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NEWS BRIEFS

Silver plunges Rs 11,250/kg, gold drops Rs 1,900

NEW DELHI: Precious metal prices dropped up to 5 per cent, with silver plunging by Rs 11,250 to Rs 2.30 lakh per kilogram, while gold declined to Rs 1.47 lakh per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday. According to the All India Sarafa Association, the white metal slumped Rs 11,250, or nearly 5 per cent, to Rs 2,30,000 per kg (inclusive of all taxes) from Wednesday's closing level of Rs 2,41,250 per kg. Bullion markets remained closed on Thursday on account of Ram Navami.

PM to inaugurate Phase I of Noida International Airport today

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate Phase I of Noida International Airport in Jewar on March 28. Ahead of his visit, PM Modi said that the day is of immense importance for people of Uttar Pradesh and Delhi NCR, emphasising the enhanced connectivity and diversion of traffic from the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi. "Tomorrow, 28th March, is a day of immense importance for the people of Uttar Pradesh and the NCR. Phase I of Noida International Airport will be inaugurated. This will boost commerce and connectivity. It will ease congestion at the IGI Airport in Delhi," he said. "The Noida airport is among the key greenfield projects in our nation. In addition to passenger services, it will have a robust cargo ecosystem, thus boosting the logistics sector," he added.

Sonia Gandhi's health shows improvement

NEW DELHI: Senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's health is showing steady improvement, and she will be discharged from the hospital within one to two days, her doctors said on Friday. The 79-year-old leader was admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital on Tuesday night at around 10:22 pm after developing a fever.

Centre cuts excise duty on Petrol, Diesel by Rs 10; retail prices unchanged

UNI
NEW DELHI, MARCH 27

The Centre on Thursday announced a Rs 10-per-litre reduction in excise duty on petrol and diesel with immediate effect, a fiscal intervention aimed at shielding India's fuel supply system from an unprecedented surge in global crude oil prices.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said the move comes as international benchmark crude has soared from around USD 70 per barrel to nearly USD 122 per barrel in just four weeks, an escalation of almost 75 per cent driven by the West Asia conflict and severe disruptions to global energy supply chains.

Despite the excise duty cut, the Government made it clear that retail pump prices will remain unchanged. The reduction will not translate into lower prices for consumers but will instead be used to partially offset the massive under-recoveries currently being absorbed by public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation.

According to official estimates, OMCs are incurring under-recoveries of Rs 26 per litre on petrol and Rs 81.90 per litre on diesel, resulting in a combined daily loss of nearly Rs 2,400 crore. "The excise reduction offsets Rs 10 per litre of these losses, ensuring OMCs can continue uninterrupted fuel supply while keeping retail prices stable," the Ministry said.

The Government highlighted that India's fuel price stability stands in sharp contrast to global markets, where rates have surged between 30-50 per cent across South and Southeast Asia, about 30 per cent in North America and 20 per cent in Europe since the crisis began. "India has held the line," the Ministry noted, adding that such stability imposes a fiscal burden which the Centre has "opted to shoulder".

Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the Government faced a stark policy dilemma. "Either increase prices drastically for citizens of Bharat as all other nations have done, or bear the brunt on its finances so that the Indian citizen is insulated from international volatility," he said.

"Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji decided to take a hit on Government finances to safeguard the Indian citizen. The Government has taken a substantial impact on its taxation revenues to reduce the high losses being faced by oil marketing companies at this time of sky-high international prices," he added.

Reiterating this position in a post on X, Puri said global prices had risen sharply over the past month and noted that



petrol and diesel costs had climbed "30-50 per cent in Southeast Asian countries, around 30 per cent in North America, 20 per cent in Europe, and about 50 per cent in African countries."

He said the Government chose to absorb the financial impact rather than replicate these steep hikes domestically. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi... decided to take a hit on finances again to safeguard Indian citizens," he said, adding that OMC losses were estimated at "around Rs 24 per litre for petrol and Rs 30 per litre for diesel" amid elevated global prices. Alongside the excise reduction, the Government has introduced an export levy on diesel to discourage refiners from diverting supplies overseas at a time when global diesel prices have risen sharply.

Seven killed, five injured as avalanche strikes vehicles at Zojila Pass

AGENCY
SRINAGAR, MAR 27

At least seven persons were killed and five others injured after an avalanche struck a passenger vehicle at Zojila Pass on Friday, officials said.

A senior official said that the vehicle came under a massive snow slide, leading to on-the-spot deaths of six occupants, while five others sustained injuries.

Soon after the incident, rescue teams rushed to the site and launched an operation to evacuate the injured and retrieve the bodies from the debris. The injured have been shifted to nearby medical facilities for treatment, the official said.

Authorities added that rescue and clearance opera-

tions are still underway, while further details are awaited.

Following the incident, the Zojila Pass road was

closed to traffic, and rescue and snow clearance operations were immediately launched to remove debris and restore vehicular movement on the strategic high-



particularly along key mountain passes during late winter and early spring. Officials are closely monitoring the situation to ensure safe reopening of the route.

Govt rejects rumours of Lockdown

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday clarified that rumours of a nationwide lockdown are entirely false, stating that no such proposal is currently under consideration by the government. The clarification aims to dispel public concerns and provide accurate information regarding any possibility of restrictions. Taking to social media platform 'X', Puri said, "The global situation remains in flux, and we are closely monitoring developments across energy, supply chains, and essential commodities on a real-time basis. Under the leadership of Honble PM Narendra Modi Ji, all necessary steps are being taken to ensure uninterrupted availability of fuel, energy, and other critical supplies for our citizens. We are fully prepared to handle emerging challenges." "India has consistently demonstrated resilience in the face of global uncertainties, and we will continue to act in a timely, proactive, and coordinated manner," he said. He said rumours of a lockdown in India are completely false. "Rumours of a lockdown in India are completely false. Let me state this clearly, there is no such proposal under consideration by the Government of India. In such times, it is important that we remain calm, responsible, and united. Attempts to spread rumours and create panic in such a situation are irresponsible and harmful," he said.

Uttar Pradesh Taking Off to New Heights

A Future-ready Greenfield Airport, developed at a cost of ₹11,200 Crore, accelerating connectivity and growth

Grand Inauguration of Noida International Airport (Phase I)

by **Narendra Modi**
Prime Minister

Uttar Pradesh Powering India's Aviation Future

- Among India's largest greenfield airport projects
- Passenger handling capacity of 1.20 crore annually
- Multi-Modal Transport Hub with seamless integration across road, rail, metro and regional transit systems
- Expansion of passenger handling capacity up to 7 crore annually by Phase 4
- Multi-Modal Cargo Hub with an annual capacity of 2.5 lakh+ metric tonnes, expandable to around 18 lakh metric tonnes
- Architecturally inspired by the rich cultural heritage of Uttar Pradesh, featuring haveli-style design elements and a multi-level terminal blending the divinity of the ghats of Varanasi and Haridwar
- Envisioned as a major international gateway for the NCR region
- Interiors enhanced with handicrafts and textiles from states across India

In the august presence of

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Anandiben Patel Governor, Uttar Pradesh | Yogi Adityanath Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh | Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu Minister, Civil Aviation, Government of India |
| Pankaj Chaudhary Minister of State, Finance, Government of India | Keshav Prasad Maurya Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh | Brajesh Pathak Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh |
| Brajesh Singh Minister of State, Public Works Department, Uttar Pradesh | Dr. Mahesh Sharma MP, Gautam Buddha Nagar | Surendra Singh Nagar Member, Rajya Sabha |
| Amit Chaudhary Chairman, District Panchayat, Gautam Buddha Nagar | Pankaj Singh MLA, Noida | Tejpal Singh Nagar MLA, Dadri |
| Lakshmi Raj Singh MLA, Sikandrabad | Shrikant Sharma MLA, Mathura | Dhirendra Singh MLA, Jewar |
| Minakshi Singh MLA, Khurja | Rajesh Chaudhary MLA, Mant | Sanjay Kumar Sharma MLA, Anupshahr |
| Jaiveer Singh MLA, Barauli | Narendra Singh Bhati MLC | Surender Diler MLA, Khair |
| Shrichand Sharma MLC | | |

and other dignitaries

Date: 28th March, 2026 | Time: 11:30 AM | Venue: Jewar, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh

PM Modi to inaugurate Phase-1 of Noida International Airport, giving a new flight to North India



BUREAU
JEWAR/LUCKNOW: MARCH 27

One of India's largest infrastructure projects, Noida International Airport, is ready for the inauguration of its first phase. On Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate Phase-1 of the airport, open the cargo terminal and lay the foundation stone for the MRO facility.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will also be present on the occasion. Under his leadership, the project has progressed rapidly and is expected to significantly enhance connectivity and economic development in North India.

Noida International Airport received in-principle approval from Government of India in May 2018. The project is being developed in four phases with a total estimated cost of 29,560 crore. Built with modern, digital and energy-efficient technologies, the airport will make Uttar Pradesh the first state in India to have five international airports once inaugurated. In Phase-1, 6,876 crore is being invested

by the concessionaire, while the Uttar Pradesh government has spent 4,406 crore on land acquisition. Total cost of Phase-1 is estimated at around 11,282 crore, with an initial annual capacity of 1.2 crore passengers.

Airport will serve as a state-of-the-art multi-modal transport hub, integrating road, rail, metro and regional transit systems. This will significantly reduce travel time and logistics costs for both passengers and cargo.

Cargo terminal inaugurated by PM will have an initial capacity of 2.5 lakh metric tonnes annually, expandable up to 18 lakh metric tonnes. The 40-acre MRO facility will enable aircraft maintenance and repair within the country, promoting self-reliance in aviation sector.

Developed in Yamuna Authority area, airport is expected to accelerate growth in nearby industrial sectors. It will generate employment, boost manufacturing and exports, simplify air travel and give a major push to tourism, ultimately strengthening UP's economy.



Panchayat welcomes runner-up trophy winners in state-level festival

KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA RAMPURA PHUL, MARCH 27

Bharat Scouts and Guides Punjab organized the state-level Kabb Bulbul Utsav at State Training Center Tara Devi, Shimla.

As per the directions of Bharat Scouts and Guides Punjab State Commissioner Onkar Singh and District Education Officer Elementary Bathinda Maninder Kaur, the state-level Kabb Bulbul Utsav was organized at Tara Devi Shimla under the leadership of Nirbhay Singh Bhullar District Media Coordinator Scouting to represent Bathinda district.



Children were honored by Sarpanch Sarabjit Kaur and Gurmeet Singh Samaj Sevi from the entire Nagar Panchayat. Sarpanch Sarabjit Kaur, while praising the staff on this occasion, said that Nirbhay Singh Bhullar Head Teacher and the entire staff always motivate the children to move forward in every field and she appreciated this achievement.

der Kaur District Education Officer Elementary, Lakhwinder Singh Block Primary Education Officer, Amritpal Singh Brar District Organizing Commissioner Scout, Dr. Sukhpal Singh Sidhu District Organizing Commissioner Cub, Gurpreet Singh District Training Commissioner, Jatinder Bhucho Media Coordinator, Bholu Singh Panch, Jagvir Singh Panch, Karam Singh Panch, Lakhvir Singh Panch, Sarabjit Kaur Panch, Pal Kaur Panch, Malkit Singh Panch, Manjit Kaur, Sandeep Singh SMC Chairman, Madam Harjinder Kaur etc.

Spl meeting led by Sant Seechewal on development works in Sultanpur Lodhi

SULTANPUR LODHI (ARVIND PATHAK): Rajya Sabha Member Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal held a special meeting with officials to review ongoing development works in Sultanpur Lodhi.



It is noteworthy that in 2019, the Central Government declared Sultanpur Lodhi a Smart City, allocating ₹240 crore for various development projects. Out of this, ₹46 crore was earmarked for the cleaning and beautification of the sacred Kali Bein.

Ambuja cements' sports initiative transforms 13-year-old Kiranpal Kaur into National Kho-Kho Champion from Punjab

ANIL VERMA BATHINDA, MARCH 27

Ambuja Cements, the 9th largest building materials solutions provider globally and part of the diversified Adani Portfolio, through its CSR initiatives, is driving transformative change in rural communities across India by nurturing young talent through its Physical Literacy and Sports Promotion Program.

Kiranpal Kaur, a 13-year-old student in Class VII at Government Senior Secondary School, Bulladewala, Bathinda, comes from a family where both parents work hard to make ends meet, her father as a daily-wage labourer and her mother supports the household alongside him.

In April 2025, Kiranpal enrolled in Ambuja Cements' After-School Program under the Education Support initiative. She was introduced to the game, Kho-Kho, began training in the evenings with dedicated coaches, and quickly found a passion she had not experienced before.



Kiranpal's progress was rapid. By the end of 2025, she earned a place in her school's girls Kho-Kho team and gained competitive match experience at the district level.

In December 2025, she represented her team at an interstate competition which was a stepping stone that sharpened her skills and resilience.

In January 2026, Kiranpal attended the Punjab trials for the National Sub-Junior Kho-Kho Team in Patiala. Her consistent hard work, guided by the programme's structured training, earned her a coveted spot in Team Punjab.

From 31 January to 4 February 2026, Kiranpal played in the National Sub-Junior Kho-Kho Championship where she emerged as one of the team's key players. Punjab finished third, a historic achievement for a girl who had never stepped onto a sports field just nine months prior.

Her parents, teachers, and the entire village of Bulladewala celebrated her feat, and she has since become an inspiration to children across her community.

Ambuja Cements' commitment to physical literacy and sports promotion is creating pathways for underprivileged youth to discover their potential and build confidence beyond the classroom.

Kiranpal's story is a testament to what structured support, consistent mentoring, and the right opportunity can achieve. It reiterates their belief that champions can come from anywhere.

