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NEWS BRIEF

"No shortage of petrol, diesel, LPG in country," says Petroleum Ministry

NEW DELHI: The Petroleum Ministry on Thursday clarified that India's energy supply is fully secure and stable. The Ministry further stated that there is no shortage of petrol, diesel, or LPG anywhere in the country. All retail outlets are operating normally, with adequate supplies. Misinformation and panic-driven narratives are completely unfounded. The Ministry said that citizens are advised to rely only on official sources and avoid spreading rumours. Government remains committed to ensuring uninterrupted energy access for every citizen. The Petroleum Ministry on Wednesday said that the Centre is prioritising Piped Natural Gas (PNG), while noting that there is adequate petrol and diesel available and the fuel prices have not changed. Addressing the Inter-Ministerial briefing, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, highlighted that the government is ensuring 100 per cent domestic PNG supply and has issued a notification, streamlined and time-bound framework for laying and expanding pipelines across the country, and developing the natural gas infrastructure.

Air show at Sukhna Lake today

CHANDIGARH: The Surya Kiran Aerobatic team of the Indian Air Force will hold a civil air display at Sukhna Lake here on March 27 and 28. The Sukhna Lake will remain closed to the public from March 26 till the afternoon of March 28 in view of the event and the arrangements being made for it. The Surya Kiran Aerobatic team's civil air display will be held between 10.30 am and 11.30 am on both days, Chandigarh Deputy Commissioner (DC) Nishant Kumar Yadav told reporters here.

RS cross-voting: Congress high command summons Haryana MLAs to Delhi

CHANDIGARH: The Congress high command has intensified disciplinary proceedings against errant legislators following the recent Rajya Sabha election debacle in Haryana, where the party faced significant setbacks due to cross-voting and invalidated ballots. Sources indicate that a crucial Haryana Congress Legislative Party (CLP) meeting has been convened in Delhi, which is expected to be attended by Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge.

Iranian navy chief overseeing Hormuz closure killed, claims Israel

AGENCY
TEHRAN, MAR 26

Commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy, Alireza Tangsiri, has been killed in a strike in Bandar Abbas, Israeli media reported on Thursday, citing an unnamed Israeli official. There has been no comment from Iran or from the Israeli military on the strike. Tangsiri was responsible for the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, according to a Times of Israel report. The Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) carried out a fresh round of military operations today against US military installations across the region in retaliation for earlier airstrikes against infrastructure and civilian facilities in the northern sector of Iran. On Wednesday, the IRGC and the Iranian Army conducted



multiple operations as part of Operation True Promise 4, which was launched immediately after the US-Israeli coalition carried out strikes on Iran. Iranian armed forces have so far carried out 82 waves of missile and drone strikes with advanced weaponry targeting Israeli military facilities as well as US bases and assets scattered across the West Asia region. The Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement and the

US Troops relocate to hotels after bases attacked in Middle East

AGENCY NEW DELHI: Work From Home (WFH), or working remotely, gained an outside prominence during the pandemic. American soldiers in the Middle East are reportedly living a version of it in the Iran war, which is in its fourth week. Iran's bombing of the US bases in the region in retaliation for the US-Israeli war has forced many American troops to relocate to hotels and office spaces throughout the region, NYT reported quoting military personnel and American officials. According to NYT, much of the land-based military is

fighting the war while working remotely. The exception being the fighter pilots and crews operating and maintaining warplanes and conducting strikes. The Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), an elite branch of Iran's military, has urged people to report these new locations as it hunts for the dispersed troops. US military officials say that threat is not stopping the Pentagon from carrying out the war against Iran, which began at the end of February when the joint US-Israeli air strikes assassinated its supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Islamic Resistance in Iraq have also joined the front against the external aggressors, inflicting heavy blows on the enemy. IRGC has also issued a warning to the

US-Israel forces on considering a possible ground operation within Iranian territory. "Don't send your children to hell with the deceit of Netanyahu and Trump.

PM to chair meeting with CMs today on West Asia crisis

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, MAR 26

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold an interaction with Chief Ministers on Friday evening via video conferencing to review state-level preparedness amid the ongoing West Asia conflict. The discussions will focus on coordinated action and "Team India" synergy. However, sources indicated that Chief Ministers of poll-bound states will not be attending the meeting. These include Kerala Chief



Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, and Puducherry Chief Minister N Rangasamy. Amid concerns triggered by rumours of fuel shortages in parts of the country, Jammu and

Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah urged people not to panic. Addressing reports of long queues at petrol pumps in Jammu, Abdullah said, "My earnest request is that you stop camping outside petrol pumps otherwise, I will shut all the petrol pumps for the next few days."

13 killed in Andhra bus fire, PM condoles

AGENCY
RAYAVARAM, MAR 26

Thirteen people were killed and 22 injured after a private travels bus collided with a tipper and caught fire here in Markapuram district on Thursday, police said. While earlier estimates from District Superintendent of Police V Harshavardhan Raju suggested 14 fatalities, an official release from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) later confirmed 13 deaths. PM Narendra Modi and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu expressed profound shock and grief over the road accident near Rayavaram in Markapuram district. "A total of 35 passengers were on board



the bus at the time of the accident, of whom 13 lost their lives while 22 injured passengers are currently undergoing treatment. Among the injured, three are reported to be in critical condition," the release said. The bus struck the tipper's diesel tank, triggering an inferno. Officials said rescue operations are ongoing while a command and control room has been set up at Markapuram deputy collector's office to assist families.

24 die as bus plunges into river in B'desh

DHAKA: At least 24 people were killed and several others remain missing after a bus plunged into a river in Bangladesh while attempting to board a transport ferry, officials said on Thursday. The accident occurred in the southwestern district of Rajbari at the Dauladia terminal when the bus fell into the Padma River at about 5.15 pm on Wednesday, officials said. They estimate that the Dhaka-bound bus was carrying around 40 passengers, including several children, most of whom were returning to the capital after their Eid holidays.

Hry to set up second HIV viral load testing lab at P'kula

BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, MAR 26

The Haryana Health Department has approved the establishment of an HIV viral load testing laboratory at Civil Hospital, Panchkula. With this, Haryana will have its second dedicated facility, the first being located in Rohtak. The was informed by Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, Dr.



Sumita Misra, who said the laboratory has been approved at an annual cost of Rs. 1.65 crore, based on an estimated workload of approximately

15,000 HIV viral load tests per year. In a cost-efficient move, the new laboratory will be set up by utilising the existing Covid-19 molecular testing infrastructure already in place at Civil Hospital, Panchkula, along with the procurement of additional equipment specific to HIV viral load testing. This approach ensures that the facility can be made operational quickly, without

the need for constructing an entirely new setup. The project was developed on the basis of inputs provided by the Haryana State AIDS Control Society (HSACS), while the technical evaluation was independently conducted by the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) — the apex body governing HIV/AIDS response in the country.

Wet spell likely in HP from March 28-30: IMD

UNI
SHIMLA, MAR 26

The Indian Meteorological Centre, issuing an extended range of forecasts for Himachal Pradesh here today, predicted a mix of wet and dry weather conditions over the next two weeks, with intermittent rain and snow activity followed by a gradual rise in temperatures. The IMD states that light rain and snowfall are expected at isolated places on March 26 and 27, while precipitation activity is set to intensify between March 28 and March 30, when many parts of the state may receive light to moderate rain or snow. Thereafter, scattered rainfall is likely on March 31. In the subsequent week (April 3 to 9), light to moderate precipitation is expected over many areas on some days, indicating continued western disturbance influence, though with intermittent dry spells. Temperature trends suggest a gradual seasonal transition.



Punjab Police busts interstate arms module; 2 UP residents held

UNI CHANDIGARH: The counter-intelligence wing of Punjab Police said on Thursday it dismantled an interstate illegal weapons supply network, resulting in the arrest of two smugglers from Uttar Pradesh. During the operation, authorities recovered 10 country-made pistols and 20 magazines. Preliminary investigations have revealed a sensational transnational link, suggesting the module was being orchestrated by handlers based in the United States and Germany to fuel terror activities and extortion rackets across Punjab. The investigation indicates that the arrested duo acted as a critical logistical link for foreign-based criminals who were facilitating the supply of arms to local gangs in the state. Their primary role involved ensuring the safe transit of weapon consignments into various parts of Punjab to strengthen the operational capabilities of terror modules.

Pb's largest Ram Temple inaugurated in Kharar, set to draw pilgrims



UNI
CHANDIGARH, MAR 26

The city of Kharar in Mohali district witnessed a historic spiritual milestone on Thursday as a grand Ram Temple, designed on the architectural lines of the Ayodhya shrine, was officially opened to the devotees. Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria inaugurated the temple complex, which is being hailed as the largest and most magnificent Ram Temple in the state. Situated at the site of the historic Ajj Sarovar, the temple allows visitors to offer prayers to the idols of Lord Ram's family, including King Ajj and King Dashrath. Spanning a total area of



10,000 square feet, the temple features a towering main dome reaching a height of 150 feet. A centerpiece of the spiritual landmark is the 118-foot-tall statue of Lord Ram, strategically installed in the middle of the expansive 152-kanal Ajj Sarovar. Built at an estimated cost of Rs. 25 crore, all the sacred idols

within the temple were meticulously crafted in Jaipur and brought to the site with full religious honors. Shashi Pal Jain, head of the temple committee, announced that the day's celebrations would culminate in a grand 'Maha Aarti' performed with the lighting of 51,000 earthen lamps (diyas). The temple

site holds profound historical and mythological significance, as it is dedicated to King Ajj, the great-grandfather of Lord Ram. The Sarovar itself dates back approximately 152 years to the British era, during which its sanctity was so revered that boating and fishing were strictly prohibited. According to local history shared by Sunil Sethi, excavations in 1979 revealed 10th-century remnants of an ancient Hindu temple and various deities, further establishing the site's spiritual heritage. The location is also famously associated with the classical Sanskrit epic 'Raghuvamsha' by Kalidasa, which narrates the story of King Ajj and Indumati.

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Flight operations at Kolkata airport briefly suspended due to adverse weather conditions, Mamata Banerjee's plane lands after some delay

KOLKATA, MARCH 26

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's aircraft landed at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport on Thursday after some delay as flight operations at the airport were suspended for approximately 20 minutes due to adverse weather conditions.

Mamata Banerjee was returning to the state capital after addressing election rallies in the poll-bound state.

"Due to adverse weather conditions, CM Mamata Banerjee's flight has been unable to land at Kolkata Airport. As a precautionary measure, flight operations at the airport have been temporarily suspended for approximately 20 minutes," PRO Kolkata Airport said earlier.

In a public meeting at Paschim Bardhaman, Mamata Banerjee attacked the BJP over Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. "Now they are being told they can't eat meat, can't eat eggs in their state, can't speak Bengali, and even if they speak Bengali, they will be considered Bangladeshi. They will be arrested, beaten, tortured, and their names will be removed. No political party has fought for this, and I alone fought from the streets to the court. To this day, it remains unknown whose name has been removed. If they have the courage, the BJP should release the list," she said. Mamata



Banerjee vowed that Birbhum, Bankura, and Bardhaman West will be industrial destinations if she is elected back as the CM. "Birbhum, Bankura, and Bardhaman West will be industrial destinations in the coming days. I also have a village in Birbhum. This is my ancestral land, my motherland... The soil of Birbhum is international soil, where dignitaries like Rabindranath were born," she said.

Kite string causes minor blast at Jafrabad Metro station in Delhi, no injuries reported

NEW DELHI : A blast-like sound was reported at Jafrabad Metro station on Thursday evening in the national capital. According to police officials, the incident occurred around 6:05 PM on the metro line heading towards Burari.

Upon receiving information, CISF personnel and local police rushed to the spot and evacuated all passengers safely. Preliminary investigation revealed that a kite string (manja) got entangled between two metro power cables, causing a minor blast and brief fire. Authorities confirmed that no injuries or casualties were reported. Services were resumed after the situation was quickly brought under control. Further investigation is underway.

Indian Army to order 800 Km plus strike range BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles

NEW DELHI: Amid the ongoing conflict in West Asia, the Indian Army is looking to place a huge order for 800 km strike range variant of BrahMos supersonic Cruise missiles.

The Indian army is currently operating Cruise missiles, which can hit targets at 450 km plus and is now looking to place orders for the 800 km plus strike range variant of BrahMos Cruise missiles, Defence officials told ANI.

The defence ministry is expected to give the go-ahead to the Army plans at a high-level Defence ministry meeting scheduled to be held in the next few days.

The missiles had proven themselves in a big way during the India-Pakistan conflict under Operation Sindoor in May last year.

BrahMos missiles were used in a big way by the Indian defence forces to destroy the Pakistan Air Force bases at multiple locations during the war.

The ongoing conflict between Iran,



the US, and Israel has also shown the importance of long-range missiles.

The Indian Army is now looking at the induction of drones and missiles in large quantities to be able to meet the requirements of new-generation warfare.

The Indian Army has taken huge steps and carried out large-scale force structuring under which specialised

Drone regiments and platoons are being created in the regiment of artillery and infantry regiments. Separately, the defence forces are also looking at the creation of a dedicated missile force and increasing their numbers in the inventory.

The Army has also started manufacturing drones in its workshops, and production is being done at large scale.

Classified

I, Anil S/o Sh. Krishan Chand R/o H.No.365/6, Purani Sabji Mandi, Ward Number 6, Kaithal-136027 (Haryana) India have changed my name from Anil to Anil Kumar. Concerned Please Note.

84451

I, Chanchal W/o Anil Kumar R/o H.No.365/6, Purani Sabji Mandi, Ward Number 6, Kaithal-136027 (Haryana) India have changed my name from Chanchal to Chanchal Rani. Concerned Please Note.

84451

I, Pawan Kumar, son of Amar Chand, resident of Mansa Kainchian, Tehsil Mansa, District Mansa, hereby declare that I have changed my name from Pawan Kumar to Pawan Kumar Jain

90005

I, Service No. 18008890p Rank Hav Name Dharpal S/o Omprakash R/o Chitsona Allipur, Bulandshahr (up)-245402. Have Changed My Father Name From Om Prakash Singh To Omprakash As Per His Aadhar Card

900028

I, Service No.18008890p Rank Hav Name Dharpal S/o Omprakash R/o Chitsona Allipur, Bulandshahr (up)-245402. Have Changed My Mother Name From Sheela Devi To Shila Devi As Per Her Aadhar Card

900028

I, Pratishta Goswami W/o Ashish Kamra R/o House No.4198, Helicopter Pocket, Prestige Tower, Sector-117 TDI City, Chajju Majra, Landran Distt. SAS Nagar Mohali have changed my name from Pratishta Goswami to Pratishta Kamra.

900019

I, Pavitarjit Sharma (Aadhar No.7751 9674 7938) D/o Harjit Singh R/o Flat No.15 Ground Floor, Amazon Towers, New Sunny ENCLAVE, Sector-125, Kharar, Distt. SAS Nagar Mohali, Punjab-140301 have changed my name from Pavitarjit Sharma to Pavitarjit Kaur.

900019

I, Karan Mahay S/o Ramesh Lal R/o H.no. 137, VPO Lidhran, Jalandhar have changed my name from Karan Mahay to Karan Mahey in which given name Karan and surname as Mahey. All concerned may note.

900026

I, Surjeet Kaur W/o Gurdip Singh R/o Village Nangli, Gilzian, PO Miani, Tehsil Dasuya, District Hoshiarpur have changed my name from Surjeet Kaur to Surjeet as given name and Kaur as surname. All concerned may note.

900026

I, Gagandeep Kaur W/o Gurwinder Singh R/o Village Baho Sibiyan Patti Dharam Singh, Distt. Bathinda have changed my name to Gagandeep Kaur Bar.

63372

I, Jagmeet Kaur alias Veerpal Kaur W/o Jagdeep Singh R/o Vill-Joga Teh & Distt Mansa declare that in my Aadhar Card and PAN Card my name is written as Jagmeet Kaur and in my daughter's documents my name is written as Jagmeet Kaur alias Veerpal Kaur. I am known by both the names Jagmeet Kaur alias Veerpal Kaur is one and the same person.

63372

I, Amjad Khan, son of Mr. Suleman Khan, resident of village Rohira, district Malerkotla, punjab declare that I have no taluk or relationship with my in-laws and my wife's paternal family, the entire family of late Ali Hassan, resident of village Rasulpur, district Malerkotla.

63372

I, Rupinderjit Singh S/o Dungan Singh R/o #22400, Street No. 4 Shant Nagar Bathinda. That my father's name on the insurance Documents is Doongar Singh Dahia which is wrong. My father's correct name is Dungan Singh. My father should be known as Dungan Singh.

63372

I, Jaswinder Singh S/o Teja Singh R/o Bharta Ganeshpur Teh-Garhshankar Distt Hoshiarpur have changed my minor son's name from Harjaspreet Singh to Singh Harjaspreet.

63372

I, Amit Kumar C/o Om Parkash R/o #32190-A St.No. 10-G Paras Ram Nagar Po. Bathinda Distt. Bathinda have known by both names Amit Kumar and Amit is one and the same person.

63372

I, Darshan Singh S/o Pyara Singh R/o Gali No. 3 Fateh Nagar Nawanshahr Distt. SBS Nagar have changed my name from Darshan Singh to L.C. Krishna.

63372

I, Simer Kaur W/o Tarsem Singh R/o Vill-Pannu Mazara Po Saloh Teh-Nawanshahr SBS Nagar, PB have changed my name from Simer Kaur to Simar Kaur. Pls. note it.

63372

I, Sheenam D/o JC-433582Y Sub Ashok Kumar R/o Vpo. Chandiani Khurd Teh-Balachaur Distt. SBS Nagar (Punjab) changed my name from Sheenam to Sheenam vide affidavit dated 24-03-2026.

63372

I, Avinash Kaur alias Abnash Kaur W/O Balvir Singh R/O Vpo. Karnana Teh. Nawanshahr Distt. Sbs Nagar Pin:144513 Have Change My Name From Avinash Kaur alias Abnash Kaur To Abnash Kaur.

63372

I, Jashandeep Singh S/o Jagjit Singh R/o Vill-Kotla Raika Teh-Bagha Purana Distt Moga have changed my name Jashandeep Singh to Jashandeep Singh Mattu, Conseran Note.

63372

I, Nirmal Singh S/o Harbans Singh R/o H.No. 1368 W.No. 04 D.S.P. Walli Gali Akalser Road Moga Teh & Distt. Moga have changed my son name from Navdeep Singh to Navdeep Singh Bumrah.

63372

I, Virpal Kaur W/o Sewak Singh Vpo Raunta Distt Moga have changed my name Veerpal Kaur.

63372

I, Harvinder Kaur W/O Jagroop Singh R/O Raiya Urf Hardaspura Distt Bathinda Have Changed My Name To Harvinder Kaur.

63372

I, Sukhbir Singh Manhas S/o Nanak Singh R/o Vpo-Mutton Teh-Balachaur Distt. Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar have changed my name from Sukhbir Singh Manhas to Sukhbir Singh.

63372

I, Sunita W/o Sukhbir Singh R/o Vpo. Mutton Teh-Balachaur Distt. Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar have changed my name from Sunita to Sunita Devi.

63372

I, Mandeep Kaur W/o Karnail Singh R/o Village Khera, District Ludhiana have changed my name from Manjit Kaur to Mandeep Kaur.

63372

I, Mohinder Singh S/o Rampal Singh Vill Thalesh Teh & Distt Sangru, have changed my name to Mahinder Singh.

63372

I, Hardeep Singh Deol S/o Amar Singh R/o Takhtupura Teh-Nihal Singh Wala Distt. Moga have changed my name to Hardeep Singh.

63372

I, Malkit Kaur W/o Surjeet Singh R/o Vill-Kauloke Teh-Phul Distt Bathinda, Punjab, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Malkit Kaur to Malkeet Kaur for all purposes.

63372

I, Surjit Singh S/o Kartar Singh R/o Vill-Kauloke Teh-Phul Distt Bathinda, Punjab, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Surjit Singh to Surjeet Singh for all purposes.

63372

I, Sukhwinder Kaur W/o Gurwinder Singh R/o Bhanohar Po. Bhanohar Distt. Ludhiana declare that my given name is Sukhwinder and my surname is Kaur.

63372

I, Sukhwinder Kaur W/o Gurwinder Singh R/o Bhanohar Po. Bhanohar Distt. Ludhiana declare that my minor son given name is Gurtej and surname is Singh.

63372

I, Sukhwinder Kaur W/o Gurwinder Singh R/o Bhanohar Po. Bhanohar Distt. Ludhiana declare that my minor daughter given name is Gurleen and surname is Kaur.

63372

I, Ramandeep Kaur Dhaliwal W/o Mandeep Singh R/o Bhattian Dhaha Distt Ludhiana have changed my name to Ramandeep Kaur.

63372

I, Satwinder Singh S/o Avtar Singh R/o Vill-Fatehgarh Sibiyan Teh-Jagraon Distt Ludhiana have changed name my Minor son's Harjot Singh Jassal to Harjot Singh.

63372

I, Rakesh Das S/o Hari Das R/o Vill-Virk Teh-Jagraon Distt Ludhiana Declare that me known by both names as Rakesh Kumar and Rakesh Das.

63372

I hitherto known as Kashmir W/o Tek Chand R/o Vill-Jagatpur Jattan, Po Sarai Jattan, Distt. Kapurthala-144402, Punjab, India have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Kashmir Kaur.

63372

I hitherto known as Ladi S/o Bhajan Singh R/o Sajawalpur, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, Punjab-144516, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Manjit Singh.

63372

I, Darshan Kaur W/o Amarjit Singh R/o Village Gurala, PO. Jalandhar, Tehsil Dasuya, Hoshiarpur, Punjab-144202 have changed my name from Darshan Kaur to Given Name Darshan & Surname as Kaur. All concerned please note.

63372

I, formerly known as Sanchit, son of Tarun, resident of NH-104 Neela Mahel Jalandhar Punjab, have changed my name to Sanchit Bhasin. Hereafter, I shall be known as Sanchit Bhasin for all purposes.

63372

I, Salish Kumar, son of Shri Ramkishan, resident of Ward No. 2, Jail Singh Colony, Tehsil Gharuanda, District Karnal, hereby state that I am a permanent resident of the above-mentioned address. My wife, Sushma who passed away on 31/07/2025, had taken a loan from Piramal Finance, Karnal, under Account Number 00004971.

