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NEWS BRIEFS

"I am also daughter of Bengal...": President Murmu questions Mamata's absence at Santal Conference in Darjeeling

DARJEELING : President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday voiced disappointment over the arrangements made for the 9th International Santal Conference, questioning the choice of venue and expressing sadness that many members of the Santal community were unable to attend the event. She also remarked on the absence of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. Speaking after attending the conference here, President Murmu said the event could have been held at a larger venue that would have allowed greater participation from the Santal community. "Today was the International Santal Conference. When I came here after attending it, I realised it would have been better if it had been held here, because the area is so vast. I don't know what went through the administration's mind. They said the place was congested, but I think five lakh people could gather here easily," the President said. President Murmu also expressed concern that many Santal community members could not attend because the conference location was far away. "I am very sad that the people here were unable to reach the conference because it was held so far away. I don't know what went through the administration's mind that they chose a place where the Santal people couldn't go," she said. The President further suggested that the decision may have limited attendance at the event. "Perhaps the administration had hoped that no one would be able to attend, and the President would simply turn around and leave," she added.

Girls must become active partners in socio-economic development to make Punjab front runner state in country: CM Bhagwant Mann

SARABJIT SUFI/ANKUSH LUDHIANA, MARCH 7

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Saturday gave a strong call to girls to step forward as equal partners in shaping Punjab's future, asserting that the state cannot become a front runner in the country without the full participation of women in governance, economy and politics. On the occasion of a state-level International Women's Day function at Punjab Agricultural University in Ludhiana, the Chief Minister highlighted how the Punjab Government is actively dismantling barriers that kept women away from key sectors. He pointed out to merit-based recruitment where a majority of the over 63,000 government jobs have gone to girls, the opening of Fire Fighting services to women after removing unrealistic conditions, and the growing presence of women officers in top administrative positions.

CM Bhagwant Singh Mann also urged young women to enter politics and become active participants in decision-making, stressing that a stronger democracy and a more progressive Punjab will only be possible when women play a central role in shaping public policy and leadership.

Addressing the gathering, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann stated, "It is a matter of immense pride and satisfaction that girls are excelling in all the fields today. As the head of the state I feel extremely happy to see that girls are scaling new heights in various fields. I extend my good wishes to them for a bright and prosperous future and hope that they will carve a niche for themselves in the



coming days. Girls today are fortunate as they are getting a conducive environment to excel."

The Chief Minister said that the Punjab Government has made concerted efforts to empower women across the state by giving them opportunities in governance and administration. Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "Our government has appointed several women officers as Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendents of Police. A number of women officers have also been appointed as ADCs. No other government had ever bothered to appoint them to these coveted posts earlier."

He said that women officers are performing their responsibilities with dedication and competence while serving society in these high positions. CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "These officers are deftly and meticulously serving society while holding these posts due to

which the society is immensely benefited. Districts headed by women Deputy Commissioners have the lowest female foeticide rate, which is extremely heartening. Likewise, these officers are playing a major role in curbing other social evils prevalent in society."

Highlighting the Punjab Government's transparent recruitment drive, the Chief Minister said that the state has provided more than 63,000 government jobs to youth. He said, "It is a matter of pride that the majority of these jobs have gone to girls. For the first time in the history of the state, a government has given such a record number of jobs purely on the basis of merit, without any corruption or nepotism. I am confident that these girls will play an active role in the socio-economic development of the state while serving in their respective departments."

West Asia conflict: Iran's President apologises for strikes on neighbours, rejects Trump's demands

AGENCY NEW DELHI, MAR 7

Iran's President apologised on Saturday for attacks on regional countries even as its missiles and drones flew toward Gulf Arab states. He also rejected US President Donald Trump's repeated demands for surrender.

President Masoud Pezeshkian, one member of a tripartite leadership council overseeing Iran since a February 28 airstrike started the war and killed Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, delivered the defiant message exactly one week into a conflict that has spread across the region, rattled global markets and air travel and left Iran's own leadership greatly weakened by

hundreds of Israeli and American airstrikes.

The message, seemingly filmed in a hurry without professional broadcast equipment, again underlined the limited powers being exercised by theocracy's leaders over its paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, which controls the ballistic missiles targeting Israel and others. It answered only to Khamenei and now appears to be picking its own targets as the conflict widens.

Shortly after Pezeshkian's message, Trump warned in a social media post on Saturday that more Iranian officials would become targets in the war, writing: "Today Iran will be hit very hard!" In his

comments on his Truth Social website, Trump noted the apology by Pezeshkian.

"Under serious consideration for complete destruction and certain death, because of Iran's bad behaviour, are areas and groups of people that were not considered for targeting until this moment in time," Trump wrote, without elaborating.

While the Iranian President attempted to assuage growing Gulf Arab anger over the attacks, just hours earlier, a wave of missiles and drones had disrupted flights at Dubai International Airport, targeted a major Saudi oil facility and sent people fleeing for cover multiple times in Bahrain.

International Women's Day State-Level function to be held in Sirsa

CM to attend function as Chief Guest

CHANDIGARH: On the occasion of International Women's Day and to mark the completion of 11 glorious years of the "Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao" programme, a state-level function will be organised on March 8 at Chaudhary Devi Lal University, Sirsa. Sharing information in this regard an official spokesperson said that Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini



will attend the function as the Chief Guest. The function will highlight women's empowerment, their rights, and their significant contributions to society. The spokesperson said that International Women's Day symbolises respect, equality and empowerment of women. During the function, women who have done outstanding work in various fields such as education, health, social service, sports and other sectors will be honoured. Along with this, various schemes and achievements related to women empowerment will also be shared so that women can be made aware of their rights and opportunities.

Empowered Women Nation's Pride



Heartiest Greetings on International Women's Day

Theme: Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls



"Greetings on International Women's Day! We salute the strength, courage, and resilience of our Nari Shakti and laud their accomplishments across various fields. Our government is committed to empowering women through initiatives in education, entrepreneurship, agriculture, technology and more."

-Narendra Modi

State Level Programme

Chief Guest

Sh. Nayab Singh Saini

Chief Minister, Haryana

March 8, 2026 | 1 PM | Chaudhary Devi Lal University, Sirsa

Scan the QR code to join the programme



On this occasion, Women Blood Donation Camps will be organised by Health Department, Haryana at all the district headquarters

NEWS BRIEF

Youth killed in car-truck collision near Sarna



SHARANJEET PATHANKOT: A youth lost his life in a tragic road accident late last night near Sarna on the Amritsar-Jammu National Highway, sending shockwaves across the area and raising concerns about road safety arrangements. The deceased has been identified as Nitesh Sharma (30), a resident of Bhoja village. He was the only son of his parents and the sole breadwinner of the family. His sudden demise has left the family devastated and plunged the entire village into mourning. According to information, Nitesh Sharma was returning home late at night after attending a relative's wedding function. When he reached near Sarna on the Amritsar-Jammu National Highway, his black Scorpio vehicle (PB-35AQ-3335) reportedly collided with a truck.

Arora lays foundation stones for development works in SAC

SUMER GARG SUNAM, MAR 7

With the objective of ensuring overall rural development and strengthening basic infrastructure, the Punjab Government is undertaking large-scale development projects in various villages of the Sunam assembly constituency (SAC). In this regard, Cabinet Minister, Aman Arora laid foundation stones for development projects worth about Rs 18.20 Cr, including the widening of roads, construction of new roads, and other important development works.

The main objective of these development works is to improve transportation facilities in villages, provide better amenities to residents, and connect rural areas with modern infrastructure. Under



these development works, in village Sangheri, the village Phiri will be widened from 10 feet to 18 feet at a cost of about Rs 45 lakh. The Sangheri-Sunam-Bhawani garh road will also be widened from 10 feet to 18 feet at a cost of Rs 2.12 crore, while the Sangheri to Nagra road will be widened from 10 feet to 18 feet at a cost of Rs 1.89 Cr.

Similarly, in village Bijalpur, a project costing

around Rs 3 crore has been approved to widen the village phiri road as well as the road leading to Basiyark, from 10 feet to 18 feet, which will provide improved transportation facilities to the residents of the area.

Several important development works have also been initiated in the village of Nagra. These include the construction of a new road from Nagra, Khanpur road to Nagra, Gujran road at a cost of Rs 1.05 crore, construction

of a new road from the village phiri to the mosque and gashala at a cost of Rs 24 lakh, widening of the Nagra to Gharachon road from 10 feet to 18 feet at a cost of Rs 2.12 crore, and construction of a new road from Nagra to Nagri-BSBK road at a cost of Rs 91.25 lakh. In addition, Rs 50 lakh has been earmarked for the construction of a memorial gate dedicated to the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadar Sahib Ji, along with other development works worth Rs 3.60 crore and Rs 1.87 Cr have also been initiated. On this occasion, Mr. Arora said that under the leadership of Chief Minister, Bhagwant Singh Mann, the Punjab Government is working day and night for the development of the state.

SSP Shubham Aggarwal urges citizens to stay alert against cyber fraud

AJAY MALHOTRA FATEHGARH SAHIB, MAR 7

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Shubham Aggarwal has urged citizens, especially senior citizens, to remain vigilant against rising cases of cyber fraud and avoid sharing sensitive personal or banking information with unknown individuals.

Addressing members during the monthly meeting of the Senior Citizens Association, SSP Aggarwal highlighted the importance of cyber awareness and cautioned people not to share confidential details such as bank account numbers, passwords, ATM details, or OTPs with anyone over phone calls or online platforms. He also informed the gathering about the common tricks and methods used by cyber criminals to deceive unsuspecting individuals. SSP Aggarwal advised that in case of any



online fraud, victims should immediately report the incident on the national cybercrime helpline number 1930 without delay. Additionally, they should inform the police by dialing 112 and notify their respective banks through email so that timely action can be taken to prevent financial loss.

During the meeting, Association President Ramnath Sharma welcomed the SSP and appreciated the efficient arrangements made

by the police administration during the recent 'Shaheed Jor Mela'. Industrialist Davinder Verma also honoured SSP Aggarwal by presenting him with a bouquet. Senior journalist Surinder Bhardwaj praised the police administration for maintaining strong law and order in Fatehgarh Sahib.

On the occasion, Nakesh Jindal was specially honoured by the association for becoming a member of the All India Red Cross Society.

International Women's Day ASMITA sports event to be organised in S.A.S Nagar

TILAK RAJ MOHALL

International women's day being organised by MY Bharat SASNagar in association with the Khelo India, District Administration as part of the nationwide celebrations under the ASMITA initiative (Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women Through Action) of the Khelo India programme, aimed at promoting participation of women and girls in sports and physical fitness. The official highlighted that the event is part of a nationwide initiative by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, through MY Bharat and the Sports Authority of India, to celebrate International Women's Day through sports and community participation. The programme in SAS Nagar will feature athletics competitions including 100 metres, 200 metres and 400 metres races, along with fun activities designed to encourage large-scale participation of women and girls across different age groups.

Curtain raiser of 74th all India police athletics cluster-2025-26 being held at Punjab armed police headquarters, Jalandhar from March 7th to 12th



JALANDHAR (PARAMJIT SINGH): The 74th All India Police Athletics Cluster-2025-26 is being held State Armed Police, Headquarters, Jalandhar from 7th to 12th March 2026. The six-day sporting extravaganza will feature competitions in Athletics and Cycling, bringing together some of the finest sportspersons from Police forces across the country. Approximately 1200 athletes and officials representing 29 State Police organizations and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) are expected to participate in this mega sporting event. The championship aims to promote physical excellence, discipline, camaraderie, and esprit de corps among the Police forces of the nation. The Athletic events will be conducted on Synthetic track at Sports College, Jalandhar, which include Track and Field events across various categories showcasing speed, endurance, strength, and skill of the athletes. The Cycling events will be conducted on McDonald to Jamsher road (Nakodar Bypass), these events will test participants for endurance and road racing discipline and showcasing high levels of fitness and competitive spirit. The Cluster will be conducted under the aegis of the All India Police Sports Control Board, New Delhi with elaborate arrangements being made at PAP Headquarters to ensure best sporting facilities, comfortable accommodation, security, medical support.

AIIMS Bathinda enhances healthcare services with inauguration of PICU, ICTC, Digital X-Ray, Amrit Pharmacy and mobile cancer van



ANIL VERMA BATHINDA, MARCH 7

In a significant step towards expanding healthcare infrastructure and community outreach, All India Institute of Medical Sciences Bathinda inaugurated several important healthcare facilities under the leadership of the Hon'ble President Prof. (Dr.) Neerja Bhatla and Executive Director Prof. (Dr.) Ratan Gupta.

The dignitaries inaugurated the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), which will

provide specialised critical care services for children and significantly improve paediatric healthcare facilities at the institute. This was followed by the inauguration of the Integrated Counselling and Testing Centre (ICTC) aimed at providing confidential HIV counselling, testing and awareness services for patients and the community.

A Digital X-Ray facility was also inaugurated to enhance diagnostic services and ensure faster and more efficient imaging support for patient care.

Police intensifies anti-drug awareness campaign in Yamunanagar

RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR, MARCH 7

The district police are continuously spreading awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse as part of their anti-drug campaign. In this connection, the Nasha Mukti Abhiyan team reached Mandoli Kalanor village, where Additional SP Amrinder Singh interacted with residents, youth, students and villagers and urged them to take a pledge to make society drug-free.

He said that cooperation from all sections of society is essential to realise the vision of a drug-free Yamunanagar district. Providing information about the campaign, he said that 18 drug addicts from Mandoli village had been identified and sent to the ATF Civil Hospital, Yamunanagar, for treatment, where they will receive free medical care.



During the programme, he appealed to the people present to encourage their children towards education and sports activities so that they remain away from harmful habits like drug abuse. He also urged social organisations to play a leading role in the anti-drug campaign and work together with the police administration to make society completely drug-free and crime-free.

He said that the district police are taking strict action

against drug trafficking and tightening the noose around drug smugglers. Under the leadership of Additional SP Amrinder Singh, the anti-drug team is conducting door-to-door awareness drives and organising various programmes to educate people and youth about the dangers of drugs.

The district police once again appealed to citizens to come forward and support the campaign to build a drug-free society.

Global muslim leader urges unity among Muslim Nations, warns against reliance on western powers

VERMA GURDASPUR

During his weekly Friday Sermon, His Holiness Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, criticized Western interference in Muslim countries and urged Islamic nations to rely on God rather than global powers for their security and prosperity. Speaking from Mubarak Mosque in Tilford, UK, he said that the presence of Western military bases in Muslim countries has increased instability and exposed those nations to greater threats. He warned that ongoing conflicts in the Middle East could escalate further and that Arab nations would suffer the most. Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad called on Muslim governments to set aside personal and political interests and work towards unity within the Muslim Ummah. He stated that Western powers have historically fueled unrest in Muslim countries to gain influence over their resources. He also highlighted double standards in how civilian casualties in Muslim countries are perceived internationally.

20 years of wait ends: Khukhrana villagers get new land, model village to be developed

RAKESH BHAYANA PANIPAT, MARCH 7

After nearly two decades of struggle, the residents of Khukhrana village have finally received the long-awaited relief. The village, located near the Panipat Thermal Power Plant, has now been allotted land at a new location.

For years, villagers had been battling severe pollution and dust caused by thermal plant ash and nearby industrial activities. Their persistent efforts, along with the government's initiative, have finally yielded results. With land now provided by the government, the process of handing over plot registrations to the villagers has begun.

Haryana Development and Panchayats Minister Krishan Lal Panwar said that the issue dates back to



2004-05. Since then, villagers had been facing serious problems due to ash from the ash dyke of the thermal plant and dust from the nearby cement factory. Considering these challenges, a proposal was initiated at that time to relocate the village to a new site.

The minister said that the plan gained significant momentum during the tenure of former Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. Just a day before the model code of

conduct came into effect, around Rs 5 crore was approved for the development of the new settlement.

The funds were used to build basic infrastructure such as roads, electricity, a community center and a school. Most of these works have now been completed.