Classified

PUBLIC NOTICES

ਮੈਂ ਪਰਮਿੱਦ ਕੌਰ ਪਤਨੀ ਜਸਵੰਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਵਾਰਡ ਨੰ. 27 ਗਲੀ ਨੰ. 17 ਮ.ਨੰ. 381 ਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਨਗਰ ਮੋਗਾ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦੀ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰੀ ਲੜਕੀ ਸਿਮਰਜੀਤ ਕੌਰ ਜੋ ਕਿ ਮੇਰੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹੈ। ਮੈਂ ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੌਲ-ਅਚੌਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖਲ ਕਰਦੀ ਹਾਂ। ਇਸ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ ਦੇਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਖੁਦ ਜਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ। ਮੇਰਾ ਜਾਂ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦਾ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਤਾਲੁਕ ਵਾ ਵਾਸਤਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ। 63372

ਅਸੀਂ ਦਲਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਨਿਰਮਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਤੇ ਹਰਦੀਪ ਕੌਰ ਪਤਨੀ ਦਲਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀਆਨ ਪਿੰਡ: ਕਰਾਵਰ ਤਹਿ:ਬਲਾਚੋਰ ਜਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਸਤ.ਸ. ਨਗਰ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਸਾਡੀ ਲੜਕੀ ਪਰਮਜੀਤ ਕੌਰ (ਉਮਰ 28 ਸਾਲ) ਜੋ ਕਿ ਸਾਡੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹੈ। ਅਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੌਲ-ਅਚੌਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖਲ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਾਂ। ਇਸ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ ਦੇਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਖੁਦ ਜਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ। ਸਾਡਾ ਜਾਂ ਸਾਡੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦਾ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਤਾਲੁਕ ਵਾ ਵਾਸਤਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ। 63372

We, Raj Kumar Sikri S/O Murl Dhar and Poonam Rani W/o Raj Kumar Sikri R/o street no/21, Bada Pull, Nai Abadi Abohar, District Fazilka, Now Resident of Nai Abadi Street no. 13, Badi Podi, Near Khetarpal Mandir, Nai Abadi Abohar Declare that our son Ajay Kumar Sikri and his wife Sonam Sikri and their Son Devarsh are out of our control so we disowned from our movable and immovable properties anybody dealing with them own risk. 63372

I Manjinder Kaur alias Manjinder Pal Kaur (Passport No. J1526884) R/o VIA Carlo Bini, N. 28 Bozzolo (MN) Italy declare that both names one and same person. 63372

I, Gurmit Kaur W/o JC327081N EX N/Sub Late: Ajab Singh R/o Vpo. Jaito Khusha Charik Teh & Distt. Moga (Punjab) Pin-142001, declare that the correct date of birth of my daughter Mehakpreet Kaur is 10-08-2011. 63372

I, Kuljit Kaur W/o No 14380024K Hav Surinder Singh (Retd) S/o Sh Mago Singh R/o Vill & Po. Mehla wali, Teh-Jagadhri, Distt-Yamunanagar (Haryana)-135003 have changed my name and date birth from Kuljit Kaur (14 Feb 1973) to Kuljeet Kaur (12 Jun 1975) vide affidavit before notary Distt Court, Kurukshetra. 63372

I, Rachhpal Singh S/o Amar Singh alias Amritsaria R/o H.No. 13/30 Mohalla Bagh Misran W.No. 13 Baga Distt. SBS Nagar, Pb, declare that I known by two names Rachhpal Singh and Rachhpal Singh Kaur both names are mine and same and the one person. all concerned please note. 63372

PUBLIC NOTICES

We Varinder Kumar S/o Sarjudeen and Rajni W/o Varinder Kumar, R/o New Shiv Nagar, near Nagra, Jalandhar declare that our son Ravi Kumar and his wife Niharika Devi are out of our control. So we disown them from our all moveable and immovable properties. Anybody deal with them at their own risk and responsibility. All concerned may note. 900026

My son Deepak Bhatia, Daughter in law Krishna Chauhan and Grand Son Pratham Bhatia are out of my control. I disinherit them from my moveable and immovable properties. I and my family members have no relations with them. I won't be held responsible for their dealings and actions. Neelam Rani W/o Achhru Ram R/o H.No. 50, Sector 23-A, Chandigarh, Post Office Sector-23 Chandigarh-160023. At Present House No. 15231, Sector-124, Global City, Sunny Enclave, Kharar, Mohali. 900019

I Surinder Kaur W/o Harmit Singh R/o Khabbe Rajputan, Teh. Baba Bakala, Distt. Amritsar That my Son Manraj Singh Matriculation Certificate mention other name is Sawinder Kaur which is wrong. My correct name is Surinder Kaur. Please correct as well as school record. 78645

I, Ram Lubhaya Ahir S/o Preetu R/o H.No. 83, Palahi Road Asha Park Colony, Phagwara, Distt. Kapurthala (PB) declare that in my Son's Passport No. Y4210923 wrongly mentioned my name Ram Lubhaya. Correct Name is Ram Lubhaya Ahir. 63372

I, Sukhwinder Kaur D/o JC-74825A Late: Nb Sub Ajit Singh R/o Moga declare that as per birth certificate my correct DOB is 20-11-1969 and not 21-11-1969. Please make corrections to my DOB in the defence service records of my father accordingly. My Aadhar No. is 2714-8033-9303. This is for general Public information. 63372

I, Gulwant Singh Sanghera S/o Rashi Singh R/o Vpo. Sarih Teh-Nakodar Distt. Jalandhar Pb, declare that my father brother uncle had known by two names Harshinder Singh Sanghera and Nikka Sing both names are same and one person. 63372

I, Anil Kumar Wallia Alias A.K. Wallia S/o Baldev Kumar R/o Street No. 9, Baba Sawan Singh Nagar, Baba Bakala Road, Beas, District Amritsar, declare that Anil Kumar, A.K. Wallia and Anil Kumar Wallia are my names and is one and the same person. 63372

I, Rajinder Kaur Dhindsa W/o Labh Singh, resident of village Bardwal (Dhuri) Sangrur have changed my name to Rajinder Kaur. 98724

I, Gurpreet Singh Sidhu S/o Bakhtour Singh R/o Aklia Jalal (BTI) Have Changed My Name As Gurpreet Singh 100071

I Rani Kair W/o Gurjant Singh R/o Hamirgarh (BTI) Have Changed My Name as Kulwinder Kaur. 100071

I Mamveti W/o Satbir Singh R/o Bank Colony, Bhiwani 127021, Haryana have changed my name from Bhagwati to Mamveti. 989752

I Bimla w/o Mangat Ram R/o 1971, Sector-9 Ambala city. Ambala, Haryana 134003 have changed my name from Bimla to Bimla Rani and father name is Ram Lubhaya 60013

I, Jaskaran Singh Khanna S/o Sh. Gurdvinder Pal Singh Khanna R/o # 556, Sector-8, Urban Estate, Ambala City, Distt Ambala, Haryana-134003 have changed my name from Jaskaran Khanna to Jaskaran Singh Khanna. 78645

I, Sukhpreet Singh Gudhre, S/o Ayodhya Singh, R/o H.No.70, New Dashmesh Nagar, P.O. Dakoha, Jalandhar Punjab - 144023 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I have changed my name to Sukhpreet Singh, where Sukhpreet shall be my First Name and Singh shall be my Surname/Last Name. 900026

I, Ashok Kumar Dhiman S/o Ram R/o H.No. 180 Swaraj Nagar W.No. 01 Kharar T.C.-Kharar SAS Nagar, Mohali have changed my name from Ashok Kumar to Ashok Kumar Dhiman. 63372

I Baljeet Kaur W/o Satpal Singh R/o VPO Tahli, Tehsil Dasuya, Distt. Hoshiarpur have changed my minor son's name from Dildar Singh to Singh Dildar in which given name is Dildar and surname is Singh. 900026

I, Davinder Kumar currently residing at 800 Robin Rd, AIKEN SC 298032110, U.S.A declare that when I came to U.S.A my Surname "Jangra" was not mentioned in my Passport issued from India. Therefore, I declare that Davinder Kumar and Davinder Kumar Jangra is the one and same person. 461257

I, Baljeet Singh S/o Harbhajan Singh R/o 18, Punjab, C/o 56 APO, Khasa, Amritsar Declare That SURJIT KAUR & SURJEET KAUR Both Are My Mother's Name And Refer To One And The Same Person. All Concern Note. 52737

I, Geeta W/o Shri Harpreet Masih R/o Village Passia PO Ramdas Tehsil Ajnala Distt Amritsar declare that in my sons school record his name is wrongly written as Joshua but his correct name is Joshua Chohan 52737

I Jagraj Singh Sidhu S/O Gurcharan Singh R/O Aklia Jalal (Bathinda) Have Changed My Name To Jagraj Singh. 63372

I Ramcharan S/o Jogi Ram R/o Burj Thror (Bathinda) have changed my name to Ram Charan. 63372

I Manjit Kaur W/O Surjit Singh R/O Ghandana Bana Distt Bathinda Have Changed My Name To Mandeep Kaur. 63372

I Ramandeep Kaur Gill D/O Amritpal Singh R/O Lehra Mohabat Distt Bathinda Have Changed My Name To Ramandeep Kaur. 63372

I, Gurpreet S/o Paramjit R/o Vpo. Mehli Teh-Banga Distt. SBS Nagar have changed my name from Gurpreet to Gurpreet Toora. 63372

I, Dhanpat Rai S/o Jagat Ram R/o Vill: Chak Mander Teh-Banga Distt. SBS Nagar have changed my name to Rai Dhanpat. 63372

I, Sandeep Kaur W/o Inderjit Singh Banwait R/o Vpo. Ladhana Jhikka Teh-Banga Distt. SBS Nagar Pb, India, Pincode-144510 have changed my name to Sandeep as a given name and Kaur as surname. 63372

I, Dalbir Singh S/o Malkiat Singh R/o Vill: Barnala Kalan, SBS Nagar, Nawanshahr have changed my name to Dalvir Singh. 63372

I Paramjit Kaur W/o Jagga Singh R/o Kotra Kalan Distt. Mansa Have Changed My Name From Paramjit Kaur To Manpreet Kaur. 63372

I Hitherto Known As Anshman S/o Nirmal Kumar R/o Vpo Udhanwal Teh-Balachaur Distt. SBS Nagar, Pin-144521, Punjab have changed my name shall herein after be known as Anshman Kumar. 63372

I, Braham Singh S/o Baldev Singh R/o Vill: Shehbajpur Po. Kot Ranjha Teh-Nawanshahr Distt. SBS Nagar have changed my name from Braham Singh to Brahm Singh. 63372

I, Lovepreet Singh Sidhu S/o Balwinder Singh R/o Vill: Ajnaud Po. Rajgarh Distt. Ludhiana Pb-141421 have changed my name to Lovepreet Singh. 63372

I Gurprit Kaur W/o Amarjit Singh Vill-Moranwali Teh Garhshankar Distt Hoshiarpur I have changed my name Gurprit Kaur to Gurpreet Kaur please note 63372

I, Manjinder Singh S/o Balkar Singh R/o Vill: Mandala Distt. Jalandhar have changed my name from Manjinder Singh to Singh Manjinder. 63372

I, Rukhsana Khatton W/o Mohd Amjad R/o Opp Nehru Market Kelon Gate, Malerkotla Distt Malerkotla, have Change my name to Rukhsana. 63372

I Esha Dhanda W/O Mulakh Raj Singh R/O Bakhlaur Sub Tehsil Aur Distt Sbs Nagar 144422. Eisha Dhanda To Esha Dhanda. 63372

I Kamlesh Kaur W/O Mulakh Raj Singh R/O Bakhlaur Sub Tehsil Aur Distt Sbs Nagar 144422. Kamlesh To Kamlesh Kaur. 63372

I Sunita Rani W/o Bahadur Singh R/o H.No.429 W.No.3, Surjeet Nagar, Morinda, Teh-Morinda, Distt. Ropar have changed my name to Sunita Hawara and this name will be used for all future purposes. 63372

I, Rajbeer Singh S/o Jagjit Singh R/o H.No.1566, Block No.4, Backside Ghee Mill, Dashmesh Nagar, Doraha, Teh-Payal, Distt Ludhiana, Punjab-141421, have changed my minor son's name from Mannoor Singh Lamba to Mantegh Singh. 63372

I, Randeep Singh Shergill S/o Sukhdev Singh R/o VPO Rattangarh, Tehsil Khamano (Fatehgarh Sahib) have changed my name to Randeep Singh. 63372

I Sunita W/O Ram Lubhaya R/O V Chak Mai Dass, Tehsil Baga, District SBS Nagar, Punjab-144501 have changed my name From Sunita To Sunita Rani. All Concerned please Note. 63372

I, Rukhsana Khatton W/o Mohd Amjad R/o Opp Nehru Market Kelon Gate, Malerkotla Distt Malerkotla, have Change my name to Rukhsana. 63372

I Sukhminder Singh S/o Baldev Singh R/o Vpo Lakha Tehsil Jagroan Distt Ludhiana have changed my name to Sukhminder Singh Sekhon. 63372

I Sushma W/o Rajesh Kumar Bajania R/o H.no. 4186, Main Bazar, Mohalla Rethian Wala, Jagraon, Distt Ludhiana, have changed my name to Sushma Rani Bajania. 63372

I, Gurdeep Singh Chahal W/o Hardev Singh R/o Atla Kalan (Mansa) have changed my name to Gurdeep Singh. Note it. 63372

I, Amanjeet Kaur Naper W/o Hardeep Singh R/o Vill Gosal Teh-Payal Distt. Ludhiana have changed my name from Amanjeet Kaur Naper to Amanjeet Kaur. 63372

I Jagtar Singh Khurmi S/o Harpal Singh R/o Haryau, Teh-Lehra, Distt Sangrur (Punjab) i have changed my name from Jagtar Singh Khurmi to Jagtar Singh. 63372

I, Bhupinder Singh S/o Gurmel Singh R/o Vpo. Sahnewal Ludhiana, Pb, have changed my name from Bhupinder Singh to Bhupinder Singh Sandhu. 63372

I, Kulwant Kaur W/o Bhupinder Singh R/o Vpo. Sahnewal Ludhiana, Pb have changed my name from Kulwant Kaur to Kulwant Kaur Sandhu W/o Bhupinder Singh Sandhu. 63372

I Sarabjeet Kaur W/o Harjeet Singh Brar R/o Baghapurana (Moga) Have Changed my name to Sarabjit Kaur. 63372

It is notified for the information original sale deed No. 7553 dated 30-03-2012 executed by PJ Promoter Pvt. Ltd., in favour of Amrsh Kumar S/O Baldev Raj land measuring-240 Sqyd of Plot No. 168 GT Homes Colony Khanna Khurd Khanna has been actually lost. name of declarant Neetu Sethi W/o Suraj Raj Sethi R/o H.No. 22 Gulmohar Nagar Amloh Road Khanna Ludhiana kindly contact if any one finds it 9463200010. Above sale deed is not involved in by case/Financial sector for any type of security purpose/mortgage from my side. 63372

This is for the General Public that M. Sukhdev Singh S/o Sh. Balwant Singh seeking Loan from my/our client SMFG India Credit Company Ltd vide Application No.9939888. The Sale deed dated 29/05/2014 bearing vaska no. 1334 and Sale Deed dated 27/11/2013 bearing vaska no. 505296 missing/lost and not traceable despite best efforts and DOR bearing So. No. 70/1691/2026 Dated 27/03/2026 has also registered with Mohali (Punjab). Any claiming any share, interest or right in the said property or any part thereof by way of sale, transfer, assignment, mortgage, charge, lease, license, lien, tenancy, trust, gift, easement, possession, inheritance or otherwise however are hereby required to make the same known to the undersigned in writing, within (7) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice, with all supporting documents, failing which mortgage over the said property shall be created without reference to all claims if any, and the same shall be deemed to waived and/or abandoned and will not be binding on my/our clients - Anil Kumar Sharma Advocate. Mobile No. 9216687146, 8708484855 63372

I, Ranjit Singh Virk S/o Jarnail Singh R/o Village Mial Kalan, Tehsil Samana, District Patiala, Post Office Kutbanpur, Punjab, India, have changed my name from Ranjeet Singh Virk to Ranjit Singh Virk. 63372

I, Kamal Kaur o/o Kuldeep Singh is declared that I lost over our Document OCC/PB00THAU (Client ID OCC288) admeasuring 33.38 sq Plyd area in Chandigarh Commercial (SCO) at New Chandigarh (Omaze New Chandigarh Developers Pvt. Ltd.) Agreement Dated 05 Aug. 2020. If anyone finds this, please send through courier or speed post with this address. Kamal Kaur o/o Kuldeep Singh R/o Village Santokhgarh, Distt Rupnagar, Punjab. 63372

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NEWS BRIEF

Admissions open at The Shishya School, Pathankot for bright future of children

VERMA SUJANPUR: Jarnal Singh Patial, Chairman of The Shishya School, Jugial Road, Pathankot, stated that the school leaves no stone unturned in shaping a bright future for its students. He urged parents to enroll their children at The Shishya School to ensure a successful and prosperous future. The Chairman highlighted that the school has a team of highly educated and experienced staff dedicated to teaching, resulting in consistently excellent academic results. This reflects the school's strong focus on the intellectual growth and overall education of its students. He further emphasized that The Shishya School is not limited to academics alone. Students are encouraged to participate in sports and extracurricular activities, promoting physical health and overall development. Such activities also help instill teamwork, discipline, and confidence in children. The Chairman added that the school's primary objective is to nurture moral values, self-confidence, and social responsibility among students. These efforts prepare children to face future challenges with resilience and competence. Parents are therefore encouraged to enroll their children at The Shishya School in a timely manner to provide them with quality education and holistic development, ensuring a bright and promising future.