100074

The said loan has now been fully closed. Therefore, I kindly request you to issue the No Objection Certificate (NOC) for the above-mentioned loan account.

100074

I, Amarjit Singh S/o Man Singh R/o Village Gurala, PO. Jalandhar, Tehsil Dasuya, Hoshiarpur, Punjab-144202 have changed my name from Amarjit Singh to Given Name Amarjit & Surname as Singh. All concerned please note.

63372

I, Kavita Rani W/o Pawan Kumar R/o Village Satiana, Po. Jonewal (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Kavita.

63372

I, Harinder pal Singh S/o Pritam Singh R/o h.no 405 Patti Bhagu Singh ki Vpo Galib Kalan tehsil Jagraon Distt Ludhiana have changed my name to Harinderpal Singh.

63372

I, Amarjit Singh S/o Man Singh R/o Village Gurala, PO. Jalandhar, Tehsil Dasuya, Hoshiarpur, Punjab-144202 have changed my name from Amarjit Singh to Given Name Amarjit & Surname as Singh. All concerned please note.

63372

I, formerly known as Sanchit, son of Tarun, resident of NH-104 Neela Mahel Jalandhar Punjab, have changed my name to Sanchit Bhasin. Hereafter, I shall be known as Sanchit Bhasin for all purposes.

63372

I, Salish Kumar, son of Shri Ramkishan, resident of Ward No. 2, Jail Singh Colony, Tehsil Gharuanda, District Karnal, hereby state that I am a permanent resident of the above-mentioned address. My wife, Sushma who passed away on 31/07/2025, had taken a loan from Piramal Finance, Karnal, under Account Number 00004971.

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I, Amarjit Singh S/o Man Singh R/o Village Gurala, PO. Jalandhar, Tehsil Dasuya, Hoshiarpur, Punjab-144202 have changed my name from Amarjit Singh to Given Name Amarjit & Surname as Singh. All concerned please note.

63372

I, formerly known as Sanchit, son of Tarun, resident of NH-104 Neela Mahel Jalandhar Punjab, have changed my name to Sanchit Bhasin. Hereafter, I shall be known as Sanchit Bhasin for all purposes.

63372

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100074

The said loan has now been fully closed. Therefore, I kindly request you to issue the No Objection Certificate (NOC) for the above-mentioned loan account.

PUBLIC NOTICES

We, Gurdeep Singh Phambri S/o Jagdish Singh and Manjeet Kaur W/o Gurdeep Singh R/o House No. E-107, School Area, Ward No. 13, Nilokheri, Tehsil Nilokheri, District Karnal, declare that our son Pardeep Singh and his wife Navjot Kaur are out of our reach. That is why we have evicted them from our movable and immovable property and land. In the future, the person himself will be responsible for their good and bad deeds, making relations with them and having any other kind of transactions. We will not have any responsibility.

100070

ਮੈਂ ਅਮਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਨੇਣ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਸਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਪਿੰਡ ਖੇਜਪੁਰ ਡਾਕਖਾਨਾ ਰਾਜਪੁਰ ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਆਚਮਪੁਰ (ਭਗਪੁਰ) ਜਿਲਾ ਜਲੰਧਰ ਬਿਮਾਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਿਤਾ ਜੀ ਦਾ ਨਾਮ ਕੁਝ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਦੱਸ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਕੁਝ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੁਰਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਦੱਸ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਹੈ। ਸਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਤੇ ਸੁਰਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਇੱਕ ਹੀ ਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਦੋ ਦੋ ਨਾਮ ਹਨ। ਸਬੰਧਤ ਨੋਟ ਕਰਨ।

900026

ਮੈਂ, ਜੀਤ ਰਾਮ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਦਰਸ਼ਨ ਰਾਮ ਅਤੇ ਕੁਲਵਿੰਦਰ ਕੌਰ ਪਤਨੀ ਜੀਤ ਰਾਮ ਵਾਸੀਆਨ ਪਿੰਡ ਤੇ ਡਾਕ. ਚਿੱਟੀ, ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਵਾ ਜਿਲਾ ਜਲੰਧਰ, ਪੰਜਾਬ ਬਿਮਾਨ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਸਾਡਾ ਲੜਕਾ ਸੰਦੀਪ ਅਤੇ ਨੂੰਹ ਮੌਨਿਕਾ ਉਰਫ ਮੋਨਾ ਮੌਰ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹਨ ਅਤੇ ਆਪਣੀ ਮਨ ਮਰਜੀ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਅਸੀਂ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੱਲ ਵਾ ਅਚੱਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖਲ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਾਂ। ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ ਦੇਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਕੁਝ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ। ਸਾਡੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਾਡੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦੀ ਕੋਈ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ। ਸਬੰਧਤ ਨੋਟ ਕਰਨ।

600022

PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Vedpal S/o Sh. Phool Singh, R/o Village Dinger Majra, Tehsil Gharuanda, District Karnal, hereby declare that my daughter, Shivani, no longer heeds my counsel or authority. Therefore, I hereby disown her from all my movable and immovable property. In the future, anyone engaging in transactions with her shall be solely responsible for their actions; neither I nor my family shall bear any liability whatsoever.

900010

I, Mahinder Kaur W/o Jagir Singh R/o Vill: Mathola Teh-Batala Distt. Gurdaspur declare that in my son Sukhwinder Singh army record my name wrongly entered Mahender Kaur. But my correct name is Mahinder Kaur. So amended my name from Mahender Kaur to Mahinder Kaur in my son army record.

63372

I, Jagmeet Kaur alias Veerpal Kaur W/o Jagdeep Singh R/o Vill-Joga Teh & Distt Mansa declare that in my Aadhar Card and PAN Card my name is written as Jagmeet Kaur and in my daughter's documents my name is written as Jagmeet Kaur alias Veerpal Kaur. I am known by both the names Jagmeet Kaur alias Veerpal Kaur is one and the same person.

63372

I, Amjad Khan, son of Mr. Suleman Khan, resident of village Rohira, district Malerkotla, punjab declare that I have no taluk or relationship with my in-laws and my wife's paternal family, the entire family of late Ali Hassan, resident of village Rasulpur, district Malerkotla.

63372

I, Rupinderjit Singh S/o Dungan Singh R/o #22400, Street No. 4 Shant Nagar Bathinda. That my father's name on the insurance Documents is Doongar Singh Dahia which is wrong. My father's correct name is Dungan Singh. My father should be known as Dungan Singh.

63372

I, Rupinderjit Singh S/o Dungan Singh R/o #22400, Street No. 4 Shant Nagar Bathinda. That my father's name on the insurance Documents is Doongar Singh Dahia which is wrong. My father's correct name is Dungan Singh. My father should be known as Dungan Singh.

63372

DISCLAIMER

YUGMARG PUBLICATIONS does not take responsibility for the contents (Display/classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting upon.

COURT NOTICE IN THE COURT OF Ms. Samiksha Jain Judicial Magistrate First Class-17 Jalandhar MANAPPURAM FINANCE LIMITED Vs. NARESH KUMAR

COURT NOTICE IN THE COURT OF Ms. Samiksha Jain Judicial Magistrate First Class-17 Jalandhar MANAPPURAM FINANCE LIMITED Vs. SHUNA RAMS

COURT NOTICE IN THE COURT OF Ms. Samiksha Jain Judicial Magistrate First Class-17 Jalandhar MANAPPURAM FINANCE LIMITED Vs. GYAN CHAND

NOTICE TO: NARESH KUMAR Father :- BISHAN DASS R/O WARD no. 14, RAM NAGAR, OPP. CTM, KATHUA, JAND K 184101

NOTICE TO: SHUNA RAMS Father :- SARAN DASS R/O CHAK MANGA RAKWAL, SAMBA, J AND K MOB 8082628051

NOTICE TO: GYA CHAND S/O SANDHU RAM R/O WARD NO.17, KATHU J AND K 184101



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PATIALA (TAPINDER SINGH): An important meeting was organized at the residence of former cabinet minister Surjit Singh Rakhra with the office bearers and esteemed colleagues of Shiromani Akali Dal (Revived) Patiala district. In which the party discussed the 'Vision Document'. Surjit Singh Rakhra, while addressing the meeting, said that this Vision Document will prove to be a guiding document for the all-round development of the state. He said that this document will play an important role in clearly conveying the party's thinking and policies to the people and through this the party will raise grassroots issues. On this occasion, the leaders expressed concern over the current law and order situation in the state and said that today people are feeling insecure, which is a serious issue.

NEWS BRIEF

Grand Kalash Yatra held in Doraha ahead of Khatu Shyam Ji Idol installation



AMRISH ANAND DORAHA: A grand Kalash Yatra was taken out from Shiv Dyal Mandir in Doraha on Thursday on the occasion of the installation of the idol of Lord Khatu Shyam Ji. The religious procession witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of women, youth, and local residents, creating a spiritually vibrant atmosphere in the town. During the yatra, women carried beautifully decorated kalash (sacred pots) on their heads, while devotees sang bhajans and raised religious slogans as the procession passed through the main streets of Doraha. The chants of "Khatu Shyam Ji Ki Jai" echoed throughout the area, reflecting deep devotion and faith. Residents warmly welcomed the procession at various places, with arrangements for drinking water and distribution of prasad made for the devotees. Members of the temple's managing committee were also present and were seen supervising the arrangements to ensure the smooth conduct of the event.

Bassi Pathana will be made crime and drug-free-ASI Balkar Singh



AJAY MALHOTRA FATEHGARH SAHIB: Newly appointed Police Chowki Incharge ASI Balkar Singh has vowed to transform Bassi Pathana into a crime-free and drug-free city, asserting that ensuring public safety and a healthy social atmosphere is his top priority. Speaking to the media during a special interaction, ASI Balkar Singh emphasized his firm commitment to curbing drug menace and eliminating criminal activities from the area. "My foremost mission is to protect our youth and restore peace. With determined policing and strong community cooperation, this goal is absolutely achievable," he added.

Dr. Ishank Kumar MLA Chabbawal, conducts inspection of ongoing construction work of 1.15 km long



DALJEET AJNOHA HOSHIARPUR: Chabbawal-Jian Mandi road, being built at a cost of Rs 1 crore. The project is aimed at strengthening road infrastructure and ensuring better connectivity to the farmers and residents of the area. During the visit, Dr. Ishank reviewed the quality and progress of the work and directed the concerned officials to ensure timely completion without compromising on standards. He emphasized that durable and high-quality construction must be ensured for long-term public benefit. Highlighting the importance of the road, the MLA stated that it connects to a major mandi where farmers from even far off villages bring their crops for sale. Once completed, the road will greatly ease transportation for farmers and help in the smooth movement of agricultural produce, thereby directly benefiting the farming community. Its reconstruction will bring significant relief to daily commuters as well as traders, he added. Dr. Ishank reiterated his commitment to the overall development of the constituency and assured that more such projects will be undertaken in the future. Farmers appreciated the MLA's personal supervision of the project and expressed hope that the work will be completed at the earliest, improving connectivity and boosting local economic activity.

State govt strengthens women's health security with Rs 28 crore free sanitary pad initiative: Dr. Baljit Kaur

GAURAV GOEL
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 26

Under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister S. Bhagwant Singh Mann, the Punjab Government is taking significant and people-centric steps to strengthen women's health, hygiene and dignity across the state. This was stated by Social Security, Women and Child Development Minister Dr. Baljit Kaur while highlighting the government's initiative to provide free sanitary pads to poor and needy women.

Dr. Baljit Kaur informed that during the current year, the Punjab Government has distributed more than 7.37 crore sanitary pads free of cost, at an expenditure of approximately Rs 28 crore. She said that this initiative is playing a crucial role in improving menstrual hygiene while also promoting awareness about women's health, particularly among economically weaker sections.

The Minister further stated that over 13.65 lakh women across Punjab have



directly benefited from this initiative. She added that women, especially from rural and underprivileged backgrounds, are receiving not only financial relief but also improved access to essential hygiene facilities, helping them lead healthier and more dignified lives.

Dr. Baljit Kaur further informed that under the 'Nawi Disha Scheme', free

sanitary pads are being distributed every month through 27,314 Anganwadi Centres across the state. Each eligible woman is provided 9 sanitary pads per month, ensuring regular, accessible and consistent support for menstrual hygiene management. She further emphasized that this initiative is also helping in breaking menstrual stigma, improving awareness

and ensuring that women and adolescent girls no longer face challenges in accessing basic hygiene facilities.

Highlighting future plans, the Minister stated that during the current financial year, the Punjab Government has set a target to distribute over 3.68 crore additional sanitary pads at an estimated cost of ₹14.60 crore, which will further expand the coverage and benefit a larger number of women across the state.

"The Mann Government is committed to ensuring that every woman in Punjab has access to essential health and hygiene facilities. Our aim is to ensure that no woman is deprived of a healthy, safe and dignified life," said Dr. Baljit Kaur.

Reaffirming the government's commitment, she added that the Punjab Government will continue to implement such women-centric and welfare-oriented initiatives to strengthen women's empowerment and promote a healthier society across the state.

Rs 4 lakh life-saving surgery delivered cashless under Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojna

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 26

Marking one of the highest claims facilitated under the Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojna to date, a Rs 4 lakh life-saving surgery was delivered cashless, reflecting the scale and on-ground effectiveness of the Bhagwant Mann Government's healthcare system.

The beneficiary, Sukhpal Kaur, a 37 year old resident of Chandigarh, was admitted to PGIMER Chandigarh after being diagnosed with a critical aortic dissection, a serious cardio-thoracic and vascular condition requiring immediate surgical intervention. The procedure, along with hospitalisation and specialised care, was estimated to cost nearly Rs 4 lakh, an amount that would have been extremely difficult for the family to arrange at short notice.

With the Sehat Card verified at the hospital, the treatment began without delay. The entire procedure was carried out cashless under the scheme's coverage of up to Rs 10 lakh per family. A family member said, "Everything happened very quickly. We were told the condition was serious and required immediate



surgery. Arranging such a large amount instantly would not have been possible. The Sehat Card ensured treatment started without delay." Highlighting the clinical aspect of the case, Dr. Sachin Mahajan, PGIMER Chandigarh, said, "Aortic dissection is a critical condition that requires immediate surgical intervention. In such cases, even a short delay can significantly increase risk. Under the Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojna, once the Sehat Card was verified, we are able to proceed without waiting for financial clearances. This ensures timely and uninterrupted treatment in high-risk cardiac cases." Reinforcing the government's approach, Minister of Health and Family Welfare of Punjab, Dr. Balbir Singh said,

"Being able to save a precious life in a critical moment like that of Sukhpal Kaur brings immense satisfaction. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, the Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojna is making a real ground impact where families are able to access immediate treatment without the stress of arranging funds." With lakhs of families already covered and high-value treatments being delivered across the state, the scheme continues to strengthen healthcare access across Punjab. The Punjab Government continues to encourage residents to enrol for the Sehat Card at designated centres to avail cashless treatment benefits under the Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojna.

Punjab government created history by fulfilling promises within four years: Barinder Kumar Goyal

GURMAIL SINGH SANGATPURA
LEHRAGAGA, MARCH 26

For the first time in the history of Punjab, a government has fulfilled all the guarantees it made—within just four years, even before completing its full term. The Punjab Government, led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, has created history by achieving this milestone.

These views were expressed by Cabinet Minister Barinder Kumar Goyal while participating in programmes organised at villages Bhai Ki Pishaur, Lehla Kalan, Ramgarh Sandhuan, and Sekhuwas under the Samvad campaign "Shandar Char Saal Bhagwant Mann de naal." The Cabinet Minister stated that several key welfare schemes have been implemented for the people of Punjab, including a health guarantee of up to Rs10 lakh, financial assistance of Rs1,000 and Rs1,500 to women as a mark of



respect, quality education through Schools of Eminence, and free treatment through Aam Aadmi Clinics. Speaking about farmers' welfare, he said that, for the first time in Punjab, electricity is being provided for agriculture during the daytime. Additionally, by strengthening the canal system, irrigation water is now reaching nearly 80 percent of the fields, reducing dependence on groundwater and improving the water table. Highlighting revolutionary changes in Punjab's irrigation system, Goyal said that canal irrigation, which stood at only 26.50 percent in 2022, has now

increased to 78 percent and is expected to reach 86 percent before the upcoming paddy sowing season. Approximately 90 percent of domestic electricity consumers in the state are receiving zero electricity bills, with subsidies of up to 600 units.

Moreover, more than 65,000 youths have been provided government jobs on a merit basis. Under the campaign against drugs, over 90,000 traffickers have been arrested. Significant focus has been placed on road development, with around 45,000 kilometres of roads being renovated.

Major crackdown on drug traffickers: SAS Nagar police bust network under 'Yudh Nasheyan Virudh' campaign

DERABASSI, MARCH 26

As part of the ongoing anti-drug campaign "Yudh Nasheyan Virudh," launched by the Government of Punjab and the Punjab Police to make the state drug-free, SAS Nagar Police has achieved a significant breakthrough.

Divulging the details, SSP SAS Nagar, Harmandeep Singh Hans said that under the close supervision of SP Dera Bassi, Bikramjit Singh Brar, special police teams were constituted to intensify the drive against drug trafficking.

The teams, led by Inspector Sumit Mor (SHO Dera Bassi), Inspector Yogesh Kumar (SHO Lalru), and Inspector Sunil Kumar (SHO Handesra), carried out extensive checking and patrolling across Sub Division Dera Bassi.

During the operation, four suspicious individuals

were intercepted, leading to the registration of three separate FIRs at Police Stations Dera Bassi, Lalru, and Handesra. These include FIR No. 128 dated 25-03-2026 under Section 22 of the NDPS Act at PS Dera Bassi, FIR No. 54 dated 25-03-2026 under Section 27 of the NDPS Act at PS Lalru, and FIR No. 22 dated 25-03-2026 under Section 27 of the NDPS Act at PS Handesra.

The accused have been identified as Jasvir Singh S/o Satpal Singh R/o Saraswati Vihar, Dera Bassi; Ajay Kumar @ Billa S/o Azad Kumar @ Jaddu R/o Village Mubarikpur, PS Dera Bassi; Inderpal Singh S/o Jasmer Singh R/o Village Sanghotha, PS Lalru, District Mohali; and Gaurav Rana R/o Village Rajapur, PS Handesra. During the checking, 1110 tablets/capsules of Lomitol were recovered from the possession of Jasvir Singh and Ajay Kumar @ Billa.



Nursing Officer Mandeep Kaur Brar felicitated by Director, PGIMER Dr. Vivek Lal, Former Director Dr. K.K. Talwar and HoD, Advanced Eye Centre, Dr. S.S. Pandav for her meritorious services on the occasion of the 20th Foundation Day of AEC at PGI, Chandigarh

Punjab marching towards No. 1 state of India: Cabinet Minister Sanjeev Arora



CHANDIGARH, MARCH 26

Cabinet Minister Sanjeev Arora on Thursday presented the four-year report card of the Punjab government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann during a nakkad meeting in Sarabha Nagar.

Addressing the gathering, Sanjeev Arora said that Punjab is progressing towards a rapid growth rate and will soon transform into a vibrant Rangla Punjab. He claimed that the state has witnessed historic and unprecedented development in the last four years, something that was never imagined and had

not happened in the previous 70 years. Cabinet Minister Sanjeev Arora also reiterated that Punjab has been awarded by the Government of India as the number-1 state in road safety, education, and ease of doing business. He emphasised that this is the first time in the history of Punjab that the state has achieved such recognition in these key sectors. He added that everyone in the country is now talking about how Punjab is marching towards becoming the number one state in the country, thanks to the extraordinary efforts of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann.

Sandhwan inaugurates pipeline in village Chahal



SURINDER DAMDAMI
KOTKAPURA, MARCH 26

After the formation of the government led by Chief Minister Punjab Bhagwant Singh Mann, every effort is being made to make every section of the society, including farmers, laborers and traders, prosperous. These words were expressed by Speaker Punjab Vidhan Sabha Kultar Singh Sandhwan while inaugurating the canal water pipeline for irrigation of fields in village Chahal. He said that the cost of this project has been Rs. 15.71 lakh. He said

that these pipes will also benefit the land of the adjoining villages and the farmers. Speaking on the occasion, he said that under the sound leadership of Chief Minister Punjab Bhagwant Singh Mann, Kotkapura constituency is being continuously developed. He said that till now, irrigation pipes worth Rs 9 crore have been laid in Kotkapura.

He instructed the officials of the concerned department to take special care of the convenience of the people while laying this pipeline and even after it.

Advanced headache and endoscopic spine surgery clinic in collaboration with Ujala Cygnus

SHARANJEET
PATHANKOT, MARCH 26

Amandeep Hospital, Pathankot, in collaboration with Ujala Cygnus, has launched an advanced Headache and Endoscopic Spine Surgery Clinic.

The initiative aims to provide modern and specialised treatment for headache and spine-related disorders using the latest medical technologies.

The clinic will be led by renowned spine surgeon Dr. Uday Raswan and senior pain physician and critical care consultant Dr. Saurav Mahajan.

Director of Amandeep Hospital Dr. Amandeep Kaur said that providing the latest healthcare services to the people remains the hospital's top priority, and the launch of this clinic marks an impor-



tant step in that direction. Dr. Uday Raswan explained that endoscopic spine surgery is a modern, minimally invasive technique that ensures less pain and faster recovery for patients.

He added that the initiative would also help dispel many misconceptions associated with spine surgery. On the occasion, Dr. Saurav Mahajan said that with the opening of this clinic, patients suffering from chronic back

pain and spinal disorders will no longer need to travel outside Pathankot for specialised treatment. He further informed that the Amandeep Group operates hospitals in Amritsar, Pathankot, Ferozepur, Srinagar and Tarn Taran.

The group has more than 750 beds and a team of over 170 specialist doctors, and has successfully treated more than 2.5 million patients so far.

Sanjeev Arora inaugurates Rs 8.59 crore projects

SHARMA
LUDHIANA, MARCH 26

Giving a major boost to road infrastructure, Cabinet Minister for Local Government, Industries & Commerce, Investment Promotion and Power Sanjeev Arora inaugurated different road projects worth over Rs 8.59 crore in the city on Thursday.

