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NEWS BRIEFS

Woman killed as 'unsafe' bridge collapses in Delhi

NEW DELHI: A 60-foot iron bridge over a drain collapsed in north Delhi's Roop Nagar area on Tuesday morning, killing a woman, officials said.
Police said the bridge had been declared unsafe and was closed for public movement with barricades. Locals informed that the woman, who seemed to be a beggar, would often sit at one end of the bridge.
A PCR call regarding the bridge collapse was received at around 9.28 am, following which police and emergency teams rushed to the spot, police said. The bridge was found to have collapsed into the drain below.

SC rejects plea to declare Guru Gobind Jayanti a national holiday

UNI
NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed a petition seeking to declare Guru Gobind Jayanti as a national holiday.
A bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta dismissed the petition, saying that India was a 'holy land of holidays', and 'Let us not add to that'.
A writ petition was filed in 2020 by the All India Shiromani Singh Sabha.
Senior Advocate Vikas Singh, for the petitioner, sought a uniform policy for public holidays, with directions for the declaration of national holidays as against the "whims and fancies of various political groups".

Top Iranian official Ali Larijani killed in overnight strike

TEL AVIV : Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz on Tuesday confirmed Ali Larijani, Iranian Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, was killed by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) in an overnight airstrike in Tehran as the conflict in West Asia escalates.Confirming the development, Katz said, "Larijani and the Basij commander were eliminated tonight and joined the head of the destruction plan, Khamenei, and all the thwarted members of the evil axis in the depths of hell," as quoted by TPS.According to TPS, Katz stated that the strike took place following orders from him and the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu."The Prime Minister and I have instructed the [Israel Defense Forces] to continue hunting down the leadership of the regime of terror and oppression in Iran," he stated."Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and I have instructed the IDF to continue hunting down the leadership of the regime of terror and oppression in Iran and to repeatedly cut off the head of the octopus and not let it grow," Katz added, as quoted by TPS.Earlier, the IDF confirmed that Gholamreza Soleiman, the Commander of Iran's Basij paramilitary force, was also killed in the same series of attacks. "Yesterday, the IDF targeted & eliminated Gholamreza Soleimani, who operated as commander of the Basij unit for the past 6 years. Under Soleimani, the Basij unit led the main repression operations in Iran, employing severe violence, widespread arrests, and the use of force against civilian demonstrators," the IDF said in a post on X. Considered to be a key power broker in Tehran, Larijani held significant influence within the country's political establishment and recently delayed the formal announcement of Mojtaba Khamenei as the next Supreme Leader, highlighting his role in shaping internal power dynamics, as reported by TPS.Separately, the Israel Defense Forces carried out a strike on a large underground Hezbollah weapons facility.

Over 400 killed, 250 wounded in Pak airstrikes on Afghan drug rehab center

UNI
KABUL/NEW DELHI, MAR 17

At least 400 people were killed and more than 250 injured after Pakistan Army carried out airstrikes on a drug rehabilitation hospital in Kabul on Monday night. Local Afghan media quoted Mullah Hamdullah Fitrat, Deputy Spokesman for the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), as saying the attack took place on Monday night at around 9:00pm, targeting a 2,000-bed drug treatment hospital 'Omid', with large parts of the facility destroyed. He said the number of casualties could rise further. So far, the death toll has reached 400, and up to 250 others have been wounded, according to Afghan news agencies Pajhwok and Tolo news.

Zabihullah Mujahid, the IEA's Chief Spokesman said "We strongly condemn this crime and consider such an act to be against all accepted principles and an inhumane act."

On Saturday night, Pakistan Army carried out airstrikes on civilian areas in eastern Kunar and southern Kandahar provinces. However, no casualties were reported. He warned that the attack would not go unanswered, according to Afghanistan media.

Mujahid said "Pakistan has once again violated Afghan airspace. Two locations in Kandahar were bombed. One strike hit part of a hospital for drug addicts where patients were receiving treatment. It is a civilian facility. There were no casualties, but part of the building was destroyed." He said the second strike hit an empty container that had been lying there. I do not know what they thought it was, but no one was present.

India strongly condemns attack

NEW DELHI: India on Tuesday strongly condemned Pakistan's barbaric airstrike on the Omid Addiction Treatment Hospital in Kabul in which about 400 people were killed and more than 250 wounded, describing it as blatant assault on Afghanistan's sovereignty in the holy month of Ramzan.
A statement issued by the External Affairs Ministry described the attack as a "cowardly and unconscionable act of violence" that has claimed the lives of a large number of civilians in a facility which can by no means be justified as a military target.
"Pakistan is now trying to dress up a massacre as a military operation," the Ministry said in a statement.
It said this heinous act of aggression by Pakistan is also a blatant assault on Afghanistan's sovereignty and a direct threat to regional peace and stability. The attack also reflects Pakistan's persistent pattern of reckless behaviour and its repeated attempts to externalize internal failures through increasingly desperate acts of violence beyond its borders, the statement said.

Centre urges states to fast-track PNG pipeline clearances

UNI
NEW DELHI, MAR 17

Amid continued geopolitical tensions in West Asia affecting global energy flows, the Centre on Tuesday stepped up efforts to promote Piped Natural Gas (PNG) as an alternative to Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), especially for commercial consumers.

Addressing a media briefing, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, said City Gas Distribution (CGD) companies have been asked to actively expand their consumer base.

"Our CGD companies like IGL, MGL, GAIL India and BPCL have announced various incentives for those who want to take PNG connections," Sharma said, underlining the push to accelerate adoption.

She added that the government has reached out to states and union Territories to fast-track approvals for pipeline infrastructure. "The Government of India has written to all state governments and union Territories. It has been requested that permissions for laying pipelines should be given deemed approval and new applications should be reviewed within 24 hours," she said.

Highlighting further measures, Sharma noted, "Road restoration and permission charges should be waived off. Relaxation should be given in working hours and working seasons, and a nodal authority should be appointed so that coordination can be achieved and works can be executed faster."

On fuel availability, she said that while LPG supplies remain a cause of concern, there is no immediate cause for alarm. "Petrol and diesel are available in sufficient quantity. Regarding natural gas, the Government of India is making efforts, and it would be beneficial if all commercial LPG consumers shift to PNG," Sharma stated.

Dual OTP provision under consideration to curb cyber crime : Haryana CM

BUREAU
CHANDIGARH: Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini asserted that the State Government's aggressive and technology-driven crackdown on cybercrime is showing tangible results, with a notable decline in cyber fraud cases in 2025, even as law enforcement agencies significantly ramped up arrests, sending a strong message to cyber criminals across the state.

Replying to a question raised by MLA Aftab Ahmed during Question Hour in the ongoing Budget Session of the Haryana Vidhan Sabha on Tuesday, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said cybercrime cases in the State fell from 6,054 in 2024 to 5,000 in 2025, marking a decline of nearly 17%. Fraud cases also saw a substantial drop, decreasing from 9,804 in 2024 to 6,324 in 2025, showing a reduction of around 36%.

Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said the police administration is continuously working with seriousness and promptness to effectively control cybercrime, and the positive impact of these efforts is now visible. He added that the State government had created a separate cybercrime department to tackle the growing challenge of such offences.

The Chief Minister said strict action was being taken against those involved in cybercrime. While 5,156 arrests were made in 2024, the number rose to 8,093 in 2025, registering an increase of about 57%. Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said the nature of cybercrime was constantly evolving, with fraudsters using new techniques, including so-called "digital arrest" scams. In such cases, defrauded money is routed through multiple bank accounts. Acting swiftly, the police, in coordination with banks, ensure that the amount is immediately put on hold. The proportion of such held amounts increased from 27% in 2024 to 40% in 2025 — an increase of 13 percentage points.

Indian vessel Nanda Devi, carrying 46,500 MT LPG, arrives at Vadinar port

AGENCY
GANDHINAGAR, MAR 17

Indian LPG carrier Nanda Devi on Tuesday arrived at the Vadinar port in Gujarat's Jamnagar, carrying 46,500 metric tonnes of liquefied petroleum gas for ship-to-ship transfer at the anchorage.The ship-to-ship transfer of LPG from mother vessel MT Nanda Devi to daughter vessel MT BW Birch will commence today. Sushil Kumar Singh, Chairman of the Deendayal Port Authority (DPA), went on board the vessel to facilitate and interacted with the captain and crew of Nanda Devi. This is the second LPG carrier that arrived in India after successfully passing through the Strait of Hormuz. On Monday evening, the Indian carrier LPG

Shivalik, carrying a total of 46,000 metric tonnes of liquefied petroleum gas, had arrived at the Mudra Port. Of this, 20,000 MT will be unloaded at Mundra, while the remaining 26,000 MT is scheduled for Mangalore.Earlier, the Chief Officer of the Nanda Devi vessel said that the initiative was taken by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and the Shipping Corporation of India, with the Indian and Iranian navies providing the necessary assistance to cross the Strait of Hormuz."I would like to thank everyone who was involved in this operation of crossing the Strait of Hormuz. The initiative was taken by the Indian Ministry, Shipping Corporation of India, with the help of the Indian Navy and the Iranian Navy. Vessel transmitted the Hormuz safely, now it is enroute to Kandla, Gujarat and will be serving a huge amount of LPG, 46,000 metric tonnes. This will help in the worldwide crisis of LPG. We will continue to serve the LPG in future also," he said.Indian-flagged vessel, 'Jag Laadki', which sailed from the UAE, carrying about 81,000 tonnes of Murban crude oil, is safely en route to India, Rajesh Kumar Sinha, Special Secretary in the Shipping Ministry said in an interministerial briefing on Monday.

Suspension of 8 Lok Sabha MPs revoked

AGENCY
NEW DELHI: The Lok Sabha on Tuesday revoked with immediate effect the suspension of eight opposition members, who were barred from the House on February 3 for "unruly" behaviour, with Speaker Om Birla stressing that there should be no display of placards, posters, photos or AI-generated images inside the House or in the Parliament complex.

Congress member K Suresh requested the House to consider the revocation of the eight opposition members, saying whatever had happened in the House was regrettable, and that his party was ready to cooperate in the smooth functioning of the House.

Following the submissions by several opposition members, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said there was a need to draw a 'Laxman Rekha' for the smooth functioning of the House, which both treasury and opposition benches agreed to.

Speaker Birla said there is a need to ensure that no placards, posters, photos or AI-generated images are displayed in the House or inside the Parliament complex.

Birla said that everyone is of the opinion that proceedings in the Parliament of the world's largest democracy should be smooth, and everyone should cooperate.

Rijiju then moved a motion to remove the suspension of seven Congress MPs and one CPI-M member, which was adopted by a voice vote. The suspended MPs were Gurjeet Singh Aujla, Hibi Eden, C Kiran Kumar Reddy, Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, Manickam Tagore, Prashant Padole and Dean Kuriakose of the Congress, and S Ventakesan of the CPI(M). The eight MPs were suspended on February 3 for "unruly" behaviour following a resolution passed by the Lok Sabha in the first half of the ongoing Budget session.

Haryana RS polls: Cong to issue show-cause notices to MLAs for cross voting

BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, MAR 17

The Congress on Tuesday said it will issue show-cause notices to its MLAs who allegedly cross-voted in the Rajya Sabha elections in Haryana, warning of strict disciplinary action.

"We are going to issue a show-cause notice to them," Congress general secretary in charge of Haryana, B K Hariprasad, told a news agency over the phone.

Polling for two Rajya Sabha seats was held here on Monday. BJP's Sanjay Bhatia won one seat comfortably, while Congress candidate Karamvir Singh Boudh secured the other in a close contest against Independent candidate Satish Nandal.

After both the Congress and the BJP approached the Election Commission alleging violation of vote secrecy, the poll panel declared Congress MLA Paramvir Singh's vote as invalid.

Bhatia won the first seat comfortably, polling 39 first-preference votes.

In the fight for the second seat, Boudh polled 28 votes, while Independent candidate Satish Nandal (63) got 16. Five ballots – four of the Congress and one of the BJP – were declared invalid by the returning officer.

Punjab CM dedicates Sub-Divisional Hospital and 30-bedded Mother & Child Hospital

SUMER GARG
DHURI, MAR 17

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Tuesday dedicated a 50-bedded Sub-Divisional Hospital along with a 30-bedded Maternal and Child Health Block at Dhuri, marking a significant milestone in strengthening Punjab's public healthcare system and giving a major boost to healthcare infrastructure in Sangrur district.

Addressing the gathering, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann stated, "This project reflects our firm commitment to building a strong, accessible and patient-centric healthcare system by strengthening infrastructure, expanding medical services and improving

availability of skilled healthcare professionals. The new facilities will cater not only to the residents of Dhuri city but also to people from nearly 70 surrounding villages, benefiting thousands of residents by bringing modern healthcare closer to their homes."

He added, "Constructed at a cost of 21.65 crore, the hospital complex features a state-of-the-art building spread across approximately 73,000 square feet and will prove to be a boon for the region.

It will significantly strengthen secondary-level healthcare services by providing comprehensive outpatient and inpatient care, emergency services, diagnostic facilities and specialised consultations."

YUGMARG
News
CHANDIGARH
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026

Vizmani launches financial services in Tarn Taran area

MOGA (JAGRAJ SINGH SANGHA): Financial services provider Vizmani has expanded its operations to the Tarn Taran area with the launch of a new branch on Sarhali Road.The organization, which earlier operated under the name Unimoni, has established a strong presence with 25 branches in Punjab and 333 across the country. The Tarn Taran branch aims to further strengthen financial accessibility in the region.Speaking at the inauguration, Director Krishnan R said the company will offer a range of services including gold loans, foreign currency remittances, and other financial solutions. He added that Vizmani is committed to providing reliable and customer-focused services.Highlighting the entrepreneurial spirit of Punjab, he said the new branch will cater to the needs of farmers, traders, and the general public, contributing to regional economic growth.Several dignitaries, including Manoj V. Mathew, Satish Kamkumar, John George (Travel Head), Titus K., Vivek Nayyar, Rahul Dubey, and Amandeep Singh, were present at the event.

Step forward in resolving long-standing issue, approval granted for Chandola bridge construction

VERMA
DHARKALAN, MAR 17

The long-standing difficulties faced by the residents of Dharkalan are finally set to see a resolution, as the construction of the Chandola Bridge has received approval from the Punjab government following discussions in the Assembly. This decision is expected to provide significant relief to thousands of people living in this border area. Residents of Dharkalan have been facing a shortage of basic infrastructure for many years. In particular, the absence of the Chandola Bridge has forced people to navigate difficult and often unsafe routes for their daily activities, as well as for sensitive matters such as taking deceased relatives to the cremation ground. To reach the crematorium, locals have had to cross khads (ravines) and challenging terrain for several kilometers, a journey that becomes even more hazardous during the rainy season. This pressing issue was strongly raised in the Punjab Assembly by Sujanpur MLA Naresh Puri. He emphasized the matter not only as an infrastructure requirement but also as a humanitarian concern, highlighting that the lack of a bridge affects the dignity and well-being of local residents.

DBU Dental College strengthens postgraduate programs with renewed MDS seat approval

AJAY MALHOTRA
FATEHGARH SAHIB, MAR 17

Desh Bhagat Dental College and Hospital, a constituent college of Desh Bhagat University (NAAC A+), is pleased to announce that it has received approval from the Central Government for the renewal of increased seats in its Master of Dental Surgery (MDS) programs.

The college has secured permission to continue the enhanced intake from 2 to 5 seats in the 3rd-year MDS course in the Department of Prosthodontics and Crown & Bridge. Additionally, approval has been granted for the renewal of 3 seats in the 2nd-year MDS course in the Department of Paediatric and Preventive Dentistry for the academic session 2026–27. After successfully fulfilling all required parameters and undergoing timely inspections by the Dental Council of India, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has formally recognized and approved the intake capacity of these departments. Desh Bhagat Dental College and Hospital is now among the leading institutions in Punjab, with a capacity of up to 5 MDS seats in various disciplines. Honourable Chancellor Dr. Zora Singh expressed gratitude and acknowledged the collective efforts behind this achievement. Honourable Pro-Chancellor Dr. Tejinder Kaur also conveyed her appreciation and reaffirmed her commitment to promoting quality health education in society. Vice Chancellor Dr. Harsh Sadawarti congratulated the dental team on their success and encouraged them to strive for further accomplishments. Principal Dr. Vikram Bali and Vice Principal Dr. Tejveer Singh expressed their thanks to the university management for their continuous support.

Classified

I No 15627135P NK Ajay Kumar Singh R/o Village Parsahi Ward No 07, Tehsil Ladniya, District Madhubani (BIHAR). Pin 847232.Declare that in my Army Service Record My Daughter Name Mentioned AVISHAKA SINGHA Which is incorrect her Correct Name is AVISHAKA SINHA.
9000A

I , Ankit Kumar S/o Madan Lal R/o Village Thana Distt. Kurukshetra (Haryana) Have Changed My Minor Son's Name From First baby of Neha Rani To Nihit Garg. Concerned Please Note.
84451

PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Jobanmeet Singh (Date of Birth 1994/12/31) Permanent Resident of 269 Udam Singh Road W.No. 18 Near Bara Gurdwara Sahib Sunam Sangrur Punjab-148028 currently residing at 2 Silver Willow Trail, Brampton, ON, L6R 0P1 have changed my name from Jobanmeet Singh to Jobanmeet Singh Dhot.
63372

I, Pargat Singh S/o Bhajan Singh R/o Vill: Rajewal Teh-Khanna Distt. Ludhiana declare that in my Passport my father name wrongly entered Harbhajan Singh. But my father correct name is Bhajan Singh. So amended my father name from Harbhajan Singh to Bhajan Singh in my Passport.
63372

I, Army No.2491843Y, Ex Nk Mithu Singh R/o Vpo. Ramuwala Jalal Ka Teh-Phul Distt. Barnala declare that in my army record my father name wrongly entered Blour Singh and wrongly entered DOB 67 Yrs and my mother wrongly entered DOB is 65 Yrs. But my father correct name is Balor Singh & correct DOB is 04-08-1954 and my mother correct DOB is 01-01-1960. So amended my father name & DOB and my mother DOB in my army record.
63372

I, Army No. 1581186L Ex-Sep Sukhwinder Singh R/o Vpo. Gehri Bara Singh Teh-Talwandi Sabo Distt. Bathinda declare that in my army record my wife name wrongly entered Jasanprit Kaur and wrongly entered DOB 05-05-1970. But my wife correct name is Jashanpreet Kaur and correct DOB is 01-01-1976. So amended my wife name & DOB in my army record.
63372

I, Hardeep Singh S/o Late: Raghbir Singh R/o Vpo. Morkarima Teh & Distt. Ludhiana declare that on some documents my father name written as Raghbir Singh and on some documents my father name written as Raghvir Singh. my father known by both names Raghbir Singh and Raghvir Singh one and the same person.
63372

I, Satender Pal Kaur, also known as Nikki, daughter of Ratan Singh, son of Kisan Singh, and presently wife of Jaswant Singh, resident of Dabwali, District Sirsa, hereby declare that my name in my parental home is Nikki, whereas in my matrimonial home my name is Satender Pal Kaur. Both the above-mentioned names belong to me, and I am known by both names.
63372

I, Ajay Singh D/o B S Hooda r/o # 1314, 34-C Chandigarh have changed my name from Ajay Singh to Ajay
60013

I Amrinder Singh Sidhu S/o Rupinder Singh R/o H.No. 157, Patti Sada, Kalyan Sukha, Bathinda have changed my name from Amrinder Singh Sidhu to Amrinder Singh.
100071

I Sukhpal Kaur Sidhu W/o Rupinder Singh R/o H.No. 157, Patti Sada, Kalyan Sukha, Bathinda have changed my name from Sukhpal Kaur Sidhu to Sukhpal Kaur.
100071

I Rupinder Singh Sidhu S/o Mewa Singh R/o H.No. 157, Patti Sada, Kalyan Sukha, Bathinda have changed my name from Rupinder Singh Sidhu to Rupinder Singh.
100071

PUBLIC NOTICES

ਮੈਂ, ਅਮਰਜੀਤ ਕੌਰ ਪਤਨੀ ਸੁਖਪਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਮਕਾਨ ਨੰ: ਬੀ-11/173, ਸਿਨੇਮਾ ਰੋਡ, ਕਟੜਾ ਆਤਮਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਗਲੀ, ਬਟਾਲਾ, ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਗੁਰਦਾਸਪੁਰ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦੀ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰਾ ਲੜਕਾ ਅਰਜੁਨਬੀਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਮੇਰੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਮੈਂ ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਤਮਾਮ ਚੱਲ ਵਾ ਅਚੱਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖਲ ਕਰਦੀ ਹਾਂ। ਇਸ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ ਦੇਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਆਪਣੇ ਨਫੇ ਨੁਕਸਾਨ ਦਾ ਖੁਦ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ। ਮੇਰਾ ਵਾ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦਾ ਇਸ ਨਾਲ ਕੋਈ ਤਲਕ ਵਾਸਤਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਰਿਹਾ। ਸਬੰਧਿਤ ਨੋਟ ਕਰਨ।
63372

ਮੈਂ ਮਨੋਜ ਕੁਮਾਰ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਸਿਤਾਰਾ ਰਾਮ ਵਾਸੀ ਪਿੰਡ ਕੌਰਸੀਆਂ ਤਹਿ: ਨਵਾਂਸ਼ਹਿਰ ਜਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਸ.ਭ.ਸ. ਨਗਰ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰੀ ਮਾਤਾ ਸਿਮਰਨਜੀਤ ਕੌਰ ਅਤੇ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਿਤਾ ਸਿਤਾਰਾ ਰਾਮ ਜੋ ਕਿ ਸਾਡੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਤੰਗ ਪ੍ਰੇਸ਼ਾਨ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਅਸੀਂ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਅਲੱਗ ਹੋਣ ਦਾ ਫੈਸਲਾ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੈ। ਜੇਕਰ ਮੇਰੇ ਮਾਤਾ ਪਿਤਾ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਗਲਤ ਕੰਮ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਨ ਤਾਂ ਉਹ ਖੁਦ ਜਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਣਗੇ। ਮੇਰਾ ਜਾਂ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦਾ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਤਾਲੁਕ ਵਾ ਵਾਸਤਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ।
63372

I Rekha Rani W/O Paramjit Bhakar V.P.O. Bora Tehsil Garhshankar Distt Hoshiarpur Punjab declared that in my aadhar card my husband name wrongly written as Paramjit Bhakhar but his correct and actual name in all other documents his name is Paramjit Bhakar.
63372

I, Jangir Kaur W/o Malkit Singh alias Sardara Singh R/o Vpo. Tungwali Distt. Bathinda declare that my husband was known as both names Malkit Singh alias Sardara Singh.
63372

I,Chanjit kaur W/o Jarnail Singh R/o Bathinda road, Badal sri Muktar sahib have changed my name chanjit kaur to Charanjeet kaur
524479

I Gagandeep Singh S/o Surinder Singh Vpo Kairon Tehsil Patti District Tarn Taran Have Changed My Name From Gagandeep Singh to Gagandeep Singh Sandhu Pl note it.
524479

I Sunny Sidhu S/o Manjit Singh Residence Bhai Mati Das Nagar,St No 3/9,Bathinda have Changed my Name Sunny Sidhu To Sandeep Singh Sidhu .all Concerned Noted.
524479

I Suman W/o Parveen R/o H.no. 419/6, Kokra Bagh, Rohtak Gate, Bhiwani 127021 have changed my minor son name from Arjun to Arjun Sangwan.
989752

I, Maryum W/O Javed Salim Chaudhary, R/o Village Garha Tehsil Phillaur, Phillaur, Jalandhar, Punjab- 144410. have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Maryam Chaudhary.
600022

I, Shri Surinder Kumar S/O Krishan Lal, R/o V.P.O Saiyad Wala, Abohar, Firozpur, Punjab- 152128, I have changed the name of my minor Son Hunny aged about 13 years and He shall hereafter be known as Hitesh Soni.
600022

I, Prince Bansal S/O Janak Raj Bansal, R/o H. NO- 121, St. NO- 4, Barewal Chungi Road, New Aggar Nagar, Rajguru Nagar, Ludhiana, Punjab- 141012, I have changed the name of my minor Son Surya Bansal alias Shaurya Bansal aged about 3 Years and He shall hereafter be known as Surya Bansal.
600022

I Karam Singh S/o Nathu Ram Vpo Kaleran, Teh-Banga, Distt. SBS Nagar (Pb.) have change my name to Karam Chand.
63372

I, Jaswinder Kaur W/o Tejwant Singh Sandhu R/o H.No. 1662 St.No. 02 New Dashmesh Nagar Moga Punjab-142001 have changed my name to Jaswinder Kaur Sandhu.
63372

I, Tejwant Singh S/o Suba Singh R/o H.No. 1662 St.No. 02 New Dashmesh Nagar Moga Punjab-142001 have changed my name to Tejwant Singh Sandhu.
63372

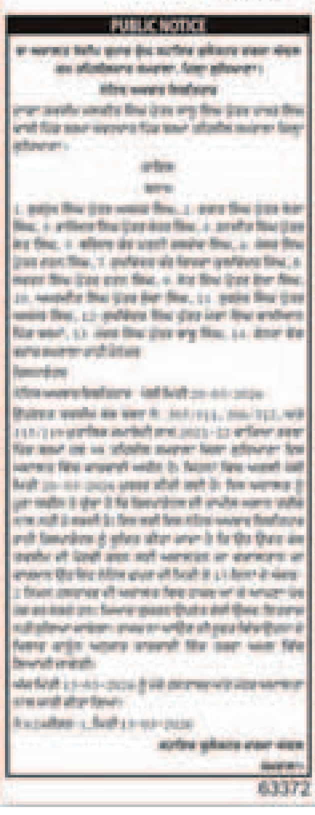
I, Kiranjit D/o Tarsem Lal R/o Vill-Mazara Kalan, Teh-Nawanshahr Distt S.B.S. Nagar-144515, Punjab have changed my name from Kiranjit to Kiranjit Kaur.
63372

I, Rajiv Kumar S/o Mithan Lal R/o #MCB-Z-3-05816, 45 Feet Road, Panchwati Nagar, Bathinda (Punjab) 151001, have changed my name to Rajeev Kumar.
63372

I, Rita W/o Rajeev Kumar R/o #MCB-Z-3-05816, 45 Feet Road, Panchwati Nagar, Bathinda (Punjab) 151001, have changed my name to Rita Goyal.
63372

I, Rita Goyel W/o Rajeev Kumar R/o #MCB-Z-3-05816, 45 Feet Road, Panchwati Nagar, Bathinda (Punjab) 151001, have changed my name to Rita Goyal.
63372

I Anmolpreet Singh S/o Baljit Singh R/o Vill-Mahijitpur Teh-Sultanpur Lodhi, Distt: Kapurthala have changed my name from Anmolpreet Singh to Anmol Dhariwal. all concerned may please note.
63372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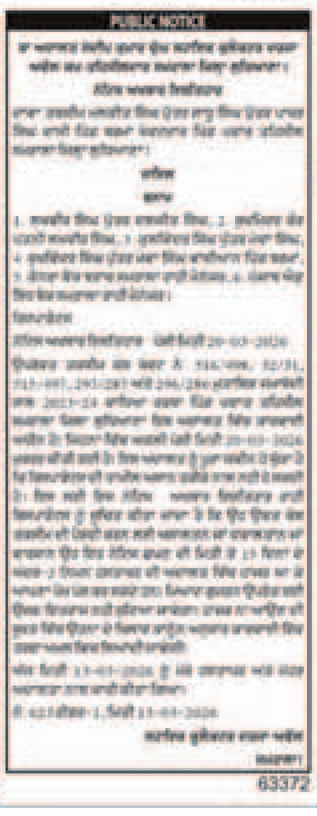