Under-20 Punjab State Girls' championship to be held Today at Akhara Mullanpur: Ravi Sharma

J.K. BATTIA NEW CHANDIGARH: The Punjab Wrestling Association's Under-20 Punjab State Girls' Championship is being held today at Akhara Mullanpur Garibdas, New Chandigarh, under the guidelines of the Punjab Olympic Association and the Wrestling Federation of India. Providing details regarding the event, Mr. Ravi Sharma, President of the District Wrestling Association, stated that with the support of Punjab Wrestling Association President Mr. Raman Bakshi, General Secretary Mr. Shahbaz Singh, and Treasurer Mr. Vikram Sharma, the Under-20 Punjab State Girls' Championship is taking place on March 28th. The event will feature wrestling competitions for girls across the 50, 55, 57, 59, 62, 65, 68, 72, and 76 kg weight categories. He further informed that the winner of this competition will be eligible to participate in the National Championship. Mr. Ravi Sharma affirmed that the Association would always strive to engage the youth in sports as a means to protect them from drug abuse. Present on this occasion, alongside Mr. Sharma, were District Wrestling Association General Secretary Dider Singh Vaidyan, Treasurer Sant Singh, Dhaminder Singh Mullanpur, Sher Singh Mall, Kulnar Pehalwan.

IAF Surya Kiran team dazzles crowd at Sukhna Lake air show

SHASHI PAL JAIN
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 27

A two-day air show began with great enthusiasm at Sukhna Lake, where the Indian Air Force's renowned Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team enthralled spectators with breathtaking aerial manoeuvres. Fighter jets created stunning formations, including a diamond pattern and the letter 'A' in the sky, leaving the audience mesmerised.

A large number of people gathered at the venue from early morning to witness the spectacle. The event was attended by chief guest Rajesh Prasad along with several senior administrative officials. Entry to the show has been restricted through prior online booking, with around 10,000 spectators allowed per day. The event also saw participation from local talent, with



Wing Commander Tejeshwar Singh, who is leading the Surya Kiran team, and Divakar Sharma representing Chandigarh. Flight Lieutenant Kamal Sandhu is also part of the team, adding to the city's pride.

Despite light morning rains, the enthusiasm among spectators remained high. Deputy Commissioner Nishant Kumar Yadav visited the

venue to review arrangements and ensure smooth conduct of the event.

To manage the large turnout, the city has been divided into seven zones, with nearly 300 buses transporting visitors from designated pick-up points between 8 am and 9 am. Entry of private vehicles has been completely restricted to maintain order and safety. Elaborate security arrange-

Dirba police recover 30 kg poppy husk under NDPS Act



DIRBA (SUMER GARG): Under the ongoing anti-drug drive, police in Dirba have recovered 30 kg of poppy husk and arrested one wrongdoer under the NDPS Act. Sharing details, SSP Sangrur Sartaj Singh Chahal said that during the 'War on Drugs' and 'Village Guard' campaign carried out by Sub Division Dirba Police from March 20 to March 26, 2026, one case was registered under the NDPS Act and one person was arrested in connection with the recovery.

He further informed that in separate action under the Excise Act, two cases were registered and two persons were arrested. The Police also seized 200 litres of illicit liquor and 24 bottles of contraband liquor. As part of de-addiction efforts, 13 drug-affected persons were identified and enrolled at the OoAT Centre, where they were provided necessary treatment and counselling.

Thousands of devotees bow at Shri Ram temple after Pran Pratishtha



SHASHI PAL JAIN
KHARAR, MARCH 27

After the Pran Pratishtha ceremony at the newly constructed Shri Ram Temple near Maharaja Aji Sarovar, built by the grandfather of Lord Lord Ram, Maharaja Aji, the entire region of Kharar and surrounding areas has become immersed in devotion. Thousands of devotees visited the temple throughout the day yesterday and since early this morning to offer their prayers.

It is noteworthy that Gulab Chand Kataria, Governor of Punjab, attended the as the chief guest.

On this occasion, Rajya Sabha Member Satnam Singh Sandhu, Lok Sabha Member Malvinder Singh Kang, former minister Jagmohan Singh Kang, District Congress President Kamal Kishore Kala, Kharar Municipal Council President Mrs. Anju Chandra, High Court Judge Pankaj Jain, Additional Solicitor General of India Satyapal Jain, BJP leaders Vineet Joshi and Ranjit Singh Gill, Shiromani Akali Dal constituency in-charge Ravinder Singh Kheda, Mohali Mayor Amarjit Singh Jeeti, Deputy Mayor Kuljit Singh Bedi, along with representatives of various social

and business organizations, were present. Throughout the day, thousands of devotees paid their respects. In the evening, 51,000 lamps were lit at the Saryu Sarovar, followed by a grand fireworks display. Devotees from ISKCON Temple Chandigarh also organized a boat procession, where idols of Lord Ram were displayed in the water, witnessed by thousands.

Even today, a large number of devotees visited the temple and offered prayers. The entire area appears to be filled with the spirit of Lord Ram, with roads crowded by people heading toward the temple.

Punjab Kings CEO & CFO call on Punjab Governor to seek blessings ahead of IPL 2026



SHASHI PAL JAIN
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 27

A delegation from the Punjab Kings, comprising Chief Executive Officer Mr. Satish Menon and Chief Financial Officer Mr. L. C. Gupta, paid a courtesy call on the Governor of Punjab, Gulab Chand Kataria, at Punjab Lok Bhavan today. The delegation called on the Governor to

seek his blessings and good wishes ahead of the upcoming season of the Indian Premier League 2026.

During the interaction, the representatives of Punjab Kings shared the team's preparations, vision, and commitment to promoting cricketing excellence and nurturing young talent. They also discussed the growing popularity of cricket

in the region and the team's role in inspiring youth across Punjab.

The Governor extended his best wishes to the team for a successful and spirited campaign in the forthcoming IPL season.

He appreciated the contribution of Punjab Kings in promoting sports culture and encouraging aspiring cricketers in the state.

Two held for arms smuggling in Amritsar; 10 sophisticated pistols recovered

CHARANJIT SINGH ARORA
AMRITSAR, MARCH 27

In a major breakthrough amidst the ongoing drive to make Punjab a safe and secure state as per directions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, Counter Intelligence (CI) Amritsar has busted a cross-border illegal arms smuggling module with the arrest of two accused persons and recovered 10 foreign-made sophisticated pistols from their possession, said Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav here on Friday.

Those arrested have been identified as Resham Singh, a resident of Khushpura in Amritsar and Manpreet Singh, a resident of Khwaspur in Tarn Taran.

The recovered pistols include one Turkey made Zigana Pistol, one Austria made Glock Pistol, two USA made Bretra Pistols, five PX5 Pistols and one China made Norinco Pistol along with magazines. Police teams have also impounded their black colored Platina Mo-



torcycle (PB63D3668) being used for transporting the consignments. DGP Gaurav Yadav said that preliminary investigation has revealed that the accused were working at the behest of a foreign-based gangster in coordination with Pakistan-based smugglers, facilitating the smuggling of illegal arms into India. The consignment was intended for further distribution among criminal elements across Punjab, he said. Sharing operational details, he said that CI Amritsar had received a specific information that foreign based gangster is active in the smuggling of illegal arms/ammunition from Pakistan into India using drones with the help of his Punjab-based associates.

MLA Rai visits newly constructed Aam Aadmi clinic



BIKRAMJEET SAHOTA
FATEHGARH SAHIB, MAR 27

MLA Lakhbir Singh Rai visited the newly constructed Aam Aadmi Clinic at Sirhind Mandi. The clinic is scheduled to be inaugurated on March 28 by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and AAP Supreme Arvind Kejriwal. Speaking to the media on the occasion, MLA Rai stated that under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, the Punjab Government has established 881 Mohalla Clinics across the state so far, benefiting lakhs of people. He highlighted that these clinics provide free medical check-ups by doctors, along with 48 types of blood tests at no cost. Free medicines are also made available, and

even registration is completely free of charge. He further added that the Punjab Government is providing health insurance coverage of up to ₹10 lakh per family under the Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme, ensuring that economically weaker sections are not deprived of proper treatment. MLA Rai said that more Mohalla Clinics will be set up across the state in the coming days. He described the newly built clinic at Sirhind Mandi as a modern and well-equipped facility. With the opening of this clinic, residents will have access to healthcare services closer to their homes, while the burden on Civil Hospital Fatehgarh Sahib is also expected to reduce.

MCM promotes environmental consciousness and career awareness through dual academic initiatives



CHANDIGARH: Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women reaffirmed its commitment to holistic education and student engagement by organising two significant academic events- marking World Sparrow Day and hosting an expert seminar on Clinical Research and Pharmacovigilance.

To commemorate World Sparrow Day, the Department of Zoology, in collaboration with MCM Eco-Club 'Parivesh' under the aegis of MCM Vignyan Manch, organised an Extempore Competition on the theme 'Saving Sparrows for a Healthier Tomorrow'. Sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology and Renewable Energy, Chandigarh Administration, the event aimed to sensitise students about the alarming decline in sparrow populations and their ecological significance. The participants spoke on diverse aspects such as habitat loss, urbanisation, pollution, and the role of community participation in conserving biodiversity. Their well-articulated perspectives reflected a deep sense of environmental responsibility and awareness. In another initiative, the Departments of Zoology and Botany organised a seminar on 'Exploring Clinical Research and Pharmacovigilance: Pathways and Prospects in India'.

Police administration conducts check at blockade set up at Nabha



NABHA (RAKESH JINDAL): In order to strengthen the law and order situation in the state and to crack down on mischievous elements, Punjab Police conducted high-tech blockades across the state under the directions of DGP Law and Order Arpit Shukla and SSP Varun Sharma Patiala. Under which, Nabha DSP Gurinder Singh Bal set up sealing blockades and checked the vehicles coming and going and challans were also issued for dozens of vehicles.

DSP Gurinder Singh Bal while talking said that this special blockade has been done to stop the bad elements and to crack down on drug smugglers. He said that this special blockade was done, he said that where the police specially stopped the vehicles coming and going and challans were also issued for the vehicles violating the law. He said that if any person has any information about any criminal activity or drug trade, he should inform the police administration without any fear. He said that mischievous elements will not be spared at any cost and strict action will be taken against those who try to spoil the atmosphere. A large number of police personnel were present on the occasion.

First blood donation camp successfully organized in village Khokhar



RAMPURA PHUL (KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA): In an important step dedicated to the service of humanity, the first blood donation camp was organized with great enthusiasm and success in village Khokhar. This camp was organized by Sant Nirankari Mission Branch Khokhar with the full support of the villagers and 80 units of blood were collected. The camp was jointly inaugurated by the Zonal Incharge of the Mission, Mr. S.P. Duggal, Sarpanch Jagvir Kumar and the entire Nagar Panchayat. On this occasion, they spread awareness about the importance of blood donation and said that blood donation is the highest human service. They also informed that Sant Nirankari Mission collects lakhs of units of blood every year through blood donation camps, which are dedicated to the welfare of humanity. Dr. of Civil Hospital Rampura Phul Blood was collected in the camp by Sweetie Garg and an expert medical team. A large number of youth and Sewadars from village Khokhar and nearby villages participated enthusiastically and donated blood. Under the leadership of Sewadali in-charge Bhai Sahib Sanjeev Kohli and sister Sunita Joshi, the Sewadars performed the services brilliantly.

Two days 4th bi-annual conference on hernia to start from today



CHANDIGARH (R.N.KHERA): The Young Hernia Society of India Conference series, a well-recognized academic platform in the field of hernia surgery, is set to host its two-day 4th bi-annual national conference—Young HSICON 2026—here from tomorrow. The conference is being conducted under the banner of the Hernia Society of India in association with the Punjab Chapter of the Association of Surgeons of India.

Giving information during a press conference here on Friday, Dr. Anupam Goel, organizing chairman of conference said that hosting the 4th bi-annual conference in Chandigarh is a matter of great pride, as we bring together some of the finest surgical minds from across the country. This platform is not just about learning, but about shaping the future of hernia surgery through collaboration, innovation, and shared expertise, he asserted. The conference will witness participation from over 400 leading surgeons, including 250 regional delegates, 100 national experts, and 75 industry professionals, making it one of the most significant gatherings in the field of hernia surgery.

BBMB launches digital life certificate facility for pensioners via Jeevan Praman Portal

CHANDIGARH: The Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) has implemented a digital facility for submission of the Digital Life Certificate (DLC) by its pensioners through the Jeevan Praman Portal. The initiative has been undertaken to provide a simple, convenient, and technology-enabled mechanism for pensioners to comply with annual life certificate requirements.

With the operationalisation of this system, pensioners can now submit their Digital Life Certificate from their residence or any convenient location using biometric authentication through the prescribed mobile application or desktop platform.

This would considerably reduced the need for physical visits to offices for submission of life certificates.

