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JUDICIAL SYSTEM MUST WORK LIKE HOSPITALS: CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

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PMDA ORGANISES GRAND 'VASANT UTSAV-2026' ON THE LINES OF INTERNATIONAL SURAJKUND

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ESHA GUPTA SHARES HEARTWARMING WISH FOR GOD'S CHILD, YO YO HONEY SINGH

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Five assemblies to go to polls next month

Tamil Nadu on April 23, WB on April 23 and 29

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, MAR 15

The Election Commission of India has announced the schedule for Assembly polls for Kerala, Assam, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. As per the announcement, the assembly elections will commence from April 9.

Polling in Assam, Kerala and Puducherry will be held on April 9 in a single phase.

While in West Bengal, the first phase of voting is scheduled for April 23, followed by the second phase on April 29.

Tamil Nadu will hold its elections on April 23 in a single phase.

Counting of votes for all five states and UTs is scheduled for May 4.

Addressing a press conferences in the national capital today, the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar termed the assembly polls a "festival of pride" and urged first-time voters to participate enthusiastically.

The CEC made a special appeal to young and first-time voters, saying, "My dear friends, you are about to step into one of the most important responsibilities of your life, exercising your democratic right, the right to vote. I urge you to participate enthusiastically in this great democratic exercise and cast your vote with pride, responsibility and confidence. Your vote is your choice in shaping the future of your state and the nation.

Furthermore, Special intensive revision of the voters' lists in these four states and one union territory has already been conducted, with final electoral rolls published. Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had on March 10 visited West Bengal to review poll preparedness in the state. They had also visited the other states which are heading into polls to review poll preparedness.



The total number of seats in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly is 294, with the main contest between the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). TMC, led by Mamata Banerjee, has been in power in the state since 2011.

Assam will witness a fight between the incumbent BJP-led NDA government and Congress for 126 state assembly seats.

In Kerala, the main fight is between the Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the United Democratic Front (UDF) for 140 seats of the Legislative Assembly. Meanwhile, the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is also in the fray to compete against both alliances. BJP plans to contest around 100 seats in Kerala, while its allies Bharat Dharma Jana Sena (BDJS) and Twenty20 are expected to contest the remaining 40 seats as part of the alliance.

For the 234 seats in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, political parties are ramping up their campaign activities and finalising seat-sharing arrangements within their respective alliances. Puducherry will hold elections for all 30 constituencies of the 16th Puducherry Legislative Assembly. While the Congress is fighting the polls in an alliance with DMK and CPI, the opposition consisted of All India NR Congress, BJP and AIADMK. The Election Commission of India reviewed poll preparedness for the upcoming Assembly elections in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam, and Puducherry previously this month. According to a release, the Election Commission appointed Central Observers under the plenary powers conferred on it by Article 324 of the Constitution and Section 20B of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, to assist the Commission in the conduct of free and fair polls.

NEWS BRIEFS

'MCC-Modi's Code of Campaigning': Cong's dig at EC

NEW DELHI: Ahead of the assembly polls schedule announcement by the Election Commission, the Congress on Sunday took a swipe, saying since 2014 the MCC has come to stand for "Modi's Code of Campaigning which will be full of defamation, abuses, intimidation, fear-mongering, and spreading the virus of lies."
The opposition party also claimed that the poll schedule announcement "would have been given the go-ahead by the G2, since G1 would have completed this round of inaugurations, ribbon-cuttings, flag-offs, and launches".
The Congress frequently uses the term 'G2' to take swipes at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, who are both from Gujarat.
In a post on X, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "The Election Commission will announce the schedule for the 2026 assembly elections at 4 PM today. It would have been given the go-ahead by the G2, since G1 would have completed this round of inaugurations, ribbon-cuttings, flag-offs.

Post linked to Lawrence Bishnoi gang 'associates' issues threat to rapper Badshah

CHANDIGARH: An unverified post, attributed to the alleged associates of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, surfaced on social media on Sunday, issuing a death threat to rapper-musician Badshah.
Aditya Prateek Singh Sisodia, popularly known as Badshah, landed in controversy following the release of his new Haryanvi song "Tateeree". He has been facing backlash due to "obscene lyrics" and "inappropriate visuals", leading to an official police complaint against him and a summons from a state commission. The purported Facebook post alleged that the rapper tried to ruin the culture of Haryana.

Indian crude tanker sails out of UAE's Fujairah safely

NEW DELHI: An Indian-flagged crude tanker sailed out safely from the UAE's Fujairah after loading oil, despite an attack on the oil terminal, as the government on Sunday said it is closely monitoring the situation in West Asia while ensuring stable fuel supplies and maritime safety.
The vessel, Jag Laadki, carrying about 80,800 tonnes of Murban crude oil, departed Fujairah at 1030 hrs IST and is bound for India, with all crew members safe, the government said in an update on preparedness measures.
Jag Laadki is the fourth Indian-flagged vessel to have come out of the war zone unharmed.
Besides, the safe passage being an important milestone for Indian diplomacy, the cargo they are carrying is considered critical as shipping constraints in the Strait of Hormuz have impacted India's energy supplies.
"On March 14, 2026, while the Indian-flag vessel Jag Laadki was loading crude oil at the Fujairah Single Point Mooring, the Fujairah oil terminal was attacked. The vessel sailed safely from Fujairah at 1030 hrs IST today (Sunday), carrying about 80,800 tonnes of Murban crude oil and is bound for India," the update said. "The vessel and all Indian seafarers onboard are safe." On Saturday, two Indian-flag LPG carriers - Shivalik and Nanda Devi - carrying about 92,712 tonnes of LPG crossed the war-hit Strait of Hormuz.

Invest in Punjab, Govt will provide full support & incentives: CM Bhagwant Singh Mann

SHASHI PAL JAIN
SAS NAGAR, MAR 15



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Sunday assured industry leaders of full government support and incentives while addressing entrepreneurs on the concluding day of the three day Progressive Punjab Investors' Summit in SAS Nagar (Mohali). Highlighting the strong participation of global and national investors, the Chief Minister emphasised that the summit has created the right environment for industrial growth and will accelerate the state's economic progress. He announced that the government will hold a review session after six months to assess the progress of the investment proposals and projects finalised during the summit.

Interacting with the business tycoons on the concluding day of the landmark Progressive Punjab Investors' Summit, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann stated, "Words are short to describe the dedication of those who have come here to attend this summit and become active partners in the economic progress of the state. Leading industrial tycoons from across the globe have converged at this historic and landmark summit. The best coaches are those who prepare their teams for every sort of hostile environment and challenge, and the state government has worked on the same pattern."

Emphasising the spirit of the people of the state, the Chief Minister continued, "Punjabis are always leaders and we can do anything for the country and its people as we give top priority to the nation. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the new emergent field but the human brain is far more important than it, which is good for human resources development. It is heartening to see that businessmen are fast emerging as a key voice in policy making decisions."

Referring to the deliberations held during the summit, he added, "Around 30 brainstorming sessions were conducted during the three days of the Progressive Punjab Investors' Summit, which will go a long way in accelerating the economic growth of the state. Besides putting the state on a high growth trajectory, this summit will also help in creating new job opportunities for youth. This is imperative for checking brain drain from the state and ushering in a new era of progress and prosperity."

CM Bhagwant Singh Mann stated that in a democracy the Universal Adult Franchise is very important and we are very fortunate that all of us have got this right. Everyone should exercise their right to vote so that their voice is counted. It is necessary to ensure that the democratic right of every person is acknowledged for the welfare of all.

Speaking about the impact of the AAP in politics, he said, "Manifestos of other political parties have changed ever since the advent of the Aam Aadmi Party AAP, which has brought the common man to the centre stage.

Shimla receives rain, fresh snow in higher reaches of Manali



SHIMLA: The state capital of Shimla and its surrounding areas experienced a thunderstorm on Sunday, accompanied by hail and rain, while the higher-altitude regions in Kullu and Lahaul and Spiti districts received another round of fresh snow.
Dark, convective clouds covered the sky, significantly reducing visibility in some areas. The upper hills of Manali, including the Atal Tunnel, saw light snowfall.
Videos of tourists enjoying the snow near the tunnel have been circulating widely on the internet.
The snow has brought joy to tourism stakeholders, as the combination of snow in the hills and a heat wave in the plains during the holidays is expected to boost tourist footfall in the region. However, a perceived disruption in the supply of commercial LPG cylinders has been a concern.
The Shimla Meteorological Office issued an orange warning for thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds in the districts of Shimla, Kullu, and Mandi for Sunday. They also predict light rain and snow in the state until March 21. An orange alert for thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds — with wind speeds between 40-50 km per hour — has been issued for Kullu and Shimla, as well as hail warnings for Solan and Sirmaur districts on Thursday, March 19. Additionally, a yellow alert has been issued by the MeT for thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds, also with wind speeds of 40-50 km per hour, in ten out of twelve districts, except Kinnaur and Lahaul and Spiti, for Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

2,157 panchayats in Haryana declared B-free in 2025, up from 574 in 2023

BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, MAR 15

Haryana has made significant strides under the TB Mukt Panchayat initiative with 2,157 gram panchayats accounting for 35 per cent of the state's total 6,237 panchayats found eligible for TB-free certification in 2025 after verification. This was stated by Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, Dr. Sumita Misra here today.

The TB Mukt Panchayat initiative was launched by Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi on World TB Day on March 24, 2023 at Varanasi. The objective of the initiative is to empower Panchayati Raj Institutions to understand the extent and magnitude of problems associated with tuberculosis, take necessary actions toward solving them and create healthy competition among panchayats while appreciating their contribution toward TB elimination.



From 574 to 2,157 — A Fourfold Rise in Three Years

Dr. Misra said the growth in TB-free panchayat certifications under TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan, over the past three years reflects the increasing momentum of the programme at the grassroots level. In 2023, the state secured 574 certifications all in the Bronze category accounting for just nine per cent of total panchayats. By 2024, this figure nearly tripled to 1,855 panchayats, comprising 1,542 Bronze and 313 Silver certifications, covering 30 per cent of the state's panchayats. In 2025, the tally has risen further to 2,157 eligible panchayats covering 35 per cent of the total.

Dr. Misra explained that the initiative follows a three-tier certification structure. Panchayats maintaining TB-free status for the first year are eligible for Bronze certification, those maintaining it for two consecutive years receive Silver certification and those sustaining it for three consecutive years are awarded Gold certification. Certificates are issued annually on World TB Day March 24 by the under Deputy Commissioner, with one-year validity. Six indicators are used for submission and verification of claims, which are validated by the District Development and Panchayati Raj Officer, Civil Surgeon and Deputy Civil Surgeon TB before a panchayat can be declared TB-free.

Newly sworn-in Delhi LG Taranjit Singh Sandhu visits Gurudwara Harmandir Sahib

AMRITSAR: Delhi's new Lieutenant Governor, Taranjit Singh Sandhu, arrived in Amritsar on Sunday to offer prayers and seek blessings at Harmandir Sahib, also known as Golden Temple. On a visit to his hometown, Amritsar, thousands thronged the Airport to welcome LG Sandhu, where he was also given a formal Guard of Honour. Speaking to reporters, Sandhu said, "I have come to offer prayers at Darbar Sahib and seek blessings."
He also stated that, "I was also given the responsibility of Delhi a few days ago. I sought blessings to work with determination. There are many challenges, but we will turn them into opportunities."
During his visit, he also proceeded to Teja Singh Samundri Hall. Upon Sandhu's arrival at Samundri Hall, Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) representatives welcomed and felicitated him. Several religious and social dignitaries were also present on this occasion. Sandhu also visited the Martyrs Memorial in Jalianwala Bagh to offer his homage.



NHAI to revise FASTag annual pass fee from April 1



AGENCY
NEW DELHI, MAR 15

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has revised the fee for the FASTag Annual Pass from Rs 3,000 to Rs 3,075 for the financial year 2026–27. The revised fee will come into effect from April 1 this year.

According to an official statement issued on Sunday, the revision has been made in accordance with the provisions of the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008. With more than 56 lakh users, the FASTag Annual Pass has been witnessing growing adoption among private vehicle owners.

The revised rate will apply to eligible non-commercial vehicles with a valid FASTag seeking to avail the Annual Pass facility at around 1,150 fee plazas on national highways and expressways. The FASTag Annual Pass eliminates the need for frequent FASTag recharges by allowing users to pay a one-time fee for either one year of validity or up to 200 toll plaza crossings.

Black marketing of LPG cylinders raises concern; States launch raids against hoarding

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, MAR 15

Amid rising concerns over the availability and pricing of LPG cylinders, reports have emerged that cylinders are being sold on the black market for as much as 7,000 in several parts of Karnataka, highlighting a growing issue of hoarding and illegal trade.

According to sources, the sharp increase in demand and supply disruptions in certain areas have encouraged unscrupulous elements to stockpile cylinders and sell them at highly inflated prices. Consumers in some districts have complained of severe shortages, forcing many to either wait for extended periods or purchase cylinders through illegal channels at exorbitant rates.



In response to the situation, state governments have begun strict enforcement drives to curb hoarding and black marketing. Authorities in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab have already initiated raids on suspected storage locations, warehouses, and commercial establishments suspected of illegally stocking domestic LPG cylinders.

Officials from the food and civil supplies departments, along with local enforcement teams, have been conducting inspections of gas agencies and commercial kitchens to ensure that domestic cylinders are not being diverted for commercial use.

CHANDIGARH

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News

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Deep condolences: Political class mourns loss of Assembly Speaker's Mother

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

KARNAL- Even today, a large number of people reached Kalyan Farm near Madhuban to condole the demise of Mrs. Prem Kaur Kalyan, mother of Haryana Assembly Speaker Harvinder Kalyan. Leaders belonging to various political parties, officials and people associated with social, political, religious organizations and many people of Gharaunda area paid tribute to Smt. Prem Kaur Kalyan. They also prayed to God to provide strength and support to the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss.

Among those who paid tribute to Mrs. Prem Kaur Kalyan were Haryana BJP Organization Minister Phanindra Nath, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shyam Singh Rana, MLA Satpal Jamba, former MP Sanjay Bhatia, former Gohana MLA Jagbir Malik, former MLA Randhir Golan, Chairman Dhuman Singh Kirmach, IAS Vinay Pratap, IAS Mukul Kumar, IAS Virendra Dahiya, former DGP Shatrujit Kapoor, ADGP Ravi Kiran Mata, former IAS BS Malik, former MP Ashok Tanwar, Panipat Superintendent of Police Bhupendra Singh, former head of Road Mahasabha Surendra Singh alias Babbu, former minister Shashi Pal Mehta, former MLA District Ram Sharma, HSGPC President Jagdish Singh Jhinda.

It is noteworthy that 87 year old Mrs. Prem Kaur Kalyan passed away on Friday night.

NEWS BRIEF

Shortage of cooking gas completely ruins the budgets of people

CHAMAN LAL

KARNAL- Surendra Nambardar, District General Secretary of the Congress Party, said that today the common citizen of the country was facing problem by rising inflation and unemployment. The ever-rising price of cooking gas has completely ruined the budgets of poor and middle-class families. He said that in many places, people were facing severe problems due to gas shortages and black marketing. This impact is not limited to homes, but is also affecting hotels, restaurants, and small and large industries. Due to the government's faulty policies, youth are facing unemployment, and ordinary families are being crushed under the burden of inflation. Surendra Numberdar said that if these problems were not resolved soon, the Congress Party will intensify the movement in collaboration with the public. The Congress Party will become the voice of the people and continue to fight for their rights on every platform.

Six linked cross-border smuggling modules held in Amritsar



CHARNJIT SINGH ARORA

AMRITSAR: In a major breakthrough amidst the ongoing drive to make Punjab a safe and secure state as per directions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, Amritsar Commissionerate Police has busted two separate cross-border arms and drug smuggling modules with the arrest of six accused persons and recovered six sophisticated pistols and 3.5 kg heroin from their possession, said Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav here on Sunday.

Those arrested have been identified as Karan Singh (26) of Khemkaran in Tarn Taran, Gurpreet Singh alias Gopi (22) of Khemkaran in Tarn Taran, Makhandeen alias Makhan (22) of Nag Kalan in Amritsar, Rakesh alias Keshu (26) of Khemkaran in Tarn Taran, Chamkor Singh alias Chamkor (23) of Khemkaran in Tarn Taran and Jasbir Singh alias Beera alias Raghu (19), a resident of village Mullechak in Amritsar.

The recovered weapons include three PX 5.7×28MM TISAS Turkey pistols, two .30 Bore and one 9MM pistol along with 60 live cartridges. Notably, the sophisticated automatic PX 5.7×28 mm TISAS Turkey series pistols recovered in the operation are among the latest weapons and are among the rare recoveries.

DGP Gaurav Yadav said that preliminary investigation has revealed links of arrested persons with Pakistan-based smugglers, who were facilitating the supply of weapons and narcotics near the Indo-Pak border using drones.

Drive against illegal encroachments on MC Land in Naya Gaon

J.K. BATTA

CHANDIGARH: The Municipal Council has initiated strict action against illegal encroachments on its land in Naya Gaon, with the Revenue Department conducting a detailed demarcation of the affected sites.



Acting on the directions of MLA Anmol Gagan Maan, Manpreet Singh, Executive Officer of the Naya Gaon Municipal Council, said that the demarcation of encroached land was successfully carried out using the DGPS satellite system. Officials present during the exercise included Revenue Department Kanungo Sukhwinder Singh, Municipal Council Sub-Divisional Officer Harbhajan Singh, Senior Clerk Satvir Singh, along with other council staff.

According to officials, the encroached sites are government lands earmarked for essential public facilities, including public toilets, a village pond, and a cremation ground. These locations have now been clearly marked and further legal procedures have been initiated.

Executive Officer Manpreet Singh stated that strict legal action will be taken against individuals found responsible for illegally occupying Municipal Council land. He added that the administration will continue similar drives wherever government land is under the illegal control of land mafias.

Dr Neena honoured with Rashtriya Gaurav Award for contribution to women empowerment

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

KARNAL: Dr Neena has been honoured with the Rashtriya Gaurav Award for her outstanding contribution in the field of women empowerment and social service.Dr Neena is known for her active involvement in education, social service and public awareness initiatives. She is associated with St John Ambulance India and the Indian Red Cross Society, Karnal, as a first aid trainer. Currently, she is working as an assistant professor at B.R.M. College of Education in Gharaunda, Karnal.In addition, she serves as an organ donation ambassador with the MOHAN Foundation and also works as a laughing coach, yoga and meditation trainer. Through these roles, she has been contributing towards spreading awareness about health, mental well-being and social responsibility.Dr Neena has made significant contributions in the areas of road safety, first aid training and mental health awareness. She has organised numerous awareness and training programmes across Haryana in schools, colleges and various institutions. Her initiatives have benefited several organisations including the Haryana Police Academy in Madhuban, training centres, industries, Nari Niketan, prison inmates, Shraddhanand Ashram and H.D. Bal Bhavan. Her efforts focus on equipping people with life-saving skills and promoting awareness about physical and mental health.For her dedication to social service and women empowerment, she has received several recognitions from the Haryana government and district administration.



Annual athletic meet concludes at Guru Brahmanand Girls College, Anjanthali

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

NILOKHERI: The annual athletic meet and prize distribution ceremony at Guru Brahmanand Girls College, Anjanthali concluded with great enthusiasm on the second day of the event. Students participated actively in various sports competitions and displayed impressive performances.Major events organised on the second day included the 4×100 metre relay race, 100 metre race (final) and 200 metre race (final). Special competitions were also organised for teachers and non-teaching staff, including the lemon race, matki race and a 100 metre race. The tug of war between teachers and students turned out to be the most exciting event of the programme and drew enthusiastic response from the audience.Advocate Rajesh Chaudhary from Sultanpur attended the event as the chief guest and distributed prizes to the winners. Addressing the students, he encouraged them to participate actively in sports and emphasised the importance of discipline, team spirit and healthy competition.College principal Dr Balbir Singh welcomed the chief guest and said sports play an important role in the physical and mental development of students and such events help build confidence and leadership skills among them.Members of the college management committee were also present, including senior vice-president Chaudhary Roshan Lal, vice-president Chaudhary Ramesh Singh, treasurer Dr Subhash, Chaudhary Ravi Verma, Chaudhary Jasmer Singh, Chaudhary Inder Singh, Chaudhary Mahendra Singh, Chaudhary Subhash Badthal and Chaudhary Ajit.The event was coordinated by Komal, assistant professor in the Department of Health and Physical Education, while Dr Pinky conducted the stage proceedings and provided running commentary.In the 200 metre race, Simran, Aarti and Neeraj secured first, second and third positions respectively.



Cleanliness drive carried out in Ward 9 of Taraori

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

TARAORI: The Municipal Committee of Tarawadi carried out a cleanliness drive in Ward No. 9 as part of its ongoing efforts to improve sanitation in the town. Under the campaign, extensive cleaning of drains is being undertaken in the area.Teams of sanitation workers have been removing garbage, sludge and debris from both major and minor drains to ensure smooth water flow and proper drainage.Municipal officials said that cleaning drains before the onset of the monsoon is essential. If drains are not cleared in time, accumulated waste can obstruct water flow and lead to waterlogging in the area. Keeping this in view, a special drive has been launched in Ward No. 9.During the campaign, sanitation workers removed waste and silt from the drains and transported it to designated dumping sites. The surrounding areas were also cleaned to prevent garbage from entering the drains again.During the drive, the municipal team appealed to local residents to cooperate in maintaining cleanliness. Municipal secretary Ajit Kumar and committee chairman Virender Bansal urged citizens not to dump household waste into drains and to dispose of garbage only at designated locations or in dustbins. They said public cooperation is essential to keep the town clean and hygienic.



Madhav Srishti to become north India's 'Nagpur': RSS concludes annual meet with global peace and harmony resolve



RAKESHBHAYANA

PANIPAT: The three-day 'Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha' (ABPS) of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) concluded on Sunday at the 'Madhav Srishti' center in Pattikalyan, Haryana. Addressing a press conference following the final session, Sarkaryavah (General Secretary) Shri Dattatreya Hosabale shared the Sangh's vision on global geopolitics, organizational expansion, and the upcoming centenary celebrations. Global Vision: Endorses Indian Government's stance on the Middle East; prioritizes global peace. Organizational Surge: RSS footprint crosses 88,949 shakhas; 5,820 new units added in a year Ideological Clarity: "Patriotism is not a monopoly; BJP adopted our ideology, hence the synergy." Haryana's Pride: 25-acre 'Madhav Srishti' to be developed on the lines of the Nagpur headquarters. RSS Perspective on International Relations On the escalating tensions in the Middle East and the Iran-Israel conflict, Shri Hosabale expressed full confidence in the Government of India's diplomatic maneuvers. "Stability in neighboring nations like Bangladesh and Nepal is essential for Asia's security.

CLASSIFIED

PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Army No. 15136703N Ex-Hav Jaswinder Singh R/o Vpo. Jaitu Distt. Faridkot Punjab, declare that in my army record my father name & DOB wrongly mentioned Gurmail Singh & DOB 43 Yrs and my mother DOB wrongly mentioned 41. But my father correct name Gurmel Singh & correct DOB is 01-01-1951 and my mother correct DOB is 01-01-1951. So amended my father name & DOB and my mother DOB in my army record.

63372

I, No. 3389231K Ex-Nk Sukhwinder Singh Resident of Vpo. Fatehgarh Korotana Teh-Dharamkot Distt. Moga (Pb) Pin-142042 declare that the correct date of birth of my daughter Parwinder Kaur is 20-09-1999.

63372

I, Balbir Kaur mother of No. 1440242P Ex-Gnr Harjinder Singh Resident of Vpo. Rauke Kalan Teh-Nihal Singh Wala Distt. Moga (Pb) Pin-142037, declare that i have changed my name Balvir Kaur to Balbir Kaur and my correct date of birth is 02-02-1957.

63372

I, Gurdeep Kaur W/o No. 3393354N Ex-Hav Jasvir Singh Resident of Vpo. Rauli Teh & Distt. Moga (Pb) Pin-142001, declare that changed my name Gurdip Kaur to Gurdeep Kaur and my correct date of birth is 10-08-1975.

63372

I, Surjit Kaur widow of No. 14371325M Ex-Nk Late Iqbal Singh Resident of Vpo. Mari Mustafa Teh-Bagha Purana Distt. Moga (Pb) Pin-142049 declare that i have changed the name of my daughter Jagdip Kaur to Jagdeep Kaur.

63372

We, Lakshmi Sharma W/o Sh. Vishnu & Vishnu S/o Sh. Vasudev R/o Village Kheri Ramnagar, Tehsil Thanesar, District Kurukshetra, hereby declare that we have established a dairy business for our son, Raja Sharma, and our daughter-in-law, Mahima Sharma, within a warehouse to provide them with a means of livelihood; however, they no longer heed our instructions or authority. Therefore, we hereby disown both of them from all our movable and immovable assets, property, and land holdings—with the sole exception of the aforementioned dairy business. In the future, any individual engaging in transactions with the said two persons shall be solely responsible for their actions; neither we nor any other members of our family shall bear any liability in this regard.

100074

I Sarita W/o Sh. Pushp Raj R/o House No- 611, Dashmesh Nagar, Naya Gaon SAS Nagar Mohali Punjab have changed my minor son's name from Baby of Sarita to Vansh Sharma.

98765

I , Rekha W/o Naresh Mehta R/o HNo. 79A/12 , SBI Road , Near Sukrti Printing Press , GTB Colony , Kaithal (Haryana) Have Changed My Name From Rekha To Rekha Mehta. Concerned Please Note.

84451

I hitherto known as ARITA RANI W/o SANJU VERMA residing at House No. 461-B, BRS Nagar, Ludhiana, District Ludhiana, Punjab-141001, India, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RITU VERMA.It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection

90002

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mrs. Narmada Pandey, aged about 50 years, wife of Mr. Shobhakhar Pandey, resident of Village Chhatradev, District Arghakhanchi, presently residing near Big Bazar Baddi, Tehsil Baddi, District Solan, Himachal Pradesh, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my son's name is Mahesh Pandey. In his school certificate, his father's name has been mistakenly recorded as Subhakar Pandey instead of the correct name Shobhakhar Pandey, while the mother's name Mrs. Narmada is incorrectly mentioned. The correct particulars of my son are as follows: Name – Mahesh Pandey; Father's Name – Shobhakhar Pandey; Mother's Name – Mrs. Narmada Pandey; Date of Birth – 15/08/2004. I request the concerned authority to kindly correct the father's name in my son's school records accordingly. My permanent address mentioned above may be treated as my son's true and correct address. I hereby declare that the contents of this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and that I shall bear full responsibility for the same.

