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NEWS BRIEFS

US lifts sanctions on Iranian oil at sea amid soaring prices

WASHINGTON: The United States has announced the temporary lifting of sanctions on the sale of Iranian oil stranded at sea in an effort to cool down soaring global crude prices. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the temporary measure will make available 140 million barrels of Iranian oil to global markets. "This temporary, short-term authorisation is strictly limited to oil that is already in transit and does not allow new purchases or production," Bessent said in a long post on X. The price of Brent crude has witnessed sharp swings from roughly USD 70 per barrel before the war began to as high as USD 119.50 this week. "Today, the Department of the Treasury is issuing a narrowly tailored, short-term authorisation permitting the sale of Iranian oil currently stranded at sea," Bessent said. The US official claimed that at present, sanctioned Iranian oil is being hoarded by China on the cheap. By temporarily unlocking this existing supply for the world, the United States will quickly bring approximately 140 million barrels of oil to global markets, expanding the amount of worldwide energy and helping to relieve the temporary pressures on supply caused by Iran, he said.

No strategy, just empty rhetoric": Rahul Gandhi slams Centre, warns against inflation as rupee weakens

NEW DELHI: Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Congress leader, Rahul Gandhi, on Saturday slammed the Centre, expressing concern over the falling value of the Indian rupee and rising industrial fuel prices amid escalating conflict in West Asia. Rahul Gandhi warned against inflation in future and said that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government is offering "empty rhetoric" instead of a clear economic strategy. His remarks came after the rupee fell below the 93-mark against the US dollar on Friday, signalling sustained pressure on the domestic currency. He wrote on X, "The rupee weakening against the dollar and heading towards 100, along with a sharp rise in industrial fuel prices—these aren't just numbers; they're clear signals of the inflation to come." He claimed that the production and transport will be more expensive and the Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) will be pulling out investment from the Indian stock market. He further added that after the elections in four states and one Union Territory, the Centre might hike fuel prices. "The government may call it 'normal,' but the reality is: Production and transport will become more expensive."

Major industrial investments validate Punjab's improving law & order and governance: CM Bhagwant Singh Mann

BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, MAR 21

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Saturday presented a focused report card on law and order under the AAP Government as part of the ongoing series 'Shandaar Chaar Saal Bhagwant Mann De Naal', aimed at placing a clear, sector-wise account of four years of governance before the people. He asserted that Punjab's improving law and order is now visible on the ground, driven by a zero tolerance policy against drugs and a sustained crackdown on organized crime, alongside police reforms and rising investor confidence.

The Chief Minister said the Punjab Government's campaign 'Yudh Nashean Virudh' has led to decisive action, with over 95,000 smugglers arrested, 772 crore worth of illegal assets seized, and more than 1,100 gangs dismantled, while measures like the anti-drone system have checked cross-border smuggling. He added that record police recruitment, modernisation, and initiatives like the Sadak Surakhya Force underline the strengthening of law enforcement in Punjab. Taking on the Akali leadership, he said those who patronised gangsters and allowed criminal networks to flourish are now attempting to rewrite history, but cannot escape accountability.

Addressing a press conference, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann stated, "Punjab Government has adopted a zero tolerance policy against drugs, and no leniency has been or will be shown against violators of the law. Exemplary punishment will be ensured," said CM Bhagwant Singh Mann, adding, "From March 2022 till now, 95,881 drug smugglers and sup-



pliers have been arrested and 71,228 FIRs have been registered under the NDPS Act."

Detailing the crackdown, the Chief Minister stated, "6,109 major/commercial consignments of drugs have been seized, along with the arrest of 10,085 major traffickers. Special focus has been placed on drug hotspots, leading to recovery of 5,625 kg heroin, 3,461 kg opium, 1,628 quintals poppy husk, and 4.96 crore injections, tablets, capsules, and syrups." He further added, "54.47 crore drug money has been recovered and 3,440 proclaimed offenders in NDPS cases have been arrested. Properties worth 772 crore have been seized from 1,556 smugglers." Highlighting action against organized crime, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann

said, "After the formation of the Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF), 2,858 gangsters and criminals have been arrested, 35 neutralized, and 1,105 gangs busted. 2,267 weapons and 655 vehicles used in crimes have been recovered." He added, "Since April 6, 2022, AGTF has solved 38 sensational cases, including major murder cases, extortion rackets, bank robberies, gang arrests, and terror-linked conspiracies across Punjab and nearby regions up to March 2026."

Emphasising border security, he noted, "Punjab has around 560 kilometre border with Pakistan, and to check the supply of drugs and weapons, the state government has installed an anti-drone system. Punjab is the first state to have this system."

Iran ballistic missile strikes US-UK Indian Ocean base in Diego Garcia

NEW DELHI: Iran fired two ballistic missiles at the US-UK military base Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, the semi-official Mehr news agency reported on Saturday.

The Wall Street Journal reported earlier that Iran had launched two intermediate-range ballistic missiles toward the base but that they did not hit it.

Mehr said targeting the base was a "significant step...that shows that the range of Iran's missiles is beyond what the enemy previously imagined".

It's unclear how close the missiles came to the base, which is about 2,500 miles (4,000 kilometres) from Iran.

Iran currently has a self-imposed limit on its ballistic missile program, limiting their

range to 2,000 kilometres (1,240 miles).

That puts all of the Mideast and some of Eastern Europe in range, but Diego Garcia would be far beyond it.

The Diego Garcia air base is home to about 2,500 mostly American personnel and has supported US military operations from Vietnam to Iraq, Afghanistan and strikes on Yemen's Houthi rebels. Diego Garcia is part of the Chagos Islands, a remote archipelago in the middle of the Indian Ocean off the tip of India. The islands have been under British control since 1814. They are at the centre of a UK spat with President Donald Trump over Britain's plans to hand sovereignty of the Chagos archipelago to Mauritius. Britain would then lease back the Diego Garcia base.

PM Modi speaks to Iranian President Pezeshkian, condemns attacks on critical infrastructure

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday spoke to Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, condemning recent attacks on critical infrastructure in West Asia and

warning that such actions threaten regional stability and disrupt global supply chains.

The conversation comes amid escalating tensions in the region, with India stepping up high-level diplomatic outreach to prevent further deterioration of the security situation.

During the call, Modi conveyed greetings on the occasions of Eid and Nowruz, expressing hope that the festive season would usher in peace, stability and prosperity across West Asia.

He, however, struck a firm note on the se-

curity situation, condemning attacks on key infrastructure, particularly energy and logistics assets, which have emerged as flashpoints in the ongoing conflict. The Prime Minister

also underscored the importance of safeguarding freedom of navigation, stressing that vital shipping lanes must remain open and secure—a reference to growing concerns over maritime disruptions in strategic corridors such as the Strait of Hormuz. India, one of the world's largest energy importers, has consistently flagged risks to global supply chains and energy security amid the intensifying conflict involving Iran and Israel. Modi also appreciated Iran's continued support in ensuring the safety and security of Indian nationals.



AAP Punjab minister Laljit Bhullar resigns amid Amritsar warehousing official's death

CHANDIGARH: Punjab Transport Minister Laljit Singh Bhullar tendered his resignation on Saturday, following directions from Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, sources said.

The Aam Aadmi Party MLA from Patti in Tarn Taran was asked to resign in connection with the alleged suicide of Gagandeep Singh Randhawa, District Manager of the Punjab Warehousing Corporation in Amritsar.

The case intensified after CM Bhagwant Mann accepted Bhullar's resignation following a controversial video linked to the incident. The CM also directed the Chief Secretary to conduct an impartial inquiry, stating that no negligence would be tolerated.

No replacement for the Transport portfolio has been announced yet.

Earlier, a government spokesperson confirmed that CM Mann has ordered a formal inquiry into the circumstances leading to the official's death and any involvement of the MLA.



Randhawa, who was handling additional charge in Patti—Bhullar's constituency—allegedly recorded a final video before consuming Celphos (aluminum phosphide) poison, naming the AAP minister and accusing him of severe harassment.

In the clip, he reportedly claimed he was pressured to award a tender to the minister's aide, which he refused in favour of a legitimate bidder; demands for a Rs 10 lakh bribe, and alleged physical assault at Bhullar's residence, where attempts were made to record a compromising video.

Opposition leaders demand accountability

The incident triggered intense backlash, with opposition leaders—including Congress MLA and Leader of Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa, Amritsar MP Gurjeet Singh Aujla, Shiromani Akali Dal leaders Sukhbir Singh Badal and Bikram Singh Majithia—amplifying the allegations on social media.

They demanded an FIR against Bhullar, his immediate removal from the Cabinet, preservation of the deceased's phone as evidence, and a CBI probe.

BJP will ensure development and good governance in Punjab: Haryana CM

BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, MAR 21

Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi, India is reaching new heights of development, but when he looks at the condition of Punjab, he feels deeply pained. He said there was a time when Punjab led the country in agriculture, sports, defence and industry, but today the situation is completely the opposite. Farmers are distressed, youth are disheartened, and mothers are worried about the future of their children.

Sh. Nayab Singh Saini was addressing a programme held at Kisan Palace in Samana, Punjab. On this occasion, the Chief Minister welcomed Prof. Mohan Lal Sharma into the Bharatiya Janata Party by presenting him with a party stole and assured him of full respect and recognition within the party. He also extended his greetings on the occasion of Navratri.

In his address, the Chief Minister said that Samana has a rich and glorious history. He referred to Banda Singh Bahadur's victory over the Mughals in the Battle of Samana in 1709, which established the strength of Sikh military power and laid the foundation of the first

of shared heritage and common struggles. He said he had come not merely as a neighbour but as a younger brother and well-wisher. He added that Punjab has lagged behind in every sector and alleged that the Aam Aadmi Party made false promises and failed to fulfill even a single commitment in the last four and a half years. He said corruption has become widespread in the state.



The Chief Minister said that the Bharatiya Janata Party is capable of transforming Punjab into a developed state. Referring to Haryana, he said it is the first state in the country where 24 crops are being procured at Minimum Support Price (MSP). He added that in the last 11 and a half years, more than

16,000 crore has been transferred directly into farmers' accounts under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and as compensation for crop damage. Additionally, around 133 crore of farmers' loans have been waived, and payments for crop procurement are made within 48 hours.

He appealed to the people present that if Punjab has to become a developed state, then a BJP government must be formed in 2027. He said that all welfare schemes implemented in Haryana will also be introduced in Punjab once the BJP

comes to power. On this occasion, programme organizer Prof. Mohan Lal Sharma felicitated the Chief Minister by presenting a shawl and a memento. Former MP Preneet Kaur also welcomed the Chief Minister and appealed to the gathering to bring the BJP to power in Punjab in 2027 to put the state on the path of development.

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BJP will form government with majority in West Bengal, claims Jagdish Mehta

NIRMAL SAINI
RADAUR: BJP leader and former district Kisan Morcha general secretary Jagdish Mehta Jathlana has claimed that the Bharatiya Janata Party will secure a decisive majority and form the government in the upcoming West Bengal Assembly elections. In a statement issued on Friday, Mehta alleged that the people of West Bengal are dissatisfied with the policies and governance style of Chief Minister Mamata



Banerjee, accusing her of appeasement and authoritarian functioning. He further claimed that the Congress has no significant presence in the state. Referring to the recent Rajya Sabha elections, Mehta said that cross-voting by Congress MLAs has exposed internal divisions within the party. He also accused the Congress of misleading the public on issues such as fuel prices and attempting to create unrest in the country.

NEWS BRIEF

Medical examination of selected candidates begins at Jayram Sainik School

HANS RAJ YADAV
KURUKSHETRA: The medical examination process for selected candidates seeking admission to Shrimati Kesari Devi Lohia New Sainik School, run under the Shri Jayram educational institutions, has commenced for the academic session 2026–27. The initiative is being carried out under the guidance of Brahmawaroop Brahmachari, head of the Shri Jayram institutions. Administrative officer and retired Subedar Major Suresh Kumar said that since the start of the medical tests, students have shown great enthusiasm. As per the schedule, candidates are reporting daily and also visiting the school campus as part of the admission process. All selected candidates are undergoing regular health check-ups at LNJP Civil Hospital in Kurukshetra. According to the Sainik School Society guidelines, the school selection portal will remain open from March 20 to March 29, allowing students to finalise their preferred institutions.

BUREAU
MATHURA, MAR 21

Swami Haridas Auditorium has a surprise guest today in Mathura MP Hema Malini, who agrees to sing beautiful Bhajans to test installed sound and lights at the auditorium complex before its inauguration. The auditorium with a sitting capacity of 1000 is one of the largest in UP and is the brainchild of Hema Malini, Janardan Sharma, MP representative Hema Malini said. Actor-turned-politician Hema Malini is an ardent devotee of Lord Krishna. She is popularly known for her role in movies and her performances of various Leelas of Lord Krishna through her dance dramas. Her beautiful singing came as surprise for many in the audience. The audience which was mesmerised by her singing of "Chal Re Man Vrindavan," requested her for another song. With her singing of "Main Krishna Gun



Gaun" the entire auditorium was immersed in the devotion of Lord Krishna. Hema Malini also called an expert from industry to assist in checking of sound and light systems at the auditorium, janardan Sharma said. Before inauguration, installed lights and sound are tested, calibrated, and tuned today. The auditorium is almost complete, and the test is conducted for various parameters, Kapil M. Singh, executive engineer for UP Jal Nigam, said.

Yogi Government transformed UP from 'BIMARU' to best-performing state: Shahi

BUREAU
LUCKNOW/DEORIA: March 21 Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi, while speaking to journalists in Deoria on Saturday, said that Uttar Pradesh has witnessed a major transformation in the agriculture sector during 9 years of Yogi government. He stated that among all governments since the state's formation, current government has delivered the best performance. Through wide-ranging reforms, direct benefits to farmers, expansion of irrigation, increased production and technological interventions, UP has emerged as a new agricultural



model. Government has not only increased farmers' income but also empowered them towards self-reliance and a dignified life. Minister said that Yogi government has completely transformed the image of Uttar Pradesh. Earlier, the state faced issues like crime, corruption, kidnapping, extortion, mafia dominance and lawlessness, which have now been eliminated. Alongside this, government extended strong financial support to farmers. He claimed that farmers received unprecedented assistance compared to previous governments.

MLA Jagmohan Anand honours master athlete Rajesh Khanna for international achievement

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, MAR 21

Karnal MLA Jagmohan Anand felicitated master athlete Rajesh Khanna at his camp office in Sector-13 for bringing laurels to the country with his performance on the global stage. The MLA welcomed him and congratulated him on his achievement, saying that his success has made not only Karnal but the entire nation proud. Rajesh Khanna won two bronze medals at the World Open Masters Games 2026 held in Abu Dhabi (UAE), competing in the 50-plus age category. He secured medals in the 4x400 metre relay race and the long jump event, showcasing his athletic excellence at an international level. The event saw participation from over 25,000 athletes representing 92 countries, making the achievement particularly noteworthy.