63372

I, Bhinder Singh S/o Sukhvir Singh R/o Gandhua Distt. Sangrur have changed my name from Bhinder Singh Gandhu to Bhinder Singh.
63372

I, Paramveer Singh Tiwana S/o Balwinder Singh R/o Vpo. Amargarh Teh-Nawanshahr Distt. SBS Nagar, Punjab, have changed my name from Paramveer Singh Tiwana to Paramveer Singh.
63372

I Gurcharan Singh Sangha S/O Banta Singh R/O Talwandi Mallian Tehsil Dharamkot Distt. Moga I Changed My Name Gurcharan Singh Sangha To Gurcharan Singh.
63372

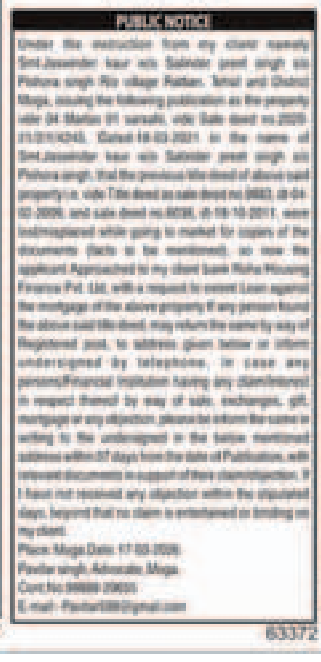
I Manjinder Kaur Sangha W/O Gurcharan Singh R/O Talwandi Mallian Tehsil Dharamkot Distt. Moga .I Changed My Name Manjinder Kaur Sangha To Manjinder Kaur.
63372

I, Ranjna Caleb W/o Caleb R/o H.No.1544 Mission Compound W.No.5 Kharar Po. T.C. Kharar Distt. SAS Nagar, Mohali have changed my name to Ranjana Caleb.
63372

I, Sangita Jain alias Sonia Jain W/O Manoj Kumar Jain R/O Mohalla Mahavir Nagar, Malerkotla, Distt. Malerkotla declared that both names are mine.
63372

I, Dayed Asha Rani W/o Tarsem Lal R/o House No. 490, Aman Nagar Zira, Tehsil Zira, District Ferozepr, have my name changed from Dayed Asha Rani to Asha Rani.
63372

I Amit Pal S/O Gurnam Chand R/O Village Atta, Post office Goraya, Tehsil Phillaur District Jalandhar-144409 Punjab (India) have changed my name and shall hereafter be known Amit Pal and surname as Pal and Name as Amit.
63372


63372

I Kirpal Kaur alies Kirpaul Kaur W/o Balvir Singh R/o Amargarh Tehsil & Distt. Malerkotla declare that Kirpal Kaur & Kirpaul Kaur Both Person are same. I should be known by both names.
63372

I Ramani M M/o Rebin B R/o AFS Halwara (Ludhiana) have changed my name from Ramani M to Remani M vide E-Stamp No. IN-PB29136169011195Y dated 11-Mar-2026 before Raikot.
63372

I, Tilak Raj S/o Lahori Ram R/o Teh-Phillaur Po. Mehsumpur Distt. Jalandhar have changed my minor daughter name from Simran to Simran Kaur.
63372

I Manprit Singh S/O Harbhjan Singh R/O Kohala Teh Zira, Distt Ferozepur Have Changed My Name Manprit Singh To Manpreet Singh. Please Concerned Note.
63372

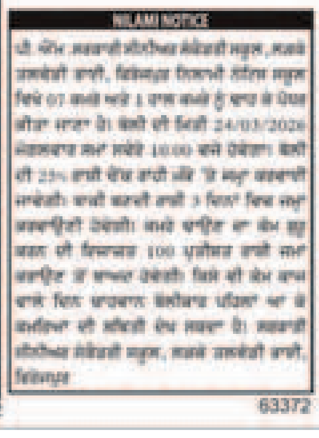
I, Gurmeet Singh Maan S/o Jeon Singh R/o Vpo. Sudh Singh Wala Distt. Ferozepur have changed my name to Gurmeet Singh.
63372

I, Baljeet Kaur Maan W/o Gurmeet Singh R/o Vpo. Sudh Singh Wala Distt. Ferozepur have changed my name to Baljeet Singh.
63372

I, Jaspreet Kaur W/o Jagveer Singh R/o Vill: Mehtabpur Po. Gogon Teh-Garhshankar Distt. Hoshiarpur have changed my name from Jaspreet Kaur to Kaur Jaspreet.
63372

I, Rajan Bains S/o Balwinder Ram R/o Vpo. Paddi Sura Singh Teh-Garhshankar Distt. Hoshiarpur have changed my name from Rajan Bains to Bains Rajan.
63372

I, Sukhninder Kaur Mangat D/O Jasvir Singh R/O Vill Harnampura Po Natt Distt Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Sukhninder Kaur.
63372


63372

I, Amarjit Singh Binepal S/O Mehar Singh R/O Samrala (Ludhiana) Changed My Name Amarjit Singh.
63372

I, Deepak Kumar Garg S/o Sh. Raj Kumar R/o Phase-3, Model Town, Bathinda Have Changed My Name To Deepak Kumar.
63372

I, Gurdabar Ram S/o Sankar Ram R/o Vill-Kaneja, Post Office, Basti Jodhewal, Ludhiana, Punjab 141007, have changed my name from Gurdabar Ram to Gardawar Lal.
63372

I, Ranjeet Singh S/o Sadhu Singh R/o Chhiniwal Kalan (Barnala) have changed my name to Ranjit Singh.
63372

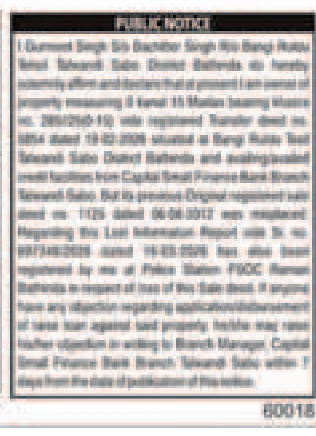
I Jagsir Singh alias Balvir Singh S/O Bikkar Singh R/O Vpo Bhucho Khurd (Bathinda) Declare That I Known As Both Names Jagsir Singh alias Balvir Singh. I Am Single Person In These Names In Village.
63372

I, Harkirat Kaur W/o Livtar Singh Matharoo R/o Cotton Mill, Railway Road Malerkotla Distt Malerkotla, have changed my name to Harkirat Kaur Matharoo.
63372

I Harpreet Kaur W/o Pawandeep Singh Dhaliwal R/o Patti Mattvan Vpo Lakha Tehsil Jagraon Distt Ludhiana have changed my name to Harpreet Kaur Dhaliwal (After Marriage)
63372

I, Jaswant Singh Brar S/o Darshan Singh R/o Chida, Dist. Moga Punjab 142049 having change my name Jaswant Singh S/o Darshan Singh. Concerned note please.
63372

I, Kuljit Kaur W/o Gurwinder Singh R/o Village Pringri Tehsil Patti District Tarn Taran have changed my name from Kuljit Kaur to Rajwinder Kaur.
63372


60018

I, Daljit Kaur W/o Harshanjeet Singh R/o Vpo Hassanpur, Jagraon (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Daljit and taken Kaur as a Surname.
63372

I, Iqbal Singh S/O Naranjan Singh, R/O Jhawan Hosiharpur, Punjab-144212, I Have Changed The Name Of My Minor Daughter Maerry Aged About 9 Years And He Shall Hereafter Be Known As Marry Jhawar.
63372

I, Janu S/O Ashok Kumar, R/O House No-292, Ward No-12, Near Radha Krishan Mandir, Kainthan, VTC: Dasuya, PO: Dasuya, Dist:Hoshiarpur, Punjab-144205, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Janu Thakur.
63372

I, Bhajan Bhardwaj W/O Malkit Singh, R/O VTC: Mand, PO: Mand Pandher, Sub Dist: Dasuya, Dist: Hoshiarpur, Punjab-144207. Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Sunita.
63372

I, Abhishek S/O Shamaon, R/O Vill- Chak Mehra, VTC: Jalota, PO: Jalota, Sub Dist: Dasuya, Dist: Hoshiarpur, Punjab- 144205, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Abhishek Sahota.
63372

I, Rattan Singh S/O Puran Singh R/O Vill Deep Nagar Po Doraha Tehsil Payal District Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Ratan Singh.
63372

I, Nidhi Rathor W/o Late: Jagdev Singh Rai R/o #2661 Block-C GMADA Aerocity Mohali have changed my minor daughter name from Seerat Kaur Rai to Shubhnoor Kaur.
63372

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MCM's Physics Fest 'EUREKA' inspires scientific temper

CHANDIGARH: Department of Physics at Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women, under the aegis of MCM Vigyan Manch, organised a Department of Science and Technology (DST)-sponsored fest- EUREKA. The fest provided a vibrant platform for young minds to explore scientific ideas and showcase their creativity through a series of engaging competitions.

Prof. Lokesh Kumar, Department of Physics, Panjab University, Chandigarh, graced the fest as the Chief Guest. He delivered an insightful and interactive lecture on 'Experimental Particle Physics'. His talk traversed fundamental concepts to advanced applications, highlighting significant contributions of particle physics to society, including hadron therapy, medical imaging, the invention of the World Wide Web, and touchscreen technology. Dr. Deepak Garg, DAV College, Chandigarh, served as a judge for the Innovative Physics Model competition.

NEWS BRIEF

Coaching institute A.K. Vidya Mandir found guilty in Rs 1.5 lakh cheque bounce case; Director Anup Sharma sentenced to 6 Months

CHANDIGARH: In a cheque bounce case, a Chandigarh court has found the coaching institute A.K. Vidya Mandir Private Limited and its director Anup Sharma guilty and has sentenced them. The case pertains to a payment of Rs 1.5 lakh due for advertising services.
According to the case details, A.K. Vidya Mandir Private Limited had approached Rajesh Monga, proprietor of Monga Advertising, to publish advertisements in various newspapers. After the advertisements were published, the company issued two cheques of Rs 75,000 each as payment. However, both cheques bounced when presented to the bank. Based on the evidence and records presented in court, A.K. Vidya Mandir Private Limited and its director Anup Sharma were found guilty under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881. The court sentenced Anup Sharma to six months in prison.
Other company directors, Kailash Sharma and Anusuya Sharma, did not appear in court and had earlier been declared 'proclaimed persons'. The court stated that further action would be taken upon their arrest or surrender. Throughout the case, lawyer Rohit Ummat represented the complainant Rajesh Monga in court.
Additionally, Monga Advertising has filed other cheque bounce cases against them, the verdicts of which are still pending.

Questions raised over centre's silence on Punjab's financial issues: Ranjit Pal Singh

TILAK RAJ

MOHALI: Chairman of the Punjab Traders Commission, Mohali, Ranjit Pal Singh, stated that several important financial issues related to Punjab remain unresolved, creating concern among the people of the state. He said there has been no clarity from the central government regarding around ?1600 crore in token money and nearly ?8300 crore in pending RDF and MDF dues that are yet to be released to Punjab.

He further explained that after the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), Punjab has reportedly suffered a financial loss of nearly ?60,000 crore. Despite this significant impact, no concrete steps have been taken by the Centre to compensate the state for the losses.Ranjit Pal Singh added that the people of Punjab were expecting decisive action from the central government on these issues, but the continued silence has raised serious questions. He emphasized that the people of Punjab are fully aware of their rights and voices are being raised at every level to safeguard the interests of the state. He also said that the land of Punjab has always stood for unity and brotherhood, and there is no place for politics of hatred in the state.

Major relief for Malout as underbridge dedicated to Public : Dr. Baljit Kaur

CHANDIGARH / MALOUT, MARCH 17:

Cabinet Minister Dr. Baljit Kaur today inaugurated and dedicated to the public an underbridge constructed at Malout at a cost of approximately Rs 12 crore. The project is part of the Punjab Government's continuous efforts to strengthen core infrastructure across the state.

Addressing the gathering, the Cabinet Minister described the underbridge as a significant gift to the residents of Malout, stating that it will streamline traffic movement and substantially reduce the daily hardships faced by commuters. She added that the project will help ease traffic congestion and contribute to a reduction in road accidents.

Highlighting its broader impact, she said that the underbridge is not merely an infrastructure project but a realization of long-cherished aspirations of the people of Malout. For years, railway crossings had disrupted daily life, causing delays for students and hindrances to emergency services. With this development, such challenges will now become a thing of the past, bringing greater ease to everyday life and giving a fresh impetus to regional growth. Congratulating the residents, Dr. Baljit Kaur said that the long-pending demand for the underbridge has finally been fulfilled. She noted that a city which remained divided for decades will now witness improved connectivity, as the underbridge seamlessly links its two parts, opening new avenues for urban development.

Around 37,000 elderly citizens registered at state-level health check-up camps

CHANDIGARH: Under the leadership of Chief Minister S. Bhagwant Singh Mann, the Punjab Government has registered around 37,000 elderly citizens during state-level health check-up camps organized under the "Sade Buzurg Sada Maan" initiative.

This was stated by Social Security, Women and Child Development Minister Dr. Baljit Kaur. Sharing further details, the Minister said that the Punjab Government considers its elderly citizens as a valuable asset, and their safety and dignity remain a top priority.

AAP takes control of Kharar Panchayat Samiti election

SHASHI PAL JAIN
KHARAR, MARCH 17

Today, the election of Block Samiti Kharar was held under the supervision of SDM Kharar cum Election Officer Gurmeet Singh. On this occasion, MLA of Kharar constituency Anmol Gagan Mann also reached to cast her vote. Aam Aadmi Party's Raghbir Singh Modi, Jagjit Singh, Sukhwinder Kaur, Baljit Singh, Jaspal Kaur, Paramjit Singh and Nirpal Singh Mander from Machhipur zone were present in the election today.

After the election, MLA Anmol Gagan Mann informed the reporters that due to their 8 out of 15 votes in today's election, Raghbir Singh Modi has been made Chairman and Nirpal Singh Mander has been made Vice Chairman, while the Akali Dal members were absent.

On this occasion, she congratulated the winning candidates and said that their candidates have won 80% of the seats in Kharar constituency. Today he has become the chairman of his party and in the coming time he will also get the work of the members of the other party done without any discrimination. On this occasion, Gur Partap Singh Padiala and Jiti Padiala alleged that today a Congress member and an independent member were made to sit in a separate room and kept away from voting which is sheer bullying.

No LPG shortage; citizens urged to avoid panic buying

NEERAJ SHARMA
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 17

With the ongoing geopolitical developments, energy supplies to India have been affected, thereby impacting the supply of petroleum products with-in the country. Resultantly, there have been some constraints in LPG availability.It is clarified that there is no shortage of supply in the domestic sector, though the consumption has increased slightly, which may attributed to sporadic incidents of panic buying.

However, the Oil Marketing Companies have informed the Administration that they are maintaining sufficient stocks to address the daily requirements.As far as the supply of commercial cylinders of LPG are concerned, the Govt of India has limited the supply to 20% of the average monthly sales. Towards this end, States/UTs have been advised to ensure that the essential services are not disrupted. UT Chandigarh is ensuring that the services in the Hospitals and Educational Institutes, along with shelter homes for the vulnerable are maintained. In order to ensure that there is no diversion of domestic LPG for other purposes and that double stocking and overcharging of rates do not take place, Area Inspectors of the Food and Supplies Department and OMC's have been directed to maintain constant vigil in their respective jurisdictions.

The Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 and The Essential commodities Act, 1955 may be invoked if the need so arises to prevent any hoarding or black marketing of LPG cylinders.

Use of alternate fuel sources is being promoted and the Government is especially encouraging consumers to shift to PNG as it is generally more economical, safe and efficient than LPG. A number of commercial entities are already consumers of PNG. Further, it may be noted that PNG supply is currently available in Sectors 10, 11, 17, 22, 26 to 28, 30, 32 to 38, 40 to 44, and 46 to 51.

Students of Shivalik Kids School, Jaito win gold medals in SilverZone Olympiad

RAGHU NANDAN PRASHAR
JAITO, MARCH 17

Students of Shivalik Kids School, Jaito have brought laurels to the institution by securing Gold Medals and Certificates in the prestigious SilverZone Olympiad in Hindi and Science.

In Class 4th, Mohik Mittal, Meenakshi Sharma and Naitik Sharma achieved outstanding success. From Class 6th, Liza, Muskan and Hardeep secured top positions. Sukhreet Kaur and Vanshika of Class 7th also performed remarkably well.

In Class 8th, Sariza, Yashika, Kashishpreet, Shivanjali and Deepinder earned accolades for their excellent performance.Principal Mrs. Sukhwinder Kaur congratulated the students for their hard work and encouraged them to continue striving for excellence.

The school management, including Mr. Gaurav Garg, Mrs. Deepi Garg and Sardar Gurmail Singh, appreciated the efforts of both students and teachers.The achievement reflects the academic excellence and dedication upheld by the school.

Arora distributes tricycle to the needy disabled persons

SUMER GARG
LONGOWAL, MAR 17

Punjab Cabinet Minister, Aman Arora inaugurated the Longowal Minor and Mander Kaln Sub Miner constructed at a cost of Rs. 6.55 Cr. On this occasion, he also distributed tricycles to needy and disabled persons under social welfare.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that the Punjab government led by Chief Minister, Bhagwant Singh Mann is paying special attention to modernizing the irrigation system to strengthen agriculture in the state. He said that with the repair and construction of canals and minors, the farmers will get water facility to the fields on time, which will increase their crop production.

He further said that with the commissioning of Longowal Minor and Mander Kalan Sub Miner, the agricultural land of many villages in the area will get water for irrigation and the farmers will get a big benefit. He said that the Punjab government is committed to the welfare of farmers and large-scale investment is being made for irrigation projects.

On this occasion, the minister handed over tricycles to the needy and disabled persons and said that the government is sensitive to the welfare of every section of the society.

Unclaimed cows will be kept by vacating the land of Gaucharand: Chairman Gau Sewa Commission

PATIALA (TAPINDER SINGH): The unclaimed cows should be kept by immediately vacating the land of Gaucharand and ensuring the maintenance of the unclaimed cattle there. This was expressed by the Chairman of Punjab Gau Sewa Commission, Mr. Prem Bhagat, during an important district level meeting today. He also said that toll free numbers will be issued soon for complaints and information regarding unclaimed cattle, so that the common people can directly contact the administration. Along with the presidents of the gaushalas, the district administration officials participated in this meeting. On this occasion, Mr. Tejinder Mehta (Chairman Planning Board and President Aam Aadmi Party), Mahant Ravikant Muni Ji Mr. Ravinder Singla, Advocate Devinder Rana, Mr. Sham Lal, Mr. Harish Malhotra, and Additional Deputy Commissioner Mr. Damanjit Singh Mann and Joint Commissioner Manreet Rana were also present. During the meeting, Mr. Prem Bhagat took a strict stand and said that not a single unclaimed or helpless cow should be seen on the roads of Punjab. He emphasized that the protection of cowshed is not only a religious but also a social and economic responsibility. Precious lives are lost in accidents due to unclaimed cows roaming on the roads, farmers' crops are damaged and traffic problems also increase.

Old market bridge in Ropar to be rebuilt at Rs 16.38 crore, says MLA Dinesh Chadha

ROPAR (DEVENDER SHARMA): In a major relief for residents of Ropar city, local MLA Dinesh Chadha has announced that the Punjab government has granted administrative approval of Rs 16.38 crore for the reconstruction of the old market bridge.

Sharing details, Chadha said the project has been included under the "Upgradation and Modernisation of Link Roads" scheme for the financial year 2026–27. He added that the proposal has also received in-principle clearance from the Finance Department, paving the way for its implementation.

The MLA said the existing bridge, being old and narrow, has been causing daily traffic congestion and inconvenience, particularly for traders and commuters. He noted that the new bridge will be constructed strictly in accordance with technical standards, and work will only begin after approval of the design and estimates. Continuous monitoring and inspections by senior officials will be ensured to maintain quality. He expressed confidence that the reconstruction will significantly improve traffic flow in the city and provide relief from frequent jams. The new infrastructure will also facilitate smoother movement of emergency services such as ambulances.

CGC University, Mohali introduces MBA Plus leadership programme with real-time industry mentors

MOHALI (TILAK RAJ): CGC University, Mohali unveiled MBA Plus, an Industry-Integrated, Mentor-Driven Leadership Programme designed to bring sustained corporate mentorship and enterprise engagement into the heart of postgraduate management education. The programme was launched at Pride Plaza Hotel, Aerocity in the presence of senior industry leaders who will now mentor students as part of the programme's structured leadership framework.

The unveiling ceremony was led by Hon'ble Founder Chancellor, and the Father of Education, Sardar Rashpal Singh Dhaliwal ji, alongside Worthy MD, Mr. Arsh Dhaliwal ji, Respected EVP, Dr. Sushil Prashar ji, and Respected CEO of HR Success Talk, Mr. Govind Negi ji, whose organisation serves as the industry collaboration partner for the initiative. The gathering marked the beginning of a mentor-led academic framework that seeks to bring boardroom insight, enterprise challenges, and leadership thinking directly into the MBA learning journey.

Army expresses gratitude; tree plantation marks successful recruitment rally at Gurdaspur

GURDASPUR (VERMA): The successful conduct of the Indian Army Recruitment Rally at Government College, Gurdaspur has emerged as a remarkable example of seamless civil–military coordination and strong community participation. The event not only showcased efficient organization but also reflected the spirit of collective responsibility and national service.

Director Recruitment Board, Col. James Jacob, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Principal and the entire administrative staff of Government College, Gurdaspur for their invaluable support. Despite the ongoing peak examination period, the college authorities generously made the campus available and extended full cooperation, thereby facilitating the smooth conduct of the rally and inspiring thousands of young aspirants.

Special appreciation was also extended to District Career Counsellor, Mr. Parminder Singh Saini, whose dedicated efforts ensured proper accommodation and voluntary meal arrangements for nearly 1,000 candidates. His commitment significantly enhanced the morale and welfare of the participants.

Metaphysics beyond ideology: Special lecture at CDOE explores depths of Punjabi thought

MOHALI (TILAK RAJ): The Department of Punjabi at the Centre for Distance and Online Education, Panjab University, Chandigarh, organized a compelling special lecture on "Punjab and Metaphysics", delivered by noted historian Dr. Ishwar Dayal Gaur, former Professor at the Department of Evening Studies, PanjabUniversity, Chandigarh. Focusing on medieval Punjabi literature, Dr. Gaur offered a sharp critique of prevailing academic approaches shaped by sociological and anthropological frameworks.

He argued that such ideologies often create only an illusion of engaging with existential concerns, whereas metaphysics directly confronts the fundamental questions of human existence—inner pain, separation, and lived mental experience. Drawing a contrast with Western thinkers like Karl Marx, Jacques Derrida, Jean-Paul Sartre, and Claude Lévi-Strauss, he observed that while they remained rooted in their linguistic and intellectual traditions, contemporary Indian scholarship risks alienation from its own classical inheritances, particularly Sanskrit and Persian. Dr. Gaur asserted that literature devoid of engagement with existential inquiry ceases to be true literature. Questioning sectarian classifications in literary history, he emphasized the universal nature of art as a force that transcends boundaries and nurtures inner freedom. He further noted that while human beings remain bound by the fear of time and space, metaphysics challenges this very dominance. Yogis and Darvesh, Prof. Gaur, remarked, embody this transcendence. Highlighting the limitations of ideological frameworks such as feminism, Dalit discourses, and class struggle, he argued that medieval Punjabi literature moves beyond such constraints. He substantiated his reflections through references to figures like Gautama Buddha, Krishna, the Sikh Gurus, saints, Sufis, and other medieval poets.

C.L. Aggarwal DAV Model School-7 holds Nursery Graduation ceremony

CHANDIGARH: C.L. Aggarwal DAV Model School, Sector 7-B, organized its Nursery Graduation Ceremony with great enthusiasm and dignity. The event was graced by Councillor Maheshinder Sidhu as the Chief Guest, while Ravinder Talwar, Secretary of DAV College Managing Committee, New Delhi, presided over the function.

During the ceremony, the young students, dressed in traditional graduation attire, captivated the audience with colorful cultural performances. Parents and guests appreciated the confidence and talent displayed by the children. School Principal Jyotika Ahuja extended her best wishes to the students and wished them a bright future. She also appreciated the support and dedication of the teachers and parents. On this occasion, several distinguished guests, including Mantosh Pal Singh, Dr. Vinod Kumar Sharma, Jaskiran Harika, Dr. Rosie Sharma, Anuja Sharma, and Maninder Bohra, were present.Graduation certificates were distributed to the students during the ceremony. The moment turned out to be proud and memorable for students, parents, and teachers alike.

International Women's Day celebrated at Sri Guru Granth Sahib World University

FATEHGARH (AJAY MALHOTRA): The University School of Law, Sri Guru Granth Sahib World University, Fatehgarh Sahib celebrated International Women's Day with great enthusiasm, reaffirming its commitment to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. The event aimed to highlight the achievements of women and to raise awareness about safeguarding their rights in society.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Navneet Kaur, Convener. This was followed by an insightful keynote address by Prof. (Dr.) Jaspreet Kaur Majithia, Dean, Faculty of Law, Amity University, Mohali. She deliberated on the theme of women's empowerment and legal awareness, emphasising the importance of legal literacy among women and encouraging students to contribute towards building a society rooted in equality, justice, and respect. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members, who shared inspiring perspectives on the role of women across various spheres of life. The programme served as a meaningful platform to sensitize young minds to the significance of gender equality and women's empowerment. The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. (Dr.) Prit Pal Singh, appreciated the department for organising such a meaningful initiative. Prof. (Dr.) Amita Kaushal, Head and Dean, highlighted that the objective of the lecture was to recognise the contributions of women across all fields—from science .

Blood donation camp in memory of Sant Baba Kundan Singh and Baba Bhajan Singh

LUDHIANA (SARBJIT SUFI): Dedicated to the sweet memory of Sant Baba Kundan Singh Ji and Sant Baba Bhajan Singh (Vade) Nanaksar Kalera Wale, the 876th great blood donation camp was organized by Bhai Ghanaiya Ji Mission Sewa Society (Regd) Chief Sewadar Jathedar Taranjit Singh Nimana under the supervision of Kaur Committee Member Sikh Preacher Bhai Harpal Singh Makhu at Gurdwara Nanaksar Thath Baba Kundan Singh Ji Dham Harike Patan Jal Phrawan Asthan. On this occasion, while inaugurating the great blood donation camp, the great singer of the Sikh Panth Bhai Guriqbal Singh Ji said that with charity like blood donation, sorrows are destroyed and happiness enters.