All pensioners of BBMB can avail themselves of this facility and complete the submission of their Digital Life Certificate in a timely manner for uninterrupted disbursement of pension w.e.f 01.04.2026. This step reflects BBMB's continued efforts towards digital governance, improved service delivery, and enhanced welfare of its pensioners.

PAU's regional kisan mela at Gurdaspur draws enthusiastic farmer participation

VERMA
GURDASPUR, MARCH 27

Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana, through its Regional Research Station (RRS) in Gurdaspur, organised a highly successful Kisan Mela on March 27, 2026. It brought together a large crowd of farmers, farm women, rural youth, agri-entrepreneurs and extension experts.

The mela acted as a vibrant platform for sharing advanced agricultural technologies, encouraging sustainable farming practices, and strengthening connections between farmers and scientists in Punjab's border district.

The central theme of the mela, "Adopt Agricultural Diversification and Save Environmental Resources," was prominently highlighted throughout the event. Experts emphasized the urgent need for



farmers to move beyond the traditional wheat-paddy cycle and adopt diversified cropping systems such as pulses, oilseeds, fruits and vegetables to enhance income and reduce ecological stress.

Special focus was laid on conserving natural resources, particularly soil health and groundwater, through sustainable practices like crop rotation, efficient water management, and balanced use of fertilizers. The theme reinforced the message that long-term agricultural prosperity in Punjab de-

pends on harmonizing productivity with environmental sustainability. The event saw overwhelming participation from farmers, not only from Gurdaspur but also from neighbouring districts, reflecting their strong interest in adopting innovative, climate-resilient agricultural practices.

The mela demonstrated PAU's ongoing commitment to tackling emerging challenges in agriculture, such as declining soil health, water scarcity, climate change, and the need for diversification.

Officials honoured for successful conduct of SARAS mela in Mansa



MANSA (KULWINDER KARWAL): ADC Anuprita Johal, CM Field Officer Gurleen Kaur also present Following the successful organisation of the 10-day SARAS Mela at the grain market, Deputy Commissioner Navjot Kaur honoured officials and employees who demonstrated exemplary performance during the event. The felicitation ceremony was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Anuprita Johal and Chief Minister's Field Officer Gurleen Kaur. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the tireless efforts of officers and staff from various departments, stating that their round-the-clock dedication ensured the smooth conduct of the mela. She emphasised that strong teamwork and hard work made the event a memorable experience for the residents of Mansa. She further said that recognising officials and employees is essential to boost their morale and motivate them to continue delivering public services with sincerity and enthusiasm. On the occasion, mementos and certificates of appreciation were presented to officials deployed on various duties. Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner said that public service is the true achievement and assured that the administration always stands by its dedicated workforce.

Seventh Navratri puja organized at Shri Ichhapuran Shyam Temple : Sanjay Kaka Jindal



JAITU (JAGDEEP SINGH GILL): The seventh Navratri puja was organized with great pomp and show at Shri Ichhapuran Shyam Mandir, run by the religious organization Shri Shyam Seva Mandal. Famous social workers of Jait, Shri Bharat Bhushan Jindal and Shri Yashpal Jindal, along with their families, participated in the puja today.

Temple President Shri Sanjeev Tinu Sharma and Project Chairman Shri Sanjay Jindal said that the temple priest Shri Chhavinath Tripathi performed various rituals. After the Dandiya dance performance in the night, sankirtan was performed.

Devotees danced on the bhajans sung by Bhajan singer Shri Shalu Sharma. PRO Naresh Mittal said that Acharya Shri Rajneesh Ji, who was the chief guest of Shri Ram Katha being performed at Shri Hanuman Temple, specially reached Shri Ichhapuran Shyam Temple, where he was welcomed by the Makhni and Har members of the temple committee.

After having darshan of Shri Shyam Baba, Acharya Shri Rajneesh Ji visited the Shri Shyam Rasai being constructed at the back of the temple. Acharya Ji appreciated this initiative of the temple committee and blessed all the devotees. Acharya Ji specially honored a young boy Lavish Jindal.

Sandhwan lays foundation stone of urban primary health center at village Tehna at cost of Rs.143 lakhs



KOTKAPURA (SURINDER DAMDAMI): Speaker Punjab Vidhan Sabha Kular Singh Sandhwan laid the foundation stone of the Urban Primary Health Center to be built at a cost of Rs 143 lakh in village Tehna. On this occasion, he said that the Punjab government is committed to providing better and easier health facilities to the people.

He said that with the construction of this health center, the people of the area will get primary health services near them, which will save both time and money. He said that the government is continuously investing heavily in the health sector so that every citizen can get quality health services.

Punjab sets benchmark in large-scale public healthcare delivery; over 30.51 lakh families enrolled under Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojna in under 3 months: Dr Balbir Singh

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 27

Punjab, under the leadership of CM Bhagwant Singh Mann, has set a benchmark in large-scale public healthcare delivery under the Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojna, emerging as a leading model nationally with over 30.51 lakh families enrolled and ₹292 crore worth of free treatment approved within three months of its launch on January 8, 2026.

Highlighting the scale and pace of implementation, Punjab Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Balbir Singh on Friday said the scheme has rapidly translated into real financial relief and healthcare access for lakhs of families across Punjab. Addressing a press conference at Punjab Bhawan, Health Minister Dr Balbir Singh stated, "The scheme has so far registered 30,51,325 beneficiaries and issued 1,77,097 free authorisations for treatment. The total approved value of treatment stands at Rs 292 crore, of which Rs 267 crore has already been approved. We have settled 71,000 claims and disbursed Rs 60 crore to empanelled hospi-



talists." Calling the achievement historic, the Health Minister emphasised that Punjab has outperformed all other states on every key parameter.

"This is a historic day for Punjab. By any parameter, registrations, families covered or patients treated, Punjab is number one," he said. Assuring hospitals on timely payments, Minister Dr Balbir Singh said the Bhagwant Mann Government has put in place a robust mechanism to clear dues. "All pending dues up to March 31 will be cleared by April 15. No hospital will have a single rupee pending from our side," he asserted. He

further outlined the new payment framework coming into effect from April 1. "Claims up to Rs 1 lakh will be settled within 15 days, while bills above Rs 1 lakh will be cleared within a week of submission. In case of disputes or verification requirements, the process will be completed within a month," he said. Highlighting the real impact of the scheme, Minister Dr Balbir Singh said it has already transformed lives across age groups. "Beneficiaries range from a one-year-old infant to a 99-year-old grandmother who received cancer treatment. We have covered complex cardiac procedures, including over 100 heart-related diseases. In one case, a patient with a ruptured sinus was successfully treated at Patiala Medical College under the scheme," he noted. "When the government spends ₹292 crore on treatment, it means that money stays in the pockets of the common man," Dr Balbir Singh added, stating that the State Health Agency, in coordination with United India Insurance, is ensuring seamless delivery of universal healthcare coverage across Punjab.

Crackdown on tobacco tax evasion uncovers Rs 1.5 crore goods without invoice: Cheema

GAURAV GOEL
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 27

Punjab Finance, Planning, Excise and Taxation Minister Harpal Singh Cheema on Friday announced that the Taxation Department has launched a large-scale, coordinated enforcement drive across Punjab to curb tobacco tax evasion, leading to the detection of unaccounted goods estimated at Rs 1.5 crore.

Sharing details of the operation, Minister Harpal Singh Cheema stated, "Following the recent increase in tax rates on tobacco products such as cigarettes, biris, and allied items, the department received specific inputs regarding a surge in tax evasion activities within this sector.

Acting swiftly on this intelligence, teams from four State Investigation and Preventive Units (SIPUs) based in Amritsar, Ludhiana, Patiala, and Jalandhar were mobilized. These units carried out simultaneous inspections at eight different locations, comprising five registered business premises and three oper-



ating entirely without registration." Detailing the findings of the enforcement drive, the Minister stated, "Major detections were made in Ludhiana and Amritsar, where enforcement teams put in significant efforts to identify concealed storage locations and unaccounted stock.

During the thorough inspections of both main shops and associated godowns, substantial quantities of goods were found being stored and traded without valid invoices." He added that the seized

stock includes approximately 1.32 lakh packs of Indian cigarettes, 18,472 packs of Indian biris, 302 packs of zarda, 13 packets and 95 boxes of imported cigarettes, 148 pieces of foreign-made hookah material, 13,000 lighters, and 18 packs of Coolip. Providing the financial assessment, Minister Harpal Singh Cheema stated "A tax liability exceeding ₹50 lakh, along with applicable penalties, will be firmly recovered on the detected goods as per the provisions of the law. An amount of Rs 12 lakh has

already been recovered so far, and further recovery proceedings are actively underway." Reaffirming the Bhagwant Mann Government's zero-tolerance stance on tax evasion, Minister Harpal Singh Cheema said, "Such coordinated enforcement actions will continue unabated to ensure strict tax compliance and safeguard state revenue." He also issued a stern advisory to traders, urging them to maintain proper documentation and strictly adhere to statutory provisions to avoid severe penal action.

Dr Ravjot Singh assumes charge as Jails minister

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 27

Punjab Cabinet Minister Dr. Ravjot Singh on Friday assumed charge as the new Jails Minister at the Punjab Civil Secretariat-1 here.

Soon after taking charge, Dr. Ravjot Singh, who is also handling the portfolios of NRI Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs, expressed gratitude to Party National Convener Arvind Kejriwal and Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann for reposing faith in him. He said he would make every effort to live up to the trust placed in him and discharge his duties with full commitment.

The Cabinet Minister also convened the key meeting with senior officials of the Jails Department to review ongoing works, achievements and future plans of the department. The Minister said that focused efforts will be made to further streamline the functioning of the Jails



Department. He underlined that priority will be given to improving facilities for inmates and strengthening the correctional framework.

He stressed that jails should not merely function as centres of punishment but must evolve into centres of reform, with emphasis on rehabilitation and reintegration.

During the meeting, senior officials of the department made a detailed presentation highlighting ongoing projects, key initiatives and challenges

before the Cabinet Minister. Dr. Ravjot Singh directed the officers to ensure transparency, accountability and strict adherence to human rights while working towards making the prison system modern and efficient.

Prominent amongst others who were present in the meeting included Principal Secretary Bhawna Garg, Secretary Mohammad Tayyab and ADGP Jails Arun Pal Singh along with other senior officers.

MLA Rai visits newly constructed Aam Aadmi clinic

BIKRAMJEET SAHOTA
FAHEGARH SAHIB, MAR 27

MLA Lakhbir Singh Rai visited the newly constructed Aam Aadmi Clinic at Sirhind Mandi. The clinic is scheduled to be inaugurated on March 28 by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and AAP Supremo Arvind Kejriwal.

Speaking to the media on the occasion, MLA Rai stated that under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, the Punjab Government has established 881 Mohalla Clinics across the state so far, benefiting lakhs of people. He highlighted that these clinics provide free medical

check-ups by doctors, along with 48 types of blood tests at no cost. Free medicines are also made available, and even registration is completely free of charge. He further added that the Punjab Government is providing health insurance coverage of up to Rs 10 lakh per family under the Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme, ensuring that economically weaker sections are not deprived of proper treatment. MLA Rai said that more Mohalla Clinics will be set up across the state in the coming days. He described the newly built clinic at Sirhind Mandi as a modern and well-equipped facility.

Shiromani Akali Dal circle Dharamkot meeting held



MOGA (JAGRAJ SINGH SANGHA): After the former in-charge of Shiromani Akali Dal constituency Dharamkot, Sardar Barjinder Singh Makhan Brar, left the party, the Dharamkot constituency in-charge has been lying idle. In this regard, the workers and office bearers of Dharamkot constituency are putting forward their demands from time to time. In this regard, an important meeting of all the circle presidents of Dharamkot constituency of Shiromani Akali Dal was held today.

During the meeting, while discussing, the circle presidents said that we are all working day and night for the progress of Shiromani Akali Dal, but Dharamkot has become leaderless due to the absence of a constituency in-charge. On this occasion, through the present Shiromani Akali Dal district president Sardar Nihal Singh Bhullar, they strongly appealed to party president Sardar Sukhbir Singh Badal and said that Dharamkot constituency is lying idle due to the absence of a constituency in-charge. They appealed to the party president to appoint a president from within the constituency as soon as possible. We do not accept any outside candidate. On this occasion, Shiromani Akali Dal District President Sardar Nihal Singh Bhullar thanked all the circle presidents present in the meeting and assured them that he would convey their demand to the party president Sardar Sukhbir Singh Badal.

SAD holds key meeting for Punjab bachao rally in Chabbewal



DALJEET AJNOHA
HOSHIARPUR, MARCH 27

In a significant gathering at the party office in Thandal village, Hoshiarpur district, Shiromani Akali Dal (Badal) general secretary and former cabinet minister Sohan Singh Thandal convened a meeting with local office-bearers ahead of the Punjab Bachao Rally scheduled for April 3, 2026 (Friday) at 10 AM at Sandhu Farm in the Chabbewal assembly segment.

Thandal urged the sangat (devotees and supporters) to attend in large numbers to strengthen the party's cam-

paign. Prominent attendees included Ravinder Singh Thandal, Master Rachpal Singh Jalwehra, Jaswinder Singh Nangal Thandal, Jasvir Singh Bhatti Nadalon, Jarnail Singh Khalsa Nadalon, Gurbir Singh Dandian, Jarnail Singh Khalsa Baddon, Master Harbajan Singh Ajnoha, Sarvinder Singh Thinda, Paramjit Singh Rakkar, Tarlok Singh Tardarpur, Kuldeep Singh Ajnoha, Daljit Singh Baddon, Hardeep Singh Khalsa Baddon, Narinder Singh Baddon, Jasvir Singh Hedria, Gurnam Singh Toderpur, Surinder Singh Baddon, Kamaljit Singh Badla etc.

DC assures uninterrupted supply of petrol, diesel & LPG in Sangrur

SUMER GARG
SANGRUR, MAR 27

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Sangrur, Rahul Chaba, has clarified that the supply of petrol, diesel, and LPG in the district remains regular and uninterrupted. He stated that the district administration has taken note of certain rumors circulating among the public due to the prevailing international situation. These rumors have led to unnecessary panic regarding the availability of fuel. "It has come to our notice that misinformation is being spread about a possible shortage of petrol, diesel, and LPG. However, there is no deficiency of these essential commodities," the DC said. He further assured that adequate stocks are available at all petrol pumps across the district and that supply chains are functioning smoothly without any



disruption. Appealing to the public, the DC urged citizens not to believe in rumors or indulge in hoarding. "Unnecessary stocking can lead to congestion and inconvenience for others. The administration is closely monitoring the situation and will take immediate action if required," he added.

The public has been requested to maintain calm and extend full cooperation to the district administration. District Food Supply Controller Gurpreet Singh Kang, IOC Senior Manager Vinay Agarwal, and Kuljit Kumar were also present on the occasion.