Jagmohan Anand said that Khanna's success is a result of his discipline, dedication, and hard work. He added that even after retiring from the Indian Air Force, Khanna's continued passion for sports serves as an inspiration for the youth. Currently working as a manager in Eldeco, Panipat, he has maintained his sporting excellence alongside professional responsibilities. The MLA extended his best wishes to Rajesh Khanna for his future endeavours and hoped for his continued success.

St. Lawrence International School, Vyasapur celebrates Graduation Day

RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR, MAR 21

St. Lawrence International School, Shahpur Road, Vyasapur, organized a grand Graduation Day ceremony for its students. The event aimed to recognize the academic achievements of students and to wish them a bright and successful future. The program began with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp and an invocation of Lord Ganesha and Goddess Saraswati by the Chairman, Dr. M. K. Sehgal. On this occasion, students who delivered outstanding performance were honored with report cards, trophies, and certificates. In his address, Dr. M. K. Sehgal stated that the objective of the school is not only to provide quality education but also to develop moral values,



discipline, and leadership skills among students. He encouraged students to move forward with confidence toward their goals and contribute positively to society. He also congratulated the parents, teachers, and students for the successful organization of the event and wished the school continued progress and excellence. Chairperson Dr. Rajni Sehgal stated that Graduation Day is an important occasion to acknowledge the year-long

efforts and achievements of students. She emphasized that the school focuses on overall development along with academics, ensuring that students are well-prepared for future challenges. The Principal expressed gratitude to all distinguished guests, parents, and teachers, and appreciated the dedication of the entire school community. Parents also praised the school's efforts, stating that such events help build confidence and enthusiasm among students.

Tele-Law programme to showcase impact of technology-enabled legal services at grassroots: Yashasvi Kumar

HANS RAJ YADAV
KURUKSHETRA:

A regional programme-cum-workshop on Tele-Law under the DISHA initiative will be held at Kurukshetra University on March 22, highlighting the role of technology-enabled legal services in improving access to justice. Director in the Union Ministry of Law and Justice, Yashasvi Kumar, said the event will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, while Union Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal will preside over the programme. The workshop, to be organised at the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita Sadan, is part of the Centre's efforts to strengthen access to justice through digital platforms. Kumar said the event will serve as a key platform for discussions on expanding the reach and effectiveness of Tele-Law and related initiatives aimed at ensuring inclusive legal access. He added that the programme is being organised under a central sector scheme implemented by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India. It seeks to promote informed dialogue among stakeholders and enhance awareness about technology-driven legal services. Following the event, an awareness van will be flagged off to reach people at the grassroots level. Marking 150 years of the national song "Vande Mataram," the programme will also feature cultural performances by local artists, highlighting the song's historical and cultural significance in India's freedom movement.



Black marketing, hoarding will not be tolerated: Varjit Walia

TAPINDER SINGH
PATIALA, MAR 21

Patiala Deputy Commissioner Varjit Walia today reviewed the supply of domestic and commercial LPG in the district. Presiding over a meeting with District Food and Civil Supplies Controller Dr. Ravinder Kaur, other officials and representatives of gas companies, the Deputy Commissioner stressed that the government's top priority is to ensure uninterrupted supply of LPG cylinders to domestic consumers. The Deputy Commissioner clarified that no leakage, black marketing or hoarding will be tolerated under any circumstances. DC Virjit Walia also stressed that institutions and wholesale consumers should be encouraged to take up



Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections wherever possible to reduce dependence on LPG cylinders and ensure more efficient energy usage. The Deputy Commissioner appealed to consumers to avoid rushing to book LPG cylinders as doing so puts unnecessary pressure on the supply system. He assured the residents of the district that as per the directions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, the district administration is committed to ensuring smooth and adequate supply

of domestic LPG as well as essential medical and educational institutions. However, he also said that the supply to commercial establishments has been reduced as per the requirement. The Deputy Commissioner directed the Food Supplies Department to ensure regular supply of domestic LPG cylinders to gas agencies on a "first come, first served" basis. He also directed that the records of gas agencies be regularly checked to ensure transparency and accountability.

Saang 'Nau Bahar Dharam Devi' enthalls audience at Ratnavali Festival



RAKESH BHAYANA

PANIPAT: Folk culture and youthful enthusiasm marked the third day of the 11th Ratnavali Youth Saang Festival held at O.P. Shingla Auditorium of Arya PG College, where the traditional Saang 'Nau Bahar Dharam Devi' captivated the audience. The event was attended by Prof. Dr. Vivek Chawla, Director Youth and Cultural Affairs, Kurukshetra University, as chief guest, while Dr. Harvinder Rana was present as guest of honour. Students of the University Teaching Department of Kurukshetra University presented the popular Saang 'Nau Bahar Dharam Devi', impressing the audience with their singing, acting and traditional musical performance accompanied by dholak and sarangi. Addressing the gathering, Prof. Chawla said the Ratnavali festival is an important effort to preserve folk heritage and provides a platform for young artists to keep traditional art forms alive. Dr. Rana said Saang represents the rich cultural heritage of Haryana and such festivals help youth stay connected with their roots. College principal Prof. Dr. Jagdish Gupta said the festival reflects the cultural tradition associated with Kurukshetra University and aims to develop students as cultural ambassadors.

Spring carnival brings joy and creativity to young students at Nayug School



HANS RAJ YADAV

KURUKSHETRA: A vibrant and enthusiastic spring carnival was organised at Nayug Senior Secondary School, Mohan Nagar, Kurukshetra, for students from Nursery to Class II, creating a joyful atmosphere after the annual examinations. The event filled the school with music, laughter, and excitement, offering students a refreshing break from academics. The carnival featured a variety of fun-filled games in which students participated enthusiastically. These activities not only provided entertainment but also encouraged teamwork, cooperation, and a spirit of healthy competition among the children. Dance performances added energy and charm to the programme, with students impressing the audience through their lively and engaging presentations. Their confidence, talent, and preparation were clearly visible in each performance.

Traders' meeting in Yamunanagar sabzi mandi focuses on transparency, development



RAHUL KOHLI

YAMUNANAGAR: An important meeting was held at Sabzi Mandi Phase-2 in Yamunanagar, where traders deliberated on improving the functioning and development of the market. The meeting was attended by president Suresh Numberdar and chaired by acting president Angrez Singh. A large number of commission agents participated enthusiastically and shared their views on strengthening mandi operations. Discussions focused on making the mandi system more transparent, organised, and efficient, along with improving sanitation and cleanliness arrangements. Members unanimously agreed that mutual cooperation, discipline, and active participation are essential for the overall development of the mandi. To strengthen the functioning of the mandi association, new office-bearers were appointed unanimously. Subhash Gurjar was appointed as vice-president, Ravindra Singh as secretary, Ramdayal Yadav as mandi advisor, Manoj Kumar (Tinku) as media in-charge and advisor, and Gulshad (Sonu) as treasurer. Members congratulated the newly appointed team and expressed confidence that they would carry out their responsibilities with sincerity and transparency, contributing to the mandi's development and safeguarding the interests of traders.

Eid-ul-Fitr prayers offered with devotion at Indri grain market Eidgah



MAINPAL KASHYAP

INDRI: Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated with great enthusiasm and devotion at the Eidgah located in the grain market of Indri, where members of the Muslim community gathered in large numbers to offer prayers. The Eidgah premises witnessed a festive atmosphere from early morning as people arrived to participate in the congregational namaz. After offering prayers, people greeted each other with warm embraces and exchanged Eid wishes, spreading the message of brotherhood and harmony. Children, youth, and elders dressed in new clothes marked the occasion with joy and enthusiasm. Maulana Mohammad Rashid Nadvi, Principal of Darul Uloom Shah Wali Ullah, Indri, led the Eid prayers.

Vedic Havan at DAV Public School on occasion of Hindu New Year and Arya Samaj Foundation Day

RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR, MAR 21

Under the aegis of the Arya Pradeshiya Pratidinhi Upasabha, Haryana, and the Arya Yuva Samaj, Haryana, the Arya Samaj Foundation Week is being celebrated with great enthusiasm from March 19 to March 25, 2026. In keeping with this tradition, a special programme was organized at DAV Public School, Professor Colony, Yamunanagar, on the auspicious occasion of the Hindu New Year and Arya Samaj Foundation Day. The programme was commenced with a Yajna conducted in accordance with Vedic traditions, in which the entire school staff and students participated with reverence and zeal. The Havan was conducted



by our Religious Instructor, Mr. Naresh Shastri, accompanied by the ceremonial chanting of Vedic mantras. Following the Yajna, he highlighted the monumental works of Swami Dayanand Saraswati and his valuable contributions towards the society. He explained that, according to the Indian almanac the day marks the beginning of the Hindu New Year—observed as Samvat Pratipada—and also on this very auspicious day that the Arya Samaj was founded. On this occasion, while recalling

the benevolent deeds of Rishi Dayanand Saraswati, everyone present resolved to follow in the footsteps of his ideals. The school Principal, Mr. Vijay Kumar Kashiv, delivered a message to the students, encouraging them to imbibe Vedic principles into their daily lives. The event was imbued with religious, cultural, and moral values, instilling a sense of renewed energy and inspiration in all those present, alongside the advent of the New Year.

Grand procession of Mata Godamba taken out at Tirupati Dham with devotion

MAHENDER GOYAL
HISAR, MAR 21

A grand palanquin procession of Mata Godamba was taken out with great Religious fervour at Shri Tirupati Balaji Dham in Hisar, built in South Indian architectural style. The procession followed elaborate worship rituals, during which priests ceremonially placed the idol of Mata Godamba in a beautifully decorated palanquin amid Vedic chants. The palanquin was adorned with flowers, garlands, and chunri, along with a multicoloured ceremonial canopy. Devotees pulled the palanquin with ropes and circumambulated the temple complex, chanting "Jai Mata Godamba," "Jai Tirupati Dham," and "Jai Bhagwan Venkatesh," creating a



spiritually charged atmosphere throughout the premises. Following the procession, sattvik prasad was distributed among all devotees. Mata Godamba is believed to be an incarnation of Bhudevi. According to tradition, she appeared as a young girl in the garden of the great devotee Vishnuchitta under a Tulsi plant. With deep devotion

towards Lord Vishnu, she saw her divine consort in his Sri Ranganatha form and is believed to have ultimately merged into him as Ranganayaki through divine grace. The temple of Mata Godamba has been specially established within Tirupati Dham, which itself has been constructed using granite stones brought from South India. The temple complex holds deep religious significance among devotees. During the procession, devotees also visited various shrines within the complex, including those of Lord Venkatesh, Mata Padmavati, Mata Godamba, Garuda Ji, Lakshmi Narasimha, Sudarshan, Ramanujacharya, Shathakopa Swami, Varavara Muni, and Lord Hanuman.

NEWS BRIEFS

Haryana–Africa ties are “heart to heart”: Chief Minister

CHANDIGARH: Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that in the new era of global cooperation, Haryana is moving rapidly towards further strengthening and expanding its relations with African countries. He said that Haryana has emerged not only as a leading state in industrial and economic sectors but has also established a distinct identity in agriculture, animal husbandry, dairy, horticulture and other allied sectors. Through mutual cooperation, both sides can share experience and expertise and accelerate development.

The Chief Minister was addressing the India–Africa Strategic Partnership session organized in New Delhi at the Bharat Electricity Summit–2026. The event was chaired by Union Minister for Power and Housing & Urban Affairs Sh. Manohar Lal, while Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy Sh. Shripad Yesso Naik also addressed the summit.

Addressing ministers, delegates and dignitaries from African countries, the Chief Minister said that Haryana's relationship with Africa goes beyond “business to business” and is truly “heart to heart.” He said there is immense potential for cooperation between Haryana and African countries in agriculture and allied sectors.

Grand Launch of the All-New Renault Duster at Aseem Renault, Karnal

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, MARCH 21:

French automobile manufacturer Renault Group's wholly owned subsidiary Renault India has officially launched the much-awaited all-new Renault Duster in India. The launch at Aseem Renault showroom in Karnal witnessed great enthusiasm. On this occasion, Karnal MLA Jagmohan Anand termed it a proud moment for the city.

The new Renault Duster is available in two petrol variants with a starting price of 10.49 lakh (ex-showroom, Delhi), and bookings have commenced across the country.

Special Offers & Customer Programs

Mr. Arpit Chawla, MD, Aseem Autos, stated that:

•Under the R-Pass pre-booking program, customers can avail an introductory price of 10.29 lakh valid till March 31, 2026

•The 'Renault Forever' program offers a 7-year warranty

•Flexible subscription options are available for customers

He further added that the all-new Renault Duster is built on the advanced RGMP platform, ensuring enhanced



The ride, handling, and braking performance have been optimized for Indian driving conditions, ensuring a stable and comfortable driving experience.

Interior & Advanced Features

Speaking about the features, Renault ASM Himanshu highlighted that the new Duster comes equipped with modern technology and premium features, including:

• Full LED lighting

• OpenR Link multimedia system with Google built-in

• Panoramic sunroof

• Electric power tailgate

• Ventilated front seats

• Dual-zone climate control

• 17 ADAS features

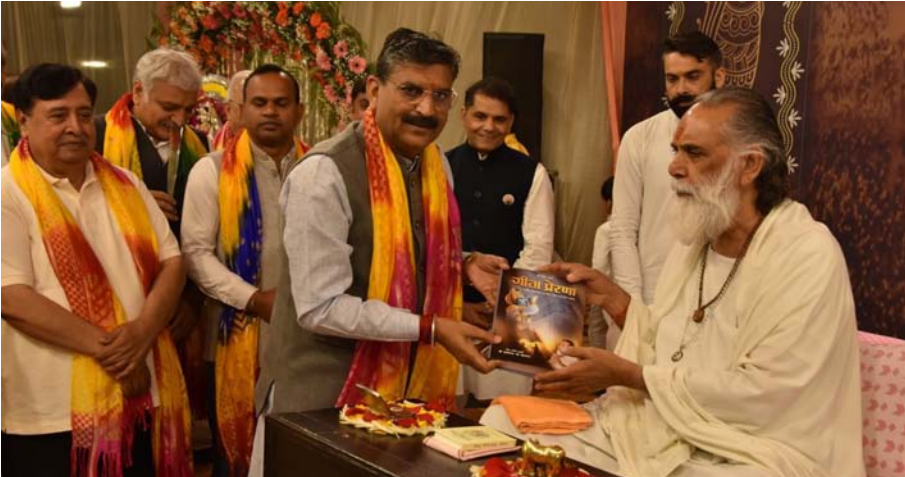
• 360° camera

The cockpit is designed with a fighter-jet inspired layout, enhancing driver comfort, ergonomics, and visibility.

Strong Response to Hybrid Model

Himanshu further added that the E-Tech strong hybrid variant features a 1.8L engine paired with a 1.4 kWh battery, enabling up to 80% electric driving in city conditions. The hybrid units allocated for 2026 are already sold out, reflecting strong customer demand.