The projects have been launched for reconstruction of old GT road stretch from Jalandhar bypass till Buddha Dariya; elevated road from Chand cinema till Jagraon bridge and the road from Sag-gu chowk till Hambran road. The old GT road and elevated road projects are being taken up at a cost of Rs 7.07 crore, while the project to reconstruct the road from Sag-



gu chowk till Hambran road is being taken up at a cost of over Rs 1.52 crore.

While launching the projects, Cabinet Minister Sanjeev Arora stated that road infrastructure across the state is undergoing a massive overhaul with road projects worth Rs 1000 crore to be completed by the end of April. Stating that more projects worth crores would be launched across the city in the coming

days, Cabinet Minister Arora directed the civic body officials to ensure good quality development works and blacklist the contractors, if any discrepancies are found in context to the quality of works.

For ensuring good quality and long life of roads, the contractors who will construct the roads, would be responsible for the maintenance of roads for upto 5 years.

SURINDER DAMDAMI
KOTKAPURA, MARCH 26

The Punjab Government's Health Department is expanding health facilities in the state under its Dream Project and is launching 109 more new 'Aam Aadmi Clinics' on March 28, 2026. Under this scheme, 6 new Aam Aadmi Clinics have been established in Faridkot district, which will provide quality health services to the residents of the area very close to their homes. Civil Surgeon Faridkot Dr. Parvjit Singh Gulati distributed appointment letters to the staff selected for these newly opened clinics during a special training session.

He informed that these new clinics in the district are being started at Guruhsara-



hai Road Sadiq, BSNL Quarters Backside Hari Nau Road Kotkapura, Jot Ram Colony Dharamshala Bholu Wala Road Faridkot, Street No. 11 Dogar Basti Faridkot, Village Romana Albel Singh and Village Sandhwan. He said that with the start of these clinics, the burden of patients on civil hospitals will be reduced and people will not have to go far

for tests and medicines.

Addressing the newly recruited staff during the training session, the Civil Surgeon said that Aam Aadmi Clinic is an important project of the government, hence any negligence in serving the patients will not be tolerated. He motivated the staff to perform their duties with moral values and full dedication.

Harinam Sankirtan and blood donation camp on Ekadashi at Shri Khatu Shyam Temple on March 29: Pradeep Mittal



LUDHIANA (SARBJIT SUFI): A grand Shyam Sankirtan and Blood Donation Camp is being organized on Ekadashi on March 29 under the chairmanship of Trustees Pradeep Mittal, Sandeep Agarwal, L.R. Mittal and Anil Mittal at the newly built Shri Khatu Shyam Salasar Temple near Kohara Chowk on Chandigarh Road. While giving information, the Trust members said that on Ekadashi, Yaduvanshi Brothers Amritsar and Dev Chanchal Australia will sing the praises of Shyam Baba from 5:30 pm. During this, Baba Shyam Ji will be decorated with indigenous and foreign flowers.

The entire temple is being decorated like a bride with colorful lights by specially hired artisans from outside, which will be the center of attraction.

Trust members said that under Nar Seva Narayan Seva, a blood donation camp and first medical checkup camp for children suffering from thalassemia are also being organized in the temple. In which blood sugar, BP, BMI and other tests will be done and medicines will be given free of cost to the needy patients.

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA: The Ayush Department, Una, will organize an Ayush Gram Fair along with a free health camp on March 29, 2026, at Churudu in Amb subdivision of Himachal Pradesh. This information was shared by District Ayurvedic Officer Dr. Rajesh Kumar. He stated that the main objective of the fair is to spread awareness among the public about traditional

systems of medicine such as Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy, while also providing accessible healthcare services. During the event, specialist doctors will conduct check-ups for various diseases and offer free medical consultations. Ayurvedic medicines will also be distributed, and demonstrations of yoga and pranayama will be conducted to promote a healthy lifestyle.

CHANDIGARH
FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026

NEWS BRIEF

Bharatiya Kisan Sangh holds Farmers' meet in Amb, committee formed in Takarla



AVINASH CHAUHAN
AMB: Bharatiya Kisan Sangh Himachal Pradesh organized an important meeting in the Gram Panchayat Takarla, under the Amb subdivision. State Organization Minister Hari Ram called on farmers to the area participated enthusiastically, and various agricultural issues were discussed in detail. Addressing the meeting, Hari Ram called on farmers to be aware of their rights. He said that farmers today face many challenges, and that only through organized efforts can these problems be resolved. He encouraged farmers to adopt cow-based natural farming and advised them to avoid the negative effects of chemical farming.

CM marks his 62nd Birthday with Green initiative, plants a 'Chinar' sapling

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, MAR 26

The 62nd birthday of the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, was celebrated with great enthusiasm and fervor at his official residence, Oak Over today. People from all walks of life, including party workers, his cabinet colleagues, officials and citizens, gathered in large numbers to extend their warm greetings and convey their heartfelt wishes for his good health, long life and continued leadership. Marking the occasion, the Chief Minister planted a Chinar sapling within the premises of Oak Over symbolizing environmental conservation and sustainable growth. His wife, Kamlesh Thakur, MLA from Dehra,



along with other family members was present during the celebrations. Earlier in the day, the Chief Minister flagged off a marathon organised by employees of the Himachal Pradesh Secretariat. The run commenced

from the Secretariat premises and concluded at the Church at Ridge, witnessing enthusiastic participation from employees and citizens alike. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister reiterated that the State Budget presented by the government is people-centric and aimed at the welfare and upliftment of the common man. The Chief Minister reaffirmed his unwavering commitment to take progressive and impactful decisions in the coming months to ensure inclusive growth, prosperity and overall development of the State. He emphasized that the present government is working with a spirit of service and dedication to ensure that the benefits of welfare schemes reach the last person in society, in line with the principles of good governance.

Governor participates in Ram Navami Shobha Yatra



DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, MAR 26

Governor Kavinder Gupta arrived in Jalandhar today on a one-day visit to Punjab. During his visit, the Governor participated in the religious Ram Navami Shobha Yatra organized at the renowned Siddha Shaktipeeth Devi Talab Mandir. On the occasion, the Governor offered prayers at the temple and sought blessings for peace, prosperity and well-being of the people. He lauded the

spiritual and cultural significance of such religious events, stating that festivals like Ram Navami strengthen social harmony and preserve the rich traditions of Indian culture. He observed that the teachings of Lord Rama continue to inspire people to follow the path of righteousness, truth and duty in their daily lives. Shri Gupta appreciated the efforts of the organizers and devotees for conducting the Shobha Yatra in a disciplined and devotional manner.

Anurag Thakur slams Himachal govt over 'Rising Taxes, Broken Guarantees'

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, MAR 26

BJP MP and former Union Minister Anurag Thakur launched a sharp attack on the Indian National Congress government in Himachal Pradesh, accusing it of burdening the public with rising taxes and failing to fulfil its pre-election promises.

He said the Congress, which came to power in 2022 on the basis of "10 guarantees," has not delivered on its commitments. Instead, he alleged, the government has increased financial pressure on citizens through higher taxes and inflation.

Thakur pointed out that the state government raised VAT on diesel to Rs. 10.40 per litre soon after assuming office, claiming that thousands of crores have been collected from the public over the past 40



months. He further alleged that the government is now planning to impose an additional cess on petrol and diesel. Responding to statements by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu that no such cess has yet been implemented, Thakur said the intent itself reflects the government's approach. He asserted that the BJP would strongly oppose any move to increase the burden on people. Accusing the government of favouritism, Thakur claimed that while the public struggles with inflation, benefits such as

higher salaries and luxury vehicles are being extended to select individuals. He also highlighted alleged internal disagreements within Congress over policy decisions.

Rejecting the government's claim that any proposed cess would target traders, he said the impact would ultimately be felt across sectors, including farmers, transporters, and small businesses.

Raising concerns about the state's finances, Thakur alleged that Himachal Pradesh's debt has crossed Rs. 1 lakh crore under the current regime. He urged the government to focus on governance and fulfil its guarantees instead of imposing new taxes.

He reiterated that the BJP would continue to oppose what he termed as "anti-people" decisions both on the streets and in the Assembly.

Thousands flock to Air Force Air show on second day as well

AGENCY
SUJANPUR TIRA, MAR 26

On Thursday—the second day of the air show performed by the Indian Air Force's world-renowned Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team over the grounds of Sainik School Sujampur Tihra—thousands of people once again gathered to witness the daring feats of the Air Force's brave personnel.

Local MLA Captain Ranjit Singh was present as the Chief Guest on the second day of the show as well. Benefiting from the Ram Navami holiday, large crowds began arriving at the Sujampur grounds early in the morning to watch the air show. These spectators hailed not only from Sujampur, Hamirpur, and their surrounding areas but also from Jaisinghpur, Dhira, and Palampur in Kangra district, as well as the Sandhol region of Mandi district. At approximately 10:55 AM, when the nine Hawk Mk-132



jet aircraft of the Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team roared simultaneously into the skies over Sujampur, the thousands of people gathered on the grounds welcomed the Air Force's brave officers and pilots with thunderous applause. As the aircraft sliced through the light clouds—bathed in soft sunlight—and flew over Sujampur toward the pristine white peaks of the Dhauladhar range lying ahead, thousands of spectators experienced a surge of extraordinary excitement. Throughout the 25-minute duration of the show, everyone

remained transfixed on the sky, watching in awe as these brave warriors of the Indian Air Force performed one spectacular stunt after another. Executing various formations, the aircraft presented a magnificent display of thrill, speed, precision control, and mutual coordination. First, they formed a formation resembling the 'Tejas'—the Indian Air Force's indigenous Light Combat Aircraft. Subsequently, they flew in a formation shaped like the 'Sukhoi'—widely regarded as one of the finest combat aircraft in the world.

Himachal budget is pro-people, BJP misleading public on financial situation: Rajat Rana

ANIL KUMAR
HAMIRPUR: Himachal Pradesh

Youth Congress vice-president Rajat Rana has termed the budget presented by Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu as successful and pro-people. He also met the Chief Minister at Oakover along with his team to extend birthday greetings. Rana said the budget has taken into account the interests of farmers, dairy producers, unemployed youth, and employees, ensuring benefits for every section of society. He described the provision of Rs. 1,500 monthly assistance to women and 300 units of free electricity as major achievements of the government. He added that the increase in MSP for products prepared through natural farming will provide significant relief to farmers. According to him, the budget includes provisions for farmers, orchardists, women, youth, employees, and other sections, which will benefit the people of the state. He alleged that BJP leaders are rattled after seeing the budget and said that despite challenging circumstances, the Chief Minister has presented a commendable financial plan. Rana further stated that the budget focuses on strengthening the rural economy. He accused the BJP and its leaders of misleading the public regarding the state's financial condition. Targeting former Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, Rana alleged that he has been spreading misinformation and misleading people about the state's finances.



Following the model of Sri Anandpur Sahib, Mata Sri Naina Devi Shrine to be developed as a 'White City Temple'

SANJAY AGGARWAL

DHARMSHALA: Emulating the pattern of Sri Anandpur Sahib, the shrine of Mata Sri Naina Devi will now also be developed as a 'White City Temple.' This information was shared by Bilaspur District Magistrate Rahul Kumar while interacting with journalists. He was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Om Kant and the Chairman of the Temple Trust, Dharampal. The District Magistrate of Bilaspur stated that, in this context, the entire area surrounding the Sri Naina Devi Temple—including the offices of the Temple Trust—will be painted white. He also appealed to the local residents to paint their homes, hotels, and other offices white, so that the shrine of 'Mataji' becomes visible to devotees from far and wide, allowing the site to be fully realized as a 'White City Temple.' On this occasion, District Magistrate Rahul also launched the 'Patron of the Temple' scheme, aimed at providing special amenities to the temple's patrons—who reside across Himachal Pradesh, India, and even abroad. These patrons will be accorded distinct and exclusive facilities. Speaking further on the occasion, the District Magistrate noted that ramps have been installed to facilitate devotees with disabilities and the elderly visiting the temple, thereby ensuring ease of access to the shrine. Additionally, he mentioned that a proposal for installing an elevator within the temple premises has been drafted and has received official approval. Continuing his remarks on developmental initiatives, District Magistrate Rahul Kumar stated that the Temple Trust has successfully established a biogas plant, which is currently generating approximately 20 kilograms of biogas.

Grand Mahila Mandal felicitation marks CM Sukhu's birthday in Bilaspur

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY
BILASPUR, MAR 26

In a heartfelt tribute to the birthday of Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, a remarkable blend of social respect and public service was witnessed in the Sadar Assembly constituency, where Sunil Sharma, Director of the Himachal Pradesh State Cooperative Bank, organized a vibrant "Mahila Mandal Samman Samaroh" at Dhar Tath. The event celebrated the invaluable contribution of 15 Mahila Mandals from Dhar Tath, Kwali, Jhamad, Jerkh, Bairi Rajadian, Thodu, Sandoli, Sarad, and Solag, recognizing their pivotal role in strengthening rural society. As a gesture of encouragement, each group received Rs 2,100 directly in their bank accounts,



reinforcing the commitment toward grassroots empowerment. Sunil Sharma lauded women's groups as the backbone of rural institutions, emphasizing their influence in promoting awareness, hygiene, education, and community welfare. Highlighting the state government's progressive vision, he noted that recent budgetary initiatives—especially enhanced MSP for agricultural produce—are set

to uplift farmers, horticulturists, and livestock rearers while energizing rural industries. He affirmed that despite financial constraints, the Chief Minister's leadership is steering Himachal Pradesh toward self-reliance and inclusive growth. Marking the occasion, Sharma also visited the Regional Hospital to distribute fruits among patients and later extended warmth to elderly residents at Deoli old-age home.

Pay parity cannot be enforced across States as a matter of right: High Court

AGENCY
SHIMLA, MAR 26

In a significant judgment impacting pay parity claims among government employees, the Himachal High Court has quashed a 2018 order of the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) that had directed Himachal government to grant revised pay scales to Inspectors in the Cooperative Department on the pattern of Punjab. A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhiwalia and Justice Ranjan Sharma allowed a batch of writ petitions filed by the State of Himachal Pradesh, setting aside the Tribunal's common order dated April 13, 2018. The dispute originated from claims made by employees working as Inspectors in the



Cooperative Societies Department, who had sought higher pay scales of Rs 1800-3200 with effect from January 1, 1986. Their demand was based on parity with similar posts in Punjab, where such revised scales were granted following recommendations of the Punjab Pay Commission and subsequent judicial decisions. Accepting these claims, the Tribunal had earlier directed the State government to grant the revised pay scale along with consequential benefits,

holding that denial of parity created an anomaly. It had also ordered re-fixation of pay and pension benefits in certain cases. However, the High Court, in a detailed and lengthy verdict delivered on March 25, 2026, disagreed with the Tribunal's reasoning. The Bench held that the Tribunal had exceeded its jurisdiction by effectively compelling the State to adopt pay scales applicable in another State. The Court categorically ruled that there is no legal or constitutional obligation for one State to follow the pay structures of another unless such rules are expressly adopted. It observed that service conditions, recruitment rules, job profiles, and financial considerations differ from State to State and must be independently evaluated.

Chaitanya Sharma performs Kanya Pujan, leads Durga Ashtami celebrations in Gagret

AVINASH CHAUHAN
AMB, MAR 26

On the auspicious occasion of Durga Ashtami, part of the sacred Navratri festival of Shakti Swaroopa Maa Jagat Janani Durga Ji, former MLA Chaitanya Sharma presented an inspiring example of religious faith, tradition and rituals in the area. He first performed puja and worship at Maa Bhadrakali temple by bowing his head as per the rituals and by offering full oblation in the havan yagya, he wished for the happiness, prosperity and well-being of the people of the area. After this, he hoisted the flag in the temple premises and received the blessings of the Mother. Subsequently, at a grand event held in Abhaypur, Chaitanya Sharma ritually worshipped 251 girls, considering them goddesses and receiving their blessings.



On this occasion, he honored the girls by presenting them gifts and prayed for the progress, peace, and welfare of the Gagret Assembly constituency, the state, and the country. Chaitanya Sharma said that Kanya Pujan is an important tradition of Sanatan culture, which they have been performing every year with reverence and devotion. He appealed to the people to take a pledge on this auspicious occasion of Navratri to

respect women power and promote positive thinking in the society, so that harmony and brotherhood in the society can be strengthened further. The presence of a large number of devotees during this time made the program even more grand. A wonderful confluence of devotion and faith was seen in the entire atmosphere, while on the occasion of Shri Ram Navami, the atmosphere echoed with the chants of "Jai Shri Ram".

India's first AI-Powered Kardia 12L ECG scripted in medical history scripted in AIIMS Bilaspur

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY
BILASPUR, MAR 26

In a groundbreaking leap for public healthcare, AIIMS Bilaspur has achieved a historic milestone with the installation of India's first AI-enabled Kardia 12L ECG system in a Central Government hospital. Spearheaded by Executive Director Lt Gen Dr Daljit Singh (Retd), this remarkable advancement ushers in a new era of intelligent cardiac care, bringing cutting-edge, USFDA-approved diagnostic technology directly to the public healthcare system. The Kardia 12L ECG system represents the future of electrocardiography—combining clinical precision with the power of artificial intelligence. Unlike conventional ECG machines, this advanced system delivers real-time AI-driven analysis, enabling early detection of critical heart conditions such as



arrhythmias and ischemia with exceptional accuracy. By minimizing human error and accelerating diagnosis, it empowers doctors to take faster, life-saving decisions, especially in emergency scenarios. Designed with efficiency and accessibility at its core, the portable and user-friendly system enhances workflow across departments—from bedside monitoring to outpatient services—ensuring that more patients receive timely and reliable cardiac screening. Its seamless digital integration further strengthens patient care by enabling accurate record-keeping and continuity in

treatment. This pioneering installation not only elevates the standard of cardiac diagnostics at AIIMS Bilaspur but also reflects a visionary commitment to integrating advanced technology into India's public health infrastructure. It stands as a powerful testament to how innovation can transform healthcare delivery, making world-class medical solutions accessible to every citizen. With this landmark initiative, AIIMS Bilaspur positions itself at the forefront of AI-driven healthcare, setting a new benchmark for hospitals across the nation and redefining the future of cardiac care in India.

YS Parmar varsity doctoral scholar bags Best Doctoral Dissertation award

DINESH AGARWAL
SOLAN: Dr. Anshul Kumar, a

doctoral scholar of Dr. YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni, has been honoured with the Best Doctoral Dissertation Award at a national conference. Dr. Anshul completed his PhD from the Department of Floriculture and Landscaping under the guidance of Dr. Bharati Kashyap. His research focused on 'Studies on Storability, Physico-Chemical and Sensory Characteristics of Gulal Derived from Fresh and Dried Marigold Flowers'. The award was conferred by the Indian Society of Ornamental Horticulture (ISOH) during the ongoing National Conference on Floriculture and Landscaping @2047 Viksit Bharat being held at Keladi Shivappa Nayaka University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences. The research, carried out in collaboration with CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology, has resulted in the development of a commercially viable technology. The department is also generating income through the sale of herbal gulal developed from this work. Vice Chancellor Prof. Rajeshwar Singh Chandel congratulated Dr. Kumar on his remarkable achievement. Faculty members and students of the Department of Floriculture and Landscaping also extended their congratulations.



RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR: Haryana Government Food Supply Minister Rajesh Naggar paid a courtesy visit to former Cabinet Minister Kanwarpal Gurjar's residence in Jagadhri. The two leaders held a cordial conversation. Former Cabinet Minister Kanwarpal Gurjar said that during the courtesy call, Minister Rajesh Naggar inquired about the health of his family



members. Haryana Government Minister Rajesh Naggar said that being among loved ones always filled the mind with new energy. He had previously worked with former Cabinet Minister Kanwarpal Gurjar in the BJP organization and government. Former Cabinet Minister Kanwarpal Gurjar welcomed Haryana Government Food Supply Minister Rajesh Naggar by presenting him a shawl.

NEWS BRIEF

NSS Program Officer of Sanghera College Prof. Mithu Pathak participates in the state NSS convention



BALWINDER AZAD BARNALA: Due to the achievements of the excellent NSS activities of Guru Gobind Singh College Sanghera, under the guidance of the Program Coordinator of Punjab University Patiala Dr. Anhad Singh Gill ji, under the guidance of the President of the institution Mr. Bholu Singh Virk ji, under the able leadership of Principal Dr. Sarabjit Singh Kular ji, the NSS Program Officer of Sanghera College Prof. Mithu Pathak organized a two-day State NSS Convention in Chandigarh under the guidance of the Government of India, which was held on 24th and 25th March. In which the coordinators of various universities and colleges and selected program officers of some colleges and college volunteers were invited, in which the NSS Program Officer of the renowned Guru Gobind Singh College Sanghera of Barnala district, Prof. Mithu Pathak, Head of the Punjab Department, was also selected for this convention. The institution is a matter of great pride and joy for Prof. Pathak.

Chamba literature festival to be held annually, says DC



SUBHASH MAHAJAN CHAMBA: Deputy Commissioner Mukesh Repaswal on Tuesday said that the Chamba Literature Festival will now be organised as a regular annual event under the aegis of Government Postgraduate College, Chamba. Addressing a special ceremony at Bachai Bhawan, the Deputy Commissioner honoured officials, former officers, faculty members, students, and members of the press who played a significant role in the successful conduct of the festival. He assured that the district administration would extend full support to ensure the continuity and growth of the event. Repaswal also suggested registering an organisation to streamline and sustain the festival's organisation.