Punjab Women's Commission committed to resolve issues, chairperson Raj Lali Gill

ANIL VERMA
BATHINDA, MARCH 27

Chairperson of Punjab State Women's Commission, Madam Raj Lali Gill today held a Lok Adalat at the Police Meeting Hall and listened to the complaints of women.

During this Lok Adalat, hearings were conducted for 35 cases, out of which 20 cases were received on the spot. Of these, 50 percent of the cases were disposed of right on the spot. Instructions were given to the concerned officials to ensure swift and appropriate disposal of the remaining cases at the earliest.

While hearing these cases, Women's Commission Chairperson Madam Raj Lali Gill directed the investigating officers to complete investigations as quickly as possible while staying within the legal framework. She instructed



that justice be ensured for the aggrieved parties. She added that commission is working with utmost commitment to safeguard women's rights.

On this occasion, the Chairperson said that the Women's Commission is holding Lok Adalats in every district to resolve the problems faced by women. She added that not every aggrieved woman can reach the Women's Commis-

sion office located in Mohali. To help out distressed women, the commission is holding district level lok adalats.

Many problems are being resolved on the spot. She said that while action is ensured against the guilty, efforts are also being made to find a meaningful solution to matrimonial disputes so that matters do not reach divorce.

Desh Bhagat University celebrates World Water Day with focus on water and gender

AJAY MALHOTRA
FAHEGARH SAHIB, MAR 27

The Science Club of the Faculty of Engineering Technology and Computing, Department of Applied Sciences at Desh Bhagat University, organized a meaningful event to celebrate World Water Day, aiming to raise awareness about the global water crisis and promote sustainable water practices. The theme for 2026, "Water and Gender," highlighted the critical link between water access and gender equality, especially its impact on women and girls worldwide.

The event was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chancellor Dr. Zora Singh, Hon'ble Pro-Chancellor Dr. Tajinder Kaur and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Harsh Sadawarti and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) cum Dean



Engineering Dr. Butta Singh. Addressing the gathering, the dignitaries emphasized the urgent need for water conservation and encouraged students to adopt responsible practices for a sustainable future. Around 250 students from the University School of Engineering and Applied Sciences actively participated in various competitions, including chart making, model/project making and speech/PPT presenta-

tions. An expert talk was also organized, delivered virtually by Dr. Dhruva Kumar, Assistant Professor, Guru Nanak College, Budhlada. He shared valuable insights on water conservation techniques and urged everyone to pledge towards saving water.

Winners were awarded trophies, medals, and certificates, while all participants received participation certificates.

Rajneesh Sharma elected President of Bharat Vikas Parishad Chhatwal branch

SHARANJEET
PATHANKOT, MARCH 27

The annual election of Bharat Vikas Parishad, Chhatwal branch, was held at Bharat Vikas Parishad Bhawan, Defence Colony, Chhatwal, under the supervision of State Observer Sunil Chopra.

Rajneesh Sharma was unanimously elected President, Manisha Sharma Secretary and Amarjeet Singh Treasurer.

The meeting was conducted by Manisha Sharma, while Rajneesh Sharma welcomed the members present. Kulbhushan Kumar briefed the members about the activities of Bharat Vikas Parishad Arogya Kendra at Defence Colony.

Those present on the occasion included Regional



President Sushil Sharma, Election Observer Sunil Chopra, Provincial Activity Coordinator Kulbhushan Kumar, Sanjeev Sharma, Rajneesh Sharma, Manisha Sharma, Amarjeet Singh, Rajinder Kumar, Surjit Singh, Pawan Sharma, Hari Singh, Gopeshwar Sharma, Akhileshwar Sharma,

Kuldeep Guleria, Vishnu Sharma and Mahinder Singh. Regional President Sushil Sharma congratulated the newly elected office-bearers, while Election Observer Sunil Chopra appreciated the social work being carried out by the branch. Amarjeet Singh presented the vote of thanks.

NBF celebrates Navratri with divyangjan under MAS



SUMER GARG
CHANDIGARH, MAR 27

On the auspicious occasion of Chaitra Navratri and Ram Navami, Navya Bharat Foundation (NBF), under its 'Mission Aparna Shakti (MAS)', celebrated the sacred festival with disabled persons (Divyangjan) children at Samarth Jiyo Ashram, Sector 15. During the event, Kanjak Poojan (worship of young girls as forms of Goddess Durga) was performed. Prasad was distributed among all the children, and essential items such as stationery and other necessities were donated. On the occasion, Dr. Anirudh Uniyal, Founder and National President of NBF, said that these children are divine souls blessed by God. He emphasized the importance of protecting girls and ensuring their holistic development through initiatives like Kanjak Poojan. National Vice President and Co-founder Simran Kaur, National Social Media Coordinator Rishabh Mishra, and Ashram Coordinator Meena Sharma, along with other team members, were also present.

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA: In a commendable step towards social welfare, the Rotary Club Una is organizing a free eye check-up camp for vehicle drivers on Sunday, March 29, 2026. The camp will be held from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM near the Truck Union Una, close to the Employment Office. The initiative aims to provide free eye examinations and consultations not only to drivers but also to needy people in the area. A team of experienced doctors will conduct eye check-ups using modern equipment, and

patients will be given proper advice along with guidance for further treatment if required. Rotary Club Una President Yashpal Thakur (2025-26) said that the club continues to play an active role in social service, and this camp is part of its ongoing efforts. He urged residents to participate in large numbers and take advantage of the facility. Club Secretary Ranjit Singh Jaswal informed that expert ophthalmologist Dr. Anil Kakade from Rotary Eye Hospital, Dhusara, will provide his services during the camp.

NEWS BRIEF

BJP Mahila Morcha leader welcomes excise duty cut on petrol, diesel

RAJNEESH SHARMA
HAMIRPUR: BJP Mahila Morcha district president Archana Chauhan has welcomed the Centre's decision to reduce excise duty on petrol and diesel, describing it as a significant step in public interest. She said rising crude oil prices in the international market, particularly due to geopolitical tensions, had put pressure on fuel prices in the country, and the government's decision would provide much-needed relief to citizens. Sharing details, Chauhan stated that excise duty on petrol has been reduced from Rs. 13 to Rs. 3 per litre, while on diesel it has been cut from Rs. 10 to zero. She said the move would directly benefit consumers by lowering fuel prices.

Vigilance probe into Himcare, health purchases spark political clash in Assembly

AGENCY SHIMLA, MAR 27

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Friday said the state government has ordered a vigilance probe into alleged irregularities in health-related purchases and the Himcare scheme, asserting that the opposition BJP was "in panic" after the inquiry was initiated.

Intervening during the Budget session of the Assembly, the Chief Minister said Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur had himself flagged the alleged bungling in health purchases, which would now be thoroughly investigated.

"We have conducted an internal audit. Around Rs 120 crore under Rishi Kalyan Samitis (RKS) and Himcare frauds have taken place and



nearly Rs 1,100 crore in payments, are under scrutiny. Vigilance proceedings have already been initiated," he said. He added that the government would also widen the probe to examine other suspected irregularities in procurement of medicines and medical equipment.

Minister maintained that while the Himcare scheme itself would not be discontinued, reforms were on the anvil. "We are working on changes to improve the scheme. Empanelment of hospitals will now be ensured four times a year to enhance transparency and efficiency," he said. The issue triggered sharp exchanges in the Assembly, with the Opposition attempting to raise points of order during the proceedings. Sukhu criticised the move, saying interventions should be confined to post-question hour or zero hour and accused the Opposition of disrupting members while they were speaking. Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania ruled that question hour forms part of the official record and that protests lodged by the Opposition would not be included.

Himachal ushers in 'One District, Three Products', benefitting rural economy

BUREAU SHIMLA, MAR 27



In a first-of-its-kind initiative across India, the Government of Himachal Pradesh has taken a lead to introduce "One district three products" Plan in its budget of 2026. This initiative is aimed at revitalising the rural economy thereby promoting local empowerment and unlocking the real commercial potential of local products. Under this initiative, three signature products from each district, based on their market potential shall be identified and thereafter working towards strengthening value chain, smarter branding and packaging, enhancing access to market for achieving higher return on investment for the local manufacturers. Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu

stated, "The vision of our government is to make Himachal self-reliant and One district three products will play a significant role in revitalising state's rural economy thereby working towards achieving our government vision". Industries Minister Harshwardhan Chauhan said, "The initiative would unlock district-level strengths, while creating sustainable livelihoods and providing a market platform to Himachal's unique products." A wide basket of products agriculture, horticulture, handicrafts will be brought under its ambit, such as turmeric, ginger, maize, shawls, spices, Kangra tea, paintings, honey, chulli oil and yak wool etc. each representing the State's diverse agro-climatic and cultural landscape.

BJP hails fuel duty cut, slams Himachal government's proposed cess

ASHISH KUMAR KULLU, MAR 27

Welcoming the reduction in excise duty on petrol and diesel announced by the Modi-led Central Government, Akhilesh Kapoor, the State Spokesperson for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), described the move as a "shield of relief" for the people of the country. In a press release issued here he stated that while Prime Minister Modi is consistently taking concrete measures to protect the common people from inflation amidst a global crisis, the Congress government in Himachal Pradesh is, conversely, working to inflict the "sting of inflation" upon the public. Akhilesh Kapoor noted that due to rising tensions in West Asia, the international market is witnessing a massive surge in crude oil



prices, with rates poised to cross the \$120 per barrel mark. In such challenging times, the Modi government has slashed the excise duty on petrol by 710—bringing it down to a mere 73—while the excise duty on diesel has been completely abolished. He asserted that this decision brings significant relief to the country's common citizens, farmers, horticulturists, the transport sector, and the middle class, and serves as a testament to the Prime Minister's

unwavering commitment to public welfare.

Launching a scathing attack on the Himachal Pradesh Congress government, he pointed out that—contrary to the Centre's decision—the State Government is preparing to impose a new cess of 25 per liter on petrol and diesel through the 'VAT Amendment Bill 2026'. He alleged that this move is designed to completely nullify the relief provided by the Central Government and constitutes a direct attempt to place an additional financial burden on the pockets of the common people.

He further added that the implementation of this cess would cause petrol and diesel prices in Himachal Pradesh to rise above those in neighboring states, thereby negatively impacting the transport and tourism industries.

People of HP likely to pay same charges for petrol and diesel despite excise duty

AGENCY SHIMLA, MAR 27

Despite the union Government effecting a central excise duty cut on petrol and diesel with immediate effect, consumers in Himachal Pradesh unlikely to have any major relief from the duty cut as the state government is considering a separate welfare cess on fuel in the state. According to a notification issued by the Finance Ministry on Friday, the Centre has amended excise duty rates through notification (No. 05/2026) Central Excise. As per the notification, excise duty on petrol has been revised to Rs 3 per litre, while the duty on diesel has been reduced to nil. The notification also clarified that the revised duty structure will not apply to petroleum products meant for export and has come into force with immediate effect. The move is aimed at easing the burden on consumers amid persistent inflationary



pressures and fluctuating global crude oil prices. The reduction is expected to translate into a slight decrease in retail fuel prices across the country. In contrast, the Himachal Pradesh Government, in its recently passed Finance Bill, has proposed the introduction of an "Orphan and Widow Welfare Cess" on petrol and diesel, ranging between Rs 2 and Rs 3 per litre. However, the proposed cess has not yet been notified and is currently not in effect. Officials indicated that

the proposed cess is intended to create a dedicated fund for the welfare of vulnerable sections, particularly orphans and widows, in the state. The hill state, facing fiscal constraints and high welfare expenditure, is exploring additional revenue avenues to sustain social sector commitments. Experts observe that if the state proceeds with the proposed levy, it could offset the relief provided by the Centre's excise duty cut, resulting in minimal net benefit for consumers in Himachal Pradesh.

Deputy CM attends Baba Sahib Singh Bedi birth anniversary event in Una



KISHORI LAL BAINS

UNA: A three-day religious gathering marking the birth anniversary of Baba Sahib Singh Bedi began with devotion and joy at the historic Kila Baba Bedi Sahib in Una on Thursday. Himachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri attended the event, paid obeisance, and sought blessings along with the devotees. He was warmly welcomed by the management committee and devotees upon his arrival at the shrine. During the visit, he also met Baba Sarvyot Singh Bedi, a descendant of Guru Nanak Dev, and discussed the significance of the organisation as well as the region's development and prosperity. Agnihotri said that Baba Sahib Singh Bedi holds a glorious place in history, noting that he had performed the coronation of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. He added that it is a matter of pride for Una and the state that descendants of Guru Nanak Dev reside in the region. Highlighting the legacy of Baba Sahib Singh Bedi, he said the revered figure, credited with the establishment of Una town, continues to be worshipped as its protector. He added that such religious gatherings promote harmony, peace, and social cohesion. According to organisers, the three-day event is being held under the guidance of Baba Sarvyot Singh Bedi, with arrangements overseen by Baba Amarjyot Singh Bedi.

Training on nutrition and education at Child Development Project, Amb



AVINASH CHAUHAN

AMB: Under the Integrated Child Development Project Amb of the Social Justice and Empowerment Department, Himachal Pradesh, a three-day training on Nutrition and Education was organized on 26, 27 and 28 March at the Child Development Project Officer Amb office. In this camp, Child Development Project Amb Officer Sandeep Chauhan, Circle Sapori Supervisor Kamaljeet, Circle Amb Supervisor Kulwinder Saini, Circle Kalruhi Supervisor Pawan Kumar, Circle Chintpurni Supervisor Poonam Kumari, Circle Churudu Supervisor Kunta Devi, District Coordinator Manzoor Khan, Block Coordinator Matul Kumar gave information about the two basic pillars of Nutrition and Education, Navchetna and Aadhar Shila. Dr. Monica from the Ayurvedic Department participated in this training. She informed about 100 Anganwadi workers of Amb Block about malnutrition, diarrhea and nutritious diet. In this program, Dr. Rohit made Anganwadi workers aware about the basic concept of nutrition and made people aware about the importance of spectacles and nutrition and education.

Bindal praises fuel duty cut, criticizes Himachal's proposed Rs. 5 cess

DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA, MAR 27

BJP Himachal Pradesh President Dr. Rajeev Bindal on Thursday lauded the Central Government's decision to sharply reduce excise duties on petrol and diesel, terming it a "historic and people-centric move" that will provide major relief to citizens.

Referring to the Gazette Notification issued on March 26, 2026, Bindal said excise duty on petrol has been reduced from Rs. 13 per litre to Rs. 3, while diesel duty has been brought down from Rs. 10 per litre to zero. He stated that the move would directly benefit nearly 1.4 billion people and help in controlling inflation amid rising global crude oil prices.



Citing ongoing tensions in West Asia, he said the decision reflects the Centre's commitment to shielding citizens from international price pressures. Bindal also highlighted that export duties have been imposed on diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) to ensure adequate domestic supply and maintain price stability.

Praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership,

he said the government continues to prioritize public welfare and ease of living despite global economic challenges.

