life. The tradition of celebrating festivals in tune with each season has preserved a sense of collective happiness and unity. Established by ancestors, this joyful tradition remains alive today. For centuries, Bhagoria has symbolised enthusiasm, vitality and the spirit of folk life in the region."

The Chief Minister added that to honour the joy of Bhagoria and the progressive agriculture of Barwani, the first Agriculture Cabinet of Krishna Kalyan Varsh was organised.

**CBDT joint secretary inspects PM Shri School in Dalhousie Cantonment**

SUBHASHMAHAJAN DALHOUSIE: Mr. S.K. Jha, Joint Secretary, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), Revenue Department, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, visited and inspected PM Shri Cantonment Board Secondary School in Dalhousie Cantonment on Monday.



During his visit, Jha reviewed the infrastructure and facilities available at the school and assured the administration of all possible support.

On his arrival, Headmistress Reena Kumari welcomed him with a bouquet. He was also received by the school staff, Cantonment

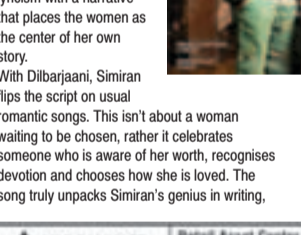
Board Deputy Ranger Sanjeev Kumar and Sanitary Inspector Babar Ali Khan. As a mark of respect, the headmistress honoured him with a traditional cap and shawl. The school was designated as a PM Shri School in

2022 and provides free education, uniforms and textbooks to students residing in Dalhousie Cantonment. Currently catering to students from nursery to Class VIII, the school has built a strong reputation in the region with significant enrolment.

**Simran Kaur Dhadi owns love, power and narrative with new single 'Dilbarjaani', ft Sunny Singh**

KARNAL: Punjabi most distinctive and unapologetic voice, Simran Kaur Dhadi returns with her latest single 'Dilbarjaani', a high energy love track that reimagines romance through a confident and self-assured woman's lens.

Written by a woman, from the gaze of a woman who knows how deeply she's desired, 'Dilbarjaani' reinforces a larger shift, one where women speak, lead and love on their own terms. Featuring actor Sunny Singh, the track brings together striking visuals and fearless lyricism with a narrative that places the women as the center of her own story.



With Dilbarjaani, Simran flips the script on usual romantic songs. This isn't about a woman waiting to be chosen, rather it celebrates someone who is aware of her worth, recognises devotion and chooses how she is loved. The song truly unpacks Simran's genius in writing, composing & singing and cements their position as the next emerging Pop Icon from India. Speaking about the track, Simran Kaur Dhadi shares, "For me Dilbarjaani is about owning your space - loud, honest & equal. She knows she is valued, she is loved and she stands strong in it. It's a reminder that you don't have to fit into someone else's idea of love. There's intensity and admiration, but the woman decides how she's seen and loved."

**Central Ayurveda Research Institute (CARI), Bengaluru**

Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India  
Expression of Interest (Eoi)  
The CCRAS invites Expression of Interest from eligible establishments for availing incubation support from Ayurvedic Sciences Incubation Centre (ASIC) at the Central Ayurveda Research Institute, Bengaluru. The programme aims to promote innovation, entrepreneurship and commercialization of Ayurveda-based products, services and technologies by providing infrastructure support, mentorship, technical guidance, networking opportunities and financial assistance as per applicable norms.

Last date for submission: 25th March 2026, 5:00 PM  
For further details visit: www.ccras.nic.in or www.cari.gov.in or https://asic.ccras.org.in  
Assistant Director Incharge, CARI Bengaluru  
CBC 17201/11/0023/2526

**Coert of the Sub-Treasurer cum Sub-Registrar, Sahasra, District Yamunanagar**

1. Mr. Shampur Singh, son of Mr. Mohan Singh, resident of village Saraha, Sub-Tal. Sahasra, Tehsil-Bhatnagar, District Yamunanagar.

Verus  
General Public: This advertisement is to inform the general public and the public that Mr. Shampur Singh, son of Mr. Mohan Singh, resident of village Saraha, Sub-Tal. Sahasra, District Yamunanagar, has submitted a certificate for verification of his claim, clearly stating that the applicant's son, Mr. Gurinder Singh, died on November 16, 2025. The following heirs/successors have been listed after Mr. Gurinder Singh's death: The Plaintiff of the local area has verified these heirs in his report 1. Shampur Singh, father, 2. Javinder Singh, brother, and 3. Devidar Singh, brother. The deceased has no other heirs/successors. Therefore, through this notice, I am informed to all the common people that the above mentioned deceased does not have any heirs/successors, hence, every common man and special person can present his objection within 15 days after the publication of this notice at the above mentioned office on working day, otherwise the document will be registered on the basis of the above facts.

**HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest Money	Time Limit	Cost of tender Form
1	Restoration of rain damages to various WSS under JSV section Reason in WSS Dobhi Sham WSS Bench from Shila Nallah, WSS Bench Malogi Kharatol, WSS Karal Bhatkari Grahon, WSS Parbh Himabari, WSS Neri Bagani Daral Parani in Tehsil & Dist. Kullu HP (SH - Providing, laying, jointing & testing of GI pipes of various dia at different RDs) (Under PDNA at Sr. No. 18272, 18286, 18282, 18442, 18431, 18437, 18265)	10057150/-	175572/-	2 Months	5000/-
2	Restoration of rain damages to various WSS under JSV section Katrain in WSS Thak Jalsan, Pujan, Royara, Pangan, Gower Bhanu, Katrain, Patkhalu, Jatehr Bhal, Lower Dawa, Niyal, Dhansha, Chhaporan, Ligan, Meha, Bhat Meha in Tehsil & Dist. Kullu HP (SH - Providing, laying, jointing & testing of GI pipes of various dia at different RDs) (Under PDNA at Sr. No. 18434, 18454, 18356, 18191, 18237, 18254, 18247, 18435, 18270, 18367, 18334, 18258, 18384)	9646722/-	169701/-	2 Months	5000/-
3	Restoration of rain damages to various WSS under JSV section Katrain in WSS Kasherhi Gloom, Jogin Karol Raiderh, Dawara, Rampur, Rampur Bhal, Gurdahar, Manjan, Meha, Bhat Meha, Meha Pandhey, Bran in Tehsil & Dist. Kullu HP (SH - Providing, laying, jointing & testing of GI pipes of various dia at different RDs) (Under PDNA at Sr. No. 18187, 18306, 18269, 18433, 18460, 18371, 18384, 18377, 18174)	7792828/-	141892/-	2 Months	5000/-

Key dates:  
I Site Visit: 01.03.2026 to 07.03.2026 on working day time 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
II Date of online publication: 28.02.2026 up to 09:00 AM  
III Bid Submission Start date and Time: From 28.02.2026 09:30 AM  
IV Bid submission end date and time: Up to 11.03.2026 11:00 AM  
V Date of Opening of Bid i.e. Eligibility criteria: 11.03.2026 at 11:30 AM  
VI Date of opening of financial bid: Date, time and place shall be notified separately online.

**AXIS BANK LTD. Retail Asset Centre "2nd and 3rd Floor, Property No. 7-E, Malhar Road, Sarabha Nagar, Ludhiana -141001"**

Corporate Office: "Axis House", C-2, Media International Centre, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Work, Mumbai - 400002, Registered Office: "Inshall", 3rd Floor Opp. Samarbhushar Temple Law Garden, Elitbridge Ahmedabad - 380006

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMovable PROPERTY**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, (the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" on 20-Mar-2026, for recovery of Rs. 2154332/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Two Only) as on 13-08-2025, with unpaid interest and other charges, due to the secured creditor from 1. MR. DAMANJEET SINGH & O MR. BUNDEEJEET SINGH 2) MRS. KULJEET KAUR W/O MR. BUNDEEJEET SINGH. Please refer the appended auction schedule for necessary details.

**AXIS BANK LTD. Retail Asset Centre "2nd and 3rd Floor, Property No. 7-E, Malhar Road, Sarabha Nagar, Ludhiana -141001"**

Corporate Office: "Axis House", C-2, Media International Centre, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Work, Mumbai - 400002, Registered Office: "Inshall", 3rd Floor Opp. Samarbhushar Temple Law Garden, Elitbridge Ahmedabad - 380006

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMovable PROPERTY**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, (the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" on 20-Mar-2026, for recovery of Rs. 2154332/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Two Only) as on 13-08-2025, with unpaid interest and other charges, due to the secured creditor from 1. MR. DAMANJEET SINGH & O MR. BUNDEEJEET SINGH 2) MRS. KULJEET KAUR W/O MR. BUNDEEJEET SINGH. Please refer the appended auction schedule for necessary details.

**CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD**

A CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION UNDERTAKING  
8, Jan Marg, Sector 9-D, Chandigarh  
**CORRIGENDUM**  
Public Notice published in this Newspaper on 04.02.2026 wherein seller name mentioned Smt. Sushmit Thakur may be read as Smt. Sushmita Thakur and rest remains unchanged in t/o D.U. No. 41-2, Sector 41-A, Chandigarh.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY Tender Notice**

The Chief Medical Supdt, Northern Railway Ambala Cantt, for & on behalf of President of India, invites open tenders on the prescribed form for the under noted work.  
1. Tender No. LP-MED-01-SOH-SRE, LP-MED-01-HU-BTI  
2. Name of work: Empowerment of Retail Supplier for day to day retail Local Purchase of Medicines, Surgical Items and Consumables etc as per Drug Procurement Policy & IRP issued from time to time for two years for N.Rly Sub Division Hospital Saharanpur & Health Unit Bathinda.  
3. Earnest Money/ Saharanpur: Rs.36,000/- for Tender no- LP-MED-01-SOH-SRE through online payment modes available on IREPS Portal.  
4. Earnest Money/ Bathinda: Rs.36,000/- for Tender no- LP-MED-01-HU-BTI through online payment modes available on IREPS Portal.  
5. Completion period: 2 years.  
6. Last date & time of submission & opening of tender: 24/03/2026 upto 15:00 hours & opening 24/03/2026 at 15:10 hours in the office of Chief Medical Supdt, N.Rly Ambala Cantt.  
7. Northern Railway Website: https://ireps.gov.in. Tenderer can start bidding on their own risk.  
No. LP-MED-01-SOH-SRE, LP-MED-01-HU-BTI Dated: - 26/02/2026 782/2026  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**AXIS BANK LTD. Retail Asset Centre "2nd and 3rd Floor, Property No. 7-E, Malhar Road, Sarabha Nagar, Ludhiana -141001"**

Corporate Office: "Axis House", C-2, Media International Centre, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Work, Mumbai - 400002, Registered Office: "Inshall", 3rd Floor Opp. Samarbhushar Temple Law Garden, Elitbridge Ahmedabad - 380006

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMovable PROPERTY**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, (the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" on 20-Mar-2026, for recovery of Rs. 51536,188/- (Rupees Five Crores Fifteen Lakh Thirty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Eight Only) as of 27-Jan-2022 due to the secured creditor from 1. Sdri Vinayak Agencies (Through its Proprietor) Sdri Ajay Sharma 2) Sdri Ajay Sharma s/o Sdri Manja Lal Sharma 3) Sdri Manja Sharma W/o Sdri Ajay Sharma. Please refer the appended auction schedule for necessary details.

**AXIS BANK LTD. Retail Asset Centre "2nd and 3rd Floor, Property No. 7-E, Malhar Road, Sarabha Nagar, Ludhiana -141001"**

Corporate Office: "Axis House", C-2, Media International Centre, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Work, Mumbai - 400002, Registered Office: "Inshall", 3rd Floor Opp. Samarbhushar Temple Law Garden, Elitbridge Ahmedabad - 380006

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMovable PROPERTY**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, (the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" on 20-Mar-2026, for recovery of Rs. 3573,428/- (Rupees Three Lakh Seventy Three Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Eight Only) as on 13-08-2025, with unpaid interest and other charges, due to the secured creditor from 1. MR. DAMANJEET SINGH & O MR. BUNDEEJEET SINGH 2) MRS. KULJEET KAUR W/O MR. BUNDEEJEET SINGH. Please refer the appended auction schedule for necessary details.

**AXIS BANK LTD. Retail Asset Centre "2nd and 3rd Floor, Property No. 7-E, Malhar Road, Sarabha Nagar, Ludhiana -141001"**

Corporate Office: "Axis House", C-2, Media International Centre, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Work, Mumbai - 400002, Registered Office: "Inshall", 3rd Floor Opp. Samarbhushar Temple Law Garden, Elitbridge Ahmedabad - 380006

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMovable PROPERTY**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, (the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" on 20-Mar-2026, for recovery of Rs. 3573,428/- (Rupees Three Lakh Seventy Three Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Eight Only) as on 13-08-2025, with unpaid interest and other charges, due to the secured creditor from 1. MR. DAMANJEET SINGH & O MR. BUNDEEJEET SINGH 2) MRS. KULJEET KAUR W/O MR. BUNDEEJEET SINGH. Please refer the appended auction schedule for necessary details.

**AXIS BANK LTD. Retail Asset Centre "2nd and 3rd Floor, Property No. 7-E, Malhar Road, Sarabha Nagar, Ludhiana -141001"**

Corporate Office: "Axis House", C-2, Media International Centre, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Work, Mumbai - 400002, Registered Office: "Inshall", 3rd Floor Opp. Samarbhushar Temple Law Garden, Elitbridge Ahmedabad - 380006

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMovable PROPERTY**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, (the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" on 20-Mar-2026, for recovery of Rs. 117,00,000/- (Rs. One crore Seventeen lakhs only) as on 13-08-2025, with unpaid interest and other charges, due to the secured creditor from 1. MR. DAMANJEET SINGH & O MR. BUNDEEJEET SINGH 2) MRS. KULJEET KAUR W/O MR. BUNDEEJEET SINGH. Please refer the appended auction schedule for necessary details.