He further stated that today, 447 plot holders are being given their rightful plots, marking the beginning of the new settlement of the village.

SBI celebrates International Women's Day at LHO Chandigarh and donated 12 sewing machines



CHANDIGARH: State Bank of India, Local Head Office, Sector 17, Chandigarh celebrated International Women's Day on 07 March 2026 with a series of activities aimed at promoting wellness, empowerment and inclusivity among employees. The celebrations commenced in the morning with an energetic Zumba dance session, encouraging participants to embrace fitness and begin the day on a positive and enthusiastic note.

Later, a self-defence training session was conducted by Chandigarh Police under the "Swayam" training programme, equipping participants with practical techniques and awareness for personal safety and confidence. The event also featured fun-filled activities, creating a vibrant and interactive atmosphere. Aligning with this year's theme "Give to Gain" 12 sewing machines were donated to Paryog Foundation, Panchkula to support skill development and livelihood generation for women. A key highlight of the celebration was the live address by the Deputy Managing Director (HR) & Circle Development Officer, who shared inspiring thoughts on the importance of women's empowerment and acknowledged the invaluable contributions of women employees in strengthening the organisation.

"Sanjay Bhatia's entry to Rajya Sabha is matter of pride for Panipat: Minister"

PANIPAT (RAKESH BHAYANA): Party leaders have expressed happiness over the decision of the Sanjay Bhatia being sent to the Rajya Sabha. They said it is a matter of pride and good fortune for Panipat that such an experienced and dedicated leader has been sent to the Upper House, which will further strengthen the organization and the state.

They said that Sanjay Bhatia has been a dedicated worker and senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party for a long time. Throughout his political career, he has demonstrated his talent and experience on several occasions, setting an example for both party workers and leaders.

They further said that when he was a member of the Lok Sabha, he even vacated his seat to allow a senior leader to contest the election, showing his commitment and loyalty towards the organization. Similarly, when the issue of the Panipat seat arose, he himself stepped forward and suggested that Pramod Vij could handle the responsibility better, as he had a deeper understanding of the ongoing development works in the constituency. He thanked the party leadership and said that by sending a senior and experienced leader to the Rajya Sabha, the party has further strengthened its organizational power.

Deputy Commissioner to hear public grievances at Samadhan camp in Pehowa on March 9

PEHOWA (YAGYADATT SHASTRI): Sub-Divisional Magistrate Anil Doon said that a Samadhan camp will be organised at the SDM office on Monday from 10 am to 12 noon, where Deputy Commissioner Vishram Kumar Meena will personally listen to the grievances of citizens and resolve them on the spot.

The SDM said the Deputy Commissioner will visit the camp on March 9 to hear issues faced by residents of the Pehowa subdivision. Citizens are encouraged to attend the camp with their grievances related to different departments so that their problems can be addressed promptly.

He added that after the Samadhan camp, the Deputy Commissioner will inspect the SDM office and the tehsil office from 12 noon to 2 pm. He will also review the functioning of the sub-treasury office during the visit. Later in the afternoon, from 3 pm to 5 pm, the Deputy Commissioner will inspect the sub-tehsil office at Ismailabad. The SDM directed that all officers and employees must ensure their presence in the offices at the scheduled time, adding that any negligence in this regard will not be tolerated. He further said that all subdivision-level officers should remain present during the Samadhan camp, as grievances related to any department may be brought forward by the public. He added that the administration aims to resolve the issues of citizens of Pehowa subdivision on the spot during the camp. Officials have also been instructed to upload Action Taken Reports on the portal regarding complaints resolved in previous Samadhan camps so that their review can be carried out efficiently.

Obscene songs on Haryana's daughters will not be tolerated: Strict message from Mahipal Dhandra



PANIPAT (RAKESH BHAYANA): The Haryana government has taken a strict stance regarding a controversial song by Haryanvi singer and rapper Badshah. Responding to the issue, Haryana's Education Minister Mahipal Dhandra clearly stated that any insult to the dignity of Haryana's daughters will not be tolerated at any cost. If any song or video contains objectionable remarks about students or women, strict action will be taken against those responsible. Education Minister Mahipal Dhandra said that the government took immediate action as soon as the matter came to its notice. He informed that an FIR has already been registered regarding the song video in which scenes were allegedly filmed with objectionable words while portraying girls in school uniforms. He further stated that the video also shows the use of a Haryana Roadways bus, and an investigation is currently underway. Authorities are examining which depot the bus belongs to and which driver and conductor were on duty at the time.

Workshop on video editing tools learning organized at I.G. College, Kaithal



KAITHAL (SANJAY SHARMA): The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at Indira Gandhi (P.G.) Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Kaithal organized a workshop on the topic "Video Editing Tools Learning" to enhance the skills of students. The workshop aimed to familiarize students with modern technological tools used in video editing. During the workshop, students were introduced to the fundamental principles of video editing and were given practical training on various editing tools. The session covered important aspects such as video trimming, transitions, audio editing, and developing creativity through digital storytelling. The students were also provided hands-on training on different editing applications so that they can develop their skills in accordance with the requirements of the media industry. President of the Governing Body Shri. Ram Bahadur Khurania, described such workshops as the need of the hour. He emphasized that in the era of digital media, possessing technical skills is extremely important and encouraged students to actively participate in such programs.

Women proving their strength through hard work, say speakers



KURUKSHETRA (DALBIR MALIK): A discussion on the status and role of women in society was organised in view of International Women's Day, where members of the intellectual community highlighted the growing contribution of women in various fields and emphasised the need to continue strengthening their position in society.

Referring to the Sanskrit verse "Yatra naryastu puujante ramante tatra devatah," which means that where women are respected, the gods reside, speakers underlined the importance of honouring women and recognising their role in building a strong society. Educationist Paramjit Singh Gumthala said women today are showcasing their talent and abilities in every field. He noted that their participation is steadily increasing in areas such as education, politics, media, arts, science and technology. Sarchanp of Kaithala Khurd, Master Baldev Singh Saini, said women are now achieving higher education at par with men and in many sectors are even moving ahead. He added that women are also making their presence felt in politics and holding important positions.

NEWS BRIEFS

Grand Aggarwal matrimonial meet to be held in Karnal on March 15

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL: A grand Aggarwal matrimonial meet will be organised on March 15 at Aggarsain Bhawan, Sector 8, Karnal. The event is being organised by Aggarwal Yuva Sangathan, Karnal to provide a platform for marriageable boys and girls to find suitable life partners. The information was shared by Dr Rajkumar Goyal, president of Akhil Bharatiya Aggarwal Samaj Haryana and a prominent social worker, while addressing a meeting of community office-bearers. Among those present on the occasion were Aggarwal Yuva Sangathan Karnal president Ramesh Jindal, Savar Garg, Ramdhan Jain, Pawan Bansal, Sonu Jain, Manish Garg, Rajat Singla, Gopal Jindal and Sushil Singla. Dr Goyal said that matrimonial meets are not only a medium for arranging marriages but also serve as a strong platform for strengthening unity, brotherhood and co-operation within the community. Such events provide families an opportunity to meet each other, exchange views and select suitable life partners.



Four women killed, 17 injured in paint factory fire in Jind

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
JIND, MAR 7

A horrific accident occurred on Saturday afternoon in Safidon, Jind district, Haryana. A massive fire broke out at a paint factory in Geeta Colony. Four women were burned to death in this tragic accident, while 17 others (five men and 12 women) were injured. The injured were admitted to Safidon General Hospital for treatment. The seriously injured were referred to Rohtak PGI.

As soon as the information was received, teams from the local police, administration, and fire department arrived at the scene. Fire engines struggled for a long time to control the fire in the factory. The local police swiftly carried out rescue operations. Meanwhile, residents of the surrounding area also joined in the rescue efforts. The scene at the scene after the accident was horrific. There was chaos and screaming everywhere. Police and administration officials visited the injured at the hospital.

The four women who were burned to death in the factory fire have been identified as Guddi (52), Pooja (30), Pinky (45), and Usha (45). They were



all factory workers at the time of the accident. The fire, which suddenly broke out, severely engulfed the four women. It is reported that around 22 workers were present in the factory when the fire broke out, 18 of whom were women. After the fire broke out, many workers managed to escape and rescue them. Rescue operations were carried out to free those trapped. **The main gate was locked! Rescued by breaking down the wall.**

The most surprising thing about this incident is that the main gate of the factory was locked when the fire broke out. This meant that work was underway inside, and the lock was hanging from the outside. This prevented the workers inside from quickly escaping. It is reported that people nearby quickly broke down the factory wall, rescuing several people and saving their lives. It is being reported that this chemical-based paint factory was operating illegally. While work was going on inside, the gate was locked from the outside.

How did the fire start? An investigation is underway

How did such a massive fire suddenly break out in the paint factory? Police arrived at the scene and are investigating. Initially, it is believed that the presence of chemical paint in the factory contributed to the fire's rapid spread and ferocity. Police say that the bodies of the four deceased women have been taken into custody, and post-mortems are underway. The police investigation into the accident is ongoing.

Congress Sadbhavana Yatra to reach Nilokheri on March 10, grand welcome planned: Lalit Butana

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, MARCH 7

Lalit Butana, member of the Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee and national coordinator of the party's Kisan Cell, said the Congress party's Sadbhavana Yatra will reach the Nilokheri constituency on March 10. He added that the yatra will stay in the constituency for two days, creating considerable enthusiasm among Congress workers and leaders in the area.

Butana said the yatra will be accorded a grand welcome on its arrival in Nilokheri. Preparations for the event are underway, and he, along with Congress leaders Inderjit Singh Goraya and Rajendra Balla, is visiting various villages in the region to invite party workers and residents to participate in the programme.

He said the yatra, being led by former MP and former IAS officer Brijendra Singh, is travelling through several villages to spread the message of brotherhood, harmony and unity. During the visit, public meetings will be organised in around a dozen villages where Congress leaders will interact with local residents.

After completing its programme in Nilokheri, the yatra will proceed to the Indri constituency.



Butana said the Sadbhavana Yatra is receiving widespread support from all sections of society. He added that the Congress party has always focused on delivering the benefits of government schemes to the last person in society, rising above divisions of caste and class.

Appealing to the public, he urged people to participate in large numbers and help make the campaign for social harmony and brotherhood successful. He expressed confidence that the Sadbhavana Yatra would play an important role in strengthening unity and reducing social divisions in the region.

Aggarwal Sammelan mourns demise of social worker Veerbhan Mittal in Kurukshetra

HANS RAJ YADAV

KURUKSHETRA: A meeting of the Akhil Bharatiya Aggarwal Sammelan was held at the Aggarwal Dharamshala office near the railway station under the chairmanship of state vice-president and Shri Vaishya Aggarwal Panchayat president Vishal Singla. Members expressed grief over the demise of noted social worker Veerbhan Mittal and observed a two-minute silence for the peace of his soul. Addressing the gathering, Vishal Singla recalled the welfare works carried out by Veerbhan Mittal for society and said that elders always provide the right guidance to the community. He said the loss caused by the passing away of such respected members of society cannot be compensated. He added that carrying forward the initiatives and ideals shown by him for the welfare of society would be the true tribute to his memory. Members of the Akhil Bharatiya Aggarwal Sammelan paid floral tributes to the departed soul during the meeting.

Vishwa Hindu Takht chief Viresh Shandilya plays holi with Power Minister Anil Vij

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
AMBALA, MAR 7

Anti-Terrorist Front India and Vishwa Hindu Takht chief Viresh Shandilya celebrated the festival of colors, Holi, with great enthusiasm with Haryana's Power, Transport, and Labor Minister Anil Vij and his daughters. Viresh Shandilya played Holi with Anil Vij on this occasion, playing Holi with flowers, and Anil Vij also celebrated Holi with Viresh Shandilya by applying gula. Rajinder Vij, Great Khali, and Anti-Terrorist Front India's National General Secretary Navratna Garg also wished Anil Vij a happy Holi and presented him with a shawl, a turban, and a memento on behalf of the members of Vishwa Hindu Takht and Anti-Terrorist Front India. Viresh Shandilya wished Anil Vij a long life. Speaking to reporters at Vij's residence, Viresh Shandilya stated that his organization,



the Vishwa Hindu Takht, and all the members of the An-

ti-Terrorist Front India are always with Anil Vij's campaign. Viresh Shandilya stated that Vij doesn't just want to be colorful on Holi, but wants to see the 2.75 crore people of Haryana always colorful. Haryana's Anil Vij is a cabinet minister for the third consecutive term, at whose doorstep every complainant receives justice. Complainants arrive at his residence with tears in their eyes but leave smiling. Viresh Shandilya stated that former Home Minister Anil Vij inspired him to fight against terrorism in 1990. Vij has always supported Viresh Shandilya's organizations, the Anti-Terrorist Front India, and the Sanatan Dharma, strengthening them to protect the nation's unity and integrity.

Consumer awareness Bharat Yatra to reach Kurukshetra on March 14



DALBIR MALIK
KURUKSHETRA, MAR 7

The Consumers Confederation of India (CCI) is organising the "Consumer Awareness Bharat Yatra" across the country to spread awareness about consumer rights. The yatra will reach the holy city of Kurukshetra on March 14 at 11 am. On the occasion, a special consumer awareness programme will be organised at the International Jat Dharamshala in Kurukshetra.

The yatra is being led by CCI national president Dr Anant Sharma. On its arrival in Haryana, the yatra will be welcomed by CCI Haryana president Rajkumar Bhola and International Jat Dharamshala Kurukshetra president Krishan Shyokand along with other members of the executive body.

A preparatory meeting regarding the event was held at the International Jat Dharamshala, attended by CCI Haryana president Rajkumar

Bhola, Dharamshala president Krishan Shyokand, CCI state patron Mukesh Kumar Sharma and state IT head Rakesh Shyokand along with other office-bearers.

Rajkumar Bhola informed that officials from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) will also participate in the programme. Special sessions and discussions will be organised on topics related to consumer rights, product quality, consumer safety and grievance redressal.

Family should remain the highest priority even after achieving success: Dr Swati Rawal

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

KARNAL: Women across the country are reaching new heights, but only a few among them continue to keep their families as their foremost priority. One such example is Dr Swati Rawal, Medical Superintendent and MD of Rawal Hospital, whose journey from a rural background to leading a multispecialty hospital reflects determination and dedication.

Originally from Modana village in Roorkee, Uttarakhand, Dr Rawal belongs to a simple farmer's family. Her inspiration came from her father, whose paralysis became a turning point in her life and strengthened her resolve to become a doctor. She pursued her MBBS and MD from Sevagram in Maharashtra.

After completing her medical education, she served as a faculty member and mentor at Kalpana Chawla Medical College, where she gained popularity among students. Today, she leads a team of doctors and staff at a multispecialty hospital.

Speaking on the eve of International Women's Day, Dr Rawal said that no matter how successful a woman becomes, she cannot detach herself from her family. She emphasised that women should prioritise both themselves and their families in life. She said that her family has always been her top priority and that she makes sure to devote adequate time to her husband and children despite her busy schedule. Dr Rawal said her decision to pursue a medical career was driven by the desire to provide better healthcare services to common people. Coming from a Hindi-medium background, she initially faced challenges in adapting to the lifestyle and demands of the medical profession, but she never compromised on her values and upbringing.



Yamunanagar police step up anti-drug awareness campaign in Mandoli village

RAHUL KOHLI

YAMUNANAGAR: The district police is continuously raising awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse. As part of this initiative, the de-addiction campaign reached Mandoli village, Kalanaur. Yamunanagar Additional SP Aminder Singh, while raising awareness among the public, youth, students, and villagers, urged them to pledge to make the society drug-free. He stated that the cooperation of all sections of society is essential to realize the dream of a drug-free district in Yamunanagar. He informed that 18 drug addicts were identified from Mandoli village today and sent to the ATF Civil Hospital, Yamunanagar, where they will receive free treatment.