Those who save lives by donating blood for patients are great donors. On this occasion, Bhai Guriqbal Singh encouraged the blood donors including Sikh preacher Bhai Harpal Singh Makhu, Gursewak Singh Chairman and honored them by presenting them with certificates of appreciation. On this occasion, Jathedar Taranjit Singh Nimana, Chief Sewadar Bhai Ghaniya Ji Mission Sewa Society (Regd) said that the blood collected during the blood donation camp will be given to the needy patients free of cost.

Awareness workshop held at Rayat Bahra University under 'War Against Drugs' campaign

HOSHIARPUR (DALJIT AJNOHA): Under Punjab government's "War Against Drugs" '(yudh Nasian Virudh) campaign, an awareness workshop was organised at Rayat Bahra Professional University, Hoshiarpur, on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Hoshiarpur Ms. Ashika Jain (IAS) by the District Drug De-addiction and Rehabilitation Society, Hoshiarpur.

The programme was led by Deputy Medical Commissioner Dr. Swati Shemar and coordinated by Dr. Sukhmeet Kaur Bedi. Chabbewal MLA Dr. Ishank Kumar Chabbewal attended as the chief guest, along with Dr. Jasleen Kaur, Medical Officer In-Charge of the District Drug De-addiction Rehabilitation Centre, Nisha Rani, Manager, Prashant Adiya etc.

NEWS BRIEF

Body donation post-death best way to advance medical science: Sanjeev Arora

DALJEET AJNOHA
HOSHIARPUR: Under the leadership of Rotary Eye Bank and Corneal Transplantation Society president J.B. Bahal and chairman and prominent social worker Sanjeev Arora, awareness camps on eye and body donation are regularly organised. Inspired by these camps, Basakha Singh and Gurbaksh Kaur from village Beinch Baja, and Onkar Singh from village Sikri, filled out pledges to donate their bodies.On this occasion, chairman Sanjeev Arora provided detailed information on body and eye donation, stating that creating awareness about eye and body donation is the best way to eliminate corneal blindness, restore sight to the afflicted, and advance medical science. "Where many people regain their vision, it also aids medical students in their studies," he added. Arora noted that these individuals have set an exemplary precedent by signing the pledges, which will forever inspire those eager to serve society.

HQ IDS organizes second Niche Technology Nexus seminar on 'Cognitive Spectrum operations and Quantum Technologies'

VERMA
GURDASPUR: The Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) conducted the Second Niche Technology Nexus (NTN) Seminar on March 16, 2026, in New Delhi. Focused on the theme 'Cognitive Spectrum Operations and Quantum Technologies,' the seminar brought together experts from the Defence Forces, academia, industry, start-ups, and research organizations to deliberate on technological advancements and innovative solutions in the areas of Cognitive Spectrum Management and Quantum Technologies. Addressing the participants, the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC), Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit emphasised on increasing importance of efficient spectrum utilisation, adaptive communication networks, and emerging quantum capabilities in modern warfare.

BJP Mahila Morcha spokesperson Santosh Kumari joins SAD

AMRISH ANAND
DORAHA: In a significant political development, Santosh Kumari (Nitu Singh) also known as Nitu Singh, has resigned from her post as spokesperson of the BJP Mahila Morcha Punjab and joined the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD).She was inducted into the party under the leadership of SAD president S. Sukhbir Singh Badal, in the presence of senior Akali leader S. Kamal Chatli. Party leaders extended a warm welcome to her on the occasion.Speaking after joining, Santosh Kumari said she was impressed by the policies and ideology of the Shiromani Akali Dal and expressed her commitment to strengthening the party. She added that she would work actively, especially to expand the party's reach among women.
Welcoming her into the party, Sukhbir Singh Badal said her inclusion would further strengthen the organisation. Kamal Chatli also stated that her joining would prove beneficial for the party's growth.Her induction is being seen as an important step for the Shiromani Akali Dal as it continues efforts to expand and strengthen its base in Punjab.

Opposition have no issue left to face people in elections: CM Mann

SUMER GARG
DHURI, MARCH 17

Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann on Tuesday said India would have looked very different had Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh been the country's first Prime Minister, questioning why, even after decades of independence, the nation remains trapped in an outdated system for which revolutionaries like Bhagat Singh and Kartar Singh Sarabha laid down their lives.

He asserted that it is "writing on the wall" that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will return to power in Punjab in 2027, as fulfilling all guarantees within four years has left the Opposition without any issue to face the people. The Chief Minister asserted while the Opposition remains busy fighting for power after having "looted Punjab turn by turn", his government is committed to securing the rights of people, adding that Punjab has not forgotten the sacrifice of 750 farmers who lost their lives during the agitation against the Centre's three farm laws.Addressing a gathering after dedicating the newly constructed Sub Divisional Hospital, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "It is a writing on the wall that owing to several people-friendly decisions, the AAP will again form the government in the state," said CM Bhagwant Singh Mann. He added, "People of Punjab are eagerly ready to constitute the AAP government again after the ensuing Vidhan Sabha polls in 2027. After assuming charge in 2022 from the native village of Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh, our government took several people-friendly decisions. We have already fulfilled all our promises in four years and in the coming one year we will take the state to a new zenith."Emphasising a shift in governance, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "We have started a new tradition in politics by completing all promises in four years, whereas parties are not able to do so in five years.

From day one, our government is cleaning the mess made by the previous regimes and we are not hesitant to take bold decisions for the welfare of the common man." He added, "Now again the Congress and Badals are seeking another chance to plunder the state whereas the state has already suffered a lot in their hands." Highlighting public sentiment, he said, "The wise people of the state will never give them another chance and they will be sent to political oblivion after the polls." CM Bhagwant Singh Mann added, "Those leaders who had patronized the drug trade were put behind bars. These leaders not only patronized drug trade across the state but even sold and supplied drugs in their official government vehicles. Previously no one had ever dared to arrest these affluent leaders, but our government has done so and now they are paying the price for their sins."Calling out collusion, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "An unholy nexus prevailed between these political parties as they were hand in glove with each other to loot the wealth of the state. When in power, these parties used to save each other by turning a blind eye towards their misdeeds.

By appointing Tarn Taran in-charge, Sukhbir Badal has exposed his 'Gangster Model' for Punjab: Dhaliwal

GAURAV GOEL
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 17

Aam Aadmi Party Punjab's Chief Spokesperson and MLA Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal criticised Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) President Sukhbir Singh Badal over the appointment of Kanchanpreet Kaur as Tarn Taran constituency in-charge, stating that this move has exposed the kind of political model Sukhbir Singh Badal intends to present in Punjab ahead of 2027.

Addressing a press conference at the party office on Tuesday, AAP Punjab Chief Spokesperson Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal said, "By appointing Kanchanpreet Kaur as the constituency in-charge from Tarn Taran, Sukhbir Singh Badal has made it clear what kind of model he intends to bring to Punjab in 2027. Just as the BJP talks about the Gujarat model or the Haryana government speaks of the Haryana model, Sukhbir Singh Badal is now presenting his own 'Sukhbir Model' in Punjab, which only promotes people with criminal backgrounds." The AAP Punjab Chief Spokesperson further stated, "If Sukhbir Singh Badal wants to present his 'Gangster Model', then he should immediately announce candidates in all 117 constituencies so that people can understand his true mindset. He should also declare tickets for people like Jagdish Bhola from Abohar. Why is he delaying announcing names like Algo from Dera Baba Nanak?" Taking his remarks further, Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal said, "If the Akali Dal intends to rub salt into Punjab's wounds, then Sukhbir Singh Badal should also announce candidates like Sumedh Saini and Umranangal, controversial officers accused in firing on unarmed Sikhs in Bargari, Behbal Kalan.

Police conduct large-scale search operation across district

RAGHU NANDAN PRASHAR
JAITO, MARCH 17

Under the leadership of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, the Punjab government has launched a campaign titled 'War Against Drugs' with the aim of eradicating narcotics from the state.

As part of this initiative, drug traffickers and locations associated with drug sales are being identified across the entire state of Punjab. In furtherance of this effort, the Faridkot Police—under the leadership of SSP Faridkot, Dr. Pragya Jain—conducted a large-scale 'Cordon and Search Operation' (CASO) throughout the district. This search operation was carried out in identified drug hotspots and sensitive areas, with the primary objective of disrupting the supply of drugs at the 'point of sale' level. The operation was executed simultaneously across all three sub-divisions of the district, acting upon the directives of the Director General of Police (DGP), Punjab, Gaurav Yadav. Within Faridkot, the search operation was conducted under the supervision of Manvinderbir Singh, SP (Local), and Jogeshwar Singh Goraya, SP (Investigation). During the operation, officers of the DSP rank were instructed to personally supervise the proceedings within their respective sub-divisions. As part of this search operation, special teams comprising over 100 police personnel were formed to conduct sudden raids on the suspected hideouts of various drug traffickers.

Providing details regarding this initiative, SSP Faridkot, Dr. Pragya Jain, stated that in accordance with the directives of the Honorable DGP Punjab, Shri Gaurav Yadav, rigorous and continuous action is being taken to eradicate the drug menace from its roots; the search operation conducted by the Faridkot Police is an integral part of these ongoing efforts.

Under 'Mission Umeed', Gurdaspur's Kanchan selected in PSPCL; honoured by Assistant Commissioner Kuldeep Chand

VERMA
GURDASPUR, MARCH 17

A moment of pride and encouragement was witnessed under the ambitious initiative 'Mission Umeed', as Kanchan, a resident of Bajwa Colony, Gurdaspur, successfully secured selection in the PSPCL (Powercom Department) after receiving free coaching under the program. Sharing the information, Kuldeep Chand, Assistant Commissioner (G), Gurdaspur, stated that under the visionary guidance of Deputy Commissioner Gurdaspur, Shri Aditya Uppal, the district administration has been providing free coaching to aspiring youth preparing for UPSC, PCS and other competitive examinations. The initiative is being implemented in collaboration with Samarpan Society and Chetan Bharat Learning Institute, Chandigarh, with the aim of empowering talented students from the district. He further informed that Kanchan had been attending free coaching classes under Mission Umeed, which played a significant role in helping her achieve success in the recruitment process of PSPCL.On this proud occasion, Assistant Commissioner Kuldeep Chand along with Parminder Singh Saini, District Guidance Counselor-cum-Secretary of Samarpan Society, Gurdaspur, felicitated Kanchan for her remarkable achievement.

Central University of Punjab students win multiple honours at AIU National Youth Festival

ANANTDEEP KAUR
BATHINDA, MARCH 17

The students of the Central University of Punjab, Bathinda, delivered an outstanding performance at the 39th AIU National Youth Festival, held at Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai, bringing laurels to the university by securing several top positions in different cultural and literary events. The university contingent achieved one first position, four second positions, and one third position across various categories. The students won first position in Hindi Elocution. They also secured second positions in English Elocution, Group Song (Indian), Ghazal, and Skit, while third position was achieved in the Mime competition. Cultural Coordinator Dr. Rishpal Singh Virk informed that the students' performances received widespread appreciation during the festival. He noted that their dedication, talent, and teamwork played a crucial role in securing these honours on the national stage. The contingent was accompanied by Dr. Deepika Srivastava, Dr. Kulin Kumar Joshi, Dr. Adish Kumar Verma, Baldeep Singh, Rohit, and Sandeep Kumar, who guided and supported the students throughout the festival.

St. Xavier's School organises prize distribution ceremony for students

KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA
RAMPURA PHUL, MAR 17

A prize distribution ceremony was organized for the junior students at St. Xavier's School, Rampura Phul. It was presided over by Manager Father Andre Fernandes and Principal Father Eulalio Fernandes. Father Pashao Gonsalves and Father Mathayus attended as the chief guests. The performance of the students throughout the year was tested through various competitions. The young students who secured the first place in the competitions organized were honored with trophies, gold medals, silver medals and bronze medals. Father Pashaw encouraged the children through his inspiring speech and supported this unique effort of the school management. Principal Father Eulalio Fernandez, through his speech, praised the various competitions of the young students and the tireless work of the teachers. 43 students were awarded gold medals, 25 students were awarded silver medals and 25 students were awarded bronze medals. 9 students were awarded the best performer.

Centre's admission victory for farmers, reward state by releasing pending RDF: Khudian

SUMERGARG
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 17

Punjab Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister S. Gurmeet Singh Khudian has issued a sharp challenge to the Union Government, asserting that it is no longer enough to merely acknowledge Punjab's historic success in curbing stubble burning, the Centre must now do justice to the state by releasing its long-pending financial dues. Reacting to data tabled by Union Minister of State for Environment Sh. Kirti Vardhan Singh in the Lok Sabha confirming a collective reduction of over 90 per cent in fire incidences across Punjab and Haryana since 2022, S. Gurmeet Singh Khudian emphasised that the Centre Government has finally admitted the truth, it continues to unfairly withhold Rs 8800 crore in Rural Development Funds (RDF). He remarked that it is a profound irony that Punjab farmers are bleeding themselves in controlling paddy burning, while continuing to feed the nation as its "food bowl,", but the Union Government refuses to pay the state its rightful dues. Seizing upon the central government's admission, the Agriculture Minister Khudian asserted that the figures had effectively silenced the critics who consistently targeted Punjab farmers.

Pathfinder Global School announces results of annual examinations

KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA
RAMPURA PHUL, MAR 17

The results of the annual examinations of the students were announced at Pathfinder Global School Rampura Phul.

This day was very important and joyful for the students, teachers and parents of the school. On this occasion, information about the excellent performance of the students was shared in the presence of the school principal, school staff and parents. All the students and teachers looked very happy and excited after seeing the results of the year's hard work. The school management committee and the principal said that the results of the students have been very good. Most of the students performed excellently and secured high marks. The overall result of the school was very encouraging. Many students brought glory to the school and their parents by passing the examination with first class.

Behind this success of the students is the significant contribution of their dedication, hard work and the proper guidance of the teachers. The Principal said in his address that the purpose of the school is not only to provide education but also to provide all-round development of the students. Therefore, along with studies, equal importance is given to sports, cultural activities and moral education in the school.

He praised the hard work of all the teachers and said that these excellent results have been possible only due to the dedication and spirit of service of the teachers. On this occasion, the students who performed well were also honored.

The students who stood first, second and third were encouraged by giving certificates and prizes.

18 domestic gas cylinders seized from shops using them commercially

RAKESH JINDAL
NABHA, MARCH 17

After the strict action taken by the district administration, the Food and Civil Supplies Department checked the carts, hotels and shops. AFSO Pankaj Thakur said that he said that the black market of domestic gas has been completely banned so that the common people do not face any kind of trouble. In view of this, checks were carried out in hotels, restaurants and food shops, where domestic gas cylinders were being used commercially, they have been seized.

He appealed that to solve the problem of LPG, we all have to cooperate together, only commercial gas cylinders should be used in shops. He said that domestic gas cylinders should not be used in shops. Checking will be done again from time to time, if such a mistake is made by the shopkeepers, then strict action will be taken against them. He said that during today's checking, about 18 cylinders of domestic gas were recovered from the markets of Nabha, which were being used commercially, he said that so far 78 domestic cylinders have been seized. On this occasion, Ritu Bala Inspector, Jasdeep Singh Sidhu Inspector, Parameshwar Sidhu Inspector, Dhanwant Rai Inspector, Rajnish Duggal Inspector, Lalit Sharma Inspector etc. were present.

Women's cricket trials held at Aman Bhalla group of institutes

SHARANJEET
PATHANKOT, MARCH 17

The Cricket Association Pathankot successfully organised women's cricket selection trials for different age groups at the cricket ground of Aman Bhalla Group of Institutes, Kotli, Pathankot. More than 40 aspiring women cricketers from Pathankot and nearby areas participated enthusiastically in the trials.

The selection trials were conducted in the Under-15, Under-19 and Senior categories. The primary objective of the trials was to provide a platform for young and talented players to showcase their cricketing abilities and to select suitable players who would represent the district in upcoming competitions. On the occasion, Raman Bhalla, President of Aman Bhalla Group of Institutes, appreciated the initiative and said that encouraging women's participation in sports is extremely important.

He expressed pride that the institution is supporting such initiatives that inspire young girls to take up cricket and help them polish their sporting talent. Sunny Mahajan, Secretary of the Cricket Association Pathankot, and Head Coach Inderjit Singh informed that the trials were conducted in a professional manner to identify talented players across different categories. They added that the selected players will be given specialised training for upcoming district- and state-level tournaments.The Cricket Association also expressed gratitude to Aman Bhalla Group of Institutes for extending full support in successfully organising the trials.

Consumers distressed over delay in power bills distribution

SARDULGARH (KULWINDER KARWAL): Accumulated Bills for 3–4 Months Add to Financial Burden; Discontent Against Powercom Grows Consumers of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (Powercom) are facing significant inconvenience due to non-receipt of electricity bills for over three months. The delay has forced residents to frequently visit departmental offices to obtain information regarding their pending dues.

According to consumers, those with smart meters are receiving bills after a gap of nearly three months, while many users with conventional meters have not received any bills at all. The billing process for such meters, which depends on readings collected by meter readers, has reportedly been disrupted for a prolonged period, resulting in halted bill distribution.

Moreover, consumers who have received their bills are being issued consolidated bills covering three to four months. Residents say that while paying monthly bills is manageable, lump-sum payments for multiple months have become a substantial financial burden.

State govt withdraws 'Cabinet Rank' status to streamline administrative protocol

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA: A spokesperson of the State Government today here informed that the Government of Himachal Pradesh has decided to withdraw the status of 'Cabinet Rank' presently accorded to various authorities, including Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Deputy Chairman of Boards, Corporations and Commissions, as well as Principal Advisors and Political Advisors. The spokesperson said that the decision has been taken as part of efforts to streamline administrative protocol. He further informed that, in addition 20 percent of the salary and monthly emoluments of the concerned authorities will stay deferred till 30th September, 2026. The spokesperson added that necessary directions have been issued to all Administrative Secretaries to take prompt action in the matter.

NEWS BRIEF

HPV vaccination drive against Cervical Cancer from Mar 29: CMO Una

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA: Chief Medical Officer Una, Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Verma, informed that the Health and Family Welfare Department is launching an HPV vaccination campaign in the district to prevent cervical cancer. Under this campaign, HPV vaccination will be administered on March 29, April 5, and April 12 (Sundays) at 27 government health institutions across the district. He said that the Government of India is providing this vaccine to girls aged 14 to 15 years to protect them from cervical cancer. A single dose of the vaccine is capable of providing long-term immunity. The vaccine protects against the virus responsible for causing cervical cancer and is completely safe and effective. The CMO appealed to residents not to believe in any misconceptions regarding the vaccination.

No budget cut in Education and Health despite challenges: CM

Pushes for New-Age Courses, Language Programmes

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, MAR 17

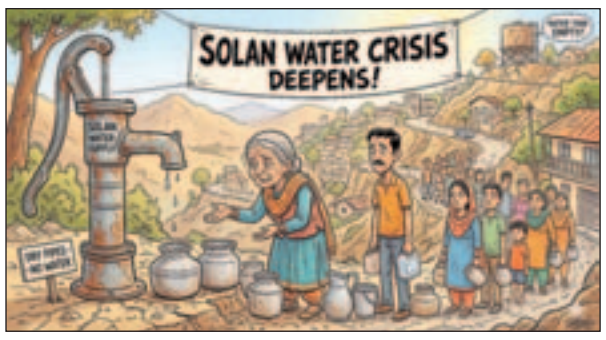
Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, while presiding over a one-day Principal's Conference on reforms in higher education here today, said that despite financial challenges, the budget for the education and health sectors would not be curtailed. He said that education was a top priority for the state government and that focused efforts were being made to provide quality education to students, even in far-flung areas. Sukhu said, "To boost self-confidence was of paramount importance so that students can effectively take on future challenges. In this direction the role of teachers and education is vital." He said that the state government has undertaken numerous initiatives to transform the education sector. He stressed on opening up of new specialized colleges such as Science, Commerce and Fine Arts Colleges. He said a Science College was being set up at Hamirpur spanning in 50 bighas and the state government has released Rs. 20 crore for this college. Additionally, Commerce and other specialized colleges would be set up across the state. The Chief Minister further said that efforts were being made to bridge existing gaps and introduce meaningful reforms in higher education. Recruitment processes were ongoing to fill 400 posts of Assistant Professors and 400 posts of Junior Assistant Professors. He also directed the introduction of

new-age courses and additional language programs in colleges to enhance employability for students. To ensure quality education, a college ranking system has been introduced on the lines of school rankings, he added.

Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said that the state government has restructured the Education Department by establishing the Directorate of School Education and the Directorate of Higher Education. The teachers in the state were efficient and well qualified and these reforms would enable them to perform better and deliver quality education to students. He further said that the impact of the introduction of CBSE schools has been visibly positive, as student enrollment in these institutions has increased significantly. He also said that the state government would provide all required teachers in these CBSE schools within the next two months. The Chief Minister said that the health sector is also a key priority of the State Government, and reforms are being undertaken in this area as well. He stated that, due to the Government's efforts, high-end MRI machines have been installed in medical colleges, and the response to robotic surgery has been encouraging. He stated that the Revenue Deficit Grant to the State has been discontinued and financial assistance amounting to Rs. 1,600 crore has been denied, which has been attributed to the implementation of the Old Pension Scheme for government employees. He asserted "OPS was not a politically motivated decision, but state government's commitment towards ensuring social security for employees in their old age." The Chief Minister also launched the Internal Ranking of Government Colleges. In the overall rankings, Government College Hamirpur secured the first position, followed by Government College Sanjauli in second place and Rajkiya Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Shimla in third.

Drinking water crisis deepens in Solan

AGENCY
SOLAN, MAR 17



The drinking water crisis in Solan and its surrounding areas has deepened after the recent breakdown of the Giri Lift Drinking Water Scheme, under which water is supplied to the city. Drinking water is being supplied in many parts of the city on fourth to fifth days. Furthermore, it is being claimed that the Giri drinking water scheme was also disrupted last week due to a power outage. Congress leaders claim that some officials are merely whiling their time in Solan and are not taking their responsibility towards the public seriously. They said that the Jal Shakti Department is providing drinking water to consumers at its own discretion, which is raising questions about the government's image. Jal Shakti Department officials give various answers for the problem, saying the silt level in the Giri and Ashwini rivers has risen, or there are voltage issues, or breakdowns in the rising main, or the motors have failed. The Jal Shakti Department has been operating in this manner for years, causing inconvenience to the public. The officials appear to be completely incapable of providing regular drinking water to the residents of Solan city. Furthermore, these officials seem to be completely disregarding the protests and demonstrations. Some officials claim that they have informed their superiors about the drinking water situation, and therefore, they are not accountable to the public, the ruling party, or the opposition leaders. The situation has reached such a point that in many areas of the city, including Saproon and Power House Road, where the Jal Shakti Department supplies drinking water, drinking water is being supplied after four to five days, and even that is not guaranteed. Local residents said that if the Jal Shakti Department officials do not take the problem seriously, they will gherao the officials.

Heavy snowfall in Keylong, widespread rain lashes state

AGENCY
SHIMLA, MARCH 17

A fresh western disturbance triggered widespread rain and snowfall across Himachal Pradesh, with Keylong recording 20 cm of snowfall, while several parts of the state received moderate to heavy rainfall, bringing a sharp dip in temperatures.

According to the Meteorological Centre Shimla data recorded at 0830 hrs, higher reaches of Lahaul-Spiti, Kinnaur and Chamba districts witnessed significant snowfall. Apart from Keylong, Jot recorded 12 cm of snowfall, Kukumseri 11.2 cm, Kalpa 8.8 cm, Hansa 7.5 cm, Manali 5 cm and Sangla 4.5 cm. The fresh snowfall has disrupted normal life in high-altitude areas and intensified cold wave

conditions. Roads in upper reaches turned slippery, though major routes remained open. A tourist vehicle skidded off the road near Dundhi Nalah in Kullu district. A driver car skidded on black ice near Solangh. Driver stop the vehicle jumping on it and turning stairing towards a wall.

In the mid and lower hills, widespread rainfall was recorded. Seobagh recorded the highest rainfall at 32.8 mm, followed by Sarahan 32.5 mm, Bhunter 30.4 mm and Jogindernagar 30 mm. Other stations reporting significant rainfall include Dharamshala 28.2 mm, Palampur 22.2 mm, Gohar 22 mm and Manali 21 mm.

Inmates gain self-confidence and path to employment

SANJAY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA: "Himkara," an initiative launched by the Himachal Pradesh government towards prison reform, marks the dawn of a new era in the state's correctional system. This initiative represents a successful endeavor to transform prisons from mere places of punishment into centers for reformation, skill development, and self-reliance. The core objective of Himkara is to provide inmates with opportunities for rehabilitation through work, equip them with vocational skills, and facilitate their dignified reintegration into the social mainstream following their release. Even at the prison in Dharamshala—named after the freedom fighter Lala Lajpat Rai—convicted inmates are currently engaged in various trades and tasks after receiving training under this scheme. Through Himkara, they have discovered a new path in life and have regained the self-confidence to prepare themselves for new employment opportunities, enabling them to lead a dignified life as responsible citizens once their sentences are served. Under Himkara, inmates receive vocational training within the prison premises, and the products they manufacture are marketed under the "Himkara" brand.

Grand welcome to Sant Niranjan Das Ji at Mubarakpur

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA: Sant Niranjan Das Ji, head of Sach Khand Ballan (Jalandhar, Punjab), was accorded a grand welcome at Mubarakpur while on his way to attend a Sant Sammelan at village Chowki in Kangra district. Officials and devotees from various Guru Ravidas Sabhas of the Gagret area gathered with great enthusiasm and devotion to receive him. The atmosphere turned highly devotional with slogans of "Guru Ravidas Shakti Amar Rahe" echoing in the air. Sant Niranjan Das Ji Maharaj is widely respected as a spiritual leader and social reformer. He has been actively working for the upliftment of society, especially in the fields of education and health, and continuously spreads the teachings of Guru Ravidas Ji Maharaj along with social service. On the occasion, Sant Lekhraj, Sant Varinder Das, Sant Vijay Kumar, and members of Guru Ravidas Sabhas from Nakroh, Sanghnai, Gondpur Banehra Upper, Amlehar, Dangoh Khas, Thara, Ladoli, and Gagret were present along with a large number of devotees.

Petition and Privileges Committees meet at HP Assembly Secretariat

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, MAR 17

Meetings of the Petition Committee and the Privileges Committee were held on Monday at the Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha Secretariat, chaired by Assembly Speaker and committee chairman Kuldeep Singh Pathania.

The Petition Committee meeting began at 12 noon in the main committee hall, with members Chandrashekhar, Reena Kashyap, Neeraj Nayar, Kamlesh Thakur and Anuradha Rana in attendance. The Speaker said that three petitions related to the Health and Family Welfare Department were presented before the committee, and oral evidence was taken from Secretary

(Health and Family Welfare) M Sudha Devi.

The committee decided to keep the petitions pending for one month and directed the department to take prompt action. Pathania said the committee has so far received 108 representations related to various departments, out of which 60 cases have been disposed of. Replies in 31 cases are still awaited, while responses in 12 cases have been received and will be presented in the next meeting. Providing department-wise details, he said the committee received 22 petitions related to the Education Department, 21 from the Revenue Department, one from Women and Child Development, two from Transport, three from the Pollution Control Board, six from Rural Banks, three from Jal Shakti Department, eight from Forest Department, 12 from Public Works Department and 25 under miscellaneous categories.