Targeting the Congress-led Himachal Pradesh government, Bindal alleged that while the Centre is providing relief, the state is planning to impose a cess of up to Rs. 5 per litre on petrol and diesel, which would burden the common man. He warned that such a move would impact farmers, transporters, traders and consumers.

Drawing a contrast between the two governments, Bindal said the BJP would strongly oppose any "anti-people" decision and continue to raise public concerns both on the streets and in the Assembly.

Governor releases brochure of Shiksha Mahakumbh 2026

DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA, MAR 27

Governor Kavinder Gupta today released the brochure of the sixth edition of Shiksha Mahakumbh 2026, published by the Samagra Shiksha Department of Vidya Bharati Training and Research Institute at Lok Bhawan. Shiksha Mahakumbh 2026 will be organized on October 9 and 10, 2026, at National Institute of Technology Hamirpur under the joint aegis of NIT Hamirpur and the Samagra Shiksha Department. Institutions funded by the Central and State Governments from Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir will collaborate in the event. Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said that initiatives



like Shiksha Mahakumbh play a vital role in shaping new directions for the future of education. Appreciating the efforts of the Samagra Shiksha Department of Vidya Bharati, he said that the organization is working towards promoting India-centric education. He emphasized that the objective of such initiatives is not merely to make education a means of acquiring degrees, but to transform it into a foundation for personality development, nation-building

and holistic growth. Gupta stated that research, innovation and the integration of India's knowledge traditions into modern contexts form the core philosophy of Shiksha Mahakumbh. He noted that five successful editions of the event have already been organized at various National Institutes of Technology across the country, and these gatherings have collectively strengthened the foundation of India's academic resurgence.

TRAI raises awareness on telecom service quality at Shoolini University, Solan

SHANTI GAUTAM BADDI/ SOLAN, MAR 27

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), Regional Office Delhi, organized a Consumer Outreach Programme on Quality of Service (QoS) in the telecom and broadcasting sector at Shoolini University, Solan. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 200 attendees, including students, university staff, members of TRAI-registered consumer organisations, telecom service providers, and local consumers. TRAI officials, Rajesh Tripathi, Joint Advisor, and Sushil Kumar Bansal, Senior Research Officer, conducted informative sessions focusing on improving telecom and broadcasting services. They also addressed the rising



threat of cyber fraud, sharing practical tips to help consumers protect themselves. Representatives from leading telecom operators—Airtel, BSNL, Jio, and Vodafone Idea—shared insights on service improvements and customer support initiatives. During the programme, TRAI's DND (Do Not Disturb) and MySpeed mobile applications were highlighted as useful tools for consumers. Many participants downloaded these apps on the spot, reflecting

their willingness to actively tackle unsolicited commercial communications (UCC). Key topics discussed included QoS regulations in telecom and broadcasting, drive tests, in-building connectivity solutions, building rating frameworks, and Right of Way (RoW) rules. The programme proved successful in enhancing consumer awareness about their rights and responsibilities, while promoting the use of digital tools for a safer and improved telecom experience.

Appeal to teach Congress govt lesson in Panchayat Elections

SANJAY AGGARWAL DHARAMSHALA, MAR 27

State BJP Vice President and MLA Pawan Kajal announced that a new drinking water scheme, costing Rs. 11.51 crore, is being constructed for the villages of Ansohi and Bhadwar; once completed, it will ensure the provision of adequate drinking water to every household in both villages. This drinking water project is being executed under the 'MLA Priority Scheme 2021'. As part of this initiative, two new water storage tanks and tube wells are being installed. Additionally, a new 12-kilometer pipeline will be laid to deliver water to every home. Kajal made these remarks on Thursday while speaking in Ansohi village during the 'Your MLA at Your Doorstep' program. Kajal



further stated that, under the MLA Priority Scheme, adequate drinking water would also be made available to the residents of neighboring villages—Mator, Kot Kwala, Nandehar, and Sahora—through the installation of three new tube wells at a cost of Rs.5.16 crore. Kajal also appealed to the local residents to enroll their children in the Government Degree College. He noted that the Government Degree College in Mator was established for the convenience of the local

population, and its new building is set to become operational shortly. The college will thrive—and undergo expansion—only if there is a sufficient number of enrolled students; ensuring this is a responsibility that rests with the local community. Kajal criticized the Congress party for failing to fulfill its election promise to provide Rs.1,500 per month to women. He also appealed to the villagers to teach the Congress government a lesson in the upcoming Panchayat elections.

HPV vaccine is very safe and effective: Dr Sanjeev Kumar



KISHORI LAL BAINS

UNA: While addressing to the media persons here at Regional Hospital Una on Friday, Dr Sanjeev Verma Chief Medical Officer said that the HPV Vaccine is very safe and effective for the girls. So girls don't have need to panic about the HPV Vaccine. So girls age between 14 to 15 should be taken this HPV Vaccine dose on coming March 29, April 5 and April 12. Dr Sanjeev Verma CMO added that more than Four Thousand and Five hundred girls expected to take this HPV Vaccine dose in the entire district and about to One Thousand girls registered already. Dr Sanjeev Verma and that 27 HPV vaccination centres have made throughout the Una district. Hello said that this is the project of Central Government of India. Dr Richa also described thoroughly about this vaccine on this occasion.

**HANS RAJ YADAV
KURUKSHETRA :**
Inspired by Brahm Swaroop Brahmachari Ji, Supreme Head of the Shri Jayaram Institutions, a vibrant Result-cum-Graduation Ceremony was organized at D.S.B. International Public School, Niwarsi, for students of Bal



Vatika and Classes I-III. The event began with a warm welcome to parents, followed by a delightful ramp walk by the young students that showcased their confidence and charm, winning the hearts of the audience. A specially curated slideshow highlighted the students' journey and overall development during the academic session. The school also organised a STEM activity and workshop, reflecting its focus on experiential learning and giving parents insight into modern teaching methods.

NEWS BRIEF

No shortage of domestic LPG gas cylinders:

Hemraj Bairwa
SANJAY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA, DC Kangra,
Hemraj Bairwa, while providing an update here today, stated that there is absolutely no shortage of domestic LPG gas cylinders in the district. Currently, LPG gas cylinders are available in adequate quantities, and the supply mechanism is operating completely smoothly. He noted that, in recent days, international developments—specifically the ongoing tensions and reports of conflict between Iran and Israel—have created a situation of unnecessary anxiety and confusion among the general public. Consequently, consumers are panic-buying LPG cylinders in advance, leading to a sudden surge in demand. He explained that, under normal circumstances, the district consumes approximately 7,500 to 7,700 domestic LPG cylinders per day. However, as of March 10, 2026, this consumption has unnecessarily risen to between 9,000 and 10,000 cylinders per day—a result solely of additional bookings driven by panic, rather than any actual shortage. The District Administration wishes to clarify that the supply of LPG gas is fully controlled and sufficient. Cylinders are being supplied to all gas agencies on a regular basis, and there are no disruptions in the distribution system.

HPSEB warns of power disconnection over unpaid bills

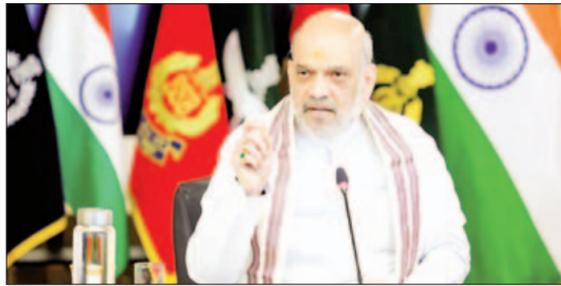
AVINASH CHAUHAN
AMB: The Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Limited's subdivision, Nehria, has issued a stern warning to electricity consumers. Assistant Engineer E. Ashish Dhimani issued a press note stating that many consumers in the subdivision have long-standing electricity bills. He said that consumers who have not yet paid their electricity bills should do so by March 30. Consumers who fail to pay their bills by the due date will have their electricity connections disconnected without further notice. The press note also clarified that consumers will have to pay an additional fee of around Rs 500 to get the connection restored. The Electricity Board appealed to all consumers to pay their bills on time to avoid inconvenience.

Brings much-needed relief to citizens: Amit Shah hails excise duty cut on fuels

**AGENCY
NEW DELHI, MAR 27**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi after the Centre slashed excise duty on petrol and diesel. Taking it to X, Shah said that the step is people-centric, underlining the prevailing situation of fuel shortage across the world due to the West Asia crisis. "As the world is reeling under fuel shortages amid the West Asia crisis, driving up prices globally, the Modi government's decision to cut excise duty on fuel brings much-needed relief to citizens. While many nations have hiked diesel and petrol prices, the Modi govt's decision to reduce excise duty underscores its people-centric governance and sensitivity-led decision-making."

Kudos to PM @narendramodi for this decision," Shah wrote. External Affairs Minister S



Jaishankar also commended the Prime Minister for the significant reduction in the excise duty of the fuel supplies, highlighting that it aims to safeguard the affordability of the fuel among citizens."

A swift and decisive intervention by PM @narendramodi to shield 1.4 billion Indians from global price and supply shocks amid the #WestAsia crisis impacting energy

& commodity markets. Central excise duty on petrol & diesel for domestic consumption cut by Rs 10/litre each, cushioning consumers from rising prices.

Export duties imposed: Rs 21.5/litre on diesel & Rs 29.5/litre on Aviation Turbine Fuel, ensuring adequate domestic availability. A #CitizenFirst approach to safeguard affordability and #EaseOfLiving," he wrote on

X. The remarks come after the Central government reduced excise duty on petrol to Rs 3 per litre and brought it down to zero for diesel, as per a Gazette notification issued under the provisions of the Central Excise Act, 1944. Additionally, a windfall tax of Rs 21.5 per litre has been imposed on diesel exports.

The decision follows escalating tensions in West Asia, particularly the ongoing conflict involving the United States, Israel, and Iran, which has led to a blockade of the Strait of Hormuz—a crucial route that handles nearly one-fifth of the world's crude oil supply. Before the crisis, India sourced around 12-15% of its oil imports through this route. While the duty cut is expected to ease pressure on oil marketing companies facing losses due to surging crude prices, retail prices of petrol and diesel have remained unchanged so far.

Delays and negligence in development works will not be tolerated: MP Naveen Jindal



**RANVIR PARASHAR
KAITHAL, MAR 27**

Meeting of District Development, Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) was held in auditorium of Mini Secretariat under chairmanship of MP Naveen Jindal. Detailed review was conducted regarding progress, implementation and beneficiary outreach of various public welfare schemes initiated by both Central and State governments. Primary objective of meeting was to assess ground-level status of these schemes and to ensure that their benefits effectively reach all eligible individuals. Additionally, a report detailing actions taken in response to directives issued during previous meeting was presented.

Jindal emphasized that officials from all departments must work in close coordination with one another. He directed them to conduct on-field inspections to monitor ongoing works and to ensure timely completion of all pending projects. He further asserted that under no circumstances should there be any compromise on quality of any construction work undertaken. Officials were instructed to ensure that benefits of all government schemes reach last person in line most marginalized individual. He also stated that if officials encounter any technical hurdles in the implementation of any project, they must immediately bring matter to attention of either himself or District Deputy Commissioner.

Record property tax collection in Karnal, crosses Rs 29 crore

**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, MAR 27**

The Karnal Municipal Corporation has set a new record in property tax collection. The corporation has collected over Rs 29 crore in the 2025-26 fiscal year. This achievement, surpassing the target of Rs 27 crore, reflects the active participation and responsibility of the city's citizens. In this context, Karnal Mayor Renu Bala Gupta expressed her gratitude to all Karnal residents, saying that the citizens have set a new example by paying more taxes than expected. She appealed to all consumers to pay all their outstanding property taxes by March 31, 2026, to avoid the 18 percent annual interest and other



penalties. The Mayor stated that the Municipal Corporation administration has made extensive arrangements to facilitate tax payment. Payment facilities are available daily at six counters in the corporation office, while consumers can also easily pay taxes online through the state government's portal. She added that timely payment

can help citizens avoid unnecessary financial burdens. She informed that the state government has already announced the implementation of an interest waiver scheme on property tax arrears and an official notification is expected soon. She expressed confidence that the scheme's implementation will provide significant relief to thousands of city consumers. She expressed special gratitude to the Haryana government and Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini for this initiative. Municipal officials said they have intensified the recovery drive and initiated action against major defaulters. Notices are being issued, and property attachments may also be considered for those who fail to pay on time.

AIIMS Bilaspur launches BLOSSOM, marking new era of creativity



**AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY
BILASPUR:**

In a moment that beautifully blended intellect with imagination, AIIMS Bilaspur proudly unveiled the first edition of its literary magazine BLOSSOM, marking a significant milestone in the institute's cultural and creative journey. The grand inauguration ceremony stood as a testament to the vibrant spirit and hidden talents of its faculty, students, and staff. The visionary initiative, conceptualized by Executive Director of AIIMS Bilaspur Lt Gen Dr Daljit Singh, AVSM, VSM (Retd), and nurtured under the guidance of Dean (Academics), Dr Rupali Parlewar, reflects the institute's commitment to fostering holistic growth beyond academics. AIIMS Registrar Dr Rakesh Singh told in a release that the prestigious unveiling was carried out by the Hon'ble President of AIIMS Bilaspur, Dr. Narendra Kumar Arora, in the esteemed presence of senior dignitaries including Dr. Anupam Parashar, Dr. Nidhi Puri, Dr. Dinesh Verma, Lt Col Vishwas P. Paranjpe, and Prof. Dr. Sanjay Vikrant, among others. Addressing the gathering, the dignitaries lauded the dedication and creative brilliance of the contributors and editorial team. They emphasized that platforms like BLOSSOM not only encourage artistic expression but also nurture empathy, imagination, and effective communication—qualities essential for future healthcare leaders.

All Haryana Power Corporation Workers' Union discusses grievances and demands



**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL:**

During a meeting of Naval Sub-Unit of All Haryana Power Corporation Workers' Union, demands and grievances of employees were discussed. Strong emphasis was placed on demand to regularize services of employees engaged through Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam and those working on DC rates. Meeting was presided over by President Rohit Sharma, while Secretary Bagh Singh conducted proceedings. It was announced during meeting that gherao would be staged outside residence of Power Minister on May 20. Rohit Sharma and Bagh Singh stated that government is attempting to privatize Power Corporation. They asserted that this move is anti-public and anti-employee in nature. They warned that privatization would lead to a drastic hike in electricity tariffs, potentially depriving common man of access to electricity and would result in loss of employees' jobs.