481259

PUBLIC NOTICES

ਮੈ ਮਨਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁਤਰ ਵਰਯਾਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਨਿਵਾਸੀ ਗਾਂਵ ਕਾਛਵਾ ਫਾਰਮ ਜਿਲਾ ਕਰਨਾਲ ਬਯਾਨ ਕਰਤਾ ਹੂੰ ਕਿ ਮੇਰਾ ਪੁਤ੍ਰ ਰਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਹ ਔਰ ਉਸਕੀ ਪਤ੍ਨੀ ਦਲਜੀਤ ਕੌਰ ਮੇਰੇ ਕਹਨੇ ਸੁਨਨੇ ਸੇ ਬਾਹਰ ਹੈ। ਹਮੇਸ਼ਾ ਅਪਨੀ ਮਨਮਰ੍ਜੀ ਕਰਤੇ ਹੈਂ ਔਰ ਮੇਰੇ ਔਰ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਕੇ ਸਾਥ ਮਾਰਪੀਟ ਕਰਤੇ ਹੈਂ। ਇਸਲਿਏ ਮੈਂ ਅਪਨੇ ਪੁਤ੍ਰ ਰਵਿਂਦ੍ਰ ਔਰ ਪੁਤ੍ਰਵਧੂ ਦਲਜੀਤ ਕੌਰ ਕੋ ਅਪਨੀ ਚਲ ਅਚਲ ਸਂਪਤ੍ਤਿ ਸੇ ਬੇਦਖਲ ਕਰਤਾ ਹੂੰ। ਭਵਿਸ਼੍ਯ ਮੇਂ ਜੋ ਕੋਈ ਭੀ ਇਨਸੇ ਲੇਨਦੇਨ ਕਰੇਗਾ ਸ੍ਵਯਂ ਜਿਮ੍ਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਗਾ। ਇਸਮੇਂ ਮੇਰੀ ਔਰ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਕੀ ਕੋਈ ਜਿਮ੍ਮੇਵਾਰੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਗੀ।

100046

ਮੈਂ ਗੁਰਜੀਤ ਕੌਰ ਪਤਨੀ ਸਵ. ਹੀਰਾ ਸਿੰਘ, ਵਾਸੀ ਮਕਾਨ ਨੰਬਰ ਬੀ - 1/326, ਗਲੀ ਨੰਬਰ 1, ਜਿੰਦਾ ਰੋਡ, ਮਕਸੂਦਾਂ, ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦੀ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰਾ ਲੜਕਾ ਸਤਨਾਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਤੇ ਉਸਦੀ ਪਤਨੀ ਸਿਮਰਨਜੀਤ ਕੌਰ ਜੋ ਕਿ ਮੇਰੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੇ ਬਾਹਰ ਹਨ। ਜਿਸ ਕਰਕੇ ਮੈਂ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੱਲ ਅਤੇ ਅਚੱਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖਲ ਕਰਦੀ ਹਾਂ। ਜੋ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ ਕਿਸੇ ਤਰਾਂ ਦਾ ਲੈਣ ਦੇਣ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਉਹ ਇਸ ਦੇ ਖੁਦ ਜਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਣਗੇ।

63372

ਮੈਂ ਪੰਕਜ ਅਰੋੜਾ 1063/2 ਦੇਸ ਰਾਜ ਸਟਰੀਟ ਪਟਿਆਲਾ ਦਾ ਵਾਸੀ ਹਾਂ। ਮੈਂ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਹੋਣ ਦੇ ਨਾਤੇ ਇੱਕ ਸੰਸਥਾ ਗਾਰਡੀਐਨਸ ਆਫ ਆਲ ਵੇਇਸਲੈਸ ਐਨੀਮਲਜ਼ ਚਲਾ ਰਹਿਾ ਹਾਂ। ਮੇਰੀ ਸੰਸਥਾ ਵੱਿਚ ਮੁਲਾਜ਼ਮ ਰੋਹਤਿ ਜੈਸਵਾਲ ਵਾਸੀ ਮਥੁਰਾ ਕਲੋਨੀ ਨੇੜੇ ਦੁਰਗਾ ਮਾਤਾ ਮੰਦਰਿ ਕੰਮ ਕਰ ਰਹਿਾ ਸੀ। ਉਸਦੇ ਕੰਮ ਦੇ ਗਲਤ ਤਰੀਕੇ ਅਤੇ ਕੰਮ ਦੌਰਾਨ ਭੱਦੀ ਸ਼ਬਦਾਵਲੀ ਬੋਲਣ ਕਰਕੇ ਆਪਣੀ ਸੰਸਥਾ ਵੱਿਚੋਂ ਕੱਢ ਦੱਿਤਾ ਹੈ। ਰੋਹਤਿ ਜੈਸਵਾਲ ਕਸਿੇ ਨਾਲ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਲੈਣ-ਦੇਣ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਉਸ ਵੱਿਚ ਮੇਰੀ ਤੇ ਮੇਰੀ ਸੰਸਥਾ ਦੀ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਜੰਿਮੇਵਾਰੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ।

524473

I hitherto known as Satish Kumar Grover S/o Nirmal Chand R/o H.No76, St.No.10, Chhoti Pouri, Nai Abadi, Abohar Dist. Fazilka (Punjab) have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Satish Kumar.

63372

I, Jagroop Kumar Aggarwal S/o Darshan Kumar R/o Rorian Road Malo Daud (Ludhiana) have changed my name from Jagroop Kumar Aggarwal to Jagroop Kumar.

63372

I, Gurjinder Kumar S/O Nasib Chand, V.P.O. Hiyatpur Jattan, Tehsil Balachaur, Distt. S.B.S. Nagar have changed my name Gurjinder Kumar to Kumar Gurjinder. Please note.

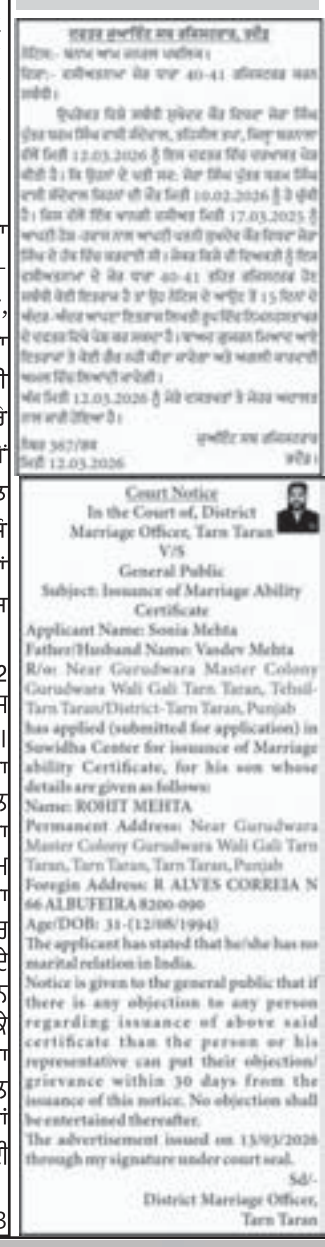
63372

I Surjit Kumar S/O Bhajan Ram R/O Village Ladhana Ucha Distt Sbs Nagar Punjab Indian Have Change Name Of Minor Son Naitik To Naitik Ralh.

63372

I, Dharmpal S/o Mohinder Singh R/o Vill: Bharo Mazara Po. Dosanjh Khurd Distt. SBS Nagar have changed my name from Dharmpal to Dharam Pal. concerned note it.

63372


Court Notice
In the Court of, District Marriage Officer, Tarn Taran
V/S
General Public
Subject: Issuance of Marriage Ability Certificate
Applicant Name: Sonia Mehta
Father/Husband Name: Vasdev Mehta
R/o: Near Gurudwara Master Colony Gurudwara Wali Gali Tarn Taran, Tehsil-Tarn Taran/District-Tarn Taran, Punjab
has applied (submitted for application) in Suwidha Center for issuance of Marriage ability Certificate, for his son whose details are given as follows:
Name: ROHIT MEHTA
Permanent Address: Near Gurudwara Master Colony Gurudwara Wali Gali Tarn Taran, Tarn Taran, Tarn Taran, Punjab
Foreign Address: R ALVES CORREIA N 66 ALBUFEIRA 8200-000
Age/DOB: 31-(12/08/1994)
The applicant has stated that he/she has no marital relation in India.
Notice is given to the general public that if there is any objection to any person regarding issuance of above said certificate than the person or his representative can put their objection/ grievance within 30 days from the issuance of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.
The advertisement issued on 13/03/2026 through my signature under court seal.
Sd/-
District Marriage Officer,
Tarn Taran

I, Jashanpreet Kaur W/O Manvir Singh R/O Khatran (Ludhiana) Changed My Name Kaur Jashanpreet.

63372

I, Shawinderjeet Kaur W/o Palwinder Singh R/o Vill: Devi Nagar Devipur Urf Malikpur Po. Jarg Teh-Payal Distt. Ludhiana have changed my name to Shavinderjeet Kaur.

63372

I, Baljit Kaur W/o Baljinder Singh R/o Vill-Bhasaur, Teh-Dhuri, Distt Sangrur, have Change my name to Baljeet Kaur.

63372

I, Monika W/O Gurpreet Singh R/O Village Halluwal PO Rampur Jhanjowal tehsil Garhshankar, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab, India, have changed my name from Monika to Monika Devi.

63372

I, Harleen Kaur D/o Baljinder Singh VPO. Manvi, Teh. Amargarh, Distt. Malerkotla, declare that Harleen is my name and Kaur Surname.

63372

I, Sukhwinder Singh S/O Kesar Singh R/O Samrala (Ludhiana) have changed my name into Singh Sukhwinder.

63372

I, Sukhwinder Singh S/O Kesar Singh R/O Samrala (Ludhiana) changed my minor daughter name Mandeep Kaur into Kaur Mandeep.

63372

I, Gurpreet Kaur W/O Sukhwinder Singh R/O Samrala (Ludhiana) have changed my name into Kaur Gurpreet.

63372

I Preet Verma W/o Sakandar Verma R/o #4741, Mohalla Bhogian, Jagraon Distt Ludhiana have changed name my minor daughter Mousam Shee to Mousam.

63372

I Prince S/o Durga Dass Modi Street Amargarh Dist Malerkotla have changed my daughter name Stuti Sharma to Stuti Joshi.

63372

I Inderjit Kaur Gill W/o Dilbag Singh Gill R/o Vpo Mehna Teh. & Distt. Moga-142011 have changed my name to Inderjit Kaur.

63372

I, Nirbhey Singh S/o Sukhwinder Singh R/o Village Koharaka P.O. Shabazpur Tehsil & District Tarn Taran, Punjab have changed my name from Nirbhey Singh to Nirbhai Singh.

63372

I, Sukhchain Singh S/O Pyara Singh, R/O 192 Makhan Patti, Manuke, Tehsil Nihal Singh Wala, District Moga, PIN 142045, Punjab India, have changed my name to Sukhchain Singh Gill.

63372

I, Kuldeep Kaur W/O Pyara Singh, R/O 192 Makhan Patti, Manuke, Tehsil Nihal Singh Wala, District Moga, PIN 142045, Punjab India, have changed my name to Kuldeep Kaur Gill.

63372

I, Parminder Singh S/o Budh Singh R/o Vill-Pohir Distt Ludhiana have changed my name from Parminder Singh Mahi to Parminder Singh.

63372

I Baljinder Singh Sandhu S/o Jagsir Singh VPO Bhaloor Distt Moga I have changed my name to Baljinder Singh.

63372

I, Gurpreet singh S/o Surjit Singh R/o Budhlada Distt. Mansa have changed my name Gurpreet singh Sidhu

524479

I, Narinder Kaur w/o Satnam Singh r/o village Daburji, P.O. Udho Nangal Tehsil Baba bakala, District Amritsar, Punjab, In some documents my name written as Narinder Kaur and in other documents written as Surjit Kaur. but my correct name is Narinder Kaur. concerned to be noted.

989666

I Netra PalSingh Army No- JC-7694541. Rank: SUB MAJ (Existing Name As Per Service Record)Residing At (Address), Vill Pipalka, Post- Bilaspur, Teh Sadar Dist:- GautamBudha Nagar, State:- Utter Pradesh, Pin:- 203202 have changed my name fromNetra Pal Singh existing name as per service record to Netra Pal Singh Nagar(Proposed Adopted New Name) Vide Affidavit Dated: 27.02.2026 At Lem, UT Ladakh

989666

CONTACT
For any Advertisement query
0172-5002721

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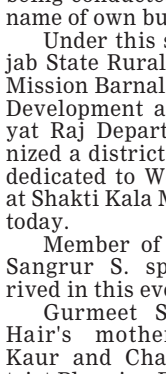
Punjab Sakhi Shakti Mela 2026 held at Government ITI Moga from March 19 to March 21



JAGRAJ SINGH SANGHA
MOGA: With the aim of promoting women empowerment, a district level 'Punjab Sakhi Shakti Mela' is being organized from 19 to 21 March 2026 under the 'RAMP' scheme. It will be held at Government ITI Moga. The timings of this mela will be from 10 am to 8 pm. Famous singer Mander Badraj will entertain the people in the mela. This was disclosed by Deputy Commissioner Moga Mr. Sagar Setia and he said that special stalls will be set up in the fair to showcase the products made by women, through which they will get a golden opportunity to showcase their talent. He said that the main objective of this fair is to provide a strong business platform to women entrepreneurs, self-help groups and micro-industries. Along with business activities, special cultural programs will also be organized in this fair for the entertainment of the people. The Deputy Commissioner said that women entrepreneurs who have set up their industries or run their own businesses by taking financial incentives from the government will be given free stalls to sell their products. In this fair, DC Handicraft Hoshiarpur will also set up 5 stalls and live food stalls (corn roti, mustard greens etc.) will be set up .

NEWS BRIEFS

Shamsher Purkhalvi declared as the President of Malwa Zone by Shiromani Akali Dal - Will fulfil the new responsibility with dedication - Purkhalvi



J.K. BATTA
CHANDIGARH: The party has declared Shamsher Purkhalvi, the chief spokesperson of Shiromani Akali Dal, as the President of Malwa Zone-3 by party president Sukhbir Singh Badal, in appreciation of his dedicated services towards the party. Talking to reporters after getting the new responsibility, Akali leader Mr. Purkhalvi expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the party president Sukhbir Singh Badal, the entire senior leadership including Sardar Gulzar Singh Ranike, Sardar Hira Singh Gabria, Dr. Daljit Singh Cheema, Shri NK Sharma [all former cabinet ministers] and Sardar Parvinder Singh Sohana, the member core committee, and said that to form the party government in 2027, they will work day and night to make Sukhbir Singh Badal the Chief Minister by taking the people-friendly policies of the Akali Dal to every household.

Investors applaud Punjab Govt's hospitality, celebrate culture with music & dance

SHASHI PAL JAIN
SAS NAGAR, MARCH 15:

The Progressive Punjab Investors' Summit 2026 offered investors far more than discussions on industry and business. Delegates from across India and abroad experienced the warmth of Punjab's hospitality, its vibrant cultural traditions, and the rich flavours of Punjabi cuisine, turning the summit into an immersive showcase of the state's spirit alongside its economic opportunities.

From the very beginning of the summit, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann had assured that guests would experience the warmth, generosity and cultural vibrancy that Punjab is known for. Over the course of the event, that promise came alive as delegates praised the meticulous arrangements made by the Punjab Government and enthusiastically participated in the cultural celebrations organised alongside the investment sessions.

A special cultural evening organised at the Mohali Golf Range became one of the highlights of the summit. Renowned Punjabi singers Ranjit Bawa and Harjit Harman captivated the audience, transforming the evening into a celebration of Punjab's music and traditions.

Ranjit Bawa electrified the gathering with popular tracks including "Heavyweight Bhangra," "Family Di Member,"





"Sher," "Mukabla," and "Chhote-Chhote Gharan," drawing investors and delegates to the dance floor and filling the venue with energy and enthusiasm. Harjit Harman began his performance with devotional songs before moving to some of his widely loved numbers such as "Jithon Marzi Wangan Chadhwa Layeein…," "Mitran Da Naa Chalda…," "Punjab Guru'an Di Kripa Naal Vassda…," and "24 Carat Gold…," evoking the deep cultural and spiritual roots of Punjab. The evening also featured a vibrant presentation of traditional Punjabi folk dance, with the Jugni Cultural Group performing Luddi and Bhangra. Their energetic performance received thunderous applause from the audience, offering visiting delegates a glimpse into Punjab's living folk traditions. Welcoming the investors and delegates, Punjab's Industries and Commerce Minister Sanjeev Arora said that the Punjab Government led by CM Bhagwant Singh Mann had ensured that the summit highlighted not only the state's investment potential.

A special program on mental health and de-addiction was organized at the 13th Battalion CRPF



TILAK RAJ
MOHALI, MAR 15

A special awareness program on mental health and de-addiction was organized at the 13th Battalion CRPF, led by Commandant Smt. Kamal Sisodiya. On this occasion, she personally conducted a session, educating CRPF personnel and local civilians about the importance of de-addiction and mental well-being. She provided not only guidance but also personal counselling, helping them manage stress, build self-confidence, and maintain balance in their lives. During the event, it was highlighted that mental resilience and emotional balance are vital for the lives of security forces. Previously, Kamal Sisodiya had also established a herbal and botanical garden for the mental well-being of the soldiers and their families, fostering a positive lifestyle for youth, families, and women. Through her continuous efforts in organizing awareness programs on de-addiction, mental, and emotional health, she inspires others to take forward this mission, creating a drug-free and healthy society and nation.At the conclusion of the program, an interactive discussion session was held, where participants shared their experiences and received valuable guidance on stress management, mental resilience, and balanced living, resulting in many choosing to give up harmful habits, positively impacting their lives, families, and society.

100 women entrepreneurs honored during district level event

KARANPREET KARAN
BARNALA, MARCH 15



Chief Minister The Punjab government led by Bhagwant Singh Maan is taking big steps to empower women.

Under this, block level and district level events are being conducted under the name of own business.

Under this series, Punjab State Rural Livelihood Mission Barnala and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department organized a district level event dedicated to Women's Day at Shakti Kala Mandir here today.

Member of Lok Sabha Sangrur S. specially arrived in this event.

Gurmeet Singh Meet Hair's mother Sarabjit Kaur and Chairman District Planning Board.

Parminder Singh Bhangu honored 100 women entrepreneurs. On this occasion Mrs. Sarabjit Kaur said that important decisions are being taken by the Punjab government for the welfare of women.

He said that such events are being held to give due respect and encouragement to women.

"Through support groups or their own abilities, they have established themselves and run businesses. On this occasion, Member District Planning Board and Women's Wing Leader Nisha Sharma said that these women are not only strengthening their families' economic situation through their hard work and entrepreneurship, but are also becoming a source of inspiration for society. On this occasion, Trident Group was specially represented by Madam Savita Kalwania, who shared various tips to further boost their business."

Two-Day PM Vishwakarma exhibition-cum-trade fair concludes successfully at Lala Lajpat Rai Bhawan, Chandigarh

BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, MAR 15



The Government of India, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, MSME-Development and Facilitation Office (DFO), Ludhiana, organised a two-day "PM Vishwakarma Exhibition-cum-Trade Fair" on dated 12th to 13th March 2026, at Lala Lajpat Rai Bhawan, Sector-15B, Chandigarh, with the objective of providing marketing support to artisans and craftspeople under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme. The exhibition was concluded successfully on 13th March 2026.

During this two-day PM Vishwakarma Exhibition, more than 64 stalls were set up by PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries from various districts of Punjab, UT Chandigarh, and neighbouring states, including Haryana, showcasing their traditional as well as handmade innovative products. MSME-DFO, Ludhiana was provided free stalls to all the participating artisans, and entry for visitors was also kept free.

Around 1000 visitors attended the exhibition and purchased products displayed by the artisans and craftspeople. The participants expressed happiness and satisfaction at the overwhelming public response and appreciated the opportunity to market their products directly to customers. Various government departments and institutions, including India Post and Punjab National Bank, also set up stalls and provided valuable information and support services to PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries. The programme was organised by Shri Krishan Kumar, Assistant Director, Shri Deepak Chechi, Assistant Director, and other officers from MSME-DFO, Ludhiana. Shri Krishan Kumar, MSME-DFO, Ludhiana, supervised the successful conduct of the exhibition. The event proved to be a great success in promoting local artisans and strengthening the objectives of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme.

Senior BJP leader Sanjay Tandon joins 'Run & Ride' Marathon, participates in 'Fit India Carnival'



BUREAU
CHANDIGARH: Senior BJP leader & member of BJP's National Council, Sanjay Tandon on Sunday joined hundreds of enthusiastic participants at the scenic Sukhna Lake for the 'Run & Ride Marathon' and later participated in the 'Fit India Carnival', encouraging citizens—especially youth—to adopt a healthy and active lifestyle.
Praising the vibrant participation and strong community spirit displayed during the marathon,
Tandon said such initiatives inspire people to remain physically fit and contribute more meaningfully to society's overall development.
Organised to mark the Centenary Year Celebrations of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the 'Run & Ride' event brought together citizens of all age groups in a celebration of health, unity and selfless service.
Tandon participated in the marathon along with his sons Saraansh and Satyam Tandon. Describing the experience as inspiring, he said the early morning run reflected the power of collective energy and the growing awareness about fitness among citizens. The event was graced by Nishant Yadav, Deputy Commissioner of Chandigarh, whose presence further encouraged participants. Referring to the vision of Narendra Modi, Tandon said the Prime Minister has consistently emphasized that a "Fit India is a Hit India," and events like these play a crucial role in promoting a culture of fitness and wellness. Tandon also congratulated the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations for successfully organising the event. He extended special appreciation to Dr. R. B. Kharb, Dr. Sonal Chugh and their team for their dedicated efforts, urging everyone to carry forward the ideals of selfless service and unity in everyday life.

MCM holds Dental Check-up Camp at Badheri



CHANDIGARH: The NSS Units of Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women, in collaboration with the Department of Public Dentistry, Panjab University, organised a dental awareness and check-up camp at Badheri village. The dental team led by Dr. Vivek Vidhu conducted the camp. The initiative aimed to address the growing concern regarding the lack of awareness about oral health in the community. Nearly 100 residents visited the camp for dental consultation and check-ups. Children particularly were educated about common dental problems such as cavities, along with demonstrations on the correct technique of brushing. Among adults, the doctors observed that dental issues are often neglected until they become critical. The team also provided valuable guidance on preventive care and emphasised the importance of timely treatment to maintain good oral hygiene. The camp played a significant role in spreading awareness about dental hygiene and motivating the community to adopt healthier oral care practices. Officiating Principal Ms. Neena Sharma appreciated the initiative and commended the NSS units for their efforts in promoting community health. She encouraged students to continue participating actively in such outreach programmes that contribute meaningfully to social welfare and public awareness.

ROTTO North, PGIMER honours 18 organ donation champions at SAMARTHAN 2026

NEERAJ SHARMA
CHANDIGARH; SAMARTHAN 2026, a CME–cum–workshop organised by ROTTO North, PGIMER Chandigarh, brought together over 200 delegates from across the country along with international experts and concluded with a strong call for collaborative action to strengthen organ donation and transplantation programmes across Northern India and ensure that more patients awaiting life-saving transplants receive the precious gift of life.

A major highlight of the conclave was a special felicitation ceremony recognising 18 individuals and institutions for their outstanding contributions to promoting organ donation and supporting transplant programmes. The honourees represented a diverse spectrum of stakeholders—including clinical professionals, hospital support staff, social activists, government officials, youth ambassadors, and digital advocates—whose dedicated efforts have significantly strengthened the organ donation movement and helped advance the cause of life-saving organ donation and transplantation.



The Valedictory Session of SAMARTHAN 2026 was graced by Dr. Suman Singh, Director Health Services, Chandigarh Administration, as the Chief Guest, and Ms. Jyotinder Kaur Bajwa, IRS, Joint Commissioner of Income Tax, Chandigarh, as the Guest of Honour.

Commending the honourees for their remarkable contributions, Dr. Suman Singh said, "The individuals honoured today embody the true spirit of compassion and service that sustains the organ donation movement. Their dedication—ranging from hospital support staff and healthcare professionals to community advocates and digital influencers—demonstrates that saving lives through organ donation is truly a collective effort. Recognising such contributions not only honours their work but also inspires many more citizens to come forward and become part of this life-saving mission."

Among the hospital support staff from PGIMER who were honoured were Mr. Heera Singh, Junior Lab Technician, Department of Immunopathology; Ms. Jaswinder Kaur, Nursing Officer, ATC ICU; Ms. Satnam Kaur, Senior Nursing Officer, Department of Renal Transplant Surgery; Mr. Sanjeev Kumar from the Security Department; and Mr. Jaspal and Mr. Manish, Hospital Attendants from ATC, PGIMER, whose dedicated services have played an important role .

Conference Organized by Social Welfare Committee and Department of Social Welfare Now on March 18 at Tagore Theatre



RAJIV JAIN
CHANDIGARH: The conference organized by the Department of Social Welfare and the Social Welfare Committee of the Chandigarh Administration, on "Aapki Yojana – Aapke Dwar" (Your Scheme – At Your Doorstep), will now be held on March 18 at 4:00 PM at Tagore Theatre, Sector 18, Chandigarh. This event was originally scheduled for March 16; however, due to certain administrative reasons, the conference will now be held on March 18. Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, Governor of Punjab and Administrator of UT Chandigarh, will preside over the conference, while former MP and Chairman of the Social Welfare Committee, Shri Satya Pal Jain, will be the Chief Guest.
Sharing this information, the Event Co-ordinator and former Mayor, Shri Davesh Moudgil, stated that the conference aims to provide details regarding the various welfare schemes being implemented by the government, for various sections of society—including the poor, women, children, and persons with disabilities—thereby ensuring that all eligible beneficiaries can avail themselves of these benefits. He said that the Department of Social Welfare in Chandigarh currently having approximately 77 such schemes, dedicated to the socio-economic upliftment of the underprivileged sections of society. However, due to lack of comprehensive awareness regarding these initiatives in the society, the general public is unable to fully utilize the benefits offered by these schemes. This conference is being organized with the specific objective of providing information about these schemes to the common man and encouraging the maximum number of people to avail of these schemes. Shri Moudgil added that the presence of social workers, voluntary organizations, and all other groups and individuals actively engaged in social service is expected at this conference.

Grand Gurmat Samagam at Gurdwara Shaheed Ladhewal Mahilpur

DALJEET AJNOHA
HOSHIARPUR: A grand Gurmat Samagam was organised at Gurdwara Shaheed Ladhewal in Mahilpur to mark the arrival of 1 Chet in the Nanakshahi Samvat 557 new year.
The event ran from 7 PM to midnight, featuring prominent ragis, dhadis, kirtan jathas, kathavachaks, and kavishars who enthralled the congregation with soulful Gurbani kirtan, dhadhi vaars, katha vichaars, and poetry.



Performers included Bhai Gurbhej Singh (Hazuri Ragis, Sri Darbar Sahib), Balvir Singh Husainpuri (Kavishar, Dharm Prachar Committee), Giani Manjit Singh (Ludhiana, Panthak Dhadhi Jatha), Bhai Palwinder Singh (Head Granthi and Kathavachak, Gurdwara Charan Kamal Sahib, Banga), Bhai Harmeshi Singh (Hazuri Ragi, Gurdwara Shaheed Ladhewal), and Bhai Gurjinder Singh (Kathavachak, Gurdwara Shaheed Ladhewal).
The samagam was organised by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, along with congregations from India and abroad, in collaboration with Sahibzada Baba Ajit Singh Ji Seva Society, Mahilpur, under the leadership of Gurdwara Manager Gurdial Singh. included Jathedar Baba Nihal Singh Harian Belan, Baba Jang Singh, Baldev Singh Kalyan (Junior Vice President), Dr Daljit Singh Bhinder (Executive Committee Member), Dr Jang Bahadur Singh Rai (Executive Committee Member), Thekedar Surinder Singh Bhullewal Rathan, Sant Harmeet Singh, Sant Jagtar Singh (Gurdwara Bana Sahib, Bahowal), Tkekedar Hardeep Singh (Sarpanch, Bahowal), Jathedar Iqbal Singh Kheda.