20 lakh LPG cylinders needed for Char Dham Yatra in Uttarakhand

AGENCY DEHRADUN, MAR 26

Prajapati Nautiyal, officer on special duty (OSD) for the Char Dham Yatra Administration Organisation, stated that around 2 million commercial and domestic LPG cylinders will be required for hotels, restaurants, and roadside eateries during the Char Dham Yatra, which is set to begin next month. In an exclusive conversation with ANI, he added that a report regarding this requirement has already been sent to the government. "Preparations are underway for the successful conduct of the Char Dham Yatra 2026. In this context, on the instructions of the Tourism Secretary, we requested data from the districts regarding the number of commercial and domestic gas cylinders used in May and June of the Chardham Yatra of 2025. We received that data yesterday. It has been seen that approximately 16 lakh gas cylinders



were used," Nautiyal said. "We have sent this report to the government, to the Secretary, and he will decide further on whether we will need more gas cylinders than that. Last year, approximately 16 lakh were required. We need to prepare for approximately eighteen to twenty lakh cylinders, and information has been given," he added. It is

noteworthy that during the Char Dham Yatra in Uttarakhand, approximately 2 million commercial and domestic gas cylinders will be needed across seven districts along the pilgrimage route to cater to hotels, restaurants, and dhabas. Last year, within the first two months of the Yatra, a total of 1,641,149 commercial and domestic gas

cylinders were supplied. Char Dham Yatra in Uttarakhand, which is set to begin on April 19. The yatra will commence with the opening of the gates at Yamunotri and Gangotri on April 19. The portals of Shri Kedarnath Dham and Shri Badrinath Dham are also set to reopen for devotees on April 22 and April 23, respectively. With lakhs of devotees expected to undertake the sacred journey this season, ensuring a safe, organised, and hassle-free Char Dham Yatra experience should remain a top priority for the Uttarakhand government. The annual Char Dham Yatra, which includes pilgrimages to Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri, and Yamunotri, is one of the most significant religious journeys in Hinduism. It is believed that one should complete the Char Dham Yatra in a clockwise direction. Hence, the pilgrimage starts from Yamunotri, proceeds towards Gangotri, onto Kedarnath, and finally ends at Badrinath.

DC inspects digital crop survey work in villages of Pundri block



RANVIR PARASHAR PUNDRI, MAR 26

On Thursday, DC Aparajita visited the villages of Munnarhedi and Mohana in Pundri block to inspect ongoing Girdawari work being conducted under Digital Crop Survey for Rabi crops. She gathered necessary information regarding entries being recorded by Patwaris as part of digital survey and issued instructions to accelerate the pace of this work. During inspection, DC Aparajita walked across several acres of fields and personally recorded crop entries in the digital survey system. She completed

entries by uploading photographs of standing crops directly onto mobile application. As part of digital survey process, she cross-referenced plot numbers against official revenue map records. During Girdawari, Patwaris apprised DC that they frequently encountered issues related to location accuracy while making entries on app. In response, DC instructed Patwaris to physically enter fields to record crop details, noting that this would help minimize location-related discrepancies. She emphasized that survey should be conducted only after physically reaching specific acre where standing crop is to be inspected.

Awareness programme held at community mediation centre in Kirmach village

DALBIR MALIK KURUKSHETRA, MAR 26

Under the guidance of District and Sessions Judge Dinesh Kumar Mittal, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) organised an awareness programme late in the evening at the community mediation centre established in Kirmach village. District and Sessions Judge Dinesh Kumar Mittal and CJM-cum-Secretary of DLSA Neetika Bhardwaj attended the programme. The event witnessed participation from the village sarpanch, anganwadi workers and local residents. During the programme, Dinesh Kumar Mittal and Neetika Bhardwaj interacted with the attendees and provided detailed information about the mediation centre, encouraging people to resolve as many



disputes as possible through this platform. The main objective of the programme was to create awareness among the public about the community mediation centre and to educate participants from various departments on how citizens should respond during natural disasters or other emergencies. The Red Cross Society team provided information on CPR training, while the Civil Defence and Home Guards, along with the

Fire Department, shared safety measures to be followed during disasters. The District Information and Public Relations Department presented a Haryanvi ragini highlighting the benefits of Lok Adalats. Artists from the New Uthtan Theatre Group performed a street play to spread awareness about mediation, and cultural performances including Haryanvi dance were also presented.

Sahasra Chandi Maha Yagya concludes with huge feast



KARAMBIR LADWA:

The Sahasra Chandi Maha Yagya being held at Mata Shakumbhari Devi Temple in Ladwa concluded on Thursday with a huge feast. The main host of the final day's Maha Yagya was Ladwa's Municipal Council President Sakshi Khurana. By offering the full sacrifice in the Maha Yagya, the Municipal Council President not only completed the Maha Yagya but also prayed for the happiness, prosperity and peace of the city. The temple priest Naresh Nautiyal said that the Ashtami festival has special significance. By worshipping the forms of Goddess Durga on this day, all the wishes of the devotees are fulfilled. On the last day, a huge feast was also organized by the organizing committee, in which a large number of devotees of the Mother Goddess reached and took the Mother Goddess's Prasad. Committee President Naresh Garg honoured the main host and the hosts along with Ladwa Police Station Head Gumam Singh by giving them mementos and also expressed gratitude to all the devotees of the Mother Goddess for making the Maha Yagna a success.

Public should cooperate with police to make Ladwa crime and drug-free: DSP Nirmal Singh

KARAMBIR LADWA:

Ladwa DSP Nirmal Singh stated that the primary goal will be to make the Ladwa area crime and drug-free. He stated that he will not allow any form of crime or drug abuse to flourish in the area. Criminals who engage in such activities should either give up crime or leave the Ladwa area. The police administration is fully vigilant to curb the growing drug abuse and crime. The police's goal is to make Ladwa drug- and crime-free. Nirmal Singh, who took over as DSP in Ladwa, swung into action to curb the rising crime and drug abuse in the area. Immediately after taking office, he held a meeting with all police officers and staff at the Ladwa police station. He issued strict orders stating that no crime or drug abuse would be tolerated in the Ladwa area. "Keep a close watch on drug dealers and drug users," he said. "If you receive any information about any illegal activity anywhere, immediately go to the scene and take action and inform me immediately." He called for daily raids to be conducted in the city to crack down on drug dealers and increase police patrols. He also appealed to the public through the media that if they wanted to make the Ladwa area drug-free, they should cooperate with the police and report information about drug dealers and drug users to the Ladwa police.



Punjabi University boosts budget for development and promotion of Punjabi language

TAPINDER SINGH PATIALA, MAR 26



Punjabi University has announced a significant increase in its budget for the development and promotion of the Punjabi language, raising the allocation from Rs. 16 crore to Rs. 20 crore for the upcoming financial year. This decision was finalized during the University Finance Committee meeting held here today, where a deficit budget of Rs. 125 crore was passed for the 2026-27 session. Vice-Chancellor Dr. Jagdeep Singh told that for the 2026-27 fiscal year, the university estimates a total income of Rs. 631 crore comprising Punjab Government grants and internal resources-against the expenditure of Rs. 756 crore. He emphasized that 43.40%

of the total budget has been dedicated to teaching, research, educational reforms, and Punjabi language development for the next fiscal year. He told that Rs. 75 Lakh has been reserved for a new initiative 'Vice-Chancellor Conference Series'. The goal of this initiative is to make teaching and research activities across all departments more constructive, providing immense benefits to both

faculty and students. He further said that Rs 15 lakh has been set aside as travel grants for teachers to participate in academic seminars and conferences within India and abroad. For Infrastructure & Security, three crore has been reserved for campus maintenance and repairs and 30 lakh has been set aside for 'Zero Waste' initiatives. Rs 25 lakh has been reserved for CCTV camera installations, alongside a special budget to increase security personnel. To promote sports culture, the diet money for athletes has been increased to match or exceed other state universities, with a dedicated Rs 2 crore fund, he said. He informed further that the university has already cleared 20% of past pending liabilities in addition to current payments.

De-Addiction awareness drive held at Guru Nanak Khalsa College, Yamunanagar

RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR, MAR 26

The NSS Unit and Department of Social Work of Guru Nanak Khalsa College, Yamunanagar organised a Drug De-Addiction Awareness Programme in collaboration with CSR Jamna Auto Industries. The programme aimed to spread awareness among students and NSS volunteers about the harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle. The event commenced with a formal welcome of the guest speaker by the Principal, Dr. Arvinder Singh Bhalla, who emphasized the urgent need to sensitize youth against drug addiction. He stated that such initiatives play a vital role in shaping a responsible and healthy



generation. The keynote speaker, Dr. Shiv Kumar, District Yoga Coordinator and Yoga Specialist, Department of AYUSH, addressed the gathering and highlighted the physical, mental, and social consequences of drug abuse. He encouraged students to adopt yoga and a disciplined lifestyle as effective tools to stay away from addiction and maintain overall well-being. Mrs. Sanyam Maratha, Head CSR, Jamna Auto

Industries, appreciated the initiative and shared that corporate-social collaborations are essential in addressing critical social issues like substance abuse. Sardar Randeep Singh Jauhar, President Governing Body and Managing Committee also addressed the audience and motivated students to act as ambassadors of change by spreading awareness in their communities and promoting a drug-free environment.

Experts share success Mantras for UPSC aspirants at RBU



LK BANSAL MOHALI:

Rayat Bahra University (RBU), through its Alpha School, organized an expert talk on "UPSC Preparation Strategy: From Basics to Success" on campus, witnessing enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members. The session featured eminent speakers from Next IAS, including Mr. Vikas Singh Panwar (AIR 159, Civil Services Examination), Mr. Neeraj Singh (Head - Human Resource), and Mr. Mayank Singh (Assistant Faculty), who shared valuable insights into effective preparation strategies and the right approach to crack competitive examinations. Addressing the gathering, Mr. Vikas Singh Panwar inspired students by sharing his success journey, including his remarkable achievement as a winner of the popular quiz show Kaun Banega Crorepati, where he won ₹50 lakh. He emphasized the importance of consistency, self-discipline, and a well-structured study plan for success in the UPSC examination. He also encouraged students to remain focused, determined, and confident despite challenges.

Flood victims from Bhuna to protest at Jantar Mantar on April 5

MAHENDER GOYAL FATEHABAD:

Government had announced Rs. 30 crore project to protect Bhuna region from floods; however, no work has been undertaken on it to date. Floods that struck Bhuna in recent past affected hundreds of families. Flood-hit Bhuna region remained major topic of discussion throughout district, yet administration failed to wake up from its slumber. Against this backdrop, flood victims from Bhuna have united and collectively decided to stage a protest demonstration at Jantar Mantar in Delhi. Letter has been written to Delhi Special Commissioner of Police seeking permission for protest. Uma Shankar, a flood victim from Bhuna who will be participating in protest, stated that permission has been granted for the demonstration to be held on upcoming April 5, from 2 pm to 5 pm. All flood-affected residents of Bhuna will stage a demonstration at Jantar Mantar in Delhi on April 5 and will also submit a memorandum addressed to Prime Minister. Uma Shankar further explained that floods which struck Bhuna recently left numerous families displaced. Homes and dwellings of poor families were destroyed, resulting in financial losses running into lakhs. To ensure that such a crisis does not recur, government must commence work on project as soon as possible. He noted that while permission has been granted for 20 individuals to participate in this specific protest, hundreds of people are ready to travel from here to Delhi as there is widespread resentment among residents of Bhuna regarding government's and administration's lax and indecisive attitude.

Solar Power Plant inaugurated at TDTR DAV Institute, Yamunanagar

RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR, MAR 26

The solar plant was installed with the support of ISGEC Heavy Engineering Limited as part of its commitment to renewable energy and social responsibility. The unit was inaugurated by Dr. Tanvi Puri, who cut the ribbon and unveiled the state-of-the-art installation. Prior to the ceremony, Dr. Puri visited and inspected the campus. Vijay Kapoor, Chairman of DAV Educational Institutions, warmly welcomed Dr. Tanvi Puri and Sanjay Chaudhary, CEO (Process Equipment Division), ISGEC. He commended Ranjit Puri and Aditya Puri for their invaluable contributions to DAV institutions in



Yamunanagar. He emphasized the importance of adopting green energy solutions in educational institutions to create a healthy environment and reduce electricity expenses, enabling the institute to function more sustainably. Dr. Tanvi Puri appreciated the efforts of DAV institutions in providing quality education

and affordable healthcare services to the community and assured her continued support for such initiatives in the future. The Principal, Dr. Himanshu Sekhar Behera, highlighted the institute's academic achievements, noting that students have consistently earned gold medals over the years due to excellent results.

Accurately assessing one's skills, talents is most crucial decision for youth: Ashish Kumar

HANS RAJ YADAV KURUKSHETRA, MAR 26

City Magistrate Ashish Kumar stated that for young people, accurately assessing their own skills and talents constitutes most critical decision of their lives. We must understand precisely what tasks we excel at. To this end, we can seek guidance from our teachers, parents, or career counselors. Furthermore, selecting right career path is one of most significant decisions one makes in life. It serves not merely as a means of livelihood, but also profoundly influences our personality, personal satisfaction and future trajectory. Therefore, when choosing a career, it is essential to take a thoughtful and deliberate approach rather



than making hasty decisions or yielding to external pressure. City Magistrate Ashish Kumar was speaking late yesterday evening at Gynkhana Club during valedictory session of a district-level career guidance workshop for Class 10 students of Kurukshetra district. Organized under aegis of Haryana School Education Project Council, Panchkula—as part of 'Samagra Shiksha' initiative—the workshop was themed Career Compass

After Class 10, City Magistrate Ashish Kumar emphasized that, first and foremost, we must identify our own interests and capabilities. Every individual possesses unique preferences and aptitudes; while one person may have an inclination toward mathematics, another might be drawn to the arts or sports. If we pursue a career in a field that aligns with our preferences, the likelihood of achieving success is significantly higher and work itself becomes a source of joy.

KARNAL (CHAMAN LAL): Forest Divisional Officer said that strict guidelines have been issued by the NGT Court, Delhi regarding cutting of trees. According to the orders issued, it is mandatory to obtain approval from the Forest Divisional Officer before cutting all other types of trees except the trees of Safeda, Poplar, Bakin, Bamboo, Mulberry, Guava and Alan thus species in the notified exempted category. There is a complete ban on cutting of trees of other species without permission.

He informed that if any person or institution is found to be carrying out illegal felling of banned trees without permission, a fine of the amount of the tree cut will be charged as per the directions laid down by the Honorable NGT Court. Along with this, it will be the responsibility of the concerned person or institution to plant three new saplings for every tree felling and to ensure the safety and conservation of the planted saplings for five years.

The Forest Divisional Officer has appealed that all citizens should cooperate in environmental protection and avoid violating the law.

UP minister Nand Gopal hands Rs 10 lakh aid to trader under Vaishya International Association initiative



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, MARCH 26

A trader facing financial distress was provided assistance of Rs 10 lakh by Uttar Pradesh Cabinet Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi under an initiative of the Vaishya International Association, aimed at supporting members of the Vaishya community.

The minister was accorded a warm welcome upon his arrival in Jhunjhuna, where members of the trading community and association representatives felicitated him with shawls and bouquets. The event was organised under the leadership of former chairman Rakesh Kumar

Goyal at his residence. During the programme, the minister handed over a cheque of Rs 10 lakh to trader Pankaj Kumar Mittal, who had reportedly suffered financial losses in his bakery business. Addressing the gathering, Nandi said the association was formed with the objective of supporting economically traders and helping them regain financial stability. He added that the financial assistance provided by the association is interest-free and can be repaid in instalments as per the beneficiary's convenience. He also highlighted various Central government initiatives and credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for strengthening

the country's economic framework. Referring to governance in Uttar Pradesh, he said Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has ensured improved law and order and created a conducive environment for trade and business. Association office-bearers said the organisation draws inspiration from the ideals of Maharaja Agrasen and aims to extend financial support to traders who have suffered losses.

They cited similar assistance extended in other areas, including financial aid and livelihood support such as e-rickshaws to affected families. Several dignitaries, including local representatives, traders,

Real wealth lies in taking 'Naam' and earning Guru's blessings: CM

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 26

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said that true wealth lies at the feet of the Guru and in earning the 'Naam'. In today's fast-paced life, peace can only be found in the presence of the Guru.

The Chief Minister was addressing the closing ceremony of a religious congregation held at Gurdwara Sri Nanaksar Sahib in Ludhiana, Punjab, on Thursday.

On this occasion, Baba Ghala Singh Ji, several saints and spiritual leaders, and devotees from across the country and abroad were present.

Extending his greetings and best wishes to the congregation on the occasions of Durga Ashtami and Ram Navami, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that Sri Nanaksar Sahib is a sacred place whose foundation was laid by Baba Nand Singh Ji Maharaj through his intense penance. He lit the flame of devotion that continues to illuminate millions of hearts even today. Following in his footsteps, Baba Isher Singh Ji Maharaj meditated in solitude



here for seven years. He said it is the spiritual merit of these great souls that one experiences immense peace upon stepping into this holy place.

The Chief Minister also congratulated everyone on the Prakash Utsav of Baba Isher Singh Ji and prayed for all to walk together on the path of love, service, and remembrance, eliminating hatred. He also paid his respects at the feet of Baba Narayan Singh Ji and said his life teaches the true meaning of 'service' and obedience. On a single command of Baba Isher Singh Ji, he carried water from a distance of 24 kilometres for seven years—without fatigue or pause—solely to please his Guru. He told

the congregation that this vast complex had no written blueprint. It was built through the divine guidance of Baba Narayan Singh Ji and the devotion of the artisans. This proves that when intentions are pure and faith in the Guru is complete, nature itself paves the way. The dedication shown in constructing Sri Nanaksar Sahib stands recorded in golden letters in history. Praising the unique food arrangement at this holy place, Sh. Saini said there is no institutional langar here; instead, devotees prepare food in their homes and bring it for everyone. This is a true symbol of shared community spirit, where the distinction between rich and poor disappears and only the 'sangar' remains. He also appreciated the devoted and humble service rendered by Baba Ghala Singh Ji.

He said that the Gurus, saints, and great spiritual leaders have shown the true path of life to humanity. To spread their message among the masses, the Haryana Government is running the 'Sant-Mahapurush Vichar Samman Prachar Evam Prasar Yojana'. Under this scheme, the birth anniversaries of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, and other saints are celebrated at the state level. In November 2025, several programmes were organized across the state to mark the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. Sh. Nayab Singh Saini further informed that on November 25, a state-level event was held at Jyotisar, Kurukshetra, in the presence of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji. Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi attended the event and released a commemorative coin, a postage stamp.

Ram katha enlightens rather than merely influences, says Ashok Pandey

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
NILOKHERI, MARCH 26

During the Shri Ram Katha Mahotsav on the occasion of Rama Navami at Shri Sanatan Dharam Mandir, Neelnagar, Dr Ashok Pandey said that the story of Lord Ram does not merely influence an individual but enlightens and elevates one's life.

While narrating the Ram Katha, he said that listening to and imbibing the teachings of Lord Ram makes life not only successful but meaningful. Referring to Lord Hanuman's devotion, he explained that attaining the grace of Lord Ram is the result of devotion accumulated over many lifetimes, but internalising His teachings transforms one's existence. Pandey emphasised that the ideals established by Lord Ram in human form remain relevant for every individual and family even today. He said that



despite facing far fewer struggles than those endured by Lord Ram or Lord Krishna, people often lose patience in difficult situations.

He urged devotees to adopt patience and wisdom from Lord Ram's life, especially during times of adversity.

He added that whether in personal conduct or governance, the ideals of Lord Ram offer the example of ethics and leadership.

Temple committee president Shiv Nath Kapoor said the purpose of organising such religious discourses is to encourage people to imbibe

the values and ideals of divine characters. He added that the event is not merely ceremonial but a meaningful medium to understand spirituality. He informed that the programme will conclude on March 26 with a community feast (bhandara).

Among those present were BJP state spokesperson and Director of Haryana Institute of Rural Development Prof Virender Chauhan, Municipal Chairperson Sanmeet Kaur Ahuja, former chairpersons Narendra Sharma and Raj Kumar Dhawan, councillors, and several prominent citizens.

Free education for girls can help curb female foeticide, says Viresh Shandilya

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
AMBALA, MARCH 26

Viresh Shandilya, chief of the Vishva Hindu Takht, on the occasion of Durga Ashtami, urged the Centre and state governments to make education completely free for girls, stating that such a step would play a crucial role in curbing female foeticide. Shandilya performed Kanjak puja with his family and sought blessings on the occasion.

Speaking to mediapersons, he said that the practice of female foeticide can only be effectively stopped if governments ensure free education for girls and bear the full cost of their studies, regardless of how far they wish to pursue education. He also wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging the government to introduce a bill in Parliament to guarantee free education for girls. He said that since 2014, the government has taken several decisions in the interest of the country's population, and a



legislative step in this direction would bring significant social change.

Shandilya asserted that the day education becomes free for girls across India, incidents of female foeticide would decline, and respect for women would increase in society.

Kanya Pujan: A tribute to women's empowerment - Child Welfare Committee

YAMUNANAGAR (RAHUL KOHLI): On the auspicious occasion of Durga Ashtami, Ashok Kumar, Chairman of the Child Welfare Committee, stated that the festival of Navratri symbolizes respect for women. Over the course of nine days, the nine divine forms of Navadurga are worshipped. It is believed that a home where the Mother Goddess is worshipped remains blessed with happiness and prosperity. He urged everyone to bring about positive changes in their conduct so that mothers, daughters, and every woman in society may feel safe and respected. Committee members Poonam Agarwal and Sushil Gulati emphasised that the observance of Navratri is not complete merely through fasting and Kanya Pujan (worship of young girls); rather, it requires granting all daughters their due respect and rights.

True worship lies in creating an environment of equality and fearlessness for daughters within society—viewing them not as a burden, but as equals—rather than merely revering them as goddesses during festivals. Today, the need is not just to treat daughters as "Daddy's little princesses," but to empower them with confidence. The entire society must contribute towards the education and protection of daughters. Under the Ministry of Women and Child Development's 'Mission Vatsalya,' continuous efforts are underway to ensure the protection of every child; specifically, children residing in Child Care Institutions are being integrated into the social mainstream. The Child Welfare Committee extended its warm wishes to everyone on the occasions of Ashtami and Ram Navami.



Bring transparency and speed to implementation of central and state welfare schemes: Manohar Lal



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, MARCH 26

Manohar Lal, Union Minister for Power, Housing, and Urban Affairs—and MP for the Karnal Lok Sabha constituency—presided over a meeting of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) today at the auditorium of the Mini Secretariat. He directed officials to bring greater transparency and speed to the implementation of schemes sponsored by the Central Government as well as the welfare

initiatives of the State Government, and to ensure that the benefits of these schemes reach the maximum number of people. During the meeting, the Minister reviewed 23 key schemes across 11 departments and issued necessary directives to the officials.

He emphasised that, rather than merely presenting data on income and expenditure, officials from all departments should work with well-formulated plans regarding the actual implementation of these schemes.