During the program, he appealed to the people present to encourage their children to pursue education and sports activities to avoid harmful habits like drug abuse. He also urged social organizations to play a leading role in the de-addiction campaign and cooperate with the police administration to make the society completely drug-free and crime-free. He stated that the district police is continuously taking strict action against drug abuse and cracking down on drug traffickers. Under the leadership of Additional SP Aminder Singh, the drug de-addiction team is continuously raising awareness among the public and youth against drug abuse through door-to-door campaigns and various programs. The district police has once again appealed to all citizens to come forward and contribute to the success of this campaign, creating awareness about drug abuse.

MLA Chandraprakash demands 27% OBC reservation in gazetted posts on Centre's lines

MAHENDER GOYAL
HISAR/MANDI ADAMPUR, MAR 7

MLA Chandraprakash raised several public interest issues related to OBCs, persons with disabilities, sanitation workers and farmers during the Budget Session of the Haryana Assembly. He also highlighted various development concerns of the Adampur constituency. Chandraprakash said the state government should provide adequate opportunities for the OBC community to progress. He stated that in Haryana, the reservation for BC-A and BC-B categories in Group A and B gazetted posts, currently fixed at 10 per cent and 5 per cent respectively, should be increased to 16 per cent and 11 per cent on the lines of the Central Government. He said this would ensure a total of 27 per cent reservation for OBCs, giving them fair opportunities in government services.

He pointed out that in 2014, during the Congress government led by then Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, the reservation in gazetted posts had been increased to 15 per cent. He said it now needs to be enhanced to 27 per cent



in line with the Centre's policy.

The MLA also raised the demand for establishing a government college in the southern part of Hisar city, stating that the population in the area has grown significantly. He said students from Azad Nagar, the Kaimeri Road area, Gangwa and nearby localities would benefit from the proposed college.

Chandraprakash further stated that an estimate of Rs 86 crore had been approved in 2025 for the construction and lining of irrigation channels in the Adampur constituency, but no effective steps had been taken so far. He said farmers were not

receiving adequate irrigation water and that lining the channels would provide major relief to them. Responding to the issue in the Assembly, the Irrigation and Water Resources Minister assured that work to line the channels would begin soon based on the approved estimates. Through the Speaker, Chandraprakash also urged the government to construct a covered shed and boundary wall at Balsamand grain market without delay. He also demanded the establishment of a 50-bed hospital in Balsamand and renovation or reconstruction of sports stadiums in Adampur, Balsamand, Kalirawan and Sadalpur to provide better sports facilities for youth. He said thousands of acres of crops in several villages of the Adampur constituency were damaged due to waterlogging during rains. Although farmers had submitted details of their losses on the government portal, compensation had not yet been provided. He demanded immediate compensation for affected farmers. Chandraprakash also highlighted the problem of rainwater drainage in villages including Siswal, Kohli, Nyoli Kalan, Nyoli Khurd, Chuli Bagdiyan, Dadouli, Sarangpur and Mahalsara.

Three-day divya Gita satsang to begin at Hindu High School in Ladwa

KARAMBIR LADWA
LADWA, MARCH 7

A three-day Divya Gita Satsang will be organised at Hindu High School in Ladwa from March 8 by the Shri Krishna Kripa Samiti. During the satsang, Gita scholar Swami Gyananand Maharaj will deliver spiritual discourses and explain the teachings of the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita to devotees.

The information was shared with mediapersons after a meeting of the committee office-bearers on Saturday.

Committee president Pradeep Sehgal said the satsang will be held daily from 3.30 pm to 6 pm. Swami Gyananand Maharaj will deliver sermons and provide spiritual guidance to the devotees.

A large number of devotees from Ladwa and nearby



areas are expected to attend the religious gathering. Through the satsang, people will be enlightened about the knowledge of the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita, life values and spiritual thinking, which will help spread positive thoughts and values in society.

Sehgal said that the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita is not only a religious text but also teaches the art of living a meaningful life. Its teachings inspire individuals to face life's challenges and fol-

low the right path. He appealed to people of the area to attend the satsang in large numbers and benefit from the spiritual discourse.

Special arrangements for seating, parking, drinking water and other facilities are being made at the venue to ensure that devotees do not face any inconvenience. Among those present on the occasion were Anil Gupta, Satprakash Sharma, Jogdhyan Ladwa, Anil Mata, Vijay Wadhawan and Sunny Kalra.

Income Tax Department to organise awareness programme at HAU on March 9

MAHENDER GOYAL

HISAR: The Income Tax Department will organise a special awareness programme on March 9 at 10:30 am at the College of Agricultural Engineering and Technology of Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (HAU), Hisar, to spread awareness about the provisions of the Income Tax Act, 2025. The programme is being organised by the Income Tax Officer (Exemption), Rohtak.

Vice-Chancellor of Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar, Dr B R Kamboj will attend the event as the chief guest, while Joint Commissioner of Income Tax, Hisar, Dr Poonam Singh will be present as the guest of honour. Chartered accountants Paramjit Singh and Vikas Garg will participate as speakers. Naveen Jain, Controller of the university, will attend the programme as a special guest.

The programme is being hosted by Amit Mittal, Income Tax Officer (Exemption), Rohtak. The objective of the event is to create awareness among religious and charitable institutions, societies, trusts and other non-profit organisations about the new provisions, compliance requirements and key changes introduced under the Income Tax Act, 2025.

Representatives of charitable institutions, societies and trusts, along with tax consultants and advocates, have been invited to attend the programme so that they can gain a detailed understanding of the provisions of the new Act and ensure proper compliance.

During the programme, subject experts will provide detailed information on important aspects of the Act and also address queries from participants. The Income Tax Department has requested the presidents of bar associations, advocates and other concerned individuals to participate in large numbers to make the programme successful.

International Women's Day celebrated at Early Step Pre School in Ladwa



KARAMBIR LADWA, MARCH 7

International Women's Day was celebrated with enthusiasm at Early Step Pre School in Ladwa on Saturday. A special programme was organised at the school to mark the occasion.

School principal Sonia Goyal informed that children were told in detail about the significance of International Women's Day. She said the

day is dedicated to honouring women, recognising their rights and acknowledging their important contributions to society.

She said women today are demonstrating their talent in every field and playing a vital role in the progress of the nation and society. She added that it is very important to teach children from an early age to respect women, as the development of society is possible only when women re-

ceive equal respect and opportunities.

Students presented colourful cultural performances during the programme. Through dances, songs and poems, children highlighted women empowerment and the importance of daughters. The performances by the young students were widely appreciated by those present. Other members of the school staff were also present on the occasion.

EDITORIAL

Lula's visit deepens India-Brazil ties

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's recent visit to India marked a key moment in the evolution of bilateral ties that went beyond optics. The substantive outcome of the trip, which saw a string of bilateral agreements signed, reflected a commitment by two of the largest democracies in the Global South to move beyond rhetorical solidarity and craft a structured, forward-looking partnership. The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on rare earths and critical minerals is a very significant development at a time when India is looking to reduce dependence on China. The India-Brazil joint statement, following a meeting between Lula da Silva and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, made it clear that the two countries were keen to work together across the full mineral value chain, including exploration, mining, processing, recycling, and refining. New Delhi is seeking new suppliers of rare earths to not only curb dependence on China but also to support capacity expansion amid a global race for raw materials. Brazil is the second-largest producer and exporter of iron ore and holds large reserves of minerals critical for making steel, demand for which is growing in India amid rapid infrastructure expansion. Bilateral cooperation is expected to focus on attracting investment in exploration, mining and steel sector infrastructure. Brazil is estimated to have 21 million tonnes of rare-earth oxide equivalent, 2.7 billion tonnes of bauxite, 270 million tonnes of manganese, and 0.4 million tonnes of lithium. The latest agreement with Brazil on critical minerals follows recent supply chain engagements with the United States, France and the European Union. The timing of the Brazilian President's visit is crucial, as it came in the midst of geopolitical uncertainties with developing countries navigating the aftershocks of aggressive tariff regimes imposed by the Trump administration. Both India and Brazil have faced tariff pressures, exposing the vulnerability of export-dependent sectors and the risks of overreliance on traditional Western markets. In this context, the decision to set an ambitious bilateral trade target of \$30 billion by 2030 is strategically significant. Bilateral trade, which crossed \$15 billion in 2025 with a notable growth rate, is now being framed as a pillar of economic resilience. By committing to reduce non-tariff barriers, expand the India-MERCOSUR Preferential Trade Agreement, and facilitate electronic certificates of origin, both sides are signalling seriousness about structural trade reform. A total of nine MoUs, covering digital infrastructure, micro, small and medium enterprises and the steel sector, were signed. Brazil, the largest trading partner in Latin America, is a major iron ore producer, with reserves of manganese, nickel and niobium. The agreement on rare earths and critical minerals could help Brazil attract Indian capital and buyers into Brazilian projects, which can make new mines and processing plants easier to finance. It suits Brazil's goal to move up the value chain rather than just explore raw ores.



Manmohan Singh

International Women's Day is celebrated every year on March 8 across the world as a tribute to women, recognizing their achievements and expressing respect, appreciation, and admiration for their invaluable contributions in economic, political, and social spheres. The land of Punjab has also given birth to countless daughters who have achieved remarkable milestones in fields such as education, sports, politics, science, literature, social service, the armed forces, and industry.

In the field of education, women of Punjab have illuminated the path of knowledge and transformed the future of many families. In recognition of their contributions, the Punjab Government honors teachers with special appreciation on Teachers' Day. In the political arena of Punjab, several women have made significant contributions. Mrs. Rajinder Kaur Bhattal served as the Chief Minister of Punjab. Mrs. Preneet Kaur has served as the Minister of State in the Government of India, while Mrs. Harsimrat Kaur Badal has served as a Union Minister. At present, Dr. Baljit Kaur is a Cabinet Minister in Punjab. In addition, women leaders such as Jeevan Jyot Kaur (Amritsar East), Ganieve Kaur (Majitha), Baljinder Kaur (Talwandi Sabo), Inderjit Kaur Mann (Nakodar), Sarbjit Kaur Manu (Jagraon), Rajinderpal Kaur Chhina (Ludhiana South), Dr. Amandeep Kaur Arora (Moga), Neena Mittal (Rajpura), Anmol Gagan Mann (Kharar), and Narinder Kaur Bharaj (Sangrur) are



representing the people as Members of the Punjab Legislative Assembly.

In the administrative sphere, Mrs. Aman Preet Dikshit from Ludhiana, a 2010-batch IRS officer, is currently serving as Additional Director in the Income Tax Department of the Government of India. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she played a significant role in ensuring the distribution of sanitary napkins to women across India. Due to her remarkable initiative, she is widely known as the "Pad-Woman of India" and has received recognition from several governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Dr. Inderjit Kaur has been the Patron-President of the All India Pingalwara Charitable Society (Regd.), Amritsar since 1992. Under her visionary leadership, Pingalwara has expanded its humanitarian services and is actively addressing issues such as AIDS and drug addiction while also providing free education to the poor and underprivileged.

Today, many women IAS officers are holding key administrative positions in the Punjab Government, including posts up to Additional Chief Secretary. In several districts of Punjab, women are serving as Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendents of Police, making invaluable contributions to governance and public service.

Among women IAS officers currently serving as Deputy Commissioners are Poonamdeep Kaur (Faridkot), Dr. Sonu Thind (Sri Fatehgarh Sahib), Deepthi Sharma (Ferozepur), Amanpreet Kaur Sandhu (Fazilka), Ashika Jain (Hoshiarpur), Dr. Navjot Kaur (Mansa), and Dr. Pallavi (Pathankot).

Dr. Harpreet Kaur is a dynamic media professional and entrepreneur who firmly believes that empowered women empower the world. Through her work in the media industry, she consistently amplifies meaningful voices and inspires positive change in society. On this Women's Day, she reaffirms her commitment to growth, resilience, and supporting other women in achieving success.

Women are also making remarkable contributions within the PSPCL playing a vital role in strengthening Punjab's economic and all-round development. Er. Harsharan Kaur Trehan is currently serving as Director (Commercial) in PSPCL and is tirelessly working for the welfare of electricity consumers across the state. Er. Harmohan Kaur is serving as Chief Engineer (ARR & T.R) in PSPCL. She is known as the first woman engineer from PSPCL to receive technical training abroad.

Er. Arpita Thakur is posted as Superintending Engineer (Headquarters) in the South Zone, at Patiala. According to Chief Engineer Er. R.K. Mittal (South Zone), Er. Arpita Thakur is a highly dedicated, hardworking, and honest officer with strong determination. She remains committed to addressing the legitimate concerns of electricity consumers promptly while ensuring reliable and uninterrupted power supply. She closely monitors operational parameters across the zone and carefully supervises the work of divisional and sub-divisional officers to ensure the financial and operational efficiency of PSPCL. Dedicated officers like Er. Arpita Thakur are rare to find.

CMA Monika is currently serving as

Chief Accounts Officer to Director (Finance) in PSPCL. Her professional work reflects transparency and integrity, and she continually strives to enhance the reputation and financial credibility of the organization.

Er. Rajinder Kaur Gill is presently serving as Additional Superintending Engineer at the Central Store, Ferozepur. She has always carried out her duties with exceptional dedication, never using her gender as an excuse. Even during late-night inspections of 66 KV lines and grids, she personally supervised technical fault rectifications to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply to consumers.

Dr. Ratinder Kaur from the School of Management Studies, Punjabi University Patiala, is a renowned academician and entrepreneurship mentor. She has played a significant role in empowering women by guiding them towards financial independence through wise investment decisions and entrepreneurship, helping many individuals become self-reliant and economically empowered.

Arjuna Awardee Manjit Kaur, currently serving as Superintendent of Police in Jalandhar Rural, brought immense pride to the nation through her sporting achievements. Between 2002 and 2010, she participated in 31 international sporting events, including the Olympic Games and Asian Games, winning 23 gold medals for India. She represented India in the 2004 Athens Olympics and the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Her Asian Games record of completing the 400-meter race in 51.05 seconds remains unbeaten to this day. Mrs. Madhuri Saxena, Senior Sports

Officer in PSPCL, also brought glory to India by winning a gold medal at the Asian Games. Her daughter is also an accomplished sportsperson who has earned recognition for the country. Additionally, Harmanpreet Kaur, the captain of the Indian Women's Cricket Team, has made a significant contribution to the sport of cricket and has earned global recognition. Business women in real estate Amandeep said that a strong woman builds a strong family, and a strong family builds a strong nation.

Business women in real estate Mrs Sakshi in a message on Women Day saluted to every woman who makes the world brighter and stronger. Poonam Sharma business women in real estate said that Women's empowerment is not just a goal; it is the foundation of a progressive society. Women in Punjab have also made remarkable contributions to journalism. Notable names include Manraj Grewal Sharma, Resident Editor of The Indian Express; Arvinder Pal Kaur Johal, Editor of Punjabi Tribune; Sarvinder Kaur, CEO of Aji; Gurjot Kaur, Senior Executive at Aji; Dr. Inderpreet Kaur of Rozana Chardikala; Jagjit Kaur, Managing Editor Spokesman; Nimrat Kaur, Managing Editor Rozana Spokesman; Kusum Arora of The Wire; Anju Agnihotri of The Indian Express; Neha Sharma of PTI (Video); Deep Kamal Kaur of The Tribune; Ruchika M. Khanna of The Tribune; Kanchan Vasdev of The Indian Express; and Chhaleen Kaur Sethi, Senior Associate Editor of The Print. Through their fearless journalism and powerful writing, they are contributing significantly to social awareness and public welfare.

By: Public Relations Advisor
Ex Dy Secy, P.R. (Retd.), Powercom

Attitudes towards women are changing in India



Parliament has now passed a bill providing 33 percent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies. This will further strengthen the role of women in Indian politics. Women are now being deployed to important positions in the military, a major step towards women's empowerment.

Women here have equal rights with men. Women represent half the country's population and are equal partners in development. In today's era, women are not only at par with men but have gone two steps ahead of them. A society without women is unimaginable. According to the Indian Constitution, women have the right to live a life equal to that of men. In India, women are seen as goddesses. It is said that where women are worshipped, gods reside there. Since ancient times, women have been given special respect and honor in society.