Divya Gita Satsang held in Kaithal, Swami Gyananand spreads message of harmony



SANJAY SHARMA
KAITHAL, MARCH 21

A three-day “Divya Gita Satsang” was organised at Bhai Uday Singh Qila, Committee Chowk, under the aegis of Shri Krishna Kripa Seva Samiti and Jio Gita Parivar, Kaithal. Renowned spiritual leader Swami Gyananand Ji Maharaj addressed devotees, delivering a message of spirituality, harmony, and cultural values.

Haryana Cabinet Minister Krishna Bedi attended the event as chief guest and expressed gratitude for the blessings received from the saint. He said that Swami Gyananand Ji's Gita message mission is spreading the essence of Indian culture and Sanatan knowledge across the world.

Highlighting the relevance of such gatherings, Bedi said that harmony, mutual respect, and social cohesion are the need of the hour; and spiritual events play a vital role in uniting society.

Speaking on cow welfare, he said the Haryana

ana government has made significant efforts in promoting gau seva, with an annual budget of 575 crore allocated for gaushalas. He added that financial assistance is being provided for fodder; including 20 per day for cows, 25 for bulls, and 10 for calves.

The minister further informed that government fees on property transfer within gaushalas have been waived, and subsidies are being provided to promote solar energy, enabling gaushalas to become self-reliant.

Referring to his name 'Krishna' and his connection with Kurukshetra, he termed it a blessing and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve.

On the occasion, Krishna Bedi also announced a grant of 10 lakh for the construction of 'Krishna Kripa Seva Dham' in Sector-19, HUDA, in the upcoming financial year.

Organisers said the satsang will continue till March 22, with sessions held daily from 7 pm to 9:30 pm, witnessing large participation from devotees.

Family alleges police named minor children as accused in assault case, seeks justice

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, MAR 21

A family from Moonak village in Assandh has alleged that the police registered a case against them instead of taking action against the accused in an assault incident, even naming a five-year-old child and a 14-year-old girl as accused. The family approached the Superintendent of Police, Karnal, seeking justice.

According to the complaint submitted by Dilip, the incident took place on March 10 when he and his nephew were sitting outside their house. He alleged that a dispute over a chair escalated into an attack, during which Sonu, Mahinder, and Saurabh allegedly assaulted him and his family members with a stick and a knife. He claimed that his wife, daughter, brother, and mother were also attacked when they came out after hearing the commotion. The family stated that despite submitting a writ



ten complaint at Moonak police station and making repeated visits for nearly a week, no action was taken against the accused. Instead, they alleged that the investigating officer pressured them to settle the matter and even offered compensation for medical expenses. Dilip claimed that after refusing to compromise, the police issued notices to multiple members of his family, including his minor son, aged below five years, and his 14-year-old daughter; direct-

Eid-ul-Fitr prayers offered in Karnal

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, MAR 21

Following the holy month of Ramadan-ul-Mubarak, Eid-ul-Fitr prayers were offered today; members of the city's Muslim community embraced one another to exchange Eid greetings.

Khurshed Alam, former Media Coordinator for the Haryana State Haj Committee (Government of Haryana), provided details regarding the day's events, stating:

First, prayers were offered at the Markaz Wali Jumma Masjid. Subsequently, at the Noorani Masjid near the railway station, Hazrat Maulana Haji Tasawwur Rana led the prayers.

At the Eidgah, Maulana Ahmed Mian led the prayers. Additionally, prayers were offered at the Madina Masjid on Meerut Road, as well as at the Kasuri Wali Masjid. Addressing the Muslim community, Maulana Tasawwur Rana re-



marked that after observing a month of fasting:

"All of a human being's sins are washed away. It behooves you all to purge the evils from within yourselves, strive to become good human beings, and engage in virtuous deeds.

We must cherish our nation and abide by the laws of our country; ours is the finest nation in the world. Muslims should ensure that their children receive both religious and worldly education. On this day of Eid, let us resolve to eradicate the evils residing within

Leaders condole demise of Assembly Speaker's mother, tribute meet today

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL: A large number of political leaders and dignitaries, including MP Naveen Jindal, expressed condolences on the demise of Prem Kaur Kalyan, mother of Haryana Assembly Speaker and Gharunda MLA Harvinder Singh Kalyan. A tribute meet will be held on Sunday, March 22, at Kalyan Farm, located on GT Road in Madhuban. As per the schedule, a brahm bhuj will be held from 11 am, followed by a prayer meeting and last rites rituals from 1 pm to 3 pm. Prem Kaur Kalyan passed away on March 13.

Since March 13, leaders from across political parties have been visiting Kalyan Farm to pay floral tributes and offer condolences. On Saturday, those who paid their respects included Naveen Jindal, former minister Aseem Goel, MLAs Yogendra Rana, Bhagwan Dass Kabirpanthi, Kuldeep Vats, and Akram Khan, along with former MLAs Dharampal Gondar and Balbir Valmiki.

Other dignitaries present included Divyanshu Budhiraja and Baba Jasdeep Singh from the Yamunanagar Gurdwara management, along with several officials and prominent citizens.

All those present paid homage to the departed soul and expressed deep sympathies with the bereaved family.



NIILM University Kaithal shines at national fest in Chennai

SANJAY SHARMA
KAITHAL: NIILM University, Kaithal, brought laurels to the institution by securing top honours at a national inter-university festival organised by Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology in Chennai. The university's skill team secured second position, while its introductory cultural procession won third place, marking a proud moment for the university community.

The achievement was celebrated with a felicitation ceremony on campus, where Chairman Sandeep Chahal, Managing Director Dr Balraj Dhandra, and Director Dr Sandeep Chahal honoured the winning team with special awards.

Pro Vice-Chancellor Dr Dhull, Registrar Dr R K Gupta, and Admission Director Rajendra Goyat congratulated the students for their outstanding performance. They also appreciated the guidance of Cultural Coordinator Shivam and Theatre Director Karan in achieving this success.

Director, Youth and Cultural Affairs, Dr Ekta Chahal expressed confidence that the team will continue to excel and elevate the university's reputation in the future.

Dr Suman, Cultural Coordinator, along with Dr Ashok, Dr Amarjeet, and Dr Sarabjeet, also lauded the achievement. Deans, faculty members, and students expressed pride, calling it a significant milestone for the university.



MoU signed between SVSU and Pokhara University, Nepal

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
PALWAL, MAR 21

Shri Vishwakarma Skill University (SVSU) has signed a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Pokhara University in Nepal. This agreement marks a major step toward strengthening international cooperation between the two institutions in the fields of academics, research, and skill development. The virtual signing of the MoU has opened new possibilities for collaboration in education between India and Nepal.

The MoU was signed by Prof. Jyoti Rana, Registrar of Shri Vishwakarma Skill University, in the presence of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dinesh Kumar. On behalf of Pokhara University, Registrar Dr. Ajay Thapa signed the document.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dinesh Kumar described this as the beginning of



a historic partnership. He stated that it will bring substantial benefits to students and faculty from both countries. The two institutions will work together to promote academic excellence, research, and innovation. Prof. Kumar

sponsored

Five Early Signs of Tuberculosis people often ignore

PATIALA: Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease caused by the Mycobacterium tuberculosis bacteria, which primarily affects the lungs but can also impact other parts of the body. It spreads through the air when a person with active TB coughs, sneezes, or speaks. While TB is a preventable and curable disease, early detection remains important to ensure timely treatment and better recovery.

Dr. Anil Kumar, Consultant-Pulmonary medicine, Manipal Hospital Patiala, suggests that early symptoms can help individuals seek medical care before the infection progresses; therefore, it should not be overlooked:

1. Persistent cough- A cough that continues for more than two weeks is one of the most common early signs of TB. Many people initially mistake it for a seasonal infection, a cold, or irritation caused by pollution.

2. Low-grade fever- People with TB may experience a



mild but recurring fever, often in the evening. Because the fever is usually not very high, it is frequently ignored or treated as a minor infection.

3. Unexplained weight loss- Gradual weight loss without changes in diet or lifestyle can be another early indicator. TB infection can affect appetite and overall metabolism, leading to noticeable weight reduction over time.

4. Fatigue and weakness- Constant tiredness or lack of energy can also signal an underlying infection. Since

fatigue is often linked to busy lifestyles or stress, it may go unnoticed as a possible health concern.

5. Chest discomfort or pain- Some individuals may experience mild chest pain or discomfort while breathing or coughing. Although this symptom can seem minor initially, persistent chest discomfort should not be ignored.

6. Patient will- Patients in an immunocompromised state such as those with diabetes mellitus, smokers, individuals who consume alcohol excessively, or those taking immunosuppressive medications are at a higher risk of developing tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis is treatable with a structured course of antibiotics prescribed by a doctor. Completing the full course of treatment is essential to prevent recurrence and drug resistance. With early diagnosis, proper medication, and regular follow-up, most TB patients can recover and return to normal, healthy lives.

CERCA–IIT Delhi, CSIR-NEERI, and Glenmark Foundation Convene National Condave on Child Nutrition, Environment and Climate Risk

NEW DELHI: In a collaborative effort to strengthen national dialogue on the interconnected challenges of child nutrition, environmental exposure and climate-linked health risks, CERCA-IIT Delhi (Centre of Excellence for Research in Climate Change and Air Pollution), CSIR-NEERI (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute) and Glenmark Foundation convened the National Conclave on Nutrition and Climate Goals in New Delhi on March 14, 2026. The conclave brought together researchers, policymakers, development organizations, NGOs, and practitioners to examine how child health outcomes in India are increasingly shaped by the intersection of nutrition, environmental exposure, and climate-related risk. Child health and development are influenced by a range of interconnected determinants that extend beyond nutrition or healthcare alone. Climate related stressors, environmental exposures and nutrition vulnerabilities interact across the lifecycle beginning from the prenatal stages through early childhood and adolescence shaping long-term health outcomes. Dr. Bharati Kulkarni, Chief Guest and Director ICMR – National Institute of Nutrition said, “NGOs working at the grassroots level should try to focus on integrated interventions including healthy diets using locally available nutritious foods, water sanitation, improving hygiene, and access to healthcare. Improving child nutrition in the first 1000 days will have long-term benefits not just for improving child health but also for building a foundation for lifelong health..



"If one possesses scholarship but lacks wisdom, even that erudition can lead to destruction": Ashok Pandey

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
NILOKHERI, MAR 21

On the second day of the *Shri Ram Katha Mahotsav* (narrative festival), organized at the Shri Sanatan Dharma Temple in Nilnagar to mark the occasion of *Shri Ram Navami*, the principal narrator (*Kathavyas*), Dr. Ashok Pandey Ji Maharaj, observed that whether it be a spiritual gathering (*Satsang*) or the recitation of divine tales, such events—even if they yield no other tangible benefit—invariably deepen one's sense of reverence toward the Divine and strengthen one's faith in the Lord. Furthermore, he noted that these narratives serve to cultivate wisdom and discernment. He stated that while knowledge can certainly be acquired through study, the attainment of true wisdom—to complement that knowledge—is possible only by listening to the life story of Shri Ram and internalizing the virtues of his character within one's heart.

Pandey Ji remarked that Ravana was not merely a scholar well-versed in the four Vedas, but a profound intellectual; yet, due to the ab-



sence of spiritual guidance (*Satsang*) in his life and his utter lack of wisdom, he ultimately brought about the destruction of his entire lineage. He emphasized that Ram was not merely an ideal son, an ideal king, or an ideal brother, but also—remarkably—an ideal adversary. Continuing his discourse on the *Shri Ram Katha*, he asserted that in the *Kaliyuga* (the current epoch), the mere remembrance and chanting of Ram's name is the most fruitful and meritorious spiritual practice.

Shiv Nath Kapoor, President of the Shri Sanatan Dharma Temple Sabha, announced

that the narrative festival would conclude on March 26th with a grand community feast (*Bhandara*). Today, social worker and member of the Punjabi Sabha, Virendra Anand, graced the occasion as a distinguished guest; he formally inaugurated the session by lighting the ceremonial lamp. The event witnessed a significant turnout, with a large number of women in attendance, alongside prominent figures including nominated Councillor Rajesh Sharma, Praveen Anand, Nikhil Malik, Ashok Malhotra, Kamal Arora, Laxman Das Arora, Rajesh Vasan, Satpal, and Pandit Jagdish.

EDITORIAL

NavIC needs urgent reset to meet India’s navigation goals

Billed as India's answer to the American GPS network, the indigenous satellite navigation system — Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) — is plagued by technical failures and ageing infrastructure. It needs an urgent reset if the ambitious goals set by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) are to be met. Experts have commented that NavIC represents a classic case of overpromising and underdelivering. It is ironic that just two years ago, the Ministry of Science and Technology had described it as “a magnificent gem in the crown of India’s technological prowess” and “a beacon of self-reliance, shining brightly in the world of satellite navigation”. Despite ISRO’s commendable technological achievements, persistent issues such as satellite failures, delays, and limited integration in consumer devices have restricted NavIC’s effectiveness. The system’s primary weakness has been the failure of onboard rubidium atomic clocks — many of which were imported. Without these precise clocks, satellites cannot provide accurate positioning data, leading to a cascade of service capability losses. The clocks have continued to malfunction, and as many as five satellites have been rendered unusable. A functional satellite navigation system requires at least four satellites to be visible simultaneously for reliable positioning. With reports indicating that the constellation has fallen below this threshold, the system’s reliability for critical applications like defence, disaster management, and transportation is severely compromised. The navigation system was envisioned as a step towards self-reliance in satellite-based navigation, yet its relatively low usage in smartphones and commercial applications reflects gaps in policy execution and industry collaboration. Immediate corrective steps can help NavIC realise its true potential. The idea of NavIC was born out of a strategic need for indigenous navigation and timing services, particularly after India was denied access to foreign GPS data during the Kargil War. The NavIC was designed to provide precise position, velocity, and timing information over India and surrounding areas. It was meant to be particularly useful in high-altitude areas where signals from global systems are sometimes unavailable. The hybrid operation of NavIC, along with GPS and other systems, could contribute to higher accuracy and seamless operation in certain geographic areas. However, the commercial and public utilisation of NavIC has remained very low. India’s mobile phone market currently has some 20 major brands and 700 phone models. To enable handsets to support the Indian navigation system, changes must be made to both hardware and software. Although some chipset manufacturers are shipping processors that support NavIC, a study by the Space Applications Centre and Vishwakarma University, Pune, found that NavIC signals on many devices remain invisible or are filtered out by low-level drivers, even though hardware support exists. Over the decades, ISRO has delivered complex scientific and operational missions, developing indigenous capability in key segments of space technology. However, it has faced huge challenges when it comes to the mass application of space technology beyond dedicated government use.