**AXIS BANK LTD. Retail Asset Centre "300-390, Sector-20, 2nd Floor, Panchkula, Haryana-134117"**

Corporate Office: "Axis House", C-2, Media International Centre, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Work, Mumbai - 400002, Registered Office: "Inshall", 3rd Floor Opp. Samarbhushar Temple Law Garden, Elitbridge Ahmedabad - 380006

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMovable PROPERTY**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, (the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" on 20-Mar-2026, for recovery of Rs. 4,13,58,452/- (Rs. Four crore thirteen lakhs fifty eight thousand four hundred and fifty two only) as on 11-03-2024, with unpaid interest and other charges, due to the secured creditor from 1. Ashika Mehta & Chemicals through its proprietor Mr. Rajesh Kumar Singh, 2) Mr. Subhash Chander s/o Mr. Govindan Lal 3) Mrs. Shalika Rani W/o Mr. Rajesh Kumar Singh, 4) Mrs. Komal Rajan W/o Mr. Subhash Chander. Please refer the appended auction schedule for necessary details.

**AXIS BANK LTD. Retail Asset Centre "2nd and 3rd Floor, Property No. 7-E, Malhar Road, Sarabha Nagar, Ludhiana -141001"**

Corporate Office: "Axis House", C-2, Media International Centre, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Work, Mumbai - 400002, Registered Office: "Inshall", 3rd Floor Opp. Samarbhushar Temple Law Garden, Elitbridge Ahmedabad - 380006

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMovable PROPERTY**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, (the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" on 20-Mar-2026, for recovery of Rs. 1,17,00,000/- (Rs. One crore Seventeen lakhs only) as on 13-08-2025, with unpaid interest and other charges, due to the secured creditor from 1. MR. DAMANJEET SINGH & O MR. BUNDEEJEET SINGH 2) MRS. KULJEET KAUR W/O MR. BUNDEEJEET SINGH. Please refer the appended auction schedule for necessary details.

**KAITHAL (SANJAY SHARMA)** : On the occasion of Wildlife Sanctuary Day, observed every year on March 3, the Department of Geography at Indira Gandhi (P.G.) Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Kaithal, organized a grand model and poster exhibition today. On this occasion, students prepared attractive posters on the theme "Wildlife Campaign," spreading awareness about environmental conservation. During the exhibition, students also presented creative models on various topics, including Chandrayaan-3, the water cycle, volcanoes, geostationary satellites, carbon purification devices, Save Earth, illegal mining, and types of plants. Through these models, the students presented scientific and environmental concepts in a simple, engaging, and impactful manner. The results of the models were as follows: First Position: Khushi Gill (B.A. Third Year), Second Position: Manjeet (B.A. Second Year), Sneha (B.A. Second Year), Third Position: Roma (B.A. Third Year), Rubal (B.A. Third Year).



**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Agrawal Vaishya Samaj Haryana will be organizing 26th Matrimonial Aggarwal Introduction conference on March 15**

**HANS RAJ YADAV KURUKSHETRA:** In Kurukshetra, an important meeting of Agrawal Vaishya Samaj Haryana, Maharaja Agrasen Shiksha Samman Yojana (MASI), officials of Agrawal Yuva Sangathan and people of Agrawal Samaj was organized in Shri Jairam Vidyapeeth campus on Monday. This meeting was held to assign duties regarding the preparations for the 26th Matrimonial Aggarwal Introduction Conference to be held in Karnal. President of Agrawal Youth Organization from Karnal, Ramesh Jindal especially participated in this meeting along with his colleagues. This meeting was held under the chairmanship of Rajesh Singla, State General Secretary of Agrawal Vaishya Samaj Haryana. State General Secretary Rajesh Singla said that preparations were going on for the 26th Matrimonial Aggarwal Introduction Conference to be held in Karnal and in this regard, duties were being assigned across the state. Mr. Singla told that people of Agrawal Vaishya Samaj Haryana, Maharaja Agrasen Shiksha Samman Yojana (MASI) and Agrawal Samaj are cooperating in the introduction conference. In Karnal, arrangements are being made by Agrawal Youth Organization President Ramesh Jindal and General Secretary Bhusan Goyal.