Over the years, many laws related to women's safety have been enacted in India. These include the Hindu Widow Remarriage Act 1856, the Indian Penal Code 1860, the Maternity Benefit Act 1961, the Christian Marriage Act 1872, the Married Women's Property Act 1874, the Child Marriage Act 1929, the Special Marriage Act 1954, the Hindu Marriage Act 1955, the Foreign Marriage Act 1969, the Indian Divorce Act 1969, the Muslim Women Protection Act 1986, the National Commission for Women Act 1990, the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2013, etc. Furthermore, the Juvenile Justice Bill was amended by the Lok Sabha on May 7, 2015, and by the Rajya Sabha on December 22, 2015. Under this bill, if a juvenile between the ages of 16 and 18 is found involved in a heinous crime, there is a provision for harsh punishment.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a total of 405,861 crimes against women were registered in India in 2023. These crimes include serious offenses such as rape, molestation, dowry harassment, domestic violence, sexual harassment, cybercrime, and kidnapping. Domestic violence and sexual harassment accounted for the highest number of cases, reflecting our society's indifference to women's safety. Previously, 445,256 cases were registered in 2022, 426,278 in 2021, and 371,503 in 2020.

According to data released by the National Commission for Women, Uttar Pradesh led the way in crimes against women in 2023. According to data released by the National Commission for Women, 28,811 complaints of crimes against women were received across the country throughout the year, with over 16,000 cases coming from the state of Uttar

Pradesh. These figures are shocking. Because these complaints have been filed with the Commission under the Right to Dignity category. The national capital, Delhi, came in second with 2,411 cases. Maharashtra followed with 1,343, Bihar with 1,312, and Madhya Pradesh with 1,165.

Released after the 12 months of 2023, this report highlights crimes against women such as dowry harassment and rape. This report by the National Commission for Women reveals the police's indifference towards women. According to the data, 805 cases of sexual harassment, 605 cases of cybercrime, 472 cases of stalking, and 409 complaints of honor-related crimes were registered across the country. According to the data, crimes against women also include rape. In 2023, 1,537 cases of rape and attempted rape were registered. Following this, 8,540 cases were registered under the Right to Dignity Act, 6,274 cases of domestic violence, 4,797 cases of dowry harassment, 2,349 cases of molestation, and 1,618 cases of police indifference towards women. In 2023, cases of crime against women decreased compared to 2022. In 2022, 30,864 cases of crime against women were registered. This number decreased to 28,278 in 2023. This is a positive sign, but much remains to be done. The number of complaints has decreased since 2022, when 30,864 complaints were received, which was the highest number since 2014. When it comes to women's safety, India has made numerous arrangements for women's safety through unprecedented decisions in the last few years.

Today, women in India are safer than before. On one hand, we are promoting women by giving them equal status in every field. On the other hand, incidents of atrocities against them are constantly increasing. Every day, we hear of incidents of rape and abuse against women. Such incidents hamper the campaign for women's empowerment. Changing the deteriorating environment for women in the country is not only the responsibility of the government but also of every common man. We must all come forward and support women in the fight for women's safety. Only then will the mother power of the country be able to walk with their heads held high. Now, women must understand that their plight in society today is the result of established traditions. Women themselves must take the initiative to change these traditions. Only then will society's perception of them change.

By: Ramesh Sarraf Sharma

International Women's Day

Women's Safety: India's Moral Test



of sexual assault, and promised faster trials through special courts. While these reforms were important, the persistence of crimes against women shows that legal changes alone are not sufficient. The gap between law and implementation remains a serious challenge. Many victims hesitate to report crimes due to fear of social stigma, family pressure, or lack of trust in the legal system. In numerous cases, survivors face humiliation and skepticism instead of support. This discourages many women from seeking justice and allows offenders to escape accountability.

Another critical factor behind the safety crisis is the deeply rooted patriarchal mindset that still exists in many

parts of society. Women are often judged more harshly than men, and their freedom is frequently questioned in the name of tradition or social norms. Instead of focusing on the behavior of perpetrators, public discourse sometimes shifts blame onto the victim by questioning her clothing, lifestyle, or decisions. Such attitudes reveal a troubling tendency to normalize harassment and violence rather than confront it. Public infrastructure and urban planning also influence women's safety in significant ways. Poorly lit streets, isolated bus stops, and inadequate surveillance systems create environments where harassment and crime can occur easily. For many women, commuting after sunset remains a stressful experience. Public transport, which should provide freedom and mobility, sometimes becomes a space of vulnerability.

Cities aspiring to be modern and inclusive must prioritize gender-sensitive planning. Better lighting, functional CCTV systems, reliable public transport, and visible police presence can significantly improve safety. When urban spaces are designed with women's security in mind, they become safer for everyone. Technology can also play a valuable role in strengthening safety mechanisms. Mobile safety applications, emergency alert systems, and GPS-enabled tracking can provide quick assistance during dangerous situations. Several cities have introduced women's help lines and panic buttons in buses and public transport systems. However, technology must be supported by responsive institutions and efficient law enforcement to be truly effective.

Education is perhaps the most powerful long-term solution to the problem of gender-based violence. Schools and universities must actively promote respect, equality, and responsible behavior. Gender sensitization should be integrated into the educational system so that young people grow up with a clear understanding of dignity and mutual respect. When values of equality are taught early, society gradually becomes more just and inclusive. Families also play a crucial role in shaping

attitudes toward gender equality. In many households, daughters are taught caution while sons are given freedom without equal emphasis on responsibility. True change will come when families teach boys the importance of respecting women and understanding the impact of their behavior. Safety should not depend on restricting women's freedom; it should depend on building a culture of respect.

Workplaces and institutions must also ensure strong mechanisms to address harassment and discrimination. Transparent complaint systems, strict enforcement of anti-harassment policies, and supportive organizational cultures are essential for creating safe professional environments. When women feel secure at work, they are able to contribute fully to innovation, productivity, and economic growth. Women's safety is not simply a women's issue—it is a national issue that affects social stability, economic development, and moral integrity. When women are unsafe, families live with fear, communities lose trust, and the nation's progress is weakened. A society that fails to protect its women ultimately undermines its own future. As India observes occasions like International Women's Day, it must move beyond symbolic celebrations and confront the deeper structural challenges that women face every day. Strong laws, effective policing, swift justice, and a transformation in social attitudes are all essential for lasting change.

The safety and dignity of women are the true indicators of a nation's moral strength. If India wishes to be recognized as a truly progressive and civilized society, it must pass this moral test. Ensuring women's safety is not merely a matter of governance; it is a reflection of the values that define the nation itself.

Professor (Dr.) R.K. Uppal, [PhD, D.Litt.]
Education Columnist

New wage code: Challenges to the right to livelihood

Employment in India is broadly distributed across two segments of the economy, namely the formal sector and the informal sector. Paradoxically, despite the existence of a structured formal economy, the Indian labour market remains overwhelmingly dominated by informal employment. More than 90 per cent of India's workforce is engaged in informal employment, comprising largely self-employed persons, casual labourers, and workers without written contracts or social security protection. This sector not only absorbs the vast majority of labour force but also contributes substantially to the national economy, accounting for nearly half of the country's GDP.

The predominance of informal employment reflects structural realities such as limited industrial absorption, agrarian distress, low skill levels, and the prevalence of micro and small enterprises. However, it also highlights persistent vulnerabilities, including income insecurity, absence of social protection, wage instability, and weak collective bargaining power. These structural characteristics render the informal workforce particularly sensitive to changes in wage regulation and labour policy, thereby making the Code on Wages, 2019, crucial to the broader discourse on livelihood security in India.

The right to livelihood is not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution of India. The Supreme Court of India, in its various decisions, has given an extended connotation to it and has recognised it as a

part of Article 21 of the Constitution. In *Olga Tellis vs. Bombay Municipal Corporation*, the Apex Court held that the right to life included the right to livelihood. At the international level, it is mentioned under article 23 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), and also in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). India, being a signatory to these conventions, aligns its constitutional values with these principles.

With the advent of new reformist policies in the early 1990s, the economy underwent a significant transformation, characterised by increased market competition, privatization of public enterprises, and integration into the global economy. In this changing economic landscape, the need for rationalization and harmonization of labour laws became increasingly evident in order to make them compatible with each other. The two-decade-long deliberations and consultations with business associations and trade unions led to the passage of the Wage Code 2019 by the Ministry of Labour, followed by the Occupational Safety, the Health and Working Conditions Code, the Industrial Relations Code, and the Social Security Code in 2020. The four Labour Codes, brought into force broadly from November 21, 2020, and are likely to be fully operational across the country by April 1, 2026. These are designed to modernize labour governance, simplify compliance procedures, and expand the protective net of labour welfare legislation.

Prior to this, wage and bonus laws were fragmented across



multiple statutes and regulations, having no uniform base, a lack of minimum income guarantee, etc. The new Wage Code has consolidated four key labour laws, namely the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, and the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976. The aim of the Code is to address wage disparities, promote fairness, and ensure equitable treatment for the workers across various sectors of the economy, a step towards

simplifying and rationalising country's labour law system. Further, it helps to create a fair, transparent, and inclusive wage system that would not only protect the rights of workers, but also promote gender equality, foster economic security, and provide a conducive environment for business enterprises by simplifying compliance, etc.

Though the Code on Wages seeks to address longstanding challenges faced by workers by extending statutory

protections, irrespective of the nature of their employment, there are certain challenges in the way of the right to livelihood as follows:

Vagueness in Floor Wage Determination: The introduction of a national floor wage and universalization of minimum wage coverage strengthen the legal foundation of workers' rights and promote greater uniformity and fairness in wage regulation. However, the Code does not explicitly lay down the criteria or methodology for determining the national floor wage. The absence of a clearly defined framework creates scope for ambiguity and potential inconsistencies in its fixation and revision. It remains uncertain whether the determination process adequately accounts for the crucial factors such as inflation, cost of living indices, family size, and nutritional requirements, that are essential to ensuring a wage sufficient for a basic standard of living.

Faulty Wage method: The revised wage definition incorporates the concept of higher contributions toward Provident Fund (PF) and gratuity, thereby strengthening employees' long-term social security benefits. This reform may be viewed as a significant step toward strengthening the right to livelihood, particularly at the stage of superannuation. However, the restructuring of wage components may lead to a reduction in the immediate take-home salary. While the reform reflects a paternalistic safety approach by prioritising long-term financial security through mandatory savings over short-term consumption, it may inadvertently impose

financial strain on younger employees and those with significant financial liabilities, such as loans and EMIs. The consequent decrease in disposable income could reduce their purchasing power and create short-term livelihood pressure.

Gig and Platform Workers: In the evolving market landscape, there has been a phenomenal rise in gig and platform-based employment, particularly in metropolitan and economically advanced cities. Workers are being engaged through digital platforms such as Uber, Swiggy, Zomato and Ola, which operate under app-based systems that mediate work allocation, performance evaluation, and payment mechanisms. These workers are generally classified as independent contractors rather than employees. Consequently, they fall outside the traditional employer-employee framework that underpins most labour protections. As a result, they are not guaranteed statutory safeguards such as minimum wages, overtime compensation, or regulated working hours. This exclusion reflects a widening gap between conventional labour law frameworks and emerging realities of digital labour markets, highlighting the need for a more adaptive and inclusive regulatory approach.

Impact of Artificial Intelligence: The twenty-first century is marked by rapid technological advancement and continuous innovations within increasingly shorter cycles. In this dynamic structural, the ad hocery has become a fundamental feature of the informal sector. Simultaneously, the expansion of automation driven by Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital technologies

has begun to reshape employment patterns across industries. In the service sector, especially at the entry and operational levels, it has led to retrenchment, layoffs, and a future reduction in job opportunities. These developments have intensified concerns regarding social security, income stability, and wage protection for the workers.

The Code on Wages represents a significant reform in India's labour law framework, aiming to universalize minimum wage protection and ensure timely payments across sectors. In principle, it strengthens livelihood security by mandating statutory minimum wages, prohibiting gender-based discrimination, and expanding coverage to both formal and informal sectors. These measures are essential in a country where informal employment and wage exploitation remain widespread. While it promises a floor wage, which may be fixed by the government, creates a loophole compared to a mandatory 'shall' requirement. Therefore, its effectiveness depends heavily on enforcement capacity and periodic revision in line with inflation and other parameters.

The question arises whether the Code will strive to provide a living wage or just a minimum wage? The minimum wage only covers the bare necessities such as food, shelter and clothing but to ensure survival of the worker, not just a life of dignity. On the other hand, a living wage not only covers basic necessities but also covers health, education, social security and basic comfort, which is considered to be a true realization of the right to livelihood.

Therefore, the concept of floor wage is often criticised for being calculated based on consumption units rather than a comprehensive living wage standard which includes education and healthcare for the worker's family.

To effectively address concerns surrounding the right to livelihood in relation to the Code on Wages, the following recommendations are proposed.

Establishing clear and uniform guidelines for the states in determining minimum wages would help reduce regional disparities. For instance, the states may be required to align minimum wage rates with objective local conditions such as cost of living, inflation, etc. A periodic review of the floor wage, taking into account inflation and evolving economic conditions, would help ensure a fair and equitable baseline across all states. Strengthening state labour departments through improved funding mechanisms, fresh recruitment drives, and structured training programs is essential for the effective implementation of the Code, thereby enhancing the livelihood security of the workers. Undertaking comprehensive awareness campaigns to educate workers about their rights under the Code, and to encourage them to report violations, would significantly enhance and ensure better protection of labour rights.

The establishment of robust enforcement mechanisms, such as digital wage tracking and regular audits, would help ensure strict compliance with prescribed wage definitions and protections.

By: Dr. Harjeet Singh Bhandal

NEWS BRIEF

BCAS Team Inspects Proposed NCC Hangar at Kullu-Manali Airport

ASHISH SHARMA
KULLU : A team from the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), Regional Directorate Chandigarh, conducted a security inspection of the proposed NCC Hangar at Kullu-Manali Airport, Bhuntrar. The visit was carried out in the presence of key stakeholders involved in the project. The inspection team was joined by Wing Commander Kunal Sharma, Commanding Officer of 1 HP Air Squadron NCC Kullu, the Director of Airports Authority of India (AAI), Bhuntrar, representatives from the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), and officials of the Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department (HPPWD) from both Civil and Electrical wings. During an earlier visit, the BCAS team had pointed out certain observations related to operational readiness and security arrangements of the hangar facility. These observations were addressed by HPPWD, and the follow-up inspection conducted on March 6, 2026, was completed successfully, marking an important step towards the operationalisation of the NCC hangar. The Government of Himachal Pradesh has already signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) from its side for establishing the facility. The proposal is currently awaiting final approval from AAI Bhuntrar for signing the MoU and completing the remaining procedural formalities. Some statutory clearances from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) are also under process. Chairman of LDA and MLA Sunder Singh Thakur has agreed to support the recurring expenditure for the next two years.

Himachal cabinet approves new policies, recruitment and projects



DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA: The State Cabinet, in its meeting held here today under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu decided to invite objections and

suggestions from the general public on the proposed amendments to Rules 28, 87, 88 and 89 of the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj (Elections) Rules, 1994. The proposed amendments provide that

Panchayats which have remained reserved continuously for two consecutive terms since the base year 2010 will not be reserved in the forthcoming Panchayat elections. It also approved amendments to the Social

Security Pension Rules, 2010 by redefining the term 'Destitute' in a clearer manner and simplifying the certification process for availing benefits. Under the revised provisions, women abandoned by their

husbands, who are not living with them and have no independent source of income, will be considered as destitute women.

The Cabinet decided to extend 40 percent of the Local Area Development Fund under Swaran Jayanti Energy Policy for providing financial assistance to children of the State.

It also gave its nod to cancel 13 hydroelectric projects that failed to be commissioned despite availing the benefit of the one-time amnesty scheme.

The Cabinet decided to allot the 10 MW Small Hydro Electric Project at Pandoh to the Bhakra Beas Management Board subject to return of the unused land by the BBMB to the State Government. The State Government will receive 13 percent free power and 5 percent power as its share from BBMB.