GJIMT Honors Over 100 Women Educators for Outstanding Contribution to Education



SHASHI PAL JAIN
MOHALI: Gian Jyoti Institute of Management and Technology, Phase 2 organized the fourth edition of its annual event 'Shodashi', dedicated to women educationists. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from principals, senior teachers, and academic leaders from various schools across the Tricity. During the program, more than 100 women educationists who have made significant contributions to the field of education were honoured. The event began with a welcome address by Director Dr. Aneet Bedi, who highlighted the crucial role of women educators in nurturing values, knowledge, and leadership qualities among students. Chairman GJIMT J S Bedi grace the occasion.
During the ceremony, several renowned school heads were honoured with the Principal Excellence Award for their outstanding academic leadership and contribution to institutional growth. In addition, the Special Achiever Award was presented to women teachers who demonstrated innovation, dedication, and excellence in their professional work. Adding cultural vibrancy to the event, students presented performances reflecting Punjabi culture along with inspiring songs, making the program more engaging and memorable. On the occasion, a panel discussion featuring eminent academicians and intellectuals was also held on the topic 'New Education Policy and the Role of Women', where participants shared their experiences and perspectives on the evolving educational landscape. Speaking on the occasion, Gian Jyoti Global School Principal Gian Jyot said that women educators play a vital role in shaping future generations. She added that the 'Shodashi' event serves as a meaningful platform to recognize their dedication and celebrate their impact in the field of education.

Khalsa Panth has always achieved victory by struggling against oppression - Jathedar Daduwal

SARBJIT SUFI
LUDHIANA : Khalsa Sajna Diwas Dedicated to Baisakhi, the famous Sikh preacher Ambassador for Peace Jathedar Baljit Singh Daduwal organized a three-day religious Diwan in Giana village of Bathinda, in which the Sikh congregation of the area attended in large numbers. Jathedar Daduwal ji's assistant Bhai Jagmeet Singh Brar informed the media that these religious Diwans were organized on 12 - 13 - 14 March 2026. The Gurdwara Management Committee and the residents of the village Giana were the organizers. Bhai Brar informed that Jathedar Daduwal attended all three Diwans and tried to connect the Sikh congregation with the Guru's feet through Katha Kirtan Gurbani Guru itihas. Jathedar Daduwal By shedding light on the history of ancient and present times,said that the Khalsa Panth has always fought against oppression and tyranny. Although there were many ups and downs, the Khalsa Panth has finally won. Even Non-Sikh historians have also written, in the glory of khalsa Jathedar Daduwal said that a Sikh should become a Sikh, become free from drugs, take the nectar of the Khanda Bata and join the fight of the blessed Guru Granth Sahib. He also said that everyone has their own religion, but for a Sikh, there is a wilderness beyond the Guru Granth Sahib. Sikhs are not the priests of superstitions and delusions, but the Sikh is the priest of the word Guru. At the end, Gurdwara Management Committee President Bhai Jagtar Singh Giana, Bhai Gurmeet Singh, Bhai Dayal Singh, Jathedar Harnek Singh Giana and other residents honored Jathedar Daduwal Ji by presenting him with a shirpao and a religious Diwan. Thanks were given for the decoration.



Sutlej Press Club to hold annual elections on March 16



DEVINDER SHARMA
RUPNAGAR: A meeting of the Sutlej Press Club, Rupnagar, was held at the RTV1 office in Giani Zail Singh Nagar to discuss the organisation of the club's annual elections.

During the meeting, members decided that the annual election of the club will be held on Monday, March 16, at 11 am at the RTV1 office in Giani Zail Singh Nagar. After the elections, members will also discuss the collection of annual membership fees and the activities planned by the club for the year 2026.

Sutlej Press Club general secretary Shamsher Bagga appealed to all members to participate in the election process on Monday.

Club patron Sarabjit Singh Kotla Nihang, cashier Dhruv Narang, joint secretary Rakesh Kumar, along with members Devinder Sharma, Parmjeet Singh Pammi and Manpreet Singh Ghanoli were present at the meeting.

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Grand Baba Balak Nath Chowki held at Arrichan Colony, Doraha

AMRISH ANAND

DORAHA: A grand religious Chowki of Baba Balak Nath Ji was organized with great devotion and enthusiasm on Saturday, March 14, at Shri Siddh Baba Balak Nath Mandir, Ward No. 3, Arrichan Colony, Doraha. A large number of devotees from the area participated in the religious event



and sought the blessings of Baba Ji. On the occasion, devotee Amrik Singh and chief sewadar Bhagat Makhan Singh informed that, as in previous years, the Chowki of Baba Balak Nath Ji was organized with deep religious devotion so that devotees could sing the praises of Baba Ji and receive his blessings.

NEWS BRIEF

Special meeting of United Friends Association held



SHARANJEET

PATHANKOT: Keeping in view the Punjab Assembly elections scheduled to be held in 2027, a special meeting of the United Friends Association was convened by Vice Chairman Manmohan Singh Kahlon. The meeting was attended by Sarita Salaria Sarpanch of Madhopur Cantt, Ajay Sharma Sarpanch of village Gudha Khurd, along with other members. During the meeting, Manmohan Singh Kahlon stated that Punjab is presently passing through a very difficult phase. He said that the state, which once remained at the forefront of development in the country, has now lagged considerably behind in terms of progress.He alleged that the policies of the present government have weakened the overall situation of Punjab.

Light, camera, action: Punjab's silver screen dreams take flight with ambitious film policy

GAURAV GOEL
CHANDIGARH, MAR 15



In a bid to make Punjab a major hub for film production, Chief Minister S. Bhagwant Singh Mann led government has rolled out "Punjab Film Promotion Policy 2026", with lucrative and flexible incentive structure designed to attract and facilitate investments. This came to the fore during the panel discussion on the Media and Entertainment session at Progressive Punjab Investor's Summit 2026 held at Plaksha University, SAS Nagar (Mohali). While addressing the gathering, Punjab Media In-charge Mr. Baltej Pannu stated, "We welcome every filmmaker, every investor, every creative mind. Whatever you need, however you need it, the CM Mann led state government is here for you." He asserted that the era of middlemen projecting a negative image of the state is over, while assuring filmmakers and media stakeholders of a single-window clearance system and complete government facilitation for shoots in the state.He termed the Punjab as a "dream project" of Chief Minister S. Bhagwant Singh Mann, acknowledging the collective effort to turn it into reality. He stressed that Punjab's spirit of 'Punjabiyat' never died.Mr. Pannu shared that the government is streamlining permissions for film shoots. Citing a recent case where a production unit faced an issue, he said a single call to the concerned officer ensured the immediate resolution of the issue. "Any crew member stepping onto Punjabi soil is like our own family. We will facilitate in every manner to make them feel home," he assured.He also revealed plans to appoint a Nodal Officer for hassle-free shooting permissions.

Punjab government to provide basic facilities in villages: Arora

SUMER GARG
SUNAM, MAR 15



Punjab Cabinet Minister, Aman Arora laid the foundation stones of various development projects worth around Rs 4.12 crore at village Bigharwal in the Sunam Assembly constituency (SAC) on Sunday. On the occasion, he said that the Punjab government under the leadership of Chief Minister, Bhagwant Mann is committed to strengthening rural infrastructure and continuously working to provide better roads and basic facilities to people in villages. The minister said that under the development works, the foundation stone of a new road from Bigharwal Phirni to the crematorium has been laid at a cost of Rs 18.15 lakh. Besides this, a new road from Bigharwal Phirni to Baba Jaimal Singh Ji Samadh will be constructed at a cost of Rs 59 lakh.

He further said that the foundation stone of a project costing Rs 40.85 lakh for the construction of a new road from Bigharwal Phirni to Hanuman Mandir has also been laid, while another project worth Rs 72.68 lakh for constructing new roads inside the village has been initiated. Arora also informed that a new road from the Sunam–Bigharwal road to the Sunam–Khadial road will be constructed at a cost of Rs 1.37 Cr. In addition, a project worth Rs 84 lakh has been launched for the construction of a new road from Bigharwal to Jagatpura road. He said that with the completion of these development works, villagers will get better transportation facilities and the village will witness overall development.

Empowering Minds: SGGS World University marks International Women's Day with thought-driven activities

AJAY MALHOTRA
FATEHGARH SAHIB, MAR 15



Sri Guru Granth Sahib World University in Fatehgarh Sahib observed International Women's Day with a series of educational, cultural, and wellness-based activities aimed at promoting women empowerment and gender sensitivity. The Department of Education led the initiative under the guidance of Dr. Harneet Billing, Head of the Department, focusing on women's health, equality, and their vital contributions to society. To promote holistic well-being, the Physical Fitness and Wellness Club, in collaboration with the Centre for Art and Yoga Education, organized a Yoga and Wellness Session themed "Balance, Strength, and Serenity: Women's Wellness Through Yoga." The session, conducted by S. Parmesher Singh and Ms. Gurwinder Kaur, introduced students to yoga asanas, pranayama, and relaxation practices designed to support physical fitness and mental resilience. Students from the B.A. B.Ed. programme participated enthusiastically, recognizing the value of yoga in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Adding intellectual depth to the celebration, students organized several awareness-focused activities. "Break the Stereotypes" encouraged participants to challenge outdated societal beliefs about women. A powerful mime performance titled "Educate Her, Empower the World", presented by Batch 2025 under the coordination of Ms. Harmanpreet Kaur, highlighted how education transforms women's lives and drives social progress. An Elocution Competition for Batch 2024 further amplified discussions on women's achievements and gender equality. Jaspreet Kaur secured the First Position, followed by Sumanjeet Kaur and Manjeet Kaur. To inspire creativity, Poster Making and Slogan Writing Competitions were also organized. In Poster Making, Simranpreet Kaur claimed First Position, while Gulshanpreet Kaur and Sukhleen Kaur secured Second Place.

DC Bathinda constitutes flying squad reams to check black marketing of domestic Gas, Petrol and Diesel

ANIL VERMA
BATHINDA, MAR 15



Under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Mr. Rajesh Dhiman, District Food and Civil Supplies Controller Bathinda Mr. Daljit Singh Sandhu has constituted flying squad teams in different parts of the district to curb black marketing and hoarding of domestic LPG, petrol and diesel. The Deputy Commissioner informed that the district administration has set up a special control room for this purpose. Citizens can contact the control room at 0164-2921552 from 8 AM to 8 PM. The control room will remain operational throughout the week.

Under this arrangement, concerned officials have been deputed to inspect and monitor domestic gas agencies and petrol pumps. Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Dhiman further informed that as per the issued orders, these teams will conduct regular inspections and monitoring of gas agencies, petrol pumps and the sale of petrol and diesel across various parts of Bathinda district. If any instance of black marketing, hoarding or irregularity in the sale of domestic LPG cylinders, petrol or diesel is detected, the concerned team will take immediate action. The Deputy Commissioner said that the flying squad teams include Food Supply Officers and Inspectors of the respective areas. These teams will monitor the areas of Bathinda, Bhagta Bhai Ka, Bhucho, Phul, Goniana, Maur, Rama, Talwandi Sabo, Rampura, Sangat and Nathana.

The Deputy Commissioner appealed to residents of the district that if they receive any information about black marketing or irregular sale of petrol or diesel at any place, they should inform the concerned team of their area so that immediate action can be taken.

Enthusiastic participation marks Day 7 of Army Recruitment Rally at Gurdaspur



VERMA

GURDASPUR: The ongoing Indian Army Recruitment Rally at Government College, Gurdaspur witnessed enthusiastic participation on Day 7, with a large number of aspirants from the Pathankot belt reporting for the recruitment process. In addition, candidates who had earlier missed their scheduled rally dates due to ongoing examinations were also provided an opportunity to participate today, being Sunday, ensuring that deserving aspirants were not deprived of their chance to appear. Despite intermittent rain, the spirit and determination of the candidates remained high as they participated in the scheduled stages of the rally including the 1.6 km run, physical fitness tests, and document verification. The district civil administration extended valuable support by arranging refreshments including food and lassi, while members of the local community organized langar for the candidates, reflecting strong civil–military cooperation. The recruitment process was conducted smoothly with proper arrangements for security, medical assistance, and crowd management.

Mirri Piri Khalsa College, Bhadour excels at state-level event



BALWINDER AZAD

BHADOUR: Mirri Piri Khalsa College, Bhadour, affiliated with Punjabi University, Patiala and recognized by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), is a prominent educational institution in the region, operating under the management of the *Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, Sri Amritsar Sahib. The college's students have made a mark not only academically but also in various other fields. In this regard, Dr. Vandana Sukhija, Program Officer of the Red Ribbon Club, and college volunteer Inderjit Singh (M.A. Part-I) were honored by the Directorate of Youth Services, Punjab with the Best Program Officer and Best Peer Educator appreciation certificates. These awards, recognizing their achievements throughout the year, were presented during the State-Level Youth Leadership and Awareness Program held on 12 March 2026 at Chandigarh University, Gharuan, Mohali. College Principal S. Malvinder Singh congratulated the awardees, stating that this recognition is the result of their hard work and dedication, and is a proud moment for the institution.

Closing ceremony of NSS camp of Guru Gobind Singh College Sanghera left unforgettable memories

BALWINDER AZAD
BARNALA, MAR 15



Under the guidance of the NSS Department of Punjabi University, under the able leadership of the President of the institution, Mr. Bhola Singh Virk Ji, under the able leadership of the Principal of the institution, Dr. Sarabjit Singh, under the supervision of the Program Officer, Vice Principal, Prof. Mandeep Kaur, Prof. Mithu Pathak, Prof. Manpreet Kaur, Dr. Nirpal Singh, like every year, this seven-day camp was organized with great pomp and show from 7-3-2026 to 13-3-2026 at village Karamgarh. In which 150 volunteers participated.The camp started with the inauguration ceremony in the college campus, which was attended by the Honorable Principal, Dr. Sarabjit Singh Kular Ji and inaugurated the camp, which was covered by various newspapers and channels. On the second day of the camp, the volunteers were divided into different groups and cleaned the Gurdwara Sahib Singh Sabha and a large park in village Karamgarh.

On the third day of the camp, they cleaned the Guru Ghar Pargat Sahib, Ravidas Temple, Pirkhana, and dispensary. On the fourth day of the camp, they cleaned the place of Sidhsar Shaheed and the place of Siddhbhoi. On the fifth day of the camp, they cleaned the second park, Shiv Temple, Krishna Temple, Hanuman Ji's Temple, and the mosque. The sixth day of the camp was very beautiful and unique. In its project, while in the first session, the village government school and the village crematorium were cleaned. During the evening session, the Program Officer of the NSS Department of Punjabi University, Patiala, Honorable Dr. Anhad Singh Gill Ji specially participated in this camp. He highly appreciated the camp while inspecting it and also participated in the colorful program of the volunteers in the evening session and shared his valuable thoughts.

Thousands join 'Run for Humanity' Marathon in Ludhiana

SARBJIT SUFI
LUDHIANA, MAR 15



Thousands of runners participated in the 'Run for Humanity' marathon organised by the Daswandh Foundation in collaboration with Team 1699 on Sunday, spreading the message of peace, unity and compassion. Kultar Singh Sandhwan and Inderjit Kaur took part in the event and encouraged people to promote harmony in society.

Addressing the gathering, Sandhwan said that in the present global scenario marked by rising tensions and conflicts, there is a strong need to promote peace and mutual understanding. He noted that Punjab has always been a land where humanity flourishes and all religions are respected equally.

He added that under the leadership of Bhagwant Mann, the state government is working to make Punjab vibrant and prosperous again. He also called upon people from all sections of society to work collectively to make Punjab the "Sone Di Chiri" once again.

Mayor Inderjit Kaur, along with Harleen Kaur of Act Humane and Hardeep Kaur Boparai, President of the Women's Wing of the Daswandh Foundation, flagged off the marathon.

The run began from Ghumar Mandi Chowk and passed through College Road, Prince Hostel, and Fountain Chowk, before concluding at Rani Jhansi Road. The organising team led by Daswandh Foundation President Jasdev Sekhon, Sikh scholar Parampal Singh and Team 1699 Founder Gursahib Singh said that the marathon saw enthusiastic participation from youth, senior citizens and members of various social organisations.

Faridkot Police arrests Bambiha gang aide with heroin and illegal pistol

RAGHU NANDAN PRASHAR
JAITO, MAR 15



Under the leadership of Dr Pragya Jain IPS SSP Faridkot, Faridkot Police has started a strict and fearless campaign against criminal activities and drugs. Under the leadership of Jogeshwar Singh Goraya SP (Investigation) Faridkot and under the direction of Avtar Singh DSP (Investigation) Faridkot, an important operation was conducted by CIA staff Faridkot,during which Bambiha Gag's henchman was arrested along with his 02 associates and 01 illegal weapon.The arrested accused have been identified as Surinderpal Singh alias Billa, Jodha Singh and Amolak Singh alias Molly Vajo who are residents of Kotkapura. Police party has also recovered 21 grams of heroin and 01 country made pistol of .30 bore along with magazine and 02 live rounds from the accused. According to the details of the action, on March 13, under the supervision of Inspector Amarinder Singh, in-charge, CIA staff, Faridkot, Assistant SHO Hakam Singh, along with the police party, was present at National Highway-54, Sikhawala Road, Kotkapra in connection with the checking, and the accused were seen sitting in the batch at the bus stop. When the house was searched without any suspicion, 21 grams of heroin and 01 country made pistol of .30 bore along with magazine and 02 live rounds were recovered from the accused.

Punjabis are deeply disappointed by Union Home Minister's visit to Pb: Karnail Singh Peer Mohammad

RAGHU NANDAN PRASHAR
JAITO, MAR 15



Former President of All India Sikh Students Federation and Senior Vice President of Shiromani Akali Dal Punar Surjit, S. Karnail Singh Peer Mohammad, while reacting to the recent visit of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to Punjab, said that this visit has severely disappointed the people of Punjab. He said that Punjabis were expecting that the Central Government would make some big announcement to resolve the burning issues of the state, but nothing of the kind was seen. In a statement issued to the press, S. Peer Mohammad expressed deep concern over the current situation in Punjab and stressed on three main issues including Eradication of drugs and gangsterismHe said that the youth of Punjab is falling prey to drugs and gangsterism. Being a border state, the security challenges here are huge. He demanded that the central and state governments should rise above political differences and make joint efforts so that Punjab can be pulled out of this trap. Economic debt burdenPeer Mohammad said that the debt of crores of rupees that Punjab has accumulated is the biggest obstacle in the development of the state.The Union Home Minister was expected to announce a special economic package or loan waiver for Punjab, but his visit was limited to mere political activities and Need for a joint strategy The statement further said that the central government needs to show a big heart to make Punjab 'Rangla Punjab' again. Until the center and the state come together and formulate a concrete policy, it is difficult to curb drugs and crime.S. Peer Mohammad appealed to the central government not to look at the issues of Punjab only through vote politics, but to take serious steps for the stability and prosperity of this border state.

CWC flags off first containerized foodgrain movement from Punjab



BUREAU

LUDHIANA: The Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) flagged off its first containerized movement of 2200 MT of foodgrain bags for the Food Corporation of India (FCI) from Ludhiana to Ajni, Maharashtra, on 14 March 2026. The movement was flagged off by Sh. B. Nirmal, Group General Manager, CWC, in the presence of officials from Indian Railways, CWC, FCI and Pristine. The operation was carried out through the coordinated efforts of CWC, Indian Railways, FCI and Pristine Mega Logistic Park, Ludhiana. The containerized movement is expected to reduce transit losses, ensure safer handling of foodgrains and improve efficiency in long-distance transportation from Punjab, one of India's major foodgrain-producing states. CWC, a Navratna Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, continues to strengthen India's warehousing and logistics network.

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Adequate availability of domestic LPG cylinders in Una district, says Rajiv Sharma

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA: District Controller, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Rajiv Sharma has said that there is adequate stock of domestic LPG cylinders in Una district and there is no shortage of supply. He said information has surfaced through social media that large crowds of consumers are gathering at some gas agencies for cylinder bookings. Appealing to consumers, Sharma urged them not to pay attention to rumours and avoid creating unnecessary panic by assembling in large numbers at gas agencies. He assured that gas supply in the district is functioning smoothly and cylinders are being provided to consumers on time. He advised consumers to avoid visiting gas agencies in person and instead book LPG cylinders from home using mobile phones through WhatsApp, SMS services, mobile applications or online portals. Each gas agency has provided contact numbers through which consumers can easily book cylinders.

NEWS BRIEF

It is unfortunate to exclude Vigilance Department from RTI: Vishav Chakshu

SANJAY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA: The BJP has expressed strong opposition to the Sukhu government's decision to exempt the State Vigilance Department and the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) from the purview of the Right to Information (RTI) Act. Terming this decision as



"extremely unfortunate," Advocate Vishav Chakshu—the BJP's State Co-in-charge for Media—stated that excluding the very departments tasked with monitoring corruption and ensuring transparency from the ambit of the RTI Act raises serious questions regarding the government's intentions. He asserted that the RTI Act serves as the most significant instrument for ensuring accountability and transparency in a democracy.

Judicial system must work like hospitals: Chief Justice of India

Govt working towards ensuring inclusive development and social justice: CM

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, MAR 15

Chief Justice of India Justice Sh. Surya Kant today laid the foundation stone of the Mandi Judicial Court Complex, to be constructed at a cost of Rs.152 crore in the presence of Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu. The state-of-the-art court complex would be built on 9.6 hectares of land and would have four blocks, providing better facilities for judges, lawyers and the public. On the occasion while addressing a legal literacy camp, Justice Sh. Surya Kant said that judicial complexes need to function like hospitals. He said people go to hospitals with hope and the judicial system should also work with the same spirit of service. People come to courts with the expectation of relief and justice. He said that with increasing facilities, the responsibility of the judicial system was also increasing.

He said that Mandi is also known as Chhoti Kashi, where millions of people visit with great devotion. He said that today the foundation of a temple of justice is being laid at this place, which will soon be completed.

He said that today's gathering was very important, everyone talks about fundamental rights, but fundamental duties are also an integral part of the Constitution and should be followed. He said that Himachal Pradesh has preserved its natural beauty, therefore it is necessary to make people aware of their fundamental rights. He said similar programmes should be organised



even at the grassroots level so that awareness about fundamental duties can increase.

Justice Sh. Surya Kant said that the love and respect of the people has brought him to Himachal Pradesh again and he feels honoured by their affection.

Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu welcomed Justice Sh. Surya Kant to Himachal Pradesh and invited him to visit the state again. In his address, he said that ensuring access to justice and rights for every citizen of the state is the commitment of the government. He said the government is working towards inclusive development and social justice in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution.

He said that through education, healthcare, social security and transparent administration, the government is ensuring that every citizen gets equal opportunities and that the roots of democracy become stronger. He said that the government has adopted about 6,000 orphaned children as "Children of the State", for which the first law of its kind in the country has been enacted. He said that the legal age of marriage for girls has been increased to 21 years so that they can have rights and opportunities equal to boys. Giving equal rights to daughters, the government has provided them equal rights in ancestral property up to 150 bighas, which earlier was limited only to sons.

To ensure the education of the children of widowed women, the Indira Gandhi Sukh Shiksha Yojana has been started, under which the state government is bearing the cost of their education. He said that by organizing revenue Lok Adalats, the government has resolved about 5.5 lakh pending cases which had been pending for several years.

Government delaying inauguration of college building: Pawan Kajal

SANJAY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA, MAR 15



State BJP Vice President and MLA Pawan Kajal has appealed to the residents of the region to disregard rumors regarding an LPG gas shortage and to maintain patience. Speaking in Mator village on Saturday as part of a public outreach campaign, Kajal stated that there is an adequate supply of cooking gas in the Kangra region, and he remains in constant contact with gas agency managers. People can easily procure cylinders by booking their gas online. As a precautionary measure, Kajal also advised residents to utilize firewood and induction cooktops alongside their gas stoves. He noted that Mator is the only Panchayat in the state where educational facilities ranging from the primary school level up to the undergraduate degree level are available. He pointed out that the building for the Government Degree College in Mator has been ready for over a year; however, by delaying its inauguration, the state government is depriving students—who are currently studying in a rented building—of essential amenities. Kajal further mentioned that, to resolve the drinking water crisis in Mator Panchayat, 25 electric-motor-operated hand pumps have been installed, thereby ensuring a supply of potable water for the villagers. Kajal also participated in the annual Bhandara organized at the Jai Baba Khandeshwari Mahadev Temple in Mator village. Kajal remarked that such 'Bhandaras' and religious gatherings at the village level foster a sense of brotherhood within the community. Rahul, the head of the Bhandara Committee, informed that—with the cooperation of the villagers—this community feast has been organized at the temple for the past fifteen years.

Cong govt in Himachal accused of depriving poor of Himcare and Sahara schemes

ANIL KUMAR
HAMIRPUR, MAR 15

BJP state general secretary (Mahila Morcha) and former Bhoranj MLA Kamlesh Kumari has criticised the Congress government in Himachal Pradesh, alleging that it has deprived poor families of the benefits of the Himcare and Sahara schemes. In a statement issued here, Kamlesh Kumari termed the present government "anti-poor" and said the previous BJP government had launched several welfare schemes to provide healthcare support to economically weaker sections. She said the Himcare scheme ensured free medical treatment of up to Rs 5 lakh for families not covered under the Ayushman Bharat scheme. However, she alleged that the present government has put the scheme on hold, leaving poor families vulnerable during medical emergencies.



She said health schemes launched by the Centre and the previous state government had proved to be a lifeline for the common people, particularly economically weaker families. According to her, the Ayushman Bharat and Himcare schemes together provided health security to lakhs of families in the state. Nearly 11 lakh families were registered under these schemes and around five lakh people had received free treatment so far. Kamlesh Kumari said these schemes significantly reduced the financial burden on poor families during serious illnesses. She added that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Ayushman Bharat and the Himcare scheme introduced by the BJP government led by former Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur ensured that no poor person was denied treatment due to lack of money. She further alleged that the state government had also sidelined the Sahara scheme, under which patients suffering from serious diseases such as cancer, paralysis and muscular dystrophy were provided financial assistance of Rs 3,000 per month. She claimed that many poor patients are now struggling to receive treatment due to the discontinuation of such schemes. Kamlesh Kumari said discontinuing welfare schemes due to political reasons amounts to betrayal of the public.

Ex-servicemen of 14th Battalion Jammu and Kashmir Rifles hold reunion in Nurpur



SANJEEV MAHAJAN
NURPUR: A reunion of ex-servicemen of the 14th Battalion of the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles was organised at Jachh Vatika Hotel in the Nurpur Assembly constituency, bringing together veterans in a patriotic atmosphere. Former soldiers from different parts of Himachal Pradesh, as well as from Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, participated in the gathering. During the programme, the veterans shared memories of their military service and paid tributes to their fallen comrades. On the occasion, the contributions of soldiers who played a significant role in safeguarding the country were remembered. A special tribute was paid to Havildar Raghubir Singh, known as the "Saviour of Khalra." Speakers at the event said the contribution of soldiers in protecting the nation's borders is invaluable and society should draw inspiration from their sacrifice and dedication. The ex-servicemen also interacted with one another, recalling experiences from their years of service and strengthening their bond of camaraderie. The programme concluded with patriotic slogans of "Jai Jwala, Jai Durga." The organisers said such reunions aim to strengthen brotherhood among former soldiers and inspire the younger generation towards patriotism and national service.