Situation regarding petrol and gas currently stable in country: Manohar Lal



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, MARCH 26

In accordance with his scheduled itinerary, Union Minister for Power, Housing, and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal, arrived at the Karnal Railway Station from Delhi on Thursday aboard the Gita Jayanti Express train. Upon his arrival at the station, Manohar Lal was welcomed with bouquets of flowers by Karnal MLA Jagmohan Anand and Mayor Renu Bala Gupta. Also present on this occasion were BJP District President Praveen Lathar, MP Representative

Kavindra Rana, BJP leader Brij Gupta, Sankalp Bhandari, and other party workers. Meanwhile, upon Union Minister Manohar Lal's arrival at the Public Works Department (PWD) Rest House, Deputy Commissioner Uttam Singh welcomed him with a bouquet on behalf of the district administration. Superintendent of Police Narendra Bijarania was also present at this venue. Additionally, BJP leaders Tarlochan Singh and Ashok Khurana—along with former cricketer Sandeep Narwal, Devender Narwal.

Lord Ram is not just faith but an inspiration for all humanity, says Shiv Nath Kapoor



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
NILOKHERI, MARCH 26

On the concluding day of the Shri Ram Katha Mahotsav organised on the occasion of Rama Navami at Shri Sanatan Dharam Mandir, Neelnagar, temple committee president Shiv Nath Kapoor said that Lord Ram is not merely a symbol of faith but a source of inspiration for all humanity.

Expressing gratitude to kathavachak Dr Ashok Pandey, Kapoor said that the teachings and ideals of Lord Ram continue to guide society

across generations. He added that for nearly 70 years, religious festivals such as Ram Navami, Janmashtami and other spiritual events have been celebrated with great enthusiasm at the temple. Earlier in the day, following the morning aarti of Lord Ram, Dr Pandey elaborated on the significance of divine incarnations, stating that takes various forms to uphold dharma and respond to the devotion of followers. A large community feast (bhandara) was also organised on the occasion, with participation

from residents of the town as well as nearby villages. Among those present were Prof Virender Chauhan, Satish Punami, Mukesh Bharti, Narendra Sharma, Satnam Ahuja, Naveen Kapoor, Praveen Anand, Pandit Jagdish Acharya, Surender Bhatia, Ashwani Sharma, Ashok Sharma, Narayan Das Verma, Prem Sachdeva, Ved Kataria, Rajiv Anand, Kamal Arora, Harvinder Sharma, Munshi Rana, Nikhil Malik, Ashok Malhotra and several other devotees.

Industrialist Pankaj Goyal donates car to Geeta Dham for social service

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, MARCH 26

Social worker and chairman of 521 Basmati Rice Pankaj Goyal donated a car to Shri Geeta Dham in Kurukshetra on the auspicious occasions of Durga Ashtami and Rama Navami, dedicating the contribution to the memory of his late father Satpal Goyal and grandfather Kashmiri Goyal.

A simple yet emotional programme was organised at the Geeta Dham premises, where members of the foundation, including Kusum and other associates, along with family members Mamta Goyal and Harsh Goyal, and local dignitaries were present. Pankaj Goyal said that his father and grandfather led lives rooted in service, values, and dedication to society. Inspired by their ideals, he decided to contribute in a way that would continue serving the needy in their memory.

He expressed hope that the vehicle would support various social service activities undertaken by the organisation. The management of Shri Geeta Dham thanked him for the gesture, stating that the car would be particularly useful in transporting

Sanatan dharma emphasises importance of nature, teacher and parents: Vineet Bansal

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
TARAORI, MARCH 26

A group of students and teachers from Saraswati Public School, Pakhana village, had a spiritually enriching experience during their visit to the Khatu Shyam Temple located on Railway Road in Taraori.

The visit aimed to familiarise children with the values of Indian culture and the principles of Sanatan Dharma. Around 135 students, accompanied by their teachers, offered prayers at the temple and participated in devotional activities. Temple authorities and priests explained the core values of Sanatan Dharma, including truth, non-violence, service, and compassion. Temple chief sevak Vineet Bansal said that Indian culture is not limited to rituals but represents



sents a complete way of life that guides individuals towards morality and righteous conduct.

He emphasised that nature, teachers, and parents hold a special place in Sanatan Dharma, and urged students to adopt these values in their daily lives to become responsible citizens. Students were encouraged to practise

simple virtues such as respecting elders, speaking the truth, and helping those in need. During the visit, they also participated in bhajan-kirtan and experienced the spiritual environment of the temple. Several students shared that they felt a sense of peace and positivity, with one student expressing a commitment to pray regularly.

Mata Rani fulfills the wishes of devotees: Sahil Bhayana



HANSI (DINKAR GAWRI): An event was organised in Gandhi Market by the Gandhi Market Association on the auspicious occasion of Ashtami. The chief guests for this programme were Sahil Bhayana—son of MLA Vinod Bhayana—and senior BJP leader Prem Verma. The programme was inaugurated by the Chairman of the Municipal Council, Praveen Ailawadi, who lit the ceremonial lamp. Offering flowers before the idol of Mata Rani, the chief guests remarked that the festival of Ashtami holds special significance during the nine days of Navratri. They stated that Mata Rani removes all afflictions and fulfills the wishes of devotees who observe the fast with a sincere heart.

Following the programme, a Bhandara was organised, in which hundreds of people partook of the food. Present on this occasion were Gandhi Market President Lakshya Revdi, former Gandhi Market President and Co-convenor Pappu Chugh, along with Rahul Jain, Mahesh Dua, Virbhan Malhotra, Harish Mehta, Harish Malhotra, Amarjit Duhan, and others.

Dr. Ashok Kumar Verma honoured with 'Manav Mitra' Award



DALBIR SINGH MALIK KURUKSHETRA: Dr. Ashok Kumar Verma—an exemplary figure in social service, a dedicated environmental guardian, a 'Diamond' blood donor, and a recipient of the President's Police Medal—was conferred with the 'Manav Mitra' (Friend of Humanity) Award by the Manav Mitra Mandal, Kurukshetra, in recognition of his unparalleled services. Instituted by the Manav Mitra Mandal, this award is bestowed upon distinguished individuals who have performed remarkable work in the realm of humanity. Praveen Kumar, the Treasurer of the Manav Mitra Mandal, stated that Dr. Ashok Kumar Verma has organised 583 voluntary blood donation camps to date, through which government blood banks have received a total of 20,921 units of blood. His role in the field of environmental conservation has also been significant; tree plantation, water conservation, and organising bicycle rallies for drug de-addiction form an integral part of his life. He travels from place to place, continuously working to raise public awareness. He handles his daily errands and minor tasks exclusively by riding his bicycle. Naresh Saini, Secretary of the Manav Mitra Mandal, noted that Dr. Verma serves as the Chief Volunteer of the 'Roti Bank' (Bread Bank)—a noble initiative through which a daily midday meal is provided to patients at the Civil Hospital Kurukshetra and the Ayurvedic Hospital Kurukshetra, as well as to workers at local brick kilns; this constitutes a monumental humanitarian service. Speaking on the occasion, Bharatendu Harish, President of the Mandal, remarked that it is precisely these small acts of service that elevate an individual to greatness. Deeply inspired by these magnificent services, the Manav Mitra Mandal deemed it fitting to honour him with the 'Manav Mitra' Award. Mandal office-bearers, including Bharatendu Harish, Praveen Kumar, and Naresh Saini, were present at the ceremony.

2 accused impersonating as food safety officers arrested for fraud



JAIBEER SINGH MULLANA: The police have arrested two youths on charges of posing as fake Food Safety Officers and extorting thousands of rupees from a roadside eatery (Dhaba). The police produced the accused in court, from where both were remanded to judicial custody and sent to jail. The incident came to light when Gaurav Sharma, a resident of Brahman Majra and the proprietor of 'Moon Dhaba'—located near the Brahman Majra cut on the Ambala-Yamunanagar road—filed a complaint with the police. He stated that on the night of March 14, around 10:00 PM, two youths arrived at his Moon Dhaba restaurant in a car. Both individuals wore ID cards around their necks and identified themselves as officers from the Food Safety Department. It is alleged that, under the pretext of inspecting the establishment, the two youths began pointing out alleged irregularities and threatened to seal the premises. During this encounter, they were under the influence of alcohol. Through intimidation and threats, they extorted Rs 25,000 from the restaurant owner. The accused also provided a mobile number and threatened to demand an additional Rs 50,000 the following day. Furthermore, they attempted to extort money from the 'Seven-24' shop located outside the Dhaba by resorting to similar threats. The entire incident was captured on the CCTV cameras installed at the location. The Mullana police registered a case in this regard and, utilising the CCTV footage as a basis for their investigation, arrested the two accused. Shubham, a resident of Dugari Village in Ladwa (Kurukshetra), and Gaurav, a resident of Amin, Pramod Rana, the Station House Officer (SHO) of the Mullana police station, stated that while a portion of the extorted money has already been recovered from the accused, the remaining amount—which they had reportedly spent—would also be recovered.

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SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, MARCH 26

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EDITORIAL

India targets 5,000 tonnes rare earth magnet capacity by 2030

India has intensified efforts to scale up domestic production of rare earth permanent magnets and accelerate exploration of critical minerals such as lithium, with production capacity targeted to reach 5,000 tonnes by 2030, Jitendra Singh said in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

Replying to a series of questions during the Question Hour in the ongoing Budget Session, the Minister said that the country's current requirement of rare earth permanent magnets is about 4,000 tonnes, which is projected to rise to nearly 8,000 tonnes by 2030, highlighting the need for rapid expansion of domestic capabilities.

The Minister informed the Parliament that a pilot project on neodymium-iron-boron permanent magnets has recently been launched, while a samarium-cobalt magnet plant at Visakhapatnam has been made operational with an initial production capacity of 500 tonnes per year. This capacity will be scaled up to 2,000 tonnes in the next phase and further to 5,000 tonnes by 2030, he added.

Singh said that the government is working in close coordination across ministries under a whole-of-government approach to fast-track exploration and development of critical minerals.

Responding to a question by Mahima Kumari Mewar on lithium reserves in Degana, Rajasthan, the Minister said that preliminary survey activities are already underway and further exploration is expected to begin soon. He added that lithium exploration falls under the Ministry of Mines, and similar efforts are also in progress in the Reasi district of Jammu & Kashmir.

Drawing attention to the importance of lithium and rare earth elements for sectors such as electric vehicles, renewable energy, electronics, defence, aerospace, and space applications, the minister described the role of enhancing their production in supporting the clean energy transition, as well as emerging technologies requiring reliable energy systems.

The Minister also informed that recent policy measures, including provisions under the Atomic Energy (Amendment) framework, have opened up exploration of several critical minerals to private sector participation, with safeguards in place for strategic resources such as uranium. Referring to recent initiatives, he said that rare earth corridors have been announced in Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala to strengthen the domestic ecosystem for processing and value addition.

The Minister said that rare earth elements are found both in beach sand minerals and rock formations, and their exploration requires different approaches depending on geological conditions. He added that some regions, including Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Jharkhand, have significant deposits of rock-based minerals, which are relatively more complex to explore.

Growing global web of mercenaries and drone warfare on India's borderlands

Along India's remote northeastern frontier, where the country meets a fractured Myanmar, a familiar pattern has long prevailed of low-grade insurgencies, porous borders and uneasy cease-fires.

But a recent case involving a handful of foreign nationals has revealed something more intricate and potentially more consequential which involves the outlines of a shadowy transnational network in which mercenaries, emerging technologies and geopolitical rivalries converge in ways that defy easy explanation.

The arrests, carried out in mid-March by India's National Investigation Agency across several cities, at first appeared routine. The detainees, foreigners accused of violating travel restrictions in a sensitive border region, seemed to fit a familiar script. As the investigation deepened, however, the allegations grew far more serious.

Officials now suspect that the group, including six Ukrainian nationals and one American, crossed into Myanmar and established contact with armed networks operating along India's frontier.

At the centre of the case lies a broader and more unsettling question about whether India's northeast is emerging as a new node in an increasingly globalised marketplace of conflict.

"The arrest of foreign nationals who are suspected of being involved in training of militants in Myanmar from our side of the border is significant. Their networks, linkages and most importantly, who is behind them is of utmost significance," said Shantanu Mukherjee, former



IPS officer and former National Security Advisor to Mauritius.

The state of Mizoram, where the group is said to have travelled without permits, shares a rugged and loosely demarcated boundary with Myanmar's Chin State. Since the 2021 military coup that ousted the civilian government of Aung San Suu Kyi, Chin State has been transformed into a battleground, with resistance groups battling it out with regular Myanmar junta troops.

Mizoram, by contrast, has remained largely peaceful. Home to communities with close ethnic ties to the Chin people across the

border, it has achieved high literacy rates of over 91 per cent and relatively strong economic indicators with a per capita GDP of nearly USD 3,000, underscoring the divergence between stability and conflict in the region.

For decades, insurgent groups from India's northeast relied on sanctuaries in northern Myanmar to regroup and train. Since the 1980s, however, peace agreements in states like Mizoram and Nagaland have helped transform former rebels into political actors and civil servants.

Myanmar's continuing turmoil has altered that equilibrium. "The arrival of foreign actors, whether motivated by ideology, profit or something less clearly defined, suggests that conflicts once considered local are being drawn into a wider global circuit," said Mukherjee.

Indian investigators believe the detained individuals may have trained armed groups in Myanmar in the use of attack drones, including their assembly, deployment and countermeasures.

Analysts say Myanmar's civil war has, in recent years, become

an unlikely laboratory for the evolution of drone warfare. Both the military and resistance forces now deploy unmanned aerial systems for surveillance and attack. Improvised drones assembled from commercial components are routinely used to strike targets, while more sophisticated systems assist in directing artillery and air operations.

This shift has lowered the barrier to entry for non-state actors. Expertise on how to build, operate and defend against such systems has become as valuable as the equipment itself. It is precisely this kind of knowledge that investigators suspect may have been transferred across borders.

For India, the implications are significant. Should such capabilities spread to insurgent groups within its territory, the security dynamics of the northeast could change rapidly, transforming what was once a contained insurgency into a more technologically complex threat.

The profile of the detained American, described by officials as a veteran of multiple conflict zones and the founder of a private organisation, reflects another emerging trend, that of blurring of lines between mercenaries, contractors and ideological fighters. In modern conflicts, those distinctions are increasingly fluid and changeable.

The war in Ukraine has accelerated this phenomenon, drawing thousands of foreign fighters and normalising the transnational movement of combatants. As they disperse, they carry with them not only battlefield experience but also networks through which skills.

Wars beyond borders: how modern conflicts are devastating the environment



Mange Ram Chauhan

consequences. Attacks on oil facilities: Bombings of oil depots and refineries in and around Tehran have triggered massive fires, releasing dense black smoke and toxic gases. This can result in acid rain, severely affecting the respiratory system, skin, and lungs of people.

Risk of oil spills: Oil tankers stranded in the Persian Gulf pose a serious threat. Any major spill could cause irreversible damage to marine life, coral reefs, fish populations, and mangrove ecosystems.

Air and water pollution: Explosions are releasing heavy metals, toxic chemicals, dioxins, and particulate matter into the atmosphere. Cities like Tehran, already grappling with high pollution levels, are witnessing a sharp deterioration in air quality. Carbon emissions: In just the first 14 days, approximately 5 million tons of CO₂ were emitted—comparable to the annual emissions of some smaller countries. This surge will further accelerate global warming. Long-term damage: Toxic substances are seeping into soil, water, and the food chain, with consequences likely to persist for decades. The region, already facing drought and water scarcity, is now under even greater environmental stress. In effect, this

conflict is turning parts of the Middle East into an "environmental sacrifice zone," where pollution disregards national boundaries.

Environmental Impact of the Russia-Ukraine War (2022-2026) Now in its fourth year, the Russia-Ukraine war has resulted in extensive environmental degradation.

Land and soil destruction: Millions of hectares of farmland, forests, and protected areas have been devastated. The widespread use of landmines has rendered large tracts of land unusable, and demining efforts may take decades. Forest fires and loss of vegetation: Continuous shelling has sparked widespread forest fires, releasing vast quantities of CO₂. Emissions have risen further during 2025-2026. Water and river pollution: Toxic substances are contaminating rivers and eventually flowing into the Black Sea, disrupting aquatic ecosystems. Carbon emissions: Since 2022, emissions have reached approximately 310 million tons of CO₂ equivalent—comparable to France's annual emissions. This includes emissions from military operations, fires, and reconstruction activities. Impact on marine life: Oil spills and toxic pollutants in the Black Sea are leading to the death of fish,

birds, and other marine species. According to Ukraine, environmental losses have exceeded 6.4 trillion UAH (approximately 108-118 billion). This war is increasingly being viewed as an example of "ecocide," where nature itself is systematically destroyed or weaponised.

Common Impacts and Overall Consequences of Both Conflicts Attacks on oil and energy infrastructure are leading to toxic pollution and large-scale fires. Greenhouse gas emissions are rising sharply, accelerating climate change. Air, water, and soil are facing long-term contamination. Already fragile ecosystems—such as drought-prone regions in Iran and agricultural land in Ukraine—are suffering further damage.

The consequences are global, threatening food security, marine ecosystems, and international climate goals. These wars are not only destroying human lives but are also inflicting irreversible damage on the planet. Environmental recovery will take decades, and some losses may never be restored. Peace remains the only sustainable solution.

S D M, Shami Uttar Pradesh

What is Happiness?



Dr Rajesh K Pillania

March 20 is celebrated as the International Day of Happiness. Humans have long pursued happiness.

When embarking on this journey, it is crucial to understand and define what happiness truly means. In the author's research and teaching over the last 15 years, the author has repeatedly seen that people do not understand or define happiness for themselves and that is one of the reasons behind the unhappiness.

Defining happiness The concept of happiness has a rich history in India, dating back to the Vedic age. Over time, happiness has been defined in various ways. Let us explore five of these definitions from different periods.

The real happiness of life is in doing 'karma'. Rig Veda (the first Veda out of four Vedas), Vedic age (c. 1500 – c. 500 BCE). "Yat tad agre viham iva pariname Mitopamam tat sukham sattvikam proktam atma-buddhi-

prasadajam"

Meaning Satvik or pure happiness, which in the beginning may be just like poison, but at the end is just like nectar, and which awakens one to self-realisation, is said to be happiness in the mode of goodness".

Bhagavad Gita, Chapter 18, Verse 37. Man thinks foolishly that he can make himself happy, and after years of struggle, finds out at last that true happiness consists in killing selfishness and that no one can make him happy except himself.

Swami Vivekananda Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony.

Mahatma Gandhi

Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile.

St. Mother Teresa

The five great sources provide richness, depth, and beauty in their definitions. Once we have seen these definitions, let's use the one that also draws on research on happiness over the last three decades.

Happiness is a lasting sense of life satisfaction that includes overall positive emotions and a sense of meaning in life.

This can be expressed in an equation: Happiness = Overall Positive Emotions (i.e., Positive Emotions - Negative Emotions) + Meaningful Life

In simpler terms:

Happiness = Pleasure + Meaning This definition covers happiness well. We can think

about our own lives to see how they fit. If we only focus on pleasure, we often end up searching for meaning. For example, someone who loves eating good food cannot do it all the time and will eventually want something more meaningful. On the other hand, if we only focus on meaning, we still need pleasure. Someone who finds meaning in their work cannot work all the time and will also want some enjoyment. This is true for most people, though there may be a few exceptions.

To put this into practice, we must list what brings pleasure and meaning. Once we have our list, we should strive to lead a balanced and fulfilling life by incorporating these elements into our daily routines.

After defining our concept of happiness, it's important to revisit it periodically, such as every five years, or after significant life events. This reflection allows us to determine whether our understanding of happiness remains relevant or whether changes and adjustments are necessary.

Key Takeaway for Readers To realise the goal of happiness, it is essential to understand and define happiness for yourself. Take time out today, know yourself, and identify your definition of happiness and start putting it into practice for a happier life.

The author is a Professor of Strategy at the Management Development Institute, Gurgaon. He is popularly known as India's Happiness Professor and India's Happiness Guru.

Professor, Management Development Institute, Gurgaon.

Liquor Industry seeks 15 per cent hike in prices

The Indian alcoholic beverage industry is sounding the alarm. Battered by soaring raw material costs triggered by the ongoing Middle East conflict, two of India's most powerful industry bodies have formally urged state governments to approve significant price hikes of 15 per cent.

The Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC), the apex body of India's alcoholic beverage sector, has written to state governments seeking price revisions for Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) products. The body is asking for an increase ranging between Rs 100 and Rs 150 per case of 9 litres, depending on the product segment and bottle

weight. Anant S. Iyer, Director General of CIABC, "We would like a price increase anywhere ranging from 100 rupees to about 150 rupees, depending on the segment of the product that it operates in." Meanwhile, the Brewers Association of India (BAI) -- the apex body of the sector's beer companies -- has separately appealed to state governments for a Rs 25-30 per case (12 bottles of 650 ml) increase in beer prices. Vinod Giri, Director General of BAI, painted a grim picture of the sector's finances. "Beer companies are in a loss in many states today. They will not survive if the prices are not increased," he warned,



urgings both the government and consumers to share the burden and not put it all on the industry. The trigger for the crisis is clear. The escalating Middle East conflict has sent shockwaves through global supply chains, driving up the cost of crude oil, energy, packaging materials, and industrial inputs that the beverage industry depends on heavily.

With the alco-beverage sector contributing close to Rs 350 lakh crore in revenue annually to government coffers, industry leaders argue they deserve urgent policy support. "I hope the government will take a decision in this regard at some point -- but that must be immediate and now. So

we are requesting the state governments to help us," said Giri. The scale of the cost crisis becomes clearer when one looks at the raw numbers across key inputs. Domestic polymer producers -- including BPCL, RIL, and IOCL -- have been forced into repeated price revisions as Naphtha prices surge and Middle Eastern shipments grind to a halt. Polypropylene (PP) used in plastic caps has jumped by Rs 35/kg -- a 36 per cent rise -- since late February 2026, including a single-day spike of Rs 12/kg on March 10. HDPE used in bottle caps has risen by Rs 33/kg (around 31 per cent), with supply severely choked after Iranian imports dried up amid force majeure conditions in the

Gulf. PET Resin, critical for packaging, has surged Rs 34.50/kg -- a staggering 40 per cent jump in a single month -- driven by spiking crude oil-linked feedstocks PTA and MEG.

Paperboard prices have also firmed, with imported wastepaper freight costs from the US and Europe surging between USD 400 and USD 1,500 per container. Aluminium (LME) used in ROPP bottle caps has risen 8 per cent to USD 3,406/MT since late February, with physical premiums remaining elevated as vessels avoid the Strait of Hormuz. Brent Crude remains volatile above USD 100/barrel, still 15-20 per cent higher than its late-February levels despite retreating from a peak of USD 120.