It further approved the Operation and Maintenance Policy for handing over in-village infrastructure of both Single Village Schemes and Multi Village Schemes to Gram Panchayats. The Cabinet approved the constitution of the Regional Cooperative Milk Producers Union Limited at Dhagwar comprising milk producers from the districts of Kangra, Hamirpur, Chamba and Una. Additionally, the National Dairy Development Board will be engaged as the Administrator for the management and operation of the Dhagwar Milk Processing Plant. It also approved the enhancement of Heli-Taxi services on the Chandigarh-Shimla-Chandigarh route from three sorties to twelve sorties per week, with flights to be operated twice daily for six days a week. The State Government will provide viability gap funding to support the operation.

Government making sustained efforts to strengthen disaster preparedness: Revenue Minister



DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA: A two-day State-Level Workshop on "Climate Change and disaster Risk Resilience: Himalayan Future-Lessons, Gaps, and Policy Pathways for Himachal Pradesh" concluded today at the Dr. Manmohan Singh Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration (MSHIPA) Shimla. Revenue, Horticulture, Tribal Development Minister Jagat Singh Negi was the chief guest on the occasion. The two days workshop was organized in collaboration with the Himachal Pradesh State Disaster

Management Authority (HPSDMA). The Minister in his address, highlighted the growing impact of climate change on Himalayan states, particularly on sectors such as agriculture, horticulture, infrastructure and livelihoods. He emphasized the state government's efforts to strengthen disaster preparedness, early warning systems and resilient infrastructure to address increasing climate and disaster risks. He stated that the Government of Himachal Pradesh was making sustained efforts to strengthen disaster preparedness,

Bilaspur administration urges calm after Talai incident



AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY
BILASPUR: Following tensions after the alleged attempt to outrage the modesty of a minor girl in the Talai police station area of Kalol, the Bilaspur district administration on Saturday appealed to the public to maintain peace and communal harmony.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner termed the incident deeply unfortunate and strongly condemnable. He assured that strict legal action would be taken against the accused in accordance with the law. Rahul Kumar urged citizens not to take the law into their own hands and to preserve the district's long-standing tradition of brotherhood and harmony. He said the district administration and police are handling the matter with utmost seriousness and sensitivity. To maintain law and order, adequate police deployment has been made in sensitive areas. The Deputy

Commissioner also warned against the spread of rumors and misinformation by mischief-makers trying to create communal tension, stating that strict action would be taken against anyone attempting to disturb peace. Superintendent of Police Sandeep Dhawal also appealed to citizens to cooperate with the administration and immediately report any suspicious activity or information related to the incident. He urged people not to believe or circulate rumors and assured that the investigation is being conducted thoroughly and impartially.

One-day cooperative education camp held in Hamirpur



ANIL KUMAR
HAMIRPUR: A one-day cooperative education camp was organised recently by the Himachal Pradesh State Cooperative Development Union, Shimla, for managers, executive members, society members and employees of cooperative societies under the office of the Assistant Registrar Cooperative Societies, Dhaneriyur, in Bhoranj development block. The camp was held at the Agricultural Service Cooperative Society Limited, Kharwar, in the presence of Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies, Dharamshala, Rakesh Kumar as the chief guest. Assistant Registrar Cooperative Societies Ravi Kumar, District Inspection Officer Rajneesh Kaushal, District Inspector Cooperative Societies Kirti, and Block Inspectors of Cooperative Societies from Bhoranj and Patta also participated in the programme.

Traffic to remain temporarily regulated near Mehla Ghar on NH-154A till March 31



SUBHASH MAHAJAN
CHAMBA: District Magistrate Mukesh Repswal has issued orders to temporarily regulate vehicular movement near Mehla Ghar on the Chakki-Chamba-Bharmour section of National Highway-154A in view of ongoing landslide mitigation works and to ensure public safety. Exercising powers under Section 115 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, the District Magistrate has directed that traffic will be regulated daily from 6 am to 6 pm till March 31, 2026. During this period, vehicular movement may be temporarily halted for about 25 to 30 minutes every hour as required during the execution of the work. The order states that the decision has been taken based on information provided by the National Highway Division of the Public Works Department, Chamba, regarding the ongoing landslide mitigation works at the site and keeping public safety in view. However, the order clearly mentions that vehicles related to emergency services such as ambulances, fire services and police will be allowed to pass without any delay.

INTUC welcomes Congress decision to field Anurag Sharma and Karmveer Singh Baudh for Rajya Sabha

KISHORILAL BAINS
UNA: Comrade Jagat Ram Sharma, national secretary of the Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) and state general secretary of INTUC, has welcomed the decision of the Congress leadership to nominate Anurag Sharma from Himachal Pradesh and Dalit leader Karmveer Singh Baudh from Haryana as candidates for the Rajya Sabha elections. He said the decision has created a wave of happiness among INTUC workers. In a press note issued here, Jagat Ram Sharma said the nominations were made by Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge and MP Rahul Gandhi. He added that he had earlier also raised the demand that a senior INTUC leader from Himachal Pradesh be considered for the Rajya Sabha and had sent written representations to Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka



Gandhi, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri and Minister Vikramaditya Singh. He said Anurag Sharma has been associated with the Congress party for nearly 30 years and is well acquainted with grassroots issues. According to him, Sharma's rise from the district level to higher

positions reflects the spirit of the Nehru and Indira Gandhi era, when honest and dedicated grassroots workers were recognised and given opportunities. Jagat Ram Sharma said that over the years such traditions had weakened within the party due to the influence of factions and ambitious individuals, which led to a decline in the party's performance. He added that the current leadership is now giving importance to committed grassroots leaders, which would strengthen the organisation. He also welcomed the selection of Haryana's Dalit leader Karmveer Singh Baudh as a Rajya Sabha candidate. Sharma said Baudh is known for his dedication to the party and his commitment to social causes. He added that Baudh has been actively spreading the ideas of Mahatma Gandhi and India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal

Nehru among the people. According to Sharma, leaders with strong grassroots connections in the Rajya Sabha will be able to raise public issues effectively before the Central government, helping address the concerns of people not only in Himachal Pradesh and Haryana but across the country. He said Baudh has also played an active role in campaigns related to protecting the Constitution and is well-versed in the ideology of the Congress as well as the thoughts of Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and Dr B R Ambedkar. Sharma added that Baudh had recently participated in a meeting of the Dalit community held at the Savings Bhawan in Una. Jagat Ram Sharma also remarked that those who previously received opportunities and tickets from the Congress but failed in elections should not feel disappointed.

HP becomes 2nd state to secure NCVET dual status: Education Minister

SHIMLA: Education Minister Rohit Thakur today informed that due to the continuous efforts of the present State Government and the Himachal Pradesh Board of School Education (HPBOSE), the Board has been granted "Dual Category" recognition by the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET), making Himachal Pradesh the second state in India, after Andhra Pradesh, to receive approval as both an Awarding Body (AB) and an Assessment Agency (AA). Education Minister said that this important recognition marks a major step towards strengthening vocational education and improving employability opportunities for students across the state. With the dual status, HPBOSE would now be authorized to design and conduct vocational training programmes as well as assess and certify students under the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF). He said that certificates issued by the Himachal Pradesh Board under this framework would now carry NCVET recognition, enhancing their credibility and acceptance among employers, industries and higher education institutions across India and internationally.



Diamond International Public School students win 53 gold medals in SOF Olympiad



ANIL KUMAR
HAMIRPUR: Students of Diamond International Public School, Patta have brought laurels to the institution by winning 53 gold medals in the Science Olympiad Foundation (SOF) Olympiad, showcasing remarkable academic excellence. According to the recently declared results, young participants from the school demonstrated outstanding performance in science, mathematics

and English, earning a total of 53 gold medals and bringing recognition to both the school and the region across the state. The achievement reflects the students' hard work as well as the dedication of the teaching staff. Around 130 students from Classes IV to X of the school participated in the SOF Olympiad this year. Despite the high standards and intense competition of the examination, the students delivered impressive results and

secured medals across multiple subjects. In mathematics, students achieved the highest success by winning 22 gold medals, highlighting the school's emphasis on logical and analytical learning. In English, students secured 16 gold medals, demonstrating strong language skills and proficiency in vocabulary and grammar. In science, the young participants won 15 gold medals, reflecting their curiosity and scientific understanding. School principal Sheeta Sharma expressed happiness over the achievement and congratulated the students for their success. She said the accomplishment represented not only the medals won but also the discipline, curiosity and determination of the students. She added that the teachers' continuous guidance and mentoring played a crucial role in helping students achieve this success.

Farewell function held in honour of Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla at Lok Bhavan

SHIMLA: A farewell function by officers and officials of Lok Bhavan was organised in honour of Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla at Lok Bhavan today. Lady Governor Janaki Shukla was also present on the occasion. On behalf of the employees of Lok Bhavan, Secretary to the Governor, C.P. Verma honoured the Governor and the Lady Governor by presenting them with a traditional Himachali cap, shawl and a memento as a mark of respect and gratitude. Addressing the gathering, the Governor fondly recalled his three-year tenure in Himachal Pradesh while serving at



Lok Bhavan. He expressed his appreciation for the dedication and contribution of every employee, acknowledging their support and co-operation during his tenure. He said that he had an opportunity to work on

various social issues with the active support of people of the State. Shri Shukla said that he would always cherish the pleasant memories of his association with the State. Describing Himachal Pradesh as a beautiful hill

state, he remarked that the people of the State are hardworking and honest. The function concluded with warm wishes from the staff of Lok Bhavan for the Governor and the Lady Governor for their future endeavours.

BARNALA (BALWINDER AZAD): The admission process for the new academic session (2026-27) has started at Sant Attar Singh Akal Academy, Gursagar Mastuana Sahib, a leading educational institution of the area. According to the information given by the school administration, a special admission and scholarship examination is being conducted on March 11. In which a 'Scholarship cum Entrance Test' will be conducted for students wishing to take admission in class XI. Through which meritorious students will be given a special concession in tuition fee up to 90%. Apart from this, the entrance examination for vacant seats in various classes up to class IX will also be held on the same day on March 11. In class XI, students can take the examination for medical, non-medical, commerce, arts subjects according to their interest.

Desh Bhagat University Woodball teams shine at AIU tournament 2026



AJAY MALHOTRA FATEHGARH SAHIB, MARCH 7

The Woodball teams of Desh Bhagat University delivered an impressive performance at the Woodball Tournament organized under the aegis of the Association of Indian Universities, held from 21-28 February 2026 at Madhyanchal Professional University in Bhopal. The university secured a total of 14 medals, marking a remarkable achievement at the national level. The

Women's Woodball Team secured 3rd position in the Stroke Event, displaying exceptional skill, teamwork, and determination throughout the competition. Meanwhile, the Men's Woodball Team achieved 2nd position in the Stroke Event. Adding to the university's success, two male players also won Bronze Medals in the Double Fairway Event, showcasing strong technical ability and competitive

spirit. Desh Bhagat University Chancellor Dr. Zora Singh, Pro-Chancellor Dr. Tajinder Kaur and Vice Chancellor Dr. Harsh Sadawarti congratulated the players, coaches, and support staff for their dedication and teamwork, which brought pride and recognition to the institution. The achievement highlights Desh Bhagat University's commitment to promoting sporting excellence alongside academic development.

CM Bhagwant Singh Mann launches Industrial & Business Development Policy 2026 to make Punjab No. 1 investment destination

SHARMA LUDHIANA, MARCH 7

Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann on Saturday unveiled the landmark Industrial & Business Development Policy 2026 in Ludhiana, asserting that his government is determined to make Punjab the No. 1 investment destination in the country through bold reforms and a flexible incentive framework designed around the needs of industry.

The Chief Minister asserted the Punjab Government has fundamentally restructured its industrial policy to accelerate industrial growth, attract large-scale investment and generate employment across Punjab. Highlighting that Punjab is already witnessing record



investment, the Chief Minister said the new policy allows investors to choose up to 20 incentives and design customised packages suited to their business models, introduces capital subsidy for the first time in Punjab, offers incentives of up to 100% of Fixed Capital Investment and reduces Employment Generation Subsidy eligibility to 725 crore investment and 50 workers, thereby opening industrial incentives to a

much wider base of businesses while strengthening Punjab's position as a leading destination for manufacturing, services and emerging technology sectors. Addressing the gathering, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said that the policy represents a major shift in the way industrial incentives are structured in Punjab. "Every other state in India hands investors a fixed menu and says take it or leave it, but

Punjab has changed that. Now an investor can pick up to 20 incentives and build a package around their own business model." Explaining the rationale behind this approach, the Chief Minister said that different industries have different operational realities and cost structures. "Pharmaceutical companies need different support than an EV manufacturer, a data centre has different costs than a textile plant.

SGPC to honour Sikh students who passed UPSC exam with Rs 1 lakh each: Dhami

JAITU (RAGHU NANDAN PRASHAR): Advocate Harjinder Singh Dhami, President of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee congratulated the Sikh students who passed the UPSC exam and were selected for the Higher Administrative Services and announced that the Shiromani Committee will honour them with Rs 1 lakh each. In a press release issued from his office on Saturday, Advocate Dhami said that success in a difficult exam like the UPSC is a sign of hard work, dedication, and determination of the youth.

He said that the students who passed the exam, Simrandeep Kaur and Sanwardeep Singh, along with other Sikh students, have achieved success in the UPSC. Passing the competitive exam has not only brought honor to her parents but is also a matter of pride for the Sikh community. Expressing happiness, he said that Simrandeep Kaur, who secured the 15th rank in the country, is a student of Khalsa College, Patiala, which is run by the Shiromani Committee. Advocate Dhami said that the Shiromani Committee is continuously making efforts to encourage Sikh students to take competitive exams. The Shiromani Committee President said that the Shiromani Committee will honor Sikh students who pass the UPSC exam with a sum of one lakh rupees each. The Shiromani Committee President said that the Shiromani Committee has always strived to help young people advance in education and will remain active in this field in the future.



MLA Rai lays foundation stone of road project worth Rs 23.70 crore



FATEHGARH SAHIB BIKRAMJEET SAHOTA, MARCH 7

MLA Lakhbir Singh Rai laid the foundation stone of the Chundi-Sirhind road project, which will be constructed at a cost of around Rs 23.70 crore and will cover a length of approximately 23 kilometers.

The renovation of this road will ensure smoother traffic movement and will also make travel more comfortable for people commuting towards Mohali and Chandigarh. MLA Rai said that Punjab Chief

Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann is providing funds for the development of roads in both villages and towns of the Fatehgarh Sahib constituency without any discrimination, due to which development works are progressing at a rapid pace. He added that these projects will not only improve traffic management but will also enhance the overall appearance of the area.

He further stated that the government is ensuring that all development works are completed on time while maintaining proper quality standards.

16 students of Partap World School, Pathankot win gold medals in SOF International general knowledge Olympiad

VERMA GURDASPUR, MARCH 7

Sixteen students of Partap World School, Pathankot brought pride to their institution by winning Gold Medals in the International General Knowledge Olympiad (SOF IGKO) with their outstanding performance.

This prestigious Olympiad is an annual academic competition organized by the Science Olympiad Foundation (SOF), in which students from Classes 1 to 10 participate. The competition evaluates students' understanding of various subjects related to general knowledge, including current affairs, social and political developments, history, geography, and other important topics. The SOF IGKO syllabus is designed in such a way that it helps



students identify and develop their talent in the field of general knowledge. It also prepares them for the competitive world from an early age. The students who won Gold Medals and brought glory to the school are: Prayan Prateek, Daksh Gupta, Madhav Sareen, Yubi Gupta, Taresh, Suryansh Dhiman, Vanshika Digra, Archit Sharma, Aarav Sharma, Mohammad Zubair, Piyush Dutta, Shreesha Patnaik, Abdul Hanan, Pratham Gandotra, Dev

Pratap, and Rishan Sharma. The school management, teachers, and parents congratulated the students on this remarkable achievement and appreciated their hard work and dedication. Mr. Sunny Mahajan, Director of Partap World School, congratulated the students and said that such achievements reflect the school's comprehensive and knowledge-based education system. He added that Olympiads provide students with a platform to go beyond textbooks.