World Uyghur Congress exposes China's expanding repression, global scale of abuse

The World Uyghur Congress (WUC) has released its weekly brief, highlighting a series of international engagements aimed at exposing what it describes as China's ongoing repression of Uyghurs, intensifying global attention on China's policies in East Turkistan. At the One World International Human Rights Film Festival in Prague, a WUC delegation attended the screening of Eyes of the Machine, a documentary centred on survivor Kalbinur Sidik. The film presents personal testimony of detention and abuse, followed by a discussion with director Daya Cahen. The event served as a platform to highlight alleged systemic violations in the region. At the CSW70 Forum in New York, WUC Executive Committee Chair Rushan Abbas accused Chinese authorities of extending repression into the digital sphere, particularly targeting Uyghur women. She described a pattern of surveillance, intimidation, and online abuse, alongside reports of forced sterilisation and detention. Abbas also referenced the imprisonment of her sister, Gulshan Abbas, calling it politically motivated. Meanwhile, WUC Vice President Zumretay Arkin used the United Nations Human Rights Council platform to press for coordinated international action, raising concerns over forced labour, religious persecution, and cross-border intimidation. Parallel advocacy continued in



Vienna at an OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Conference, where WUC leaders, including Dolkun Isa, warned of growing threats to Uyghurs living abroad. The issue also gained traction through a Military.com report

highlighting the prolonged detention of Gulshan Abbas, as her family urged action ahead of a possible meeting between Donald Trump and Xi Jinping. Separately, an investigation by Land and Climate Review, first reported in The Times, alleged that UK-backed carbon capture

projects in the region overlapped with mass internment campaigns, raising concerns about links to forced labour. Criticism has grown, with David Alton questioning transparency. Further concerns emerged after a surveillance incident at a

Uyghur event in Tokyo, reinforcing fears of transnational repression. WUC also expanded outreach to academia, with Rushan Abbas addressing students at Vanderbilt University and urging global accountability.

Enjoy the Daily Process of Karma for Happiness



Dr Rajesh K Pillania

March 20th was International Day of Happiness! This day brings a bit more focus on happiness and particularly due to release of World Happiness Reports and ranking of countries starting from 2013. The search for happiness and longing for it has a long history. It is not an easy journey and that is why happiness seems to be so far away for so many people around the world. To face the challenges of the happiness journey, there are various ways. There is a lot of research in happiness across multiple disciplines over the last five decades. This article focuses on one very powerful way to happiness which is also backed by scientific research. Process of Karma for Happiness The journey of happiness can be made much simpler and more enjoyable through the process of Karma. Following Karma is a compelling way to happiness. By enjoying the process of Karma, and not

focusing too much on results, one can achieve happiness. There is evidence for it in research in neurosciences. Evidence from Neuroscience When one achieves something, a hormone called Dopamine is released in the brain. The release of this hormone in the brain makes one happy. It is one's choice to decide what is an achievement for them. There can be two ways to look at achievement - the daily work on the path to the destination can be an achievement, or reaching the final destination can be an achievement. If one considers the daily work on the path to the destination as an achievement, the achievement hormone Dopamine will be released daily, and one will feel happiness daily. If one considers only reaching the final destination as an achievement, the achievement hormone dopamine will be released only after one reaches the destination. The first way to look at achievement is that it brings more happiness in one's life. The second way of achievement brings happiness only after one has reached the destination, and it will not bring happiness if one does not reach the destination, i.e. by following the second way, one postpones happiness till the destination is reached, and happiness will not come if the destination has not been reached. How to practice it The idea is that one needs to focus on enjoying the process of karma. Once one starts enjoying the process, one will experience more happiness. The results are essential,

but focusing on the process is more critical, and it gets the desired results. For example, if someone is a student, daily studying and learning to get an educational qualification can be an achievement or qualifying for the exams and getting the degree can be an achievement. If one enjoys daily studying and learning and considers it an achievement, the happiness hormone Dopamine will be released daily, and one will feel happiness daily. If one considers only passing the exams and getting the educational qualification, then the achievement hormone will be released after you clear the exams and get the qualification. The choice is of the individual. Takeaway for the readers We already know about the importance of Karma through the teachings of the revered Shrimad Bhagavad Gita. There is evidence for the powerful impact of following it on happiness. To experience lasting happiness, enjoy the process of Karma. Knowing the goal or the outcome is essential, but the focus should be on enjoying the daily Karma to make happiness a part of life. Professor at the Management Development Institute, Gurgaon. He is popularly known as India's Happiness Professor and India's Happiness Guru.

Korea coordinates with Iran to normalise shipping route through Strait of Hormuz

South Korea is speaking to several countries including Iran to ensure that the key shipping route that passes through the Strait of Hormuz is normalised even as the West Asia Conflict is poised to enter its fourth week. According to Yonhap, the Korean government is closely monitoring developments in the Middle East while exploring ways to protect its citizens and secure energy transport routes. Yonhap quoted an official as saying, "We are communicating actively with relevant countries, including Iran." On Friday, Seoul said it will join seven countries, including European nations and Japan, in their joint statement condemning Iran's attacks in the Gulf and de facto closure of the Strait of Hormuz. The statement expressed readiness to contribute to efforts ensuring safe passage through the strait, welcoming the commitment of nations engaged in preparatory planning. It also endorsed the International Energy Agency's



decision to authorize a coordinated release of strategic oil reserves and other measures to stabilize energy markets, including cooperation with producing countries to increase output. The countries strongly condemned recent Iranian attacks

on unarmed commercial vessels in the Gulf, strikes on civilian infrastructure such as oil and gas facilities, and the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz by Iranian forces. The statement urged Iran to immediately cease its threats,

mining operations, drone and missile attacks, and other attempts to disrupt commercial shipping, while calling for compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 2817. The nations reaffirmed that freedom of navigation is a fundamental principle of international law, including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, warning that Iran's actions will have global repercussions, particularly for vulnerable populations. Earlier, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi earlier told the Kyodo News Agency that Tehran is ready to allow Japan-bound vessels to pass through the key oil shipping route after appropriate consultations with Tokyo. The Strait of Hormuz accounts for more than 20 percent of the world's oil trade passes. All lanes accessible to oil tankers fall within Iranian territorial waters, making the strait a critical lifeline for countries in East Asia, including South Korea and Japan.

US allows temporary sale of Iranian oil to stabilise global markets: Scott Bessent

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Friday (global time) announced a temporary authorisation permitting the sale of Iranian oil currently stranded at sea, aimed at stabilising global energy markets amid rising tensions. In a post on X, Bessent said, "Today, the Department of the Treasury is issuing a narrowly tailored, short-term authorization permitting the sale of Iranian oil currently stranded at sea." He described the move as part of a broader strategy by the administration of President Donald Trump to counter disruptions caused by Iran. "Iran is the head of the snake for global terrorism, and through

President Trump's Operation Epic Fury, we are winning this critical fight at an even faster pace than anticipated. In response to Iran's terrorist attacks against global energy infrastructure, the Trump Administration will continue to deploy America's economic and military might to maximize the flow of energy to the world, strengthen global supply, and seek to ensure market stability," he wrote. Highlighting the rationale behind the decision, Bessent noted that the measure would help ease supply pressures. "At present, sanctioned Iranian oil is being hoarded by China on the cheap. By temporarily unlocking this existing supply for the world, the United



States will quickly bring approximately 140 million barrels of oil to global markets... helping to relieve the temporary pressures on supply caused by Iran," he said. He added that the policy is limited in scope. "At present, sanctioned Iranian oil is being hoarded by China on the cheap. By temporarily unlocking this existing supply for the world, the United States will quickly bring approximately 140 million barrels of oil to global markets, expanding the amount of worldwide energy and helping to relieve the temporary pressures on supply caused by Iran. In essence, we will be using the Iranian barrels against Tehran to keep the price down as we continue Operation Epic Fury,"

Bessent wrote. The Treasury Secretary further said that the US would continue its pressure campaign against Tehran. "This temporary, short-term authorization is strictly limited to oil that is already in transit and does not allow new purchases or production. Further, Iran will have difficulty accessing any revenue generated and the United States will continue to maintain maximum pressure on Iran and its ability to access the international financial system," he stated. Bessent also pointed to broader efforts to boost global energy supply. "So far, the Trump Administration has been working to bring around 440 million additional barrels of oil

to the global market, undercutting Iran's ability to leverage its disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz," he said. Emphasising domestic energy policy, he added, "President Trump's pro-energy agenda has driven U.S. oil and gas production to record levels, strengthening energy security and lowering fuel costs. Any short-term disruption now will ultimately translate into longer-term economic gains for Americans - because there is no prosperity without security." The announcement comes amid heightened geopolitical tensions and concerns over disruptions to energy flows through the Strait of Hormuz, a key global shipping route.

NEWS BRIEF

Proposal on Baddi MC wards open for inspection

SHANTI GAUTAM
BADDI: Deputy Commissioner Mannohan Sharma has notified that the proposal regarding division of Baddi Municipal Corporation into wards and fixation of their boundaries has been made available for public inspection for seven days. According to the notice, the proposal can be examined during office hours at the Deputy Commissioner's office in Solan as well as at the Municipal Corporation office in Baddi. Residents wishing to submit objections or suggestions may do so in Form-02 within seven days of the publication of the notice. As per the proposal, the Municipal Corporation Baddi has been divided into 15 wards. The population of Ward No. 1 Haripur Sandholi-1 is 2,055, Ward No. 2 Haripur Sandholi-2 (Sabzi Mandi) 1,820, Ward No. 3 Baddi 2,904, Ward No. 4 Surajmaja Labana 2,540, Ward No. 5 Judi Khurd 2,995, Ward No. 6 Katha 3,234, Ward No. 7 Amarawati 4,878, Ward No. 8 Billanwali Gujran 1,745, Ward No. 9 Billanwali Labana 3,302, Ward No. 10 Vardhman 4,100, Ward No. 11 Bhatoli Khurd 4,138, Ward No. 12 Jhadmajri 976, Ward No. 13 Kunjahal 1,640, Ward No. 14 Balyana 2,302 and Ward No. 15 Barotiwala 2,290.

Sukhu govt misleads the public once again with Budget: Rakesh Sharma

SANJAY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA: BJP State Spokesperson Rakesh Sharma has taken a jibe at the budget presented by the state government. Rakesh Sharma stated that, right from the very first figures of the Chief Minister's budget, it becomes evident that this budget is nothing more than a pipe dream. This year's budget is approximately Rs. 4,000 crore lower than that of the previous year; given this context, the schemes mentioned in the budget appear to me as mere fantasies. The CM has mentioned certain schemes in the budget that are actually centrally sponsored initiatives, for which funds are yet to be received from the Central Government. The government ascended to power on the basis of ten false guarantees. The CM has once again reiterated the promise of providing Rs. 1,500 to women—specifically stating that this benefit would be extended to one lakh women—despite the fact that there are 28 lakh women residing in the state. The government has now entered its fourth year in office, yet it continues to engage in the act of deceiving the women of the state. There remains significant skepticism regarding whether the announcements made by the Chief Minister in this budget will ever actually materialize on the ground. The coming year will be an election year, and at that time, the public will demand an answer from the government regarding what it has actually accomplished over its five-year tenure.



“Back Gear Budget” will push Himachal backwards: Bindal

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, MAR 21

Rajeev Bindal on Saturday strongly criticised the 2026 budget presented by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, calling it a “back gear budget” that would push Himachal Pradesh backwards and slow down development works across the state. Addressing mediapersons here, Bindal said the budget reflects a lack of vision and alleged that a reduction of nearly ₹4,000 crore in allocations compared to the previous year would adversely affect infrastructure and welfare schemes. He claimed that the government has repackaged centrally sponsored schemes related to fisheries, agriculture,



horticulture and animal husbandry without introducing any major state-funded initiatives. He alleged that the Congress government has spent the last three years blaming the Narendra Modi-led Centre and even the current budget begins with criticism of the Union Government. “The reality is that Himachal's development largely depends on centrally sponsored schemes, yet the state government continues to

HP Budget: Govt focuses on green push, tourism boost; Heli-Taxi from April 1

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, MAR 21

The Himachal Pradesh government has unveiled an ambitious roadmap to strengthen forest conservation and position tourism as a key driver of the state's economy, backed by substantial financial allocations and community participation. Presenting the 2026–27 budget in the Assembly, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu announced a series of initiatives aimed at boosting tourist footfall and promoting sustainable development. Under the Rajiv Gandhi Vansamvardhan Yojana, afforestation has already been carried out across 1,100 hectares, with a target of 4,000 hectares in the next phase. The scheme will actively involve Mahila Mandals and Yuva Mandals, with an outlay of Rs 55 crore. Around 15,000 women are expected to participate, with each group receiving Rs 1.20 lakh. An additional incentive of Rs 1 lakh will be provided to groups achieving more than 50 per cent survival of plantations. The government has earmarked Rs 320



crore for afforestation and Rs 50 crore for forest ecosystem management. Eco-tourism is being integrated with conservation efforts, with plans to develop 50 eco-tourism units to increase tourist footfall. Geological parks will be developed at a cost of Rs 903 crore, alongside new water conservation initiatives. A “Lion Safari” project has also been proposed to boost wildlife tourism. Tourism, identified as a core economic sector, is projected to contribute up to 9 per cent of the state's GDP. The

state recorded a footfall of 3.11 crore tourists last year. To further strengthen the sector, Rs 3,045 crore has been allocated for tourism development, focusing on infrastructure, skill training, and sustainable practices.

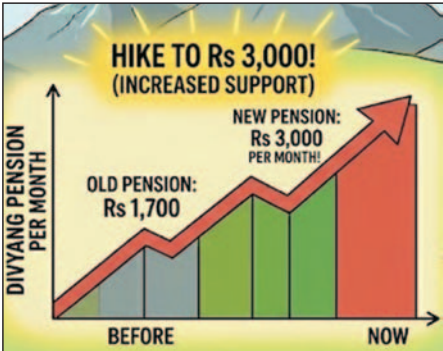
Major infrastructure upgrades include expansion of Gaggal and Kangra airports, with Rs. 3,349 crore allocated for land acquisition and Rs. 2,000 crore for development. Gaggal is proposed to be developed as an “Air City” with world-class tourist facilities.

Additionally, heli-taxi services between Shimla and Dharamshala are set to begin from April 1, with plans to connect all district headquarters via helicopter services. Rs 37 cr would be provided for the Helicopter subsidies. Chandigarh -Sanjouli helitaxi services would be operated six days in a week. Religious tourism would also be promoted, with Rs 250 crore earmarked for temple trusts including Naina Devi and Jwala Ji. Tourism complexes would be developed in Shimla, Palampur, and Spiti with an allocation of Rs 308 crore. Projects worth Rs 155.75 crore are also planned in Hamirpur district, including Dehra and Hamirpur areas. The government is focusing on sustainable and inclusive tourism, including village tourism initiatives, promotion of traditional food, and development of travel centres in rural areas. Financial support will be extended to women through homestays, guiding services, and handicrafts, with loans of up to Rs 3 lakh and matching grants up to Rs 10 lakh.