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Demand Notice Under Section 13(2) of Securitisation Act of 2002

As the loan account became NPA therefore the Authorized officer under section 13(2) of "The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002" had issued 60 days demand notice to the Borrowers/Co-borrowers/Mortgagers/Guarantors (collectively referred as "Borrowers") as given in the table. According to the notice if the borrowers do not deposit the entire amount within 60 days, the amount will be recovered from auction of the mortgage properties/secured assets as given below. Therefore you the borrowers are informed to deposit the entire loan amount along with future interest and expenses within 60 days from the date of demand notice, otherwise under the provisions of 13(4) and 14 of the said Act, the Authorized officer is free to take possession for sale of the mortgage properties/secured assets as given below.
Borrowers to note that after receipt of this notice, in terms of Section 13(13) of the Act, 2002, you are prohibited and restrained from transferring any of the secured assets by way of sale, lease or otherwise, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.
Borrowers attention are attracted towards Section 13(8) r/w Rule 3(5) of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Act that the borrowers shall be entitled to redeem their secured asset upon the payment of the complete outstanding dues as mentioned below before the publication of auction notice, which thereafter shall cease to exist.

Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantor / Loan A/c No.	Date and Amount of Demand Notice Under Sec. 13(2)	Description of Mortgaged Property
(Loan A/C No.) L9001060125735300, M/S Shane Punjab Dhaba Through Its Proprietor Naresh Kumar (Borrower), Naresh Kumar (Co-Borrower), Smt.Anita (Co-Borrower)	19-Jan-26 Rs. 14,57,309/- Rs. Fourteen Lakh Fifty-Seven Thousand Three Hundred Nine Only As On 17-Jan-26	Property Situated At - Khewat Kahtoni No 310/474, Kh No 753, 757, 763, 765, 775, 781, 788, Mohal Rakh, Hb No 23, Tehsil - Palampur, Distt - Kangra, Himachal Pradesh,176052 **Admeasuring 2152.78 Sqft.**
(Loan A/C No.) L9001060130592200, M/S Dini Herbal Products Through Its Proprietor Nirmal Singh(Borrower), Dyal Singh (Co-Borrower), Nirmal Singh (Co-Borrower)	19-Jan-26 Rs. 16,26,859/- Rs. Sixteen Lakh Twenty-Six Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-Nine Only As On 17-Jan-26	Property Situated At- Khata Number-75 Khatauni Number-103 Khasra Numbers-671 To679 712To 719 Kita15 Khata Number-76 Khatauni Number-104 Khasra Number-652, Hadbast Number386 Patwar Circle-Bhadoli-II, Mohal Jatehar, Distt-Kangra(T), Himachal Pradesh,176036 **Admeasuring 00-74-45 Hact**
(Loan A/C No.) L9001060838940750, M/S Vinod Fruit & Veg Co (Borrower), Vinod Kumar (Co-Borrower) , Smt.Anita Devi (Co-Borrower)	21-Jan-26 15,46,908/- Rs. Fifteen Lakh Forty-Six Thousand Nine Hundred Eight Only As On 19-Jan-26	Property Situated At - As Per Vro Reports Kh/Kh No 2/6 To 9 Total Plots 24, Revenue Village Pirag, Hadbast No 103, Tehsil- Rajgarh, Dist - Sirmaur, Himachal Pradesh, 173101 **Admeasuring 2016.45 Sq Yd**
(Loan A/C No.) L9001060141715494, Rakesh Kumar (Borrower), Smt.Veena Devi (Co-Borrower) , Raj Kumar (Co-Borrower)	22-Jan-26 Rs. 12,67,348/- Rs. Twelve Lakh Sixty-Seven Thousand Three Hundred Forty-Eight Only As On 19-Jan-26	Property Situated At - Hadbast No. 74 Khata / Khatoni No. 78/94 Khasra No. 2 At Mohal Khukniara, Himachal Pradesh **Admeasuring 118.4 Sqyd**

Date : 16/03/2026
Place : Himachal Pradesh
Authorised Officer
AU Small Finance Bank Limited

Senior citizen facility and interaction room inaugurated in Una

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA: A "Senior Citizen Facility and Interaction Room" was inaugurated at Kalyan Bhawan on Monday by senior citizens. The initiative aims to promote intergenerational bonding and strengthen relationships between different age groups. The room has been equipped with various facilities for senior citizens, including indoor games such as chess and carrom, along with books, storybooks and novels. The objective is to help them utilise their leisure time meaningfully while encouraging interaction and social engagement. More than 70 senior citizens participated in the programme with enthusiasm and shared their views through various activities. The initiative is expected to help strengthen understanding and connections between elderly citizens and younger generations. On the occasion, the District Welfare Officer addressed the gathering and encouraged senior citizens to make full use of the facility, emphasising the importance of dialogue and active participation. Participants appreciated the initiative and described it as a positive step towards enhancing the well-being and social involvement of senior citizens.

AHSB's innovator Aayaan Raj Swan recognised nationally for 'Robot Nurse' concept

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA: Seventeen-year-old Aayaan Raj Swan, a Class XII science student of Auckland House School for Boys and originally from Chandigarh, is emerging as a promising young innovator whose curiosity and creativity have already begun to attract national attention. His idea of a "Robot Nurse" recently earned him recognition under the prestigious INSPIRE Awards – MANAK, an initiative of the Department of Science and Technology that encourages school students to pursue scientific innovation. The project also received a grant of Rs. 10,000 to help him further develop his prototype, marking an important milestone in his early journey as a young technology enthusiast. Interestingly, the idea behind the Robot Nurse did not emerge from a laboratory or a research facility but from a simple moment of observation during his school's annual exhibition. When preparations for the exhibition were underway, Aayaan noticed that the computers department had very few project ideas to present. This prompted him to think of something different that could both showcase technological creativity and address a real-world challenge. Around the same time, he had been fascinated by automated service robots used in crowded restaurants in countries such as China and Japan, where machines assist staff in managing large numbers of customers. This observation sparked a thought: if robots could help in busy restaurants, why not use them to assist medical staff in hospitals where the pressure and workload are often far greater?

AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED (A Scheduled Commercial Bank)
Regd. Office: 19-A, Dhuleshwar Garden, Ajmer Road, Jaipur - 302001 (CIN:L36911RJ1996PLC011381)

APPENDIX IV [SEE RULE 8(I)] POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank)** under the "Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest [Act, 2002 (54 of 2002)] and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice on the date as mentioned below calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice as per the details given in below table: -

Name of Borrower/Co-Borrower/ Mortgagor/Guarantor/Loan A/c No.	13(2) Notice Date & Amount	Description of Mortgaged Property	Date of Possession Taken
(Loan A/C No.) L9001060130906046, Smt.Resha Devi (Co-Borrower & Legal Heir Of Late Shri Shammi Kumar- Co - Borrower), Smt.Sunila Kumari (Co-Borrower)	05-Sep-25 Rs. 5,46,889/- Rs. Five Lakh Forty-Six Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty-Nine Only As On 05-Sep-25	All That Part And Parcel Of Residential/Commercial Property Land / Building / Structure And Fixtures Property Situated At- Khata No-91, Khatouni No-209, Khasra No -1709/1280,1744/1718, Kitta 2, Hadbast No-63/29, Village- Kakkar, Mouza Bir Baghera, Tehsil- Barnson, Dist-Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh **Admeasuring 172 Sqmtr.** East: Saale Ram House, West: Suresh Kumar House, North: Own Land/ Kehar Singh Land, South: Common Cemented Path	12-Mar-26
(Loan A/C No.) L9001060142540324, Smt.Rajo Devi (Borrower), Smt.Byasan Devi (Co-Borrower), Desh Raj (Co-Borrower)	13-Nov-25 Rs. 8,50,732/- Rs. Eight Lakh Fifty Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty-Two Only As On 10-Nov-25	All That Part And Parcel Of Residential/Commercial Property Land / Building / Structure And Fixtures Property Situated At - Khata No 48 Khatouni No 107 Khasra No 87 90, Hadbast No 62/20, Touni Devi Mohal Kaloh Patwar Circle Utpur, Tah.- Basmon District- Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh **Admeasuring 514.25 Sqyd** East: Road , West: Common Path, North: Coustmer Vacant Plot , South: Coustmer Vacant Plot	12-Mar-26

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, therefore notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein above mentioned table in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said [Act 2002] read with Rule 8 of the said rule on the date mentioned in the above table. "The borrower's attention is Invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 (6), in respect of time available, i.e. 30 days from this intimation, to redeem the secured assets."
The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank)** for the amount and interest thereon mentioned in the above table.

Date : 16/03/2026
Place : Himachal Pradesh
sd/-
Authorised Officer AU Small Finance Bank Limited

INTUC expresses happiness over election of Karm Singh Bauddh to Rajya Sabha

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA: The Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) has expressed happiness over the election of Haryana leader Karm Singh Bauddh to the Rajya Sabha. This was stated by national INTUC secretary and state general secretary Comrade Jagat Ram Sharma in a press note. Sharma said Bauddh has received direct support and blessings from Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi. He described Bauddh as an experienced and honest leader with a strong connect among Dalits, farmers, labourers and employees, and said he has in-depth understanding of issues concerning marginalised sections of society. He added that Bauddh has actively contributed to the 'Save Constitution' campaign and possesses significant experience in public issues. Sharma said he had a detailed interaction with Bauddh for nearly three hours during a recent meeting held at Bachat Bhawan in Una. Sharma also criticised the BJP and RSS, alleging that their policies have led to rising inflation, corruption and unemployment in the country.

NEWS BRIEF

MLA Suresh Kumar inspects GPS Kanjyan, Rs. 51,000 donated to CM Relief Fund

ANIL KUMAR
HAMIRPUR: Local MLA Suresh Kumar inspected Government Primary School (GPS) Kanjyan under Bhoranj subdivision and reviewed the school's facilities and academic activities. During the visit, he interacted with teachers and discussed measures to further strengthen the quality of education. On the occasion, Viplav Thakur and Renu Thakur contributed Rs. 51,000 to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, presenting the cheque to the MLA. They said that stepping forward to help those in need during difficult times reflects the rich tradition of generosity in Devbhoomi and strengthens the spirit of social responsibility. Suresh Kumar expressed gratitude to the Thakur family for their commendable initiative and generosity, stating that such selfless contributions play a crucial role in supporting disaster-affected people and uplifting underprivileged sections of society.

Kotla Khurd culvert work yet to start, residents face daily trouble

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA: Work of Kotla Khurd Culvert has not yet begun despite tender of this Culvert was approved Seven months ago. About the approving oftender of this Culvert had told to this correspondent by Harsh Puri SE of Public Works Department Una. Thousands of vehicles crossed through this road everyday. The failure to commence work on this Culvert till date; it is the negligence of PWD department Una. People of Kotla Khurd are facing inconvenience everyday while crossing their vehicles through muddy temporary road of this Culvert. And concerned department has closed eyes over this situation.

Delhi HC orders takedown of defamatory content against Himayani Puri; grants interim injunction

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, MAR 17

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday directed the removal of allegedly defamatory content targeting Himayani Puri, daughter of Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, holding that a prima facie case is made out and that continued circulation would cause irreparable harm.Hearing the defamation suit, Justice Mini Pushkarna ordered Defendants No. 1-14 and 21, along with their agents and associates, to take down the specific URLs and content identified in Annexure A within 24 hours. The Court further directed that in the event of non-compliance, social media intermediaries (Defendants No. 15-18) shall block access to the impugned posts, videos, and links. The Court also permitted the plaintiff to notify intermediaries of any additional URLs hosting identical content, directing that such information be acted upon without delay.Clarifying the territorial scope, the Court held that the injunction will operate within India for content uploaded from IP addresses located in India. In respect of content uploaded from outside India, the defendants have been directed to ensure that access is blocked within India.While dictating the order, the Court restrained the defendants from publishing or circulating the impugned material on any platform.The Court observed that the balance of convenience lies in favour of the plaintiff and that failure to grant interim protection would result in irreparable injury to her reputation.During the hearing, Senior Advocate Mahesh Jethmalani, appearing for the plaintiff, submitted that she has been subjected to a "scurrilous" and coordinated online campaign imputing professional misconduct and moral turpitude. They argued that much of the content originated from within India, justifying strong interim relief. Senior Advocate Arvind Datar, appearing for Meta, opposed any direction for global takedown, submitting that intermediaries can act only pursuant to court orders or statutory notifications. He further pointed out that the issue of global blocking is presently under consideration before a Division Bench of the High Court. Counsel for certain journalists contended that statements not attributable to them were being wrongly imputed and cautioned that any sweeping restraint would have a chilling effect on journalistic freedom. The Court, however, observed that verification of such allegations falls within the remit of investigating agencies, not journalists. Himayani Puri has instituted the suit seeking damages of Rs. 10 crore, along with permanent and mandatory injunctions and an unconditional apology, alleging that a coordinated online campaign falsely linked her to convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Administration hands over possession of encroached land to its owner after court's order

NIRMAL SAINI
RADAUR, MAR 17

The administration has freed a man's land, approximately one canal and sixmarlas from encroachment by the Mukundlal Sansthan, a dominant educational institution in Radaur city. The landowner regained possession following a court order. The action was carried out using a JCB machine. The land has been occupied by a double-story building. Due to the organization's influence, the man had to fight a lengthy legal battle. He faced many ups and downs in his life, but he never gave up. To secure possession, the administration's law enforcement officer and patwari were present with government records. A heavy police force was deployed to prevent any untoward incident. Sajan Singla explained that his father, Vinod Singla, had filed the case approximately 13 years ago but he died during the case process. He then pursued the case himself. In 2011, the family had their land measured and discovered that approximately one canal and six maras of their land was under the control of the MLN School, on which the school had built a double-story building. They had to seek legal action to get the land back. A long-running court case ensued between them and Trust Chairman Seth Ashok Kumar. First, the lower court and then the Sessions Court ruled in their favor. After winning the case, officials were ordered to report to the court on February 19 last after taking possession of the land. He arrived at the site with family members and a JCB machine.

AIIMS Bilaspur sets new benchmark with 100+ advanced radiology procedures in 2.5 months

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY
BILASPUR, MAR 17

The Department of Radiology at AIIMS Bilaspur has marked a remarkable milestone by successfully performing over 100 advanced interventional radiology procedures within just two and a half months, showcasing a rapid leap in delivering cutting-edge healthcare services in Himachal Pradesh. AIIMS Registrar Dr Rakesh said in release that this achievement highlights the growing strength of minimally invasive, image-guided treatments that offer faster recovery, reduced hospital stays, and enhanced patient comfort. The department has carried out a wide spectrum of complex vascular and non-vascular interventions, including carotid artery stenting for stroke, peripheral arterial procedures, embolisation, interventional oncology treatments like TACE, biliary stenting, and limb-saving endovascular therapies. Advanced treatments for varicose veins such as EVLA and RFA are also being performed routinely. In a significant medical breakthrough, the team successfully utilized orbital atherectomy to treat a patient with severe arterial calcification in the superficial femoral and external iliac arteries—one of the first such procedures conducted in a government hospital in North India after AIIMS Rishikesh. Under the leadership of Dr. Narvir Chauhan and Executive Director Lt Gen Dr Daljit Singh, and with the expertise of Dr Resham Singh Thakur supported by Dr Lokesh Rana and Dr Varun Bansal, the department is rapidly emerging as a regional hub for advanced interventional radiology.

Akali Jatha Urban President Bhupinder Bhinda honors newly appointed Office Bearers

SARABJIT SUFI
LUDHIANA: During a program organized at his head office by Bhupinder Singh Bhinda, President of the Shiromani Akali Dal (Urban) wing, the party leadership honored several individuals for their new appointments. Amit Gosain was designated as the In-charge for the Central Assembly constituency; Kuldeep Singh Khalsa was appointed as the District President (Urban) of the SC Wing; Dr. Harinder Singh Birk and Teja Singh Khalsa were named National General Secretaries of the SC Wing; and Dr. Harpal Singh Kohli was inducted as a member of the Political Affairs Committee (PAC). Speaking on the occasion, while all the aforementioned office bearers expressed their gratitude to the entire party high command—including Party President Sukhbir Singh Badal—for entrusting them with these responsibilities, President Bhupinder Bhinda remarked that the Shiromani Akali Dal is a party that consistently accords due respect to all hardworking and capable leaders. He noted that, in alignment with the recognition bestowed upon these leaders by Party President Sukhbir Singh Badal, they were being further honored today by the Akali Jatha Urban wing.

Surprise inspections at Shahkot gas agencies; stock and records examined

MEHARJOT SINGH
SHAHKOT: In a decisive bid to ensure the uninterrupted supply of domestic LPG cylinders and crack down on potential black marketing, the Food and Civil Supplies Department conducted surprise inspections at prominent gas agencies across Shahkot. Acting on the strict directives of Jalandhar Deputy Commissioner Dr. Himanshu Aggarwal, the department has adopted a proactive stance to prevent any artificial scarcity in the region. A specialized team, spearheaded by District Food and Supplies Officer (DFSO) Amit Bhatti, carried out the raids to ensure that residents do not face any logistical bottlenecks in receiving their regular cylinder supplies. Accompanied by Food Supply Inspector Balkar Singh, the team conducted unannounced checks at two major distributors in the town: Takhar Gas Agency and Atwal Gas Agency. During the operation, officials meticulously scrutinized the administrative records and took stock of the current inventory to verify transparency in distribution.

Nita M. Ambani, Founder and Chairperson of Reliance Foundation, conferred prestigious KISS Humanitarian Award 2025

BUREAU
BHUBANESWAR, MAR 17

Nita M. Ambani, Founder and Chairperson of Reliance Foundation, was conferred the prestigious KISS Humanitarian Award 2025 at Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) campus here on Monday.

The award was presented by Nobel Laureate from Sri Lanka Prof. Mohan Munasinghe in the presence of the Founder of KIIT, KISS and KIMS Dr Achyuta Samanta. Senior functionaries of the institutions and a large number of students and dignitaries attended the function. The award recognised Smt Ambani's outstanding humanitarian initiatives and her significant contributions to social development through education, healthcare, rural transformation, women empowerment and sports promotion through the Reliance Foundation.

In her acceptance speech, Smt. Ambani said that Dr. Samanta has built two modern temples of education — KIIT and KISS. These two institutions are a matter of pride for our country. She said that she feels proud to receive the prestigious KISS Humanitarian Award and added that the honour is not hers alone, but belongs to the entire team of Reliance Foundation. Addressing the 40,000 students of KISS, she said, "I will never forget the love and affection you have given me here." She further said that it was truly a privilege for her to visit the two remarkable institutions, KIIT and KISS. She expressed that she was overwhelmed to come to the pious land of Lord Jagannath. She also added that Odisha has a rich culture, traditions and values, and that the people of Odisha share a deep and strong connection with nature.

39 students of Riarki Public School excel in science olympiad

VERMA
GURDASPUR, MAR 17

Tugalwala: Riarki Public School, Tugalwala (RPS), has once again demonstrated academic excellence by achieving outstanding results in the Science Olympiad Foundation examinations. The remarkable performance of its students has not only brought laurels to the institution but has also set a new benchmark for scholastic achievement in the region. To celebrate this proud accomplishment, the school organized a grand prize distribution ceremony in its auditorium, creating an atmosphere filled with pride, motivation, and inspiration.

A total of 39 students were felicitated with medals and certificates for their exceptional performance across various subjects, including Science, English, Commerce, and General Knowledge. In the Science category, students who showcased exemplary talent included Mansirat Kaur, Gursirat Kaur, Anureet Kaur (Class 5), Pihu Kaur Riar, Manmeet Kaur, Harmehrab Kaur (Class 7), Nishandeep Singh, Ayush Sharma, Manreet Kaur, Anahad Singh (Class 9), and Jasmeet Singh, Ashmeet Kaur, Jeevanpreet Kaur (Class 11). In General Knowledge, achievers included Gursirat Kaur, Navneet Kaur, Kanika Thakur (Class 7), Parampreet Singh, Komalpreet Kaur, Mannatmeet Kaur, Harsimran Kaur, Muskanpreet Kaur, Pawanjot Kaur, Preneet Kaur, Ravneet Kaur, Gurpartap Singh (Class 8), along with Mehakpreet Kaur, Amandeep Kaur, Gurashish Kaur, and Jasmine Kaur (Class 9).

Himachal Assembly budget session second phase to begin today: Speaker Pathania

DINESH AGARWAL

SHIMLA: Himachal Pradesh Assembly Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania on Tuesday announced that the second phase of the 11th session of the 14th Legislative Assembly will commence on March 18, 2026, at 11:00 am after a month-long break. Addressing a press conference in the main committee hall of the Vidhan Sabha Secretariat, he said a total of 13 sittings will be held in this phase, taking the total number of sittings in the ongoing budget session to 16, including the three already conducted earlier. Pathania informed that discussions on the Governor's Address will take place on March 18, 19 and 20, with Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu set to reply on March 20. He added that the state budget for the financial year 2026–27 will be presented by the Chief Minister on March 21 at 11:00 am. General discussion on the budget estimates will be held on March 23, 24 and 25, concluding on March 25. He further stated that discussions and voting on the demands for grants will be taken up on March 27, 28 and 30. On March 30, apart from voting on demands, the Appropriation Bill will also be introduced, discussed and passed. March 31 has been designated as a private members' day, while government and legislative business will continue on April 1 and 2.

Yamunanagar City Police arrests notorious thief and recovered stolen goods from his possession

RAHUL KOHLI

YAMUNANAGAR: A police spokesperson stated that, working under the guidance of Superintendent of Police Kamaldeep Goyal, the police team from Yamunanagar City Police Station succeeded in arresting a notorious thief. Stolen goods were recovered from the accused. The accused was produced in court and sent to judicial custody. Station House Officer Narendra Singh stated that Dr. Chandra Mohan Tuli, a resident of Sarojini Colony, filed a complaint stating that on March 6 he had gone out for some work. When he returned, he found the door of his clinic chamber broken. An unknown person had stolen the money kept in his chamber. A case was registered based on this complaint and a team was formed under the leadership of ASI Pradeep Kumar. The team acted promptly and, with the help of CCTV cameras, arrested the accused, identified as Aamir Khan alias Mota, son of Yamin, resident of Kansapur, near the Government School. The stolen goods were recovered from the accused. The accused was produced in court and sent to judicial custody.

Congress should explain what it has done for Bhoranj in four years, stop taking credit for old schemes: Kamlesh Kumari

ANIL KUMAR
BHORANJ, MAR 17

Former MLA and BJP Mahila Morcha State General Secretary Kamlesh Kumari has launched a sharp attack on the current Congress government, alleging that it has failed to approve even a single new drinking water scheme for the Bhoranj Vidhan Sabha constituency during its tenure so far. She said the Congress leadership only knows how to indulge in "politics of lies" and is unsuccessfully attempting to claim credit for achievements made during the previous BJP government. Highlighting her own tenure, Kamlesh Kumari said she had secured approval for 23 small and large drinking water schemes in Bhoranj, recognising the severity of the water crisis in the region. She added that major projects such as the Malyan-Sadhariyan and Lagwalti-Bamson schemes were sanctioned with an outlay of around Rs. 150 crore. She stated that several areas, including Tan Amroha, Garsahad, Lajhyani, Balh Bagh, Samlog, Bhakeda, Karohata, Jakhyol, Kathyawi, Bhaunkhar, Manoh, Bagwad, Jol Kota, Jahu and Badaihar, benefitted from the construction of these schemes. She further said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the then BJP government, substantial funds were allocated through the Jal Jeevan Mission, NABARD and special component schemes to address water scarcity in Bhoranj. Given the acute shortage of natural water sources in the area, arrangements were made to lift water from the Beas river, along with integrating smaller local sources into the supply network. She claimed that the water currently reaching households is a result of the BJP government's foresight. In a separate statement, Kamlesh Kumari also targeted Congress MLA Suresh Kumar, accusing him of taking undue credit for projects initiated during the previous regime.

Dhanora Jagir villagers in distress as village pond turns into nightmare

MAINPAL KASHYAP
INDRI, MAR 17

Anger prevails among the villagers about the problem of the pond in Dhanora Jagir village. The lack of proper sanitation and drainage systems has been causing significant hardship for a long time to the villagers. Villagers Shamlal, Sanju, NarendraPandit, Dharampal, Jaisingh, Gulzar Singh, and Kala stated that the pond problem has persisted in the village for a long time. During the rainy season, the pond overflows, flooding the streets and roads. Sometimes, this water touches the walls of houses, posing a risk of damage and causing difficulties for residents in commuting freely. Villagers say they have informed the Gram Panchayat about this problem several times, but no concrete action has been taken. The problem persists, leading to growing resentment among the villagers towards the Gram Panchayat. The villagers have demanded from the administration and the Gram Panchayat that the pond should be cleaned as soon as possible and proper arrangements should be made for drainage of water, so that the villagers can get relief from this problem. When the Sarpanch representative of village DhanauraJagir, Jagir Singh, was talked to on this subject, he said that he has got all the ponds of the village cleaned and there was no problem of any kind in the ponds. When an attempt was made to contact BDPO Gurmulk over phone in this regard, he did not pick up the phone.

NEWS BRIEFS

Staging of Play Shri Ram based on life of Lord Shri Ram on March 29

MEGH RAJ LUTHRA
KARNAL: On auspicious occasion of Ram Navami, Sarthak Sanskritik Sangh will stage play 'Shri Ram'—based on life of Dashrath Nandan, Lord Shri Ram on March 29. This event is scheduled to take place at Shri Krishna Kripa Dham ashram of Swami Gyananand in Sector 9. Play will be directed by Dr Rakhi Chauhan and Manav Mehra, renowned directors from Delhi-based Five Element Theatre. Providing details about the event, Sanjeev Lakhanpal—President of Sarthak, a celebrated theater artist and a TV actor—stated that this one-hour-and-ten-minute production will feature a poignant portrayal by the artists, covering the journey of Shri Ram from his birth to his coronation. Sarthak has consistently undertaken such innovative experiments through medium of theater from time to time. While life and character of Shri Ram are typically depicted through Ramleela performances during festival of Dussehra, this particular production marks a novel experiment on occasion of Ram Navami—an experience that people of Karnal will witness for very first time. He further added that Sarthak has been actively promoting theater artists and plays from across country for past 25 years.

Govt to roll out green hydrogen policy soon, mega project takes shape at Panipat

BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, MR 17

The Haryana Government is set to introduce a Green Hydrogen Policy soon to promote clean energy in the state. Alongside, India's first mega Green Hydrogen project with a capacity of 10,000 tonnes per annum (TPA) is being established at Panipat under a PPP model by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL).

A high-level meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Sh. Anurag Rastogi was held to review the progress of the project. It was informed that the plant will supply green hydrogen to the IOCL Panipat Refinery and is targeted for commissioning by December 2026. The project is expected to play a key role in advancing India's clean energy goals and the Prime Minister's Panchamrit commitments.

Discussions during the meeting also focused on ensuring adequate power supply for the project. Senior officials, including Additional Chief Secretary (Energy) Anurag Agarwal, Managing Director HVPNL, J. Ganesan, Director General of Industries & Commerce Yash Garg, and Director of New & Renewable Energy Dr. Sangeeta Tetarwal, were present.