NEWS BRIEF

Women entrepreneurs award program: MP Meet Hayer honors 100 women entrepreneurs



KULDEEP SOOD

BARNALA: While the Punjab government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann is taking important decisions for the welfare of women, women entrepreneurs are being honored to improve their economic conditions and give them due respect. This was revealed by Lok Sabha member Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer while addressing the "Women Entrepreneurs Award Program" at the Barnala Club here today. On this occasion, he said that under this program, women entrepreneurs are first being honored at the block level. After this, they will be honored at the district level. The final stage of the program will be held this month at the state level function, where the top 100 women entrepreneurs from across Punjab will be honored by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann. Each of the women will be given a cash award of Rs. 25,000 in recognition of their entrepreneurial achievements.

37 new families inducted into BJP in village Mehlar of Jaitu constituency



JAGDEEP SINGH GILL

JAITU: Home Minister of India, Shri Amit Shah, is going to hold a change rally of the Bharatiya Janata Party on March 14 at Magha. To make this rally successful, Jaspal Singh Panj Gari, Vice President of Punjab Bharatiya Janata Party SC March Punjab Vidhan Sabha Jaitu workers met at village Mehlar in Jaitu constituency and after this meeting, all the 37 new families were included in the BJP by donning the party's crest. At this time, Jaspal Singh Panj Gari said that regarding the Magha rally, the in-charge of the assembly constituency Jaitu will succeed by taking a big convoy under the leadership of former Member of Parliament Jagmeet Singh Brar.

Women's honor ceremony at Sangam Palace Kotkapura: Gurpreet Kaur Sandhwan



SURINDER DAMDAMI KOTKAPURA:

A special event is being organized at Sangam Palace, Kotkapura on the occasion of International Women's Day on Sunday, March 8, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. To make this occasion more memorable, an open invitation has been given to all the women sisters and mothers of the Kotkapura assembly constituency to come in large numbers and add to the joy of this event. Giving information in this regard, Gurpreet Kaur Sandhwan, wife of Speaker Kuldar Singh Sandhwan, said that on this special occasion, the message of respect and empowerment of women will be further strengthened.

Rail coach factory celebrates International Women's Day



KAPURTHALA (PAWAN KALIA): A special programme was organised today at Rail Coach Factory (RCF), Kapurthala on the occasion of International Women's Day. The programme was conducted in accordance with the instructions of the Railway Board with the objective of highlighting the achievements of women and promoting gender equality in society.

During the programme, the remarkable achievements of women in various fields were highlighted and the message was conveyed that the full and active participation of women in nation building is extremely important. On the occasion, Dr. Lalita Ramalingam, Principal Chief Medical Officer, and Renu Pushkar Chhibber, Principal Chief Security Commissioner participated as special speakers and shared their inspiring thoughts.

Advocates inspire young girls at Shivalik kids school Jaito on International Women's Day

RAGHU NANDAN PRASHAR JAITU, MARCH 7

Shivalik Kids School, Jaito celebrated International Women's Day with great enthusiasm by organizing a motivational session titled "Inspiring Women of Tomorrow" for the girls of Classes V to VII.

The event was graced by distinguished guests Advocate Ms. Avinash Kaur, Senior Counsel from Faridkot and Member of the Child Welfare Society, and Advocate Satinder Pal Kaur, Notary and Vice President of the Bar Association, Jaitu. During the session, the guest advocates shared their professional journeys and encouraged the students to believe in themselves, work hard, and remain aware of their rights.

They motivated the girls to develop confidence, pursue their dreams, and



contribute positively to society. School Principal Ms. Sukhwinder Kaur warmly welcomed the guests and highlighted the importance of empowering young girls through education and awareness. On the occasion, management members Mr. Gaurav Garg and Mrs. Deepi Garg also welcomed the guests and emphasized the significance of women's empowerment and education in shaping a progressive society. To mark the

celebration, a cake cutting ceremony was organized. The school also honoured the guest advocates with certificates of appreciation. Additionally, the women teachers of the school were felicitated with appreciation certificates in recognition of their dedication and valuable contribution to education.

The program concluded with a vote of thanks, leaving students inspired and motivated.

Surjit Singh Rakhra continues series of meetings at village level in view of mobilizing workers



PATIALA (TAPINDER SINGH): The round of meetings at village level is continuing continuously in Samana constituency of Patiala for the organizational strengthening of the party. Under this, former cabinet minister and senior leader of Shiromani Akali Dal Purnar Surjit Surjit Surjit held an important meeting with the party workers at village Waraichan Patia.

During which the future strategies and organizational activities of the party were discussed in detail. During this meeting, Surjit Singh Rakhra said that the basis of the party's strength is the militant workers, who are always ready to serve the people and take the party's policies to every door.

Big Kabaddi tournament on March 15-16 at village Sangatpura

LEHRAGAGA (GURMAIL SINGH SANGATPURA): Shaheed Udhm Singh Welfare and Sports Club Sangatpura youth NRI, of village Sangatpura are organizing a Kabaddi tournament at village Sangatpura on March 15 and 16. The winning players in this tournament will be honored with attractive cash prizes. The tournament committee said that this tournament is being organized with the aim of keeping the youth away from drugs. The committee has decided in consultation with the administration that no player will be able to play under the influence of drugs.

The team playing under the influence of drugs will be scratched immediately. The decision of the referee and objection committee as well as the weight committee will be final in this tournament. It is mandatory for the teams to enter before 10 am on March 15. No team entry will be accepted after 10 am. Kabaddi players Kuldeep Singh Tari and Buta Singh along with all the committee members etc. informed that the final matches of 32 and 38.57 kg categories will be played on March 15, while the final matches of the remaining categories 70 kg and open weight matches will be held on March 16.

Therefore, an open invitation has been given to every team that loves the mother game Kabaddi. To encourage the youth towards sports and protect them from drugs, the tournament committee has strongly appealed to the players to register their teams in this tournament.

All tasks are accomplished by taking refuge in Maa Baglamukhi: Mahant Praveen Ji

LUDHIANA (SARBJIT SUFI): A Sarva Karya Siddhi Yagna was organized under the guidance of Mahant Praveen Ji at Maa Baglamukhi Dham on Pakhowal Road, where devotees prayed for the smooth completion of their ongoing tasks. Describing the glory of Maa Baglamukhi, Mahant Praveen Ji said that Maa Baglamukhi is the goddess who brings welfare to the world. Yagna brings welfare to all beings in the world. Mahant Praveen Ji said that life is full of joys and sorrows. Whatever problem or difficulty you face, seek refuge in Maa Baglamukhi with true devotion and Maa Baglamukhi will accomplish all your tasks.

While discussing the expansion of Maa Baglamukhi Dham, he said that in view of the presence of lakhs of devotees every Thursday, the expansion of Maa Baglamukhi Dham is going on in full swing with the immense grace of Maa Baglamukhi and the cooperation of the devotees.



Director Jarnail Singh Patial advises students to focus on studies and avoid mobile phones during exams

GURDASPUR (VERMA): With exams approaching, students have been urged to concentrate on their studies and put in sincere effort to achieve excellent results. In this context, Engineer Jarnail Singh Patial, Director of Dee Shishya School located on Jugiyal Road, appealed to students not to waste their time and to dedicate themselves fully to their studies. Engineer Patial emphasized that this period is not meant for being distracted by mobile phones or other entertainment, but rather for working diligently day and night on academic preparation.

He explained that students who approach their studies with seriousness and dedication are better equipped to face future challenges and achieve significant milestones. The Director also advised students to make the most of this critical time and maintain discipline in their studies.

He stated that exams are not just a measure of knowledge but also test a student's hard work, time management, and self-discipline. He further stressed that there is no substitute for regular study and consistent effort. Students should use their time wisely while also taking care of their mental and physical well-being. Director Patial urged all students to stay focused on their goals, avoid laziness and unnecessary distractions, and prepare thoroughly for their exams.

He added that with proper guidance and hard work, students will not only succeed in their exams but also secure a bright and promising future.



Punjab power corp hits Rs 2,634 cr profit, secures A+ rating under Mann gov't; historic power tariff cuts announces

HOSHIARPUR (DALJEET AJNOHA): District Planning Committee Chairperson Karamjeet Kaur stated that due to the effective efforts of the Punjab government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) has achieved an A+ rating and earned a profit of Rs 2,634 crore in the financial year 2024-25. She said this milestone shows that under the efficient management of the Mann government, PSPCL has emerged for the first time as a strong, efficient, and profit-making company. Kaur noted that this positive financial position has enabled the Punjab government to provide major relief to the state's residents by announcing a historic cut in electricity rates. Under the new tariff order, domestic consumers will benefit from a reduction of up to Rs 1.5 per unit, directly easing the burden on millions of families.

Expressing gratitude to Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, she added that he has always prioritized the interests of ordinary people.



NEWS BRIEF

Nidha Khan's song "Paani 'te Sunehe" released



KULWINDER KARWAL MANSI: The melodious voice of Mansa, Nidha Khan's song "Paani 'te Sunehe" has been released on YouTube channel by Reel Records Studio. The song has been written by poet Sukhwinder Raj and along with the music, the video has also been filmed. Poet Sukhwinder Raj said that he has worked hard for 2 years on this soulful song. Nidha's melodious voice has made this song classic. The song is in a lot of discussion on social media and is being appreciated by music lovers. While music teacher Dr. Parminder Kaur has played an important role in composing the song in a melodious manner, Vishavdeep Brar has made significant contributions to the entire teamwork.

Real estate traffic has increased in Airport Road Mohali belt, and investors are now eyeing Sector-98



J.K. BATTA CHANDIGARH: The urban expansion of Mohali in Punjab is continuously moving towards the Airport Road corridor. Along with this, Sector-98 has also started to come into the limelight among investors and home buyers. According to real estate experts, the demand in this area is gradually increasing due to better connectivity, planned development and improvement in infrastructure. Located near PR-7 Airport Road Mohali, this sector is directly connected to the Chandigarh International Airport, Aerocity and several developed residential areas of the city. In the last few years, due to improvements in the road network and other amenities, real estate activities have witnessed an increase here. Property consultants say that professionals working in the Tricity and NRIs are showing interest in plots and low-rise projects in these emerging areas. Better planning, wide roads and relatively open environment are making these areas attractive to buyers. Sector-98 is currently considered a micro-market in the early stages of development, where prices are still relatively low compared to fully developed areas. However, the surrounding sectors have registered a gradual increase in prices in the last few years. The proposed 35-acre Gmada Urban Forest in Sector-97 is also considered important for enhancing the potential of this area. Under this project, trees of various species will be planted and pedestrian paths and green areas will be developed, thereby improving the environmental quality of the surrounding residential areas. According to Mr. Udit Jain, Director, One Group, Sector-98 is a special part of the planned expansion of Mohali and the continuously improving connectivity.

Mohali's Aryan Dutt commissioned into elite 4 horse regiment of Indian army

SUMER GARG CHANDIGARH, MAR 7

In a moment of immense pride for Punjab, Cadet Aryan Dutt of the 8th Course, Maharaja Ranjit Singh Armed Forces Preparatory Institute (MRSAPFI), was commissioned into the prestigious 4 horse regiment of Indian Army today during the Passing Out Parade (POP) held at the Officers' Training Academy (OTA), Gaya.

The ceremonial parade was reviewed by Lt. Gen. Dhiraj Seth, PVSM, AVSM, GOC-in-C, Southern Command. Mr Dutt, now formally an officer of the



Indian Army, is the son of Ms Sangeeta Dutt, a practicing lawyer based in Mohali, and the late Commander Amitabh Dutt. Carrying forward a proud military lineage, Aryan becomes a second-generation

officer, following in the footsteps of his father who served as a Commander in the Indian Navy before his untimely demise in 2017. In a historic first for the institute, Aryan Dutt has become the

first cadet from MRSAPFI to be commissioned into the 4 HORSE regiment. The regiment is not only renowned for its gallantry and distinguished service record but also holds a special connection to the institute, being the parent regiment of the founder director of MRSAPFI, Major General BS Grewal, VSM (Retd). Punjab employment skill development and training minister, Mr. Aman Arora extended the heartiest congratulations to Aryan Dutt on his feat, while stating, "Aryan Dutt has brought laurels to his family and the entire state.

Bus departed from Nayagaon today under Punjab Chief Minister's Pilgrimage Scheme: Sunil Kumar



CHANDIGARH (JK BATTA): A bus departed from Nayagaon today, March 7, under the Chief Minister's Pilgrimage Scheme, launched by Chief Minister of Punjab, Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann. All pilgrims were honored with garlands and sweets. Sunil Kumar, Block President, stated that during this journey, pilgrims will be taken to Amritsar Gurudwara Sri Harmandir Sahib, Durgiana Temple, Ram Tirtha, Balmiki Temple, Jallianwala Bagh, and Wagah Border. All arrangements for accommodation, food, and drinks have been made by the Punjab government. Sunil Kumar, Block President of the Aam Aadmi Party, stated that under the Punjab Chief Minister's Pilgrimage Scheme, the state government provides free travel to various religious sites for residents over 50 years of age.

This scheme includes travel to Sri Hazur Sahib, Vaishno Devi, Varanasi, and other major pilgrimage sites via train and bus, food, accommodation, and medical facilities. Applications can be made both online and offline, and the scheme is open to all religions. Sunil Kumar, Block Pradhan, explained that the objective is to provide free religious travel to senior citizens aged 50 years or older who are residents of Punjab. They will receive AC buses/trains, 3-star hotel accommodation, meals, kits, medical care, and security. These include pilgrimage sites like Sri Hazur Sahib etc.

Anjali and Surbhi selected for Punjab under-23 Women's Cricket Team: Dr. Raman Ghai



DALJEET AJNOHA HOSHIARPUR, MARCH 7

Hoshiarpur's promising women cricketers Surbhi Narayan and Anjali Seemar, training at the HDCA Centre, have brought glory to the district through their selection in the Punjab Under-23 Women's Cricket Team. HDCA Secretary Dr. Raman Ghai shared the news, noting that Surbhi, a student at Woodland School, and Anjali, from Government College Hoshiarpur, had previously captained the Punjab Under-19 Women's Team. Dr. Ghai said the selection has sparked joy across Hoshiarpur district. The Punjab Under-23 team

will compete in the BCCI's National Under-23 Women's Tournament in Gurugram, Haryana.

He added that with the dedication shown by Surbhi, Anjali, and other players like Puja, Shivani, Niranka, Suhana, Vanshika, Aastha, Anya, Dhruvika, and Prateeka, Hoshiarpur is poised to produce an international women's cricketer in the coming years. HDCA President Dr. Daljit Khela congratulated the players and extended best wishes on behalf of the association. District women's coach Davinder Kaur, junior coach Nikita Kumari, HDCA district coach Daljit Singh, district trainer.

DAV School Jagraon celebrates International Women's Day

JAGRAON (SUKH NAHAR): DAV Centenary Public School, Jagraon celebrated International Women's Day on 7th March 2026 with great enthusiasm. Teachers shared their views on the importance of women in society. The school Principal, Dr. Ved Vrat Plaha,



addressed the gathering and highlighted the valuable role of women in every sphere of life. He highly applauded the famel staff of school for their excellent services and commended them for their commitment towards providing best education to the students. Junior teachers presented a lively group dance which added charm to the celebration. The program concluded with refreshments enjoyed by all the teachers.

CIA staff Kharar's big action - one accused arrested, illegal .32 bore pistol and 5 live rounds recovered

SHASHI PAL JAIN KHARAR, MARCH 7

CIA Staff Kharar has succeeded in arresting one accused and recovering one illegal .32 bore pistol and 05 live rounds from him. According to the information received, on March 5, the CIA team was present at village Gharuan near Kharar Ludhiana Road.