12-year-old wrestler Varika honoured for winning bronze medal



KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA: The Himachal Pradesh unit of Samta Andolan honoured 12-year-old emerging wrestler Varika, daughter of Ravi from Janakour, for winning a bronze medal in the Under-14 girls' category at the School National Games. Members of the organisation congratulated Varika on her achievement and described her success at the national level at such a young age as a matter of pride for the state. They said her accomplishment would inspire other children to take up sports and strive for excellence. On the occasion, Samta Andolan state president Dr K.R. Arya extended his best wishes to Varika and said that consistent hard work and discipline are essential for achieving success in sports. He added that daughters of the state are excelling in various fields and Varika's achievement is another example of this progress. Dr Shakuntala Arya, Dr Deepak Arya, Dr Praveenta Arya, media in-charge Jatinder Kanwar, Munindra Arora, Ravi and other members were also present at the programme.

Chaitra fair begins at Baba Balak Nath temple in Deotsidh

ANIL KUMAR
HAMIRPUR, MAR 15



The month-long Chaitra fair at the Baba Balak Nath temple in Deotsidh, one of the prominent religious sites of North India, commenced today with traditional rituals.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Kumar Garg inaugurated the fair by performing prayers, a havan and the ceremonial flag hoisting at the temple premises. The rituals were performed in the presence of SDM and Chairperson of the Baba Balak Nath Temple Trust Swati Dogra, DSP and fair police officer Lalman Sharma, temple officer Keshav Singh, temple mahant Rajendra Giri, senior Congress leader Subhash Dhatwalia, former MLA Manjit Dogra, members of the temple trust and other dignitaries. A large number of devotees gathered at the temple on the opening day of the fair, which will continue for a month.

After the ceremonial rituals, the ADC inspected the arrangements at the temple complex and issued directions to officials regarding the management of the fair. Garg said all necessary arrangements have been made in view of the large number of devotees expected during the Chaitra fair. The temple will remain open round the clock during this period. He said proper arrangements have been ensured for security, cleanliness, electricity and water supply, medical facilities, langar, parking and other essential services.

Annual prize distribution ceremony held at Government Postgraduate College Chamba

SUBHASH MAHAJAN
CHAMBA, MAR 15



The annual prize distribution ceremony of Government Postgraduate College Chamba was held with MLA Neeraj Nayyir attending the event as the chief guest. On the occasion, the MLA honoured meritorious students of the college for their outstanding achievements in academics, sports and co-curricular activities. Addressing the gathering, Neeraj Nayyir appreciated the excellent performance of students in academic and other activities of the college. He said education is the foundation of the development of society and the nation, and students represent the bright future of the country. He encouraged students to move forward in life with discipline, hard work and dedication towards their goals. The MLA also stated that the state government is committed to ensuring quality education in remote and backward areas and is taking concrete steps to address the shortage of teachers. Appreciating the role of educators, he said teachers play a vital role in shaping the personality and future of students. Nayyir thanked Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and Education Minister Rohit Thakur for introducing important courses such as MBA, MCA, M.Com and MA in Sociology at the college. He said these courses have enabled students to pursue higher education without having to move outside the district.

Villages to benefit from new JICA schemes: Nishu Mongra

SANJAY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA, MAR 15



In Himachal's largest district, APMC Chairman Nishu Mongra has bestowed a significant gift upon the farmers of the Kangra Assembly constituency by securing the approval of a Rs 50 lakh scheme under the JICA project. These funds will be utilized for the maintenance and development of kuhls (irrigation channels) and their branches across several villages, including Kandrehar, Patoula, and Mangrehar. Teams from the JICA project's District Office in Palampur and Block Office in Shahpur jointly conducted an inspection of this area just yesterday. During this planning visit, the entire region was thoroughly surveyed. Work on this project is set to commence shortly. Nishu Mongra stated that 25 hectares of land have been brought under the ambit of this scheme. Additionally, a road will also be constructed for the benefit of farmers using funds from this very budget. Nishu Mongra noted that Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh fulfilled this demand specifically for the sake of the farming community. On behalf of thousands of farmers, he expressed his gratitude to the Chief Minister for this initiative. Nishu Mongra further informed that Chief Minister Sukhu is expected to visit Kangra in the near future. Several projects worth crores of rupees are ready for inauguration; prominent among these are the Matour College, the Mandal Kohala Bridge, and the Tiara Dehrian Water Scheme. The Chief Minister will also lay the foundation stone for a vegetable market in Kachhiari, a project valued at over Rs. 5 crore. Nishu Mongra added that for the farmers, a revenue target of Rs14.72 crore has been set in the APMC budget for the year 2026-27. Furthermore, a total expenditure provision of Rs14.61 crore has been made for the current financial year, out of which a sum of Rs 8 crore will be allocated for construction works.

HP govt strengthens green energy push with 2534 million unit power generation from major projects

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, MAR 15



Himachal Pradesh, blessed with vast rivers, mountains and natural resources, has long been known as one of India's major hydropower states. Today, the state is moving a step further by rapidly expanding clean and renewable energy in multiple directions. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, the government has intensified efforts to strengthen energy generation, diversify renewable sources and ensure that the benefits of green energy reach both the economy and local communities. Through solar expansion, hydropower generation, innovative green technologies and community-based initiatives, the state is steadily advancing towards its goal of becoming a leading green energy state while generating over 2,534 million units of electricity and earning more than Rs.1,004 crore in revenue from major renewable projects.

The state government has set a target of installing 500 megawatts of solar power capacity within two years. Several solar projects in Una and Bilaspur districts, including the Pekhubela, Bhanjal, Aghlor and Baira Dol projects with a combined capacity of 52 MW, have together generated about 114.27 million units of electricity and more than Rs. 34.83 crore in revenue. These projects represent an important step in strengthening solar power generation in the state.

Hydropower continues to remain the backbone of the state's renewable energy sector and plays a crucial role in supporting the economy. Major projects such as the 100 MW Sainj Hydroelectric Project in Kullu district, the 65 MW Kashang Stage-I Project in Kinnaur district and the 111 MW Sawra-Kuddu Project in Shimla district have together generated around 2,419.97 million units of electricity and nearly Rs. 969.95 crore in revenue. In addition, the completion of 13 hydropower projects has added 1,229 MW of power generation capacity, further strengthening the state's energy infrastructure.

Along with expanding hydropower, the government is also embracing emerging clean energy technologies. A one MW Green Hydrogen Energy Plant is being developed in Nalagarh in Solan district, marking a step toward future-oriented energy solutions. Another initiative is the launch of India's first state-supported biochar programme, under which a biochar plant will be established in Neri in Hamirpur district to support climate and sustainability efforts. The government has also introduced measures to encourage investment in solar energy. Under a first-come-first-served scheme, solar projects ranging from 250 kilowatts to 5 megawatts are being allotted to investors, and the electricity generated from these projects will be purchased by the HP State Electricity Board Limited.

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SAD will take on 'Delhi Parties' in 2027 Punjab Polls: Sukhbir Badal



KULDEEP SOOD
BARNALA: Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal today said the contest for the 2027 assembly elections had become clear with the Shiromani Akali Dal arraigned against the forces of Delhi - be it the Congress, Aam Aadmi Party or the Bharatiya Janata Party. "All the Delhi based parties come to rule and loot while the SAD is commited to the 'sewa' of Punjabis". The SAD president, who addressed a mammoth gathering here as part of the party's Punjab Bachao movement, also lauded Akali workers for not flinching from their seats despite rain showers. "This enthusiasm and dedication towards the party proves there is no real competition for the SAD in the 2027 assembly elections".

NEWS BRIEF

Three-day cow story concludes at Radhe Krishna Temple Gondpur Banehra, message of cow service given



AVINASH CHAUHAN
AMB: The three-day long Cow Story, held at the Radhe Krishna Temple in Gondpur Banehra, concluded on Sunday. Renowned storyteller Chandrakant Ji Maharaj spoke at length about the importance of the cow to devotees. In his sermon, he said that in Indian culture, the cow is not just an animal, but a symbol of faith and culture. He said that attaining righteousness is possible only through cow service, and that every person should feed bread to the cow before eating and serve her with love. Narrator Chandrakant Ji Maharaj said that according to the scriptures, there are nine mothers of mankind, among whom Mother Cow holds the first place. He urged people to keep Mother Cows in their homes if possible and serve them, because serving cows fulfills many of life's desires and brings spiritual happiness.

BJP Mandal Gagret organises 'Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Training Maha Abhiyan-2026' in Baroh



AVINASH CHAUHAN
AMB: Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Training Maha Abhiyan-2026 workshop in Baroh, under the aegis of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Mandal, Gagret, concluded with enthusiasm and organizational energy. Workers were briefed on the organization's ideology, methodology, and core values ??of service and dedication. District President Sham Minhas, former MLA Balbir Chaudhary, BJP leader Ram Kumar, District General Secretary Pahu Lal Bhardwaj, District Vice President Balram Bablu, BJYM State Vice President Chaitanya Sharma, and State IT Coordinator Anil Dadwal were special attendees and guided workers in various sessions.

Jairam Ramesh criticises BJP ahead of assembly poll schedule announcement

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, MAR 15



Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Sunday took a swipe at the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party ahead of the announcement of the 2026 assembly election schedule by the Election Commission of India, alleging that the Model Code of Conduct has been reduced to what he termed "Modi's Code of Campaigning."

The poll panel is scheduled to announce the election schedule for the legislative assemblies of Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal at a press conference in New Delhi at 4 PM.

In a post on X, Ramesh wrote, "The Election Commission will announce the schedule for the 2026 assembly elections at 4 PM today. It would have been given the go-ahead by the G2, since G1 would have completed this round of inaugurations, ribbon-cuttings, flag-offs, and launches."

He further criticised the functioning of the Model Code of Conduct, saying, "The Election Commission's Model Code of Conduct will soon come into effect. But since 2014 this has come to stand for Modi's Code of Campaigning — which will be full of defamation, abuses, intimidation, fear-mongering, and spreading the virus of lies."

The Model Code of Conduct, enforced by the Election Commission once the poll schedule is announced, lays down guidelines for political parties and candidates to ensure free and fair elections by regulating campaign conduct, government announcements and use of official machinery.

Assembly elections in the five states are expected to witness intense political competition among national and regional parties.

The previous round of elections in 2021 saw the All India Trinamool Congress retain power in West Bengal, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam form the government in Tamil Nadu, the Left Democratic Front return to power in Kerala, and the Bharatiya Janata Party emerge victorious in Assam, while a coalition government led by the All India N R Congress took office in Puducherry.

Fuel panic: A global crisis, not a government failure, says Manohar Lal



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, MAR 15

Union Energy, Housing and Urban Affairs Minister ManoharLal, during his stay in Karnal, met the general public at the Public Works Rest House till late evening last day and on Sunday morning and resolved their problems. These problems included personal and collective problems of most of the people. Manohar Lal resolved most of the problems on the spot and gave necessary directions to the officials to solve the remaining problems. On this occasion, BJP leaders and workers welcomed ManoharLal with a bunch of flowers and ManoharLal also inquired about the wellbeing of the workers and discussed about the ongoing development works in the district. Minister Manohar Lal, in response to a question from the media, said that the people of the opposition party should understand that this was an international level issue of LPG and oil shortage, yet the Indian government has not allowed the people of the country to face any problem. At such a time, opposition parties should not make it a political issue. Rather they should face the crisis together. The opposition is only misleading people by saying there is gas shortage without any issue. He said that the gas agencies in the country and the state have adequate stock of LPG and oil and LPG was also coming in abundance from abroad. He said that India was a peace-loving country and lives with everyone in mutual love and affection.

Gas shortage hits Panipat Textile Units, alternative fuel notification offers little relief

RAKESH BHAYANA
PANIPAT, MAR 15



The textile industry in Panipat is facing a severe crisis due to a shortage of gas supply, with industrialists claiming that a recent government notification allowing the use of alternative fuels is unlikely to provide immediate relief. Several textile units have already shut down, while many others are on the brink of closure due to the ongoing supply disruption. President of the Haryana Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Vinod Dhamija, said a team of officials, including Assistant Director Gaurav from the Textile Ministry, recently visited Panipat to review the situation. The team inspected various industrial areas and found that many factories had already closed operations due to the lack of gas. Dhamija said industrialists had requested the government to make alternative fuel arrangements. In response, the government issued a notification permitting industries to use fuels such as diesel, biomass, pellets, and if necessary, coal or kerosene. However, according to Dhamija, the notification offers little practical benefit. Most textile units in Panipat have already removed their old thermopack systems and converted their machinery to gas-based systems. As a result, switching back to conventional fuels at short notice is not feasible. He added that officials assured industrialists they would discuss the matter with concerned departments to find a workable solution. Industrialists suggested that just as PNG consumers are receiving around 60 percent of their earlier gas supply, LPG-based industries should also be provided gas in limited quantities.

MP Ahammad, Chairman of Malabar Group, conferred Maharashtrian of Year Award 2026 by Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis



BUREAU
CHANDIGARH/PATIALA: M.P. Ahammad, Chairman, Malabar Group, has been honoured with the prestigious Business Bhushan Award at the Lokmat Maharashtrian of the Year Awards 2026, in recognition of his visionary leadership and pivotal role in transforming the global jewellery retail landscape and society at large.Held at the iconic Gateway of India, the awards ceremony brought together leading policymakers, industry leaders, and prominent personalities from business and entertainment. The event was attended by the Chief Minister, Sri. Devendra Fadvanis, and Deputy Chief Minister, Sri. Eknath Shinde of Maharashtra, Sri. Vijay Darda, Chairman of Lokmat alongside ministers, bureaucrats, and distinguished figures from across sectors.Presented by Lokmat Media Group, the awards celebrate individuals whose vision, leadership, and achievements have significantly shaped industries while contributing meaningfully to society. Mr. Ahammad's recognition highlights his remarkable entrepreneurial journey and the role he has played in building Malabar Gold & to become the 5th largest global jewellery retailer and the largest jewellery retailer of Indian origin.

Chaitra Chaudas fair will be held in Pehowa subdivision today



YAGYA DUTT SHASTRI
PEHOWA: Tehsildar Poonam Solanki said that the four-day Chaitra Chaudas Fair would be inaugurated today in the Pehowa subdivision. SDM Anil Kumar Doon will inaugurate the information center for this Chaitra Chaudas Fair. Tehsildar Poonam Solanki said that Chaitra Chaudas fair was organised every year at Saraswati Teerth in sub-division Pehowa. This year too, this fair will be celebrated with great joy and grandeur at Saraswati Teerth in sub-division Pehowa from March 16 to March 19, 2026. For the convenience of the pilgrims in this Chaitra Chaudas fair, an information broadcasting centre has been set up in Bal Bhavan. She said that all arrangements have been completed by the administration for the lakhs of devotees coming to the fair. In this fair, people perform Pind Daan and worship for the peace of the souls of their ancestors. She said that devotees from various states have already begun arriving at the Saraswati Tirtha.

Inner eye awakens through true meditation: Sadhvi Aastha Bharti

SANJAY SHARMA
KAITHAL, MAR 15



Divya Jyoti Jagrati Sansthan organised a seven-day Shrimad Bhagwat Katha at the Old Bus Stand, Kaithal, from March 9 to 15. On the sixth day, Bhagwatacharya Sadhvi Aastha Bharti, disciple of the divine guru Shri Ashutosh Maharaj Ji (Founder and Director, DJJS), delivered a spiritually enriching discourse highlighting the journey of Uddhav Ji to Vraja and the divine wedding of Rukmini and Lord Krishna. Explaining the deeper spiritual significance behind the divine pastimes of God, Sadhvi Ji said that although science has reached great heights and discovered planets like Mars, it has yet to provide answers to the deeper questions of life and happiness. Despite increasing material comforts, society continues to face rising stress and suicide rates. She emphasized that spirituality offers the true solution, which is why it is often called the "science of sciences." She further clarified that meditation is not merely sitting with closed eyes. "Real meditation is not just closing the outer eyes, but opening the inner eye," she said, adding that true meditation becomes possible only when the inner vision of the Supreme Soul, Sachchidananda, awakens within through spiritual knowledge. Quoting ancient sages, she explained the principle: "Atmava are shrotavyo, mantavyo, drshtavyo, nididhyasitavyo," which means one must first listen to the divine wisdom, then contemplate upon it, and finally experience it through constant meditation under the guidance of a Satguru.

Haryana super 100 level-I academic session 2026-28 entrance exam result declared

HANS RAJ YADAV
KURUKSHETRA, MAR 15



The result of the Level-1 entrance examination conducted for the academic session 2026-28 under Haryana Super 100, an ambitious scheme of the Haryana Government, has been declared on March 15, 2026. District Science Specialist Dr.TarsemKaushik stated that the Super 100 exam was successfully conducted at the block level across Haryana on February 11, 2026. The exam was conducted for Class 10 students studying in all government schools across the state, and a large number of students participated enthusiastically. The exam was conducted peacefully and systematically at a total of 178 exam centers across the state. According to the declared results, 2,113 students have qualified for Level 2, while approximately 650 students have been placed on the waiting list.

Dr TarsemKaushik stated that 76 students from Kurukshetra district have been selected for Haryana Super 100 Level 1 and will be invited to the Haryana Super 100 Campus, Kurukshetra, for the Level 2 selection process. In this phase, students will undergo a three-day specialized residential academic training, where they will be taught by subject matter experts. Following this, an assessment test will be conducted, based on which final selection will be made.

District Education Officer VinodKaushik stated on this occasion that the Haryana Super 100 scheme is a golden opportunity for meritorious students studying in government schools. He added that through this scheme, even students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds are being provided free high-level preparation for national competitive exams like JEE and NEET. He congratulated all the students selected for Level 2, wished them a bright future, and encouraged them to work hard and bring glory to the state and country.

Sukhbir Badal is also backing down from statements made about gangsters during Ferozepur rally: Kulbir Singh Zira



TAPINDER SINGH
FEROZEPUR: Former MLA and District President Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee Kulbir Singh Zira reacted sharply on the policies and statements of the Akali Dal and said that Sukhbir Singh Badal is now backing down from the statements he made. He said that earlier he backed down from his statements regarding seeking apology from Sri Akal Takht Sahib and is also seen backing down from the statements made about gangsters during the Ferozepur rally. Kulbir Singh Zira said that Sukhbir Singh Badal had earlier said that if the Akali Dal government is formed, gangsters will be eliminated from Punjab but now his steps are seen to be contrary to his own statements. He said that Badal has given an important responsibility to Bibi Kanchanpreet Kaur, who is associated with gangsters, which does not match his earlier statements. He said that the people of Punjab are now watching everything carefully and will also respond to it when the time comes. People have now understood who speaks the truth and who denies their statements. Kulbir Singh Zira said that the Akali Dal has misled the people for a long time and now the Aam Aadmi Party is also following the same path. He alleged that the Aam Aadmi Party is also misleading the people by making big promises but in reality the problems of the people of the state are not being solved. He said that the people of Punjab are now understanding the reality of political parties and in the coming time they will take the right decision.

DAV College Pehowa organises extension lecture on 'Role and responsibilities of a critic'



YAGYA DUTT SHASTRI
PEHOWA: Department of English of DAV College, Pehowa organized an extension lecture on the topic "Role and Responsibilities of a Critic" in the seminar hall. Prof. Virender Pal, Registrar of Kurukshetra University, was the resource person. In his lecture, he elaborated at length on the role of a critic in the development of literary consciousness among readers. He also highlighted the individuality and significance of native literatures. Dr. Sumanlata, Principal of the college, welcomed him and made the students aware of the importance of literature in shaping human values and perspectives. The stage proceedings were conducted by Prof. Manoj Kumar. Dr. Sunita Chahal, Head of the Department of English, delivered the vote of thanks and expressed her gratitude to Prof. Virender Pal for his enlightening lecture. Dr. Surender Sharma, Prof. Parveen Kumar, Dr. Ashwini Sharma, Prof. Ravinder, Prof. Ajay, Prof. Anu, Prof. Rashmi, Prof. Sukhbeer, Prof. Abhishek and Prof. Nishu were also present on the occasion.

National Lok Adalat brings swift justice in Bilaspur; 3,810 cases settled, disputes worth Rs 4.69 crore resolved

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY
BILASPUR, MAR 15



The National Lok Adalat held across courts in Bilaspur district on Saturday delivered significant relief to litigants, with 3,810 cases settled through mutual consent and disputes involving approximately Rs 4.69 crore resolved in a single day. Providing details,, Chairperson of the District Legal Services Authority, Bilaspur, and District and Sessions Judge Jyotsna Sumant Dadwal, stated that the Lok Adalat was organized with the objective of ensuring speedy, affordable, and effective justice for the public. A total of 3,977 cases were placed before the Lok Adalat for settlement, including 3,860 cases pending in various courts and 117 pre-litigation matters. Out of these, 3,810 cases were successfully resolved through mutual agreement. These included 3,724 pending court cases and 86 pre-litigation cases that were settled amicably during the proceedings. The Lok Adalat facilitated the resolution of disputes involving a total amount of Rs 4,69,49,671, bringing relief to hundreds of litigants while significantly reducing the burden on the judicial system. The event witnessed active participation from judicial officers of various courts, advocates, and representatives of concerned government departments, whose coordinated efforts contributed to the smooth conduct and success of the Lok Adalat. Chairperson Jyotsna Sumant Dadwal emphasized that Lok Adalats play a vital role in promoting alternative dispute resolution by encouraging settlements through dialogue and mutual understanding.

BJP's two-day Deendayal Upadhyaya training camp concludes in Panipat

RAKESH BHAYANA
PANIPAT, MAR 15



A two-day Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Mega Training Camp of the BJP's Kala Aam Mandal under the Panipat Rural Assembly constituency concluded successfully at Gurjar Bhawan in Sector-24. The camp was organised as part of the state-wide mandal-level training campaign of the party. Mandal In-charge Ish Kumar Rana informed that the camp, held under the chairmanship of Mandal President Gurudev Kumar, witnessed the successful conduct of all sessions and proved highly beneficial for party workers. The training camp began on March 14 at 9:00 am with an inaugural session. The programme commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp and floral tributes to the portraits of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Bharat Mata, and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.

During the sessions, workers were given detailed information about the party's ideology, policies, organisational structure, and history. Special training was also provided on organisational expansion, booth-level preparedness, and the effective use of social media for strengthening the party.

In the first session, former District General Secretary Ravindra Bhatia spoke on the ideological foundation of the party. The second session was addressed by District General Secretary Sumit Jaglan, who highlighted the party's history and development.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Roadways Unions protest attempts to file false case against driver

MAHENDER GOYAL

HISAR: Unions affiliated with the Hisar Depot of State Transport Department have condemned attempts to register an accident case against a roadways driver—three months after incident occurred—under the guise of an investigation. The unions have warned that if the roadways driver is falsely implicated in the accident case, they will not hesitate to launch an agitation. In this regard, a joint meeting was held by presidents of the unions at Hisar Depot. During the meeting, it was noted that on December 14 of last year, a collision involving an unidentified vehicle and a motorcycle in Sadar area resulted in death of one individual. On January 1, 2026, driver from Hisar Depot received a telephone call from Sadar Police Station inquiring about accident. Roadways driver visited Sadar Police Station to present his side of story, stating that allegations leveled against him were absolutely false, untrue and baseless. He asserted that neither Haryana State Transport bus nor he, as driver, had any connection whatsoever to accident. Police are attempting to frame employee and tarnish impeccable reputation of Haryana State Transport by leveling false accusations against bus and drive an act described as both condemnable .

PMDA organises grand 'Vasant Utsav-2026' on the lines of International Surajkund Mela

BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, MAR 15

The city of Panchkula, located in the foothills of the Shivalik mountain range, holds special importance in many ways. The three-day 'Vasant Utsav' organised for the first time by the Panchkula Metropolitan Development Authority (PMDA) has given the city a new identity. In line with the vision of Chief Executive Officer(CEO), PMDA, Sh. K. Makrand Pandurang, this three-day 'Vasant Utsav' was organised for the first time after 37 years on the lines of the International Surajkund Mela. A huge crowd of school children, theatre artists, and nature lovers from the tricity gathered at the event, making it a remarkable sight.



On the first day of the Utsav, March 13, Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini inaugurated the event. On this occasion, the Cactus Garden, which had remained closed for nearly a year for maintenance, was reopened for the public due to the efforts of PMDA. In his address, the Chief Minister said that PMDA is continuously working to make Panchkula city more beautiful and attractive. Notably, since the formation of PMDA and after Sh. K. Makrand Pandurang assumed charge as Chief Executive Officer, renovation work of roads and parks in the city has been progressing continuously.

Organised on the occasion of the spring season, which symbolizes joy, renewal and enthusiasm, the three-day Utsav was significant in many ways. For the first time, food stalls, handicraft stalls and stalls displaying products made by self-help groups were set up for visitors on the lines of the International Surajkund Mela. People not only viewed the products at these stalls but also made enthusiastic purchases. From the famous jalebi of Matu Ram Halwai of Gohana to South Indian dishes, visitors enjoyed a wide variety of food items.

The vision of Chief Executive Officer, PMDA, Sh. K. Makrand Pandurang is to include the 8-acre Cactus Garden of Panchkula among the best cactus gardens in the world. With this objective, extensive renovation work has been carried out in the garden over the past one year, under which about 300 new species of cactus have been added. The curator of the Cactus Garden, Major General C.S. Bewli (Retd.), said that Sh. Makrand Pandurang has been making special efforts from the very first day to give a new look to the garden. More than 50 large cactus plants have also been brought here from Pune (Maharashtra). After the reopening of the garden, a large number of visitors are reaching there to see its new look. With the organisation of the 'Vasant Utsav', the Sector-5 Town Park, one of the largest parks in Panchkula, also remained a centre of attraction for visitors. Every day thousands of people come here for morning and evening walks, and regular visitors also appreciated the Utsav. In the coming years, Panchkula's Vasant Utsav is expected to become even more grand. During the Utsav, around 2,250 entries of cut flowers and potted plants were received in categories such as 'Best Garden in City Panchkula'.

Agrawal youth introduction conference draws large participation in Karnal



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, MARCH 15

The 26th Agrawal youth introduction conference was organised on Sunday at Agrasen Bhawan, Sector 8, by the Agrawal Yuva Sangathan. The event was conducted under the supervision of the organisation's president, Ramesh Jindal.

Around 1,000 people registered offline to participate in the conference, while nearly 1,000 families applied online. During the programme itself, about 110 families initiated discussions to take marriage proposals forward after interacting with each other.

The conference was first started in the year 2000 with the objective of curbing unnecessary expenditure on weddings and providing a suitable platform for young men and women to choose compatible life partners. The organisers said the initiative has yielded meaningful results over the years.

Karnal Mayor Renu Bala Gupta and senior BJP leader Brij Gupta attended the programme as chief guests. Addressing the gathering, the Mayor said the conference provides an excellent platform for youths of the Agrawal community to find suitable life partners. She said it is encouraging that young participants introduced themselves on stage along with their families, which reflects the progressive thinking of the community. She also emphasised that parents should focus on instilling good values in children before encouraging them to pursue wealth and success.