Commissioner and Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, Dr. Amit Kumar Agrawal, informed that a new industrial policy is being formulated, with Green Hydrogen identified as a thrust sector. The project is expected to significantly transform Haryana's industrial landscape, particularly by enabling decarbonisation of high-emission sectors such as refining and steel. It will help position the state as a hub for low-carbon refining and green steel production. Incentives under the SIGHT scheme of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy are likely to attract large-scale investments. Fertiliser and ammonia units in and around Panipat are also expected to benefit by shifting to green ammonia, reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

The initiative is expected to generate substantial employment opportunities. Under the National Green Hydrogen Mission, achieving a capacity of 250 KTPA in Haryana could create around 40,000 direct jobs and 1.2 lakh indirect jobs across various sectors. The project is also likely to contribute significantly to the state's GDP and strengthen the vision of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini to build a robust green hydrogen economy in Haryana.

Newly built Chaugawan–Khukhni road shows damage even before completion, alleges former MLA Rakesh Kamboj

MAINPAL KASHYAP
INDRI, MAR 17

The under-construction road connecting Chaugawan to Khukhni has begun to deteriorate at several places even before completion, prompting allegations of substandard construction. Former Indri MLA Rakesh Kamboj has raised concerns over the quality of materials being used in the project.

Kamboj said he noticed the condition of the road while returning from an. Upon reaching the Chaugawan–Khukhni stretch, he observed that the Public Works Department (PWD) was carrying out construction, but portions along the edges had already started coming apart. He alleged that the required quantity of material was not being used and that inferior materials were being employed in the construction process.

Accusing officials and contractors of collusion, Kamboj said the of the road was surprising and disappointing. He added that while the government makes tall claims about development, ground realities suggest that road construction work is being carried out merely as a formality. According to him, such conditions indicate a nexus between officials and contractors leading to compromised quality.

He further claimed that roads being constructed across the Indri area are deteriorating even before completion, with officials and contractors prioritising personal gain over public welfare. As a result, residents are left to deal with poor infrastructure and inconvenience.

When contacted, PWD SDO Rohtash refuted the allegations, stating that no negligence was being committed in the construction work. He said the project is still underway and any shortcomings identified will be rectified promptly to ensure that the public does not face inconvenience.

BJP attempted to influence the election results by leveraging the power of office, but truth prevailed: Vaidya

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
NILOKHERI, MARCH 17

Congress workers in Karnal celebrated with enthusiasm after Karmveer Bauddh was elected as a Rajya Sabha MP. The celebrations were held at the District Congress Rural office on Kali Mata Road, where party workers gathered under the leadership of District President Prof. Rajesh Vaidh Valmiki and distributed sweets to mark the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Rajesh Valmiki expressed gratitude to party leaders, including Haryana in-charge B.K. Hariprasad, AICC SC Department National Chairman Rajendra Pal Gautam, Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda, state president Rao Narender Singh, MP Deepender Hooda and co-in-charge Prafulla, along with all MLAs, for ensuring the victory of the Congress candidate despite alleged attempts by the BJP to influence the outcome.

He said that choosing Karmveer Bauddh as the candidate reflects the party's commitment to recognising grassroots workers. He described Bauddh as a leader who represents the struggles of common people and remains closely connected with public issues. Pradeep Jogi expressed confidence that Bauddh's presence in the Rajya Sabha would strengthen the voice of Haryana, especially of the common sections of society.

Targeting the BJP, Jogi said Bauddh would strongly oppose the government's "anti-people policies" in the Upper House and raise key issues such as unemployment, inflation and farmers' concerns. He added that Bauddh's experience and sensitivity towards public issues would make him an effective parliamentarian.

Rajesh Valmiki also alleged that the BJP attempted to influence the election using its position of power, including intimidating MLAs and raising technical objections to delay the counting process. He termed the result as a victory of truth and unity, stating that despite all efforts to defeat the Congress candidate, the party's legislators remained united and thwarted what he called anti-democratic attempts.

Several party workers, including Krishna Sharma Bastara, Sanjay Mehla, Mahal Singh Dacher, Robin Michael, Kuldeep Singh and Krishna Rani, were present during the celebrations.

Rs. 172.73 crore canal revamp plan cleared for Assandh, work likely from 2026–27

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL/ASSANDH

Preparations are underway for the rejuvenation of canals in Assandh after the Haryana government granted administrative approval to a 172.73 crore project aimed at strengthening the region's irrigation infrastructure.

During the ongoing Haryana Assembly budget session, Assandh MLA Yogendra Rana raised the issue of deteriorating irrigation facilities and ageing canals in the constituency. Responding to his starred question, Irrigation and Water Resources Minister Shruti Choudhry presented the department's proposed action plan in the House.

Rana highlighted the plight of farmers, stating that canals and distributaries in the region are nearly 50 years old. He said the poor condition of canals has prevented water from reaching the tail-end areas, causing inconvenience to both farmers and livestock. He stressed the urgent need to improve irrigation in villages such as Jaysinghpura, Salwan, Ardana and Gangatehri, among others.

In her reply, the minister informed that the department has prepared a proposal worth 172.73 crore for the reconstruction of 10 major canals, including Nardak, Balu, Syodi, Uplana, Salwan, Padhana, Rorh Minor, Muana, Kaul and Tail Minor. She added that these projects have been taken forward at the administrative level under the World Bank-supported "Jal Surakshit Haryana" scheme and are likely to commence during the 2026–27 financial year.

She further stated that proposals for the renovation of six additional canals—Jundla, Katlahedi, Bansa, Gagsina, Goli and Kudlan—are also being processed for inclusion in the upcoming state budget.

2 convicted in NDPS case; sentenced to 10 years imprisonment each

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
FATEHABAD: In a significant case under the NDPS Act pertaining to the jurisdiction of the Sadar Fatehabad Police Station, the court of Additional District and Sessions Judge, Hemant Yadav, has convicted the accused—Satender and Gholu Kumar—sentencing them to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment each, along with a fine of ₹1 lakh each. In the event of non-payment of the fine, both individuals will be required to undergo an additional sentence of six months. Representing the prosecution in this case, District Attorney Devendra Kumar Mittal and Deputy District Attorney Harvir Singh Malik presented an effective legal argument; consequently, the court accepted the evidence presented by the prosecution and delivered this verdict. District Attorney Devendra Kumar Mittal stated that on June 20, 2016, the police received a confidential tip-off indicating that the accused were involved in procuring opium from Jharkhand and selling it within the Haryana region. Acting on this information, a police team conducted a raid on the GT Road near the village of Bhodahoshnak and apprehended both accused individuals, seizing a black bag in their possession. In accordance with established procedures, a notice was issued under Section 50 of the NDPS Act, and a search was conducted in the presence of a Gazetted Officer, resulting in the recovery of 3 kilograms and 500 grams of liquid opium from their custody. Samples of the recovered contraband were collected and sealed as per legal protocols, following which a formal case was registered. During the trial, witness statements, the FSL report, and other corroborating evidence were presented before the court; placing reliance on this material, the court pronounced both accused individuals guilty on March 17, 2026.

Successful completion of one year of BJP District chief Jyoti Saini's tenure celebrated

SANJAY SHARMA
KAITHAL: Grand event was organized at BJP District Office Kapil Kamal, Kaithal to celebrate successful completion of one year of tjenure of Bharatiya Janata Party's Kaithal District President, Jyoti Saini. On this occasion, all office bearers and party workers at both district and Mandal levels extended their heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to her. Guided by resolve "One exceptional year Ek Saal Bemisaal Sangathan Sashakt, Karyakarta Khushal, BJP Kaithal unit, under leadership of Jyoti Saini, has achieved remarkable milestones in spheres of organizational strengthening, public service, and expansion. Speaking on occasion, District President Jyoti Saini stated that this past year is the result of tireless hard work, dedication, and unwavering loyalty of the party workers toward the organization. She emphasized that the BJP functions like a family, and every single worker constitutes its strength. She added that in times to come, party will further accelerate its initiatives for public welfare and continue to strengthen the organization. Congratulating Jyoti Saini, BJP State Executive Member Rao Surender remarked that under her able leadership, Kaithal district organization has scaled new heights. He noted that, alongside strengthening organizational structure, Jyoti Saini has performed commendable work in fostering unity and engagement among party workers. BJP Kaithal District General Secretary Munish Sharma stated that past year has witnessed an unprecedented surge in organizational activities, providing every worker with opportunity to play an active role. He attributed all these achievements to effective leadership of District President. BJP Kaithal District Media In-charge observed that under Jyoti Saini's leadership, party's public outreach initiatives and its active engagement with issues of public interest have significantly intensified, thereby bolstering party's public image and grassroots support base.

Rao Narender Singh condoles demise of Harvinder Kalyan's mother in Karnal

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL: Haryana Congress president Rao Narender Singh visited the residence of Harvinder Kalyan to express condolences on the demise of his mother. Several Congress workers, including Krishna Sharma Bastara, Sanjay Mahla, Robin Michael, Sonu Kashyap, Soni Sharma and Nazim Pradhan, were present on the occasion.
Rao Narender Singh said he shared close relations with the Kalyan family and expressed his sympathies during the time of grief. Commenting on the recent Rajya Sabha election, he alleged that the BJP resorted to the use of money power and vote manipulation, but the Congress candidate ultimately emerged victorious.
He attributed the win to Congress MLAs, the people of Haryana, party president Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi, Haryana Congress in-charge B.K. Hariprasad, Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda and MP Deepender Hooda. He said the Congress party's victory had dealt a major blow to the BJP and asserted that the party would continue to raise public issues in the future.

No goal Impossible if women set their minds to it: Dr. Chauhan

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
NILOKHERI, MARCH 17

The modern woman is no longer confined merely to the domestic sphere—the kitchen and the hearth. Rather, by excelling on every front of life, she has emerged as a strong cornerstone for the development of both society and the nation, said Dr. Virender Singh Chauhan, Director of the Haryana Institute of Rural Development. He was addressing women belonging to Self-Help Groups (SHGs) as the Chief Guest at the Annual General Meeting of the 'Nari Shakti' Women's Cluster Federation Committee, held today at the Ravidas Temple in Nilokheri under the aegis of the Haryana State Rural Livelihoods Mission. The programme commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by Dr. Virender Singh Chauhan. He urged this Block-level Federation—comprising fifteen thousand women—to achieve something truly remarkable; something that would earn the organisation, and indeed Nilokheri, recognition on a national stage, and perhaps one day even merit a mention by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his 'Mann Ki Baat' radio address. He encouraged the women to move forward with self-confidence, embrace new opportunities, and, through their groups, set such exemplary standards that future generations would draw inspiration from them. He emphasised that when women work together in an organized manner and with unwavering resolve, no goal remains impossible to achieve.

Dr. Virender Singh Chauhan stated that the present era is the age of women's empowerment—a time when, through the medium of Self-Help Groups, women are not only attaining economic self-reliance but are also emerging as pioneers of social change. He reiterated that when women unite and work towards a common objective, they possess the power to transform the landscape not only of their own families but of their entire village and society. He called upon the women to recognise the latent potential lying within themselves, to forge ahead with self-assurance, and to prioritize quality and integrity in all their endeavors. Dr. Chauhan concluded by noting that it is precisely these small, consistent efforts that lay the foundation for monumental change; therefore, every woman should continue to strive diligently at her own level.

CRSU Jind team wins second place in national cultural competition, receives grand welcome on return

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
JIND, MAR 17

Students of Chaudhary Ranbir Singh University (CRSU), Jind, were accorded a warm welcome upon their return after securing second place in a national cultural competition held in Chennai. The team was felicitated by Registrar Dr Rajesh Bansal and OSD to the Vice-Chancellor Dr Vijay Kumar, who honoured the winners with garlands and medals.

Under the guidance of Vice-Chancellor Prof Ram Pal Saini, the university team achieved the position in choreography on the theme of "Superstition." The national-level cultural event was held from March 10 to 14 in Chennai and witnessed participation from universities across the country, showcasing diverse talent and creativity. The competition featured 25 teams, out of which five secured first place, seven teams—including CRSU—won second place, and five teams finished third. The university's performance brought pride and recognition at the national level. The team comprised Simran (Economics), Shweta (English), Sneha (Fine Arts), Nikita (LLB), Muskan (Zoology), Tannu (Zoology), Ravi (Yoga Department), Kamal (Yoga Department), Sumit (Law Department), Tamanna (Law), Amit (Commerce) and Roshan (Management). The participants demonstrated strong teamwork, discipline and dedication in their performance.

The presentation on "Superstition" was both impactful and thought-provoking. Drawing inspiration from the Burari case, the team highlighted the harmful consequences of blind faith through a powerful stage performance. Their expressions, acting and delivery compelled the audience to reflect deeply on the issue. Congratulating the team, Registrar Dr Rajesh Bansal said that presenting such a serious and sensitive topic on stage was highly commendable, adding that such performances not only entertain but also convey meaningful social messages.

Second-year BSc student at IG College Payal selected for Youth Parliament via MY Bharat Portal

SANJAY SHARMA
KAITHAL: Payal, a second-year B.Sc. student at I.G. College, Kaithal, has achieved a significant milestone under 'Mera Yuva Bharat' (MY Bharat) portal's Youth Empowerment and Experiential Learning program, which is currently running from February 22 to March 16. Payal successfully registered on 'MY Bharat' portal and actively participated in aforementioned program. Subsequently, she was selected as a member of Youth Parliament—an achievement that brings immense pride to institution. In final stage of this selection process, the student is required to create and upload a video to portal based on a designated topic. The final selection (FIR Selection) will be determined based on this video submission. Shri Ram Bahadur Khurania, President of the Managing Committee, stated that the 'MY Bharat' portal provides youth with opportunities for volunteering, leadership, and practical learning, thereby enabling them to hone their capabilities and play an active role in nation-building. Dr. Aarti Garg, college Principal, congratulated Payal on this achievement, noting that her success serves as an inspiration for other students as well. She added that such programs foster self-confidence, leadership skills, and a sense of social responsibility among students. Shweta Tanwar, Principal-in-Charge of the Evening Session, also extended her congratulations to the student and wished her a bright future. College faculty and management expressed their delight at Payal's accomplishment and conveyed their best wishes for her future endeavors.

District Revenue Officer Chetna Chaudhary reviews preparations for training Camp under 'Yuva Aapda Mitra' Scheme

DALBIR MALIK
KURUKSHETRA, MARCH 17

District Revenue Officer Chetna Chaudhary stated that the Revenue Department is organizing a training camp under the 'Yuva Aapda Mitra' (Youth Disaster Friend) scheme, scheduled to take place from March 18 to March 24. The training camp is set to be inaugurated on March 18 at 11:00 AM. Deputy Commissioner Vishram Kumar Meena will serve as the Chief Guest for this event. On Tuesday, District Revenue Officer Chetna Chaudhary inspected the preparations related to the camp at the Government Adarsh Sanskriti Senior Secondary School. On this occasion, she instructed the concerned officials, emphasizing that the camp—which is set to be inaugurated on Wednesday—must be conducted without any shortcomings whatsoever.

District Revenue Officer Chetna Chaudhary further informed that, under the Central Government's 'Yuva Aapda Mitra' scheme, the State Government will provide training to 400 volunteers; prior to this, 200 volunteers have already received training. The inauguration of this camp will take place on March 18 at the Government Adarsh Sanskriti Senior Secondary School. She also mentioned that, in addition to this venue, training will be imparted to youth at the Arya Kanya College in Shahbad from March 18 to March 24. Officials from the Revenue Department were present on this occasion.

Knowing is not enough; we must apply.
Willing is not enough; we must do.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

EDITORIAL

Gas companies in India offering incentives to promote PNG connections

Several city gas distribution (CGD) companies are offering incentives to promote PNG connections, including free gas worth Rs 500 for domestic consumers by Indraprastha Gas Ltd. and GAIL Gas Ltd., waiver off registration charges of Rs 500 for domestic PNG consumers and security deposits for commercial consumers by Mahanagar Gas Ltd., and waiver of security deposits for all commercial connections by BPCL.Commercial LPG consumers in major cities and urban areas are encouraged to switch to PNG, and establishments such as hotels, restaurants, hospitals and hostels can obtain PNG connections through authorised City Gas Distribution (CGD) entities. In a statement, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said consumers can apply for PNG connections through email, customer portals, letters or call centres of CGD companies, and connections can be provided quickly where pipeline networks already exist. The Government is meanwhile expanding the CGD network and PNGRB has advised CGD entities to accelerate deployment of resources, encourage utilisation of existing connections and reduce timelines for supply commencement.

Inter-Ministerial Media Briefings on developments in West Asia are being organised regularly. In today's briefing (16 March 2026), the Ministries of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Ports, Shipping and Waterways, and External Affairs shared updates on energy supplies, maritime operations, the welfare of Indian nationals in the region and related public information efforts. In India, all refineries are operating at high capacity and maintaining adequate crude oil inventories. India remains self-sufficient in petrol and diesel production and no imports of these fuels are required to meet domestic demand.No cases of fuel dry-outs have been reported at retail outlets by Oil Marketing Companies, and supplies of petrol and diesel continue to be maintained regularly. Citizens are advised not to resort to panic buying as adequate stocks of petrol and diesel are available. Priority sectors continue to receive protected gas supplies, including 100 percent supply to PNG and CNG, while supplies to industrial and commercial consumers are being regulated at around 80 percent.

India's diplomacy pays off as tankers clear Strait of Hormuz

As the first of three Indian flagged vessels, Shivalik, carrying precious oil and gas for Indian shores, berthed at Gujarat's Mundra port on Monday after safely crossing the gauntlet of the Strait of Hormuz, Indian officials who were monitoring the situation heaved a sigh of relief.

This was the first of what they hope will be a fleet of tankers which will come through the Strait. Another ship, Nandadevi, which also crossed the Strait of Hormuz safely, is expected to arrive at Kandla Port on Tuesday, while 'Jag Laadki' is expected to follow suit.

"Some two dozen Indian flagged ships and tankers are operating in Gulf area right now and of these three ships have crossed the Straits without any mishap … we are working on and hoping for more to follow," said Pinak R Chakravarty, former Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs.

Indian diplomats have been burning the hotline with Teheran to get ships through. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar told a newspaper earlier, "I am at the moment engaged in talking to them and my talking has yielded some results." The career diplomat turned politician, however, has said there were no "blanket arrangements" for all Indian vessels.

"We have been also quietly cooperating with Iran, which has been a long-standing partner for us … two Iranian naval ships were docked here after the conflict broke out and the crew was repatriated," pointed out Chakravarty.

Saudi Arabia already has an East West pipeline which takes crude from its eastern provinces near Qatar to the Red Sea coast at Yanbu and is believed to be transferring significant oil through that route too.

Earlier on Sunday, US President Donald Trump said that some seven nations had been approached to help safeguard commercial vessels passing through the narrow waterway.

Though Trump did not name the countries, a day earlier, in a social media post, he had said that he hopes countries like "China, Japan, South Korea and the UK and others that are affected by this artificial constraint, will send ships" to patrol the crucial Strait.

However, Japan has already indicated that it may not be willing to help patrol the Strait.

"On a map, the Strait looks deceptively modest but it's the world's most effective chokepoint. We should for the long run convince the Gulf Cooperation Council with whom we have a trade pact to build a pipeline to the Omani coast bypassing the Strait," said Chakravarty who was involved in India's economic diplomacy.

The Strait stretches roughly 104 miles, narrowing at points to little more than 20 miles across. For the world, this confined maritime channel flows roughly one-fifth of the world's traded oil.

Tankers moving from the energy-rich states of the Gulf, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, must squeeze through shipping lanes just a few miles wide before entering the open waters of the Arabian Sea.

The scale of traffic is staggering. Around 20 million barrels of oil and petroleum products pass through the Strait every day, along with a substantial share of the world's liquefied natural gas exports. It is, quite literally, the artery of global energy.

Few major economies are as exposed to this chokepoint as India.

"India is the world's third-largest consumer of oil and a significant portion of that supply originates in the Gulf and must travel through Hormuz before reaching Indian ports, that is why the Indian navy has given a lot of importance to that area at all times," explained Commodore Ranjit Rai, former Director of Naval Intelligence.

Comprehensive vs third-party motor insurance — What offers better value for money?

Rakesh Kaul

When it comes to buying motor insurance, there are many factors that you must consider. One of the crucial factors is the type of coverage you want. In India, most insurers offer two types of motor insurance policies third-party policy and comprehensive policy. A lot of people tend to get confused between the two, and often use the terms interchangeably. However, the truth is both the policies are different.

What is Third-Party & Comprehensive Motor Insurance?

Third-party motor insurance is the most basic and legally required coverage under the Motor Vehicles Act. It protects against financial liability if your vehicle causes damage to another person or property. In addition to this statutory liability cover, third-party insurance also includes personal accident (PA) benefits such as compulsory personal accident (CPA) cover for the owner-driver, optional PA cover for occupants, and liability to paid driver or cleaner. Comprehensive motor insurance goes further by combining these third-party protections with coverage for your own vehicle against risks like accidents, theft, fire, vandalism, and natural disasters. It also allows policyholders to enhance protection through optional add-ons such as zero depreciation, roadside assistance, and engine protection. A Comprehensive Policy is therefore better suited for those who want comprehensive financial protection for their own vehicle along with the mandatory third-party liability cover.

Key Differences: Comprehensive policy vs Third-Party Liability only Policy

Coverage Scope: Third-party insurance provides coverage only for liabilities toward other people such as injury, death, or damage to their property. Comprehensive policy, on the other hand, is a broader umbrella policy that not only covers third-party liabilities but also protects your financial loss owing to physical damage to your own vehicle.

Premium Cost and Affordability: A Comprehensive Policy offers comprehensive protection by covering both third-party liabilities and damages to your own vehicle, making it a more valuable choice for vehicle owners. Unlike third-party insurance, which only safeguards against liabilities toward others, a Comprehensive Policy ensures peace of mind by protecting your own asset as well. The coverage can be further enhanced with add-ons such as zero depreciation, roadside assistance, and engine protection, giving you flexibility to tailor the policy to your needs. Factors like the vehicle's age, engine capacity, and driving history help determine the scope of protection, ensuring that your policy is personalized to provide maximum benefit.

Add-ons and Customisation Options: When comparing third-party and Comprehensive policy, one of the most notable differences is the availability of add-ons and customisation. Third-party insurance is a basic, mandatory policy that covers only third-party liabilities and does not allow any customisation. Comprehensive policy insurance, on the other hand, offers a range of add-ons that can extend coverage and provide greater flexibility. Options such as Zero Depreciation Cover, Roadside Assistance, and Return to Invoice allow policyholders to tailor their plan according to their vehicle's usage and risk exposure. This makes Comprehensive policy insurance more adaptable compared to third-party policies, giving drivers the ability to select coverage that aligns with their specific needs. It is always advisable to review all available types of motor insurance before making a decision.

How to Decide the Right Type of Motor Insurance?

Deciding between third-party and Comprehensive policy motor insurance depends entirely on your circumstances.

- Third-party insurance If you only want to fulfil only the statutory requirement and do not bother of your own financial safety by taking the risk of your vehicle damage getting lost, or damage due to accident, flood, theft. Etc.
- Comprehensive insurance is more appropriate if you are really serious and responsible enough towards your future financial safety. And do not want any disturbance by sudden set back in terms of damage to your vehicle.

The difference between the two is not just about coverage it's also about financial security and preparedness for risk. Third-party insurance works if your priority is simply staying compliant at minimal cost. Comprehensive insurance, however, is the better choice if you want broader protection against a wide range of risks. Evaluating factors like your driving habits, the value of your vehicle, and location-specific hazards will help you select the right plan.

Chief Distribution Officer – Retail Business, Bajaj General Insurance Limited (formerly known as Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Limited)

85% of bank clients plan to work with non-bank lenders: Report

Corporate and investment banks (CIBs) are facing intense competition from non-bank financial institutions, as client expectations rise and technology initiatives fail to deliver the anticipated benefits, according to the Capgemini Research Institute's inaugural World Corporate and Investment Banking Report 2026.The research showed that 85 per cent of corporate clients plan to engage with a non-bank financial institution within the next 12 months, in search of faster, more transparent, and responsive services.CIB clients say they expect real-time responsiveness (58 per cent), personalized engagement (49 per cent), and innovative solutions (40 per cent) - but less than one-in-four (23 per cent find CIBs currently meet those needs.

Instead, many flag that CIBs offer limited integration with ERP and treasury systems forcing manual workarounds (92 per cent), display a lack of personalization and flexibility (89 per cent), and insufficient advanced analytics and forecasting capabilities (68 per cent).Adding to their challenges, CIB executives report that current innovation programs are not delivering the expected results. A vast majority (82 per cent) say these efforts are not producing improved revenue via new products, while 51 per cent of respondents say they did not deliver the expected cost savings.

As client expectations rise, banks are finding they have limited capabilities to respond. Executives say that only 29 per cent of their IT budgets are currently directed to transformative technologies, while 43 per cent goes towards running and maintaining legacy systems. In addition, 61 per cent of CIB executives say they are constrained by high compliance costs. The findings come as Capgemini analysis shows CIB revenue growth is decelerating, with a forecasted 5.4 per cent compound annual growth rate (CAGR) over the next five years - down from 6.5 per cent between 2022 and 2024. Despite structural headwinds, banks are continuing to broaden their product and service portfolios to remain competitive. CIB executives are prioritizing real-time treasury capabilities for cross-border payment flows (77 per cent) and next-generation AI market products for algorithmic trade execution, such as AI-driven hedging, and research insights (65 per cent). More than half are exploring tokenized products (51 per cent) to unlock new fee streams through digital custody, token issuance, and premium services.

"Non-banks are closing the competitive gap with established corporate and investment banks. Client demands have shifted dramatically, and while CIBs have invested heavily in AI, many are struggling to move beyond the pilot stage. A key reason is governance - only 26 per cent of banks operate with centralized AI oversight, making teams hesitant to automate crucial business.

Nearly 35% of urban consumers in India admitted to having bought fake products in the last year

Nearly 35 per cent of consumers in India have reported encountering fake products in the past year. Alarmingly, almost 9 out of 10 urban consumers (89%) admitted to having purchased a counterfeit product at least once in their lifetime, according to the latest "State of Counterfeiting in India 2025" report released by the Authentication Solution Providers' Association (ASPA) in collaboration with CRISIL Intelligence.

The nationwide study, based on a consumer survey of 1,639 respondents across nine major Indian cities - Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Jaipur and Indore - highlights the growing scale, changing channels, and increasing consumer awareness regarding counterfeit products across multiple industries.

The apparel sector emerges as one of the most affected categories, with 31 per cent of consumers reporting that they encountered or purchased fake apparel in the past 12 months, reflecting the high prevalence of fake fashion products in both online and offline markets.

Counterfeiting is increasingly visible even in daily-use consumer goods. 27 per cent of consumers reported encountering counterfeit FMCG products within the last year, indicating risks in everyday household products such as packaged food, personal care, and home care items.22 per cent of respondents reported encountering counterfeit automotive parts, highlighting the risks associated with fake spare parts in the vehicle replacement market.

The fast-growing appliances and electronics segment is also vulnerable. 18 per cent of consumers reported encountering counterfeit consumer durable products, with over half of such exposure occurring through online channels.Counterfeit medicines are estimated to account for around 28 per cent of the market, raising serious public health concerns.