KULDEEP SOOD
BARNALA: Punjab's Minister for Tourism & Cultural Affairs, Labour, Hospitality, Rural Development and Panchayats, S. Tarunpreet Singh Sond on Wednesday paid tributes to Shaheed Rehmat Ali, a prominent martyr of the Ghadar Movement, stating that Punjabis had made nearly 90% of the sacrifices during India's freedom struggle. Addressing a tribute ceremony organised at Shaheed Rehmat Ali



Memorial Government High School in Wajidke Khurd, the minister said that Punjab has always played a leading role in the

country's freedom struggle. On the occasion, S. Tarunpreet Singh Sond announced ₹10 lakh from his discretionary funds for development works in the villages of Wajidke Khurd and Wajidke Kalan. Highlighting the achievements of the Mann Government over the past four years, the minister said the government has not only undertaken development works worth crores of rupees but has also launched several people-friendly welfare schemes.

NEWS BRIEF

Outsourced employees raising voice demand justice, dignity, and policy reform

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY
BILASPUR: A significant and assertive meeting of the Outsourced Employees Federation was convened at the Circuit House, echoing the growing concerns of thousands of outsourced workers across the state. The meeting, presided over by District President Pawan Kumar and guided by former State President Yunus Akhtar, brought forth strong dissatisfaction over the state government's continued neglect of outsourced employees, especially during the recent budget session. Amid intense discussions, members highlighted the stark contrast between pre-election promises and the present reality, noting that despite three years in power, the government's approach towards outsourced employees remains disappointing. The Federation expressed deep concern over the uncertain future of workers who have dedicated 15-20 years of service, yet continue to struggle without job security or fair wages. Strongly opposing the current pay structure, the District President questioned the feasibility of sustaining a family on a monthly income of Rs 13,750 in today's inflation-driven economy.

MP Sant Seechewal raises issue of penalty on non-maintenance of monthly minimum balance in Rajya Sabha

BUREAU
NEW DELHI / CHANDIGARH,
MAR 26

Rajya Sabha Member Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal raised the serious issue of penalties imposed on poor savings account holders for not maintaining the minimum balance (monthly average balance) during the budget session. Referring to information shared by the Finance Ministry in the Lok Sabha, he stated that nearly ₹19,000 crore has been collected from the accounts of poor customers as penalties over the past three years. Sant Seechewal questioned the government, asking whether it is considering providing relief to poor account holders from rural backgrounds, especially farmers and laborers, from such penalties. In a written reply, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary informed that out of 12 public sector banks, 10 have stopped imposing penalties for non-maintenance of minimum balance, while the remaining two banks have rationalized their policies and fee structures. He also mentioned



that customers who wish to avoid penalties can convert their existing savings accounts into "Basic Savings Bank Deposit Accounts (BSBDA)." According to the minister, these accounts do not require maintaining any minimum balance and do not attract any penalties. Additionally, basic banking services such as deposits, withdrawals, and ATM facilities are provided free of cost. MP Sant Seechewal stated that the inability of poor and needy account holders to maintain minimum balance clearly reflects their financial hardship.

Sri Guru Granth Sahib World University organises special lecture on women, human dignity and social justice

AJAY MALHOTRA
FATEHGARH SAHIB: The Department of Political Science, Sri Guru Granth Sahib World University, Fatehgarh Sahib, organized a special lecture on the theme "Women, Human Dignity and Social Justice" to mark International Women's Day. The lecture aimed to raise awareness about the significance of equality, dignity, and justice for women in contemporary society. The Head of the Department, Dr. Ramandeep Kaur, formally welcomed the guest speaker and highlighted the relevance of the theme in the present socio-political context. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Shaveta Dhaliwal, Associate Professor at Rajiv Gandhi National

University of Law. In her insightful lecture, she underscored the importance of ensuring human dignity and social justice for women as the cornerstone of a fair



and inclusive society. She emphasized that empowering women through rights, education, and equal opportunities is essential for achieving social justice and sustainable development.

Qila Park Library to be revamped at Rs. 1.46 crore, foundation laid



RAKESH BHAYANA
PANIPAT, MAR 26

Renovation of the historic Qila Park Library will be undertaken at a cost of Rs. 1.46 crore, with the foundation stone laid by Panipat Urban MLA Pramod Kumar Vij and Mayor Komal Saini in the presence of local councillors. Speaking on the occasion, Vij said the modernisation of the library will provide better facilities for students and youth, helping strengthen the educational and intellectual environment in the city. He added that efforts are being made to establish libraries in community centres across all wards to expand access to learning resources. He expressed gratitude

to the Government of Haryana led by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, stating that continuous development in Panipat has been driven by progressive policies. He also highlighted that many youth in the state have secured jobs on merit without recommendations or expenses. Vij said the BJP government is focusing on education, youth empowerment and infrastructure development, and termed the library project an important step in that direction. Mayor Saini said the city is witnessing all-round development under Vij's leadership and assured continued support for municipal works. Local councillors and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Maa Durga's form, Mahagauri, removes all sufferings of her devotees: Riya Agnihotri

MEGHRAJ LUTHRA

KARNAL: Today, women from the 'Nari Shakti Manch' recited the Navratri Katha in Sant Nagar. Speaking on the occasion, Riya Agnihotri explained that Mother Durga's manifestation, Mahagauri, alleviates the hardships of her devotees and bestows upon them happiness and prosperity. Mahagauri is characterised by a fair complexion and symbolises serenity and purity. Clad in white garments, Goddess Mahagauri rides upon a bull and holds a trident and a damru in her four hands. According to legend, the Mother undertook severe penance to attain Lord Shiva, a rigorous asceticism that caused her body to turn dark. Lord Shiva subsequently purified her with holy Ganges water, restoring her body to a radiant, fair complexion—hence the name Mahagauri. During the worship ceremony, the women offered white flowers, coconuts, and white sweets as Bhog. Throughout today's narrative session, Mamta Chopra of Sant Nagar kept the atmosphere charged with energy from start to finish through the rhythmic beats of the dhol, inspiring the women to continue dancing to the accompaniment of devotional hymns until late in the evening. Many women were present at today's gathering, including Ravita Luthra, Shalu Arora, Mamta, Sarla, Bharti Gupta, Dr. Anju, Geetika Kathuria, Jyoti Kamra, Swati, Sunita, Deepika, Rita, Seema Narwal, and Annu Narwal.



BJP legal cell meeting held in Pehowa; Cadres briefed on development works



YAGYADUTT SHASHTRI

PEHOWA: Addressing party workers at a meeting held at the local office, Sushant Bharti, a state member of the BJP Legal Cell, highlighted in detail the policies and achievements of both the Central and State governments. He stated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, and Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, the state is continuously advancing on the path of development. Sushant Bharti noted that Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has implemented several new schemes aimed at the upliftment of every section of society. The objective of these schemes is to ensure that the benefits of development reach even the last person standing in the queue. He explained that, by working at the grassroots level, the government is creating new opportunities for women, labourers, farmers, and traders. He further added that today, the farmers of Haryana are selling their produce with dignity and entirely on their own terms. The government has taken concrete steps to eliminate the system of middlemen, thereby ensuring that farmers receive direct benefits. He asserted that the Minimum Support Price (MSP) has been fixed for 24 crops in the state—a move that is serving as a model for other states as well.

Sunny Mahajan congratulates Meet Hayer on becoming Secretary of Punjab Cricket Association

SHARANJEET

PATHANKOT: Sunny Mahajan, Secretary of the Cricket Association Pathankot, has congratulated Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer on his appointment as Secretary of the Punjab Cricket Association. The Cricket Association Pathankot extended its best wishes to Hayer on assuming the prestigious responsibility. Expressing happiness on the occasion, Sunny Mahajan said that Hayer's appointment would prove to be a significant step towards the development of cricket in Punjab. He expressed confidence that under Hayer's leadership, cricket in the state would move in a new direction and players would get better infrastructure and more opportunities to showcase their talent. Mahajan further said that Hayer's experience and dedication towards sports would serve as an inspiration for young cricketers. Office-bearers of the Cricket Association Pathankot also congratulated him on taking over the important role and expressed hope that his visionary approach would further strengthen cricket at the grassroots level. They added that with his leadership, Punjab would gain a stronger identity at the national as well as international level in the field of cricket. Mahajan also reiterated that the Cricket Association Pathankot remains committed to extending all possible support for the development of cricket across the state and will continue working to promote and nurture young talent.



DC inspects under-construction Tehsil Office, directs officials to expedite work



RANVIR PARASHAR

PUNDRI: DC Aparajita inspected Tehsil office currently under construction in Pundri block. During visit, she took a detailed overview of ongoing construction work. DC directed concerned officials and executing agency to complete project within stipulated timeframe. Concerned agency assured DC that construction of Tehsil office would be completed expeditiously. DC inspected, one by one, the various sections being built within the under-construction Tehsil office—including the rooms, courtrooms, Common Service Center, common room and Patwar Bhawan. She stated that construction of this Tehsil office would directly benefit general public, ensuring that citizens do not face any difficulties regarding matters related to Revenue Department. Newly constructed Tehsil office would provide an air-conditioned environment for officials and staff, ensuring they face no impediments while carrying out their departmental duties. DC also inspected offices of Tehsildar and Naib Tehsildar, which are being constructed on first floor of Tehsil office building.

Hindi takes center stage at NTPC Koldam: Powerful push towards official language excellence



AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY

BILASPUR: In a remarkable stride towards strengthening the use of Hindi in official functioning, NTPC Koldam hosted an impactful workshop dedicated to promoting the effective implementation of Hindi as the Official Language. Organized under the aegis of the Town Official Language Implementation Committee (TOLIC), Bilaspur, the event witnessed enthusiastic participation from officers and employees across multiple organizations. Gracing the occasion as Chief Guest NTPC Head of Project at Koldam SS Rao, emphasized the vital responsibility of institutions, especially those under 'Region A', in championing Hindi in administrative work. He called for collective efforts to ensure that Hindi is not just encouraged but actively practiced across offices.

Desh Bhagat University hosts insightful cybersecurity workshop, inspiring future digital defenders



AJAY MALHOTRA

FATEHGARH SAHIB: The Department of Computer Science and Engineering and Computer Science Applications at Desh Bhagat University, in collaboration with the Institution's Innovation Council (IIC), successfully organized a workshop on "Cyber Security Awareness and Career Opportunities in the Digital Era". The workshop aimed to raise awareness among students about the growing importance of cybersecurity while highlighting emerging career opportunities in this rapidly evolving field. The session commenced with an introduction focusing on the increasing risks associated with digital platforms and the urgent need for secure online practices.

VB nabs ASI red handed accepting bribe of Rs 20,000

TAPINDER SINGH

PATIALA: The Punjab Vigilance Bureau (VB) during its ongoing drive against corruption in the state, has apprehended Assistant Sub Inspector Harpal Singh posted at Counter Intelligence Office, district Patiala, red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs. 20,000/- .Disclosing this here today, an official spokesperson of the state VB said the above-mentioned accused has been arrested based on a complaint lodged by a resident of tehsil Naba district Patiala. He said that the enquiry was conducted regarding involvement of complainant's relative in a Khalistani movement in the year 2023. In this regard, accused ASI called the complainant in counter intelligence office and told him that he was also involved in Khalistani movement with his relative. In this regard, complainant alleged that accused ASI demanded bribe of Rs 20,000/- in lieu of giving an enquiry report in favour of him which was required to the complainant to go abroad. Unwilling to pay any illegal gratification, the complainant approached the Vigilance Bureau range Patiala. After a preliminary enquiry on his complaint, the VB team laid a trap during which the accused ASI was arrested red handed while accepting bribe money of Rs 20,000/- from the complainant in presence of two official witnesses. In this regard, a case under prevention of corruption act has been registered against the accused at VB police station Patiala and further investigation into this case is under progress.

JUIT researchers secure patent for AI Mental Health Chatbot

DINESH AGARWAL

SOLAN: In a major breakthrough at the intersection of artificial intelligence and healthcare, researchers from Jaypee University of Information Technology (JUIT) have been granted a patent for their innovative system titled "Psychological Chatbot and Voice Bot System for the Treatment of Mental Illnesses." The patented solution uses advanced AI technologies, including intelligent chatbots and voice-based interaction, to provide accessible, scalable, and real-time mental health support. It is designed to enable early intervention and continuous psychological care, especially in areas with limited access to mental health services. The research team includes Dr. Aman Sharma, Prof. Rajni Mohana, and student researchers Sanskriti Priya and Shruti Shree. Their collaborative effort focuses on improving the efficiency, affordability, and reach of mental healthcare. Among the student contributors, Shruti Shree (Batch of 2025) is currently working with Info Edge India Ltd., while Sanskriti Priya (Batch of 2025) has secured a role at Zscaler, reflecting strong industry readiness and technical expertise. Congratulating the team, JUIT CEO Manu Bhaskar Gaur praised the achievement as a milestone in innovation-driven research. The development highlights JUIT's growing prominence in interdisciplinary fields such as artificial intelligence and digital healthcare, reinforcing its commitment to addressing real-world challenges through technology.

Shiromani Akali Dal announces key appointments in Barnala



KARANPREET KARAN

BARNALA: The Shiromani Akali Dal has announced a series of organizational appointments in Barnala district as part of a restructuring exercise led by party president Sukhbir Singh Badal. Under the new appointments, Teja Singh Mahal has been named Chief Patron of the party, while Sukhdev Singh Shenti Lotte has been appointed District President of the BC Wing, Dharminder Ghadianwala has been made District General Secretary, and Advocate Manju Jindal along with Charanjit Singh Bhari have been appointed as Vice Presidents. Following the announcements, the newly appointed office-bearers expressed gratitude to senior party leadership, including SGPC member Paramjit Singh Khalsa and other leaders, for reposing faith in them. Several local leaders and members of the Ramgarhia community welcomed the appointments and expressed confidence in strengthening the party at the grassroots level. They also voiced optimism about the party's prospects in the 2027 Assembly elections, stating that public support is steadily building in favour of the Akali Dal.

Devotees overcome with emotion on hearing Bharat's character in Shri Ram Katha



MAHENDER GOYAL

HISAR: Excitement is at its peak for 129th Shri Ram Navami Festival organized by Shri Ramlila Committee, Katla. Consequently, on 7th day of Shri Ram Katha currently underway at Goyanka Sadan within Devi Bhawan under aegis of Katla Ramlila a large number of devotees from various regions gathered to listen to divine tale with complete devotion. When Katha Vyas Bhavesh Krishna Bhardwaj who has arrived from Shridham Vrindavan introduced audience to character of Bharat during Shri Ram Katha, devotees present were overcome with deep emotion. Bhavesh Krishna Bhardwaj stated that Bharat, by renouncing the desire for kingdom and demonstrating unwavering faith in his elder brother, Shri Ram, set an exemplary precedent of renunciation, selfless love and ideal fraternal affection. He emphasized that brothers should similarly interact with one another with love, thereby maintaining unity and harmony within family.

One-day seminar organised at DAV School



NIRMAL SAINI

RADOUR: One-day seminar on subject of Art Integration organized by CBSE was held at DAV School. During event, teachers learned various activities involving use of different art forms as teaching tools within educational curriculum. Program was inaugurated by school Principal, Raman Kumar Sharma who lit ceremonial lamp. Raman Kumar Sharma said that primary objective of this workshop was to equip participants with strategies for integrating art across various subject areas, thereby enhancing student engagement and improving learning outcomes. Devesh Kumar Saini, resource person for workshop, provided teachers with valuable insights and information regarding subject of Art Integration. He explained how teaching can be made more effective, engaging and practical through medium of art. During seminar, teachers participated actively and gained a deep understanding of subject through various activities.

SJVN successfully organises 25th Inter-CPSU Kabaddi Tournament at Rampur HPS



DINESH AGARWAL

SHIMLA: Bhupender Gupta, Chairman and Managing Director, SJVN, congratulated team BBMB, the winning team of 25th Inter-CPSU Kabaddi Tournament organised by SJVN. Sh. Gupta praised all participants for their excellent performance and reiterated the importance of sports in strengthening teamwork, discipline and a healthy competitive spirit among the employees. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Director (Personnel), SJVN graced the Closing Ceremony as Chief Guest. Sh. Sharma congratulated the organizers for successfully organising the tournament and also congratulated the winners & all participating teams. In his address, Sharma stated that SJVN has always been committed to promoting sports and encouraging athletes. SJVN firmly believes that sports not only strengthen the physical health of employees but also enhance their mental well-being and leadership capabilities, which are essential for the success of any organization. Such events play a significant role in supporting Government of India initiatives like 'Khelo India' and the 'Fit India Movement'.

CHANDIGARH – In a meeting of the High Powered Purchase Committee (HPPC) held here on Thursday under the chairmanship of Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini, important decisions were taken to strengthen storage arrangements for the Rabi 2026-27 season. Two agendas regarding the purchase of jute and other storage bags worth Rs. 550 crore were discussed in the meeting. Through negotiation, savings of Rs. 80 crore were achieved, and approval was granted for the purchase of jute bags as well as other bags to ensure safe storage of wheat. This decision will further enhance the state's grain storage capacity and ensure smooth and secure storage of wheat procured from farmers. The procurement process is being carried out keeping in view the requirements of the Food and Supplies Department, Hated, and the Haryana State Warehousing Corporation (HSWC). During the meeting, the Chief Minister directed officers to ensure that the procurement process remains transparent, time-bound, and in accordance with quality standards so that government resources are utilised optimally. Reiterating the government's commitment to farmers' welfare, the Chief Minister said that ensuring safe storage of agricultural produce remains the top priority.

NEWS BRIEF

North India's first franchise pickleball league announced in Chandigarh

CHANDIGARH: North India is all set to mark a significant milestone in the growth of emerging sports with the official announcement of the Tynor North India Pickleball Cup (NIPC) 2026 – Season 1 here today. Positioned as North India's first franchise-style pickleball league, the tournament will be held on April 11-12, 2026 at Parvaaz Sports, Mohali. It is worth mentioning that pickleball is a fast-growing paddle sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton, and table tennis. It is typically played on a smaller court with a net, using solid paddles and a lightweight perforated plastic ball. The game can be played in singles or doubles format. Matches are usually played to 11 points, with a two-point margin required to win. Speaking at a press conference at Chandigarh Press Club here, Big HPS Bedi, VSM, Army Veteran and Founder, NIPC, said: "Unlike conventional tournaments, the NIPC adopts a franchise-driven model where registered players enter an official auction pool and are selected by team owners. This system ensures balanced teams and fosters a competitive league environment."

Integrated Packaging Solutions Provider, Bharat PET files for Rs 760 cr IPO

GURUGRAM: Bharat PET Limited, an integrated packaging solutions provider, has filed its Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). The company's initial public offering at face of Rs 10 each per equity share aggregates up to ₹760 crore and comprises a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to ₹120 crore by the company and an offer for sale of equity shares aggregating up to ₹640 crore by the promoter selling shareholders – Deepak Gupta, Ankur Gupta, Rahul Gupta, Sonu Gupta, Stuti Gupta, Ruchi Gupta, Mitali Gupta, Santosh Devi Gupta. In consultation with the Book Running Lead Managers, the company may also consider a pre-IPO placement of specified securities aggregating up to ₹24 crore, as permitted under applicable law. The net proceeds from the fresh issue are proposed to be utilised towards repay borrowings of Rs 50 cr in full or part, funding of capital expenditure towards purchase of machinery and equipment amounting to Rs 35.8 crs.

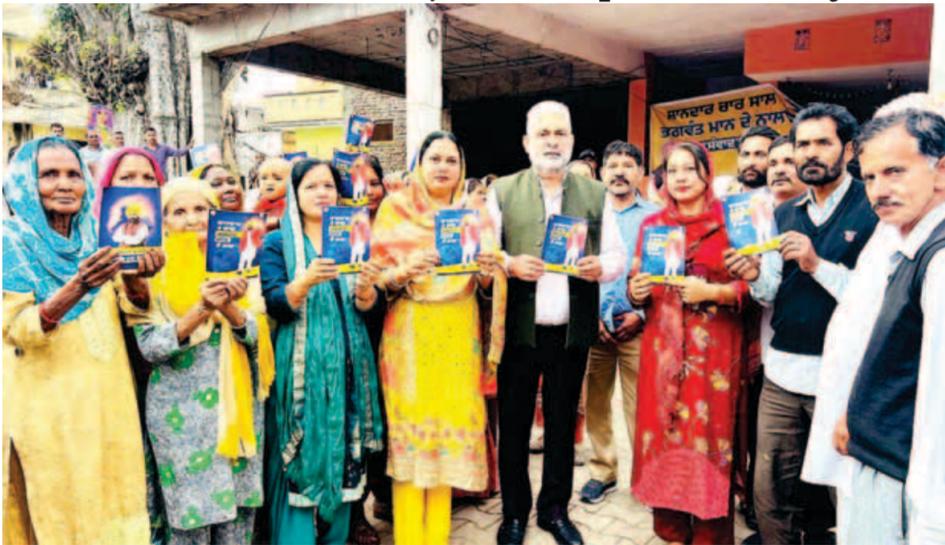
'Shandaar 4 Saal, Bhagwant Mann de Naal'; AAP takes Bhagwant Mann Govt's achievements to every doorstep across Punjab

AGENCY CHANDIGARH: Marking four years of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab under Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, the party on Wednesday launched a massive statewide outreach campaign titled "Shandaar 4 Saal, Bhagwant Mann de Naal," taking its governance record directly to the people across villages and urban wards.

Ministers, MLAs and constituency in-charges fanned out across nearly 1,000 villages and wards in a single day, engaging with citizens and highlighting key achievements of the Punjab Government. The campaign witnessed strong public participation, with people expressing satisfaction over governance and welfare delivery under CM Bhagwant Singh Mann.

Interacting with people in Sham Chaurasi, Cabinet Minister Dr. Ravjot Singh stated, "Today, Punjab's government schools are being discussed across the country. Even surveys conducted by the Government of India have acknowledged that Punjab's schools have become number one. The transparent recruitment of more than 28,000 teachers and their training in Finland and Singapore have resulted in Punjab's students now clearing competitive exams like JEE and NEET."