During the programme, the guests also released a booklet prepared by the Agrawal Yuva Sangathan containing the biodata of participating youths. Ramesh Jindal expressed gratitude to everyone for making the conference successful, and mementoes were presented to the guests. Among those present as special guests were Vineet Bansal, Virender Bansal, Jitendra Singla, Pankaj Garg, Sanjay Garg, Anil Gupta, Sanjay Jindal, Pradeep Agarwal, Ramesh Gupta, Rajesh Kumar, Pawan Agarwal, Amit Garg, Ram Avtar Garg, Sandeep Gupta, R.L. Bansal, Raj Kumar Goyal, P.K. Jain, Vijay Goyal, Rajkumar Tayal and Anil Gupta.

The programme was also attended by organisation office-bearers including president Ramesh Jindal, general secretary Bhushan Goyal, vice-president Arun Agarwal, treasurer Pradeep Agarwal, secretary Ashish Mangal, secretary Kuldeep Gupta, joint secretary Praveen Garg, organisation secretary Vinay Singla, Surendra Jain, Ashwini Gupta, Naresh Garg and women's wing president Gautam Jain.

Session on responsible for declining values and rising violence among youth held



DALBIR SINGH MALIK
KURUKSHETRA, MAR 15

A brainstorming session was held among prominent intellectuals on the topic, "Who is responsible for the declining values and rising violence among youth?" During the discussion, Krishna Shyokand, President of International Jat Sabha (Jat Dharamshala), Kurukshetra, stated that broken families, parental divorce, domestic violence, and poor upbringing push young people toward violent behavior. Gurnam Singh Saini, President of the Saini Samaj Sabha, Kurukshetra, observed that violent content available on social media, video games, and films exert a profound influence on the minds of the youth, potentially leading them to view violence as a normal and acceptable solution. Jagtar Singh Kajal, President of Dhanna Bhagat Public School, Kurukshetra, argued that poverty, unemployment, and social inequality breed despair and frustration among young people, thereby driving them to engage in violent activities. Educationist Mamraj Saini noted that the pressures within the education system—coupled with the expectations of parents and teachers, and an excessive emphasis on academic success—render young people emotionally vulnerable and push them toward violent conduct. Dharambir Mandhan, MD of Jogna Real Estate, asserted that a lack of moral values, tolerance, cooperation and a sense of peace drives youth toward violent behavior. After deliberating on all these various facets, intellectuals concluded that, in order to curb rising violence among youth, it is imperative to instill strong moral values and sanskars in children right from their early childhood.

Grand Gita Mahotsav organized by Kurukshetra Development Board in Nathdwara

DALBIR SINGH MALIK
KURUKSHETRA, MAR 15

A grand event was organized at the sacred pilgrimage site of Nathdwara, Rajasthan, under the aegis of International Gita Mahotsav and in collaboration with Kurukshetra Development Board. Thousands of devotees participated in program, internalizing divine message of the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita. Event was graced by dignified presence of saints, scholars, and social activists. Alkesh Maudgil, an honorary member of Kurukshetra Development Board, stated that Shrimad Bhagavad Gita is not merely a religious scripture but serves as ultimate guide for living a meaningful life for all of humanity.Gita message inspires individuals to embrace duty, morality, discipline and a positive outlook on life. He added that in today's materialistic era, principles of Gita provide the right direction for human existence.



Gita Path was conducted during the program under the spiritual guidance of Gita Manishi Swami Gyananand Ji Maharaj. His exposition of deeper meanings and teachings embedded in Gita's verses spiritually inspired devotees in attendance. Participating in recitation with deep reverence, devotees reaffirmed their faith in Dharma and culture. Alkesh Maudgil remarked that through International Gita Mahotsav, a commendable effort is being made to disseminate sacred message of Gita not only across the nation but also on a global scale.Event organized in Nathdwara constitutes a significant link in this ongoing endeavor, aimed at taking Indian culture and spiritual values to the masses. He expressed his special gratitude to Government of Haryana and Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, noting that under their guidance, tradition of International Gita Mahotsav continues to flourish and mission to propagate message of Gita at both national and international levels is being actively pursued.

Administration tightens grip on illegal mining; 17 trolley and 4 tractors seized



NIRMAL SAINI

RADAUR: After a brief lull of a few days, mining mafia has once again become active at Pobari Ghat along Yamuna River. They resumed their illegal mining operations by filling in trenches previously dug by administration.To dismantle mining mafia's empire, a joint raid was conducted last night by teams from Jathlana Police Station, State Enforcement Wing, and Irrigation Department. Inspector Rajesh Saini represented State Enforcement Wing while SDO Dharampal represented Irrigation Department, both present with their respective teams. Team achieved a major breakthrough during raid. Throughout night, team scoured river area in pursuit of mining mafia members. During operation which lasted approximately 15 hours, about 17 trolleies and four tractors were seized. Some members of mining mafia managed to take advantage of darkness to flee scene with their tractors.embers of mining mafia continued to hover around area, keeping close watch on team's activities. Visible signs of illegal mining left behind at Pobari Ghat bear witness to ruthless manner in which mafia has ravaged Yamuna River. By selling sand worth crores of rupees from this site, mining mafia has inflicted a severe blow to government's revenue. Amit Kumar Incharge of Jathlana Police Station stated that raid was conducted based on intelligence regarding illegal mining. Vehicles found engaged in mining at site were seized and impounded at Jathlana Police Station, Gumthala Police Post and Radaur Police Station and fines have been imposed in accordance with law. He emphasized that illegal mining would not be tolerated under any circumstances. Strict action in accordance with law, will be taken against anyone found engaging in illegal mining.

Manohar Lal expresses grief over demise of Assembly Speaker's mother



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

KARNAL: Union Minister for Power, Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal visited Kalyan Farm near Madhuban on Saturday evening to express condolences over the demise of Haryana Assembly Speaker Harvinder Kalyan's mother, Prem Kaur (87).

The Union Minister paid floral tributes to the departed soul and prayed for peace to the deceased and strength to the bereaved family in this difficult time. He said the memories and noble values of Prem Kaur would always remain alive in the hearts of people. On receiving the news of her demise, Manohar Lal arrived from Delhi to offer condolences to the family. He met the members of the Kalyan family and expressed his sympathies. Prem Kaur passed away late Friday night after a prolonged illness. Her last rites were performed on Saturday afternoon in her native village Kutel, where a large number of people from various sections of society gathered to pay their respects. Haryana Election Commissioner Devender Kalyan, BJP working committee member Azad Singh Nehra, Swami Sampurnanand Saraswati, Kavinder Rana and others were present on the occasion.

CBSE holds seminar on on-screen marking evaluation in Karnal

CHAMAN LAL
KARNAL, MARCH 15

A seminar was organised in Karnal to address issues related to On Screen Marking (OSM) evaluation as part of the Digital India and Viksit Bharat 2047 initiative. The seminar was attended by Rajesh Kumar Gupta, Regional Officer of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Panchkula.

The meeting was held at Tagore Bal Niketan Senior Secondary School, Sector 6, Urban Estate, Karnal, where Gupta addressed all Chief Nodal Supervisors (CNS), along with around 200 chief examiners and examiners appointed for the evaluation of Class X and Class XII CBSE board examination answer sheets in the district.

During the seminar, a video message by CBSE Controller of Examinations Sanyam Bhardwaj was shown, explaining various aspects of the On Screen Marking (OSM) system in detail so that evaluators do not face difficulties while assessing answer sheets.

While addressing the gathering, Rajesh Kumar Gupta listened to the concerns and queries raised by chief examiners and examiners regarding the implementation of On Screen Marking for Class XII evaluations in 2026. He provided immediate solutions to their queries, helping clear doubts and enabling evaluators to carry out the marking process more effectively. Gupta also interacted with the evaluators at their workstations, guiding and encouraging them during the evaluation process.



Nodal Officer Dr Rajan Kumar Lamba, Principal of Tagore Bal Niketan, Karnal, said that since On Screen Marking for Class XII has been introduced this year, examiners initially faced several challenges during evaluation. He said the meeting conducted by the CBSE regional officer proved very beneficial in addressing those issues.

Gupta also issued guidelines regarding the ongoing evaluation of Class X answer sheets and instructed examiners to assess the copies carefully and accurately, ensuring that no student suffers due to any negligence or oversight during the evaluation process.

City Coordinator Poonam Nevat and centre superintendents from CBSE-affiliated schools in Karnal were also present at the seminar. Participants appreciated the successful organisation of the meeting. Dr Lamba said the regional officer assured that any further issues related to evaluation would also be resolved promptly.

Strengthening basic amenities in region's villages is priority: Agni Vijay



NIRMAL SAINI

RADAUR: Agni Vijay Singh Chauhan, Deputy Chairman of District Council, laid foundation stone for a road project in Mohri village, to be constructed at an estimated cost of ₹7 lakh. Construction work for road will span from Primary Health Centre Mohri to Bant Singh Farm. Agni Vijay Singh Chauhan stated that strengthening basic amenities in villages of region is his top priority. He emphasized that development of roads, water supply and other essential infrastructure ensures progress of rural areas.Construction of this road will significantly facilitate commuting for farmers and villages including those in Mohri village and the surrounding areas and will also accelerate overall development of region. Through District Council, continuous development works are being carried out in villages of Radaur Assembly constituency; in future as well such development initiatives will continue keeping needs of public in mind.

Timely Screening of high blood pressure is key to prevention: Dr Himanshu Jain

HANS RAJ YADAV
KURUKSHETRA, MAR 15



Free general medical camp was organized in village of Chanarthal by D.R. Jain Neurocare and Multispecialty Hospital, Kurukshetra. During camp, specialist doctors provided health-related consultations and diagnostic services to villagers. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Himanshu Jain stated that approximately 46 percent of people remain unaware of their elevated blood pressure levels; for this very reason, it is often referred to as "silent killer." He explained that common symptoms may include headaches, dizziness, blurred vision, excessive fatigue, chest pain, and nosebleeds. He further noted that excessive salt intake, a high consumption of junk food and fried items, alcohol consumption and smoking, stress, insufficient sleep, obesity, and a lack of physical activity are primary causes of high blood pressure. By modifying these habits and adopting a balanced lifestyle, blood pressure can be controlled to significant extent. Jain further explained that uncontrolled high blood pressure has a direct impact on blood vessels of brain thereby increasing risk of a stroke or brain hemorrhage. Therefore, undergoing periodic health check-ups is absolutely essential. He advised adopting practices such as Pranayama, meditation, yoga, and wholesome diet and lifestyle to ensure a healthy life. This event marked the 2,083rd free medical camp organized under the leadership of Dr. Sanjay Sharma. During the camp, 107 patients received medical consultations, general health check-ups—including tests for blood sugar, pulse rate, and hemoglobin levels—as well as free medicines. Dr. Sanjay Sharma remarked, "Public service and healthcare are mutually complementary. When medical professionals step out into community to serve, they do not merely provide treatment; they also foster awareness among the people and instill confidence in the pursuit of a healthy life." On this occasion, Sarpanch Jaswinder Kaur and social worker Jasbir Singh Sandhu extended a warm welcome to Dr Himanshu Jain (Brain and Spine Neurosurgeon), Dr. Sanjay Sharma (Expertise Medical Campus), and their team. They remarked that the presence of such specialist physicians in the village is a matter of great fortune for the residents.

Hindu New Year Festival on March 22 to ignite spirit of Sanatan Dharma: Prof Deepak Kumar

MAHENDER GOYAL

HISAR: Preparations for Hindu New Year Festival are proceeding in full swing. Festivities will commence with Dhvaja Yatra featuring consecrated flags bearing Vishnu Tilak. Thousands of people are expected to participate in this procession singing and dancing in celebration.For festival scheduled to be held on March 22 within massive marquee erected in front of Shri Satyanarayan Shiv Temple located at New Grain Market in Hisar, edntire temple complex and marquee will be lavishly decorated with saffron flags. Organized by Shri Prabhubhakt Sankirtan Mandal under the aegis of Vishwa Hindu Parishad, this grandest Hindu New Year Festival and 'Ramotsav in Haryana is expected to generate excitement and enthusiasm across entire nation.



Detailed discussion was held regarding the upcoming Hindu New Year Festival on March 22. During this event, the consecrated flags bearing the 'Vishnu Tilak' were formally unveiled. Prominent figures present on this occasion included Prof. Deepak Kumar, VHP Provincial Head of Satsang, Program Coordinator Mamta Soni, Women's Wing Head Umesh, Women's Wing Co-heads Kusum and Anita Bindal, Public Relations Head Anju Singal, Secretary Deepika Kaushik, Treasurer Rinku, and Arrangements Heads Anita Garg, Ankit, Sunil, Baldev, Mohit, Praveen and Saksham. Prof. Deepak Kumar announced that Hindu New Year Festival is scheduled to begin at 7:00 AM on March 22. Shri Prabhubhakt Sankirtan Mandal, Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), Chhatrapati Shivaji Smarak Samiti and Hindu New Year Organizing Committee will play a pivotal role in this festival. He announced that festival would feature Virat Dharma Sabha, melodious Sankirtan and showering of flowers and perfumes.

Hry Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kurukshetra chapter holds annual general meeting

HANS RAJ YADAV

KURUKSHETRA: The annual general meeting of the Haryana Chamber of Commerce and Industry (HCCI) Kurukshetra chapter was held at a private hotel on Pipli Road, where industrialists and traders discussed key issues affecting businesses in the region.

The meeting was chaired by chapter chairman Dr Narendra Pal Gupta and attended by chamber members, businessmen and prominent industrialists from the area. Presenting the annual report, Dr Gupta said the chamber had actively raised issues faced by industries and traders before various government departments and the administration during the past year.



On the occasion, chamber general secretary Virender Singhal, vice-chairman Rajesh Singla and finance secretary Akshay Mittal also shared their views and emphasised the need for collective efforts to resolve the problems faced by industries. Members stressed that better coordination between industry and the administration is essential to accelerate industrial development in the region.

During the meeting, members including Gaurav Singla, Rajan Jindal, Ravindra Agarwal, Raghav Garg, Madhur Goyal, Narendra Dhingra, Avtar Walia, Munish Mittal, Jagmohan Kwatra, Gaurav Jindal, Baldev Sethi, O.P. Khurana, Mangat Ram Jindal, Vinay Gupta, Dharmpal Singla, Rakesh Kumar, Ashwini Jindal, Vibhu Singla, Ashwini Jain, Surender Gupta, Gurvinder Singh and Satish Lalit discussed several important issues affecting industries.

YUGMARG

CHANDIGARH

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026

Opinion

It is better to be violent, if there is violence in our hearts, than to put on the cloak of nonviolence to cover impotence.

Mahatma Gandhi

EDITORIAL

Delays hampering key science project

When the Union Cabinet gave the nod nearly three years ago for building the Gravitational Wave Observatory—billed as one of India's biggest scientific projects—, there was excitement among the scientific community. The LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory) is no ordinary facility. It has the potential to change the country's standing in the scientific world. However, a familiar set of factors appears to be delaying the prestigious project. Media reports, quoting the records accessed under the RTI Act, say that the Rs 1,600-crore work tender floated in April last year is yet to be awarded. It is unfortunate that the project continues to be in limbo despite the government's announcement earlier that the works would commence in the second half of 2025. The tender has undergone multiple date extensions since then. The Centre's financial approval of Rs 2,300 crore for LIGO-India was given in April 2023, two years before the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) tender was issued. LIGO is designed to work in sync with two similar facilities in the United States to detect the ripples in spacetime produced by the movement of large celestial objects like stars and planets. These ripples were first postulated nearly 100 years ago in Albert Einstein's General Theory of Relativity, which encapsulates our current understanding of how gravitation works. The observatory's ability to detect gravitational waves gives scientists a new vision to track cosmic events that light or other electromagnetic waves are not able to capture. LIGO observatories have two 4-km-long arms built at 90 degrees to each other. These are vacuum chambers with reflective mirrors at their ends. Beams of lasers are reflected off these mirrors and are used to detect gravitational waves. The first such wave was detected in 2015, which was caused by the merger of two black holes 1.3 billion years ago. The measurement of these waves requires unprecedented accuracy as their effects are extremely small. The ultra-modern observatory will be located in Maharashtra's Hingoli district, about 450 km from Mumbai, and is supposed to begin scientific runs from 2030 as per the original plan. India has never built a cutting-edge scientific facility on this scale on its soil, and LIGO can have huge spin-off benefits for the science and technology sector. The collaboration is an endorsement of the country's scientific capabilities and possibilities. Besides the United States, such gravitational wave observatories are currently operational in Europe and Japan. India has been an active collaborator in a number of international science projects, including the Large Hadron Collider experiments, and ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor), which is designed to enable controlled nuclear fusion reactions. At a time when India is becoming an active participant in a host of international collaborative projects, such bureaucratic delays holding up an important scientific initiative do not augur well for the country's image.

Punjab government setup new milestones in power sector over 4 years



MANMOHAN SINGH

The Punjab government has implemented various welfare schemes in diverse sectors, particularly electricity, health services, education, providing 1,000 to adult girls over 18 years and 1,500 to women belonging to s.c. category, along with many other schemes and revolutionary initiatives whose concrete outcomes are evident before us.

Under the Punjab government's power department, Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) and Punjab State Transmission Corporation Limited (PSTCL) are making invaluable contributions to Punjab's all-round development and economic progress.

Under the dynamic leadership of Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann, Chief Minister of Punjab, and able guidance of Shri Sanjeev Arora, Minister for Industries and Commerce, Investment Promotion, Power, and Local Government, all categories of electricity consumers in the Punjab have been provided uninterrupted, reliable, and affordable electricity supply, along with consumer-friendly facilities on day-to-day basis. The Punjab Government's decisions to acquire the private GVK thermal plant and secure the Pachhwara Central Coal Mine in Jharkhand show Chief Minister Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann's strong political determination.

Today, under the leadership of Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann, Chief Minister of Punjab, the Punjab government has completed four years and is boarding on the journey of its fifth year.

New milestones have been setup in the power sector with the honest and determined efforts undertaken by the Punjab government over the past four years. During the paddy seasons of 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025, agricultural consumers were supplied more than eight hours of uninterrupted electricity without imposing power cuts on domestic, commercial, industrial, and other categories of consumers. Key initiatives include the voluntary disclosure scheme for all consumers, acquisition of a private sector thermal plant, enhancing electricity generation, implementing schemes to ensure reliable and uninterrupted power supply to consumers, accident compensation policy and employment provision for workers engaged by contractors and outsourcing agencies.

Punjab is the first state of the nation where all domestic consumers are provided 600 units of free electricity every two months (or 300 units per month). Currently, Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) is illuminating the premises of over 1.17 crore consumers across various categories in Punjab, including more than 85 lakh domestic consumers. Over 13 lakh domestic consumers have taken new electricity connections in the past four years.

Commercial organizations always depend on consumers, and in the same manner, Powercom has streamlined the process of providing connections to new electricity consumers. This primarily involves abolishing the No Objection Certificate (NOC) requirement, which provides significant relief to consumers. Additionally, electricity connections are now being issued in unauthorized colonies as well. Furthermore, the A&E form for LT supply category consumers has been greatly simplified.

As per the 2026-27 tariff order, electricity rates for domestic consumers in Punjab have also been reduced, with several other facilities issued for consumers. Electricity consumers across the state have received an average reduction of one rupee per unit in power tariffs. Consequently, from April 1, 2026, consumers of every category will now receive electricity at 50 paise to 1.50 rupees cheaper per unit. Under the new electricity rates, domestic consumers with up to 2 kW load will receive electricity at Rs. 1.55 cheaper per unit for up to 300 units (i.e.,Rs. 1 and 55 paise savings per unit), while above 300 units, it will be 70 paise cheaper per unit. Similarly, for domestic consumers with 2 to 7 kW load, electricity up to 300 units has been made Rs. 1.47 cheaper per unit, and above 300 units, it is Rs. 0.70 cheaper per unit. For non-residential supply, electricity rates have been reduced by 50 to 79 paise per unit depending on requirements; small power supply by 12 paise per unit, medium supply by 42 paise per unit, and large supply by 70 to 74 paise per unit. Agricultural tubewell electricity has been reduced by Rs. 1.32 per unit, and farm motor electricity tariff has been lowered from Rs. 6.70 to Rs. 5.38 per unit.

Acquisition of Guru Amardas Thermal Plant (GATP), Goindwal Sahib In 2024, the Punjab government created history by acquiring the private sector GVK thermal plant at Goindwal Sahib for Rs 1,080 crore—the lowest price purchase agreement for a GVK thermal plant.

The Guru Amardas Thermal Plant, also known as the GVK Thermal Power Plant, achieved its plant load factor increase to nearly 82% by July 2025 after Punjab State Power Corporation Limited acquired it in February 2024. Prior to acquisition, from April 2016 to January 2024, the plant's average plant load factor was only around 34%. In July 2024, this thermal plant set a record with a 90% plant load factor. In the financial year 2024-25, its average plant load factor was approximately 65%.

Pachhwara Central Coal Mine: A Boon for Punjab The saying "true policies yield desires" fits perfectly with Punjab State Power Corporation Limited's Pachhwara Central Coal Mine in Jharkhand, proving to be a veritable boon for PSPCL.

Allotted to Punjab State Power Corporation limited in March 2015 and operational after nearly seven years in December 2022, the mine has supplied



approximately 170 lakh metric tons of coal (4,266 rakes) to date. This has yielded savings of about Rs. 8.5 crore per lakh metric ton compared to Coal India Limited (CIL), totaling roughly Rs. 1,445 crore thus far. Thermal plants face no coal shortages, with current stocks at: Ropar Thermal Plant (43 days), Lehra Mohabbat Plant (34 days), Goindwal Sahib Thermal Plant (36 days). Coal from Pachhwara Mine can only be used for government power plants in Punjab, and following the thermal plant acquisition by Punjab, this coal will fuel electricity generation there.

Launch of Roshan Punjab Project

The Punjab government has initiated the Roshan Punjab Project to make Punjab India's first power-cut-free state. This flagship endeavor, with a Rs. 5,000 crore investment, aims to completely overhaul the transmission and distribution network, ensuring uninterrupted 24-hour electricity supply by next year—hence its apt name, Roshan Punjab.

Under the project, new sub-stations and power lines will be installed, feeder loads reduced, and other critical measures implemented. Focus areas include building new infrastructure, upgrading existing systems, and enhancing power sector maintenance capacity. Alongside these reforms, Punjab has emerged as a beacon of light for the nation in the electricity sector.

Work is underway in the transmission and distribution sectors to ensure reliable and uninterrupted electricity supply to consumers. 26 new 66 kV sub-stations have been constructed, the capacity of 194 power transformers has been augmented, and 34 new power transformers have been added, resulting in a total capacity increase of 2,737 MVA. Additionally, 337 circuit kilometers of new 66 kV lines have been laid, and the capacity of 615 circuit kilometers of lines has been enhanced.

From April 1, 2022, to November 31, 2025, Punjab State Transmission Corporation Limited added 413 circuit kilometers of transmission lines and 7,657 MVA capacity at 400/220/132 kV sub-stations. Key achievements include commissioning the new 400 kV Dhanansu (Cycle Valley) sub-station in January 2024 (with 1×500 MVA, 400/220 kV ICT, and ISTS connectivity via 400 kV Jalandhar-Kurukshetra line); the new 400 kV Ropar sub-station in August 2024 (2×500 MVA, 400/220 kV ICT, ISTS via 400 kV Ludhiana-Coldm-Nangal line); upgrading Gurdaspur 220 kV sub-station (2×100 MVA) from 132 kV; new 220 kV Wazirabad sub-station (1×160 MVA, 220/66 kV transformer); augmenting/installing 51 nos. 220 kV transformers and 61 nos. 132/66 kV transformers.

Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme

Under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), Rs. 9,563 crore has been approved to strengthen the electricity distribution infrastructure and implement smart metering works. Tenders worth Rs. 4,824 crore have been issued and work awarded. So far, Rs. 755 crore has been expended.

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (and Punjab State Transmission Corporation Limited have made invaluable contributions to providing reliable, uninterrupted, and affordable electricity supply to over 1.17 crore consumers across various categories in Punjab. The CMDs, Directors, engineers, technical and non-technical staff of both corporations deserve immense credit for this achievement.

I share one thing with readers: the performance of PSPCL and PSTCL cannot be compared with any other department because employees of both corporation's work with hard work and dedication, and some category employees even risk their lives, while some even sacrifice their lives for providing electricity to the consumers.

From April 1, 2022, to March 12, 2026, Powercom and Transco have provided jobs to eligible candidates against a total of 9,593 vacancies in various categories through a transparent merit-based process at different times. These include 814 jobs by Powercom and 1,579 by Transco. Additionally, recruitment for 1,181 posts—including Assistant Engineers, Junior Engineers, Clerks, and thermal staff is to be completed by June 2020. It may be noted that 65,264 jobs have been provided across all Punjab departments, of which 9,593 jobs have been provided solely by the two power corporations.

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited has secured an A+ grade in the 14th Integrated Rating of power distribution units, elevating its score from 76.99 (A grade) in the 13th rating to 89.22. This achievement positions PSPCL second nationally among state-owned DISCOMs. It reflects PSPCL's robust progress in financial stability, operational efficiency, payment discipline, and consumer-centric electricity supply systems.

In FY 2025-26 up to December 2025, PSPCL further strengthened its financial position by posting a profit of 4,202.85 crore.

On July 5, 2025, Punjab successfully met a record peak demand of 16,670 MW—11.42% higher than the 14,961 MW recorded on July 5, 2024—surpassing the prior record of 16,428 MW set on June 28, 2025. Previously, on June 29, 2024, the peak demand stood at 16,058 MW.

Ahead of the monsoon, the Punjab government's push for early paddy transplantation and rising temperatures sharp demand growth. PSPCL met this surge effectively, registering 9,071 million units (MU) consumption in June 2025—a 4.5% rise from 8,678 MU in June 2024.

Punjab State Transmission Corporation Limited (PSTCL) plays a fundamental role in the power sector, making substantial contributions to the transmission network for seamless, reliable supply to consumers. Through PSTCL's efforts, Power System Operating Corporation Limited raised its ATC/TTC (Available Transfer Capability/Total Transfer Capability) limits from 7,400/8,000 MW to 10,400/10,900 MW.

Power Generation Expansion

PSPCL continues relentless efforts to increase electricity generation. Under the Shahpurkandi Multipurpose Dam Project, construction of the 206 MW hydel power project is advancing at a war footing, expected to commence generation by May 2027.

Public Relations Consultant
Ex.Dy Secy, P.R.,Powercom

Guru and the Unready Vessel



Dr Tanu Jain

In every age, the relationship between a Guru and a disciple unfolds like a silent scripture—unwritten, yet eternal. It is not merely the transfer of knowledge, but the transmission of energy, grace, and responsibility. Such was the case in one unforgettable episode that revealed both the power of spiritual awakening and the necessity of patrata—inner preparedness.

Once, during a serene retreat, many sadhvis and seekers of different age groups gathered to learn dhyan kriyas under a revered Guru. The ashram hummed with sacred expectancy. The air itself seemed to vibrate with mantra and stillness. The Guru's presence was gentle yet commanding, like a lamp steady in windless air.

Meditation sessions began. Some were young, eager and curious. Others were middle-aged, disciplined and devoted. Among them was a very aged mata—frail in body but intense in aspiration. Her eyes carried longing that transcended years. After observing a few sessions, she approached the Guru with folded hands and said softly, "Maharaj, please teach me dhyan as well."

The Guru looked at her quietly. His gaze was not of judgment but of deep seeing. "I will teach you," he replied calmly.