Counterfeit agro-products continue to threaten farm productivity and rural incomes. The study indicates that 35 per cent of farmers have encountered counterfeit agro-products, and farmers estimate that close to 30 per cent of agro-inputs available in the market may be counterfeit, raising concerns for crop yield, farmer trust, and food security.

The study highlights the growing role of digital commerce in the distribution of counterfeit products. Online aggregator platforms account for 53 per cent of counterfeit purchases, making them the largest channel. Local retail outlets remain dominant for agro-products (75 per cent) and pharmaceuticals (63 per cent).Social media advertisements are emerging as a major channel, especially for apparel (46 per cent) and consumer electronics (35 per cent).Despite widespread exposure, consumer attitudes toward counterfeits are gradually shifting. Counterfeit products are perceived to be around 22 per cent cheaper than genuine goods. However, only 36 per cent of consumers cite price as the primary reason for purchasing counterfeit products.

Consumers are willing to pay an average of 9 per cent premium for guaranteed genuine products, with higher willingness in pharmaceuticals (12 per cent) and agro-products (14 per cent).In addition, 50 per cent of consumers say they would file a complaint if they received a fake product, reflecting rising consumer awareness and intolerance toward fake goods.

CCRAS holds 3-day national training program at LBS Women's Ayurvedic College

RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR: With aim of strengthening research in Ayurveda, 3-day national training program on Ayurveda Research Methodology and Statistics (ARMS) held by Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), Union Ministry of AYUSH concluded at Lal Bahadur Shastri Women's Ayurvedic College and Hospital, Vyaspur (Bilaspur), Yamunanagar. Program

held from March 12 to 14, aimed to strengthen research capabilities of postgraduate and PhD scholars in Ayurveda and familiarize them with research methodology, statistical analysis, study design, and evidence-based pedagogical approaches. It began with an online address by Prof (Vaidya) Rabinarayan Acharya, Director General of CCRAS. He highlighted crucial role of scientific research in development of Ayurveda and encouraged researchers to adopt rigorous and systematic research methods to advance Ayurvedic knowledge based on scientific evidence.

NEWS BRIEF

Special Yagna will be held at Arya Samaj Mandir on March 19

KARAMBIR
LADWA: A special yagna will be held at the Arya Samaj Mandir, Ladwa, on March 19 to mark the Indian New Year. This information was provided by Arya Samaj President Anil Goyal. He stated that special offerings will be made during the yagna, accompanied by the chanting of proper mantras. Additionally, a grand event will be held on Sunday next in the Arya Samaj grounds. This event will be held in connection with Arya Samaj Foundation Day, Nav Samvat, Martyrdom Day, and Ram Navami. Following the yagna, Vedic lecturer Dr. Amit Shastri will deliver a meaningful lecture. The event will conclude with the distribution of prasad. He appealed to the people of the area to participate in this event and boost their morale.

Training camps strengthen understanding of party ideology: Archana Gupta

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, MAR 17

An organisational meeting was held at the BJP district office in Karnal to discuss training camps across all mandals, where party workers received guidance from State General Secretary Dr Archana Gupta. The meeting was conducted under the Chairmanship of District President Praveen Lathar and was attended by District In-charge Bharat Bhushan Juaal, Mayor Renubala Gupta, Amarnath Sooda, District General Secretaries Subhash Kashyap and Manav Puri, District Media In-charge Dr Ashok Kumar, along with other district Office bearer, mandal presidents, general secretaries and senior workers. The programme began with the lighting of the lamp and the singing of Vande Mataram. District President Praveen Lathar welcomed Dr Archana Gupta by presenting a bouquet. Addressing the gathering, Dr Archana Gupta said that such training camps help workers gain a deeper understanding of the organisation's policies and principles, strengthening their commitment and spirit of service towards the party. She urged workers to actively work towards taking the party's ideology to every section of society. Interacting with the participants, she highlighted the party's journey of growth and the struggles undertaken by the organisation over time.

3,787 Kurukshetra homes empowered: Ujjwala 3.0 sparks clean cooking revolution

HANS RAJ YADAV
KURUKSHETRA: Deputy Commissioner Vishram Kumar Meena said that under the PradhanMantriUjjwalaYojana 3.0 a total of 3,787 gas connections have been issued by the Food and Civil Supplies Department in Kurukshetra district. Physical verification of outstanding gas connections under this scheme will be completed by March 31, 2026. Deputy Commissioner Vishram Kumar Meena was addressing the review meeting of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana 3.0 in the auditorium of the Mini Secretariat on Tuesday. He said that necessary guidelines were given to the Sales Officer, Indane, Bharat Gas and HP Gas officials of this district to cooperate with the administration to achieve the target of the scheme as soon as possible. As per the guidelines given in the letter of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India, physical verification of five percent of the gas connections issued under Pradhan Mantri UjjwalaYojana 3.0 is also to be done.

Nayab govt wins public confidence with all-round development in two years: Kanwaljeet Kaur

DALBIR SINGH MALIK
KURUKSHETRA, MAR 17

Kurukshetra Zila Parishad chairperson Kanwaljeet Kaur on Monday said that the Haryana government under Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has won the confidence of the people by ensuring all-round development across the state in the past two years. She said the public is satisfied with the facilities being provided by the government and highlighted several key initiatives undertaken during its tenure. According to her, the government has strengthened healthcare services, improved education facilities and ensured better availability of electricity and water across the state.

Kaur stated that the government has provided employment to around three lakh youths, including 1.80 lakh regular government jobs and 1.20 lakh jobs through the Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam. She added that under the 'Har Ghar Har Grihini' scheme, around 14.50 lakh women from economically weaker sections are being provided LPG cylinders at Rs 500 per month. She further said that the government has ensured procurement of all 24 crops at minimum support price and payments are being made within 48 hours of procurement. Under the Ayushman Bharat-Chirayu scheme, around 86 lakh cards have been issued, while under the Nirogi Haryana scheme, health check-ups of 32 lakh people and around 1.70 crore tests have been conducted free of cost. Highlighting infrastructure development, she said approval has been granted for 21 new national highways, and an 800 MW ultra super critical unit at a thermal power plant along with a compressed biogas plant has been initiated in Yamunanagar.

Krishi Mela a strong platform for sustainable agriculture: Dr. Chauhan

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL: Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture & Technology (GBPUAT) organised the 119th Krishi Mela, which concluded at Pantnagar in Uttarakhand, where Dr. Dalip Gosain, Former Principal Scientist & Head KVK, ICAR–National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal, was honoured for his long-standing contributions to agricultural extension and farmer outreach. The honour was conferred by the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Manmohan Singh Chauhan, who highlighted that Krishi Melas serve as a strong platform for disseminating innovations, strengthening farmer–scientist linkages, and promoting sustainable agriculture. The Vice-Chancellor informed that the mela was inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami, while the valedictory function was graced by Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari as Chief Guest More than 350 stalls were set up showcasing advancements in agriculture, livestock, fisheries, beekeeping, horticulture, and allied sectors. Scientists and students demonstrated innovative technologies to thousands of farmers and farm women from different states, he said. Several farmer interaction sessions (Kisan Goshtis) were organized, providing an effective platform for knowledge exchange.

Mock drill on acid leak conducted at Panipat Refinery

RAKESH BHAYANA
PANIPAT: A successful on-site and off-site emergency mock drill was conducted on Monday at the Panipat Refinery and Petrochemical Complex (PRPC) to assess preparedness for handling possible industrial disasters. The exercise was carried out in coordination with the district administration, emergency coordinators, and various supporting agencies. As part of the drill, a simulated acetic acid leak from an exchanger flange in the PTA plant was created. The leak was detected at 10:46 AM, after which emergency response procedures were immediately activated. Fire tenders rushed to the spot, and trained personnel wearing breathing apparatus started water spray in the wind direction to control the gas leak. Due to the seriousness of the situation, traffic near the refinery area was stopped and nearby residents were alerted through public announcements. As a precaution, around 120 villagers living near the boundary wall were safely evacuated and shifted to a rehabilitation center. Mutual aid partners were also called to assist in controlling the situation. A Level-3 emergency was declared at 11:15 AM considering the severity of the simulated leak.

Large number of devotee arrives to Pehowa Saraswati Teerth for four-day Chaitra Chaudas fair

YAGYA DUTT SHASTRI
PEHOWA: Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil) Anil Kumar Doon said that thousands of devotees from all corners of the country and abroad are reaching Pehowa Saraswati Teerth for the four-day Chaitra Chaudas fair, which will continue till March 19 performing puja for the peace of the souls of their ancestors. The important aspect is that adequate arrangements have been made for the devotees in this Chaitra Chaudas fair, which will continue till March 19. During this fair, all the officers will pay special attention to cleanliness. SDM Anil Kumar Doon was giving some necessary instructions to the employees and officers after inspecting this four-day Chaitra Chaudas fair. Earlier, SDM Anil Kumar Doon, Municipal Secretary Ashok Kumar and DSP Nirmal Singh inspected the fair area. During the inspection, they checked the cleanliness and security arrangements in the main market, Saraswati Tirtha Sthal and Pret Peepal various areas and instructed the employees that the pilgrims coming to the fair area should not face any kind of problem. All the employees will perform their duties with complete honesty. Municipal Secretary Ashok stated that the administration has deployed over 50 employees to clean the fair area, even at night.

DC inspects Bhagwan Parshuram Medical College construction in Sampan Khedi

RANVIR PARASHAR
KAITHAL: DC Aparajita inspected Bhagwan Parshuram Government Medical College currently under construction in village Sampan Khedi today.She closely reviewed progress of construction work and issued directives to concerned officials and construction agency to ensure project is completed within prescribed deadline. During inspection, she first toured hospital complex located within medical college premises. She utilized architectural blueprints to gather detailed information regarding medical rooms, ultrasound facilities and X-ray units being developed on every floor including ground floor of 7-story building. She then proceeded to inspect academic block, student hostels and residential complex for resident doctors, examining each facility individually. She sought updates from officials present at site regarding quality and progress of construction work, emphasizing need to expedite process. She also meticulously reviewed building plan. This medical college is being constructed by under leadership of Chief Minister Shri Nayab Singh Saini with objective of providing better and more accessible healthcare facilities to general public.

MASD School alumnus Vartank Pandit becomes Lieutenant in Indian Army

RAKESH BHAYANA
PANIPAT: It is a moment of pride for MASD Public School, Panipat, as its former student Vartank Kumar Pandit (Batch 2020–21, Non-Medical) has been selected as a Lieutenant in the Indian Armed Forces, bringing honor to both the school and the city. Vartank credited his success to the guidance of his parents and teachers. He shared that he appeared for the NDA examination three times but did not lose hope. Later, he completed his graduation in Arts (Economics) from Kurukshetra University while continuing preparation for the CDS examination. With hard work, dedication, and determination, he secured an impressive All India Rank (AIR) 34 in the CDS examination. On the basis of this achievement, he has been commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Indian Army.

Smoking is harmful to health and life; hard-earned money also goes up in smoke: Dr. Krishan Kumar

VERMA
SARNA: Dr. Krishan Kumar (MBBS, MS Ortho), an orthopedic specialist at SKR Hospital, Pathankot, has urged people to be aware of the harmful effects of smoking. He said that smoking is not only injurious to health but also poses a serious threat to life. According to him, the consumption of tobacco and cigarettes gradually damages various organs of the body and leads to several serious diseases. Dr. Krishan Kumar stated that a person who smokes not only harms his own health but also ends up spending his hard-earned money on the treatment of illnesses caused by this habit. The use of tobacco significantly increases the risk of lung diseases, heart ailments, cancer, and many other life-threatening conditions, which can ultimately put a person's life in danger. He further explained that an average smoker spends thousands of rupees every year on cigarettes and tobacco products. In reality, this money literally goes up in smoke, whereas it could be better utilized for children's education, family needs, and securing the future.

Boost your yield: modern techniques take center stage at Kalsaura meet

MAINPAL KASHYAP
INDRI: A sugarcane crop symposium was organized in village Kalsaura on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Mrs. Aditi, Managing Director of Cooperative Sugar Mill, Karnal. In this seminar, farmers of village Kalsaura participated in large numbers and obtained important information related to sugarcane farming. Managing Director of Cooperative Sugar Mill, Mrs. Aditi, Agricultural Scientist Dr. Maha Singh, ShriRampal (CDO), Manoj Kumar (CDI) and staff of sugarcane department specially participated in the seminar. Managing Director Mrs. Aditi stressed upon the farmers to sow sugarcane using the new technology, wide row method. She advised the farmers to sow new and improved varieties of sugarcane like CO-17018, CO-16030 and early varieties COH-160, COH-188 (new variety), CO-15023 and CO-118, so that the production can increase.

129th Ram Navami festival of Katla Ramlila Committee from Mar 19

MAHENDER GOYAL
HISAR: Shri Ramlila Committee Katla will organize its 129th Shri Ram Navami Festival along with a musical rendition of Shri Ram Katha from March 19 to March 27 at Goyanka Sadan, Devi Bhawan. The nine-day religious event is being held to spread the teachings and glory of Lord Shri Ram among the masses. Renowned preacher Bhavesh Krishna Bhardwaj of Shri Dham Vrindavan will deliver Shri Ram Katha daily from 3:15 PM to 7:00 PM. On March 27, a Havan will be performed in the morning, followed by a grand Ram Navami procession starting from Goyanka Sadan and a Bhandara for devotees. Committee President Vinod Gupta said the Katla Ramlila tradition, which started in 1897, has been continuing for decades and has played an important role in promoting religious values along with social service activities.

Marriage of needy girls and Gurmat Samagam at Gurdwara Sachkhand Angitha Sahib Mastuana Sahib today

BALWINDER AZAD
BARNALA: Gurmat Samagam and marriage of needy girls dedicated to the incarnation day of Sant Baba Attar Singh Ji Mastuana Sahib, a great personality of the twentieth century and a donor of education, are being organized under the supervision of the able arrangements of Gurdwara Sachkhand Angitha Sahib Mastuana Sahib with the support of Sikh Sangats residing in the area and abroad. For which, great enthusiasm is being felt among the Sangats of the area and abroad.In this regard, Sant Baba Surjit Singh, President Baba Darshan Singh and Vice President Baba Sukhwinder Singh Soni of Gurdwara Angitha Sahib gave information and said that on March 18, dedicated to the incarnation day of Sant Baba Attar Singh Ji Mastuana Sahib, a great personality and a donor of education, Anand Karjat for needy girls will be organized and Gurmat Samagam will be organized. Now further it was told that the needy girls will be given essential household items such as chests, double beds, fans, cupboards, tables and chairs etc. and other items that will be used by them during the wedding ceremony. He has appealed to all the devotees to cooperate in these great works, because sending one's daughter home happily is the greatest merit, there is hardly any greater merit than this, whose daughter will go home with lava in the presence of Dhyan Guru Maharaj.

Two accused held after police encounter in Mullana, linked to Kalpi murder case

JAIBEER RANA THAMBER
MULLANA: Police have arrested two accused after an encounter in the Mullana area in connection with the brutal murder of Jai Dalal in Kalpi village. Illegal weapons were also recovered from their possession. According to police, the incident dates back to March 13, 2026, when Jai Dalal was allegedly attacked and killed after he resisted an attempt by the accused to steal a buffalo. Following the incident, CIA teams were actively searching for the suspects. On Tuesday, a CIA-1 team was conducting vehicle checking in the Mullana area as part of routine crime control measures when two youths riding a motorcycle without a number plate approached. When the police signalled them to stop, they allegedly brandished weapons and fled. The police team chased them towards Jharu Majra, and near the Markanda flyover, the accused took a kaccha path in an attempt to escape.

Fifth day Ram Katha inaugurated by Rakesh Goyal with aarti of Vyaspeeth

KARAMBIR
LADWA: In the Shri Ram Katha being held at Baba Bansi Wala Vridhashram and Annakshetra in Ladwa, a Bhandara is also being organised daily in which a large number of devotees are reaching and taking prasad and enjoying the Katha. The Katha is being organised by Kavad Seva Dal, in which narrator Pandit Anil Parashar is narrating the Shri Ram Kathadaily. In the Katha of the fifth day, the narrator gave a soulful description of Lord Shri Ram's childhood character, naming ceremony and Sita Swayamvar and marriage celebration. He threw light on the names of the four brothers and the importance of the naming ceremony and also described the childhood pranks of Lord Shri Ram and the brothers, listening to which the listeners became emotional. The fifth day's Katha was inaugurated by Rakesh Goyal, special guest Durgesh Goyal and Vishal Garg with the Aarti of the Vyaspeeth. Prasad was distributed at the end of the Katha. On this occasion, Sunil Garg, Vijendra Goyal, Krishna Goyal, Mukesh Garg, Vinay Garg, Pawan Goyal, Vikas Singhal, Anuj Goyal, Suresh Kansal, Madan Lal Goyal, Sanjay Singhal, Rajkumar Saini, Kunwar Singhal, Ashok Mittal, Harinder Singhal.

Chandi Maha Yagya will be organised from March 19 to 26

KARAMBIR
LADWA: The Chandi Maha Yagya is being organised from March 19 at Mata Shakumbhari Devi Temple in Ladwa. The temple committee is busy with preparations to make the Maha Yagya a success. This information was given by committee head NareshGarg on Tuesday. He said that the Chandi Maha Yagya would continue from March 19 to March 26. During this period, havan-yagya, puja and other religious rituals will be organised daily with proper rituals, in which saints and devotees from far and wide are expected to arrive. On Tuesday, the preparations for the Yagya were formally inaugurated with the flag worship of Lord Bajrang Bali in the temple. The flag worship was performed ritually by the patron of the committee, Harbilas Garg. Special arrangements are being made for cleanliness, decoration and facilities for the devotees in the temple. The committee is also emphasizing on improving the arrangements like electricity, water, seating and distribution of Prasad.

SC Commission seeks report from SSP Faridkot

CHANDIGARH: The Punjab State Scheduled Castes Commission has sought a report from the Senior Superintendent of Police Faridkot regarding the action taken so far in the case of Kuldeep Singh and others vs. State of Punjab and others. Giving information in this regard, the spokesperson of the Punjab State Scheduled Castes Commission said that in the case of registering an FIR against Jasvir Kaur, Panch Bansa Singh Panch Amrik Singh and others under the SC/ST Act, a complaint was received from Mrs. Amandeep Kaur Sarpanch, wife of Mr. Kuldeep Singh, resident of Gram Panchayat, Chand Bhan Block Jaito, District Faridkot, in which the date has been fixed as 25-03-2026. The spokesperson said that after considering the report received from the Punjab Police in this regard, the Commission has desired that keeping in mind the Special Leave Petition No. 13440 of 2025 pending in the Supreme Court, the complete report regarding the arrest report of the accused and other legal action should be sent by a DSP level officer after investigation on 25-03-2026.

Anurag Singh Thakur urges youth to stay rooted in culture at Panjab University fest

CHANDIGARH: Former Union Minister and Hamirpur MP Anurag Singh Thakur attended "Jhankaar – The Presidential Fest" at Panjab University, organised to celebrate the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad's victory, where he interacted with students and encouraged them to stay connected with India's rich cultural traditions.

Addressing the gathering, Thakur said that states like Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Uttarakhand together represent the "Sapt Sindhu" of Bharat Mata. Referring to traditional art forms such as Giddha, Bhangra, Nati, Chholiya and Pandav dance, he said these are all integral parts of India's diverse cultural heritage. He emphasised that such cultural programmes help young people connect with their roots and better understand the country's traditions. He added that dialogue among youth in culture, politics and parliamentary traditions is a positive sign, and the vision of a developed India cannot be realised without their active participation.

He further said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi envisions bringing one lakh capable youth into active politics, and encouraged students to be part of that vision. Highlighting his own initiative, he said the "Yuva Changemaker" leadership and fellowship programme launched in Himachal Pradesh has already received over 10,000 registrations and aims to train selected youth in leadership. He added that the initiative is part of a larger effort to empower young people to shape Himachal's development narrative and take on leadership roles.

The event featured a series of traditional cultural performances showcasing Himachali heritage, including Nati, Sirmauri Nati and Kinnauri Nati, along with Ladakhi and Manipuri dances. The vibrant display of traditional attire and folk music added to the festive atmosphere.

Dharamshala MLA Sudhir Sharma was also present as a special guest. The programme was organised jointly by ABVP and the Panjab University Campus Students Council.

Four-day Ratnavali youth song festival begins at DAV College Sadhaura

PREETI SAINI

SADHAURA: A four-day Ratnavali Youth Song Festival commenced at DAV College, Sadhaura, on March 17 under the aegis of the Youth and Cultural Affairs Department of Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra. The 11th edition of the festival will continue till March 20, 2026.Programme coordinator Dr Chhatrapal Singh informed that teams securing first position from all four zones of Kurukshetra University during the Ratnavali festival will present their performances in this event.On the opening day, the team from RKSD College, Kaithal, presented the "Pingla Bharthari Song," captivating the audience with a vibrant performance.

The presentation took place at 2:30 pm under the supervision of Dr Ashok Atri.Former Zila Parishad Vice-Chairman and social worker Anil Sandhu attended the session as the chief guest and appreciated the enthusiasm of students towards Haryanvi folk traditions.College Principal Dr Tejveer Singh said that, like previous years, the institution is proud to host the youth song festival.

Infighting surfaces in Haryana Congress after Rajya Sabha poll, Ramkishan Gurjar resigns

CHANDIGARH (SHIV KUMAR SHARMA) A fresh political stir has emerged in Haryana after Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee (HPCC) working president Ramkishan Gurjar resigned from his post amid the ongoing controversy over alleged cross-voting in the recent Rajya Sabha election.Gurjar, considered a close aide of former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, announced his resignation while defending party leader Shaili Chaudhary, whose name surfaced in cross-voting allegations. He termed the accusations against her as baseless and politically motivated.Clarifying his stand, Gurjar said that Shaili Chaudhary had not indulged in any form of cross-voting and alleged that certain elements were deliberately trying to malign her image. He described her as a committed and loyal party worker and said making allegations without evidence was unjustified and harmful. He added that such

developments weaken the morale of party workers, which prompted him to step down in protest.The controversy stems from the Rajya Sabha election held on March 16, 2026, for two seats in Haryana, where candidates from the BJP, Congress and an Independent were in the fray. Amid fears of cross-voting, Congress had shifted its MLAs to Himachal Pradesh ahead of polling. However, after the voting, reports of cross-voting surfaced, intensifying internal tensions within the party.Gurjar's resignation is being viewed as a sign of growing factionalism within the Haryana Congress, particularly involving leaders aligned with the Hooda camp. Political observers believe the development could impact the party's organisational dynamics and electoral strategy in the state.So far, no official statement has been issued by senior party leaders or the central leadership regarding the resignation. However, there is speculation that efforts may be made to persuade Gurjar to reconsider his decision.The development has also drawn attention from rival parties, which have projected it as an indication of internal weakness within the Congress. With the party aiming for a comeback in Haryana, such internal discord could pose challenges to its political strategy.The coming days are likely to be crucial as the Congress leadership.

NEWS BRIEF

HSBC Mutual Fund launches its maiden ETF

CHANDIGARH : HSBC Mutual Fund announced the launch of HSBC Gold ETF, investing in physical gold or gold related instruments, and HSBC Gold ETF Fund of Fund (FoF), investing in units of HSBC Gold ETF. The launch marks the first ETF offerings from HSBC Mutual Fund in India. The New Fund Offer (NFO) schemes open for subscription this week.NFO Period:-HSBC Gold ETF – 16 to 18 March 2026.HSBC Gold ETF Fund of Fund – 19 to 25 March 2026.Both funds will be managed by Dipan Parikh, HSBC Mutual Fund. HSBC Gold ETF will invest in physical gold, and the performance of the scheme will be benchmarked against the domestic price of gold. HSBC Gold ETF Fund of Fund will invest in the units of HSBC Gold ETF.

Gen Z Taking Real Estate Decisions Sooner as Confidence Builds in Gurugram: Kotak

GURUGRAM : A combination of infrastructure visibility, faster underwriting and disciplined supply is improving first-buyer confidence in Gurugram, prompting Gen Zs and younger millennials to advance their home-purchase timelines, Kotak Mahindra Bank commented. The 28.5-km Gurugram Metro extension linking Old and New Gurugram, along with continued delivery on the Dwarka Expressway, is reducing perceived risk on emerging corridors and strengthening buyer conviction, the Bank said. "Homeowners across India are getting younger," said Manu Singh, Business Head – Housing Finance, Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. "We are seeing borrowers make the jump earlier. The average age of a Kotak home-loan borrower is now reduced to 32 years and expected to reduce some more. It was around 36 just five years ago. Gen Zs and Millennials, who were seen as slow to decide on homeownership, are now forming the base of first-time buyers, acting with clarity and purpose on their homeownership needs.

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

Chandigarh/ Patiala : Amazon India today announced a landmark fee reduction aimed at accelerating growth for lakhs of sellers across the country. Building on last year's fee revision, the company has expanded zero referral fees coverage more than 10x from 1.2 crore products in 2025 to over 12.5 crore products priced under ₹1,000 across 1,800+ categories. In addition, Amazon has reduced Easy Ship fees by over 20% for products priced below ₹300. Easy Ship allows sellers to store products at their own premises while Amazon handles pickup and delivery, making it a preferred choice for sellers starting or scaling their e-commerce journey due to its lower upfront logistics costs. Sellers shipping multiple units in a single box can also see savings of up to 90%+ on selling fees for the second unit, further improving overall savings. The revised fees come into effect from March 16, 2026.Amit Nanda, Director, Selling Partner Services, Amazon India, said.

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

SHIMLA: 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. Registration for the Hackathon on Cybersecurity & AI Safety 2025–26 is now open and closes on March 22, 2026. Interested participants can register at: www.isb.edu/events/hackathon-on-cybersecurity-and-ai-safety-2025-26

Amazon.in brings AI-powered festive shopping for Navratri, Gudi Padwa and Eid celebration

SHIMLA, As families across India prepare for Navratri, Gudi Padwa and Eid, Amazon.in is making festive shopping effortless with thoughtfully curated selections and flexible delivery options. Whether customers need last-minute Pooja essentials delivered in minutes through Amazon Now in parts of Delhi-NCR, Mumbai and Bengaluru, or prefer scheduled 2-hour slotted delivery via Amazon Fresh or want the convenience of same-or-next-day delivery through Everyday Needs, Amazon.in brings everything needed for festive celebrations to their doorstep. Customers can enjoy traditional fasting ingredients and premium dry fruits to classic mithai and refreshing beverages, customers can explore festive favorites from popular brands such as Tata Sampann, Farmley, GO DESi, Storia, Nutraj and more. For those seeking quick meal solutions during busy festive days, the specially curated Ready-to-Eat Store offers up to 35% off on a wide range.

Ashok made president, Ajay Gen Secretary and Naveen treasurer of Agarwal Vaishya Samaj

HANS RAJ YADAV

KURUKSHETRA: Taking significant steps toward organizational building, Ashok Buwaniwala, State President of Agarwal Vaishya Samaj Haryana, has appointed Ashok Garg as District President for Kurukshetra, acting upon recommendation of State General Secretary Rajesh Singla. It is noteworthy that during the state-level convention and biennial elections held recently, all existing executive bodies were dissolved; subsequently, Ashok Buwaniwala—who was re-elected as State President—has initiated process of constituting his new executive committee. Continuing this process and following entrustment of Kurukshetra district leadership to Ashok Garg, Ajay Gupta has been appointed as District General Secretary and Naveen Goyal as District Treasurer. Upon their appointments, Ashok Garg, Ajay Gupta and Naveen Goyal expressed their gratitude to State President Ashok Buwaniwala and State General Secretary Rajesh Singla.