During this, the team received secret information that Dalvir Singh alias Kaka, who has illegal weapons with him, will come towards Kharar from Morinda in vehicle number PB-65-S-1112 brand Skoda Rapid (white color). Based on this information, the police immediately set up a



blockade. During the blockade, the said vehicle was stopped and searched, during which the accused was arrested.

During the search, an illegal .32 bore pistol and 05

live cartridges were recovered from him. In this regard, a case has been registered against the accused at Kharar Sadar police station and further action has been initiated.

Four women honoured on International Women's Day by Master Mind Academy



DEEPAK KUMAR MACHHIWARA SAHIB, MARCH 7

Master Mind Beauty Academy celebrated International Women's Day with great enthusiasm under the leadership of Madam Kamaljeet Kaur at Machhiwara Sahib on Friday. On the occasion, four prominent women from the region were honoured for their contributions in different fields.

The honourees included Punjab State Women Commission member Amrit Puri, noted actress Kamaljeet Kaur Sonu, Sarpanch Paramjeet Kaur Saini and head constable Pooja. They

were felicitated with traditional phulkari shawls and mementoes during the programme. Addressing the gathering, Amrit Puri said International Women's Day symbolises women's strength, courage and dignity. She said a woman is not only the foundation of a family but also an important pillar of society. As a mother, sister, daughter and wife, she contributes to the progress of family and society through love, sacrifice and dedication. She added that women today are proving their abilities in every field. She also urged everyone to pledge to strengthen respect, safety and rights of women on the

occasion of International Women's Day. During the event, students of the academy presented a play highlighting the struggles faced by women, along with other performances that were appreciated by the audience. Among those present on the occasion were social worker Shiv Kumar Shivli, playwright and film actor Rajvinder Samrala, chairman Harbans Lal Channa, Sarabjit Singh Longia, Amritpal Samrala, Mohammad Ali Deep Sir, Jyoti Rani, Sumanjit Kaur, Neha Kaur, Manpreet Kaur, actor Udayveer, Kunal Abhijeet, Vansh and students of the academy.

Film Writer, Director and Producer Raju Verma shares information about his upcoming projects

TILAK RAJ MOHALI, MARCH 7

Renowned Punjabi film writer, director and producer Raju Verma, who has been working for a long time in Punjabi cinema to promote the Punjabi mother tongue through meaningful projects and is well known in Bollywood for his work, today announced in Mohali that he will prepare and release eight films this year in collaboration with OMG Group, Golden Makers and Saya Films.

While talking to Ajit on the sets of the Punjabi film "Haye Ni Bebe Meriye", he said that the shooting of the film is currently in progress and it will be completed soon. Apart from this, the films "Son of Chhada," "Bharjainya," "Sareekniyan," "Lajwanti," "Sass Poojni Sandookan Ohle," "Daraaniyan-



Jathaniyan," and "Middle Class" are also being produced. He said that all these eight films will be completed and released within this year and their shooting is already underway. Writer Raju Verma said that these films will portray stories from every household and will be inspirational, encouraging parents to motivate their children to watch them.

He further said that his earlier films such as "Aate Di Chidi," "Ni Main Sass Kuttini," and "Muklawana" were also family-oriented films. Raju Verma added that these films are being

produced in collaboration with Manish Sahni and Gurpreet Singh (Neetu Bhaji) and will highlight Punjabi, Punjabi culture and family relationships. He also informed that well-known singer and actor Mehtab Virk, actors Jobanpreet, Anmol Verma, actresses Nirmal Rishi and Aditi Arya, along with Malkit Rauni, Jatinder Kaur, Seema Kaushal, Hashar Wala Kaka, Satwant Kaur, Ravinder Mand, Dilawar Sidhu, Satinder Kaur, Rakhi Hundal, Prakash Gadhru, Rang Dev, Satwinder Raj, Tilak Raj, Vinod Sunam, Bindu Brar, Sakshi Sharma, Raman Deep.

MCM holds 2-day workshop on sustainable food practices and food by-product utilisation

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 7

Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women organised a two-day hands-on workshop titled 'Sustainable Food Practices, Food Safety and Food By-Product Utilisation'. The workshop was sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology and Renewable Energy (DST-RE), Chandigarh, and conducted in collaboration with the Institution's Innovation Council under the aegis of MCM Vigyan Manch. The programme



aimed to sensitise students to sustainable food systems, promote awareness about food safety, and encourage the innovative utilisation of food industry by-products to minimise waste and enhance

resource efficiency. The first day of the workshop focused on the theme 'Waste to Wellness: Nutritional and Functional Potential of Food By-Products', conducted by the

resource person Dr. Gurpreet Kaur, Assistant Professor. She highlighted that several food industry by-products, often discarded as waste, are rich sources of dietary fibre, proteins, minerals and bioactive compounds. Special emphasis was placed on carrot pomace, a by-product of juice processing. Students received hands-on training in preparing nutritious carrot pomace cakes, developing carrot pomace powder through drying techniques, and incorporating it into value-added cookies.

Workshop on 'Women in Leadership' organised at RBU

LK BANSAL MOHALI, MARCH 7

Rayat Bahra University organised an inspiring workshop titled "Excellence Scale Up to Up Scale - Women in Leadership" to mark National Science Day 2026. The event focused on the theme "Women in Science" and highlighted the important role played by women leaders in shaping society and driving scientific progress.

Prof. (Dr.) Simerjit Kaur, Dean of Students Welfare, formally welcomed the guests and emphasised that the theme of women's leadership is both timely and transformative. She noted that with rapid advancements in science and innovation, the contribution of women leaders in shaping the future has become increasingly significant. Prof. (Dr.) Sanjay Kumar Singh, Vice Chancellor of the university, spoke about the vital role of women in



contemporary society as well as throughout history. Referring to the reverence of goddesses in Indian culture, he highlighted the inherent strength and leadership qualities of women. He remarked that women have always been guiding forces in society and have been contributing meaningfully

since ancient times. The keynote speaker, international leadership coach Sahil Sahore, delivered an insightful session on scaling excellence to achieve greater success. Using real-life examples, he discussed the emotional strength, resilience and leadership abilities demonstrated by women in

their various roles in life. During the programme, Awards of Appreciation were presented to winners of the declamation competition held on the National Science Day theme "Women in Science." Munish from the Department of Biotechnology secured first place, followed by Jyoti and Manvi in second.

ਗਰੇਟ ਮੋਹਾਲੀ ਏਗੀਆ ਡਿਵੈਲਪਮੈਂਟ ਆਰਕੀਟੈਕਚਰ, ਮੋਹਾਲੀ
ਗਮਾਤਾ, ਐਸ ਏ ਐਸ ਨਗਰ
(ਜਨਤਕ ਮੁਕਾਮ)

ਐਸ. ਸੀ. ਐਚ. ਨੰ: 106, ਸੈਕਟਰ-65, ਐਸ ਏ ਐਸ ਨਗਰ ਦੇ 25% ਹਿੱਸੇ ਦੇ ਅਲਾਟੀ Sh. Manoj Bajaj S/o Ram Prakash Bajaj ਵੱਲੋਂ Sh. Gursharan Singh Wason S/o Manmohan Singh ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣਾ ਮੁਖਤਿਆਰੇ ਅਮ ਨਿਕਾਫਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ ਜੋ ਕਿ ਜੇ ਵਿ ਸਬ-ਰਜਿਸਟਰਾਰ ਐਸ ਏ ਐਸ ਨਗਰ ਦੇ ਦਫਤਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਵਸੀਕਾ ਨੰ: 900, ਬਰੀ ਨੰ: 4, ਮਿਤੀ 02-09-2025 ਰਾਹੀਂ ਰਜਿਸਟਰ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੈ।

ਹੁਣ ਇਸ ਮੁਖਤਿਆਰੇ ਅਮ ਦੇ ਆਧਾਰ ਤੇ Sh. Gursharan Singh Wason S/o Manmohan Singh ਨੂੰ ਉਕਤ ਐਸ ਸੀ ਐਚ AVTAR KAUR WASON W/O GURSHARAN SINGH WASON ਦੇ ਨਾਂ ਤੇ ਵੇਚਣ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਵਾਨਗੀ ਲੈਣ ਲਈ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਪ੍ਰਤੀਬੇਨਤੀ ਮਿਤੀ 03-03-2026 ਨੂੰ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਹੈ। ਹੁਣ ਇਹ ਵੇਸ ਮਿਲਖ ਅਫਸਰ (ਹ) ਗਮਾਤਾ ਦਫਤਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਅਧੀਨ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਉਕਤ ਐਸ. ਸੀ. ਐਚ. ਨੰ: 106, ਸੈਕਟਰ-65, ਐਸ ਏ ਐਸ ਨਗਰ ਨੂੰ ਵੇਚਣ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਵਾਨਗੀ ਦੇਣ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਸਬ ਅਮ ਅਤੇ ਖਾਸ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਕੋਈ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਰੋਕੇ ਤਾਂ ਇਸ ਵਿਗਿਆਪਨ ਦੀ ਮਿਤੀ ਤੋਂ 15 ਦਿਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਅੰਦਰ-ਅੰਦਰ ਆਪਣਾ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਸੁਪਰਡੈਂਟ (ਹ) ਗਮਾਤਾ ਐਸ ਏ ਐਸ ਪਸ ਵਿਖੇ ਤੁਹਾ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਦੇ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਨਿਸਚਿਤ ਮਿਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਹੋਏ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ਾਂ ਤੇ ਕੋਈ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਨਹੀਂ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ ਅਤੇ ਉਕਤ ਰਜਿਸਟਰ ਕੀਤੀ ਖੀ ਖੀ ਦੇ ਆਧਾਰ ਤੇ ਐਸ. ਸੀ. ਐਚ. ਨੰ: 106, ਸੈਕਟਰ-65, ਐਸ ਏ ਐਸ ਨਗਰ ਨੂੰ ਵੇਚਣ ਦੀ ਆਗਿਆ ਉਕਤ ਬਿਨੈਕਾਰ ਦੇ ਨਾਂ ਜਾਰੀ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ।

ਸੁਪਰਡੈਂਟ (ਹ) ਗਮਾਤਾ, ਐਸ ਏ ਐਸ ਨਗਰ।

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-AUCTION NOTICE

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Ambala Cantt for and on behalf of President of India invites bids through E-Auction on IREPS website for allotment of contracts at Railway Stations of Ambala Division of Northern Railway.

Sl	Lot No.	Description	Auction Start Date Time
1	ADVT-UMB-NLDM-OH-347-26-1	As per site plan total two (02) sites for advertisement through unipole/hoarding at Nangal Dam (NLDM) Railway station with total area of 870 sq. ft.	12.03.2026 12.00.00 hrs

For participation in E-Auction process or for any other information related to E-Auction leasing process, visit www.ireps.gov.in 7/6/2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

O/o the Executive Engineer, Karchham Division, HP.PWD: Bhabanagar 172115
Web: www.hppwd.gov.in, e-mail: ee-karc-hp@nic.in Phone No-01786-292897

E-Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) Date: 07.03.2026

No:-PW/HP/REAR-Tender Notice 2/25-26-1/192/261

1. The Executive Engineer, Karchham Division HPPWD Karchham at Bhabanagar on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the percentage rate bids, in electronic tendering system, from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the work as detailed in the table

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs)	Starting date for down-loading bid	Earnest Money	Deadline for submission of bid	Opening of bid
1	C/O 61 meter span Bailey Bridge on Baspa river on Shong (Palingohy road at RD 2/360) (SH - C/O Palingohy side abutment and approach road of bridge)	7850410	09.03.2026	151700	16.03.2026	17.03.2026
2	Improving Disaster resiliency and retrofitting of CHC building Bhabanagar in Dist. Kinnaur HP (SH - Dismantling and demolishing work retrofitting work and freshing work thereof)	3519692	09.03.2026	70300	16.03.2026	17.03.2026
3	C/O Link road Nohar to Palye via Gaddhey D/O to 2/600. (SH - F/C 5/7 mts from Km 1/915 to 1/975. C/O PCC R/wall in Km 1/915 to 1/975 and B/wall in km 1/915 to 1/975)	2510285	09.03.2026	50300	16.03.2026	17.03.2026
4	C/O Jeebhola road to Village Gurjani Km 0/00 to 2/500. (SH - Formulation cutting 3/5 Mts wide road from RD U/150 to 0/435)	1972626	09.03.2026	39500	16.03.2026	17.03.2026
5	C/O Memorial/Shahid Samarak in the memory of Shahid Hawaladar (Shn Rohit Negi) (Shorya Chakra Awarded) at NH-05 near Nigaudari Dutt, Kinnaur HP	1921796	09.03.2026	38400	16.03.2026	17.03.2026

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Karchham Division, HP.PWD, Bhabanagar. Email:-ee-karc-hp@nic.in on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

DPR-HP-6980/2025-2026

Bridging the Gap in Higher Education: Shiksha Setu Expo 2026 Set to Transform Admissions in Chandigarh

BUREAU CHANDIGARH: As the landscape of higher education expands at an unprecedented rate, students and parents are increasingly overwhelmed by a maze of domestic and international choices. To cut through the noise and provide a credible, structured pathway to the right admission, the region is gearing up for the highly anticipated Shiksha Setu Expo 2026.



Scheduled to take place from 21-23 May 2026 at the Parade Ground, Sector 17, this focused education fair in Chandigarh promises to bring leading universities, colleges, international institutions, and skill providers under one roof. Organised by Vaarta Trade Fairs India Pvt. Ltd., the exhibition is strategically positioned to serve the robust higher education belt comprising Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and the tricity area. A Shift from Footfall to Focus Unlike traditional education fairs that prioritize sheer crowd volume, Shiksha Setu Expo distinguishes itself through a result-oriented framework. The platform is meticulously designed to facilitate meaningful, direct interactions between institutional representatives and admission-ready students. By prioritizing qualified enquiries, the expo creates a transparent environment where families can effectively compare course offerings, explore global study pathways, and make informed, confident decisions. Comprehensive Opportunities Under One Roof The expo caters to a wide spectrum of educational needs, offering: Diverse Academic Programs: Direct exploration of UG, PG, diploma, and specialized certification programs. Global & Domestic Reach: Participation from premier Indian universities, private colleges, international institutions, and study abroad consultants. Skill & Tech Integration: Presence of vocational institutes,

test-prep providers, and EdTech companies tailored to modern career demands. A Strategic Hub for Institutional Growth Beyond student recruitment, the Shiksha Setu Expo serves as a vital B2B networking hub. Institutions and education professionals will have the opportunity to engage in agent and counsellor networking, explore franchise collaborations, and strengthen their brand positioning in one of North India's highest-potential education markets. Registrations Now Open Backed by extensive regional outreach—including direct tie-ups with schools, principal associations, and comprehensive media campaigns—the event guarantees an audience of serious, decision-making families.

Participation from premier Indian universities, private colleges, international institutions, and study abroad consultants. Skill & Tech Integration: Presence of vocational institutes,

Nestlé Tahlival observes National Safety Week; reinforces commitment to safety in the factory

UNA : Reinforcing its unwavering commitment to safety and wellbeing, Nestlé India Limited commenced National Safety Week 2026 at its Tahlival factory on March 4 with a ceremonial hoisting of the Safety Flag. National Safety Week will be observed from March 4 to March 11, 2026. The event was led by Mr. Amit Kumar, Factory Manager, Nestlé Tahlival, who hoisted the flag and encouraged employees to reaffirm their commitment to following all safety protocols and best practices. The occasion saw enthusiastic participation from employees across functions, reflecting the factory's collective dedication to fostering a safe and healthy workplace. Throughout the week, employees will be engaged through various awareness initiatives focused on critical areas such as road safety, life-saving rules, fire safety measures, and integrating safety and health into both workplace culture and daily life. Mr. Lokesh Thakur, Safety Manager, Nestlé Tahlival, administered the National Safety Day pledge and briefed employees in detail about the 2026 theme, highlighting the importance of proactive safety practices in everyday operations. The Tahlival factory continues to prioritize safety as a core value, ensuring that every employee returns home safely each day while contributing to a culture of responsibility and care.