Himachal hikes Divyang pension to Rs 3,000, expands welfare push

AGENCY
SHIMLA, MAR 21

Himachal Pradesh government has announced a significant increase in the pension for Divyang (persons with disabilities), raising it from Rs 1,700 to Rs 3,000 per month, translating to an annual support of Rs 70,000. The move aims to strengthen social security for vulnerable groups. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu stated during the budget speech that in a major step towards healthcare support, the government would establish rehabilitation homes for patients suffering from psychotropic diseases. Additionally, hostel facilities for PWD (Persons with Disabilities) students would be expanded, with a dedicated facility to be extended in Sundernagar. To boost women's economic independence, a new scheme—Mukhyamantri Mahila Empowerment Yojana—would be launched. Furthermore, under social support initiatives, the Mukhyamantri Kanyadan Yojana has been renamed as Mukhyamantri Shubh Vivah Yojana, offering financial assistance of Rs 51,000 with implementation routed through Anganwadi centres. Addressing the growing



menace of drug abuse, the government plans to replicate the Kotlabar (Sirmaur) model drug de-addiction centre across the state. Concern has been raised over the involvement of juveniles in drug trafficking (‘chitta’), prompting the allocation of Rs two crore for setting up observation and special homes for juveniles. Child welfare infrastructure would also be strengthened, with Rs 2 crore earmarked for child care institutions in Balashram Kalap, Kullu, Totikandi, Mashobra and Kotal Bhard.

Rs. 3,000 cr tourism package welcomed, demand for special projects in Chamba

SUBHASH MAHAJAN
DALHOUSIE, MAR 21

Social worker and former Assembly candidate from Dalhousie, Manish Sareen, has welcomed the Rs. 3,000-crore tourism investment package announced by the Himachal Pradesh Government, terming it a major step towards strengthening the state's economy and tourism infrastructure. He said the initiative of Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu would help place Himachal Pradesh more prominently on the national and international tourism map. Sareen also appreciated the active role of R. S. Bali, Chairman of the Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation, for promoting new ideas and



modern approaches in the tourism sector. Sareen said Himachal Pradesh has immense potential in tourism due to its natural beauty, cultural heritage and geographical diversity, and such large-scale investment would boost employment, self-employment and the rural economy, especially after the slowdown caused by the COVID-19 period. However, he urged the state government to give priority to Chamba district, describing it as an aspirational district with

huge tourism potential but inadequate infrastructure. He demanded that special tourism projects be included for Chamba district, including construction of an airstrip to improve air connectivity, establishment of a water aerodrome for seaplane services, development of ropeways at major tourist sites, promotion of water sports in lakes and reservoirs, expansion of eco-tourism and adventure tourism activities, and improvement of roads, accommodation and other tourist facilities. Sareen said that with planned development, Chamba could emerge as one of the leading tourist destinations in North India and generate large-scale employment opportunities for local youth.

NGO provides Rs 2 lakh aid to needy family in Una village

KISHORI LAL BAINS

UNA: A social organisation extended financial assistance of Rs. 2 lakh to a needy family in Chauki Manyar village of Una district, setting an example of social service and humanitarian support. According to officials, the help was provided by NGO Sarve Bhavantu Sukhin to the family



of late Rajesh Kumar. The organisation's director Kiran Bhayana said the assistance was given to the widow of Rajesh Kumar, who is raising

four daughters and has no stable source of income. She said the family wanted to become self-reliant through animal husbandry but required financial support to purchase a cow and construct a shed. After the matter came to the notice of the organisation, it decided to provide help on humanitarian grounds.

300-unit free power, Rs 1,500 pension & pucca houses

AGENCY
SHIMLA, MAR 21

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Saturday announced the implementation of three key guarantees aimed at uplifting nearly one lakh below poverty line BPL households under the Mukhymantri Sukhi Parivar Yojana. Presenting the state budget, the Chief Minister said that around one lakh poor families would be covered under the initiative to transform them into “Sukhi Parivar”. The three major guarantees include 300 units of free electricity, Rs 1500 monthly pension, and financial assistance for pucca houses. He stated detailed surveys have already been conducted by SDMs, DCs, BDOs and panchayats to identify eligible beneficiaries. “The poor would get their due rights through this targeted intervention,” he said.

The Chief Minister further announced that the “third phase of the Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Scheme would ” soon be launched, extending Rs 1,500 financial assistance to eligible women beneficiaries.

Raising concern over the Centre's decision on MNREGA,



Sukhu said it could impact rural employment in the state. However, he said the state government would compensate by generating an additional four crore man-days to sustain livelihoods.

Highlighting agriculture as a key employment sector, the Chief Minister said that bio-resource management and green initiatives would be strengthened. Around 12 lakh germplasm plants would be distributed to farmers, while activities like bio-char production and pine needle collection would be promoted as livelihood options.

In rural development, the government announced filling of 150 panchayat secretary posts, 100 per cent panchayati raj audits, and establishment of panchayat resource centres. A

Stamp duty cut for women, ownership cards to streamline land records in HP

AGENCY
SHIMLA, MAR 21

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has announced a significant reduction in stamp duty for women, alongside a major push to simplify land ownership documentation, as part of the state budget presented. In a move aimed at promoting property ownership among women, the government has reduced stamp duty on land registration in the name of women by four per cent. The concession would now apply to property transactions valued up to Rs 1 crore, an increase from the earlier ceiling of Rs 80 lakh. With this revision, women would pay a concessional stamp duty rate of 4 per cent, compared to the previous 8 per

cent. The measure is expected to encourage greater asset ownership among women and strengthen their financial security. The Chief Minister also announced the issuance of ownership or ‘Sampatti cards’ to landholders, ensuring that people no longer have to navigate cumbersome bureaucratic processes for verifying land ownership. He said directions have been issued to ensure timely delivery of land records and faster redressal of land disputes. Highlighting reforms in revenue administration, Sukhu stated that mutation of land would now be carried out simultaneously with registration, eliminating delays that often stretched for years. A pilot initiative for early disposal of pending mutation cases would also be

undertaken. To strengthen the system, the state government has already initiated the recruitment of 623 patwaris to improve efficiency in maintaining land records and delivering revenue services. The issuance of ownership cards is expected to significantly ease property transactions and enable landowners to access bank loans more readily, as verified land records would reduce procedural delays and disputes. Additionally, the government announced financial assistance of Rs 8 lakh for disaster-affected families to rebuild houses, along with incentives and skill development support for rural livelihood enterprises. Earlier to this it was increased from Rs four lakh to 7.50 lakh, the CM said.

"Farm to Fork" program for Hotel and SIHM students

SANJAY AGGARWAL

DHARAMSHALA: The State Institute of Hotel Management (SIHM), Khayara, Dharamshala, organized a special program centered on the “Farm to Fork” theme. The event showcased the journey of food—from natural resources and the farm directly to the dining plate. This marked the second edition of this theme-based program to be held in Dharamshala. This initiative serves a dual purpose: it relieves farmers of the burden of marketing their produce, while simultaneously ensuring that hotels have access to agricultural products tailored to their specific requirements, right on their premises. DC Kangra, Hemraj Bairwa, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while District Tourism Officer Vinay Dhiman and the Joint Director of the Agriculture Department, Dr. Rahul Dhiman, were present as special guests. The “Farm to Fork” program featured demonstrations of innovative culinary techniques, alongside the presentation of eco-friendly dishes prepared using locally sourced ingredients. DC Kangra, Hemraj Bairwa, stated that this “Farm to Fork” program was organized as a joint initiative between the Tourism and Agriculture Departments, bringing together students from SIHM and major hotels across Dharamshala city. Through this initiative, everyday kitchen essentials will be delivered directly from the farms to the hotel kitchens. The program has been launched in collaboration with a private hotel located in Kandi, and the Agriculture Department has shared a list of progressive farmers with the Tourism Department. This has facilitated a direct link between hotels and farmers; while farmers gain the convenience of easily selling their agricultural produce, hotels can fulfill their supply needs without the hassle of navigating traditional market channels.

Special camp for Divyang, Senior Citizens held in Bhoranj



ANIL KUMAR

HAMIRPUR: Around 150 persons registered during a special camp organised for differently-abled persons and senior citizens at the Nagar Panchayat office complex in Bhoranj on Friday, officials said. The camp was organised by the Social Justice and Empowerment Department and district and sub-divisional units of the Red Cross Society in collaboration with the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, Mohali, with the objective of identifying beneficiaries for providing free artificial limbs and assistive devices. During the camp, a team of experts conducted medical examinations of the beneficiaries and assessed their requirements for artificial limbs, wheelchairs, hearing aids and other assistive equipment. Officials said that after registration, eligible beneficiaries would be provided the required devices free of cost in the next phase to help them lead a more independent life.

Two-day WINGS project training concludes in Haroli

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA, MAR 21

A two-day training programme under the WINGS Scale-Up Project concluded at the Community Health Centre in Haroli under the chairmanship of BMO Dr. Shingara, officials said on Saturday. The training, held on March 19–20, was organised for Community Health Officers (CHOs), health workers and health supervisors to strengthen screening and monitoring of beneficiaries under maternal and child health services. The sessions were conducted by DPO (Child Health) Dr. Richa Kalia along with Dr. Devinder Sharma, Dr. Praful Singh, Dr. Kritika Thakur, Medha and



Som Sharma, who explained the screening process during pre-conception and antenatal care in detail. Officials said the training focused on providing services to four categories of beneficiaries under the WINGS project — pre-conception women, pregnant women, post-natal mothers and children up to 24 months of age. Participants were also informed that supplementary

nutrition based on BMI would be provided free of cost through Anganwadi centres. During the programme, health workers were trained on the timing of screening, follow-up procedures, identification of high-risk beneficiaries and referral to higher health institutions when required. Special emphasis was laid on regular monitoring of high-risk cases.

Two-day statistics workshop concludes successfully at Government College Bhoranj

ANIL KUMAR
HAMIRPUR, MAR 21

A two-day workshop on statistics was successfully organised by the Department of Statistics at Government College Bhoranj, aimed at familiarising students with the practical application of statistical tools and modern techniques. Students from various streams of the college participated enthusiastically in the programme. On the first day, Assistant Professor Dr Anil Singh introduced students to the use of statistical tools in detail, explaining how they can be effectively applied in research and academic work. The session also included training in computer-based statistical methods, helping students



develop a practical understanding of data analysis. On the second day, Assistant Professor Dr Indrajeet Singh from the School of Liberal Studies, Ambedkar University Delhi, delivered a lecture on “Statistical Products.” He elaborated on data usage, analytical techniques, and their applications across different fields, providing

students with deeper insight into modern research methodologies. The workshop also featured poster-making and quiz competitions, which saw active participation from students. In the poster competition, first-year student Aarti Gautam secured the first position, followed by Kanchan in second place and Tanya in third.

NEWS BRIEF

Eid-ul-Fitr prayers held at Doraha fort mosque; hundreds participate



AMRISH ANAND DORAHA: Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated with great devotion in Doraha, where hundreds from the Muslim community gathered at the historic mosque premises inside Doraha Fort to offer special prayers and pray for peace and prosperity. After the prayers, people exchanged greetings and embraced each other, reflecting the spirit of unity and brotherhood. MLA Manwinder Giaspura visited the mosque and extended Eid greetings, emphasizing communal harmony and social unity. He also cautioned against divisive forces and urged people to uphold peace. During the event, the Maulvi presented a memorandum to the MLA, who announced ₹5 lakh from his MLA fund for constructing a boundary wall at the local graveyard.

Suba Singh Langeana and his associates get relief from the Sessions Court - Criminal prosecution dismissed

JAGRAJ SINGH SANGHA MOGA: Jabalbir Singh son of Saudagar Singh resident of Langeana had filed a criminal complaint under Section 326 I, P. C. S. D. J. M. Baghapurana Ji in the court, in which summons were issued to Suba Singh son of Jagar Singh, Parminder Singh son of Kartar Singh and Jasmel Singh son of Jagar Singh by the Honourable Court Baghapurana. The said Suba Singh



etc. had filed an appeal against the summons through his lawyer Daljit Singh Dhalival and Parvinder Singh Madheke before the Honourable Sessions Judge Moga. In which on 17-03-2026, the court of Mr. Shiv Mohan Garg Additional Sessions Judge Moga Ji, agreeing with the arguments of the lawyers of Suba Singh, has dismissed the said complaint.

Dr. Kulwant Singh Randhawa assumes charge as Principal (OSD) at GNDU College, Pathankot



SHARANJEET PATHANKOT: Dr. Kulwant Singh Randhawa has assumed charge as Principal (OSD) at Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU) College, Pathankot. On the occasion, he was accorded a warm welcome by the college faculty, staff and students. A simple function was organised on the college campus to mark the occasion. During the programme, members of the teaching and non-teaching staff presented bouquets to Dr. Randhawa and extended their congratulations and best wishes for his new responsibility. Addressing the gathering, newly appointed Principal (OSD) Dr. Kulwant Singh Randhawa said that his primary objective would be to take the academic standards of the college to new heights, focus on the overall development of students and maintain discipline and quality within the institution. He also assured that with the cooperation of the entire staff, he would strive to lead the college towards new achievements.

Sri Guru Granth Sahib World University successfully concludes interdisciplinary dialogue “Confluence 2026” with focus on Punjab's key concerns

AJAY MALHOTRA
FATEHGARH SAHIB, MAR 21

Sri Guru Granth Sahib World University, Fatehgarh Sahib, successfully concluded the National Conference “Confluence 2026: Contemporary Concerns of Punjab – An Interdisciplinary Perspective” with insightful technical sessions on Social Sciences and Language & Literature, followed by a valedictory function.

In the Social Sciences session, Dr. Gurpreet Brar from Punjabi University deliberated on centre–state relations and governance challenges, while the session chair, Prof. Daljit Singh, emphasized the importance of

Meet Hayer elected honorary secretary of Punjab cricket association unopposed

GAURAV GOEL
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 21

In the Special General Body Meeting (SGM) and elections for the post of Honorary Secretary conducted by the Punjab Cricket Association (PCA), Member Parliament from Sangrur Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer has been elected as the Honorary Secretary unopposed. In the polls held at the PCA New International Cricket Stadium, Electoral Officer, Jagpal Singh Sandhu, declared Mr. Gurmeet Singh Hayer elected unopposed as the Honorary Secretary of the PCA.

Expressing heartfelt gratitude to all the members of the Punjab Cricket Association for reposing their trust, the Parliament Member said that he feels deeply humbled by this support and assured of his unwavering commitment to



the growth and excellence of cricket in Punjab. I stand committed to promoting cricket development initiatives to even the remotest regions of Punjab, said Meet Hayer adding that he solicits support of all to work towards building a robust cricketing ecosystem that not only produces outstanding players but also upholds the spirit and

integrity of the game. Notably, Meet Hayer previously served as Cabinet Minister in the Punjab Government in various capacities especially the Sports Minister. Meet Hayer gained widespread recognition for introducing sports policy in the State which is aimed at finding and nurturing the raw talent besides honing the skills of

budding players.