Havan ceremony held at St. Lawrence International School, Vyasapur

**RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR, MAR 27**

A sacred Havan ceremony was conducted at St. Lawrence International School, Shahpur Road, Vyasapur on the auspicious occasion of Ram Navami. The ritual was performed with proper Vedic procedures under the guidance of Pandit Tribhuvan Pandey, filling the entire campus with spiritual vibrations and positive energy. The occasion became even more special with the first visit of Mrs. Harshita Sehgal, daughter-in-law of Chairperson Dr. Rajni Sehgal and Chairman Dr. M.K. Sehgal, after her marriage to Mr. Naman Sehgal. She was warmly welcomed by the school management and presented with a token of appreciation. Students, teachers, and staff collectively



offered prayers for peace, prosperity, and progress. Students also took a pledge to follow the path of truth, discipline, and hard work in their lives. In his message, eminent educationist Dr. M.K. Sehgal emphasized that education is not limited to academics but plays a vital role in shaping character and personality. He encouraged students to remain disciplined, focused, and dedicated to their goals while maintaining a

balance between modern knowledge and moral values. Chairperson Dr. Rajni Sehgal, in her inspiring address, motivated students to stay positive, confident, and resilient in every situation, highlighting the importance of values and leadership in life. The ceremony concluded with motivating words by Pandit Tribhuvan Pandey, followed by the distribution of sacred offerings in a peaceful and harmonious atmosphere.

Dr. Ashok Kumar Verma conferred with Mandal's highest honor

**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, MAR 27**

Dr. Ashok Kumar Verma, a resident of Karnal, has been honored with the "Manav Mitra" (Friend of Humanity) award in recognition of his commendable and outstanding services. The Manav Mitra Mandal is the only organization in Haryana that, from time to time, bestows the Manav Mitra award upon distinguished individuals dedicated to the service of the nation. In keeping with this tradition, the Manav Mitra Mandal selected Dr. Ashok Kumar Verma for the "Manav Mitra Award." Dr. Bhartendu Harish, President of the Manav Mitra Mandal, stated that Dr. Ashok Kumar Verma is the only officer currently serving in the Haryana Police who is rendering exceptional services



in the field of blood donation. Since 1989, alongside raising public awareness regarding blood donation, he has personally donated blood 182 times, platelets 89 times, and plasma once. By organizing 583 voluntary blood donation camps, he has helped save the lives of 62,763 people through the collection of 20,921 units of blood. As part of the anti-drug campaign, he travels across Haryana on a bicycle. Under the drug-free awareness campaign in Haryana, he has conducted over 3,500

programs against substance abuse, through which he has not only raised awareness among more than 1.8 million people but has also administered pledges to them. He has performed the commendable task of helping over 576 individuals overcome drug addiction. During the cycle rallies organized by the Haryana Government in 2023 and 2025, he led the police contingent from the front during the 'Cyclothon,' thereby spreading the message of a drug-free society.

Absconding accused nabbed



**RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR:**

District Police are currently conducting a special drive to apprehend absconding accused persons and bail jumpers. Acting under directives of Superintendent of Police Kamaldeep Goyal in this regard, Proclaimed Offender Staff team has achieved yet another significant success. Team has arrested an accused individual who had been declared a proclaimed offender by court and has subsequently produced him before court for further legal proceedings. Providing details on matter, a police spokesperson stated that a special team was constituted under leadership of Inspector Jagbir Singh, In-charge of the PO Staff. This team comprised ASI Ashwani, Head Constables Sandeep, Bijender, and Mahavir, as well as Woman Constable Sonia. Through a concerted effort and acting on a tip-off, team successfully arrested an absconding accused—identified as Sahil alias Babu, son of Anil Kumar, a resident of Durga Garden, Jagadhri.

INLD slams govt over encroachment drives, demands relief for poor

**MAHENDER GOYAL
HISAR:**

INLD State Secretary Dalbir Kirmara said that there was a contradiction between the central and state governments' claims of providing employment to the unemployed and shelter to every citizen. The needy and unemployed are bearing the brunt of this government's duplicitous policies. The government should amend these policies to provide relief to the public. Dalbir Kirmara said that various government departments such as HUDA, Town Planning, Municipal Corporation, Municipal Council and Municipalities, launch campaigns in the name of removing illegal encroachments. It's important to first consider why and under whose patronage these illegal encroachments spread. The officials and employees responsible for the illegal encroachments have, by any means, been negligent in their work, and now the consequences of their negligence are being borne by either those who earn their living by setting up stalls or those who have built their own houses. On one hand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is saying that selling pakodas is also a form of employment, yet when an unemployed or needy person sets up a stall or tries to feed his family by selling pakodas or selling food. He is not only ruthlessly removed by the relevant departments but his stall is also destroyed. Destroying months of his earnings in a minute cannot be considered humanitarian at all.



Compost Crunch: MC inspection finds multiple hotels without waste pits

**RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR, MAR 27**

The Yamunanagar Municipal Corporation has intensified its preparations for the SwachhSurvekshan 2025. As part of this initiative, the corporation team inspected various hotels, resorts, marriage palaces and clubs in the city that fall under the BWG (Bulk Waste Generator) category. The primary objective of this campaign is to ensure scientific disposal of wet waste and waste segregation at the source. Following the instructions of Municipal Commissioner Mahabir Prasad, an inspection team was formed under the guidance of Additional Municipal Commissioner Dheeraj Kumar to inspect the BWG



establishments. The team included sanitation inspectors Sushil Sharma, Pankaj Kumar, Pradeep Dahiya, and Sachin Kamboj, along with Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) expert Durgesh Kumar and Raman Kumar and Ravi Kumar from the processing agency. On Friday, the team visited

prominent establishments in the city, including Sapphire Hotel, Saundarya Resort, Gupta Resort, Karma Resort, Gymkhana Club, Jagadhri Club and Kanha Jagadhri Club. She stated that District Council had a budget of Rs. 2.23 crore available. This budget was approved by members in today's meeting and development work will soon be undertaken using this

Development work will be carried out in Kurukshetra at Rs. 2.23 cr: Kanwaljit Kaur

**DALBIR SINGH MALIK
KURUKSHETRA, MAR 27**

District Council Chairperson Kanwaljit Kaur stated that under leadership of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, state is on path of all-round development. Development work is being carried out continuously without any discrimination and state government's schemes are being made available to public. District Council Chairperson was addressing 127th District Council meeting in Panchayat Bhawan auditorium on Friday. She stated that District Council had a budget of Rs. 2.23 crore available. This budget was approved by members in today's meeting and development work will soon be undertaken using this



budget. A list of development works to be undertaken has been prepared. This budget includes approximately Rs. 1.34 crore for tied and approximately 78.9 lakh for untied. She stated that development works related to drinking water and sanitation will be undertaken from tied budget, while development works will be undertaken from untied budget. Regarding PM Surya Ghar Yojana, she urged all members to promote this scheme in their respective areas so that public can benefit from it. She stated that several public welfare

schemes, including Lado Laxmi Yojana, the Ujjwala Yojana, and Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maandhan Yojana, are directly benefiting the public. Zila Parishad Chairperson also received approval from the members that if a budget is received by end of next month, it will be included in today's meeting and development works will be undertaken with it. Zila Parishad Vice Chairman Dharampal Chaudhary stated that state government recently increased pensions, for which he expressed gratitude.

NEWS BRIEFS

Accused Jagsir sentenced to 10 years under NDPS Act

FATEHABAD: Today while delivering a verdict in a significant case under the NDPS Act, the Hemant Yadav, Additional Sessions Judge, Fatehabad, sentenced the accused, Jagsir alias Ghunghru, to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment, and the accused, Nisha (wife of Jagsir alias Ghunghru), to 1 year of imprisonment. While delivering a verdict in a significant case pertaining to FIR No. 406 dated July 15, 2016 registered under Section 15 of the NDPS Act and Sections 147, 148, 186, 224, 225, 332, and 353 of the IPC at Police Station Ralia, the Hemant Yadav, Additional Sessions Judge, Fatehabad, pronounced the following sentences: The accused, Jagsir alias Ghunghru, was sentenced to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of ₹1 lakh under Section 15 of the NDPS Act (with an additional 1 year of rigorous imprisonment in default of payment of the fine); 1 month of imprisonment under Section 186 of the IPC; 1 year of imprisonment under Section 332 of the IPC; 1 year of imprisonment under Section 353 of the IPC; and 1 year of imprisonment under Section 224 of the IPC. Furthermore, the accused, Nisha (wife of Jagsir alias Ghunghru), was sentenced to 1 month of imprisonment under Section 186 of the IPC.

4,80,000 e-challans issued for over-speeding vehicles: CM

BUREAU CHANDIGARH, MAR 27

The Chief Minister said that the government has installed 128 advanced cameras on National Highway 44 from Kundli in Sonapat to Shambhu in Ambala, monitored from a central control room in Karnal. As a result, 4,80,000 electronic challans have been issued over the past year for over-speeding vehicles. The government has also launched the Sanjaya application in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, which helps in managing road accident data and analysis to reduce accidents.

Similarly, the Haryana 112 emergency response system was launched in July 2021 and integrated with helplines 1033 and 1073. This has significantly improved emergency response efficiency. He said that this is an era of rapidly evolving technology, and we must use new technologies to prevent accidents.

The Chief Minister expressed confidence that the two-day seminar would involve in-depth discussions on modern technologies and that the ideas and suggestions emerging from it would provide new direction to road construction and safety efforts across the country. He also called for greater responsibility toward



the environment and urged engineers and researchers to ensure that their work is not limited to theory but is implemented practically. He emphasized the need for solutions that are affordable, durable, and scalable.

Addressing the seminar, Public Works and Public Health Engineering Minister Sh. Ranbir Gangwa said that the government's clear vision is "Safe Roads, Strong Haryana." He said the government is not only building roads but laying the foundation for a safe and modern future. Keeping in view the importance of roads, the Chief Minister has increased the budget allocation from

4,830.73 crore in 2025-26 by 22 percent to 5,893.66 crore for 2026-27, which is a significant step.

He said that technical codes of the Indian Roads Congress have been distributed among engineers of the Public Works Department to enhance their technical knowledge and ensure quality work. He further said that guidelines have been issued for conducting road safety audits on all state highways. To ensure the safety of school students, 25 crore has been allocated this year for signage and road markings in school zones. Engineers have been directed to install reflective tape on roadside poles and trees to reduce accidents.

He added that the Public Works Department maintains 30,603 kilometres of roads in Haryana. To improve visibility during fog, white lane markings are applied on approximately 3,000 to 4,000 kilometres of roads every year.

To make the state free from potholes, the "Mhari Sadak" application has been launched for the public. All roads of 12 departments have been mapped using GPS in this application. Citizens can now register complaints regarding road repairs through mobile devices, and these are being resolved in a time-bound manner by the concerned officials.

Controversy in Pehowa regarding ongoing physical verification of rice mills

YAGYADUTT SHASHTRI PEHOWA, MARCH 27

A controversy has erupted in Pehowa regarding the ongoing physical verification (PV) of rice mills, following the circulation of viral audio clips. Yesterday two audio clips and a screenshot from a Rice Mill Association group went viral on social media. Following that, a third audio clip has now also gone viral on social media today. This audio clip, too, features the voice of the same office-bearer from the association. In it, the office-bearer sends a message asking all rice millers to assemble at a specific mill to speak with the PV team, as that particular mill was also scheduled for physical verification. However, we do not independently verify the authenticity of these audio clips. In the voice message, Rajiv Kumar—alias Buty—announced: "All fellow millers are hereby informed that an urgent meeting regarding the PV has been convened today at Ambe Rice Mill (Suresh Singla's rice mill). The PV team is being somewhat strict. All fellow rice millers are requested to reach the venue as soon as possible. The voice message further stated: "Today, at 11:15 AM, the physical verification of the Ambe Rice Mill premises is also scheduled. Everyone is requested to ensure they arrive by 11:15 AM. Please gather in large numbers so that we can sit down and hold a dialogue with the PV team. Thank you." This audio clip runs for 41 seconds. Meanwhile, the circulation of yet another audio clip has sparked growing resentment within the BKU (Bharatiya Kisan Union). Prince Varaich, spokesperson for the BKU (Pehowa), stated that these audio clips make it abundantly clear that—much like the millers allegedly orchestrated a scam involving paddy procurement—they are now attempting to secure a "clean chit" by colluding with the PV team. He demanded a thorough investigation into all these audio clips and the entire matter. He has issued an ultimatum to the administration, setting a deadline of March 30.

If the administration fails to accede to their demands, a massive protest will be staged at the Pehowa SDM office on March 30. A decision is

certain to be taken on that occasion. The BKU has personally submitted evidence regarding the paddy scam to both the government and the administration. Now, an audio clip has surfaced that points to collusion involving the Physical Verification (PV) team. The first FIR regarding the paddy scam in Pehowa was registered on March 17. Following an investigation by the Department of Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs (DFSC), a shortage of 24,318.75 quintals of paddy was discovered at Chaudhary Rice Mill in Neemwala. Based on the Minimum Support



Price (MSP), the value of this shortage was estimated at approximately 5.81 crore. Meanwhile, Prince Wadaich, spokesperson for BKU Pehowa, stated that following this FIR, the BKU had submitted a demand to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) for a physical verification of all rice mills. Acting on their demand, a re-verification of this specific rice mill was conducted, revealing a shortage of approximately 33,000 quintals of paddy—meaning an additional shortage of about 9,000 quintals was discovered.

Referring to an audio clip that went viral yesterday, the BKU alleged that payments of 15,000 per rice mill were being delivered to the PV team. It was alleged that these payments of 15,000 were being delivered to Sandeep Kumar's shop. However, Rajiv—alias Buty—claimed that the voice in the recording was his. Furthermore, Sandeep Kumar issued an open invitation for anyone to come and verify the facts regarding any such verification process.

Library for primary school students inaugurated by SDM in Chanot village

DINKAR GAWRI HANSI, MARCH 27

SDM Rajesh Khoth formally inaugurated a library for primary school students—established within the Government School in Chanot village—on Friday. Several dignitaries were present on this occasion, including the village Sarpanch, Himanshu, and the School Cluster Head, Rajbala. Following the inauguration of the library, SDM Rajesh Khoth addressed the students and villagers gathered in the school auditorium. He stated that libraries are essential not only for adults but also for young students; if children cultivate the habit of studying in a library from an early age, this practice will become ingrained

in them during their childhood. This habit, he noted, will prove beneficial to them later in life as they work to build their careers. The SDM mentioned that this library was established with the assistance of the Prakriti Mitra

rating the facility, SDM Rajesh Khoth sat down with the young children and spent nearly half an hour reading from a book of engaging stories. He added that while the library is currently well-stocked, the collection will be periodically expanded to align with the specific demands and interests of the children. Parents of the students were also present at the inauguration ceremony. During the event, the SDM felicitated students who had demonstrated exceptional talent in the fields of sports and academics, as well as local social workers. He urged parents never to compare their children with others, emphasising that every child possesses unique talents.