As the days unfolded, the meditation practices intensified. Breath awareness deepened. Mantras resonated in subtle layers of consciousness. The Guru guided them through internal stillness, pranic awareness, and silent witnessing. In the aged woman, something stirred powerfully. During one session, she began to tremble. Her breath changed rhythm. Tears flowed unbidden.

Later she described vivid inner experiences—rising currents of energy along the spine, spontaneous mudras, sensations of light bursting in the forehead. Those present whispered of Shaktipat and Kundalini jagran. The Guru listened with compassion. He neither encouraged exaggeration nor dismissed her experience. Instead, he gently explained the nature of pranic awakening—how dormant energies, when stirred, must be stabilized through grounding, humility, and disciplined living.

In Autobiography of a Yogi, Paramahansa Yogananda recounts how his Guru, Sri Yukteswar, always emphasized balance over phenomena. "Seek not after visions," Sri Yukteswar would say, "but after realization." Spiritual energy, when prematurely awakened, can overwhelm an unprepared mind. The ancient texts echo this caution. The Hatha Yoga Pradipika warns that Kundalini is like a serpent—sacred yet potent—and must be awakened under guidance and purity of life. The Kathopanishad reminds us that the path is sharp like a razor's edge.

For some days, the aged mata radiated unusual enthusiasm. She spoke of lights, sounds, and divine currents. But then, unexpectedly, she disappeared from the ashram.Ten to twelve days later, she returned. This time her face was not radiant but distressed. She came straight to the Guru, fell at his feet, and wept uncontrollably."Maharaj," she cried, "please take back this vidya. I cannot bear it."

The hall fell silent.

The Guru raised her gently and seated her nearby. Between sobs she explained that the energies continued even at home—intense sensations, restless nights, waves of emotion. Fear had replaced wonder. She felt unanchored.The Guru closed his eyes. Those present sensed a shift in atmosphere. He prayed inwardly to the Divine Shakti. Taking a solemn sankalp, he invoked grace—not to grant more power, but to withdraw excess activation and restore equilibrium. His prayer was not dramatic, but deeply intentional.In yogic understanding, a realized master can modulate the disciple's energy field through compassion and divine alignment. In Kularnava Tantra, it is written that the Guru is the channel through which Shakti flows, and also the one who safeguards the disciple from imbalance. The Guru does not impose; he harmonizes.

After some time, the aged woman's breathing calmed. Her trembling ceased. She felt a profound stillness—ordinary, gentle, safe. The overwhelming currents subsided like a tide receding.Days later, a visiting preacher expressed gratitude to the Guru: "Maharaj, thank you for blessing her—and for taking away the vidya that troubled her.

"The Guru responded with a quiet firmness. He turned to the woman and said, "Do not run after siddhis. Spiritual powers are not ornaments. They require patrata—preparedness of mind, purity of intention, steadiness of life. Without a strong vessel, even nectar can become poison."The woman bowed her head in humility.

This episode illuminated a timeless truth. Spiritual awakening is not entertainment; it is transformation. The Bhagavad Gita teaches that yoga is moderation in all things—yuktahara viharasya. Energy without grounding breeds disturbance. Experience without integration breeds ego or fear.Often seekers are fascinated by phenomena—visions, vibrations, psychic flashes. Yet the sages consistently redirect attention toward character, surrender, and service.

As Yogananda writes, "The true basis of religion is not belief, but intuitive experience." But that experience must ripen into wisdom, not excitement. The aged woman was not unworthy; she was unprepared. Her longing was sincere, but her nervous system, habits, and mental stability were not ready to contain heightened pranic force. A vessel must be cleansed, strengthened, expanded gradually. Otherwise, it cracks under pressure.The Guru's greatness lay not in bestowing Shakti, but in protecting the disciple from herself. He did not shame her fear. He did not glorify her experience. He restored balance.In spiritual life, grace is abundant—but containment is rare. Patrata is cultivated through discipline, humility, ethical living, and surrender. The Upanishads remind us: "This Self is attained by him whom It chooses." Yet even divine choice requires human readiness.The ashram returned to its rhythm. Meditation sessions continued. The aged mata attended quietly now—without expectation, without seeking extraordinary states. She learned the deeper lesson: that the highest awakening is not dramatic, but steady; not explosive, but luminous in silence.And the Guru, like a mountain—unchanged by storms—continued to guide, aware that the true miracle is not the rising of Kundalini, but the flowering of wisdom.For in the sacred dance of Guru and disciple, power is secondary. Preparedness is primary. And the greatest blessing is not siddhi—but serenity.

Ceo Bareilly Ministry of defence

Bangladesh to import 45,000 tonnes of diesel from India

Bangladesh will import an additional 45,000 tons of diesel from India by April, an official said on Sunday.

"Recently, 5,000 tons of diesel arrived in Bangladesh from India, and we will receive another 5,000 tons around the 18th or 19th of March in Bangladesh from India", Md. Murshed Hossain Azad, General Manager (Commercial & Operations) of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) told ANI over the phone.

"We have received a proposal to import an additional 40,000 tons of diesel from India. Once the procedural work is completed--that is, the opening of the LC and other formalities--this 40,000 tons of diesel will also arrive in Bangladesh by April," he added.

Between India and Bangladesh, diesel was previously imported from India by train wagons until the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline was launched. Then, in March 2023, the then Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, and the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, inaugurated this Bangladesh-India Friendship Pipeline, and since then, diesel has been imported from India through this pipeline.

Through this pipeline, diesel is imported regularly from the Indian state company Numaligarh Refinery Limited to the Parbatipur depot in Bangladesh via the Bangladesh-India Friendship Pipeline.

The previous interim government in Bangladesh, led by Mohammad Yunus, had halted the import of diesel from India via this



pipeline. However, after the election, when Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's government assumed power, in the past few days, the import of diesel again resumed through this pipeline with 5,000 tons.

Due to conflict in West Asia, large crowds gathered at various petrol and fuel pumps to get fuel for motorcycles and vehicles. To control this panic buying, the government had imposed a rationing on sales. That restriction has now been lifted by the government.

The Muslim community considers the biggest festival in Bangladesh to be the holy Eid. On this occasion, so that people can easily travel from the major cities to their village homes and celebrate Eid with relatives and family, the government has lifted the rationing on fuel sales.

Israeli air defences thwart dual missile waves targeting southern regions

Israeli air defences have successfully neutralised two separate waves of missiles aimed at the southern regions of the country within the last hour. According to reports from Al Jazeera, citing Israel's Ynet News, the aerial threats were intercepted before they could cause harm to populated areas.

The Israeli Home Front Command confirmed that there were no casualties resulting from these latest incidents. However, the military remains on high alert as projectile launches continue to threaten various parts of the territory.

In a simultaneous development, sirens were activated across central Israel. Al Jazeera, drawing on reports from Ynet News, stated that these alarms were triggered by a projectile launched from Lebanon, which was subsequently intercepted by defence systems.

These interceptions followed earlier reports of "loud explosions" in central Israel, where air raid sirens sounded following a missile strike from Iran, according to Al Jazeera, citing Channel 12. Debris was seen falling in central parts of the country, and the Israeli ambulance service provided medical assistance to four individuals who sustained injuries while heading to a shelter.

While the Home Front Command initially announced that the incident in the central region was over, the situation remained tense as new threats were



identified. Authorities later detected rocket and missile fire launched towards southern regions, prompting an urgent call for residents in the south to take shelter immediately.

This escalation comes amid a significant intensification of Israeli operations, including a targeted airstrike by the Israeli Air Force (IAF) in Tehran that killed two senior Iranian intelligence officials. In a post on X, the IDF stated, "ELIMINATED: Abdollah Jalali-Nasab & Amir Shariat, senior intelligence officials of the 'Khatam al-Anbiya' Emergency Command. The two senior commanders were key figures in the Iranian intelligence community and close to the leadership of the Iranian terrorist regime."

According to the Jerusalem Post, the strike was conducted with precise guidance from Israeli Military Intelligence. The two men had recently been appointed as acting replacements in the intelligence division after their predecessor, Saleh Asadi, was killed during the early phase of what Israel calls Operation Roaring Lion.

The Khatam al-Anbiya emergency command is responsible for gathering and analysing intelligence to help shape Iran's military decision-making against Israel. Israeli military spokesperson Brigadier General Effie Defrin noted that this operation is part of a broader campaign targeting Iranian military infrastructure.

Since the start of the campaign, hundreds of IAF aircraft have struck over 150 Iranian government targets. Defrin added that the operation began with a surprise attack after intelligence identified gathering points in Tehran where senior Iranian security leaders had assembled.

Earlier, the IDF stated that its joint military operations with the US against Iran will continue until an "existential threat" to Israel is eliminated. Speaking to , IDF spokesperson Lt Ben Cohen stressed that Israel is prepared for a prolonged operation to neutralise Iran's military capabilities.

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Darshan of Somnathji organised at Art of Living Kapisthal Ashram today

RANVIR PRASHAR
KAITHAL: Darshan of Somnath Ji will be held at Art of Living Kapisthal Ashram today. There is good news for all Shiva devotees and Kaithal residents that the God of Gods, Mahadev himself is visiting our place. Acharya Alpana Mittal said that Art of Living is organizing a Yatra of Somnath Ji across the country and Kaithal is fortunate that this Yatra is reaching Kapisthal Ashram of Art of Living Kaithal on Monday (March 16). All Shiva devotees will be able to have his darshan here. As per the scheduled time, Rudrabhishek of SomnathJi will be performed from 5 to 7 pm and his divine live darshan will be available. AcharyaRuchi of Art of Living said that SomnathJiwas the first Jyotirlinga among the 12 holy Jyotirlingas of India, which was established by Lord Chandra himself. It is also believed that this Shivalinga never touched the ground and always remained in the air. Now, after thousands of years, these pilgrimages are being organized for darshan. This pilgrimage holds significance not only from a religious perspective but also from a spiritual perspective. This moment will be an unforgettable one for all devotees.

NEWS BRIEF

Rajesh Singla nominated as member of district development & monitoring committee

HANS RAJ YADADV
KURUKSHETRA: Rajesh Singla, state general secretary of Aggarwal Vaishya Samaj Haryana, has been nominated as a non-official member of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee. The nomination was made by Kurukshetra MP Naveen Jindal. Singla is also the chief coordinator of the Maharaja



Agrasen Shiksha Samman Yojana. The committee functions under the chairmanship of the Member of Parliament and reviews development works being carried out by various government departments in the district every three months. It also suggests improvements and provides directions to ensure effective implementation of development projects. Representatives of Aggarwal Vaishya Samaj Haryana, Maharaja Agrasen Shiksha Samman Yojana, Akhil Bharatiya Aggarwal Sangathan, Shri Jairam Vidyapeeth and several other organisations expressed gratitude to MP Naveen Jindal for nominating social worker Rajesh Singla as a member of the committee.

Sant Seechewal appeals for support to pay fees of flood-affected children



MEHARJOT SINGH
SHAHKOT, MAR 15

A grand Kirtan Darbar and Kavi darbar were organized at Nirmal Kuteya Seechewal as part of the ongoing events marking the Barsi Smagam of Shri Sant Lal Singh Ji. On this occasion, Rajya Sabha Member Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal addressed the congregation and said that the life of Sant Lal Singh Ji was a great source of inspiration, marked by simplicity, discipline, and selfless service. He added that Sant Lal Singh Ji dedicated his entire life to the welfare of humanity while upholding Sikh values.

Highlighting the importance of service (seva), Sant Seechewal said that during the floods last year, the sangat came forward in large numbers to help the affected families. He stated that many fields have now become cultivable again, but there are still some fields where sand up to 7 to 8 feet deep had accumulated and restoration work is still ongoing. He also mentioned that many flood-affected families in the Mand area are unable to pay their children's school fees.

Revolutionary Fair to honor Bhagat Singh on March 22 at Kokri Kalan



JAGRAJ SINGH SANGHA
MOGA: A revolutionary literary and cultural fair will be organised on March 22 at Shaheed Chhajju Ram Park in Kokri Kalan to commemorate the martyrs of March 23, particularly Bhagat Singh and his companions. The decision was taken during a joint meeting of representatives of various village institutions, including the Gram Panchayat, where preparations and publicity arrangements for the fair were reviewed. Sharing details with the press, retired teacher Teja Singh said that the initiative, led by the youth of Kokri Kalan, aims to inspire the younger generation with true patriotism and revolutionary values. He said that Bhagat Singh does not belong to any single religion, caste, region, or country but is a hero admired by workers and freedom lovers across the world.

He further remarked that even after 95 years of his martyrdom, many social challenges remain unresolved, and discussing his revolutionary ideas today can still be as challenging as it was during British rule.

Govt should immediately take necessary steps to resolve gas shortage: Rajendra Sorki

DINKAR GAWRI
HANSI, MAR 15



The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) expressed concern over the ongoing gas shortage in the country and the state and demanded that the government should take appropriate steps to address the problem as soon as possible so that everyone can at least have enough fuel to cook their food. In a press release, the party's district president, Rajendra Sorki, stated that the state Chief Minister has stated that there is no gas shortage, but the situation is the opposite. Due to the BJP government's anti-people policies, people are facing the prospect of starvation. Long queues have formed at gas agencies and black marketing is rampant. Domestic cylinders are being sold for 2,500-3,000 rupees andpeople are forced to pay such rates. The government is already reeling under the brunt of inflation. Recently, the price of domestic cylinders was increased by 60 rupees and that of commercial cylinders by 115 rupees. Despite this, the supply of commercial cylinders has been halted and women, the elderly, the disabled, and even children are returning empty-handed after waiting in line outside gas agencies for hours in the sun. The lack of commercial cylinders is causing significant difficulties in weddings. The halt in the supply of commercial gas cylinders has led to the closure of numerous industries, hotels and restaurants across the state. Even small and medium-sized businesses, including street vendors, confectioners and tea vendors are suffering significant losses. Many people are forced to close or limit their work, directly impacting their incomes.

Fun games competition organised at Lakshya Public School in Hisar



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
HISAR: Lakshya Public School in Dhansu, Hisar, organised an activity-based fun games competition for young children on March 15. The event saw enthusiastic participation from children who showcased their creativity and confidence through various activities. Children between the ages of three and seven took part in the competition. Participants were divided into two groups — Group A (3 to 5 years) and Group B (6 to 7 years). The children participated in several activity-based games including Colour Magic, Paper Cutting and Lemon Race, displaying enthusiasm, discipline and sportsmanship throughout the competition. At the end of the programme, the winning children were honoured with cash prizes. The first prize winner received Rs. 3,100, the second prize winner Rs. 2,100 and the third prize winner Rs. 1,100. All participating children were also awarded encouragement certificates. In her message, the school principal said such competitions play an important role in the overall development of children by building confidence, creativity and a healthy competitive spirit. School director Ramniwas Verma said Lakshya Public School is committed to providing quality education along with activity-based learning for children.

Workshop on 'Postgraduate Career Opportunities and Interview Success Strategies' concludes successfully



SANJAY SHARMA
KAITHAL: NIILM University, Kaithal in collaboration with BabuAnant Ram Janta College, Kaul, DAV College, Pehowa, Guru Nanak Khalsa College, Karnal and Hindu Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Jind successfully organized a workshop on the topic "Directing Your Career Path: Post Graduate Career Opportunities and Interview Success Strategies". At the beginning of the program, the organizing team warmly welcomed Dr. Rashmi, Head of the Department of History at Hindu Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Jind, who shared valuable insights on the topic with the students. The organizers expressed their sincere gratitude to her for devoting her valuable time to guiding and inspiring the students. The workshop was attended by several eminent academicians, including Dr. Rishi Pal, Principal of Babu Anant Ram Janta College, Kaul; Dr. Suman Sirohi, Principal of DAV College, Pehowa; Dr. Chuhar Singh, Principal of Guru Nanak Khalsa College, Karnal; and Dr.Shamim Ahmed, Vice Chancellor of NIILM University, Kaithal. The organisers appreciated the dedicated efforts of the conveners Dr. Prerna, Dr. Rekha Gupta, Dr. Deepika, Ms.Cheshta and co-conveners Dr. Nancy Gulati and Dr. Meenakshi, whose tireless efforts ensured the smooth and successful conduct of the workshop.

Lecture on AI-based inventory management held at Baba Mastnath University



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
ROHTAK: A lecture on "Inventory Management in Research with Applications of Artificial Intelligence" was organised by the Department of Mathematics at Baba Mastnath University, Asthal Bohar. The programme was conducted under the aegis of the Physics Club of the Department of Mathematics in collaboration with the university's Internal Quality Assurance Cell. Faculty members, research scholars and students participated enthusiastically in the event. Dr Neeraj Kumar, professor in the Department of Mathematics at Harcourt Butler Technical University, Kanpur, attended the programme as the keynote speaker. In his lecture, he explained how the use of artificial intelligence can make inventory management more efficient and scientific in the modern era. He also elaborated on the role of AI in addressing challenges related to inventory management in research and industrial sectors. Dr Kumar explained advanced inventory optimisation techniques, mathematical modelling methods and the role of artificial intelligence in decision-making and demand forecasting through simple examples.

Drawing and colouring competition organised at Lakshya Public School



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
HISAR: A drawing and colouring competition was successfully organised on Saturday at Lakshya Public School, Dhansu, under the aegis of the Lakshya Competition Campus. Students aged between 12 and 16 years from several schools in the region participated enthusiastically and showcased their creative talent. During the competition, students were given a theme by the school, on which they created colourful drawings reflecting their imagination and artistic skills. The programme aimed to promote creativity, artistic talent and self-confidence among students. Students who performed exceptionally well in the competition were honoured with cash prizes. The first prize winner received Rs 3,100, the second prize Rs 2,100 and the third prize Rs 1,100. The school principal said that such competitions are organised to bring out the hidden talents of children and provide them with an appropriate platform to express their abilities. School chairman Ramesh Kumar said that competitions help in the mental development of children and encourage them to move forward with renewed enthusiasm towards their goals. School director Ramniwas Verma also motivated the students and said that such activities play an important role in bringing out the hidden talent of children.

58th Annual Athletic meet held at Guru Nanak Khalsa College



RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR: The 58th Annual Athletic Meet of Guru Nanak Khalsa College was organized with great enthusiasm and sporting spirit on the college grounds. The event was graced by Chief Guest Dr Inder Prakash Nagi Former director, NSNIS Patiala, while Guest of Honour Sh Pankaj Chugh, Divisional joint sports secretary, Northern Railways added prestige to the occasion. The distinguished members of the management General Secretary Sardar Balwant Singh Banga, Finance Secretary Sardar Amardeep Singh, CEO Dr. Peer Ghulam Nabi Suhail, Member Dr. Kamalpreet Kaur were also present and graced the occasion. The programme commenced with the formal welcome of the Guests followed by the welcome speech by Principal Dr. Arvinder Singh Bhalla, who appreciated the remarkable performance of the students in sports competitions at various levels and encouraged them to continue striving for excellence.

Guest lecture on unlocking the gender dividend in startups at RBU



LK BANSAL
MOHALI: An informative and inspiring guest lecture on "Unlocking the Gender Dividend in Startups, Innovation and Technology" was organised by the University School of Agricultural Sciences (USAS) in collaboration with the NSS Department of Rayat Bahra University. The programme aimed to create awareness among students about entrepreneurship, innovation, and emerging opportunities in the startup ecosystem, particularly in the fields of agriculture and technology. The event brought together faculty members and students to explore how innovation and gender inclusion can contribute to sustainable development and economic growth.

Five couples from needy families wed at mass marriage ceremony organised by Manav Seva Sangh



MEGH RAJ LUTHRA
KARNAL: Five daughters from underprivileged families were married according to Hindu rituals during a mass marriage ceremony organised by Manav Seva Sangh at its premises in Karnal on Sunday. The ceremony began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp. Swami Premmurti, head of the organisation, blessed the newly married couples on the occasion. Among those present were Dr Bhagat Ram Khandwal (advocate), Dulichand Sharma, CA Nagesh Gupta, Kehar Singh Chopra, Mahendra Singh Narwal, Chaudhary Lajpat Rai, S.D. Arora, Vijay Gupta, Bindiya Rani, Ravinder Singh, Nanak Chand, Dr Amarjeet, Savitri Bindlis and members of the Helping Hand team. Manav Seva Sangh vice-president Dr Bhagat Ram Khandwal said the marriages of Seema with Sajan Dua, Anshu with Sachin, Geeta with Sukhbir, Preeti with Rohit Kumar and Pooja with Deepak were solemnised with proper rituals.

Dinesh Bakshi receives international honour for donating 200 times blood



CHAMANLAL
KARNAL: Dinesh Bakshi, a renowned blood donor from Karnal who exemplifies social service and humanity, has been honored internationally. He was presented with a certificate of honor at the BirBirsaMunda International Blood Donor Awards Ceremony 2026, organized in the name of BirsaMunda. The ceremony was organized by the Pragati Foundation Trust in Duddhi, Sonbhadra district, Uttar Pradesh. Dinesh Bakshi, a double-centurion blood donor was honoured for his continuous, selfless, and inspiring service to humanity, his responsibility to society and his life-saving work, such as blood donation. This honour recognizes Dinesh Bakshi's service spirit, which has given new direction to society and is an inspiration for generations to come.

Viresh Shandilya condoles demise of Haryana Assembly Speaker's mother



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL: Viresh Shandilya, national president of the Anti Terrorist Front India and chief of the Vishva Hindu Takht, expressed grief over the demise of Prem Kaur Kalyan, mother of Haryana Assembly Speaker Harvinder Kalyan. Shandilya visited the Kalyan family on Sunday afternoon to offer condolences and extended his sympathies to the bereaved family. He said he had a long-standing relationship of nearly 30 years with the Kalyan family. Recalling his memories, Shandilya said he had on several occasions been fortunate to taste parathas prepared by Prem Kaur Kalyan, which he said reflected the affection and warmth of the family. Shandilya said the values and upbringing given by Prem Kaur Kalyan to her sons—Harvinder Kalyan, Samar Singh Kalyan and Devinder Kalyan—are clearly reflected in their personalities and commitment to public service. He described it as inspiring that she raised her sons with a sense of dedication towards serving society and the people.

Gas consumers gathered at gas agency but returned empty hands



KARAMBIR
LADWA: To get gas even on Sunday, gas consumers started standing in line outside the gas agency from 8 am. When the gas agency did not open even till 10 am, anger grew among the gas consumers standing in the line. The gas consumers standing in the lines said that the gas agency operators had said that they would give gas even on Sunday, but now they were harassing them by not opening the agency, while they were standing in lines outside the gas agency to get gas since 8 am. After the gas consumers created a ruckus outside the gas agency, the agency manager Anil Sharma reached the spot and tried to calm the gas consumers and told that the gas agency was not opened because the gas supply vehicle had not come. If the gas vehicle had come, the gas agency would definitely have been opened and gas would have been given to the gas consumers. The police had to be called to convince the gas consumers. After about an hour's effort, the consumers who had come to buy gas were convinced and they were assured that the gas would be given to them first when the vehicle arrived on Monday and only after that further slips would be issued.

Shiva-Parvati marriage narrated on third-day of Shri Ram Katha in Ladwa



KARAMBIR
LADWA: In the Shri Ram Katha being held at Baba BansiWala Vruddha Ashram in Ladwa, narrator Pandit Anil Parashar gave a beautiful description of Shiva's character on the third day. In the Katha, the narrator narrated the story of the birth of Mother Parvati, the burning of Kamadeva and the marriage of Shiva and Parvati. While narrating the story, he said that King Daksha Prajapati had organised a Maha Yagya to insult Lord Shankar, in which he did not invite Lord Shiva. On the insult of Lord Shankar by her father, Sati sacrificed herself in the fire by jumping into the havankund. Sati was born as Parvati in the house of King Himachal, performed severe penance and got the boon of getting Shiva as her husband. Katha Vyas narrated all the incidents related to the marriage of Shiva and Parvati. The Katha started with Aarti. The main hosts of the Aarti were Pradeep Garg, Ajay Singla Panipat, BJP leader Monica Bansal, Satyaprakash Kansal and Anshul Gupta.

There is sufficient stock of LPG, there is no need to panic: DC Preeti

RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR: Deputy Commissioner Preeti stated that in light of the current domestic gas crisis, petroleum agencies have clarified that there was sufficient stock of LPG cylinders available for domestic use in the district. Therefore, there is no need for consumers to panic or crowded gas agencies unnecessarily. She explained that for the convenience of consumers and to maintain a smooth gas distribution system, the Government of India has currently implemented a system that allows any domestic consumer to book a new gas cylinder (by numbering it) only 25 days after the delivery of the last gas cylinder. Once the booking is registered, the domestic gas cylinder will be delivered within two to three days. She added that the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs is continuously monitoring the domestic gas supply and distribution system to ensure timely access to all consumers. The department is continuously taking necessary steps to improve and maintain transparency in the domestic gas distribution system in the interest of the general public. Consumers are urged to remain patient, refrain from unnecessarily crowding gas distributors and ignore misleading news.



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The New Dimensions of Trust in Indian Banking

LUDHIANA : Trust has always been central to banking, but what builds that trust has changed. Today's customers are more informed, connected, and aware of their options. They now expect not just financial strength, but also reliability, responsibility, and consistent service. Talking about this, Mr. Hitendra Jha, Head of Retail Liabilities - TASC & TPP, Ujjivan Small Finance Bank says that, "In the years
banking system has been an economic and social priority, and substantial progress has been achieved. With access now significantly broader, customers are seeking something more enduring: confidence that their bank will remain dependable and act with respon
custome
promptly when concerns arise." India's digital infrastructure has transformed daily banking. Payments can be completed within seconds, accounts can be opened remotely, and credit decisions can be communicated far more quickly than in the past.

NEWS BRIEF

Mercedes-Benz India launches the 'private suite on wheels, the all-new V-Class Extra Long Wheelbase in Punjab

AMRITSAR/JALANDHAR-: India's most desirable luxury car maker Mercedes-Benz today, launched the all-new V-Class, redefining the strongly evolving private luxury mobility segment in Punjab markets. The introduction of the V-Class Extra LWB in Punjab further strengthens Mercedes-Benz's desirable and diverse product portfolio in one of the country's important luxury vehicle markets. Punjab has been key growth markets for Mercedes-Benz India, with a strong demand for Top-End Vehicles (TEV) that combine prestige, luxury appointments and cutting-edge technology. The launch of the new V-Class in Chandigarh and Punjab markets reflect the brand's continued focus on bringing its most desirable global luxury products closer to customers, across high-potential markets in India.

ISB, Punjab Police and CyberPeace Launch India's Premier Cybersecurity & AI Safety Hackathon 2026

AMRITSAR/JALANDHAR/LUDHIANA:-- The Indian School of Business (ISB), through its Institute of Data Science (IIDS), in collaboration with the Punjab Police State Cyber Crime Division and the CyberPeace has announced the launch of the National Hackathon on Cybersecurity & AI Safety 2026 — a major national initiative to strengthen India's capabilities in cybersecurity, digital resilience and responsible artificial intelligence. The hackathon will bring together students, researchers, technologists, law enforcement professionals, and policy experts from across India to develop innovative solutions addressing emerging threats in digital security and AI Safety. The initiative seeks to catalyse grassroots innovation, generate open-source tools and datasets, and contribute to national policy discussions on AI safety.