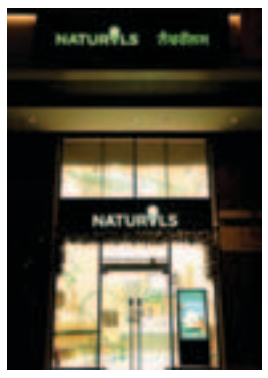
Jammu Railway staff praised for ensuring passenger safety

JAMMU: Demonstrating commitment towards passenger safety and service, the Jammu Division of Northern Railway has once again set an example through the prompt and commendable actions of its ticket checking staff.Working under the guidance of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Uchit Singhal, the staff has been actively contributing not only to passenger convenience but also to security across trains. In a notable incident on March 17, ticket checking staff member Sandeep Kumar, posted at Pathankot headquarters, apprehended two mobile thieves near Narwana station. The accused were caught red-handed while attempting to steal a passenger's mobile phone in Coach S-1 of Train No. 14035 (Dhauladhar Express). Acting swiftly, he handed them over to the Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel onboard for further legal action.

The Wait is Over for Mohali as Naturals Ice Cream Opens its Doors at HLP Gallerria

MOHALI : The long wait is finally over for ice cream lovers in Mohali because Naturals Ice Cream has officially opened its doors in the city. This new outlet marks the brand's 186th store across India and it promises to bring the same legendary taste that has delighted fans for decades.

Mohali is famous for its cricket stadium and its love for good food, yet residents have often had to travel to Panchkula or Chandigarh just to savour their favourite ice cream. For years, fans have braved the distance, often carrying their favourite scoops back in thermocol boxes to ensure they didn't melt before reaching home. As a token of appreciation for this incredible dedication, Naturals has brought the 'Taste the Original' experience straight to the neighbourhood, ensuring the only travel involved is a quick trip to HLP Gallerria.



The new outlet upholds the brand's reputation for delicious artisanal ice creams made using only three ingredients: seasonal fruits, milk and sugar. Locals can now relish popular flavours like Tender Coconut, Mango, Orange Pistachio, Malai khurma and Choco Bite right here in the city. Speaking on the launch, Siddhant Kamath, Director, Naturals Ice Cream, said, "We have always been overwhelmed by the love we receive from Punjab. We noticed that many of our customers were travelling from Mohali to our Chandigarh and Panchkula stores specifically for our ice cream. We wanted to bring their favourite flavours closer to them and this new store is our way of saying thank you for that loyalty. We are thrilled to finally be a part of the Mohali community." Naturals invites everyone to visit the new store for a post-match celebration or a weekend treat. The outlet is open from late morning to midnight, so guests can drop by to revisit old memories and make new ones over a scoop of ice cream.

Tandon urges UT Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria to expedite action on pending demands of Laghu Udyog including FAR increase

CHANDIGARH: Senior BJP leader & member of the party's National Council Sanjay Tandon on Tuesday led a delegation of Laghu Udyog Bharti, Chandigarh branch, to the UT Administrator and Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria and submitted a memorandum seeking early action on key pending demands, including FAR increase, of particularly the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME's).The delegation comprised Avi Bhasin, President; Akshay Chugh, Senior Vice President; Sunil Khetarpal, Vice President and Manish Nigam, General Secretary of Laghu Udyog Bharti. Tandon expressed gratitude to the Administrator for his recent intervention, which has led to movement on several long-pending industrial issues, creating a positive sentiment among entrepreneurs.However, he urged further proactive steps to strengthen the industrial ecosystem and improve ease of doing business in the Union Territory.Highlighting operational challenges faced by industries, Tandon requested permission for automobile service stations, including repair, spare parts, and accessories, within the Industrial Area.He also called for allowing service-based industries that directly support manufacturing units, such as suppliers of hardware goods, iron and steel sheets, pipes, machinery and mill stores.He emphasized that under the MSME Development Act, 2006, such trading and service activities are considered integral to the industrial ecosystem.Tandon noted that these businesses require large spaces and logistical facilities, including heavy loading and unloading, which are not feasible in commercial markets.Tandon further urged the Administration to permit factory outlets within Industrial Areas to promote locally manufactured products.He said this step would strengthen MSMEs, generate employment.

Advanced Kidney Cancer Managed for 9 Years with Precision Oncology at Paras Health Panchkula

PANCHKULA : In a notable example of long-term cancer management through precision oncology, doctors at Paras Health Panchkula have successfully managed a 52-year-old patient diagnosed with metastatic renal cell carcinoma (RCC), an advanced form of kidney cancer, for nearly nine years using a combination of surgery, targeted therapy and immunotherapy tailored to the patient's condition. The patient, a father of two, was initially diagnosed with papillary renal cell carcinoma (Type II), a type of kidney cancer affecting the left kidney. Further medical evaluation revealed that the disease had already spread to nearby lymph nodes in the abdomen, known as para-aortic lymph nodes, indicating metastatic disease at the time of diagnosis.Doctors first performed a nephrectomy, a surgical procedure to remove the affected kidney. Following the surgery, the patient was started on targeted therapy, a treatment that specifically acts on cancer cells. Over time, routine evaluations indicated disease progression, prompting doctors to modify the treatment plan and introduce additional therapeutic options. Dr. Rajeshwar Singh, Director – Oncology, Paras Health Panchkula, said, "Cancer treatment has evolved significantly over the past decade. Precision oncology allows doctors to move beyond the traditional one-size-fits-all approach and design treatments based on the unique molecular profile of a patient's tumour. Immunotherapy further strengthens this approach by enabling the body's immune system to identify and attack cancer cells. In this case of metastatic renal cell carcinoma, the patient has been under our care for nearly nine years and continues to maintain stability with a good quality of life." Over the years, the treatment strategy was revised multiple times based on the patient's response and regular monitoring through imaging tests such as PET-CT scans. After the initial targeted therapy, the patient received immunotherapy followed by additional targeted medicines, which helped keep the disease stable for several years. When further disease progression was observed, doctors introduced dual checkpoint inhibitor therapy, an advanced form of immunotherapy that helps the immune system recognise and attack cancer cells more effectively.

Ambuja Cements Strengthens Financial Security of Rural Families through SHG Initiative in Solan

SHIMLA : Ambuja Cements, the 9th largest building materials solutions provider globally and part of the diversified Adani Portfolio, as part of its CSR, strengthened financial resilience in Ratyod (Dhabota), Nalagarh block of Solan district, by mobilising women into the 'Waheguru' Self-Help Group (SHG) and linking them to formal banking and social security schemes.Through its CSR arm, awareness camps and structured training were organised and women were educated on savings, record-keeping, and financial planning. Eligible members enrolled in government-backed schemes including Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), and Atal Pension Yojana (APY). Jaspal Kaur opted for both PMJJBY and PMSBY, securing life and accident coverage.In November 2021, Jaspal Kaur passed away due to illness. With facilitation support from Ambuja Cements' women empowerment initiative, her family successfully processed the PMJJBY claim, receiving Rs-2,00,000 in February 2022. The assistance helped the family maintain financial stability during a difficult period.The initiative highlights the importance of financial literacy, proper documentation, and timely renewals in safeguarding vulnerable households. The SHG continues regular meetings to ensure sustained coverage, while Ambuja Cements plans to expand awareness and strengthen institutional linkages across neighbouring villages.

BHIM Payments App Announces MS Dhoni as Brand Ambassador

ROTHAK: NPCI BHIM Services Limited (NBSL) today announced the appointment of World Cup–winning former Captain of the Indian Cricket Team, Mahendra Singh Dhoni as the Brand Ambassador for the BHIM Payments App, Bharat Ka Apna Payments App. The partnership brings together two names synonymous with trust, consistency, and dependability, reflecting values that resonate across generations and geographies. As BHIM approaches a decade of enabling India's digital payments journey, this association marks a strategic step in its next phase of growth focused on scale, inclusion, and long-term user confidence.

The association reflects a natural alignment of ethos and journey. BHIM Payments App delivers secure digital payments built on NPCI's robust infrastructure, while Mahendra Singh Dhoni is recognised for composure, discipline, and delivering under pressure. Both have grown from strong foundations to serve India at scale, with Dhoni rising from a small town to national leadership and BHIM evolving from a pioneering payments interface to a platform used across the country, making the partnership a credible extension of what each represents. Speaking on the development, Lalitha Nataraj, MD & CEO, NBSL said, "As digital payments continue to scale in India, the next phase of growth is about strengthening preferences and deepening user confidence. With onboarding MS Dhoni as our brand ambassador, our objective is to position BHIM Payments App not just as a payments option but as the preferred app for each member in the Indian household. As BHIM Payments App enters its next phase of growth, trust remains at the centre of everything we do. Dhoni represents that same trust, built over time. That is why this partnership feels inevitable." Mahendra Singh Dhoni said, "Over the years, I have always believed in keeping things simple and staying clear in approach. What stood out to me about BHIM is its focus on making digital payments straightforward and accessible to people across the country. As India continues to move towards greater digital adoption, it is important that users feel comfortable.

Flipkart Study Reveals Delivery Partners in North India Show Strong Interest in EV Transition

LUDHIANA-- Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, today released "The Last-Mile Leap: Empowering Delivery Fleets to Accelerate India's Electric Mobility Transition," a white paper based on insights from a survey of more than 6,000 Wishmasters (delivery partners) across India. According to the study, delivery partners across North India are showing strong interest in transitioning to electric vehicles (EVs), with 52% of the surveyed cohort in the North expressing willingness to adopt EVs. Out of the cities surveyed, Wishmasters and riders in Delhi demonstrated the highest willingness to move to EVs. The findings highlight growing readiness among riders to shift toward electric mobility, while challenges such as vehicle affordability, charging infrastructure, and EV availability continue to influence adoption decisions.

Nishant Gupta, Head of Sustainability, Flipkart Group said,"Sustainability at Flipkart is about creating a value-led ecosystem that benefits the planet and the people who power our platform. For delivery partners, vehicle choice is ultimately an economic decision. Electric vehicles have the potential to significantly reduce operating costs while improving income stability. At the same time, last-mile delivery represents one of the most practical segments for electrification given its high utilisation and urban footprint," said.

Kraus Jeans opens new store at vegas mall, Dwarka

New Delhi : Kraus Jeans, one of India's leading women's apparel brands, has opened a new store at Vegas Mall, Dwarka, further strengthening its retail presence in North India and expanding access to its denim-led fashion offering.

The new store introduces shoppers to Kraus's contemporary range of denim and casualwear, centred on great fit, all-day comfort, versatility and a proud Made in India ethos. Designed for the modern Indian woman, the store offers a wide selection of denim silhouettes and everyday essentials that blend trend-led design with effortless wearability.

Customers can explore the brand's latest Spring–Summer 2026 (SS26) collection, featuring wide-leg denims, flare and straight fits, Korean pants, baggy jeans, oversized tees, and tops, catering to diverse style preferences. Located in one of Dwarka's prominent retail destinations, the store caters to a growing base of fashion-conscious consumers seeking versatile and comfortable everyday fashion.

Commenting on the launch, Ravi Punjabi, Founder, Kraus Jeans, said, "Our exclusive brand outlets allow us to showcase the full Kraus experience from the breadth of denim fits we offer to the craftsmanship and innovation behind every piece. The strong loyalty we see from our customers continues to encourage our expansion into new markets, and we are excited to bring the Kraus experience to shoppers in Dwarka."

vivo unveils T5x 5G smartphone

CHANDIGARH: vivo India introduced the first smartphone in the T5 series - the vivo T5x 5G. Designed for performance-driven users, the vivo T5x boasts a 7200mAh battery, built for extended usage. Powered by MediaTek Dimensity 7400 Turbo processor, it achieves an impressive AnTuTu score of over 1M, making it the fastest smartphone in the segment.

The smartphone features military-grade certified durability and industry-leading IP68 & IP69+ water resistance. Equipped with a 50 MP AI-powered main camera with a 4K video recording, along with a 32 MP front camera, the T5x ensures users never miss capturing their special moments in stunning detail.Enabled with OriginOS 6, the smartphone reflects vivo's continued focus on user-centric innovation. Commenting on the launch, Pankaj Gandhi, Chief Business officer- Online, vivo India, stated, "We are excited to introduce the vivo T5x 5G in India, marking the first launch of the year in our new T5 series. further strengthening our series-T portfolio, which has consistently resonated with young consumers seeking powerful performance and great value. With the T5x 5G, we are bringing together the segment's biggest battery, powerful performance, and a minimalist design to deliver a dependable smartphone experience.

LPG Crisis Brewing in Punjab, Distributors Raise Alarm

CHANDIGARH: The Federation of LPG Distributors of Punjab (FLDP) expressed their concern while highlighting the ground realities of the emerging LPG supply crisis in the region amid escalating tensions in West Asia during a press conference held at Chandigarh Press Club on Tuesday. The Federation expressed serious concern over the growing mismatch between official assurances of adequate LPG availability and the actual situation being faced by distributors and consumers on the ground.

Gurpal Singh Mann, President, FLDP stated that recent geo-political escalation resulting in disruptions of critical supply routes such as the Strait of Hormuz, have led Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to implement a sudden and steep increase in LPG prices, raising domestic cylinder rates by Rs 60 and commercial cylinders by ₹115. This abrupt decision, taken without adequate groundwork or communication has triggered panic among consumers and created apprehensions about a potential supply shortage.

The Federation further noted that instead of easing the situation, subsequent policy decisions have added to confusion and anxiety. The imposition of restrictive booking intervals which is once every 25 days for urban consumers and once every 45 days for rural consumers, along with the temporary suspension of booking channels for three to four days has resulted in a surge of pending bookings. Distributors are now facing increased public pressure without sufficient clarity or support while supply from bottling plants continues to fall short of meeting existing demand.

Students Trained in Emergency Response at Fazilka School

FAZILKA: A First Responder Program (FRP) was organized by the 108 Ambulance Service at Government Senior Secondary School, Village Jhurar Khera, Abohar, District Fazilka, to educate students on handling emergency situations and impart life-saving skills. Over 40 students participated in the session, where they received hands-on training in CPR, basic first aid, and emergency response techniques. Through practical demonstrations and interactive activities, students learned the importance of staying calm and acting promptly during emergencies. The training was conducted by FRP Trainer Jaswinder Singh, who demonstrated key techniques and guided students through practice sessions to ensure effective learning. Cluster Manager Bhupinder Singh and Operations Manager Guramandeep Singh were also present and motivated students to take an active role in community service and emergency preparedness. Project Head Manish Batra emphasized that the program aims to equip youth with the confidence and skills needed to respond wisely in critical situations and contribute positively to society.

Isuzu Motors India Announces Nationwide 'ISUZU I-Care Pre-Summer Camp'

CHANDIGARH: In a constant endeavour to reaffirm ISUZU's commitment to provide best service and ownership experience, Isuzu Motors India will be conducting a nation-wide 'ISUZU I-Care Pre-Summer Camp' for its range of ISUZU D-MAX Pick-ups and SUVs. This service camp is aimed at offering customers exciting benefits and preventive maintenance checks for a hassle-free driving experience during the season across the country. An initiative of 'ISUZU Care', the pre-summer camp will be organised across all ISUZU authorised dealer service outlets, between 23rd – 28th March 2026 (both days inclusive). During this period, customers can also avail special offers & benefits for their vehicles which includes free 37-Point Comprehensive Check-up, 10% discount on Labour, 5% discount on Parts, 5% discount on Lubes & Fluids, 20% Discount on Retail RSA, 5% on PROCARE, 20% on Extended Warranty and Free 'REGEN' with certain conditions.

Customers can call the nearest ISUZU dealer outlet or visit https://www.isuzu.in/servicebooking.html for service booking.

BHIM Payments App Announces MS Dhoni as Brand Ambassador

LUDHIANA: NPCI BHIM Services Limited (NBSL) today announced the appointment of World Cup–winning former Captain of the Indian Cricket Team, Mahendra Singh Dhoni as the Brand Ambassador for the BHIM Payments App, Bharat Ka Apna Payments App. The partnership brings together two names synonymous with trust, consistency, and dependability, reflecting values that resonate across generations and geographies. As BHIM approaches a decade of enabling India's digital payments journey, this association marks a strategic step in its next phase of growth focused on scale, inclusion, and long-term user confidence.

Speaking on the development, Lalitha Nataraj, MD and CEO, NBSL said, "As digital payments continue to scale in India, the next phase of growth is about strengthening preferences and deepening user confidence. With onboarding MS Dhoni as our brand ambassador, our objective is to position BHIM Payments App not just as a payments option but as the preferred app for each member in the Indian household. As BHIM Payments App enters its next phase of growth, trust remains at the centre of everything we do. Dhoni represents that same trust, built over time. That is why this partnership feels inevitable."

Mahendra Singh Dhoni said, "Over the years, I have always believed in keeping things simple and staying clear in approach. What stood out

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Amidst chants of "Bole So Nihal," Baba Sukha Singh flags off 3 trucks with provisions of langar

CHAMAN LAL

KARNAL: The Sangat of Karnal and Panipat has been granted the privilege of performing Langar Seva for three days at Sachkhand Sri Darbar Sahib, Amritsar. This opportunity has generated immense enthusiasm among the devotees, and a large number of them are currently traveling to Sri Darbar Sahib. In this context, three trucks loaded with provisions for the Langar were dispatched today from Karnal to Amritsar under the aegis of Kar Seva (voluntary service). Under the guidance of Baba Sukha Singh Kar Seva—and with the cooperation of various Gurdwara committees, Sikh organizations, and the general Sikh congregation—the necessary provisions for the Langar were collected this year, just as they are every year, and were sent to Amritsar today. Baba Sukha Singh stated that from March 18 to March 20, thousands of devotees from Karnal and Panipat will arrive to perform the Seva of cooking, serving, and washing utensils for the Langar. Such an opportunity for service is attained only through great spiritual merit, and the Sangat of Karnal and Panipat is indeed fortunate to have been continuously granted this three-day Seva since the year 2008. On behalf of the congregations of both districts, a Sri Akhand Path Sahib will be commenced tomorrow within the Sri Darbar Sahib complex.

NEWS BRIEF

Complainant turns out to mastermind in robbery case

JAIBEER RANA THAMBER

MULLANA: Complainant turned out to be the mastermind in a robbery case in Mullana. The complainant fabricated a story of a robbery himself in order to repay his debts, only to eventually get ensnared in his own trap. The police arrested the mastermind and two of his accomplices. Pramod Rana, the Station House Officer (SHO) of Mullana Police Station, stated that on Friday evening, they received information that on the Barara-Dosadka road—near Holi—two motorcycle-borne youths had robbed Khushi Ram, a resident of Sabapur village and an employee of a financial service provider company, of approximately ₹4.75 lakh. Upon reaching the scene and speaking with the young man, he revealed that he had been working with the company 'Spice Money' for several years. His job involved collecting cash from various financial firms—specifically Muthoot Microfin Finance (Barara), Ujjivan Small Finance (Barara).

DC Rahul Narwal issues show-cause notice to municipal EO, secretary for skipping review meeting

HANSI

DINKAR GAVADI: Deputy Commissioner Dr Rahul Narwal has issued a show-cause notice to the Executive Officer (EO) and secretary of the Municipal Council for remaining absent from a weekly review meeting held at the district secretariat on Tuesday.

The DC directed both officials to submit their replies within two days, warning that strict disciplinary action would be taken if their responses are found unsatisfactory.

Dr Narwal said the administration conducts weekly review meetings to monitor municipal functioning, including sanitation, development works and public services. Attendance of concerned officials is mandatory to assess progress and issue necessary directions.

He noted that both the EO and secretary were absent from the meeting without prior information, reflecting serious negligence towards administrative responsibilities.

Three arrested for assault on minor in Pathankot

BUREAU,

PATHANKOT: In a swift action, the police have arrested three accused in a sensitive case involving the assault of a minor girl in Pathankot. The case was registered based on the victim's statement, and further investigation is underway.

According to police sources, the 16-year-old girl stated that she was standing near her house when a local resident, identified as Sonu, lured her on the pretext of bringing goods from a nearby shop. He allegedly took her to an old haveli, where two other persons, Anu and Sanjeev, were already present.

The accused allegedly intimidated the girl and confined her inside the premises. Despite her resistance, they took her to a secluded area and committed the crime.

The victim later managed to return home and informed her family, who immediately approached the police. Acting promptly, the police conducted a medical examination of the victim and registered a case against the three accused.

Farmers urged to embrace agribusiness alongside farming: Sandhwan

SURINDER DAMDAMI,

FARIDKOT: With the objective of promoting agricultural diversification and environmental sustainability, a district-level Kisan Mela was organized at the Regional Research Centre of Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana, Faridkot.

Punjab Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan attended the event as chief guest, while MLA Gurdit Singh Sekhon and internationally renowned rice scientist Dr. Gurdev Singh Khush were among the special guests. The event was presided over by PAU Vice Chancellor Dr. Satbir Singh Gosal.

Addressing the gathering, Speaker Sandhwan emphasized the need to strengthen farmers and agriculture for the progress of Punjab and the country. He described agriculture as one of the most respected professions and urged farmers to expand into agribusiness to enhance their income and ensure sustainable growth.

He advised farmers to rely on expert guidance from PAU rather than unverified information on social media. Stressing diversification, he encouraged the establishment of agro-based small-scale industries to maximize returns from agricultural produce, assuring full support from the Punjab Government and PAU.

MLA Gurdit Singh Sekhon highlighted that Kisan Melas serve as an important platform for farmers to gain knowledge about scientific farming methods, crop protection, seed selection, and modern techniques. He noted that increasing participation in such events reflects farmers' growing interest in making agriculture more profitable. PAU Vice Chancellor Dr. Satbir Singh Gosal shared insights on new Kharif crop varieties, research initiatives, and advancements in agricultural marketing. He reiterated the university's commitment to addressing farmers' challenges and providing practical solutions.

Congress celebrates election of Karamvir Singh Baudh as RS member

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

KARNAL: The Urban District Congress Committee celebrated with great fervor following the election of Congress leader Karamvir Bodh as a Member of the Rajya Sabha. Gathering at Ambedkar Chowk on the city's Mall Road, Congress workers distributed laddoos, exchanged sweets, and offered congratulations to one another. The event was presided over by the Urban District President, Parag Gaba. Several senior leaders of the Congress party, office-bearers, and representatives from various social organizations were also present on this occasion. Everyone described this victory as a testament to the public's faith in the party's policies and leadership. Meanwhile, State President Rao Narendra Singh also arrived in Karnal, where he received a grand welcome from Congress leaders and workers. The workers presented him with floral garlands and bouquets, extending their congratulations on the victory in the Rajya Sabha elections.

The entire team of the Karnal Urban District Congress Committee expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the top leadership for enabling Karamvir Bodh to become a Member of the Rajya Sabha. Furthermore, upon Rao Narendra Singh's arrival in Karnal, all office-bearers and the entire team of the Urban District Congress Committee accorded him a rousing welcome. Speaking to journalists on this occasion, Rao Narendra Singh stated that Congress National President Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leader Rahul Gandhi have demonstrated—by sending an individual hailing from a humble background to the Rajya Sabha—that the Congress party is consistently dedicated to amplifying the voice of the common man. He asserted that this victory represents a triumph for both democracy and the party's ideology.

Rao Narendra Singh further declared that those who engaged in cross-voting would not be spared, and strict disciplinary action would be initiated against them. He alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party had attempted to influence the contest in the Rajya Sabha elections by fielding its own supported candidate. He argued that had the BJP truly wished to cooperate, one seat could have gone to their candidate and the other to ours; instead, the BJP—relying on the power of money and muscle—fielded a candidate backed by them with the specific intent of preventing our candidate from entering the nation's highest legislative body. Despite these obstacles, the Congress party fought the election with resilience and emerged victorious.

Expressing his gratitude to all the senior leaders, workers, and supporters across the state, he affirmed that this victory is the result of collective effort. On this occasion, a large number of Congress workers were present, including Bhupendra Poswal, Dilsher Dacher, Tarun Chauhan, Master Karan Singh, Dr. Chandramani Narang, Suresh Kachhwa, Lalit Kumar, Deepak Mahajan, Pankaj Gaba, Harpal Kalampura, Nishchay Sohi, Deepak Chaudhary, Rajesh Chaudhary, Surendra Nambardar, Suresh Chaudhary, Ashok Duggal, Vinod Titoria, Yuvraj Singh Bhatti, Praveen Punia, Sapna Rana, Gaurav Sharma, Narendra Kumar Agghi, Rahul Gupta, Kapil Thakur, Rakesh Dhakwala, Gurmeet Singh, Vinod Sharma, Ramesh Jogi, Prithvi Bhatt, Sher Singh Dabri, and Rishpal Singh Dabri.

Goraya takes charge as new tehsildar of Pathankot

SHARANJEET

PATHANKOT: Following recent administrative transfers by the Punjab Government, Parampreet Singh Goraya on Monday formally assumed charge as the new Tehsildar of Pathankot. On his arrival at the Tehsil office, Goraya was warmly welcomed by staff members and officials of the Revenue Department, who greeted him with bouquets. He was earlier posted in Fatehgarh Sahib, where his administrative work was widely appreciated. Soon after taking charge, Goraya held an informal meeting with the Tehsil staff and reviewed

and strictly in accordance with rules. Speaking on the occasion, Goraya said that issues of citizens visiting the Tehsil office would be heard on priority and resolved without delay. He emphasized that negligence in government work would not be tolerated and that transparency in administration would be strictly maintained.