Highlighting power sector reforms in Ludhiana West,



Power Minister Sanjeev Arora said, "The Mann government has created history by making electricity bills zero for 90% of households in Punjab. Earlier, people feared high bills, but today they are getting major relief along with 24-hour uninterrupted power supply."

Speaking in Bhoa, Minister Lal Chand Kataruchak underscored the Punjab Government's campaign against drugs, stating, "The Bhagwant Mann government has launched a decisive war against drugs, under which more than 92,000 smugglers have been put behind bars. Along with this, 65,000

government jobs have been provided purely on merit, without any bribery or recommendation."

In Jandiala, Minister Harbhajan Singh ETO highlighted healthcare transformation, stating, "985 Aam Aadmi Clinics are successfully functioning in Punjab, where more than 5 crore people have received free treatment. Now, every family is getting up to ₹10 lakh of free cashless treatment, ensuring that the poor no longer need to take loans for medical care."

Addressing people in Malout, Cabinet Minister Dr. Baljit Kaur spoke about

women-centric initiatives, stating, "Under the 'Mawandhian Satkar Yojana,' every woman will receive ₹1,000 per month and women from SC communities will receive ₹1,500 per month starting from Baisakhi. Along with this, free bus travel has empowered women."

In Jalandhar West, Minister Mohinder Bhagat emphasized agricultural support, stating, "Only the Mann government is the true well-wisher of farmers. Today, farmers are receiving free electricity during the daytime, and after decades, canal water has reached the tail-end of fields.

Crop payments are now being transferred directly to farmers' bank accounts within just 24 hours."

Speaking in Lehra, Minister Barinder Kumar Goyal highlighted welfare and infrastructure initiatives, stating, "The government is facilitating free pilgrimage for senior citizens. Additionally, families of soldiers who sacrifice their lives for the nation are being given an ex gratia of ₹1 crore, which is the highest in the country. The formation of the 'Sadak Suraksha Force' has reduced deaths in road accidents by 50%."

Saanjh Punjab recognises 250 Farmers for sustainable practices



AMRITSAR – In a significant step towards promoting sustainable agriculture, Saanjh Punjab, supported by Asar and in collaboration with Clean Air Punjab, brought together progressive farmers from across Punjab to recognise their efforts in eliminating stubble burning and adopting sustainable farming practices. The event also highlighted peer-to-peer learning as a key driver of agricultural transformation. Saanjh Punjab—a network comprising Manav Vikas Sansthan, IPS Foundation, Kheti Virasat Mission, Young Innovative Farmers, Clean Air Punjab, Air Care Centre, Asar, CIMMYT and Indian Institute of Millets Research—has been working closely with farmers to promote climate-resilient agriculture. The convening brought together farmers, researchers, civil society organisations and government representatives, including the Vice-Chancellor of Khalsa University, creating a multi-stakeholder platform centred on farmer-led knowledge exchange.

NHRACF flags healthcare issues at GMCH-32 during meeting with director

CHANDIGARH: Members of the National Human Rights and Anti-Corruption Force (NHRACF), Chandigarh, led by President Kamajit Singh Panchhi, met Dr. Ravneet Kaur Bedi, Director Principal of



Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), Sector 32, to congratulate her on assuming charge of the institution. The delegation welcomed her with a bouquet and extended best wishes for her tenure. During the meeting, members raised several concerns related to patient care and hospital infrastructure. They

highlighted the shortage of functional ventilators, noting that while machines are available, many are not operational due to a lack of trained technicians and doctors, forcing patients to seek treatment in private hospitals. The team also pointed out issues such as inadequate parking facilities, insufficient lifts for patients and attendants, and poor maintenance of hospital infrastructure, which causes inconvenience to visitors. Dr. Bedi gave a patient hearing to the concerns and assured the delegation that the issues would be addressed on priority to ensure better facilities and a smoother experience for patients and their families. Additionally, the NHRACF shared an awareness poster highlighting the social impact of begging, urging citizens to avoid giving cash to beggars and instead adopt responsible ways to support the needy.

Heartiest Greetings to all on the occasion of Ram Navami

- Narendra Modi

"May the blessings of Prabhu Shri Ram always remain upon us and guide our paths towards righteousness and peace, illuminating our lives with wisdom and courage."

NEWS BRIEF

When Endometriosis Returns: Why Fertility Preservation Matters?
CHANDIGARH: Affecting nearly 10-15% of women in their reproductive years, endometriosis is not just a cause of pain, it is also a significant contributor to infertility, quoted Dr. Jasneet Kaur, Senior Consultant & Clinical Director, Reproductive Medicine, Milann - Fertility and Birthing Hospital, Chandigarh. The condition occurs when tissue similar to the uterine lining grows outside the uterus, commonly involving the ovaries. Over time, this can lead to the formation of ovarian cysts known as endometriomas. While these cysts can be treated surgically, a major challenge with endometriosis is its tendency to recur. With each recurrence, and especially with repeated surgeries, the ovarian reserve may gradually decline, affecting a woman's future chances of conception.

Amazon India showcases impact of its women-focused community programs across Gurugram and Nuh districts in Haryana
PALWAL - Amazon India today showcased the impact of its women-focused community programmes across Gurugram and Nuh districts in Haryana, bringing together women entrepreneurs, government stakeholders, banking partners, and community leaders to share learnings and explore ways to further strengthen local livelihoods. As part of the International Women's Month 2026, the company hosted the 'Dare to Dream' event in Gurugram and highlighted how women entrepreneurs are leveraging access to financial literacy, mentoring, and community networks to grow their businesses, improve incomes, and take on leadership roles within their communities. Supported by Amazon India and implemented in partnership with ACCESS Development Services, She & WE - Women Entrepreneurship Foundation, and READ India, these programmes have been active in areas around Amazon's operational presence.

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KFC Introduces Shawarma With A Twist. Presenting The All New Crispy Shawormra Wrap
AMRITSAR/LUDHIANA - Shawarma lovers across India are about to be WOW-ed, with the launch of KFC India's all new Crispy ShaWOwrma Wrap. The all-new menu item is KFC's twist on the familiar favourite. The KFC Crispy ShaWOwrma Wrap comes with a deliciously toasted tortilla wrap, loaded with KFC's iconic crispy Peri-Peri chicken strips, creamy shawarma mayo, fresh lettuce & tangy pickled Mediterranean vegetables. Priced starting at just ₹169, the all-new Crispy ShaWOwrma Wrap is available across all 1300+ KFC restaurants in India for dine-in & takeaway, as well as via the KFC app, website (https://online.kfc.co.in/) or via leading food delivery apps. So shawarma fans, who are you waiting for? It's time for the all-new Crispy ShaWOwrma Wrap.

From Last Resort to First Choice: Why a Wider Section of Indians Are Pledging Gold

CHANDIGARH: Kotak Mahindra Bank said today the gold loans in India are moving from a stigmatised 'last resort' product to a planned credit option. Borrowers are increasingly pledging idle ancestral jewellery to access hassle-free, faster and lower-cost credit compared with mortgages and unsecured lending, the Bank said. "This marks a clear behavioural shift," said Shripad Jadhav, President and Head - Gold Loans, Kotak Mahindra Bank. "Gold loans are no longer about distress. Customers with stable incomes and assets are pledging gold temporarily to unlock credit to act on time-sensitive opportunities. It's a disciplined way to bridge short-term needs." With the sharp rise in gold prices, the value of household gold jewellery has increased materially, enabling households to meet short- and medium-term financial needs through gold loans to pursue emerging, time-sensitive opportunities. "This behaviour reflects the wider convergence-credit trend seen among retail borrowers, as gold loans do require minimal documentation," Jadhav added.

CanSupport expands palliative care access across Punjab

FIROZPUR - CanSupport, a leading non-profit organization, has strengthened its commitment to accessible, compassionate healthcare services in Punjab with the inauguration of a new Eco vehicle at its Bathinda Centre and the launch of its new centre in Firozpur. At its Bathinda Centre, CanSupport inaugurated a new Maruti Eco vehicle that will play a critical role in strengthening its free-of-charge, home-based palliative care services. These services will help care teams to reach more patients across remote and underserved communities. The initiative has been supported by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) under its CSR initiative 'Aarogya', along with Suri Seva Foundation. The vehicle was inaugurated in the presence of senior representatives, including Kapil Dev, Deputy General Manager, Bathinda Terminal, IOCL; Sudhanshu Arora, Divisional Retail Sales Head, Punjab & Himachal Pradesh; and Kulvin Suri, Director of Operations, Suri Seva Foundation.

SOCIAL Brings Back #DoorsStadium 2026 to celebrate India's Biggest Cricket Season

CHANDIGARH: As the nation gears up for its most anticipated cricketing season, SOCIAL is set to bring back its high-energy #DoorsStadium experience from 28th March to 31st May 2026, transforming the city into the ultimate match-day destination. With electrifying cricket-watching experience, interactive formats that extend the game from the big screens to your phone, and a specially curated menu inspired by India's favourite teams, SOCIAL promises an immersive experience that goes far beyond just watching the game. This season, SOCIAL introduces a specially curated menu featuring nine inspired dishes: each celebrating iconic flavours from across the country, designed for sharing, over nail-biting matches. From the spicy, indulgent Rajasthan Bhaotic Bhajata, chili-infused stuffed with cheddar and potato, to Hyderabad's OG Haleem Biryani, where rich mutton haleem crowns a hearty biryani, the menu brings back crowd nostalgia, and regionally rooted flavours. Fans can tuck into the Lucknow Bhawan Galawati, a melt-in-the-mouth veg galawati stuffed with cream cheese, or savor Bengaluru's OG Stadium Samosas.

Illicit inducements worth over Rs 400 crore seized in poll-bound states: EC

AGENCY NEW DELHI: The Election Commission of India on Thursday said that enforcement agencies have seized illicit inducements worth over Rs 400 crore since the announcement of assembly elections in four states and a union territory and bye-elections earlier this month. According to the poll body, seizures amounting to Rs 408.82 crore have been made between February 26 and March 25 following the activation of the Electronic Seizure Management System (ESMS).

The confiscated items include cash worth Rs 17.44 crore, liquor valued at Rs 37.68 crore (over 16.3 lakh litres), drugs worth Rs 167.38 crore, precious metals worth Rs 23 crore, and other freebies exceeding Rs 163.30 crore. The ECI had announced the schedule for the legislative assembly elections in Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and the Union Territory of Puducherry on March 15, along with bye-elections in six states. The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) came into force immediately thereafter. To curb electoral malpractices, the Commission has deployed over 5,173 flying squads across poll-bound states and Union Territories to respond swiftly to complaints. Additionally, more than 5,200 Static Surveillance Teams (SSTs) have



been stationed to conduct surprise checks at key locations, EC said. The Commission had also convened a high-level review meeting on March 24 with Chief Secretaries, Directors General of Police, Chief Electoral Officers, and senior officials from senior officers from the 5 poll-going states and UTs and their 12 bordering states and UTs. Officials were directed to ensure violence-free, intimidation-free, and inducement-free elections through enhanced coordination among enforcement agencies.

Emphasising citizen convenience, the ECI instructed authorities to ensure that routine checks do not lead to harassment of the public. District Grievance Committees have been constituted to address complaints arising from enforcement actions. Meanwhile, the Commission reported significant public participation through its C-Vigil app, which allows citizens and political parties to report violations of the MCC. Between March 15 and March 25, a total of 70,944 complaints were

received, out of which 70,831 were disposed of. Notably, 95.8 per cent of complaints were resolved within 100 minutes, EC said. A dedicated complaint redressal mechanism is also in place, including a call centre helpline (1950), enabling citizens to directly approach district election authorities with their grievances. The ECI reiterated its commitment to conducting transparent and inducement-free elections, backed by technology-driven monitoring and swift enforcement action.

Understanding TB: Expert Insights on Symptoms, Contamination and Treatment

CHANDIGARH: Tuberculosis is the 13th leading cause of death around the world and claims several lives every year. In India, while the TB incidence has dropped by 21% since 2015, faster than the global average, it remains a critical public health challenge. To raise awareness on the disease, World Tuberculosis Day is observed on 24th March every year. The theme of this year's event is "Yes! We Can End TB: Led by countries, powered by people". Dr Zafar Ahmad Iqbal, Director, Pulmonology, Critical Care and Sleep Studies, Fortis Hospital Mohali, said TB was categorised as Pulmonary and Extra Pulmonary Tuberculosis. "In drug-resistant tuberculosis, the bacteria develop resistance to one or more of the main drugs used for treatment, either by non-compliance to treatment by the patient, poor quality drugs, wrong prescription or drug abuse. Coexistence of TB with HIV is another global epidemic of concern which accounts for over 10% of TB deaths," he added. He explains the risk factors and measures to prevent tuberculosis. He said, Tuberculosis is caused by bacteria (mycobacterium tuberculosis) and primarily affects the lungs. However, other organs such as lymph nodes, brain, bones, intestines, kidneys, eyes, skin etc. can also get affected. Stating that TB spreads from person to person through droplet transmission, Dr Zafar added, "When a patient with pulmonary TB coughs, sneezes or spits out sputum, the TB bacilli get disseminated in the air through droplet particles. These particles, when inhaled by a healthy person, transfer the bacteria to the healthy lungs and cause infection. Depending upon the host immunity, the infected person may get the disease. Apart from TB of the lungs, other types of the disease are non-infectious." Dr Zafar said symptoms of TB included cough with sputum (symptoms persist for more than 2 weeks), fever, weakness, loss of appetite, loss of weight, blood in sputum and chest pain. "The organ-specific symptoms include abdominal pain, abnormal bowel movement, breathlessness, headache, altered sensorium, blood in urine, infertility etc.," he added. The main tests include sputum examination for tubercular bacilli, X-ray, besides specialized tests such as Fine Needle Aspiration Cytology (FNAC), biopsy, pleural fluid analysis etc. The treatment is free of cost at Government DOTS centres. Healthy diet is paramount for TB treatment. "BCG vaccine administered at the time of birth is an effective tool to prevent TB. Healthy lifestyle along with balanced diet, abstinence from smoking and maintaining cough etiquette are important.

Godrej Consumer Products partners with local Panchayats for 'Khoosurat Kasauli' initiative in Himachal Pradesh

SHIMLA - Himachal Pradesh, March 23, 2026: True to its commitment to creating positive impact in the communities it operates in, Godrej Consumer Products Limited (GCP) has partnered with Waste Warriors, a non-governmental organisation and local Panchayats to implement a community-led waste management initiative in Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh. The project reflects GCP's impact-driven culture, with the 'Khoosurat Kasauli' initiative successfully diverting over 66.5 metric tonnes of waste from landfills while encouraging residents to adopt responsible waste practices and take ownership of sustainable waste management. Launched in 2023, the initiative spans four Panchayats — Kasauli-Garkhal, Garkhal-Sanawar, Gulhari and Dharampur. It focuses on addressing challenges such as open dumping and burning, the absence of organised dry waste collection and limited awareness around waste segregation. With growing tourism and population placing pressure on local waste systems, unmanaged waste had begun posing environmental and health risks near homes, markets and forest areas. Palzan Dastoor, Head, Sustainability and CSR at Godrej Industries Group said, "The 'Khoosurat Kasauli' programme demonstrates how community-led waste management can transform local environments when Panchayats and residents come together to take ownership. Guided by a sustainability-focused culture, we are working to build a model that is environmentally responsible, socially inclusive and financially sustainable. It is encouraging to see that the programme has already helped divert over 66.5 tonnes of waste from landfills, while creating a framework that empowers local institutions to manage waste responsibly and protect fragile ecosystems." Mr. Ajay Kumar Yadav, Managing Director, Himachal Pradesh Schedule Cast Schedule Tribe Corporation (HSPSCST), said "We are lucky and happy that Waste Warriors is doing commendable job in solving the waste crisis in Kasauli area which is a well-known tourist destination. Waste Warriors is moving ahead with ambitious and courageous vision i.e. an inclusive, participatory.



Johns Hopkins Whiting School of Engineering Collaborates With Great Learning

CHANDIGARH: Great Learning, a leading global edtech company, has launched a Certificate Program in Agentic AI in collaboration with Johns Hopkins Whiting School of Engineering, a globally top-ranked U.S. university. The 16-week online program, designed and delivered by Johns Hopkins Engineering faculty and industry practitioners, equips STEM professionals, data and AI practitioners, product managers, and technical leaders to build autonomous, goal-driven AI agents capable of perceiving context, reasoning through complexity, and acting independently in dynamic environments. Highlighting the importance of the program, Paul Hockett, Associate Dean, Johns Hopkins Engineering Executive and Professional Education, said, "At Johns Hopkins, we've always believed that the toughest engineering challenges require both strong technical skills and a sense of responsibility. Agentic AI is precisely that kind of challenge."

GMCH holds Dr BS Chavan Memorial Rehabilitation Program

CHANDIGARH: To commemorate the work done in the field of mental health by late Prof BS Chavan, NGO 'Parivartan' along with Mental Health Institute and Department of Psychiatry, GMCH-32, Chandigarh celebrated "Dr B S Chavan Memorial Rehabilitation Program" here today. Prof. Ravneet Kaur, Director Principal, GMCH-32, Chandigarh was the chief guest for the occasion. The event commenced with welcome speech by Dr Ajeet Sidana, HOD, Dept of Psychiatry. Dr Sidana informed the audience regarding the unique Public Private Partnership (PPP) model initiated by Dr Chavan and how

Parivartan since then has been working with Dept of Psychiatry & MH to offer unique services in the field of mental health. He also highlighted that Parivartan also works in close association with, like minded NGOs, District legal services, various universities,



doing commendable work in the field of rehabilitation and community psychiatry in India.

Nehru World School & Sacred Heart Ludhiana Win ACG Jr. NBA 3v3 Finals

LUDHIANA: The 2025-26 ACG Jr. NBA 3v3 National Tournament, India's largest U-14 school basketball program, concluded successfully with Nehru World School, Delhi winning the boys' title and Sacred Heart Sr. Sec. School, Ludhiana clinching the girls' championship. The National Finals marked the culmination of regional rounds held across ten cities—Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Guwahati, Indore, Kochi, Ludhiana, Mumbai, Prayagraj, and

Udaipur. This year's edition witnessed participation from nearly 8,000 students organized in association with the Basketball Federation of India, while Skechers served as the official kit partner. In the All-Star Championship, the Bengaluru All-Star Team secured the girls' title, while the Delhi All-Star Team emerged victorious in the boys' category. The 'Most Improved Team' awards were presented to The Shishukunj International School, Indore (U-14 Girls) and SK School, Udaipur (U-14 Boys) for their remarkable progress throughout the tournament.



CPA announces three-member team for upcoming Polo season

CHANDIGARH The Chandigarh Polo Association has officially announced its three-member team for the upcoming polo season scheduled to be held from March 29 to April 4, 2026 at the Chandigarh Polo Club, Chandigarh. The upcoming season is being conducted under the aegis of the Indian Polo Association. The players who have been included in the Chandigarh team for the season include Dilpreet Singh Sidhu, Lt Col Vishal Chauhan and Naveen Singh. The association expressed confidence in the selected players by stating that the team will represent a strong blend of experience, skill and competitive spirit to perform well during the tournament. The week-long polo season is expected to witness participation from leading polo teams across the country including defence teams. In a major boost to the sport, renowned real estate company GB Legends has come forward to sponsor the Chandigarh Polo Team for the next three seasons. The association termed this partnership as a significant step towards promoting polo and encouraging corporate support for the "Royal Game." According to Col Manoj Dewan, Vice President, Chandigarh Polo Association, "We are delighted to announce our team for the upcoming polo season and are confident that the players will represent Chandigarh with great pride and sportsmanship."

CHANDIGARH: Wheel of Fortune is set to be a laugh riot as the star-studded cast of the highly anticipated film Bhoot Bangla takes the stage. Amidst the high-stakes puzzle rounds, the audience witnessed a heartwarming moment of professional camaraderie between the host Akshay Kumar and veteran comic actor Rajpal Yadav. Before the commencement of the puzzle round, acclaimed performer Ekta Kapoor and actress Wamiqa Gabbi were seen praising Rajpal Yadav's impeccable comic timing in Bhoot Bangla. Wamiqa, sharing her excitement, noted how fortunate she felt to share screen space with a performer of his caliber. Adding to the tributes, Akshay Kumar took a moment to introduce Rajpal as the undisputed comedy king of the industry. Reflecting on their long-standing professional partnership, Akshay delivered a touching tribute to his co-star "Humani jodi itni saari hit filmo mein aar humne itni saare filmo mein kaam kiya hain. Sach bolu toh, inki badlat se meri comedy delhi hain." The duo, who have previously collaborated iconic hits such as Bhoot Bhulayya, Phir Hera Pheri, and Garam Masala, are reunited once again for Bhoot Bangla.



"The All Hearts Tour - Live": Shreya Ghoshal Becomes India's First Female Artist in Three Decades to Launch a Live Album

CHANDIGARH: One of Indian music's most loved and celebrated voices, Shreya Ghoshal has etched her name in history by becoming the first Indian female artist in three decades to release a live tour album, featuring exclusive recordings from her most recent All Hearts Tour. Known for her soulful voice and

blockbusters, the album showcases the remarkable versatility & longevity of Shreya Ghoshal's catalogue - from the intensity of "O Sawari Re" from Onkara (2006) to the grandeur of "Sawari Mastani" from Bajirao Mastani (2015), from era-defining dance anthems like "Chhatri Chhatri" from Agneepath (2012) to the beautiful intimacy of "Sanjhawari" from Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania (2014) - the album spans three decades of moments that have shaped the sound and sentiment of modern Indian pop culture. Speaking about the Album, Shreya Ghoshal says, "The All Hearts Tour - Live" album is incredibly special to me. For the first time, I'm releasing concert recordings so my audience can relive the same emotion and energy. This is my gift to everyone who's been part of my journey over the years - my listeners, my fans, those who attended the tour, and even those who couldn't. I wanted to give them something in return, because as the name suggests, my fans truly are All Heart. This 44-city global tour covered India, North America, the United Kingdom, the Middle East, Australia and Europe. Shreya Ghoshal performed at major international venues including the OVO Arena Wembley (London), Oakland Arena (California) & Wolf Trap (Washington DC). She's the second Indian Artist (after Lata Mangeshkar) to perform at the Fox Theatre (Detroit) and the first Indian Artist to perform at the Dolby Theatre (Los Angeles).



unmatched versatility, this live album is a heartfelt gift to her fans and captures the raw energy, emotional depth, and musical brilliance that defined the All Hearts Tour, offering listeners an immersive concert-like experience. These live versions capture the scale, emotion and energy experienced across sold-out arenas & venues worldwide. Drawing from some of Bollywood's biggest

Hounslow Marks First International Women's Day Breakfast Reception with Tributes to Community Women Leaders

LONDON: The first-ever International Women's Day Breakfast Reception was held at Holy Trinity Church, Hounslow, London bringing together community leaders, dignitaries, and inspiring women from across the borough. Organized by Seema Malhotra MP and Ruth Cadbury MP with the support of Mayor Amy Croft, the event marked a historic moment in celebrating the achievements and contributions of women in Hounslow. The reception coincided with the Desi New Year, making the occasion a blessed and meaningful start to the year. Congratulations to everyone who came together for this inspiring celebration of service, resilience and the collective spirit for our communities. Among the honourees was Narpinder Mann BEM, Director of United Humanitarian Sikh Aid (UHSA) in the UK, who received the Judges' Special Recognition Award for 20 years of dedicated community service. Through UHSA, Mann has led humanitarian



initiatives supporting vulnerable families, empowering women, and advancing access to justice across diverse communities. Her leadership has been instrumental in mobilizing volunteers, building bridges across faiths, and ensuring that those most in need receive timely support and advocacy. In accepting the award, Mann expressed heartfelt gratitude.