Meet Hayer also contributed significantly to governance and public welfare. Known for his progressive outlook and people-centric approach, he has consistently worked towards societal welfare, with a special focus on youth empowerment, sports development, and rural upliftment.

4th Intra Moot Court competition organised



HOSHIARPUR (DALJEET AJNOHA): Panjab University Swami Sarvanand Giri Regional Centre, Hoshiarpur, under the aegis of its Moot Court Committee, successfully organized the 4th Intra Moot Court Competition on March 19, 20, with the participation of 11 teams.

Team 012 secured the Winner’s position, comprising Radhika Verma (Speaker 1), Drishya Thakur (Speaker 2), and Aditya Bakshi (Researcher). Team 011 was declared the Runner-Up, comprising Mannat Sehgal (Speaker 1), Sara Sharma (Speaker 2), and Kshitiz Vashist (Researcher).

In individual categories, Harshika (Team 013) was adjudged Best Researcher, Bhavleen Kaur (Team 008) was awarded Best Mooter, and Team 007 (Aydeesh, Ripudaman, Aditya Pratap) received the award for Best Memorial. The final round was adjudicated by distinguished members of the Bar, Advocate C.S. Marwaha and Advocate Ashwini Kumar Verma, whose erudite observations and guidance were highly appreciated. The competition served as an effective platform for students to demonstrate their advocacy skills, legal research, and courtroom etiquette. On this occasion, Advocate Ashwani Verma said in his address that advocacy is a very noble profession with a bright future ahead.

Parent Orientation – The beginning of understanding, cooperation, and trust: Chairman Sandeep Bansal



NABHA (RAKESH JINDAL): On Friday, 20 March, an orientation program was organized at GBIS (GB International School), Nabha, under the chairmanship of School Chairman Mr. Sandeep Bansal. The program was conducted for the parents of students up to Class 4. The main objective of the program was to acquaint parents with the school system, infrastructure, and rules. During the session, all teachers briefly introduced their subjects, experience, and teaching methods. They assured parents of their commitment to the holistic development of students and emphasized that they would focus on individual needs and encourage every child. In addition, parents were given detailed information about modern classrooms, laboratories, library, and sports facilities. Junior Academic Coordinator Ms. Priyanka Upadhyay highlighted key aspects such as school rules, discipline, academic system, co-curricular activities, regular attendance, and the importance of the prescribed uniform. At the end of the program, the school Principal, Dr. Inderjeet Pal Kaur Grewal, expressed her gratitude to all the parents present. She stated that along with education, the school places special emphasis on moral values and practical knowledge so that students can confidently face life’s challenges.

understanding contemporary issues through a historical lens. The session coordinators, Dr. Nav Shagan Deep Kaur, Head, Department of Sociology, Dr. Ramandeep Kaur, Head, Department of Political Science, and Dr. Jaspreet Kaur, In-Charge, Department of History, shared that nearly 30 researchers presented papers addressing the social, political, and historical concerns of Punjab. Dr. Ekroop Kaur and Dr. Sukhwinder Singh were awarded the Best Paper in this session. The Language and Literature session featured Prof. Satish Verma, who highlighted the role of literature in reflecting societal realities. The session was

chaired by Prof. Swaraj Raj and coordinated by Dr. Harpreet Kaur, Assistant Professor, Department of Punjabi, and Dr. Baljeet Kaur, Assistant Professor, Department of English. Around 18 papers focusing on literary dimensions were presented. Dr. Binder Singh and Dr. Navroop Kaur received accolades for Best Paper presentations. Prof. Sukhwinder Singh Billing, Dean Academic Affairs, underscored the success of the conference in fostering meaningful academic dialogue and emphasized the need for young scholars to engage in introspection and sustain a vibrant research culture.

17 students of Pratap World School, Pathankot win gold medals in SOF International Science Olympiad



VERMA
GURDASPUR, MARCH 21

Continuing its legacy of academic excellence, Pratap World School, Pathankot has achieved remarkable success as 17 of its students secured gold medals in the SOF International Science Olympiad. This prestigious competition is organized by the Science Olympiad Foundation and is open to students from Classes 1 to 12. The Olympiad aims to evaluate students’ scientific understanding, logical reasoning, and analytical skills. The SOF-ISO curriculum is carefully designed to help students

identify and nurture their potential in the field of science, preparing them for future academic and competitive challenges. In line with the New Education Policy (NEP), such Olympiads play a vital role in enhancing problem-solving abilities, critical thinking, and cognitive skills among students. The students who brought laurels to the school by winning gold medals include Saheli Kundu, Muskan Ali, Sahiba Akhtar, Panav Sharma, Radhika Sharma, Ayushi, Archit Sharma, Kartik Singh, Toiba, Aarav Sharma, Pranav Gandotra, Shrisha Patnaik, Daksh Gupta, Madhav Sareen, Pritish Agrawal etc.

Annual examination results declared at Unique Holy Heart School, Pathankot; students excel with outstanding performance



GURDASPUR (VERMA): The annual examination results of Unique Holy Heart School, Shiv Nagar, College Road, Pathankot were declared under the chairmanship of Principal Mrs. Anita Mahajan. Students from various classes delivered (excellent) performances, securing first, second, and third positions and bringing pride to the institution. Among the first position holders were Parachi (Nursery), Lavansh Janotra (LKG), Harry, Tivashi, and Harshita (UKG), Shivam and Jashika (Class 1), Mahi Sharma and Dhanishka (Class 2), Kirti (Class 3), Rishabh (Class 4), Uday and Maninder (Class 6), and Aditya (Class 7).

Students who secured second positions included Kundan Kumar (Nursery), Dhanvi, Rehandeep, and Shivam (LKG), Lavish Ratna and Manav (UKG), Abhinandan (Class 1), Radhika (Class 2), Bhavna (Class 3), Savar (Class 4), Jashanpreet (Class 6), and Khushpreet Kaur (Class 7). The third position holders were Pragati (Nursery), Anaya (LKG), Pragati (UKG), Anmol (Class 1), Yuvraj Singh (Class 2), Prachi (Class 3), Manan (Class 4), Samar (Class 6), and Aryan (Class 7).

CU Punjab successfully hosts grand annual sports meet 2026



BATHINDA (ANANTDEEP KAUR): The Central University of Punjab (CU Punjab) successfully organized its Annual Sports Meet on March 19–20, 2026, culminating in a vibrant valedictory ceremony held under the esteemed patronage of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Raghavendra P. Tiwari. The valedictory ceremony was graced by Air Commodore Pradeep Batra, YSM, Air Officer Commanding, Air Force Station Bhisiana, Bathinda, as the Chief Guest, accompanied by Mrs. Payal Batra as the Guest of Honour. Shri Karamjeet Singh, Pradhan, Gurudwara Sahib, Ghudda, attended as the Special Guest. Welcoming the dignitaries, Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Mander, Head, Department of Physical Education and Director of Sports, informed that the Intramural Sports Competitions commenced on August 29, 2025, marking National Sports Day in tribute to hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand.

Dr. Satinder Kaur Kahlon assumes charge as Principal (OSD) of GNDU College, Sujampur

PATHANKOT (SHARANJEET): Acting on the orders issued by Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, Dr. Satinder Kaur Kahlon formally assumed charge as Principal (OSD) of GNDU College Sujampur. On the occasion, members of the college faculty and non-teaching staff extended a warm welcome to Dr. Kahlon. Former college in-charge Prof. Sukhjinder Kaur handed over the charge and briefed her about the ongoing academic and administrative activities of the institution. Speaking after assuming office, Dr. Kahlon said that her primary objective would be to further strengthen the academic environment of the college, maintain discipline and work for the overall development of students.



Dr. rajesh Kumar Mangla's "Wings of Words" released at SVSU, Palwal

GAURAV GOEL
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 21

Prof. Dinesh Kumar Aggarwal, Vice-Chancellor of India’s first skill university established by the Government of Haryana, in a special event, formally launched the second English poetry collection “Wings of Words” by renowned educationist and author Dr. Rajesh Kumar Mangla.

On this occasion, the Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor praised Dr. Mangla’s literary talent and remarked that the younger generation should draw inspiration from him in the field of writing. He described Dr. Mangla as an inspiring literary figure and highlighted his deep association with the university. Terming the poetry collection, a significant literary achievement, the Vice-Chancellor stated that in today’s fast-paced world,



when people are finding less time for reading and writing, such a work will motivate the youth towards creative expression. Encouraging further, he added that in the future, Dr. Mangla’s name will be etched in history as the composer of the university anthem.

The programme commenced with Dr. Mangla felicitating the Vice-Chancellor with a ceremonial coconut and a bouquet. In his address, Dr. Mangla expressed his heartfelt gratitude for the

encouragement and blessings extended by Prof. Aggarwal. He stated that “Wings of Words” is an earnest attempt to give expression to human emotions, sensitivities, and social concerns through poetry.

Sharing a personal reflection, he also mentioned that nearly a decade ago, after seeing the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Aggarwal being honoured by the Hon’ble Prime Minister, he had developed a desire to meet him—an aspiration that has now been fulfilled.

SGPC requests passports from devotees traveling to Pakistan for Maharaja Ranjit Singh's death anniversary

RAGHU NANDANI PRASHAR
JAITO, MARCH 21

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) has requested passports from Sikh devotees wishing to join the delegation scheduled to visit Pakistan in June 2026 to observe the death anniversary of the ‘Sher-e-Punjab’ (Lion of Punjab), Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Interested devotees may submit their passports at the ‘Yatri Niwas’ (Pilgrim Accommodation) located within the Shiromani Committee’s head office by March 31, 2026.

Providing details regarding this initiative, Secretary Balwinder Singh Kahlwan stated that every year, the Shiromani Committee dispatches a delegation of Sikh devotees to Pakistan to commemorate Maharaja Ranjit Singh's death anniversary; this year, the



delegation is scheduled to be sent in the month of June. He further informed that devotees interested in joining the delegation may submit their passports at the Shiromani Committee office by March 31, 2026, accompanied by a recommendation from a member representing their respective constituency within the Shiromani Committee. He added that,

Providing details regarding this initiative, Secretary Balwinder Singh Kahlwan stated that every year, the Shiromani Committee dispatches a delegation of Sikh devotees to Pakistan to commemorate Maharaja Ranjit Singh's death anniversary; this year, the delegation is scheduled to be sent in the month of June. He further informed that devotees interested in joining the delegation may submit their passports at the Shiromani Committee office by March 31, 2026,

alongside the passport, a copy of an Aadhaar Card or Voter ID Card must also be submitted as proof of identity. He urged all pilgrims desiring to undertake a pilgrimage to the Gurdwaras in Pakistan to submit their passports to the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee in a timely manner, so that the documents may be forwarded to the government for further necessary processing.

CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT OF EXCISE & TAXATION

Notice for inviting e-tenders for allotment of licences for Retailsale Vends (L-2/L-14A) from the general public for the year 2026-27 in U.T. Chandigarh

1. It is hereby notified for the information of general public that e-tenders are invited for the grant of remaining one retail sale i.e. L-2/L-14A licences in the form of licensing units for the Excise Policy, 2026-27 (commencing from 1st April, 2026 to 31st March 2027). Each Licensing Unit will comprise L-2/L-14A (Indian Made Foreign Liquor, Imported Foreign Liquor and Country Liquor) under one roof. There will be one (01) licensing unit across the entire city and e-tenders shall be invited individually for all the licensing units.

2. The Retailsale vends shall be allotted to the highest eligible bidder, quoting equal to or above the reserve price of the licensing unit. In case of more than one bid quoting the same highest price is received, the allotment shall be determined by draw of lots among the bidders quoting the same highest price.

3. All willing participants may visit the official website of the department i.e. www.etdut.gov.in/exciseonline for information/ to know the procedure. The detailed procedure for e-tenders and submission of participation fee and earnest money, in accordance with the Excise Policy 2026-27, is available on the official website of the department i.e. www.etdut.gov.in/exciseonline as well as in the Excise Office of the Department.

4. In order to submit e-bids, every prospective bidder is required to get himself registered at <https://etenders.chd.nic.in>.

5. The terms & conditions and the detailed List mentioning localities/sectors of Licensing Units Code, permissible no. of vends/ retail sale outlet, quota and reserve price can be downloaded from the official website of the Excise & Taxation Department i.e. www.etdut.gov.in/exciseonline from 'Public Notices' section.

6. All licenses shall be granted subject to the Punjab Excise Act, 1914 (as applicable to U.T., Chandigarh) and the Rules framed there-under and the Excise Policy for the year 2026-27. The Excise Policy for the year 2026-27 is available on the official website of the Department www.etdut.gov.in/exciseonline

7. E-tenders will be available at <https://etenders.chd.nic.in> on 21.03.2026 at 11:00 am and the bidders may start to submit their bids from 21.03.2026 (11:00 am).

Schedule of dates for allotment of liquor vends:-

Starting date and time for bid submission	From 21st March 2026 (11:00 AM)
Closing date and time for bid submission	Till 25th March, 2026 (upto 11:00 AM)
Opening of Technical e-bids	25th March, 2026 (12:00 Noon onwards)
Opening of Financial e-bids	25th March, 2026 (02:00 pm onwards) at Conference Hall (1st Floor), Excise & Taxation Department, Sector 17, U.T. Chandigarh.

Excise & Taxation Commissioner, Union Territory, Chandigarh

NEWS BRIEF

Eid-ul-Fiter celebrated with great fervor and fervour by Muslim community at Baba Farid Mosque in village Mulla



JAGDEEP SINGH GILL
JAITU: Eid-ul-Fiter prayers were offered by the Muslim community at Baba Farid Mosque in the nearby village of Mulla today and the festival was celebrated with devotion and pomp. On this occasion, the president of the Muslim community, Dr. Mohammad Roop Khan, informed that the Eid moon was sighted by the Muslim community last night and today the prayer was offered by the maulvi of the mosque, Parvez Alam, and the congregation embraced each other and wished Eid Mubarak. On this happy occasion, kheer langar and langar were served to the congregation.

Sandhwan pays surprise visit to Guru Gobind Singh Medical College, enquires about the condition of patients



JAGDEEP SINGH GILL
JAITU: Punjab Vidhan Sabha Speaker S. Kaltar Singh Sandhwan paid a surprise visit to Guru Gobind Singh Medical College and enquired about the condition of the patients admitted there. On this occasion, Speaker S. Sandhwan visited various wards and interacted with the patients who had come from far away for treatment and enquired about their health. On this occasion, he also met the doctors and health officials and got detailed information about the treatment of the patients and the facilities available. He seriously listened to the problems faced by the patients during treatment and issued strict instructions to the concerned officials to resolve them immediately. Speaker S. Sandhwan said that the Punjab government is committed to providing good and easy health facilities to the people. He said that while on one hand people are getting free and high-quality health services through Aam Aadmi Clinics, on the other hand major medical institutions.