Godrej Enterprises Group's Storage Solutions business delivers advanced rack-clad warehouse, sets a new benchmark in engineering excellence

CHANDIGARH : The Storage Solutions business of Godrej Enterprises Group (GEG) has today successfully delivered one of India's most advanced Automated Racking System (ARS) Rack-Clad warehouses. The solution has been delivered for one of the country's leading pharmaceutical companies, marking a significant milestone in India's evolving manufacturing infrastructure. Rising to 120 feet (36 metres), the high-bay Automated Rack-Clad warehouse reflects engineering-led innovation designed and executed in India, integrating structural racking, automation, and cladding into a single system. Within a compact footprint of 11,490 square feet, the facility accommodates 6,316 pallet positions, enabling high-density, fully automated storage and retrieval with minimal manual intervention. The system enhances inventory accuracy, throughput, traceability, and operational reliability, meeting the stringent demands of large-scale pharmaceutical operations. Measuring 216 feet (66 metres) in length and 56 feet (17 metres) in width, the structure maximises vertical capacity, enabling scalable growth without proportional increases in land use or construction timelines. Mr. Vikas Choudaha, Business Head - Storage Solutions, Godrej Enterprises Group, said, "This project is a powerful demonstration of what Indian engineering and manufacturing excellence can achieve when innovation is guided by purpose."



'Z' hosts a spectacular celebration of Indian cinema at Maruti Suzuki presents 24th Zee Cine Awards 2026, bringing 'Fantertainment' to life

CHANDIGARH : Maruti Suzuki presents 24th Zee Cine Awards 2026 unfolded as a spectacular celebration of Indian cinema, a night where scale met sentiment, legacy met new-age storytelling, and the spotlight shone as brightly on fans as it did on the stars. Held at Mumbai's iconic NSCI Dome, the evening honoured a defining year in cinema while bringing alive the spirit of 'Fantertainment' with 'Yeh Pal Hai Fans Ka', a powerful reminder that every cinematic milestone is made unforgettable by the audiences who champion it.



The grandeur began at the iconic purple carpet, which set the tone for an evening steeped in glamour and anticipation. It wasn't just an arrival; it was a moment. Akshay Kumar made a commanding entry in a midnight black velvet suit, paired with an open-collar white shirt exuding effortless charisma. Vicky Kaushal impressed in a black tuxedo. Varun Dhawan followed in a tailored micro-check three-piece suit, pairing retro-inspired flared trousers with sleek black boots bringing his signature energy to the celebration, while Nora Fatehi dazzled in a high-neck ivory blouse paired with a sculpted black mermaid skirt, radiating confidence and poise.

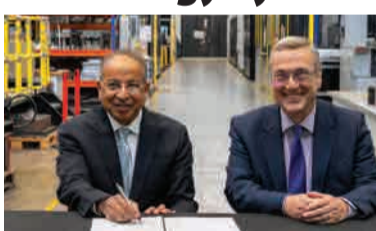
Sonam Bajwa turned heads in a stunning light peach bodycon shimmer gown, Jacqueline Fernandez stunned in a dreamy pastel-yellow off-shoulder gown with a ruched bodice and tiered, fringed skirt, paired with delicate gold jewelry, and Rajkumar Rao added charm to the carpet in an all-black suit with silver embellishments. Aparshakti Khurana rounded off the stellar lineup in a shimmering velvet black suit, showcasing refined elegance with other stars like Kriti Sanon, Rakul Preet Singh, Jackky Bhagnani, Ananya Panday, Ahan Panday, Aneet Padda, Fardeen Khan, Shekhar Suman, Manjot Singh, Sourabh Shukla, Rajat Bedi, Anupam Kher, Taha Shah Badushsa and others. Together, their presence transformed the purple carpet into a vivid showcase of

cinematic stature, a glamorous prelude to a night that promised grandeur at every turn. Inside the dome, the celebration scaled new heights. Hosted by Rajkumar Rao and Aparshakti Khurana, the evening unfolded with effortless wit, warmth, and seamless camaraderie, guiding audiences through a power-packed showcase of performances, tributes, and unforgettable moments. The stage came alive with electrifying acts, immersive production design, and cinematic storytelling that celebrated both the craft and the cultural impact of Indian films.

Beyond the spectacle, the 24th Zee Cine Awards 2026 remained firmly rooted in recognition. From powerhouse performances to path-breaking storytelling and technical brilliance, the awards honoured excellence across categories, celebrating both stalwarts and emerging voices. In keeping with the ethos of 'Yeh Pal Hai Fans Ka', the evening also acknowledged the unwavering passion of fans, whose devotion elevates cinema beyond the screen and into a shared cultural celebration.

Tata Power and University of Warwick Forge Strategic Alliance in New Energy Systems Innovation

CHANDIGARH : The University of Warwick has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Tata Power, India's leading integrated power companies, to deliver research and innovation in grid modernization, fast charging, power storage, industrial decarbonisation, digital energy systems, optimisation and advanced manufacturing approaches. The collaboration will also explore industry-aligned executive education programmes, capability development initiatives, exchange opportunities, technical workshops, and joint case study development. Together, these efforts mark an important step toward strengthening



long-term research capability, talent development, and global academic engagement aligned with Tata Power's strategic priorities. The agreement builds upon

decades of expertise established at Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG) - one of the University's largest academic departments - and the School of Engineering. The University also announced a renewed focus on energy systems, which will support the partnership. Professor Stuart Croft, Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Warwick, said: "We strive to make a better world through our world-leading research and education. Our partnership with Tata Power marries our academic excellence with leading industry expertise to help advance a more sustainable future for people, places."

Strength, Resilience & Dreams: Zee TV's Leading Ladies Celebrate Womanhood on International Women's Day

CHANDIGARH: As the world celebrates International Women's Day and the beauty, strength, and resilience of womanhood, Zee TV continues its long-standing legacy of presenting women in powerful, inspiring, and authentic roles through its storytelling. Over the years, the channel has brought to life several memorable female characters who reflect courage, determination, and individuality. This Women's Day, Zee TV's leading ladies, Aman-deep Sidhu aka Ganga from Ganga Mai Ki Betiyan, Sonakshi Batra aka Jagadhatri from Jagadhatri, Aayushi Khurrana aka Reet from Jaane Anjaane Hum Mile, Niharika Chouksey aka Anu from Tumm Se Tumm Tak, Mohak Matkar aka Saru from Saru, Akshita Mudgal aka Radhika from Lakshmi Niwas and Priya Thakur aka Vasudha from Vasudha open up about the joy of being a woman, the challenges they have faced, and their heartfelt wishes for women everywhere. Amandeep Sidhu aka Ganga from Ganga Mai Ki Betiyan said, "A day like Women's Day is special, but I believe every woman, whether a woman or a man, should be celebrated every day for their kindness, positivity and good deeds. Having said that, I'm glad there is a day dedicated to honouring women. This Women's Day, I wish that women



truly feel empowered and become more independent in every aspect of life. I feel grateful to have a family that has always supported my dreams and aspirations, which is why I am where I am today. Playing Sneha in Ganga Maa Ki Betiyan, who is fierce and bold, makes me proud to portray such a powerful character on television. I also hope women continue to realise their self-worth and never feel the need to sacrifice their dreams simply because society expects them to."

Aayushi Khurrana aka Reet from Jaane Anjaane Hum Mile said, "Women's Day is always a reminder of how far we've come and how much more we still need to achieve. As a woman, the one thing I truly hope for is that women's safety is taken more seriously everywhere, because every woman deserves to feel safe, respected and heard. I feel incredibly fortunate to have been born and brought up around strong women, especially my mother, who

has been my biggest inspiration and strength. Their resilience has shaped the way I look at the world. Through my journey as an actor, especially while portraying such layered characters, I have grown stronger and more aware of the challenges women face. I truly hope that in my own way I can contribute to bringing positive change and help make the world a better, safer place for women."

Akshita Mudgal aka Radhika from Lakshmi Niwas said, "As a woman, I feel proud of the many layers and strengths that women carry within themselves. While the world often talks about the 'modern woman', I love playing Radhika in Lakshmi Niwas because she proves that even a simple, girl-next-door personality can be just as strong and inspiring. Today, women are respected for who they are and are living life on their own terms. This Women's Day, I wish every woman success, peace and safety, and hope we con-

tinue to uplift and support each other."

Sonakshi Batra aka Jagadhatri from Jagadhatri said, "Playing Jagadhatri has reminded me that strength isn't always loud but it's often quiet, resilient, and deeply compassionate. This Women's Day, I celebrate every woman who leads with courage, lifts others with kindness, and believes in her own power to create change. May we continue to support one another, break barriers, and write our own stories with confidence and pride."

Niharika Chouksey aka Anu from Tumm Se Tumm Tak said, "Starting my journey as an actor at a very young age has shaped not just my career, but also my perspective as a woman. Over the years, I've been fortunate to portray characters who reflect strength, independence and a progressive mindset. That is something I deeply connect with even in real life. In Tumm se Tumm Tak, my character Anu also

represents a woman who thinks ahead and stands by her beliefs. Playing such a role everyday, reminds me how powerful storytelling can be in shaping perceptions about women. This Women's Day, I feel proud to be part of stories that celebrate empowered and progressive women."

Priya Thakur aka Vasudha from Vasudha said, "Women's Day always makes me pause and think about the incredible women who shaped my journey like my mother, my friends, and so many strong women I meet every day on set and in life. Playing Vasudha has reminded me that strength doesn't always come from big victories but sometimes it's in the quiet courage to keep going, to stay kind, and to stand by what you believe in. I feel deeply grateful to portray a character who reflects resilience and warmth, something I try to carry in my own life too. Today, I celebrate every woman who always rises with grace, even on the toughest days."

Mohak Matkar aka Saru from Saru said, "As a woman and an actress, my biggest achievement has been building my own identity and connecting with audiences through my work."

Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail & Tarun Tahiliani Bring Tasva to Mohali



MOHALI: Tasva, the premium Indian menswear brand by Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Ltd. (ABFRL) and celebrated designer Tarun Tahiliani, is expanding its physical presence with the launch of its first store in Mohali. This milestone opening brings Tasva's contemporary Indian menswear and signature craftsmanship to a discerning new audience, marking an important step in the brand's continued retail growth.

Punjab's wedding culture is expressive and detail-oriented. Mohali and the larger Tricity region have customers who invest in occasion dressing and understand silhouette, fabric, and finish. Tasva enters this market with a modern Indian wardrobe designed for today's groom and celebration dresser. The store at HLP Galleria Mall spans over 2,200 sq. ft. It offers sherwanis, bandhgallas, kurtas, bundis, achkans, churidars and aligarhis, along with safas, shawls, brooches, stoles and mojaris. The space is clean and structured. Neutral tones, strong lighting and minimal visual noise allow the garments to stand out. The focus remains on fit and finish.

Reflecting on the brand's entry into the city, Tarun Tahiliani, Chief Design Officer, Tasva, said, "In markets like Mohali, weddings are large in scale but deeply personal. What we are seeing now is a move away from excess towards refinement. The modern groom wants structure. He wants ease. He wants something that photographs well but also feels natural to wear. Our approach has always been about proportion and balance. This store allows us to respond to that demand in a more focused way."

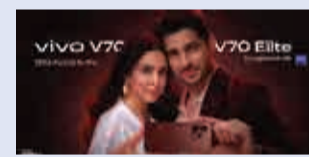
inDrive Launches Ride XL Category in Chandigarh

CHANDIGARH - inDrive, the global mobility and urban services platform known for its fair-price model and user-first approach, today announced the launch of inDrive Ride XL in Chandigarh. The new category introduces spacious 6-seater vehicles, designed to make group travel, family outings, airport transfers, and intercity journeys more comfortable while allowing passengers to negotiate and agree on a fair fare directly with drivers. The new inDrive Ride XL category features spacious 6-seater vehicles with extra legroom, air-conditioned cabins, and ample luggage space, making it easy for up to six passengers to travel together comfortably without needing to book multiple cars. This makes XL rides an ideal choice for families, groups of friends, office outings, airport travelers with luggage, and business teams looking for convenient group mobility. Staying true to inDrive's fair price model, passengers can propose their fare and choose from multiple driver offers, ensuring a transparent and mutually agreed price while maintaining full freedom of choice. In a city like Chandigarh, which serves as a gateway to popular destinations in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Haryana, XL rides also provide a comfortable and practical option for long-distance and intercity travel. Avik Karmakar, Country Manager - India at inDrive, said: "At inDrive, we believe mobility should give people the freedom to choose - whether it's the driver, the ride, or the price they feel is fair. With the launch of inDrive XL in Chandigarh, we are introducing a practical option for families, groups, and travelers who need more space without losing control over what they pay. Cities like Chandigarh see frequent group travel for weekend getaways, airport trips, and intercity journeys, and XL rides make these experiences more comfortable and convenient while continuing to reflect our fair price model."



vivo launches new Campaign for V70 and V70 Elite

CHANDIGARH: vivo India has launched a new digital video campaign for the vivo V70 and vivo V70 Elite, featuring brand ambassadors Siddharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani. The film celebrates life's most joyful milestones and reinforces vivo's commitment to enabling consumers to capture their most cherished moments with clarity and emotion. At the heart of the campaign is a deeply personal narrative. Sid and Kiara recreate some of their most memorable life moments, including a proposal and intimate pre-wedding celebrations. The storytelling reflects the excitement, warmth, and authenticity that define such milestones, creating a strong emotional connection with viewers. Through this narrative, vivo positions the V70 and V70 Elite as companions for life's defining occasions. The campaign highlights how advanced imaging technology can elevate everyday experiences into timeless memories. Central to the communication are two key features that power this storytelling. The 50MP Night Telephoto camera enables users to capture sharp, detailed portraits even in challenging low-light conditions. Whether it is an evening celebration or a candid moment under ambient lighting, the camera is designed to deliver clarity and depth. Complementing this is 4K video recording, which allows users to document their milestones with cinematic precision, vibrant detail, and smooth performance. Together, these capabilities ensure that memories are not just captured but preserved beautifully.



Blenders Pride Packaged Drinking Water unveils 'The One And Only', celebrating the Power of Success with Distinction

GURUGRAM : Blenders Pride Packaged Drinking Water, a cultural icon that has elevated the idea of success for generations, unveils its newest campaign 'The One And Only' - a compelling new narrative of success. In today's world, where markers of success have become increasingly visible and crowded, the brand reasserts a timeless truth - True success lies in distinction - that draws admiration and sets one worlds apart. The new campaign captures this spirit, portrayed by three protagonists—Avanti Nagrath, Kirandeep Chahal and Mahieka Sharma - each embodying a different facet of the brand. Avanti radiates charisma with her fearless confidence and individuality, Kirandeep evokes desire with her magnetic and unapologetic presence, and Mahieka inspires awe with poise and quiet admiration - all in an aspirational world filled with many equals - yet where they and hence, the brand itself, stand a cut above the rest and unmistakably command everyone around them. Rooted in style and substance, the brand has consistently shaped aspirational success in modern Indian culture - from leading with innovations, pioneering many industry-firsts to building iconic fashion platforms. With 'The One And Only', it now charts the course of its next evolution, speaking directly to a new generation of bold achievers who seek more than recognition - they seek admiration & influence. The 360-degree integrated campaign has been launched across Digital & Social platforms including the ongoing ICC T20 World Cup, front page ads on leading Newspapers and impactful Outdoor sites across major cities, driving widespread visibility and reinforcing the brand cultural leadership. Debasree Dasgupta, Chief Marketing Officer, Pernod Ricard India, said "Blenders Pride has always believed in the power of success with style and stature. 'The One And Only' presents a defining new idea of success, one that's fueled by distinction. It brings forth the cultural context that, today, the aspiring youth in India aims to not just be successful but stand apart with assurance. With this narrative of success, Blenders Pride captures the resounding aspirations of the youth, while further strengthening its position as an inspiring cultural leader."



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