MSHIPA Hosts Talk by Prof. Karthik Muralidharan on State-Led Roadmap for India's Development

SHIMLA: Dr. Manmohan Singh Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration (MSHIPA), Shimla, organised a talk by eminent economist Prof. Karthik Muralidharan on the theme "Accelerating India's Development: A State-Led Roadmap for Effective Governance" at the Conference Hall, Armsdale Building, Secretariat. The lecture drew upon Prof. Muralidharan's book Accelerating India's Development: A State-Led Roadmap for Effective Governance, reflecting insights gathered over years of research and policy engagement. He highlighted the need to strengthen state capacity, governance, and public service delivery as key drivers of India's development. Emphasising that the quality of implementation is as important as policy design, he underscored the importance of improving accountability, data systems, and frontline service delivery mechanisms. He also pointed out that India often performs well in "mission mode" but struggles with routine service delivery, and that bridging this gap is essential for sustained development. He further emphasised that simply increasing public spending is not sufficient; rather, improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the state can yield significantly better outcomes. Stressing the centrality of sectors such as education, health, public finance, and administrative systems, he noted that strengthening these areas is crucial for translating economic growth into broad-based and inclusive development. He concluded by highlighting that building a more effective state remains a key challenge and opportunity for India's future development trajectory. The programme was organised by MSHIPA, Shimla. Smt. Rupali Thakur, Director, MSHIPA, was present on the occasion.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-AUCTION NOTICE

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

S. No.	Lot No.	Description	Auction Start Date Time
1	ADVT-UMB-NLDM-OH-347-26-1	As per site plan total two (02) sites for advertisement through unipole/ hoarding at Nangal Dam (NLDM) Railway station with total area of 870 sq. ft.	30.03.2026 12.00 Hrs

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

SERVING CUSTOMER WITH A SMILE 916/2026

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Annexure-'A'

E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

INVITATION FOR BID(IFB)

The Executive Engineer, (B&R) Division, HPPWD, Baijnath on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, invites the percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors/Firms registered with HP PWD for the works as detailed in the table

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost Rs.	Starting Date for downloading (09:00 Hrs)	Earnest Money	Time limit	Deadline for submission End date (10:30 Hrs)	Cost of Tender Form
1.	Periodical Maintenance of Baijnath to Bhattu Uperla Road (Road Number HP0403VR0027) Km 4/00 to 5/00, 5/00 to 6/000 Under AMP 2026-27 (PMGSY Roads) (SH: Providing and laying Tack Coat, Bituminous Concrete 30mm thick, Repair of Pot Holes)	27,07,541/-	18.03.2026	54,200/-	Two Months	28.03.2026	2000/-
2.	Periodical Maintenance of Tibbetan Colony Bir Keori Road (Road Number Hp0403Vr 003412102, Hp0403 Vr0034 12103) Km 1/00 to 2/00, 2/00 to 2/950 Under AMP 2026-27 (Village Roads) (SH: Providing and laying Tack Coat, Bituminous Concrete 30mm thick, Repair of Pot Holes)	29,83,916/-	18.03.2026	59,700/-	Two Months	28.03.2026	2000/-
3.	Periodic maintenance of Baijnath to Behot Road (Road Number HP0403VR000 212102, HP0403VR000212103, Hp0403 Vr000212104) Km 1/00 to 2/00, Km 2/00 to 3/00, 3/00 to 4/00 Under AMP 2026-27 (Village Roads) (SH: Providing and laying Tack Coat, Bituminous Concrete 30mm thick, Repair of Pot Holes)	72,20,750/-	18.03.2026	1,44,500/-	Two Months	28.03.2026	2,000/-

The bidders are advised to note others details of tenders from the department Website **www.hptenders.gov.in**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Baijnath Division
HPPWD Baijnath

DPR-HP-7209/2025-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the Sale Deed bearing Vasika No. 28 dated 03-04-2017, registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Kharar, Tehsil Kharar, District S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali), executed by Smt. Manjit Kaur w/o S. Amar Singh in favour of Smt. Baljinder Kaur w/o S. Paramjit Singh, has been lost/misplaced. A report regarding the loss of the said document has been lodged with the concerned Police Station, Kharar, vide Daily Diary Report. If any person finds or comes across the above-mentioned Sale Deed, he/she is requested to kindly contact: Smt. Malkeet Kaur w/o S. Jaswinder Singh R/o Flat No. 154/3, Block-E3, ACME Heights-1, Sector-126, Chhaju Majra, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali) The finder shall be suitably rewarded. Any person having any claim, objection, or interest regarding the said property or document should contact the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no claim shall be entertained thereafter.

Commercial LPG cylinders on priority basis to institutions providing essential services: DC Vishram Meena

HANS RAJ YADAV

KURUKSHETRA: Deputy Commissioner Vishram Kumar Meena stated that, in accordance with the State Government's orders, commercial LPG cylinders will be made available on a priority basis to institutions providing essential services within the Kurukshetra district. The distribution of these commercial LPG cylinders will be carried out only after a recommendation is issued by the district-level committee. There are no issues regarding the supply of domestic gas in the district, and adequate stock is currently available. DC Meena was addressing a meeting of the district-level committee—convened by the State Government to review the distribution and stock availability of commercial gas—at the auditorium of the Mini Secretariat on Tuesday. Prior to this, he sought feedback regarding the stock and demand for commercial LPG cylinders from District Food and Supplies Controller Naresh Kumar, as well as officials from various Oil Marketing Companies. Additionally, in compliance with government directives, applications for the allocation of gas cylinders for both daughters' and sons' weddings were discussed. He directed officials from the Food and Supplies Department, along with other relevant departments, to ensure the maintenance of gas supplies and stock levels, while simultaneously conducting continuous inspections to prevent the misuse of domestic gas cylinders for commercial purposes. Furthermore, instructions were issued to regularly verify stock inventories to ensure that black marketing is prevented at all costs. He emphasised that cylinders for daughters' weddings should be provided on a priority basis, subject to obtaining necessary administrative approval.

ਗਰੇਟਰ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਏਰੀਆ ਡਿਵੈਲਪਮੈਂਟ ਅਥਾਰਿਟੀ

ਜਨਤਕ ਸੂਚਨਾ

[illegible] M/s Mangla Enclave-II [illegible] Residential Colony "Mangla Enclave-II", Area 16.6558 at Village Malak & Badowal, Tehsil Jagraon (Lic. No. 2018/01) [illegible] 3.2658 Acres [illegible] Composite Area 19.3216 Acres [illegible] 433 [illegible] 16.03.2026 [illegible]

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1gSJjUCzmNZCIWdWwRCOfzaUgols TZ4f?usp=sharing

[illegible]

ਗਰੇਟਰ ਮੋਹਾਲੀ ਏਰੀਆ ਡਿਵੈਲਪਮੈਂਟ ਅਥਾਰਿਟੀ

ਪੁੱਡਾ ਭਵਨ, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ ਨਗਰ

(ਜਨਤਕ ਸੂਚਨਾ)

ਮ੍ਰਿਤਕ ਅਲਾਟੀ ਲਾਭ ਪਾਤਰ

ਮਕਾਨ ਨੰ: ਐਸ ਆਈ ਜੀ 1441/1, ਸੈਕਟਰ-65, ਐਸ ਏ ਐਸ ਨਗਰ ਦੇ ਅਲਾਟੀ Smt. Krishna Devi W/o Swaya Ram ਦੀ ਮੌਤ ਮਿਤੀ 23-10-2007 ਨੂੰ ਹੋ ਗਈ ਹੈ। Smt. Raj Rani Jain W/o Rishav Jain, [illegible] 20, [illegible]-11, [illegible]

1 Avinash Chander Sharma — Son-in-Law

2 Umesh Kumar Sharma — Grand Son

[illegible] 1441/1, ਸੈਕਟਰ-65, [illegible] 15 ਦਿਨਾਂ [illegible] 1441/1, ਸੈਕਟਰ-65, [illegible] Smt. Raj Rani Jain W/o Rishay Jain, [illegible] 20, [illegible]-11, [illegible]

[illegible]

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD

(A Chandigarh Administration Undertaking)

8, JAN MARG, SECTOR 9-D, CHANDIGARH

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice published in this Newspaper on dated 12.03.2026 in which policy name was published as consensual transfer, may be read as Blood Relation Transfer (brother to brother of 50% share), rest remains unchanged in r/o D.U. No. 198-1, CATEGORY II LIG, Sector 55, Chandigarh

Sr. No.	Name of the applicant (PROPOSED TRANSFERED)	Name of the allottee/transferee (PROPOSED TRANSFEREE)	D.U. No.	Cat.	Sector Chandigarh
1	SH. SAMJOT SINGH S/O SH. SAT PAL SINGH	SH. AMJOT SINGH S/O SH. SATPAL	198/1	II	55, CHANDIGARH

SECRETARY
CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD, CHANDIGARH

AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED

(A SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANK)

Regd. Office: 19-A, Dhuleshwar Garden, Ajmer Road, Jaipur - 302001 (CIN:L36911RJ1996PLC011381)

Demand Notice Under Section 13(2) of Securitisation Act of 2002

As the loan account became NPA therefore the Authorized officer under section 13(2) of "The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002" had issued 60 days demand notice to the borrowers/co-borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors (collectively referred as "Borrowers") as given in the table. According to the notice if the borrowers do not deposit the entire amount within 60 days, the amount will be recovered from auction of the mortgage properties/secured assets as given below. Therefore you the borrowers are informed to deposit the entire loan amount along with future interest and expenses within 60 days from the date of demand notice, otherwise under the provisions of 13(4) and 14 of the said Act, the Authorized officer is free to take possession for sale of the mortgage properties/Secured assets as given below.

Borrowers to note that after receipt of this notice, in terms of Section 13(13) of the Act, 2002, you are prohibited and restrained from transferring any of the secured assets by way of sale, lease or otherwise, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Borrowers attention are attracted towards Section 13(8) r/w Rule 3(5) of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Act that the borrowers shall be entitled to redeem their secured asset upon the payment of the complete outstanding dues as mentioned below before the publication of auction notice, which thereafter shall cease to exist.

Loan A/c No./ Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Mortgagor/ Guarantor	Date and Amount of Demand Notice Under Sec. 13(2)	Description of Mortgaged Property
A/c No. 2306211953286740, 9001220337670229 & 9001220341399449 **BANSAL ENTERTAINMENTS PRIVATE LIMITED THROUGH IT'S DIRECTORS MR. KRISHAN LAL BANSAL, MR. SAHIL BANSAL, MR. AMARJEET SINGH, MR. HARNEET SINGH & MS. SUNMEET KAUR (Borrower/Mortgagor)** M/S. RAMA GRAND CEREMONIAL LLP THROUGH ITS PARTNERS MR. HARNEET SINGH & MS. SUNMEET KAUR (Co-Borrower) MR. KRISHAN LAL BANSAL S/O MR. MADAN LAL BANSAL (Guarantor) MR. AMARJEET SINGH S/O MR. SURAT SINGH (Guarantor) MR. HARNEET SINGH S/O MR. AMARJEET SINGH (Guarantor) MR. SAHIL BANSAL S/O MR. KRISHAN LAL BANSAL (Guarantor) MS. SUNMEET KAUR D/O MR. AMARJEET SINGH (Guarantor)	11-03-26 Rs. 1,40,39,496 + 3,53,80,505 + 4,46,57,567 = Rs. 9,40,77,568/- (Rupees Nine Crore Forty Lakh Seventy Seven Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Eight Only) **As on 11-03-26**	**SCHEDULE OF HYPOTHECATION** First and Exclusive Charge by Way of Hypothecation on Book Debts, Other Current Assets and Movable Fixed Assets Both Present and Future. **SCHEDULE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY MORTGAGED: -** All That Part and Parcel, Along With Present and Future Structure of Commercial Property, Plot No. 19, Area Measuring 12209.90 Sq. Mtrs., Situated at Sector Institutional Green, Greater Noida Industrial Development Area, District Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh. Owned by Bansal Entertainments Private Limited. Boundaries as Below: - East: 24.00 M Wide Road West: Plot No.18 North: 50.00 M Wide Green Belt/Other Plot South: 24.00 M Wide Road

Date : 17-03-2026
Place: BATHINDA, PUNJAB

Authorised Officer
AU Small Finance Bank Limited

AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED

(A SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANK)

Regd. Office: 19-A, Dhuleshwar Garden, Ajmer Road, Jaipur - 302001 (CIN:L36911RJ1996PLC011381)

APPENDIX IV [SEE RULE 8(I)] POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) under the "Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest [Act, 2002 (54 of 2002)] and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice on the date as mentioned below calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice as per the details given in below table:

Name of Borrower/Co-Borrower/ Mortgagor/Guarantor / Loan A/c No.	13(2) Notice Date & Amount	Description of Mortgaged Property	Date of Possession Taken
(A/c No.) L9001060130311471 **Smt.Amarjit Kaur (Borrower)**, Smt.Rajbir Kaur (Co-Borrower), Darshan Singh (Co-Borrower)	11-Nov-25 Rs. 617367/- Rs. Six Lakh Seventeen Thousand Three Hundred Sixty-Seven Only 10-Nov-25	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Measuring 07 Marlas 136 Ft(Approximately 7-1/2 Marlas) Being 3/64 Share Of 08 Kanals 00 Marlas Bearing Khasra No 84//908-0),Khewat No 554,Khatauni No 784 As Per Jamabandi 2019-2020 Situated At Village Harike,Teh Patti,Distt.Tarantaran Punjab As Per Sale Deed No 434,Dated 25-03-2022 Bounded As East- Land Of Tarsem Singh Etc. , West- Rasta Of 2 Karam , North- Sukhwinder Singh , South- Ranjit Singh **Property Measuring 07 Marlas 136 Ft(Approximately 7-1/2 Marlas) Being 3/64 Share Of 08 Kanals 00 Marlas**	12-Mar-26
(A/c No.) L9001060128638789 **Smt.Amarjit Kaur (Co-Borrower & Legal Heir Of Late Shri Shinda - Borrower)**, Vijay Shinda (Co-Borrower), Raju Shinda (Co-Borrower & Legal Heir Of Late Shri Shinda - Borrower), Happy (Legal Heir Of Late Shri Shinda - Borrower)	27-Nov-25 Rs. 596445/- Rs. Five Lakh Ninety-Six Thousand Four Hundred Forty-Five Only 27-Nov-25	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At - Khasra No 22/7/1 9-9 Old Khewat No-178, Khatoni No-336, Newkhewat No. 254, Khatauni No. 398, Tehsil- Makhu, District- Ferozepur, Punjab **Admeasuring 90.75 Sq Yd**	12-Mar-26
(A/c No.) L9001071039375467 **Ram Gopal (Borrower)**, Jugnu Ram (Co-Borrower), Smt.Kamlesh Rani (Co-Borrower)	13-Nov-25 Rs. 4295301/- Rs. Forty-Two Lakh Ninety-Five Thousand Three Hundred One Only 10-Nov-25	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At Khewat No 104/99 , Khatoni No 232, Khasra No 7//14/8-0, Deogarh, Peer Khana Basti, Th - Patran, Dist - Patiala, Punjab **Admeasuring 5-1/3 Marla**, East: PROPERTY OF NISHA JAIN, West: STREET, North: PROPERTY OF NANAK RAJ, South: PROPERTY OF GORA LAL	16-Mar-26
(A/c No.) L9001060127665084 **Geetan Dass (Borrower)**, Smt.Taro Bai (Co-Borrower), Pirthi Pal (Co-Borrower)	16-Dec-25 Rs. 526401/- Rs. Five Lakh Twenty-Six Thousand Four Hundred One Only 11-Dec-25	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At - Khewat No 184 265 Kh No 167 24 5 4 25 8 0, Near Radha Krishan Mandir, Vill- Shaturana, Tehsil- Patran, District - Patiala, Punjab **Admeasuring 136.12 Sqyds**, East: H/O ISHRO, West: H/O BALWANT SINGH, North: STREET, South: H/O KARNAIL SINGH	16-Mar-26
(A/c No.) L9001060139467701 **Jeevan Singh (Borrower)**, Smt.Sandeep Kaur (Co-Borrower), Lovepreet Singh (Co-Borrower)	11-Nov-25 Rs. 1212728/- Rs. Twelve Lakh Twelve Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-Eight Only 10-Nov-25	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At- Khewat/Khatouni No 822/2317 To 2318 Khasra No 40/11/2, 19, 20/1, 21, 22, 62/16, 17, 23, 24/1, 66/1, 9, 66/10/1, 41/1, 41/210, 11, 20, 21, Reg. No. 2023-24/60/1/71 Dt. 25-4-2023 Village/Sub-Tehsil : Bareta, Budladha, Mansa, Punjab **Admeasuring 302.5 Sq.Yds**	16-Mar-26

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, therefore notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein above mentioned table in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said (Act-2002) read with Rule 8 of the said rule on the date mentioned in the above table. "The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act **read with rule 8 (6), in respect of time available, i.e., 30 days from this intimation,** to redeem the secured assets." The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) for the amount and interest thereon mentioned in the above table.

-sd-

Place: PUNJAB　Date: 17-Mar-2026　Authorised Officer AU Small Finance Bank Limited

President of India serves AkshayaPatra's 5 Billionth Meal

BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MARCH 17

The AkshayaPatra Foundationcommemorated the milestone of serving 5 billion meals and its completion of 25 years of service to humanity at the RashtrapatiBhavan Cultural Centre, New Delhi. Hon'ble President of IndiaSmt. DroupadiMurmu graced the event as the Chief Guest, and the Hon'ble Minister of Education Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, was the Guest of Honour. The event was held in the august presence of AkshayaPatra's founders - Shri Madhu Pandit Dasa, Chairman and President of ISKCON Bangalore, and Shri ChanchalapathiDasa, Vice Chairman and Sr. Vice President.

The theme of the event – 'Suposhit and Sushikshit Bharat for Viksit Bharat' highlighted the collective efforts towards child nutrition and education for a developed India.The event was attended byAkshayaPatra'sBoard of Trustees, senior government officials, distinguished leaders, public policy think tanks, philanthropists, partners, supporters and key stakeholders. Some of the past beneficiaries of AkshayaPatra, students, parents, teachers and staff from government schools were also present.The Hon'ble President gave gifts, served meals and in a heartfelt gesture, personally fed the children with her own hands.

Currently in Telangana, AkshayaPatra is feeding 2.5 lakh meals daily through 5 centralised kitchens, and AkshayaPatra Founder and Chairman Shri MadhuPanditDasa, and Telangana President Shri Satya Gaura Chandra Dasa were present during the celebrations along with the Hon'ble President of India.

As an implementing partner of the Government of India's flagship PM POSHAN initiative, AkshayaPatrahas been serving fresh, nutritious meals to millions of children studying in government schools across India. The Foundation is currently feeding 2.35 million children through its state-of-the-art kitchens in 78 locations across 16 States and 3 Union Territories of India, and aspires to feed 3 million children every day by 2030.

Speaking on the occasion, Hon'ble President of India Smt. DroupadiMurmu said, "Serving five billion meals in advancement of educational objectives is the remarkable achievement of The AkshayaPatra Foundation. The theme of this event, 'From a Well-Nourished and Well-Educated India to a Developed India', underscores the significance of a nourished and educated society in realizing our national resolve to build 'Viksit Bharat' by the year 2047.

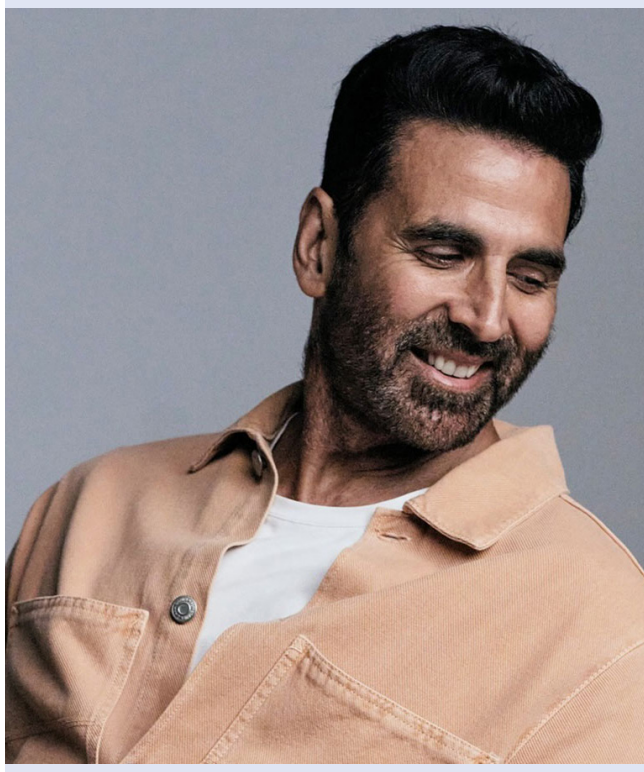
A safe and bright future for our children is not solely the responsibility of the government, but a shared responsibility of us all. When teachers, parents, social organizations, the corporate sector, and every segment of society work together, then we lay a strong foundation for the coming generation. We must ensure that every child receives quality education, nutritious food, good health, and a clean and safe environment. These fundamentals enable holistic development of children.

Education is the instrument that determines the opportunities available in an individual's life and paves the way for their success. It serves as an effective medium for transformation and empowerment. The process of empowerment and capacity-building begins to take shape from the very moment children start attending school. School equips children with the skills and experiences necessary to effectively navigate the challenges of daily life and to become responsible, conscientious citizens. She commended AkshayaPatra Foundation for working continuously to address the issue of malnutrition among children and encourage them to pursue education by delivering mid-day meals to schools for past 25 years.

It is essential that our children, who are the future of the nation, have ready access to nutritious food and quality education. The Government of India has launched numerous significant initiatives aimed at providing adequate nutrition and improved healthcare services to pregnant mothers and children. The school lunch program, implemented under PM POSHAN, has proven to be a significant incentive for parents to send their children to school. Numerous studies substantiate that, as a result of this program, there has been an increase in children's enrolment, attendance, and retention in schools. Also there has been a remarkable improvement in their learning capabilities and academic performance. She was happy to note that AkshayaPatra Foundation is playing an important role in furthering the objectives of 'SamagraShikshaAbhiyan,' which aims to ensure quality and inclusive education for all children by the year 2030.

Children are not merely beneficiaries of the free meal program. They are the architects of the nation's bright future. The nutritious food they receive today is an investment in our nation's human capital.

I always believe in natural methods to stay fit: Akshay Kumar



Bollywood star Akshay Kumar has reiterated his belief that maintaining fitness through natural means remains the most effective and sustainable approach.

Akshay recently shared during the India Today Conclave, explaining that the pressure to achieve a perfect body in a short time often leads people to resort to wrong methods. He said, "What you see on screen is a lot of it. I'm not just talking about VFX. Sometimes people even put the wrong things on their bodies. He stressed that he doesn't believe in shortcuts and always favors natural methods to stay fit. He said, "The natural way is our Indian way to get a six-pack. Work out properly, eat good food, consume ghee, live a good life and be happy. This can also help you get a six-pack."

He also expressed concern about the trend of rapid body transformations. He has witnessed people achieve six-packs in four or five months, but he empahsised that's not the right way to do it.

Akshay Kumar has long been considered a fitness role model in Bollywood. Many young actors strive to look as fit as he is, but Akshay says true fitness comes from balance and a healthy lifestyle, not from any wrong or extreme lifestyle.

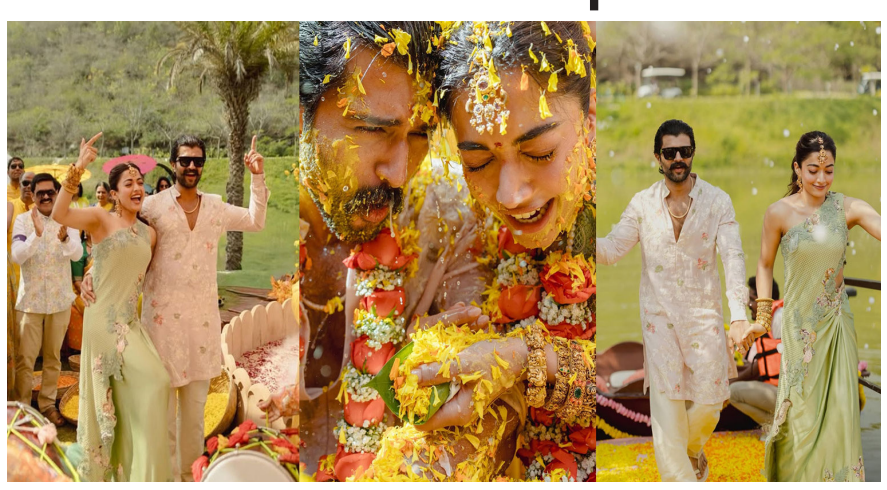
Power Hitter Ishan Kishan Joins Forces with Ai+ Smartphone

CHANDIGARH : Ai+ Smartphone today announced an exclusive brand alliance with cricketer Ishan Kishan, bringing together a brand that refuses to compromise on technology with a player who has built his career by refusing to play within limits set by others.The association reflects a shared belief between the brand and the cricketer: that ambition should never be restricted by access. Ai+ Smartphone has built its identity around delivering modern technology with unbeatable performance and thoughtful design, without placing it behind a premium price barrier.Commenting on the collaboration, Madhav Sheth, CEO of Ai+ Smartphone and Founder of NxtQuantum Shift Technologies, said:"Ishan Kishan represents something that resonates deeply with what Ai+ Smartphone stands for. He didn't wait for permission to back himself. He showed up, played his game, and earned his place on his own terms. That is the spirit we build for — people moving forward with purpose and expecting the technology in their hands to keep up. Bringing Ishan on board reflects the kind of brand we are becoming as we prepare for the next phase of our journey with the Nova Series launching soon." Through the collaboration, Ishan Kishan will feature across Ai+ Smartphone's campaigns and brand initiatives in the coming months. Fans can also expect exclusive behind-the-scenes cricket content and brand moments created using Ai+ Smartphone devices, as the company prepares to introduce its upcoming Nova Series, the next step in its product journey.The alliance brings together a brand and a cricketer connected by the same idea — that ambition should never have to compromise.

SOCIAL Celebrates Navratri With A Special Festive Menu In Chandigarh

CHANDIGARH: With Navratri around the corner, SOCIAL is bringing the festive spirit to the table with a specially curated Navratri menu at Elante SOCIAL & Sector 07 SOCIAL, available from 19th to 27th March. Designed to celebrate traditional fasting flavours while keeping things vibrant and satisfying, the menu offers a variety of vrat-friendly dishes perfect for the nine-day celebration. Guests can indulge in festive favourites such as the Aloo & Banana Tikki Chaat, layered with dahi, tomatoes, carrots and beetroot julienne for a burst of tangy and crunchy flavours. Comfort food lovers can turn to the Navratri Khichdi, made with samak rice, ghee, tomatoes and coriander, served warm and nourishing. The menu also features Sabudana Vada, crisp and golden, served with mint and coconut chutneys, and the flavourful Kuttu Paneer Pakoda paired with mint and angoor chutneys. Adding a unique touch to themmenu is the Arbi & Sweet Potato Kebab, lightly spiced and pan-fried for a wholesome bite. Guests can also opt for the Navratri Platter, a festive combination of sabudana vada, arbi and sweet potato kebabs, kuttu paneer pakoda and raw banana chips served with chutneys and sweet curd.

Rashmika Mandanna, Vijay Deverakonda share fun-filled Haldi pictures



Newlyweds Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda have been taking fans into wedding festivities, days after the couple tied the knot in a grand celebration. Taking to their respective social media handles, Rashmika and Vijay have now shared pictures from their Haldi ceremony, showing glimpses of how their family and friends indulged in the ritual with much enthusiasm. "It was more like Haldi + Holi. We were drenched and dipped in colour so much so that even now my hair still carries a bit of red in it. And PS: I won all the games that day with the incredible help of my Team Bride! Just FYI.. even Vijju was Team Bride that day!" Rashmika fondly recalled.

The pictures show Vijay and Rashmika surrounded by their loved ones as the Haldi rituals unfolded. They also appear to be enjoying a special boat ride, before being drenched in colours, flowers, and more. Vijay Deverakonda also shared a set of pictures from the ceremony and added, "Haldi day - The morning after a sangeeth celebration that ran late into early hours of morning. On another day waking up would have been impossible, but we were all up excited to see each other, excited to spend time with my family and friends. And we had lots of water, colour, music and action to keep us all hyper awake."

For the Haldi ceremony, Rashmika chose an off-shoulder Indo-western ensemble, while Vijay was dressed in a white kurta set. Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda got married on February 26 in Udaipur in the presence of their close friends and family members. The newlyweds also hosted a grand wedding reception, with many well-known names from the film industry and the political circle in attendance.

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