M.P. Ahammad Receives Business Bhushan at Maharashtrian of the Year Awards 2026

AMRITSAR/JALANDHAR -: Mr. M.P. Ahammad, Chairman, Malabar Group, has been honoured with the prestigious Business Bhushan Award at the Lokmat Maharashtrian of the Year Awards 2026, in recognition of his visionary leaderships and pivotal role in transforming the global jewellery retail landscape and society at large. Expressing his gratitude on receiving the honour, Mr. M.P. Ahammad, Chairman, Malabar Group, said, "I am deeply honoured to receive the Business Bhushan award at the Lokmat Maharashtrian of the Year Awards. This recognition reflects the collective dedication of the entire Malabar family and the trust our customers have placed in us over the years. Our journey is founded on the principle of collective growth of all our stakeholders guided by responsibility, integrity, and a commitment to creating lasting value for society while continuing to pursue excellence in everything we do."

KAY2 Xenox eyes enhanced market share in Punjab, aims to increase production capacity by 25% in one year

CHANDIGARH: KAY2 Xenox, India's youngest and fastest-growing TMT Bars (the Intelligent Steel) manufacturer, is accelerating its expansion in Punjab. To meet the surging demand for steel products in State, the company plans to increase its TMT Bar production capacity by 25% within a year. KAY2 Xenox will gradually expand its dealers & distribution network up to 5% through various mason meet and builder meet.
Mr. Sunil Agarwal, Director, KAY2 Xenox, said, "KAY2 Xenox is a premium product engineered to support the modern-day construction needs. The product has already made significant inroads into many markets across the country and is expanding to newer markets. Punjab is an important market for us with phenomenal growth opportunities and fast paced infrastructure developments. We are pleased to announce our expansion strategy and cater to the growing demand for high quality input materials in the State."

Sanjay Tandon chides MP Manish Tewari for deriding City Beautiful

CHANDIGARH: Senior BJP leader and National Council member Sanjay Tandon strongly countered remarks by Chandigarh Member of Parliament Manish Tewari during the meeting of the Administrator's Advisory Council (AAC) held recently at Hotel Mountview. Gulab Chand Kataria, the UT Administrator and Governor of Punjab, had chaired the meeting. Reacting to Tewari's observation that over a decade back Chandigarh used to be the main city while Mohali and Panchkula were considered as suburbs but now the scenario has completely changed, Tandon gently rebuked the MP for highlighting Chandigarh in poor light while ignoring its many achievements. "Much has been said about the shortcomings of this city. However, there are many positive aspects that make Chandigarh one of the most loved places to live," Tandon remarked.

Amazon Business unlocks over Rs-2,000 crore in financial value for Indian businesses in 2025

SHIMLA Amazon Business today revealed that it has enabled businesses across India realize over Rs-2,000 crore in financial value in 2025. From micro-enterprises and SMBs to large corporations, organisations of all sizes benefited through cashback rewards, bulk discounts and exclusive deals on Amazon Business. A significant portion of this value was also driven by seamless GST-compliant invoicing on Amazon Business, which has brought long-overdue transparency to business procurement a space where accessing GST invoices has historically been cumbersome and inconsistent across offline channels. It is this tangible and measurable value that is driving strong adoption of Amazon Business across India. Over the past five years, overall sales have grown at a CAGR of over 40%, bulk sales at nearly 35%, and the registered customer base at 30%, reflecting not just experimentation, but an intentional shift towards consolidating procurement on Amazon Business.

Blenders Pride Packaged Drinking Water unveils New Campaign 'The One and Only'

SHIMLA: 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.

Punjab government adopted cluster based strategy to drive MSMEs development: Arora



SUMER GARG

CHANDIGARH : Cabinet Minister Sanjeev Arora said that MSMEs are participating 25 to 30% in GDP growth of India. He urged to use maximum artificial intelligence to run the business and day to day work in your offices. MSME are executing arm of the economy and also the natural manufacturing machine of the country. Our government is focusing on modernization and expansion of MSMEs. He advised industrialists to focus on price and quality rather than marketing to increase demand of the products. There is no dearth of skills in Punjab. Furthermore, Cabinet Minister Sanjeev Arora highlighted that Punjab Government, with a robust base of nearly 1.6 lakh MSME units, plans to establish a dedicated agency which will transform its MSME ecosystem into a highly dynamic and globally competitive sector. MSME Punjab will serve as a single institutional platform to enhance competitiveness, improve access to finance, technology, markets, skills, and promote cluster-based development.

He stated that Punjab will adopt a cluster-based strategy to drive MSME sector development, leveraging economies of scale, shared facilities, and collective efficiency among co-located enterprises. The State aims to optimize the use of cluster development schemes, while also introducing its own State-level cluster development program to address unmet needs and bridge gaps in existing frameworks.

Cluster interventions will be designed to strengthen infrastructure, technology adoption, and market readiness of MSMEs through proactive collaboration between government departments, industry associations, and Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) formed by cluster members. The objective is to create a synergistic environment that fosters innovation, cost competitiveness, and sustainable industrial growth, he added.

Gurkirat Kirpal Singh IAS Secretary Industries and Commerce said that Punjab Government is encouraging MSMEs to expand their business in Punjab and several incentives are being given to MSMEs so that they can set up their plant in Punjab. A lot of opportunities are available in this sector. He added that Punjab Government have accepted 77% recommendations of sectoral committees and launched most attractive industrial policy. Time bound clearances are being given to the Investors and this new industrial policy will help enterpreneurs.

Professor Rudhra Pratap Vice Chancellor of Plaksha University, Mr. Dharmesh Goswami Partner, KPMG, Mr. Bhupinder Pal Singh Anand Director, Jal Bath Fittings, Mr. Manbir Singh Director, IEE Elevators, Mr. Rajesh Mehra MD, Active Clothing were participated in MSMEs Session.

Amazon Air expands to Northeast India, delivery speeds to become 5X faster



CHANDIGARH: Amazon today announced the expansion of Amazon Air to Northeast India with new air cargo routes connecting Kolkata and Guwahati, further strengthening its logistics infrastructure and connectivity across the region. The addition of dedicated air capacity will significantly improve delivery speed and reliability, enabling customers across the Northeast to access Amazon's vast selection of products with faster and more consistent delivery. The service will support deliveries across all seven sister states —Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura — through Amazon's integrated air and surface transportation network. By combining dedicated air capacity with its multimodal logistics infrastructure, Amazon expects to reduce transit times and increase delivery speeds by up to five times, bringing customers across the region faster access to a wide selection of products — from everyday essentials to smartphones, consumer electronics, fashion & beauty and more. The inaugural Amazon Air flight to Guwahati was flagged off from the Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi, by Shri Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu, Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation.

Axis Bank study finds that the path to 'Viksit Bharat' goes through getting more women into paid work

CHANDIGARH : Plummeting fertility is narrowing the window for India to get rich before it gets old. Many more women need to enter and progress in paid work, according to a new study released by Axis Bank, one of the largest private sector banks in India.Titled "The Missing Half: Women and India's Growth Challenge", the report draws on global evidence, deep analysis of Indian data, and a proprietary survey of nearly 11,000 college-educated women across 42 Indian cities. The report argues that to sustain a growth of around 7% over 25 years, necessary for 'Viksit Bharat' by 2050, overall worker participation in paid work must rise from about 47% to nearly 60%. Women's participation in paid work will be critical to achieving this.However, at present, India has one of the lowest female labour force participation rates in paid work among G20 economies. Further, even employed women are mostly in agriculture, self-employed, or in unpaid work. Commenting on the launch, Neelkanth Mishra, Chief Economist, Axis Bank & Head of Global Research, Axis Capital, said, "Given how little time we have, we need 'all hands on deck'. We have made significant progress in improving household productivity via pucca houses, electricity, piped water, and dense energy access. Several states have achieved gender parity in gross enrolment ratios. But we must raise demand for labour, improve urban infrastructure, remove outdated legal barriers, and work on childcare facilities and workplace flexibility to get the 'missing half' into the workforce."Rajkamal Vempati, Group Executive & Head Human Resources, Axis Bank, said, "India's growth ceiling is directly tied to its glass ceilings, with 125 million of our educated women remaining on the sidelines. The next decade of growth belongs to the organisations that redesign careers for fluidity – allowing women to step in and return without penalty. Adding 22 percent points to women's workforce participation isn't just a social goal; it is the single most important economic lever we have."

LG Electronics India Showcases Comprehensive HVAC Ecosystem at ACREX 2026



CHANDIGARH : LG Electronics India Limited showcased its most comprehensive heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) ecosystem at ACREX ISHRAE India 2026, South Asia's largest exhibition for HVAC and intelligent building solutions. The company presented an extensive portfolio covering residential, commercial and industrial cooling technologies designed for India's diverse climate conditions.
Highlighting the brand's long-standing presence in the country, Managing Director and Chief Sales & Marketing Officer Hong Ju Jeon said, "LG Electronics has been part of India's journey for nearly three decades. The new HVAC range introduced at ACREX 2026 reflects our commitment to meeting India's diverse climate needs while building a smarter and more sustainable future." The company introduced its flagship VRF solution, Multi Vi, powered by AI technology and equipped with features such as AI Smart Care, AI Smart Metering and AI Space Care. Designed for commercial buildings, luxury villas and large hotels, the system focuses on intelligent control and high energy efficiency. Senior Vice President and Business Head, System Air Conditioning Division, Sanjeev Seth said, "We are excited to showcase our new range of energy-efficient HVAC solutions with best-in-class performance, including the flagship Multi Vi VRF designed for extreme climate conditions." The exhibition also featured the Multi V5 VRF system with an advanced inverter compressor and dual sensing control that tracks both temperature and humidity to optimize energy consumption. With an operating range from -20°C to 53°C, the system ensures consistent performance across India's challenging climate zones.

Awareness Meets Action: Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India Brings Road Safety Learning to Jhajjar, Haryana

JHAJJAR: As part of its ongoing effort to promote mindful mobility, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) conducted a structured Road Safety Awareness Campaign in Jhajjar, Haryana. The initiative brought together over 2400 participants from M.R. college of Veterinary Sciences & Research Centre, Govt. Polytechnic and Cambridge College of Education Birar, turning everyday traffic awareness into an engaging learning experience. The campaign featured awareness sessions on road safety learning, games, quizzes, scenario-based discussions, designed to help participants connect safety principles to real-life situations. The approach emphasized learning by doing, ensuring all the young participants could absorb key messages about alertness, discipline and their role as responsible road users. According to the MoRTH Road Accidents in India 2023 report, Haryana recorded 10,463 road accidents in 2023. These figures highlight the critical need for awareness-driven learning as an essential component of broader road safety efforts across Haryana. All the participants enthusiastically took part in the sessions, which encouraged them to think about how safe choices contribute to safer streets in their neighborhoods. HMSI's road safety initiative is guided by its global vision, 'Safety for Everyone,' which prioritizes intuitive, age-specific learning modules that can be introduced in educational settings and beyond. Across India, the company has delivered structured awareness campaigns, supported by its network of Traffic Training Parks and Safety Driving Education Centers, engaging millions of learners through interactive formats. Through such interventions in Haryana and other regions, HMSI continues to promote awareness and learning as everyday habits that support safer mobility for all.



Bhakti-filled evening organized by Chinmaya Mission mesmerises Audience



CHANDIGARH: As part of the celebrations marking 75 years of the Chinmaya Mission, a soulful evening of Sufi and Bhakti music was organised at Koveda, Sector-18, Chandigarh. Titled "A Soulful Musical Evening of Sufi and Bhakti Songs," the programme offered the audience an enriching blend of music, spirituality and emotion. Organiser Kalpana Ghai said such cultural initiatives help introduce classical and devotional music to the younger generation while also strengthening cultural dialogue, sensitivity and a sense of peace within society.

During the evening, renowned vocalist Shruti Veena Vishwanath captivated listeners with her renditions of devotional and Sufi compositions. Her performance reflected the rich traditions of the Bhakti movement, the poetry of the Varkari saints and the spiritual depth of Sufi music, creating an atmosphere of deep musical and emotional resonance.

Accompanying her on stage was Japanese sarangi player Yuji Nakagawa, whose expressive performance added a distinctive dimension to the concert. The soulful strains of his sarangi beautifully complemented the vocal presentation, reflecting the depth and emotional richness of Indian classical music and leaving the audience spellbound. They were aptly balanced by S. Katagade on tabla who memorized the audiences.

Update on IndiGo's Middle East Operations

CHANDIGARH / LUDHIANA: In view of the evolving situation in the Middle East, IndiGo will be operating 252 weekly flights to/from the Middle East, as it cautiously makes adjustments to its operations in the region starting 16 March 2026 till 28 March 2026. IndiGo is almost back to operating its regular schedule with 126 weekly flights to/from Saudia Arabia and 28 weekly flights to/from Oman.
Additionally, IndiGo's will operate 98 weekly flights to / from UAE.
Customers from the Middle East will continue to be able to connect to multiple cities in India and beyond, using IndiGo's comprehensive network.
Additionally, as part of these necessary network adjustments, planned operations to Doha, Kuwait, Bahrain, Dammam, Fujairah, Ras Al Khaimah and Sharjah will remain suspended till 28 March 2026.
The airline will continue to monitor the situation given the ongoing geopolitical risk, airspace restrictions, airport constraints, consistently rising fuel and insurance costs, and other uncertainties. The airline is aligning capacity with the current conditions while maintaining essential connectivity. These measures are being taken to ensure safe and reliable operations across the region.

Satkarmic Mission Launches $70M Token to Build the World's First Scalable Spiritual Economy

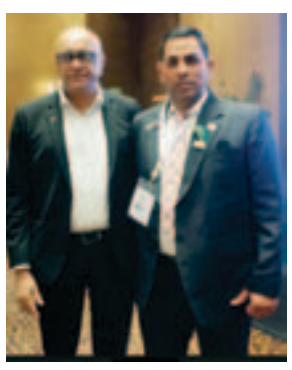
DUBAI / NEW DELHI / DHARAMSHALA: In a pioneering initiative combining spirituality, philanthropy, wellness, and blockchain-powered digital finance, Satkarmic Mission Foundation, one of India's fastest growing spiritual organisations and communes, has announced a ₹600 Crore (USD 70 Million) global token issuance to fund the development of a mega international-standard Ashram ecosystem across India. The initiative introduces the Satkarmic Mission Token, a digital asset designed to power what the organisation describes as India's first large-scale "Spiritual Economy", enabling global participants to contribute to and benefit from the development of a new generation of spiritual infrastructure and wellness ecosystems. The project is led by Baba Inder Preet Singh, Founder of Satkarmic Mission Foundation, who believes the world urgently needs large-scale spiritual infrastructure to address rising mental health challenges. "The world today is witnessing unprecedented levels of stress, anxiety, depression and suicidal tendencies. Spiritual Economics provides a new model where spirituality, community participation and financial sustainability come together. Through this digital asset initiative, we are mobilising a global community to build spiritual infrastructure while creating value for all stakeholders of the Satkarmic Mission ecosystem." said Baba Inder Preet Singh. Adding a technology perspective to the initiative, Raj Kapoor, Dubai-based fintech and blockchain advisor to this project, highlighted the transformative role of digital assets in building participatory spiritual economies.The Mega Ashram is coming up in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh having a 500 member Meditation Centre, Gurdwara Sahib,108 Feets Shani Maharaj Statute, 100 Residential Units Complex for Sangat, Charitable School & Hospital. Further Yoga, Ayurveda & Naturopathy Treatment & Therapies too would be provided in the Ashram. "Blockchain enables a completely new paradigm where philanthropy, participation, and asset creation can coexist within a transparent digital ecosystem. The Satkarmic Mission Token introduces a powerful model where spiritual infrastructure, community engagement, and digital assets converge. Through tokenization, contributors, seekers, volunteers and global supporters become stakeholders in the ecosystem. As the mission builds real-world assets and expands globally, the token becomes a mechanism for both community participation and long-term value creation within the emerging global spiritual economy."



Former President of Hansi JCI Fort, JC Sarvesh Saini appointed the Vice Chairman of Zone-10

DINKAR GAWRI

HANSI- - It is a moment of pride and joy for the city's prestigious social organization, JCI Fort Hansi, that its former president, JC Sarvesh Saini, has been appointed Vice Chairman of Zone 10 by JCI Alumni Club India. His important appointment has created an atmosphere of excitement among JCI members throughout the region, including Hansi.



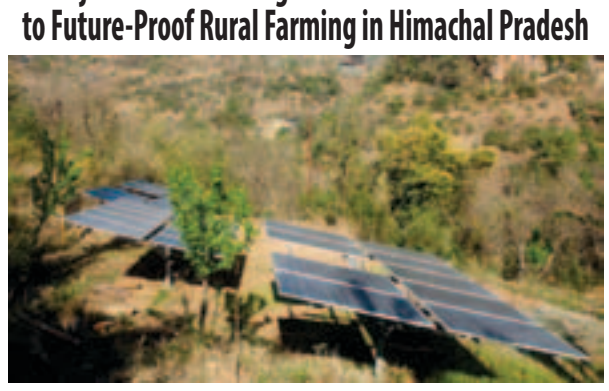
Following his appointment, JC Sarvesh Saini also participated in JACAS, a significant seminar held on March 13 and 14 at The Retreat Hotel and Convention Centre, Mumbai. The national meeting of JCI Alumni Club India also took place on this occasion, with JCI alumni members and office bearers from across the country attending.
During the seminar, organizational activities, administrative procedures, and future plans were discussed in detail. JC Sarvesh Saini's active participation and leadership skills were also appreciated.
On this achievement of JC Sarvesh Saini, the members of JCI Fort Hansi and the dignitaries of the city congratulated him and expressed confidence that under his leadership the organizational activities in Zone-10 will get a new direction and momentum and the organization will become more powerful and will take forward the works of social service.

AGI Sports Institute to Organise Weekly Cricket League Tournament in Jalandhar

BUNNY SODHI

JALANDHAR: AGI Sports Institute of India, a subsidiary of AGI Infra Ltd, has announced the organisation of a Weekly Cricket League Tournament aimed at promoting sports culture among youth under the spirit of the national sports promotion movement Khelo India. Disclosing this, Sardar Varinder Singh, Vice President of the institute, said the league aims to encourage young people to participate in sports, maintain physical fitness and stay away from drugs and other social evils. Sardar Sukhdev Singh said sports play an important role in building discipline, character and a positive outlook among youth. He added that such initiatives provide a constructive platform for young talent and help channelise their energy in a positive direction. The institute is committed to promoting sports and fitness activities within AGI townships and fostering a vibrant sporting culture. Seventeen teams from various AGI residential townships and associated groups will participate in the league. Mr. Abhijit Singh, Life Member of the Punjab Cricket Association, said the tournament will encourage healthy competition and community bonding.

Ambuja Cements Driving Climate-Resilient Solutions to Future-Proof Rural Farming in Himachal Pradesh



SHIMLA: Ambuja Cements, the 9th largest building materials solutions provider globally and part of the diversified Adani Portfolio, as part of its CSR, is empowering farmers in Solan district to combat climate challenges through sustainable agricultural solutions, with support from NABARD. By introducing solar-powered lift irrigation systems and fencing, the company is enabling efficient water use and better crop protection, ensuring long-term agricultural viability in the region.The climate-proofing initiatives implemented across Baryali-Fugana, have significantly improved soil health and water retention, leading to an income increase for the farmers. These gains are driven by enhanced irrigation infrastructure, including micro-irrigation systems, drip irrigation, and mulching techniques, which reduce water wastage while maximizing crop yield. By promoting water-efficient practices, farmers are now better equipped to manage erratic rainfall and drought conditions.By integrating renewable energy solutions into farming, Ambuja Cements is helping rural communities build climate resilience, reduce agricultural risks, and secure sustainable livelihoods.

Build Stronger Immunity with the Power of Smart Morning Nutrition

Seasonal viral infections tend to peak during periods of changing weather, making it essential to bolster your immune system. Colds, flu, and other respiratory illnesses thrive in these conditions, so supporting your body with nutrient-dense foods from the start of the day can make a meaningful difference. A well-balanced morning routine can provide the foundational support your immune defences need to function effectively. Incorporating foods, such as almonds, eggs, citrus fruits, fermented foods, and whole grains, early in the day delivers energy and key micronutrients that support immune function and reduce inflammation. Here are four easy options to include in your morning meals.



Almonds : Almonds are a source of 15 nutrients, including vitamin E, magnesium, protein, riboflavin, and zinc. These elements work together to support antioxidant activity and immune cell function. Add them to porridge or yoghurt, or eat them as they are for a nourishing start to your day.
Eggs: Eggs provide high-quality protein along with vitamin D and other nutrients, which are crucial for immune regulation, T-cell activity and many other functions. Enjoy them boiled, poached or scrambled with a side of spinach and whole wheat toast for a wholesome breakfast.
Citrus Fruits: Oranges, grapefruit and musambi contain vitamin C, which supports the immune system and acts as a powerful antioxidant. This duo strengthens your body's first line of defence against harmful microorganisms. They can be enjoyed whole or added to water for a refreshing boost. Besides citrus fruits, Indian gooseberries and guavas are rich in vitamin C.

PBPartners Launches 'Ignition 5.0'

CHANDIGARH: PBPartners, the PoSP arm of Policybazaar, launches Ignition 5.0, a powerful, pan-India partner engagement and growth initiative. It is designed to accelerate the next phase of insurance expansion across India. The program marks a significant step in strengthening collaboration, performance, and opportunity creation for PBPartners' agent partners.Led by Mr. Neeraj Adhana, National Sales Head – Health Insurance, Ignition 5.0 spans 30 cities over 75 days, engaging with 4,500+ partners from the Health and Life insurance segments. The initiative brings together PBPartners' leadership and agent community on a common platform to align on growth priorities and business momentum.Ignition 5.0 focuses on enabling partners with clearer direction, stronger earning opportunities, and deeper engagement through consistent on-ground interactions, workshops, and training modules. This provides them with practical insights and direction for the road ahead. The program reflects PBPartners' commitment to building a partner-first ecosystem where collaboration and scale drive sustainable growth."Ignition 5.0 is more than an internal program and is a movement to reiterate our values, celebrate our people, and set the tone for the new fiscal year.



Foundation Stone of LIC Investment Building Laid

MOHALI: The foundation stone of the Investment Building of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) at Sector 49, Mohali, under the Chandigarh Divisional Office, was formally laid by Ratnakar Patnaik, Managing Director, LIC of India. The ceremony was attended by several senior officials of the corporation, including J.P.S. Bajaj, Zonal Manager (North Zone); P.K.J. Dungdung, Executive Director (Engineering); Vikram Singh Yadav, Chief Engineer (North Zone); Yangjor, Regional Manager (Marketing), North Zone; and Sonam Chhewang, Senior Divisional Manager, Chandigarh. Speaking to reporters on the occasion, Patnaik said that real estate has emerged as a strong and reliable investment option in the current economic environment, which is why LIC has been developing 'investment buildings' across various cities in the country.



He explained that LIC acquires land parcels and, after obtaining the required approvals, constructs modern commercial buildings that are leased out as office spaces. The rental income generated from such properties contributes to strengthening LIC's investment portfolio and helps in providing better returns to policyholders. "Real estate investments currently offer better prospects compared to several other asset classes. That is why LIC is focusing on creating investment buildings in different locations. We want to provide enhanced returns to our policy holders," Patnaik said. The upcoming Investment Building in Mohali, near Chandigarh, is being developed by LIC's engineering department and is envisioned as a modern and impressive commercial complex. The project is expected to be completed in approximately three years. It is envisaged that the project will bring substantial economic activity and development to Punjab. Meanwhile, Patnaik further highlighted that LIC owns properties across India in major metropolitan cities as well as Tier-2 cities, adding that nearly 60 percent of the corporation's total rental income currently comes from properties located in Delhi.

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YUGMARG

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Kochi to host Blue Tigers' last Asian Cup qualifier against Hong Kong

NEW DELHI : The Jawaharlal Nehru International Stadium in Kochi, Kerala, will host the India senior men's national team's last match of the AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027 Qualifiers Final Round against Hong Kong, China, on March 31. The match will kick off at 19:00 IST (Indian Standard Time), according to the All India Football Federation (AIFF). This will mark the first time in 10 years that Kochi's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium will host the Blue Tigers. In March 2016, India faced Turkmenistan in a FIFA World Cup qualifier at the same venue. That was also the last time the Indian senior men's team played in Kerala. India, who are out of the reckoning for a place in the AFC Asian Cup 2027, will aim to end their qualifying campaign with a win. Despite it being a dead rubber in the context of the qualifiers, as Hong Kong have also been eliminated, the match still carries significance with FIFA ranking points on offer. It will be the third different home venue for India in the AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027 Qualifiers Final Round, after Shillong hosted the game against Bangladesh last March, and Margao hosted Singapore last October. Last week, the Indian senior women's national team suffered a 0-11 loss at the hands of Japan in their second Group C match of the AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026 .

NEWS BRIEF

CWI confirms safe return of T20 World Cup squad

NEW DELHI : Cricket West Indies (CWI) has confirmed that all players and members of the Team Management Unit from the West Indies squad at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in India have safely returned home.

The statement comes after challenges with chartered flight cancellations coordinated by the International Cricket Council (ICC), with commercial travel arrangements successfully secured over the past week.

According to the official statement, "Cricket West Indies (CWI) wishes to advise that, as of Saturday, all players and members of the Team Management Unit (TMU) who were part of the West Indies Men's squad at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in India have returned home safely." "Following the previously outlined challenges relating to cancellations of chartered flights coordinated by the International Cricket Council (ICC), commercial travel was successfully secured for the members of the squad earlier this week. The final group of players and support staff completed their journeys over the past several days and have now safely arrived at their respective destinations," the statement added. CWI also extended its sincere appreciation to the ICC, regional cricket boards, and other stakeholders who assisted in facilitating the safe return of the team. Earlier, CWI had secured commercial travel arrangements for members of the West Indies squad currently in India, following continued delays in charter flight arrangements organised by the ICC.

"Not out of form, just out of runs": Gambhir on backing Abhishek in T20WC

New Delhi: Indian head coach Gautam Gambhir has opened up about the decision to back World No. 1 T20I batter Abhishek Sharma, who scored three ducks in a row during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, which the Men in Blue successfully defended by defeating New Zealand by 96 runs in Ahmedabad.

The Indian opener, who entered the tournament with high expectations, saw a low string of scores with three straight ducks in Group A matches against the USA, Pakistan, and the Netherlands. Abhishek scored a half-century against Zimbabwe during the Super 8 stage before the final.

Yet on the biggest stage of the Final, Abhishek rediscovered his form, smashing 52 off 21 balls and registering the fastest fifty of the 2026 edition in just 18 deliveries, which helped India to post a monstrous total of 255.

Speaking on JioHotstar, the Indian head coach Gambhir recalled his own difficult phase during the Indian Premier League (IPL) in 2014 and said such lean patches are part of a cricketer's journey.

Gautam Gambhir backed Abhishek, saying the player is not out of form but simply "out of runs", while urging him to play with more aggression and ignore outside criticism.

"I've had a worse experience than him in 2014 during the IPL, when I got three ducks in a row and then another in the fourth game as well. All I told him was that people will look at your scores and will talk about your form, but actually, you are not out of form; you are just out of runs. The only time you can judge your form is when you have played 20 to 30 balls in the middle, and he hasn't even faced 20 balls yet.

Gambhir explains Sanju Samson's return to India playing XI during T20WC

NEW DELHI: Indian head coach Gautam Gambhir explained the decision to bring wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson back into the playing XI during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, saying the move was aimed at adding more firepower to the top order and maintaining an aggressive approach in the early overs.