# Farmer Anil Dutt breaking new ground with organic farming

**JAIBEER RANA THAMBER BARARA, MARCH 2**

A farmer in the subdivision is providing healthy food to the people by growing organic crops. Anil Dutt, who lives in Ambala Cantonment, cultivates several acres of land in Sherpur Sulakhani village, located on the Dosarka-Sadhaura Road in the Barara subdivision. Anil Dutt explained that this is his ancestral land. In today's era, where farming is being done with heavy pesticides and fertilisers, he decided to practice organic farming and has been growing crops in this manner for many years. He said that he reaps the benefits of using indigenous fertilisers and traditional methods. Anil Dutt explained that he has been farming on approximately 26 acres here for nearly 20 years. During this time, he has experimented with various agricultural practices, including growing vegetables, sugarcane, medicinal crops, and other crops, in addition to grains. Currently, people are becoming ill from eating grains, so he decided to practice organic farming.

He has sown wheat on approximately 16 acres using organic methods. He doesn't use pesticides or other fertilizers for this crop, but instead focuses on the timing of sowing. Because sowing at the right time yields good yields. The best time for sowing wheat is between the last week of October and the first week of November. Instead of using fertilizers and pesticides, he uses traditional methods. For example, he sprays lime on the crops and uses indigenous manure, cow dung manure, and earthworm compost. This yields approximately 30 quintals of wheat per acre. For this reason, the director of the Wheat Seed



Institute in Karnal has also visited the site to observe the crop and honored him. Anil Dutt explained that the government is providing better facilities to farmers, but farmers who grow crops using fertilizers and pesticides and those who grow crops without them are paid the same price. However, farmers who practice organic farming must be given a better price. This will inspire others to adopt organic farming. The more you keep nature clean, the better. He said that farmers face shortages of one thing or another during every crop season. Therefore, the government should understand the farmers' problems. Sometimes there is a shortage of medicines, sometimes there is a shortage of fertilizers, and sometimes there is a shortage. The government should formulate a policy that every town should have an ADO who provides farmers with the necessary medicines. Those who are doing good work should be encouraged, and other farmers should be shown their farming. Farmers should be made aware by going village to village.

# Spirit of selfless service essential for bringing positive change in society: Yogendra Rana

**CHAMAN LAL KARNAL, MARCH 2**

On the occasion of the foundation day of Manava Janshakti Foundation, a leading organisation in the field of social service, eminent personalities who have selflessly served the society were honoured with the Selfless Service Award. The felicitation ceremony was organized at Manava Seva Sangh, Karnal, and was attended by many social, educational, and administrative figures from the city. Chief guests at the event included Assandh MLA Yogendra Rana, Director of Human Resource Development Institute, Nilokheri, Dr. Virendra Singh Chauhan, Haryana Staff Selection Commission member Kapil Atreja, Manava Seva Sangh chief Shiv Charan Sharma, and Swami Prem Murti. The programme began with the lighting of a lamp and cutting a cake in the name of the organization. Present on the occasion were Rajneesh Chopra, Anu Madan, Dinesh Bakshi, Snakeman Satish Phaphanda, Apna Aashiyana director Rajkumar Arora, Municipal Corporation sub-inspector Mandeep Kumar, Gurdev Singh, and Prof. Bir Singh, Rajesh Jindal, Nahar Singh Katiyar, Harvinder Singh Malli, Bhupendra Malik, Anshul Grover, and Charanjeet Bali were honored for their outstanding contributions to social service.



Members of the organisation who have been working selflessly for the welfare of the society were also honoured. Among those present were National Vice President Saru Dimri, Gulab Poswal, Subhash Sharma, Ramesh Sharma, Rohitash Kashyap, Kanta Sachdeva, Krishna Sirohi, Sujita Mann, Anjali Garg, Ajay Punia, Advocate Meenakshi Sharma, Kuldeep Chauhan, Narendra Nagi, Sumit Kataria, Anju Sharma, Rajiv Sharma, Devi Dayal Kashyap, Gaurav Punia, Sapna Sharma, Seema Paswan, Ranjit Kaur, Shashi Bhaskar, Tamanna Bahl, Ritu Goyal, Babita Mehla, Vinod Sharma, Sangeeta Sharma, Agamya, and Sanjay Kashyap, along with a large number of office bearers. Assandh MLA Yogendra Rana, who arrived as the chief guest, said in his address that the spirit of selfless service is essential for bringing positive change in society. He praised the organisation's efforts, saying that such events serve as a source of inspiration for society.