MCM's 'Runbhoomi' promotes drug-free living



CHANDIGARH: The Victory Against Drug Abuse (VADA) Club of Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women, in collaboration with the Department of Physical Education, organised Runbhoomi- a spirited volleyball match featuring the non-teaching male staff members of the college. The event envisioned to promote a healthy lifestyle and to spread awareness about the importance of staying away from drug abuse through active participation in sports. The match witnessed enthusiastic participation, with players demonstrating remarkable energy, coordination, and sportsmanship.

Punjab government committed to bright future of players: Tarunpreet Singh Sond

RAKESH JINDAL
NABHA, MARCH 21

Punjab's Minister for Tourism & Cultural Affairs, Labour, Hospitality, Rural Development and Panchayats, Sardar Tarunpreet Singh Sond, attended a wrestling championship held at the sports stadium in village Lang, constituency Patiala. On this occasion, he honored the winners and participants, encouraging them. He informed that the championship was organized jointly by District Wrestling Association Patiala, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Sports Club (Village Lang), and the NRI



Committee, with around 230 wrestlers from 23 districts of Punjab participating. In his address, Minister Sond said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, the

'Shuddh, Surakshit aur Samarth Punjab' awareness campaign launched



R N KHERA
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 21

Returning to Punjab after living abroad for over 18 years, Rashpal Singh Charar—while speaking to journalists during the launch of the 'Shuddh Punjab' (Pure Punjab) campaign—stated that their primary objective is to promote a healthy lifestyle, create a clean and pollution-free environment, ensure the safety and security of people's lives and property, boost economic development and employment opportunities, and guide the youth in the right direction. Addressing a press conference at the Chandigarh Press Club, Rashpal Singh Charar—Founder of the Lok Seva Welfare Society—further mentioned that while his NGO

and competitions are being organized from the block level to the international level. He further said that players are receiving their due rewards on time and deserving athletes are being provided jobs to secure their future.

The minister emphasized that sports play a crucial role in keeping youth away from drugs, and the government is actively working in this direction. Highlighting development works in village Lang, he said that projects worth crores have already been completed and assured that other demands of villagers will also be fulfilled soon.

SSP Khanna organises District-Level 'Samadhan Camp' to address public grievances

DORAHA (AMRISH ANAND): SSP Khanna, Dr. Darpan Kaur Ahluwalia (IPS), along with other senior district officials, organised the second district-level Samadhan Camp (Application Redressal Camp) at AS Women College, Amloh Road, Khanna. The camp witnessed the participation of all SHOs and Investigating Officers (IOs) from across the district. During the camp, grievances and suggestions from members of the public were heard with patience and due attention. The SSP directed the concerned officials to resolve issues on the spot wherever possible and issued necessary instructions to ensure prompt.



Students of Riarki Public School win religious scholarships worth lakhs

VERMA
QADIAN, MARCH 21

Baba Aya Singh Riarki Public School, Tugalwala, a renowned institution known for integrating religious and moral values with modern education, has once again brought pride to the region. The students of the school have achieved remarkable success in the religious examinations conducted by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), Sri Amritsar. Demonstrating dedication, discipline, and deep devotion to Gurmata principles, the students secured outstanding results and won scholarships in both first and second divisions. In



the first division, 12 students — Anureet Kaur, Sukhnaazpreet Kaur (Class 7), Harleen Kaur, Harmanpreet Kaur, Vishali, Jaskarandeep Singh, Jasmeet Kaur, Jasneet Kaur, Mannat Riarki, Manreet Kaur, Rashleen Kaur, and Shubhneet Kaur (Class 8) — earned scholarships. In the second division, 17 students — Baljinder Kaur, Ishmeet

Kaur, Manreet Kaur, Muskaanpreet Kaur (Class 9), Rajdeep Kaur, Harleen Kaur, Harmanpreet Kaur, Jaswinder Kaur (Class 10), Arshpreet Kaur, Gurpreet Kaur, Simranjit Kaur, Jasleen Kaur, Jashanpreet Kaur, Jaspreet Kaur, Mehakdeep Kaur, Manpreet Kaur, and Navjot Kaur (Class 11) — also delivered excellent performances.

HSGMC VP attacked in Kurukshetra; complaint filed with police



SARBJIT SUFI
LUDHIANA, MARCH 21

A delegation of the Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (HSGMC) on Saturday met the Superintendent of Police (SP), Kurukshetra, and lodged a complaint seeking strict action against those involved in an alleged deadly attack on its Vice President, Gurbir Singh Talakaur.

The incident reportedly took place late Friday night at Miri Piri Medical College and Hospital in Shahbad Markanda. Videos of the alleged assault have been circulating on social

media. According to the complaint, the attack was allegedly carried out by persons linked to the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) and Akali Dal (Badal) following a dispute over the management of the institution.

HSGMC leaders, along with members of the Sikh community, submitted a memorandum to the police detailing the incident and demanding immediate action against the accused.

Speaking to reporters, HSGMC functionary Jathedar Baljit Singh Daduwal alleged that the medical college belongs to

the HSGMC but is under "illegal" (occupation) of the Badal family through a trust. He claimed that the situation turned violent despite ongoing discussions being held in a peaceful manner.

Daduwal further alleged that some SGPC leaders were present at the spot and led the (attack) on Talakaur with deadly weapons.

He termed the incident "highly condemnable" and sought strict legal action. The SP Kurukshetra has assured the delegation that a thorough probe will be conducted and appropriate action will be taken against those found guilty, officials said.

AI and skill training will empower youth in India, says Naveen Jindal

DALBIR SINGH
KURUKSHETRA, MARCH 21

A grand event was organised at RK Sadan, Kurukshetra University, to mark one year of the "Naveen Avsar" initiative by the Naveen Jindal Foundation. On the occasion, MP Naveen Jindal interacted with students on artificial intelligence, highlighting the importance of using modern technology responsibly. Certificates were also distributed to students trained under the "Gen AI Ready Nari" programme, organised jointly with the NIMAYA Foundation. Addressing the gathering, Jindal said artificial intelligence has the potential to offer solutions to many challenges, but its effective use requires proper training and understanding. He encouraged youth to focus on skill development



and assured continued support from the foundation in enhancing their capabilities.

He emphasised that young people should avoid risky migration routes such as the "dunki route" and instead pursue skill-based education to secure dignified employment opportunities abroad. He said the foundation's skill centres are providing technical training, language learning, and career guidance to help youth build sustainable careers.

Jindal also announced that the Flag Foundation of India will install a 108-foot-high national flag in the

Kurukshetra University campus to strengthen the spirit of patriotism among youth.

During the programme, Jindal, along with Kurukshetra University Vice-Chancellor Prof Somnath Sachdeva, NIMAYA Foundation founder Navya Naveli Nanda, and Samyak Chakravarti, launched three new initiatives for the coming year.

These include the Centre of Excellence for Employability Skills, the Centre of Jobs and International Mobility, and the Centre for Language and Workplace Skills.

Central Bank of India inaugurates new branch premises in Delhi



NEW DELHI : Central Bank of India has taken a significant step towards strengthening customer service and modern banking infrastructure with the inauguration of new premises for its South Extension and Madipur branches in Delhi. The newly developed South Extension branch was inaugurated by Sheeshram Tundwal, Zonal Head (Delhi), in the presence of Anil Agnihotri, Regional Head (Delhi South), and Anupam Gupta, Branch Manager (South Extension), along with bank officials, staff, and customers. Later, the new premises of the Madipur branch were also inaugurated by Tundwal.

The event was attended by Anil Agnihotri, Regional Head (Delhi South), Sunny Kalra, Regional Head (Gurugram), and Vikas Kumar, Branch Manager (Madipur), besides customers and bank employees. The inauguration marks the bank's growing presence in the region and its commitment to providing improved and convenient banking services. The new premises have been designed to offer customers a more comfortable and modern banking experience while blending traditional trust with advanced facilities. Both events witnessed enthusiastic participation from customers.

Two dead, four injured as tourist vehicle falls into gorge in Dalhousie

DALHOUSIE : Two people were killed and four others injured after a vehicle carrying tourists plunged into a gorge on the Jandri Ghat—Karelnu road in Dalhousie late Friday night. According to police, the vehicle was carrying six occupants—three young men and three women—who had come to the hill station from various districts of Punjab, including Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Amritsar, Barnala, and Ferozepur.

Dalhousie police rushed to the spot immediately after the accident and found the victims scattered near the crashed vehicle in the gorge. All six were rescued and taken to Civil Hospital, Dalhousie.

Doctors declared one and one dead on arrival.

Two critically injured victims—one male and one female—were referred to a hospital in Pathankot for advanced treatment, while the remaining two are undergoing treatment at Civil Hospital Dalhousie.

Police have registered a case and initiated an investigation into the incident.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ General, North Western Railway, Bikaner for & on behalf of the President of India invites E-tenders for the following work (1) **Tender Notice No.: 36-EL-BKN-E-Tender-25-26** Name of work: Electrical work in c/w augmentation of PF shelter at 15 Nos. NSG-5 stations (Gogamari, Mandi Dalwadi, Mehendragarh, Charkhi Dabri, Kosli, Bhattu, Mandi Adampur, Anupgarh, Hansi, Kalanwalli, Raisinghnagar, Ellenabad, Gaisingpur, Hanumanghar Town & Jaitsar) over Bikaner Division (Total 81 Bays at 23 PFs). **Approx Cost of Work: ₹ 2,89,07,226/- EMD/SD: ₹2,94,500/- Tender Document Cost: Nil (1) Complete details of tenders can be seen on website: <http://www.irps.gov.in> (2) Date and time of closing E-Tender: 13.04.2026 at 15.00 Hrs. (3) Date and time of opening E-Tender: 13.04.2026 after 15.00 Hrs. 408-DK26**
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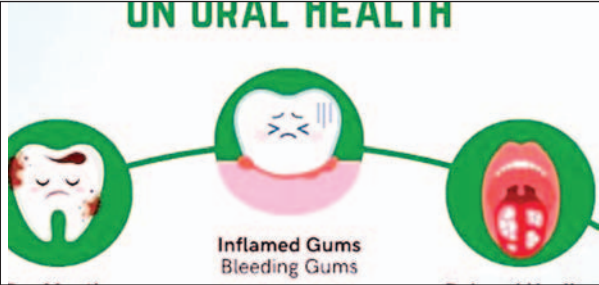
Gum disease and diabetes share a strong two-way link, says Dr Aneja

DALBIR SINGH
KURUKSHETRA, MAR 21

Highlighting the close connection between oral health and diabetes, Dr Ashish Aneja said that gum disease and diabetes are deeply interlinked and can significantly impact each other. He was addressing a diabetes and obesity awareness camp and lecture.

Dr Aneja explained that gum disease, also known as periodontal disease, is an infection of the tissues that support teeth. It is primarily caused by poor oral hygiene, leading to plaque buildup. If left untreated, it can result in swollen gums, bleeding, bad breath, and eventually tooth loss.

He said people with diabetes are at a higher risk of developing gum disease, as high blood sugar weakens the body's ability to fight infections. At the same time,



gum disease can make it more difficult to control blood sugar levels, establishing a two-way relationship between diabetes and oral health.

Dr Aneja further noted that elevated glucose levels in saliva create a favourable environment for bacteria, increasing plaque formation and the risk of gum infections. Diabetes can also reduce saliva production, leading to dry mouth and further promoting bacterial growth. He added that severe gum infections can cause inflammation in the body,

which may make diabetes harder to manage even with medication. Common symptoms of gum disease include bleeding gums, swelling, redness, pain, loosening of teeth, persistent bad breath, and dryness in the mouth.

Emphasising prevention, Dr Aneja advised maintaining controlled blood sugar levels, brushing twice daily, and flossing regularly. He also recommended dental check-ups every six months and informing dentists about one's diabetic condition, along with avoiding smoking.

CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION
EXCISE & TAXATION DEPARTMENT
NOTICE FOR REGISTRATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN e-TENDERING PROCESS FOR ALLOTMENT OF RETAIL LIQUOR LICENSES OF INDIAN MADE FOREIGN LIQUOR, IMPORTED FOREIGN LIQUOR, BEER, WINE AND COUNTRY LIQUOR (L-2/L-14A) FOR THE YEAR 2026-27 IN U.T., CHANDIGARH.

This is for the information of General Public that the process of online registration of persons to participate in the e-tendering process for allotment of liquor vends for the year 2026-27 in U.T., Chandigarh, will commence from 21.03.2025.

All willing persons may visit the official website of the department i.e. www.etdut.gov.in/exciseonline for information/ to know the procedure and those who intend to participate in the e-tendering may get themselves registered at <https://etenders.chd.nic.in>.

It is further, informed that all prospective bidders will have to get themselves registered for e-tendering on the Chandigarh Administration's e-tender website i.e. <https://etenders.chd.nic.in>.

A helpdesk has also been set up in the office of the Assistant Excise & Taxation Commissioner, U.T., Chandigarh for providing assistance to the participants for e-tendering.

Excise & Taxation Commissioner, Union Territory, Chandigarh

Encore Asset Reconstruction Company
earc Private Limited (Encore Arc)
5TH FLOOR, PLOT NO. 137, SECTOR 44, GURUGRAM – 122 002, HARYANA
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Asset under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Proviso to Rule 8 (6) & Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (Rules).
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to IDFC Bank Limited to secure the outstanding dues in the loan account since assigned to the Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited, acting in its capacity as the trustee of EARC -EOT-001-Trust ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken over by the Authorised Officer (AO) of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis on 14.04.2026 for recovery of Rs. 39,30,938/- (Rupees Thirty Nine Lakh Thirty Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Eight Only) as on 21.03.2026 and further interest at contractual rate till recovery and other costs, charges etc. after adjustment of recovery/realization, if any, due to the Secured creditor from Borrower Mr. Naninder Singh (Borrower/ Mortgagee), & Mrs. Mahinder Kaur (Co-Borrower)
The description of the property, Reserve Price (RP) for the secured asset & the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) is as under:

Description of the Immovable Secured Asset	Reserve Price (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)
Plot Pvt. No. 81, Area of 500 Sq Yds. Kharsa No. 90/10/4 Min at Anand Vihar Fatehgarh Chaurain Road, Village Nanglai Amritsar Punjab-143001 Owned by Mr. Naninder Singh*	40,50,000/-	4,05,000/-

In case the e-auction date is declared public holiday then the date will be automatically extended to every next working day.
For detailed terms & conditions please refer to the link provided in the secured creditor's website i.e., <http://www.encorearc.com/>
For any clarification/information, interested parties may contact the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor on mobile no. 9873181249/8384075292 or email at sachin.kumar@encorearc.com

Date: 21.03.2026
Place: Gurugram
Sd/- Sachin Kumar (Authorised Officer)
Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Pvt. Ltd.
Acting in its capacity as the trustee of EARC-EOT-001-Trust

Manish Malhotra’s show cancelled at Lakme Fashion Week 2026 after his mother’s demise



Celebrity fashion designer Manish Malhotra's 'Nexa presents Manish Malhotra Luxury Pret' show at Lakme Fashion Week x FDCI in Mumbai has been cancelled. The show was scheduled for Saturday, March 21. The cancellation comes in the wake of the passing away of Malhotra's mother, Sudarshan Malhotra. She passed away on March 19 in Mumbai.