Speaking on JioHotstar, the Indian head coach dismissed speculation that the change was made to break a sequence of left-handed batters at the top of the order. According to Gambhir, the team's focus over the past year and a half has been to adopt an attacking mindset from the start.

"I know a lot of people will talk about how we wanted to break the three left-handers at the top, but not at all. We just felt that we wanted to be more explosive because the ideology in the last one and a half years has been to go out there and be as explosive as we can be," Gambhir said. The head coach added that Samson's inclusion was not related to countering a particular type of bowler but rather to strengthening the batting lineup during the power play. "The reason to bring in Sanju was not about managing the off-spinner from the other end. I believe that a quality batter will be good against any kind of bowler, whether it's an off-spinner or a left-arm spinner. It was about whether we could get even more firepower at the top and be more aggressive in the first six overs," he said. Highlighting Samson's batting ability, Gambhir said the wicketkeeper-batter has the potential to change the course of a match within the powerplay if he finds his rhythm.

You all knowwhere the 2036 Olympics is coming, so you should prepare for that too: ICC Chairman Shah

AGENCY

NEW DELHI: ICC Chairman Jay Shah on Sunday dropped a hint over the country hosting the 2036 Olympics and added that India should prepare well for hosting the biggest event in the sporting world. Shah gave out this subtle hint at the Sports Journalists Federation of India (SJFI) National Convention in New Delhi on Sunday.Indian news portal

"You all know that when I was in BCCI, I prepared till 2028. Fortunately, I got a good result. But the team of BCCI is sitting here. You all should prepare for the Commonwealth Games of 2030. You all should prepare for the Brisbane Olympics of 2032, and you all know where the Olympics of 2036 is coming. You all should prepare for that too," he said.

Shah, who moved from being the BCCI Secretary to heading ICC in 2024, used the occasion to reflect on a transformative period for Indian cricket from 2019 to 2026. "From 2019 to 2026, that time was very important for BCCI and India. Today, I congratulate everyone. We won two Under-19 Women's World Cup titles and two Under-19 Men's World Cups.

"We were runners-up twice in the WTC (World Test Championship). We were runners-up once in the Men's ODI World Cup and won the women's one too. We won the T20 World Cup twice, and we also won the Champions Trophy. That is why the time from 2019 to 2026 was a golden time for all of us, and you all played a big role in that." Fuel surcharge analysis

Shah also paid tribute to India's stupendous performance at the recently concluded T20 World Cup, while extending congratulations to other teams who had distinguished themselves in the tournament.

"The T20 World Cup has just ended. India had a great performance. For that, I congratulate the entire Indian team. Along with that, England and South Africa were unbeaten before the semifinals, and for that, I congratulate those two teams. Also, to the New Zealand team, in front of South Africa, they achieved victory and reached the final, and we congratulate the New Zealand team for the character they have shown.

He also reserved special praise for the associate nations putting in fantastic performances for significantly elevating the tournament's stature. "This World Cup 2026 was very important for the associate country. India had won the World Cup, but you all know that India had almost lost in the game against the USA. The Netherlands was about to beat Pakistan.

"Nepal gave a tough fight to England, and Zimbabwe didn't let Australia win. So, through



this, I want to thank all the associates for lighting up the World Cup because of the performance you all showed. The stature of this World Cup has improved a lot, as you all know.

"This World Cup concurrent views and viewership - all the records were broken in that too. I don't want to say the numbers because you all notice every word of mine. When the numbers come, I will tell you all through my tweets and ICC's media release. This World Cup numbers in 2026 - all the records of old numbers were broken, and I have complete faith in that," he elaborated.

also reminded everyone that today was the 25th anniversary of the iconic 2001 Test won by India at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata. "You all know that today is March 15, and though I am a little late, I will remind you all of the March 11-15, 2001 Test in Kolkata, which we won by 276 runs. VVS Laxman scored 281 runs, and Rahul Dravid scored 180 runs - because of that, we won the Test match, which looked lost. That is why today is very important for us." Sports

Shah further credited the media's diligent coverage as a key pillar of Indian cricket's success, recalling how reporters stayed back in Barbados after the T20 World Cup final to capture the moment of triumph.

"I know that when Rohit Sharma made India's flag fly high in Barbados, you all knew that a cyclone was around the corner. You all could have left Barbados after the match, but you didn't let go of it to capture that moment. I remember that you all came back to India with me. So, thank you all very much for seeing that winning moment."

"You all take so much care in how many players, how many runs were scored, how many wickets were taken. Even by mistake or if there is a mistake, you all will catch it properly. That's why – the great performance of the team today, you all played a big role in that, and thank you very much for that."

On his own relationship with the media, Shah was candid, saying he had deliberately kept his distance from journalists to ensure impartiality. "I was in the BCCI since 2019, and after 2024, I have been in the ICC.

Friendly cricket match held in Delhi to promote TB-free India campaign



AGENCY

NEW DELHI A friendly cricket match between Members of Parliament and Delhi Police officers was organised at the National Stadium in New Delhi to raise awareness under the "TB-Free India – TB Harega, Desh Jeetega" campaign initiated by former Union minister and MP Anurag Singh Thakur.The MPs' team was led by Anurag Singh Thakur, while the Delhi Police team was captained by Police Commissioner Satish Golcha. In an exciting contest, Delhi Police defeated the MPs' team by 12 runs to lift the winner's trophy.Batting first after losing the toss, the Delhi Police team scored a massive 225 runs in 20 overs. In reply, the MPs' team managed 212 runs despite a fine innings of 52 runs by Anurag Singh Thakur. The friendly match was telecast live on DD Sports.Speaking on the occasion, Anurag Thakur said the match was organised to spread awareness about tuberculosis and support the vision of a TB-free India. He said the campaign aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal of eliminating tuberculosis from the country. Thakur added that such matches had already been held in several cities and similar initiatives would continue across the country to spread awareness about TB.He said that although the MPs' team lost the match, the objective of raising awareness about tuberculosis had been achieved. "We may compete against each other on the field, but our real fight is against TB," he said, adding that the campaign aims to spread the message that TB can affect anyone and awareness is essential to defeat the disease.Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, who attended the event as the chief guest, said Members of Parliament represent the aspirations of 1.4 billion citizens and such initiatives help spread awareness about important public health issues. He said that if collective efforts are made across the country, India can achieve the goal of becoming TB-free.

'One of the nicest cricketers on circuit': Kaif congratulates Kuldeep Yadav on wedding

AGENCY

MUSSOORIE: Former India cricketer Mohammad Kaif congratulated India's T20 World Cup 2026 champion Kuldeep Yadav after the left-arm wrist spinner married his childhood sweetheart Vanshika, calling him one of the nicest cricketers on the circuit. Kuldeep, a key member of India's white-ball setup and a prominent figure in the Indian Premier League (IPL), began a new chapter in his personal life as he tied the knot with Vanshika in a private ceremony attended by close family members and friends at the Welcomhotel The Savoy on Saturday. Kaif, who also attended the wedding, shared a heartfelt message for the couple on X. The 45-year-old also posted a photo in which he is seen hugging the groom. "Another big day in Vanshika & Kuldeep Yadav's life. One of the nicest cricketers on the circuit. Congratulations @imkuldeep18," Kaif wrote on X.Aviation news updates



Former India spinner Piyush Chawla also congratulated the couple with a post on social media in which he is seen with the bride and groom, along with other cricketers who attended the wedding. "Congratulations, Kuldeep & Vanshika!! wishing both of you the best," he wrote in the caption. The wedding was attended by several current and former cricketers, including Suresh Raina, Kaif, Yuzvendra Chahal, India's T20 World Cup champion player Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh, along with fielding coach T. Dilip and others.The wedding marks the culmination of a long-standing relationship. Kuldeep and Vanshika are childhood friends from Kanpur, where their families lived just three kilometres apart.

65th edition of Fit India Sundays on Cycle takes place in more than 5000 locations

NEW DELHI :The 65th edition of the Fit India Sundays on Cycle was celebrated with great enthusiasm across the nation in more than 5000 locations, uniting the country's seas and mountains, deserts and forests with one single movement. More than 300 Fit India Champions and Ambassadors, and special dignitaries led the cycling event in locations that spread from Kokrajhar in Odisha to Badal in Punjab and Allepey down South.

In Patna, the young and dynamic Sports Minister of Bihar, Shreyashi Singh, attended the Sundays on Cycle and led by example. In Assam, Rima Trisha Haloi, assistant commissioner of the government of Assam and an MMA fighter, karate black belt holder, and a seasoned cyclist, who had an injury a few months back, bounced back to her fitness routine by participating in today's



Sundays on Cycle.

The nodal event of the 65th edition took place in New Delhi, where more than 10,000 people participated. Indeed, Delhi's Connaught Place wore a festive feel on Sunday morning as Fit India's flagship campaign Sundays on Cycle was organised in collaboration with Raahgiri Foundation in what marked the return of Raahgiri Day. National news coverage

The special edition of the event saw participation of people of all age groups – from 3-year-olds to 70-year-olds who came together to participate in various fitness activities such as Rope Skipping.

Andy Rodríguez brace against Jamshedpur earns NorthEast first win of ISL 2025-26

agency

GUWAHATI, : Two second-half goals from Andy Rodríguez powered NorthEast United FC to a 2-1 victory over Jamshedpur FC in Indian Super League 2025-26 season at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati on Sunday, March 15, 2026.



The Highlanders secured their first victory of the campaign and moved up to seventh in the standings with six points, while Jamshedpur FC suffered their first defeat of the season but remains second with 12 points. Rodríguez was adjudged the Player of the Match for his decisive two-goal performance.

NorthEast United FC head coach Juan Pedro Benali made three changes to his starting lineup, introducing Bekey Oram and Laishram Danny Meitei in midfield along with defender Dinesh Singh in a 4-3-2-1 formation. Jamshedpur FC head coach Owen Coyle also made two alterations in midfield, bringing in Rei Tachikawa and Rosenberg Gabriel while retaining the same tactical setup.

The contest began at a brisk pace with both sides exchanging possession in the opening minutes but struggling to break into the final third. Jamshedpur keeper Albino Gomes produced a sweeping clearance outside the box in the 13th minute to deny a potential attacking opportunity for the hosts.

Jamshedpur created the first real chance in the 19th minute when Messi Bouli rose to meet Mohammed Sanan's cross, but his header drifted narrowly wide. NorthEast responded soon after with midfielder Macarton Nickson testing Gomes from distance, though the goalkeeper comfortably gathered the effort.

The Highlanders looked increasingly dangerous in attack, with Parthib Gogoi troubling the defence before being brought down by center back Pratik Chaudhari during a promising run in the 27th minute. NorthEast were forced into an early change in the 39th minute when captain Míchel Zabaco was substituted due to a hamstring injury, with Asheer Akhtar coming on in his place.

Dainik Bhaskar Crowned Champions of Inter-Media Cricket Tournament



CHANDIGARH,Dainik Bhaskar claimed the title of the 6-a-side Inter-Media Cricket Tournament, organized by the Chandigarh Press Club. Nine teams representing various media organizations participated in the tournament, which was held at DAV College-10. Delivering a stellar performance in the final match, the Dainik Bhaskar team clinched the championship trophy. The Electronics CPC team finished as runners-up, while Dainik Jagran secured the third position. In the final showdown, batting first, Dainik Bhaskar posted a total of 77/2 runs in 6 overs. For Bhaskar, Gaurav Marwaha played a magnificent innings of 59 runs and emerged as the match's top scorer. In reply, the Electronics CPC team could only manage to score 10/5 runs in 1.5 overs. Bhaskar registered a victory by a massive margin of 68 runs, thereby capturing the title.

Bhaskar had also dominated the earlier qualifying matches. Batting first in the qualifiers, Dainik Bhaskar scored 115/0 runs in 6 overs. Gaurav Marwaha played a crucial innings of 65 runs. While chasing the target, the Dainik Jagran team could only score 35 runs. Bhaskar won this match by 81 runs.

Meanwhile, in the second qualifier, Dainik Jagran batted first and scored 39 runs. Balwan contributed 19 runs to the total. In response, Electronics CPC successfully chased down the target within 4 overs. For the team, Raj (28) and Chauhan (10) remained unbeaten and guided their side to victory. The entire team of the Press Club was present throughout the duration of the tournament.

'Hosting 2030 CWG and bidding for 2036 Olympics reflects India's sporting ambition: PT Usha



NEW DELHI: The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President P.T. Usha believes that the country's ambition to host major multi-sport events such as the 2030 Commonwealth Games and the 2036 Summer Olympics reflects the growing confidence of the nation in its sporting future.

Addressing the National Convention of the Sports Journalists Federation of India (SJFI) in the national capital on Sunday, the IOA President said that India has reached an important stage in its sporting journey with improved infrastructure, scientific training, and stronger institutional support for athletes.

"As you are all aware, we will be hosting the 2030 Commonwealth Games, and our vision of bringing the 2036 Summer Olympics to our country reflects the confidence of a nation that believes in its sporting future," Usha said.

She added that hosting such global events would play a key role in accelerating sports development across the country. "Hosting such events would not only showcase India to the world but also accelerate the development of sporting infrastructure and inspire generations of athletes," she said.

Usha also emphasised that India's progress in sport has been driven by stronger support systems and the growing recognition of athletes' needs. "Today, India stands at a very important moment in its sporting journey. Over the past decade, we have witnessed a transformation in the way sports are supported and celebrated in our country. Athletes now benefit from better infrastructure, scientific training, and stronger institutional support," she said. Highlighting the role of government initiatives in expanding the sporting base, Usha said programmes like Khelo India.

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CHANDIGARH

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026

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Esha Gupta shares heartwarming wish for God's child, Yo Yo Honey Singh



Bollywood actress Esha Gupta called Rapper Yo Yo Honey Singh, "God's child". On Sunday, the actress took to the Stories section of her Instagram, and shared a selfie with the rapper. She wrote on the picture, "Happy birthday to the OG, a true rockstar and gods child @yoyohoneysingh (sic)".

Yo Yo Honey Singh is known for popularizing commercial Punjabi and Hindi rap in mainstream Bollywood music. Honey Singh rose to fame in the early 2010s with chart-topping tracks such as the albums 'International Villager' and 'Desi Kalakaar'. His songs have featured in several Hindi films and gained massive digital viewership. He has received multiple awards.

The rapper suffered from mental health issues, and took a sabbatical. Honey Singh returned to music with new singles and collaborations.

The actress referred to the rapper as a "God's child" presumably for his resilience, and building himself ground up.

Earlier, the actress returned home safely after being stranded in Abu Dhabi following a sudden missile scare amid the growing tensions in West Asia, and expressed gratitude to the UAE authorities and the Indian government for ensuring the safety of passengers. Esha took to Instagram, where she wrote a long note sharing her experience.

She wrote, "Back home. Thank you all for your prayers and wishes. It was very tough to be in the situation that we all were. Truly gods blessing to safe".

The actress revealed that the situation unfolded on the afternoon of the 28th while she was at the airport. She shared, "It started when I was at the airport on the 28th (Sunday). By 1pm the airport was closed, chaos all around as none of us knew what happened.

Vijay Deverakonda showers brother Anand Deverakonda with birthday love, Rashmika says 'we miss you'



Newlyweds Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna showered Vijay's younger brother Anand Deverakonda with love as he turned a year older on Sunday.

Marking his kid brother's special day, the 'Arjun Reddy' actor penned a heartfelt birthday note for Anand, saying that he feels absolutely blessed to have a brother like him.

Sharing a picture of chilling with his 'favourite boy' on his Instagram Stories, Vijay wrote, "Happy birthday to my boyyy...he has been by my side since the day he was ,born and I feel so blessed and lucky to have a brother. (sic)"

"@ananddeverakonda you are our favourite boy.. and we all watch everything you do with pride and joy. I love you," he added.

Rashmika also used social media to wish her brother-in-law, saying that they miss him on his birthday as he is away for work.

The 'Pushpa' actress penned on her Insta Stories, "Anandaaaaa..happy happy happieshhttttt birthdaaaaayyyy to youuuuu!! You are away shooting and we miss you..but we hope your work is going well."

Rashmika even uploaded a picture of herself twinning with Anand in a matching t-shirt, where both of them seem to be whistling.

Revealing the story behind the pic, the 'Animal' actress added, "Oh oh - Apparently, we were calling out to the fish while this photo was taken, Vijju said. May we always be crazy enough to be calling out to the fish like this.. @ananddeverakonda."

Moreover, Rashmika uploaded another post in which she was seen tapping a foot with Anand.

"And may we always be dancing like this! @ananddeverakonda.", read the text along with the clip.

As Vijay and Rashmika tied the knot on February 26 in a grand ceremony in Udaipur, Anand penned an emotional post for the couple, welcoming 'The Girlfriend' actress to the family.

"Today, my brother is married, and I've gained the most positive and compassionate person as my Vadina. I pray that for the rest of their lives, they continue to smile just like this. To a lifetime together!," read the post.

The Disney Adventure Sets Sail on its Maiden Voyage in Singapore

CHANDIGARH:Today, the Disney Adventure welcomed its first guests, setting sail on its maiden voyage from Singapore and becoming the first Disney Cruise Line ship to homeport in Asia. The ship draws on over 100 years of Disney storytelling, bringing beloved Disney, Marvel, and Pixar tales to life in brand new ways for guests in Asia. On the Disney Adventure, the magic comes alive through seven uniquely themed areas: Disney Imagination Garden, Toy Story Place, San Fransokyo Street, Town Square, Wayfinder Bay, Disney Discovery Reef and Marvel Landing. Spread throughout each of these areas, guests can find something for everyone in the family to enjoy, including immersive entertainment offerings, thrilling attractions, delicious dining options, exclusive retail locations, and so much more. Known for delivering top-tier entertainment at sea, Disney Cruise Line outdoes itself with over 40 spectacular entertainment experiences onboard the Disney Adventure. Beloved favorites like Disney's Seas the Adventure and character meet-and-greets return, alongside exciting new offerings exclusive to this ship—including private karaoke rooms, brand-new game shows, and a dazzling new stage show in the Walt Disney Theatre titled Remember.Guests can also enjoy a variety of attractions designed for the whole family at the upper decks. At Marvel Landing, Groot Galaxy Spin is a playful ride where guests get to pilot a spacecraft, while at Toy Story Place, Woody and Jessie's Wild Slides offers splashing fun for the young and young at heart. These joyful experiences are some of many ways guests can play, explore and have fun aboard the Disney Adventure.After a long day of enjoying the activities on the ship, groups can come together at the end of every day with an incredible meal at one of the rotational dining restaurants on board.



Kratika Sengar takes a break from social media to 'live a little more offline'



Television actress Kratika Sengar has decided to take a break from social media. She has made the decision to reset her life and focus more on it offline. Sharing her decision on her official Instagram handle, Kratika penned, "Taking a break.. to breath, reset and live a little more offline.. See you when I see you.....(sic)".

Reacting to the post, one of the Instagram users penned in the comment section, "We're gonna miss you so much! Take all the time you need, we'll be here waiting for your comeback, Love you lots! @itsmekratika". Another one commented, "We will always wait for your come back". "Live your life to the fullest", read the third comment. Kratika made her acting debut with the popular television serial "Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi", where she was seen playing Sanchi and Sugandhi Virani.

After this, her first major role was as Prerana Gill Garewal in another popular show, "Kasautii Zindagii Kay." Further cementing her position, Kratika went on to play Aarti Goyal Scindia in "Punar Vivaah – Zindagi Milegi Dobara" and Payal Prasad in "Service Wali Bahu".

Talking about her personal life, Kratika tied the knot with actor Nikitin Dheer, son of late actor Pankaj Dheer, on 3 September 2014.

The couple welcomed their first child, a baby girl, Devika Dheer, on 12 May 2022. Pankaj Dheer passed away on October 15 last year after losing his battle to cancer. Kritika keeps on remembering her late father-in-law through her emotional social media posts. "You never liked the word in-laws — you'd always say, "She's my daughter," and that's exactly how you treated me. You'd often ask with that familiar twinkle in your eyes, "Who's the best girl in the world?" and I'd smile and say, "Mee!" I was always shy to say I love you dad, but you never stopped until I said it with ease — that was your way of wrapping me in love," read one of her posts.

Nora Fatehi brings timeless Bollywood classics alive on stage at Maruti Suzuki presents 24th Zee Cine Awards 2026

CHANDIGARH: Bringing together the magic of cinema and the passion of fans, 'Z' hosted a grand celebration with the 24th Zee Cine Awards presented by Maruti Suzuki. The star-studded evening saw some of the biggest names from the film industry come together for a night filled with dazzling performances, memorable moments, and infectious fan energy. Staying true to the spirit of FANtertainment, the awards night transformed into a spectacular extravaganza where entertainment, glamour, and cinematic brilliance took centre stage.Adding a touch of elegance and nostalgia to the grand evening, global star Nora Fatehi delivered a captivating performance that transported the audience into the golden era of Bollywood music. Known for her dynamic stage presence and impeccable dance skills, Nora surprised fans with a refreshing act that celebrated some of Hindi cinema's most beloved retro classics.Dancing to evergreen songs like "Chadti Jawaani Teri," "Dilbar Dil Se Pyaare," and more, Nora mesmerized the audience with her graceful expressions and fluid movements. Her effortless transitions and expressive performance brought these timeless melodies alive on stage, creating a magical atmosphere that had the audience completely engrossed.Offering a refreshing glimpse of the actress in a completely different style, the performance showcased Nora embracing retro charm with her signature poise and elegance. Watching her reinterpret these iconic songs with her own unique flair turned out to be one of the most delightful surprises of the evening, making the act truly memorable and one of the standout highlights of the night.Don't miss the spectacular celebration as Maruti Suzuki presents 24th Zee Cine Awards, airing on Sunday, 15th March at 7:30 PM on Zee TV, Zee Cinema and ZEE5. The event is co-powered by Maaza, Vicks, Glow & Lovely Glass Bright Ultra Gel Crème, and Cadbury Dairy Milk; alongside Energy Drink Partner – Hell Energy Drink; and Special Partners – Rajdhani Dal, L'Oréal Paris Glycolic Gloss, Balaji Wafers, and Fortune Refined Soyabean Oil.



Krystle Dsouza performs her Dhurandhar track on television for the first time at Zee Kutumb Awards: "Performing it on TV for the first time was very special"

CHANDIGARH: ZEE TV continues to strengthen its position in the Hindi GEC space, clocking an impressive 51% growth between March 2025 and March 2026. The channel has been No.1 in core prime time for five consecutive months, dominating the 8 PM to 10 PM band with leadership across four consecutive slots, reflecting the strong connect its stories share with audiences across India. Celebrating this deep bond with viewers, the recently held Zee Kutumb Awards 2026 brought together the biggest stars of the channel, including actor Krystal D'Souza, who made a special return to Zee TV with a high-energy performance after six years.



Krystle lit up the stage at the Zee Kutumb Awards 2026 alongside the boys of Zee TV – Ved (Shagun Pandey), Dev (Abhishek Sharma), Shivaay (Farman Haider) and Siddhu (Sheizaan Khan). The actress performed on popular tracks including Tainu Shararat Sikhawa Jado Naina Ladawa from her film Dhurandhar, making it the first time she brought the song to television. Krystle was earlier a part of Zee TV's popular show Brahmarakshas, which concluded in 2017. She later reunited with the channel for a special appearance in 2020, and now returns to the Zee family once again through the grand celebration of the Zee Kutumb Awards.

Sharing her excitement about coming back to the channel, Krystle said, "I was earlier a part of Zee TV's show Brahmarakshas. After that I briefly came back to Zee, and now after almost six years, I'm once again associated with the Zee Kutumb family where I performed with the boys of Zee. I had the most fun shooting with them. I'm always grateful to Zee for believing in me as an artist and continuing to consider me a part of their family. Zee TV will always feel like home to me."

Jacqueline Fernandez dazzles the stage with a high-octane performance at Maruti Suzuki presents 24th Zee Cine Awards 2026

CHANDIGARH: Bringing together the magic of cinema and the passion of fans, 'Z' hosted a grand celebration with the 24th Zee Cine Awards presented by Maruti Suzuki. The star-studded evening saw some of the biggest names from the film industry come together for a night filled with dazzling performances, memorable moments and infectious fan energy. Staying true to the spirit of FANtertainment, the awards night transformed into a spectacular extravaganza where entertainment, glamour and cinematic brilliance took centre stage.



Adding an extra dose of glamour and excitement to the evening, Jacqueline Fernandez delivered a spectacular performance that had the audience cheering throughout. Known for owning the stage every time she performs, Jacqueline once again proved why she is one of the most captivating performers in the industry. Dressed in a silver studded ensemble, the actress lit up the stage with her electrifying energy and stunning dance moves.

Performing to a medley of her popular tracks including Aa Zara, Yaar Na Mile and Laal Pari, Jacqueline delivered a high-energy act packed with dazzling choreography and effortless charm. Her graceful yet powerful moves, combined with her commanding stage presence, lit up the stage and kept the audience completely engaged. Fans in attendance were treated to a visual spectacle as Jacqueline transformed the stage into a vibrant celebration of music and dance.

With her confidence, charisma and signature style, Jacqueline Fernandez ensured that her performance became one of the standout highlights of the evening, leaving the audience mesmerized and applauding long after the act ended. Don't miss the spectacular celebration as 24th Zee Cine Awards airs on Sunday, 15th March at 7:30 PM on Zee TV, Zee Cinema and ZEE5. The event is co-powered by Maaza, Vicks, Glow & Lovely Glass Bright Ultra Gel Crème and Cadbury Dairy Milk; alongside Energy Drink Partner – Hell Energy Drink; and Special Partners, Rajdhani Dal, L'Oréal Paris Glycolic Gloss, Balaji Wafers and Fortune Refined Soyabean Oil.

"It May Sound Bizarre": Priom Dev Gujjar on the Cockroach scene that shows Raj's obsessive love in Lakshmi Niwas

CHANDIGARH: Zee TV's family drama Lakshmi Niwas continues to keep audiences hooked with its emotional storytelling and layered characters. While the show largely revolves around the aspirations and relationships within a middle-class family, the character of Raj Bundela, played by Priom Dev Gujjar, has stood out as the charming and seemingly perfect partner to Bhoomika, played by actress Riya Munjal.



Introduced as a wealthy businessman with a calm demeanor and a deeply caring nature, Raj has so far come across as the ideal "green flag", someone who loves Bhoomika wholeheartedly and goes out of his way to make her happy. However, as the story progresses, viewers witness a surprising shift in Raj's personality. What initially appears to be pure love slowly begins to reveal shades of obsession and possessiveness, bringing a dramatic twist to the narrative and adding new layers to his character.

Surprisingly, Priom shared that the intense cockroach scene he recently shot was actually the very scene he had performed during his audition. Speaking about the moment, the actor shared, "Interestingly, the scene I recently shot for the show is actually the same one I performed during my audition for Lakshmi Niwas. When I first read it, I remember thinking how intense and unusual it was. In the scene, Raj sees a cockroach on Bhoomika and reacts in a very extreme way; he kills it and even eats it just to show her that nothing can harm her while he's around. It may sound bizarre, but that moment really captures the obsessive and unpredictable side of Raj's love for Bhoomika. Until now, audiences have seen him as the perfect partner, but this scene reveals the darker layers of his personality and how far he can go when it comes to protecting her."

As Raj's behaviour begins to take a more unpredictable turn, audiences can expect major twists that will challenge everything they believed about his character and his relationship with Bhoomika.

Tune in to Lakshmi Niwas every Monday to Friday at 7 PM, only on Zee TV!

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