# Holi Ke Rang Apno Ke Sang program became a memorable celebration

**HANS RAJ YADAV KURUKSHETRA, MAR 2**

Kala Srishti Manch organized a grand and joyous program titled "Holi Ke Rang Apno Ke Sang" on auspicious occasion of Holi at a private hotel on Railway Road. Members of prominent families and women from city participated enthusiastically, adding a vibrant cultural touch to atmosphere. Program began with traditional Phag songs and colorful performances. Senior members and women conveyed message of mutual love, harmony and brotherhood through traditional Holi songs, dances and group performances. Each performance on stage moved audience and an atmosphere of joy and warmth pervaded the entire auditorium. International artist Brij Kishore Sharma, president of the organization, said in his address that Holi is not just a festival of colors, but an opportunity to infuse relationships with colors of affection. Events like "Holi Ke Rang Apno Ke Sang" serve as a means of strengthening affinity, unity, and cultural traditions in society. Organization's patrons, Jai Bhagwan Singla, Neeraj Aashri, Surendra Sikri, Rashmi Sikri, Surekha Madam, Satya Bhushan, Deepak Kaushik, Anil Wadhawan, Sahdev Sharma, Vibha Agarwal, Dr. Suchismita Sharma, Daman Sharma, Nupur Sharma, Rajesh Singla,



Sunil Dutt Sharma, Dr. Karan Sharma, Kamla Arora, Rama Sharma, Manju Singla, Sanjeev Rinku Chhabra, Bhavana Sharma, Sushil Kumar, Dr. Shalini Sharma, Jayshree Soni, Dr. Bindiya, Sakshi Gautam, Raman Kanta Sharma, Anil Kapoor, Kamal Arora, Namita Kaushik, Aashi Khetrapal, Sudesh Madan, Goldie Madam, and others enthralled everyone present with their Holi songs and dances, making the event a grand affair. Everyone greeted each other with abir-gulal and wished each other a happy Holi.

# Budget that writes a new chapter of development: Subhash Kalsana

**GOLDY CHUGH SHAHABAD, MARCH 2**

Shahabad BJP leader Subhash Kalsana described the budget presented by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini in the Haryana Assembly as development-oriented, people-friendly, and one that will give a new direction to the state. Speaking to the media in Shahabad, Subhash Kalsana said that the budget presented by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini will meet the expectations of every section of the society. He said that this budget has been prepared keeping in mind the interests of the state's farmers, youth, women, employees, businessmen, and poor families. He said that the budget presented by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini is a strong roadmap to take Haryana to new heights of development. It has made concrete provisions for villages, the poor, farmers, youth, and women.



Subhash Kalsana said that this budget includes special schemes to strengthen the agricultural sector, create new employment opportunities for youth, and empower women. The increased allocation for education, health, and infrastructure will prove to be a milestone in the overall development of the state. He stated that this budget further Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to "Sab-

ka Saath Sabka Vikas." He expressed confidence that this budget will accelerate development work in the Shahabad Assembly constituency, along with the entire state. Projects related to roads, irrigation, education, and health will gain new momentum, directly benefiting the public. Advocate Mandeep Rawa and Akashdeep Mehla, along with several other dignitaries, were present on the occasion.

# Newly formed Hansi will become modern model district: CM

**DINKAR GAWRI**

**HANSI:** Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said that the government will develop the newly formed Hansi district as a modern model district. He was presenting the budget in the Assembly on Monday as Finance Minister. In his address, he reiterated the government's commitment to the overall development of Hansi district. Saini assured the Assembly that the state government will leave no stone unturned in the development of the newly formed Hansi district and that it will be included among the leading and model districts of Haryana. MLA Vinod Bhayana expressed his heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on behalf of the district residents for his announcement to make Hansi a modern model district. He said that this visionary and public-friendly decision of the Chief Minister will prove to be a milestone in the overall development of Hansi district. The MLA expressed confidence that rapid development work will take place in the areas of education, health, roads, drinking water, electricity, irrigation, and employment, providing better facilities to the citizens of the area, and that Hansi will soon establish itself as one of the leading and ideal districts of Haryana. Haryana Budget Survey: Friendly and Progressive: MLA Vinod Bhayana praised the state budget presented in the Haryana Assembly today, calling it a public-friendly and development-oriented budget. He said that the budget has given special attention to every section of society, including youth and women, which will strengthen the state's economy. MLA Vinod Bhayana said that this budget will further accelerate development in the areas of education, health, roads, agriculture, irrigation, employment, and infrastructure. He expressed confidence that through the government's visionary policies and this balanced budget, Haryana will reach new heights of development and the common people will directly benefit from it.



# Stay Committed to Duty and Strive for Excellence: VC KUK

**DALBIR MALIK KURUKSHETRA, MAR 2**

Kurukshetra University reaffirmed its strong sporting legacy with the inauguration of the All India Inter-University Men's Boxing Championship, being held from March 2 to 7 on campus.

Inaugurating the championship, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Som Nath Sachdeva emphasized that Kurukshetra University stands among the nation's most historic and distinguished educational institutions, with an equally rich sporting tradition. Highlighting recent achievements, he noted that the university secured third position in the MAKA Trophy rankings over the past two years and achieved 13th position in the Khelo India competition last year, underscoring its consistent performance at the national level.