Samsung Introduces Galaxy A57 5G, Galaxy A37 5G with Exciting Offers in India

CHANDIGARH - Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, today introduced the Galaxy A57 5G and Galaxy A37 5G, the newest additions to the Galaxy A series for young users who prioritise photography, performance, AI-enabled everyday features and durability. New Design Language with Enhanced Durability Galaxy A57 5G comes with an aluminium frame, and at 6.9mm, it is the slimmest Galaxy A series device so far. The slimmer bezels on Galaxy A57 5G improve the device's visual balance and allows for a more immersive viewing experience. Galaxy A57 5G features a 120Hz refresh rate and comes with Vision Booster technology, with 1900nits peak brightness that allows users to view content clearly in outdoor conditions and enjoy HDR content. Both Galaxy A57 5G and Galaxy A37 5G come with Gorilla Glass Victus+ on the front and back, improving resistance to scratches and drops. The devices also carry an IP68 rating for safety against water and dust. Galaxy A57 5G and A37 5G are built to last with six Android OS upgrades and six years of security. Night Photography Designed for Social Media and Low-Light Content Galaxy A57 5G and Galaxy A37 5G feature a 50MP main camera with optical image stabilisation and a 1.0µm (micron) big pixel sensor, paired with enhanced image signal processing (ISP) and a Low Noise Mode. The result is brighter photos with sharper detail in low-light environments. Galaxy A57 5G has a 50MP main camera, a 12MP ultra-wide camera and a 5MP macro camera. Galaxy A37 5G includes a 50MP main camera, an 8MP ultra-wide camera and a 5MP macro camera. Both devices have a 12MP HDR front camera for clearer selfies and video calls. The camera software on the new A series also includes AI-driven editing tools. The Best Face feature supports up to five people, allowing users to select the best facial expression from each person in a group shot. The Object Eraser tool runs on device and works 33 percent faster, enabling users to remove unwanted elements from images without an internet connection.

IPL 2026: Highland Group & Punjab Kings Reinforce Partnership Further

CHANDIGARH: Building on a successful first season, Highland Group has continued its partnership with Indian Premier League (IPL) cricket team Punjab Kings as the official real estate partner for IPL 2026—The announcement of continuation of partnership and its further reinforcement, was made during a press conference here, which was addressed by Highland Group's Directors Vishal Goyal and Harjinder Singh Rangil, who were joined by Satish Menon, CEO of Punjab Kings. The group also unveiled 'The Address of Kings' campaign, which will bring leading lifestyle and sports creators to experience Highland's projects before exclusive match-day interactions with players like Shreyas Iyer and Arshdeep Singh during IPL 2026. Details of the group's upcoming project Highland Mayfields were also shared. Speaking at the press conference, Director Vishal Goyal said, "Cricket has been a defining part of my journey, having played at the under-19 Ranji level, and it continues to shape how I view discipline, performance, and teamwork. This association with Punjab Kings is therefore deeply personal as well as strategic. The second-year association brings 'The Address of Kings' to life with ultra-luxury living at Highland Mayfields, Mohali. Through 'The Address of Kings', we are creating a bridge between the energy of the sport and the lifestyle we are building—one that reflects ambition, passion, and the spirit of Punjab." The highlight of the press conference was a peek given to media into Highland Group's flagship project, Highland Mayfields, which is being positioned as a sports-centric residential development. The event also witnessed the formal launch of a high octane 'anthem' specially created by Highland Group for Punjab Kings. Goyal emphasized that sports, particularly cricket, are deeply embedded in the philosophy of their flagship project, Highland Mayfields. Director Harjinder Singh Rangil said,



BJP leader Sanjay Tandon offers prayers on Durga Ashtami and Ram Navami at Sector 18 Shri Radha Krishna Temple

CHANDIGARH: Senior BJP leader Sanjay Tandon marked the auspicious occasions of Durga Ashtami and Ram Navami by offering prayers at Shri Radha Krishna Temple in Sector 18, Chandigarh, along with his wife, Priya Tandon, on Thursday. On this sacred day, he also performed the traditional Kanjak Pujan, a ritual symbolizing reverence for the divine feminine power. Expressing his sentiments, Tandon said that participating in such spiritual ceremonies is both a privilege and a

moment of deep devotion. He highlighted that these holy occasions provide an opportunity to seek the blessings of Maa Durga and Lord Shri Ram, while also reinforcing the importance of faith, service and values in daily life. He further stated that festivals like Durga Ashtami and Ram Navami remind people of the enduring cultural and spiritual heritage of India. "Such occasions inspire us to remain connected to our roots and uphold the ideals of righteousness, compassion, and unity," he added. Tandon extended his heartfelt wishes to all citizens, praying that the divine blessings of Maa Durga and Lord Shri Ram bring happiness, peace and prosperity into every household. He emphasized the need for collective harmony and positive energy in society, especially during such spiritually uplifting times. The visit witnessed participation from devotees who gathered to celebrate the festival with devotion and enthusiasm.



AXIS BANK
 Retail Assets Center: AXIS Bank Ltd., 2nd and 3rd Floor, Property No. 7-E, Malhar Road, Sarabha Nagar, Ludhiana - 141001.
 Corporate Office: 3rd Floor, Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, Pandurang Budhakar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400 025
 Registered Office: 'Trishul', 3rd Floor, Opposite Samarathwar Temple, Law Garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006

Publication of Notice regarding possession of property u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI Act 2002
 Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, demand notice was issued on the dates mentioned against each account and stated hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice.
 The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act, read with Rule 9 of the said Act on the dates mentioned against each account.
 The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Axis Bank Ltd. for an amount and interest thereon.
 The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-borrower	NPA Date	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)
1.	1. Mr. Ridham Kapoor S/o Vijay Kapoor (Borrower), 2. Mr. Vijay Kapoor S/o Sardani Lal Kapoor (Co-borrower) and 3. Mrs. Komal Kapoor W/o Vijay Kapoor (Co-borrower/ Mortgagee)	28-Nov-2025	06-Dec-2025	24-Mar-2026	Rs. 1758912/- (Rupees Seventeen Lacs Fifty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Twelve Only)

Description of mortgaged Property
 All that part and parcel of the Residential Property/House built upon Plot having Private No. 161 measuring 84.44 Sq. Yds. Comprised in Khaska No. 17/11/81min, Khata Khatauni No. 79/127, as per Jamabandi for the year 2017-18 situated at Rakha Rakshshikargah, Abadi-Rishi Vihar (Palm Vihar), Tehsil & District Amritsar registered in the name of Smt. Komal Kapoor W/o Vijay Kapoor vide Sale deed dated- 19-Feb-2021. Boundaries (As per Sale Deed) : EAST- Street 20' wide, WEST- Other owner, NORTH- Street 20' wide, SOUTH- Plot No. 162.
 Date : 27.03.2026 Sd/-
 Place : Ludhiana (Authorized Officer), Axis Bank Ltd.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
e-TENDERING - OPEN TENDER NOTICE No. NIT-22/2025-26 DATED 25.03.2026
 Open tenders through E-tendering are invited on & behalf of President of India by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/G, Northern Railway, Ambala from the willing contractors for following work upto 15.00 hrs. or the date of closing shown against the work and will be opened thereafter.

S. No.	Tender No.	Name of Work	Approx. Cost (Rs.)	Bid Security (Rs.)	Period of Completion	Date of closing & opening
1	7-30/2025-26	Provision of 12.00 m wide FOB at PATIALA Railway Station with Stairs & Ramp under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme on RPJ-BTI Section.	Rs. 3350256.52	Rs. 67000.00	02 Months	16.04.2026

NOTE: 1. Tenderers are required to upload scanned copies of all related eligibility documents including PAN/TIN/GST as per conditions. 2. The required Bid Security will be acceptable On-line payment through Net Banking/ Payment Gateway only well before & upto 15.00 Hrs of closing date & time of tender. 3. Tenderers should have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate to participate in E-Tendering of works tenders. 4. For detail, please log on IREPS website www. IREPS.Gov.in. GST will be levied as per GST Act, 2017. 1031/2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NEWS BRIEF

Pradeep Kumar assumes charge as Tehsildar in Jalandhar Tehsil 2



PARAMJIT SINGH JALANDHAR: Pradeep Kumar assumed charge as Tehsildar in Jalandhar Tehsil 2 today. He has also previously held the post of Sub Registrar 2 here. Today, when he assumed charge, Tehsil Assistant Naresh Kumar, Balwant, Sonia, Simran, Vivek, Khush Sharma and Ajay Bhagat welcomed him enthusiastically.

DSP reviews NDPS cases, stresses dismantling of drug supply chain

AMRISH ANAND DORAH: Under the directions of SSP Khanna Dr Darpan Kaur Ahluwalia, DSP (H) Pritpal Singh Sandhu, Khanna, held a special meeting with head munshis of all police stations in the district to review investigations under the NDPS Act and streamline enforcement measures. During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on tracing the backward and forward linkages of persons arrested in drug-related cases. The officer emphasised that every NDPS case must be thoroughly investigated to identify the entire network involved in narcotics trafficking. He directed officials to conduct in-depth probes into the antecedents and connections of the accused so as to dismantle the complete drug supply chain. A review of ongoing cases was also undertaken, with instructions to expedite investigations and enhance their effectiveness through better coordination and sustained follow-up.

Religious events essential for civilised, successful nation-building: Khanna



DALJEET AINOCHA HOSHIARPUR: Former MP Avinash Rai Khanna received an invitation for the Shrimad Bhagwat Katha from the saints' divine hands, organised by Divya Jyoti Jagriti Sansthan at Roshan Ground, Hoshiarpur, from April 14 to 20. On this occasion, Khanna stated that holding such religious programmes for the propagation and dissemination of religion is extremely necessary. He added that these events instil spirituality in people's hearts and keep society away from evil deeds. Khanna emphasised that such religious gatherings will make a significant contribution to building a civilised and successful nation.

IIT Ropar's ANNAM.AI Centre of excellence brings AI revolution to Indian agriculture with government collaborations

SHASHI PAL JAIN
ROPAR, MARCH 26

Annam.ai, the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Artificial Intelligence for Agriculture established by the Ministry of Education, Government of India at Indian Institute of Technology Ropar, today announced a set of key initiatives aimed at accelerating the adoption of AI-led, data-driven farming practices in India.

Establishing a scalable Weather Intelligence Network for India, ANNAM.AI has initiated the deployment of 100 advanced weather stations, beginning with Punjab as the first implementation hub. Provided at no cost, these AI-based weather stations will deliver hyperlocal, real-time weather data to farmers, enabling precise decisions on sowing, irrigation, and crop protection. Designed as a model



for nationwide expansion, this initiative aims to reduce climate-related risks and improve farm productivity. Being developed as a digital public good for Indian agriculture, ANNAM.AI is building scalable agricultural AI intelligence technologies designed to make data-driven farming accessible across the country. The initiative, supported by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, is being implemented as a phased rollout, with initial deployments serving as a foundation for expansion across multiple states including Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Maharashtra. To ensure optimal utilization of this technology, Annam.AI will also roll out fully funded AI training for 10,000 students, rural youth, and Agri-professionals. The skilling programme is designed to build on-ground capabilities and create a strong pipeline of individuals equipped to apply AI in agriculture at scale.

Main shooter in Panjab University firing incident apprehended after encounter

CHANDIGARH: In a joint operation, Chandigarh Police along with the AGTF Punjab and Fatehgarh Sahib Police apprehended the main involved in a recent firing incident at Panjab University. The accused has been identified as Jaspreet Singh alias Jass Panaich, a resident of Village Kheri Noudh Singh in Fatehgarh Sahib district.

He was allegedly involved in the firing on a SPU student leader at Panjab University, Chandigarh, on March 17. According to officials, the accused was traced to village Nurpur under Amlah police station in Fatehgarh Sahib. When police teams attempted to arrest him, he allegedly opened fire on the police party. In the retaliatory action, the accused sustained injuries and was subsequently shifted to a hospital. Police said that a .32 bore pistol, two live cartridges, four empty shells, and a Hyundai Creta car bearing registration number PB23Z0717 were recovered from his possession. Further investigation into the case is underway, officials added.

State NSS convention concludes successfully at Mohali, Punjab

SHASHI PAL JAIN
MOHALI, MARCH 26



The two-day State NSS Convention for Punjab & UT Chandigarh concluded on a high note at Chandigarh University with a grand valedictory ceremony, marking a significant milestone in strengthening youth engagement and community service under the National Service Scheme (NSS).

The convention brought together State NSS Officer Punjab and UT Chandigarh, NSS Programme Coordinators, NSS Programme Officers, NSS Awardees, volunteers, and officials from across the region, creating a vibrant platform for dialogue, collaboration, and exchange of best practices aimed at nation-building. During the valedictory ceremony, the Chief Guest Prof. (Dr.) R. S. Bawa, Advisor to the Hon'ble Chancellor, Chandigarh University, addressed the gathering and

highlighted the importance of NSS in shaping responsible citizens.

He emphasized that NSS plays a vital role in instilling values of selfless service, discipline, and social responsibility among youth. He further appreciated the initiative of organizing a joint state convention, calling it a progressive step towards integrated development and stronger coordination between Punjab and UT Chandigarh. He encouraged NSS volunteers to continue contributing actively towards the vision of Viksit

Bharat @ 2047, stressing that youth are the backbone of the nation. He also lauded the dedication of Programme Officers and coordinators in expanding the reach and impact of NSS activities. Earlier, in the welcome address, the significance of NSS as a platform for youth empowerment and nation-building was underlined, along with acknowledgment of the guidance and leadership of dignitaries from the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and NSS Directorate. The convention featured insightful sessions, expert talks.

Meet Hayer & Deepak Bali take stock of arrangements for Punjab Kings - Gujarat Titans IPL match

MULLANPUR, MARCH 26

With a view to ensure fool-proof arrangements in the wake of upcoming match between Punjab Kings and Gujarat Titans on March 31st as part of the Indian Premier League (IPL) - 2026, the newly elected Secretary of the PCA Lok Sabha MP Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer and Vice President PCA Deepak Bali visited the Cricket stadium at Mullanpur in New Chandigarh today.

The dignitaries accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner, Mohali Komal Mittal and SSP Harmandeep Singh Hans took stock of various seating blocks as well as the stadium, approach routes to the stadium, parking facilities, security measures, and deliberated in great length upon the significant issue of crowd management in order to make sure that the people get a hassle free and wholesome cricketing experience. Emphasizing upon ensuring top notch arrangements



in every aspect, Meet Hayer outlined that the smooth conduct of the matches goes a long way in earning a great name for Punjab as the host of important fixtures which can lead to the state being allotted prestigious tournaments in future too. He also made a special mention of Punjab being selected as the host of the Asian Champions Trophy Hockey tournament later this year. Advocating for the absolute

coordination between the Civil and Police administration, the Vice President PCA Deepak Bali said that apart from the fixture on March 31st, as many as 3 more matches are scheduled to be held at the stadium which is a matter of pride for the Punjab Government.

The stadium is emerging on world map as a hub of prestigious tournaments with the passage of time, added Deepak Bali.

RSS Sarkaryavah Dattatreya Hosabale to deliver special lecture on 'Indian Narrative' in Chandigarh

NEERAJ SHARMA
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 26

In a significant intellectual initiative centered on Indian thought, culture, and the contemporary global context, the Panchanad Research Institute is organizing a special lecture on Friday, March 27, 2026, at 3:30 PM at the NITTTR Auditorium, Sector-26, Chandigarh. The theme of the lecture, "Indian Narrative in the Global Perspective," seeks to explore the role and relevance of Indian thought in shaping global discourse in the present era.

On this occasion, RSS Sarkaryavah Dattatreya Hosabale will deliver the keynote address. He is widely respected for his wide range social work and keen knowledge of Indian heritage. Under his leadership, the organization has contributed significantly to areas such as social harmony, national awakening, family empowerment, environmental stewardship, and awareness of civic responsibilities. The ses-



sion will be chaired by Prof. Dr. Jagbir Singh, Chancellor of the Central University of Punjab. A distinguished scholar of medieval Punjabi literature, folklore, and literary criticism. He has authored over 16 books and presented research papers at more than 100 national and international conferences. His work offers valuable insights into the synthesis of Indian tradition and modernity. The event will also be graced by the presence of Prof. Brij Kishore Kuthiala, Chairman, and Dr. Krishna Chandra Pandey, Director of the Panchanad Research Institute, along with participants from Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, and Leh.

Chandigarh offers strong opportunities for growth, investment: Devesh Moudgil

CHANDIGARH (SHASHI PAL JAIN): A programme aimed at strengthening trade ties with South Africa was organised in Chandigarh through the efforts of the BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry, bringing together industry leaders and international delegates to explore investment opportunities.

Former Mayor Devesh Moudgil attended the event as chief guest and welcomed the South African delegation, distinguished guests, and members of the business community.

He said such interactions between global leaders and Indian entrepreneurs would not only strengthen bilateral relations but also open new avenues for trade and investment. Officials including Chamber President Deepak Shukla and Chandigarh Head Ajay Kumar Bangar highlighted that Lebgang Zulu, National Chairperson of the BRICS Women's Business Alliance (South Africa), shared insights on trade collaboration and investment prospects between the two countries. In his address, Moudgil described Chandigarh as a symbol of planned development, progress, and opportunity, known for its clean environment, modern infrastructure, and high quality of life. He said the administration has fostered a transparent and business-friendly ecosystem that encourages innovation and growth. He also appreciated the leadership of Gulab Chand Kataria, stating that under his guidance, the city continues to move forward in a structured and progressive manner. Emphasising ease of doing business, effective governance, and sustainable development, Moudgil said Chandigarh has emerged as an ideal destination for investment and partnerships. He added that the event served as a platform to connect nations, ideas, and opportunities, noting that Chandigarh holds significant potential in sectors such as renewable energy, manufacturing, and services.



Kashmiri Youth explore Chandigarh's landmarks; 6th Youth Exchange Programme highlights Tricity's heritage

TILAK RAJ
MOHALI, MARCH 26

As part of the ongoing 6th Kashmiri Youth Exchange Program, organized by MY Bharat (Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports), at NIPER, Mohali, 132 participants from six districts of the Kashmir Valley embarked on an extensive field visit across



the Tricity today. Key Highlights of the Visit: Heritage & History: The delegation visited the iconic Fateh Burj at Chappar Chiri, learning about the region's Sikh military history and architectural grandeur. Likewise, the

youth explored the world-renowned Rock Garden, marveled at the floral diversity of the Rose Garden, and enjoyed the serene landscape of Sukhna Lake.

Urban Culture: A visit to the Sector 17 Plaza provided the participants with a glimpse into Chandigarh's unique urban planning and vibrant local culture.

Main shooter arrested after police encounter in Chandigarh-Punjab joint operation

CHANDIGARH: In a joint operation of Chandigarh Police with AGTF Punjab and Fatehgarh Sahib Police, main shooter of a recent firing incident has been apprehended. The accused has been identified as Jaspreet Singh @ Jass Panaich r/o Village Kheri Noudh Singh, Tehsil Khamano, District Fatehgarh Sahib, who was involved in the firing incident allegedly on a SPU student leader, in Punjab University, Chandigarh on 17.03.2026. In the joint operation location of the accused was traced at village Nurpur, PS Amlah, district Patehgarh Sahib.



Derabassi police cracks attempted murder case within 48 hours; accused arrested

DERABASSI: In line with the ongoing "war against criminals," to make the state crime-free, SAS Nagar Police has achieved a significant breakthrough. The Sub Division Dera Bassi Police has successfully cracked a case of attempted murder by a house trespasser within 48 hours. Divulging details, SSP Harmandeep Singh Hans said that on March 24, 2026, an unidentified individual, with his face covered by a helmet, unlawfully entered.



MCM strengthens scientific acumen with lecture-cum-workshop on spectroscopic instruments

CHANDIGARH: The Post-graduate Department of Chemistry at Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women, in collaboration with the R&D Cell/Climate Cell of the Institution's Innovation Council and under the aegis of DST-CURIE, organised a lecture-cum-workshop on spectroscopic instruments. The initiative aimed to provide hands-on training on advanced analytical tools such as UV-Visible, IR, and NMR spectrophotometers, while sensitising students to their crucial role in the identification, characterisation, and quantitative estimation of organic and inorganic compounds.

Rally of SAD on March 31 in Jait constituency will dispel doubts of opponents: Rajpreet Singh Brar

JAGDEEP SINGH GILL JAITU: The Shrimani Akali Dal (Badal) is organizing a Punjab Bachao Rally on March 31 at Jait. To make this rally a success, the Youth Akali Dal and youth workers will play an important role and the rally of the Shrimani Akali Dal will dispel the doubts of the opponents. These words were expressed by Rajpreet Singh Brar, a senior leader of the Youth Akali Dal Badal and the president of the Dal Singh Wala Club, while talking to selected journalists. He said that the duties of the youth leaders of the constituency have been assigned that they will participate in this rally with full enthusiasm. On this occasion, he appealed to all the youth leaders of the constituency to show their records and support to the people of Punjab in the Punjab assembly constituencies in the Punjab.





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