"The NEXA presents Manish Malhotra show scheduled for today has been cancelled. NEXA presents 'The Spotlight' Anurag Gupta shocase will now take place at 9:30 PM this evening. Guests holding invitations for the Nexa Spotlight Sunday show can present the same for entry to the rescheduled 9:30 pm show today."

Paying tribute to his mother, Manish shared a heartfelt post on Instagram, featuring her picture with the caption, "Love and Miss you Forever "

Sudarshan Malhotra's last rites were held on Friday morning at the Santacruz Hindu Crematorium, Mumbai, with celebrities including Karan Johar, Rakul Preet Singh, and David Dhawan paying their tributes.

Manish Malhotra shared a close bond with his mother and often spoke about her importance in his life. On Mother's Day, in one of his posts, he had described her as his strength, inspiration and companion, and frequently mentioned enjoying tea with her.

Recalling her support and love, he had written that she was his "strength, inspiration and companion." He had also shared how she encouraged his early interest in clothes and cinema."My mother my Strength, Inspiration and My Companion as I have always lived with her with only Respect and love .. This morning having tea with her I was thanking her for always encouraging my love for clothes and movies since childhood. Happy Mother's Day," he wrote at the time.



‘Sheesha’ Music Video Out Now: The Haryanvi Track Dominating India’s Charts

KARNAL: Regional music isn't waiting for the spotlight anymore, it's taking lead. After weeks of dominating viral charts, playlists, reels and listener loops, the viral hit Sheesha (Aakhya Mai Aakh Ghali Jo Beran) by Mita Ror & Swara Verma now has its music-awaited official music video featuring Sorab Bedi and Niharika Tiwari!

Written and composed by Mita Ror, with Swara Verma's standout vocals, produced by Yeah Ishwar and directed by Teji Sandhu, Sheesha has steadily grown from a regional release into one of the most talked about songs in the country. The video builds that momentum matching the track's signature energy into a story that feels just as immersive as music itself. At the centre of the video are Rajma Chawal and Tikki Mirchi, a.k.a. Sorab Bedi and Niharika Tiwari, a pairing that audiences have already been rooting for online. As fan edits featuring the two began circulating widely with the track, the song's viral moment organically emerged with their on-screen chemistry. Picking up on that wave, the official music video now brings them together, turning what fans imagined into a fully realised visual treat!

The chart numbers tell their own story. Sheesha currently sits at #2on the Spotify India Charts and #3on the Billboard India charts, marking its continued dominance across platforms. It has sparked over 1.8 million IG reels, becoming a go-to sound across social media, clocking 40+ million streams on Spotify and over 40 million views on YouTube, alongside 1+ million YouTube Shorts. With the video now in play, the track is only getting bigger.

Driving this moment is Mita Ror, one of the emerging voices pushing Haryanvi pop into a global phenomenon. His music blends the rawness of regional storytelling with contemporary beats, creating a sound that feels both grounded and widely relatable. Alongside him, Swara Verma's vocals bring a distinct presence to Sheesha, adding both texture and recall to a track that has clearly struck a chord with listeners. Speaking about the video release, Mita Ror shares, "I am so overwhelmed with all the love I've received for Sheesha. When we were making it, I didn't think how big it would get, I was just being true to the song. The love it has received across India has been unreal, it shows that language is no barrier when the vibe connects. The video is our way of giving the song a face and a story. It just felt like the right next step."

Dr. Reddy’s Laboratories announces launch of India’s first DCGI-approved Semaglutide injection ‘Obeda®’ for Type 2 Diabetes



CHANDIGARH :Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd. (BSE: 500124, NSE: DRRED-DY, NYSE: RDY, NSEIFSC: DRREDY), along with its subsidiaries together referred to as "Dr. Reddy's"), a global pharmaceutical company, today announced the launch of its injectable semaglutide under the brand name Obeda®, marking an important step in expanding access to advanced GLP-1 receptor agonist-based therapy for the management of type 2 diabetes in India. Dr. Reddy's has been the first Indian company to receive Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) approval for generic semaglutide. This launch underscores the company's Day-1 entry into the segment upon patent expiry, demonstrating its readiness to serve unmet patient needs in India. India faces one of the world's largest diabetes burdens, with over 101 million adults living with the condition, according to the ICMR-INDIAB study. The study estimates diabetes prevalence at 11.4%, with nearly four in ten adults experiencing abdominal obesity. An additional 136 million individuals are estimated to be pre-diabetic, placing them at high risk of developing the disease. In such a scenario, semaglutide, a GLP-1 receptor agonist, has a globally proven track record in improving glycaemic control and supporting weight management when used as part of a comprehensive treatment plan. In a head-to-head Phase III clinical study enrolling 312 participants, Dr. Reddy's Obeda® established non-inferior efficacy and a safety profile comparable to the innovator drug. It showed similar glycaemic reduction. Additionally, comparable results were observed for fasting glucose control, post-prandial glucose control, and therapeutic glycaemic response (achieving HbA1c <7.0%) at the end of the study. No anti-drug antibodies were detected, and the immunogenicity profile was similar to that of the innovator drug.

Jaane Anjaane Hum Mile’s Bharat Ahlawwat on Filming Jail Sequence with Real Ice Slab: “Felt like my mind went numb”

CHANDIGARH: Zee TV's popular show Jaane Anjaane Hum Mile, starring Bharat Ahlawwat (Raghav) and Ayushhi Khurrana (Reet) in lead roles, is all set to showcase some daunting sequences featuring Raghav. In the upcoming episodes, viewers will witness Raghav being imprisoned after being accused of Kriit's murder. The upcoming scenes promise to be hard-hitting, as Raghav is subjected to intense torture, including a sequence where he is made to lie on an ice slab while the police try to force him into confessing to the crime. Although the scenes have turned out visually compelling, shooting them was both mentally and physically exhausting for Bharat, who performed on a real ice slab, exposing his bare body to extreme cold. Sharing his experience of shooting the sequence, Bharat revealed that at one point, it felt like his mind had stopped working. The actor said, "It was a very different experience for me. I've never done something like this before. The jail torture scene was quite new and challenging. When I first read it, I was excited as an artist to get the opportunity to perform something so different. The scene wasn't very long, but the intensity was high. The most difficult part was lying on ice. There was only a very thin sheet, which kept shifting with movement, and since the scene involved struggling and reacting to torture, controlling the body while maintaining modesty was quite tough."



Godrej Enterprises Group brings together Architects and Designers for the 3rd GVCC Cricket Championship



CHANDIGARH: Locks and Architectural Solutions, a business unit of the Godrej Enterprises Group, successfully hosted the 3rd edition of the Godrej Value Co-Creators Club (GVCC) Cricket Championship 2026. Designed as a platform to foster deeper relationships within the Architects and Interior Designers (AID) community, the tournament once again brought together leading design firms from across the city for a spirited celebration of cricket, collaboration and camaraderie.

Held on 14th & 15th March 2026, the championship saw enthusiastic participation from prominent architecture and design firms, who came together beyond the boardroom to engage through India's most loved sport. Over the course of several closely contested matches, teams showcased exceptional sportsmanship and competitive spirit, reinforcing the sense of community within the AID ecosystem. The tournament concluded with an exciting final that saw SPA11 (Shashi Prabhu and Associates) secure the GVCC Cricket Championship 2026 title after a closely fought match against SSA Strikers (Sandeep Shikire Architects).

Following the success of the event, a spokesperson from Locks and Architectural Solutions, Godrej Enterprises Group, shared, "The GVCC Cricket Championship has evolved into a meaningful platform that brings together the architect and interior designer community beyond the professional engagements. At Godrej Enterprises Group, we believe that enduring industry partnerships are built through successful projects, shared experiences, and meaningful interactions. Through the Godrej Value Co-Creators Club, we strive to create platforms that foster deeper engagement and collaboration within the AID ecosystem. This year's championship witnessed participation from over 230 architects and interior designers / 16 teams / 14 firms, reflecting the growing strength of this community and the shared spirit that continues to drive the industry forward."

Park Group of Hospitals Strengthens Position to be the Largest Private Healthcare Network in the Tricity Region with Launch of Panchkula Facility and Expansion in Mohali

PANCHKULA : Park Medi World Limited (NSE: PARKHOSPS; BSE: 544645): Park Group of Hospitals today approved the launch of its advanced multi-super specialty hospital in Panchkula expandable to 350 beds, and expansion of its existing 350-bedded facility in Mohali with 150 beds, strengthening its presence across the Tricity healthcare ecosystem. The Panchkula facility will become operational from March 29, 2026, expanding access to advanced healthcare services for patients across Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Chandigarh.

With the addition of the Panchkula hospital and the upcoming expansion at its Mohali campus (Grecian Super Specialty Hospital), Park Hospital's consolidated capacity across the Tricity region will reach 850 beds, making it the largest private healthcare network in the region. The Tricity cluster includes 350 existing beds at Mohali, capacity of up to 350 beds at the newly launched Panchkula facility, and an additional 150-bed super specialty expansion at Mohali.

The Panchkula hospital has been designed to deliver comprehensive tertiary and quaternary care services, supported by advanced diagnostics, modern operation theatres, and critical care infrastructure. The facility will offer specialized treatment across multiple disciplines, addressing the growing demand for advanced medical care in the region.

The upcoming 150-bed super specialty expansion at Mohali will focus on strengthening advanced clinical capabilities, with investments directed toward key high-acuity specialties including Oncology, Neurosciences, Gastro Sciences, and Robotic Surgeries. The expansion will also introduce robotic joint replacement capabilities, significantly enhancing the hospital's ability to deliver cutting-edge, minimally invasive treatment options.

Dr. Ankit Gupta, Managing Director, Park Medi World Limited, said: "The launch of our Panchkula hospital and the expansion of our Mohali facility mark a significant milestone in Park Hospital's journey to strengthen advanced healthcare access across the Tricity region. With a combined capacity of 850 beds across our Mohali and Panchkula campuses, we are building one of the most comprehensive private healthcare networks in the region. The new Panchkula hospital, along with the upcoming 150-bed super specialty expansion in Mohali, reflects our long-term commitment to developing centres of excellence in high-acuity care. Our focus is on strengthening capabilities in areas such as oncology, neurosciences, gastro sciences, and robotic surgeries, while introducing advanced technologies that enable minimally invasive and patient-centric treatment. As healthcare needs continue to evolve across North India, our goal is to create an integrated ecosystem that brings together clinical expertise, technology, and scale to deliver world-class care closer to the communities we serve."

Interio by Godrej Expands Mattress Portfolio to Address India’s Growing Sleep Wellness Demand

CHANDIGARH : Interio by Godrej, the furniture brand of Godrej Enterprises Group, plans to expand its mattress category as demand for sleep and wellness products grows across Indian households. As part of this strategy, the company will appoint 25 new mattress distributors and expand to 300+ retailers across India, strengthening its reach across major metros as well as emerging Tier-II and Tier-III markets.

Dev Sarkar, Senior Vice President and Head of Consumer Business, Interio by Godrej said, "India's mattress market is evolving as consumers become more conscious of the role sleep plays in overall health. Urbanisation, rising incomes and improving housing conditions are influencing how people invest in their homes, including their sleep environment. Consumers today are looking for mattresses that support posture, improve comfort and address issues such as back pain and pressure relief. At Interio, we are expanding our portfolio to address these changing expectations. Our mattresses are designed to support different sleep preferences, from pressure-relieving foam and pocket spring cores to breathable mesh layers. We are also strengthening our distribution network so that consumers across markets have easier access to these solutions." India's mattress market, currently valued at USD 2.40 billion, is projected to reach USD 3.89 billion by 2031, growing at a CAGR of 8.60%. Foam and memory foam mattresses account for over 52% of the market, while hybrid mattresses are emerging as one of the fastest-growing segments. Demand for orthopaedic mattresses is also rising as consumers increasingly prioritise spinal alignment and pressure relief.



Is North India Financially Ready for Life? HDFC Life’s Latest Survey Results Show a 30-point Gap between Perception and Reality

PATIALA : HDFC Life has released regional findings for North India on their Ready for Life Index (RLI). The findings reveal a financially confident region with identified areas for improving long-term readiness. The report, done in collaboration with Ipsos India, tests perceived and actual readiness levels on four fronts – Financial Planning, Emergency Preparedness, Health & Well-being, and Retirement Strategy. North India has an RLI index at 56, slightly lower than the All-India average at 59. A 30-point gap between perception and action highlights the difference between confidence and actual steps taken towards ensuring financial readiness. Emergency preparedness is identified as a major improvement area. Less than half of the surveyed individuals have an emergency corpus. Also, liquidity of the emergency corpus is low as it takes over a week to access the funds. Such observations highlight the need for accessible savings avenues to effectively handle unexpected scenarios of financial disruptions. In terms of financial priorities, North India tracks the national average, with the primary purpose of savings being for children's education. On the other hand, the priorities are relatively higher for the purpose of buying or owning a house and for starting or expanding the family business. The consumer portfolio in the region is diversified with fixed deposits, health insurance, and endowment policies being the most purchased or owned products. The ownership of term insurance products is equal to the national average. Vineet Arora – Executive Director & Chief Business Officer, HDFC Life, elaborated more on the insights for North India. "North India shows high financial confidence and ambitions, especially in relation to wealth creation and securing families. The Ready for Life Index identifies a thirst to translate confidence into higher levels of preparedness in terms of protecting, preparing for emergencies, and preparing for retirement. The focus is to enable individuals translate intent into action and become financially prepared at every stage."



House of Jolly Strengthens Its Legacy-Led Global Vision with the Thoughtful Acquisition of Enrico Cassina and Omporro

CHANDIGARH : The House of Jolly, India's most enduring name in architectural hardware since 1944, marks a defining chapter in its evolution with the considered expansion of its House of Brands. Staying true to its philosophy quality through design, engineering and materials, Jolly has chosen to align with two design-led brands- Enrico Cassina and Omporro- each selected for their shared values of craftsmanship, longevity, materials and design integrity. Founded in pre-independence India by Pt. Sh. Jeetendra Nath Bhargava, Jolly has long believed that hardware, though discreet, plays a defining role in the life and longevity of a space. From its early mastery of precision hinges to building one of India's most comprehensive architectural hardware portfolios today, the brand's journey has been guided not by scale alone, but by engineering excellence and enduring relevance. Under the leadership of the current generation, Aditya and Akshay Bhargava, this philosophy continues to inform every strategic decision, including global brand acquisition. "In an era where rapid expansion and multi-tie-ups are common, House of Jolly has taken a markedly different path. Rather than pursuing numerous international associations, the brand has carefully chosen to acquire only those names that mirror its own legacy, depth of craft, and timeless approach to design," said Rajesh Bhargava, Director, House of Jolly.



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