Prof. Sachdeva proudly shared that the university has produced 16 Arjuna Awardees, five Dronacharya Awardees, and nine Padma Shri honorees — a testament to its robust sports culture and high-quality training ecosystem. He also underlined the institution's modern and comprehensive sports infrastructure, which includes an international-standard swimming pool, an all-weather swimming facility, a state-of-the-art shooting range, a synthetic hockey



ground, and extensive indoor and outdoor sports amenities. Reinforcing the university's commitment to excellence, he informed that the Haryana Government has sanctioned 1 crore for the establishment of a Centre of Excellence at Kurukshetra University, aimed at providing advanced training facilities and support to athletes. Prof. Sachdeva encouraged the participants to focus on delivering their best performance without worrying about results. He urged athletes to uphold discipline, dedication, and sportsmanship, adding that perseverance and team spirit are key to achieving excellence. He assured that the organizing committee has made comprehensive arrangements for accommodation and meals to ensure a smooth and successful championship.

A significant Congress party meeting was held at a private palace in Indri, attended by a large number of party workers and members of the public. A detailed strategy was formulated to strengthen the organization and prepare for the upcoming elections. Former MLA Rakesh Kamboj was the chief guest. He was accompanied by Congress District President and senior leader Prof. Rajesh Vaidya, former constituency president Karam Singh Khanpur, former Zilla Parishad Chairman Sanjay Mehla, Krishna Bastara, Rampal Kamalpur and several other senior leaders and workers. Former MLA Rakesh Kamboj stated that to strengthen party, all party workers must work together with dedication, hard work, and commitment. He announced

public will be present on this occasion and strategies and guidelines for upcoming elections will be issued. He stated that to ensure success of this program, public meetings will be held in every village of Indri constituency from March 3 to 12. All workers have been assigned responsibilities. District President Prof. Rajesh Vaidya stated that party has intensified election preparations and workers have been assigned duties to make March 15

# Cong party meeting to be held in Garhi Birbal on March 15, Deepender Hooda to address

**MAINPAL KASHYAP INDRI, MAR 2**

that MP Deepender Singh Hooda will address a massive public meeting in Garhi Birbal village on March 15th. A large number of workers and members of public will be present on this occasion and strategies and guidelines for upcoming elections will be issued. He stated that to ensure success of this program, public meetings will be held in every village of Indri constituency from March 3 to 12. All workers have been assigned responsibilities. District President Prof. Rajesh Vaidya stated that party has intensified election preparations and workers have been assigned duties to make March 15

an historic one. He accused BJP government of betraying public mandate and stated that public is now ready for change. At end of meeting, workers resolved to strengthen organization down to booth level and ensure March 15 public meeting is a success.



event a historic one. He accused BJP government of betraying public mandate and stated that public is now ready for change. At end of meeting, workers resolved to strengthen organization down to booth level and ensure March 15 public meeting is a success.

# Holi celebrated with splash of colours at Shiva Temple

**MAINPAL KASHYAP**

**INDRI:** The festival of Holi was celebrated with great joy and enthusiasm at the local Shiva Temple by the Managing Committee of the Mandir Sudhar Sabha. Prominent figures from the city graced the event with their participation. Social worker Tarun Bansal of Om Prakash Saraf & Sons was the chief guest. He was accompanied by social worker Ashok Kamboj, Municipal Chairman Rakesh Pal, Vedpal Sharma, and Deenbandhu, among others. The event was presided over by Pawan Singla, President of the Mandir Sudhar Sabha. Guests were welcomed with garlands. In his address, President Pawan Singla said that the festival of Holi symbolizes love, brotherhood, and mutual harmony. He informed that the Mandir Sudhar Sabha celebrates Holi with similar pomp and show every year, with people from all walks of life participating enthusiastically. A large number of devotees and city residents, including Maya Ram Saini, Ramesh Singla, Subhash Jindal, Praveen Jindal, Santal Khurana, Kaushalya Saini, Poonam, Saubha, Deepa, Ricky Singla, and others, were present at the event.



# Vibrant Petals, Punjabi Beats: A Unique Holi celebration organized by Punjabi Welfare Sabha

**RANVIR PRASHAR KAITHAL, MAR 2**

On the auspicious occasion of Holi, the Punjabi Welfare Sabha (Regd.), Kaithal, organized a grand event, "Phoolon Ki Holi Kanha Ji Ke Sang," at the Satkar Palace in Kaithal. This event, filled with colors and devotion, filled the gathering with spiritual joy. Prominent citizens, social workers and a large number of devotees participated, making the event memorable. The program was inaugurated by chief guests Dr. Atul Chanana and Dr. Shalu Chanana (Director, Chanana Hospital, Cheeka) with the lighting of the lamp. The Sabha's President, Sushma Kapoor, General Secretary Sanjay Setia, Treasurer Gyan Prakash Kumar, Chief Patron Indrajit Sardana, and Patron Rajkumar Mukhija were also present on stage. Guests were welcomed with bouquets. The Sankirtan Mandal of Shri Krishna Kripa Seva Samiti, Kaithal, presented



captivating bhajans and sankirtans on the occasion. Devotees swayed to the melodious tunes of bhajans, and the entire pandal echoed with chants of "Radhe-Radhe" and "Krishna Kanhaiya Lal Ki Jai." The tableau of Lord Krishna was decorated with beautiful flowers, captivating everyone. Devotees showered roses, marigolds, and other fragrant flowers, wishing each other a Happy Holi. Mr. Kailash Bhagat, Chairman of the Punjabi Association, said, "Holi is not only a festival of colors, but also a festival of connecting hearts. Today, the Holi of Flowers brought everyone together as a family." Chief guest Dr. Atul Chanana, in his address, said that the festival of Holi conveyed the message of mutual love, brotherhood and harmony. He added that the tradition of celebrating Holi with flowers is not only environmentally friendly but also strengthens our cultural values. Dr. Shalu Chanana also praised the Sabha's initiative, saying that such events infuse positive energy into society and unite people. Sabha President Sushma Kapoor stated that the Punjabi Welfare Sabha has been organizing social, religious and cultural events for several years.

strengthens our cultural values. Dr. Shalu Chanana also praised the Sabha's initiative, saying that such events infuse positive energy into society and unite people. Sabha President Sushma Kapoor stated that the Punjabi Welfare Sabha has been organizing social, religious and cultural events for several years.

# BJP holds a program to review the Haryana government's budget

**SANJAY SHARMA KAITHAL- MAR 2**

The Haryana government's budget was reviewed collectively during a program held at the BJP district office on Monday. On this occasion, BJP Kaithal District President Jyoti Saini expressed her gratitude to Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, saying that this budget is dedicated to the state's overall development, farmer welfare, youth empowerment and women's upliftment. District President Jyoti Saini stated in her statement that this budget, presented under the leadership of the Chief Minister, lays a strong foundation for a "developed Haryana." The budget focuses on protecting the interests of farmers, creating new em-



ployment opportunities for youth, providing special provisions for the respect and safety of women, and developing infrastructure. He said that the state government has taken historic steps to expand education, health, rural development and infrastructure, which will benefit every section of society. This budget meets the expectations of the public and will take Haryana to new heights.

All the officials present in the program praised the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and described the budget as public welfare and development oriented. In the end, District President Jyoti Saini said that the BJP government was taking the state towards continuous progress with the resolve of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas. BJP Kaithal District President Jyoti Saini, State

Executive Member Subhash Hajwana, District General Secretary BJP Suresh Sandhu and Munish Sharma, OBC Morcha State General Secretary Devendra Panchal, District Vice President BJP Kulwinder Rana, Jangir Sisla, District Secretary BJP Harsh Sethi, Ajay Pratap Rana, Raghubir Fauji and District Office Head Harichand Jangra, Office Co-Head Sonu Khanpur and Satpal Bhardwaj, District IT Co-Head Gurnam, OBC Morcha Kaithal District President Praveen Prajapati, Yashpal Prajapati, Krishna Bansal, Ashok Saini, Naresh Sajuma, District Executive Member, Mandal President and Market Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman and other workers and respected citizens were present in the program.

[CLICK HERE](#)

**E-PAPER**

[www.yugmarg.com](http://www.yugmarg.com)

REGD NO. CHD/0061/2006-08 | RNI NO.

# YUGMARG

■ PUNJAB ■ HARYANA ■ HIMACHAL ■ CHANDIGARH ■ DELHI ■ J&K

Leading English Newspaper Of North India

**FOLLOW US ON OUR**



like us in facebook  
[@yugmarg.news](#)

[CLICK HERE](#)



[CLICK HERE](#)

follow us in Instagram  
[@yugmarg](#)



Subscribe us in youtube  
[@yugmargtv](#)

[CLICK HERE](#)



[CLICK HERE](#)

follow us in Linked  
[@yugmarg](#)



follow us in twitter  
[@yugmarg](#)

[CLICK HERE](#)



[CLICK HERE](#)

follow us in telegram  
[@yugmarg](#)

**FOR ADVERTISEMENT AT  
NEWSPAPER & WEB CHANNEL  
CONTACT: 0172-5002721, 97801-84869**