Samiti. It has been stocked with numerous educational books, including collections of stories and poetry. A highlight of the event was that, immediately after inaugu-



AAP state president Sushil Gupta launches sharp attack on BJP

HANS RAJ YADAV KURUKSHETRA, MAR 27

Addressing an event held on the sacred soil of Pipli, Kurukshetra, Dr. Sushil Gupta—the State President of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Haryana—launched a scathing attack on the BJP government. He stated that the acquittal of approximately 25 AAP leaders—including National Convener Arvind Kejriwal, senior leader Manish Sisodia, and Dr. Sanjay Singh—in the so-called "liquor scam" case (which was alleged to be false and fabricated by the BJP), coupled with the Delhi High Court's dismissal of the CBI's petition, conclusively proves that the BJP's entire conspiracy was rooted in falsehoods and political malice. Dr. Sushil Gupta noted that, prior to this, the Rouse Avenue Court had also

clearly stated in its verdict that the alleged liquor scam was completely baseless and fabricated. Despite this, acting at the behest of the Central Government, investigative agencies were misused to hatch a conspiracy aimed at defaming AAP leaders and dis-



mantling the party. However, the court's verdicts have now thoroughly exposed the BJP's lies and have affirmed that all party leaders—including AAP Convener Arvind Kejriwal—are "staunchly honest" and "patriots."

Sushil Gupta further added that, following the Honorable Court's acquittal of Arvind Kejriwal and all other leaders, AAP workers will go door-to-door across the state to inform the public about the BJP's fabricated liquor scam. They will convey the message that Arvind Kejriwal has always been—and will always remain—a staunchly honest patriot. He asserted that the Aam Aadmi Party has maintained from the very beginning that this case was a product of political vendetta, and the verdicts delivered by the judiciary have now officially validated this truth. This is a victory for the people of the country, and it proves that the truth cannot be suppressed.

Ram Navami conveys message of service, sacrifice and righteousness: Rushil Gupta



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

KARNAL: Social worker and Pura Chand Rice Mill operator Rushil Gupta, along with Ashit Gupta, said that the festival of Rama Navami carries a strong message of service, sacrifice, and adherence to dharma. They said the social significance of Ram Navami lies in promoting values such as dignity, morality, and social unity. Through the ideals of Lord Ram's life, the festival strengthens principles of truth, justice, compassion, and righteousness in society. It also fosters a sense of brotherhood and cultural harmony. Rushil Gupta said the festival reminds people that true leadership is not about power but about service, sacrifice, and following the path of dharma. He added that societal progress cannot be achieved through economic growth alone but must be supported by moral values and a just system. He further said that Ram Navami brings positive energy into people's lives and helps reduce negativity, while also reinforcing the idea of an ideal society based on justice, equality, and collective welfare. Calling it more than just a religious celebration, he said the festival serves as a moral guide for humanity. He urged the youth to adopt the ideals of Lord Ram and prioritise duty, integrity, and justice in their lives to build a peaceful and progressive society.

Grand welcome accorded to BJP district office-bearers in Shamli villages

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

SHAMLI: A grand welcome was accorded to newly appointed BJP district president Dr. Ramjeel Kashyap and district minister Shripal Arya at several villages in Shamli following their recent appointments. In village Razaknagar, residents welcomed them by presenting ceremonial stoles, while in Jamalpur they were honoured with a statue of Maharsi Kashyap. In Bibipur Jalalabad, both leaders, along with Abhay Tomar, were felicitated with traditional turbans, and in Shivanagar they were greeted with flower garlands. The welcome programmes witnessed participation from local community members and leaders, reflecting strong support for the newly appointed office-bearers. Prominent attendees included Vinod Pradhan, Swaraj Pradhan, Suresh Master, Sandeep Kumar, Ravindra Malik, Shrawan Pradhan, Nathiram Awana, Jasbir Chauhan, Janak Awana, Karn Singh, Sompal Master, Surender Saini, and other BJP functionaries and local representatives.



Late-night attack on house in Taraori caught on CCTV, probe underway

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA TARAORI: A late-night attack on a house in Ward No. 15 of Pehalwan Colony in Taraori has come to light, with the entire incident captured on CCTV cameras. Police have initiated an investigation, and the incident is suspected to be linked to an old rivalry.

According to resident Gurvinder Kaur, a group of youths arrived outside her house around 2 am and began attacking the door with sticks for nearly 20 minutes. The assailants also pelted stones and allegedly issued death threats before fleeing. Due to fear, the family members did not step outside during the incident.



Following the attack, the family contacted Dial-112, after which police reached the spot and examined CCTV footage installed outside the house. The footage reportedly shows three youth involved in the attack, though their identities have not yet been established.

Gurvinder Kaur said her son Amandeep had been involved in a dispute in 2022 and had a court appearance in Karnal, suggesting that the attack may be vengence to that earlier incident. Sub-Inspector Jaswinder, who reached the scene, said police teams responded promptly upon receiving the information. He confirmed that three suspects were visible in the CCTV footage and added that further prosecution will be taken after identifying the accused and based on the complaint.

Subhash Chandra honoured under 'Ghar-Ghar Samvidhan' campaign for social work

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, MAR 27

In a significant initiative promoting social awareness and civic responsibility, Subhash Chandra was honoured for his contribution to public welfare under the 'Ghar-Ghar Samvidhan Abhiyan'.

The recognition was conferred as part of the campaign led by Deep Chahal, which has been working for the past five years to spread awareness about the Constitution and strengthen social engagement across the country. The initiative has honoured more than 6,000 social workers, public representatives, and individuals from diverse fields, creating a strong nationwide network.

Addressing the gathering, Subhash Chandra said that meaningful social change is possible only when citizens are aware of their rights and duties. He stressed that just as religious texts find a place in households, the Constitution should also be accessible in every home to empower people with knowledge of their rights. He described the honour as a source of motivation to further strengthen his efforts in social service.



Former president of Health Union Chandigarh Krishan Chadda attended the event along with his team, including several active social workers who contributed to the success of the programme.

Organisers said the campaign has evolved into a broader social movement, recognising contributions from individuals across politics, administration, entertainment, religion, sports, NGOs, and the NRI community. Notable personalities

honoured under the initiative include Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, minister Krishan Bedi, actor Kangana Ranaut, singer Kanhaiya Mittal, and Master Saleem.

The organisers said the honour reflects not only Subhash Chandra's individual contribution but also his continued efforts in promoting cleanliness, awareness, and public participation under the Swachh Bharat Mission.

Aditya Surjewala increasing pace of development works

SANJAY SHARMA KATTHAL, MARCH 27

Aditya Surjewala, the young and popular MLA from the Kaithal Assembly constituency, is further accelerating the pace of development works in the region. Today, he grandly inaugurated three significant projects aimed at public amenities and beautification in Balwanti village, located within his constituency. MLA Aditya Surjewala inaugurated a paver-block street extending from Raghurib Seedha's residence to Mahavir Sheoran's residence, as well as the boundary walls for the newly constructed Prajapati Chaupal and the Ravidasia Chaupal. These projects have not only significantly enhanced the aesthetic appeal of the village but have also bolstered the

security and orderliness of public spaces. Welcoming these development initiatives with great enthusiasm, the villagers expressed their heartfelt gratitude to MLA Aditya Surjewala.

more, he emphasised that this is merely the beginning, and many more major development projects are set to commence in the village very soon.

MLA Aditya Surjewala affirmed that, despite being in the opposition, the momentum of development in the Kaithal Assembly constituency will not be halted. He noted that efforts to further improve roads, streets, community centers (Chaupals), water supply, electricity, and other basic amenities are proceeding with full vigor and will continue unabated. On this occasion, Sarpanch Manjit Valmiki, former Sarpanches Anil Gurjar, Mahavir Sheoran, and Teka Ram, along with Krishna Dhull, Ramkala Dhull, Marwa Ram Prajapati, Dara Prajapati etc.



Speaking to the villagers on the occasion of the inauguration, MLA Aditya Surjewala remarked that Balwanti village holds a very special place in his heart. He stated that the development projects dedicated to the village today stand as symbols of its security, beauty, and prosperity. Further-

Grand 'Sant Samagam' dedicated to Ravidassia religion in Tandwali on Apr 2

JAIBEER RANA THAMBER

BARARA: A massive and grand 'Sant Samagam' (gathering of saints) dedicated to the Ravidassia religion will be organised on April 2nd at Dera Begumpura Tandwali, located in the village of Tandwali. A meeting was held to review the preparations for this event, which is being organised by the Sant Shri Baisakhi Das Udasin Memorial Trust.

During the meeting, the spiritual head (Gadnashin) of Dera Begumpura Tandwali—Sant Shri 108 Sant Somdas Udaseen Ji Maharaj—announced that Sant Padma Shri Niranjan Das Ji Maharaj, the spiritual head of Dera Sachkhand Ballan, will attend as the Chief Guest at this event, which is being held in the sacred memory of Sant Shri 108 Sant Fakir Das Udaseen Ji Maharaj. Sant Niranjan Das Ji Maharaj will also unveil the statue of Sant Fakir Das Udaseen Ji. Furthermore, the gathering will be presided over by Sant Dharmdas Ji of Ladwa Darbar, while former MLA Lahri Singh will attend as a Special Guest. Meanwhile, Sant Mandeep Das Ji—National Vice President of the All India Ravidassia Dharma Organisation—will serve as the keynote speaker, enlightening the congregation with the wisdom of Gurbani. Saints from various regions will offer their blessings and spiritual guidance to the congregation during the gathering, while Kiranti Jathas (musical troupes) will propagate the teachings of Guru Ravidas Ji through devotional singing (Satsang). Sant Somdas Ji informed that recitations of 'Amritvani' will commence at 4:00 AM on April 2, concluding with the ceremonial offering (Bhog) at 8:00 AM. This will be followed by Satsang and spiritual discourses.



New academic session begins with havan ceremony at Lakshya Public School, Dhansu

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA HISAR, MAR 27

The new academic session 2026-27 at Lakshya Public School, Dhansu commenced with a traditional havan ceremony, creating a spiritually uplifting atmosphere on campus. The chanting of Vedic mantras and the sacred ritual filled the premises with a sense of positivity and devotion as students, parents, and staff participated in the ceremony.

School director Ramnivas Verma said that the foundation of education becomes stronger when it is rooted in values and spirituality. He emphasised that beginning auspicious activities with havan and prayers instils positive energy and guides students in the right direction. He added that the institution aims not only to impart knowledge but also to nurture values and culture among students.

Principal Rajbala Sharma highlighted that education should go beyond textbooks and focus on personality development and moral values. She said the school is committed to shaping students into responsible citizens with strong character alongside academic excellence. Verma congratulated students and staff on



the school's strong annual examination results and expressed hope that they would continue to work with dedication for a bright future. He noted that along with academic excellence, the school places special emphasis on moral and spiritual development, which helps build discipline and confidence among students.

Chairman Ramesh Kumar said that equal importance is given to sports, arts, and cultural activities to ensure the holistic development of students. He added that students of the school have been making their mark at national and international levels.

Several dignitaries, teachers, parents, and students attended the ceremony and extended their best wishes for the success of the new academic session.

EDITORIAL

Shipping disruptions, rising input costs strain fertiliser markets

Shipping disruptions in West Asia and rising input costs are adding pressure to global fertiliser production and pricing, but India is managing the impact through close government-industry coordination and monitoring by empowered groups, Dr. Suresh Kumar Chaudhari, Director General of the Fertiliser Association of India, told news agency today. "The ongoing developments in West Asia have introduced significant volatility in global energy and fertiliser markets, given the region's critical role in supplying both natural gas and key crop nutrients," Chaudhari said, adding "Disruptions in shipping routes, particularly through the Strait of Hormuz, and tightening global LNG availability are exerting pressure on input costs and supply chains worldwide." The conflict involving the United States and Israel on one side and Iran on the other has been ongoing for nearly a month, disrupting shipments through the Strait of Hormuz and tightening global supplies of crude oil and other commodities, including fertilisers. This has begun to impact availability at the grassroots level, pushing up prices in recent weeks. He added that, for India, "While these challenges are real, the impact on the fertilizer sector is being carefully managed through close coordination between the industry and the Government," noting that "we are in continuous dialogue with concerned ministries, and the recent constitution of Empowered Groups reflects a proactive and structured approach to monitor disruptions, secure supplies, and address emerging risks in a time-bound manner." India remains the second-largest consumer and third-largest producer of fertilizers globally and the country is particularly exposed to global price movements in natural gas and imported nutrients such as phosphates and potash. Higher LNG prices directly affect urea production costs, while logistical bottlenecks can delay shipments of finished fertilisers and raw materials, adding uncertainty for both producers and farmers during key agricultural cycles. Chaudhari said the industry has taken steps to ensure continuity of supply despite the evolving situation. "On the urea front, production planning and gas allocation are being optimised to ensure uninterrupted output, even as some plants undergo scheduled maintenance," he said. "Simultaneously, for phosphatic fertilisers, diversified sourcing strategies and long-term supply arrangements are helping mitigate regional risks." He emphasised that India's fertiliser ecosystem is now better equipped to handle such disruptions, supported by policy interventions, domestic capacity expansion and stronger collaboration between stakeholders, which together have improved resilience against global shocks. "At this stage, availability remains comfortable, and the focus continues to be on ensuring seamless supply to farmers and safeguarding agricultural productivity and food security," Chaudhari said.

Move to rewrite global farm trade rules

The now paused war between the United States and Iran has not only rippled through oil markets, it also threatens the world's food security by disrupting global food and fertilizer supply chains.

To counter this economists and governments are planning to bring new proposals to redraft global agricultural trade rules to allow nations to better hedge against such massive disruptions.

"The disruption of the Strait of Hormuz has exposed how deeply energy, fertiliser, and food systems are intertwined," said Prof Biswajit Dhar, former WTO Chair at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and one of the authors of a group of leading trade and development economists who have come up with the new policy prescription.

What appears at first glance to be a geopolitical conflict has rapidly translated into a systemic economic shock, cascading through global supply chains that the current trade regime assumes will remain stable.

Nowhere is this more evident than in India, a nation, whose fertiliser supply, long considered secure through diversified imports, is being hit not because Iran is a dominant supplier, but through transmitted effects, such as higher energy costs, disrupted LNG flows through Hormuz, and sharply rising global fertiliser prices.

"The US-Iran war has effectively turned the system volatile, and this volatility is likely to persist even after hostilities subside," Dhar said. The Model Treaty on Agricultural Trade for Sustainable Food Systems, backed by researchers linked to the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, Centre for Development and Environment at the University of Bern and other global institutions, is being proposed at a moment when the fragility of the existing system, anchored in the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Agriculture, seems no longer viable. It is being stress-tested in real time. Its authors, including Elisabeth Bürgi Bonanomi, Caroline Dommen, Sophia Murphy, Biswajit Dhar and Bernard



Lehmann, argue that the existing WTO framework was "flawed from the start" and has proven incapable of adapting to shocks of this nature, whether climate change, pandemic disruptions, or now war-driven supply chain breakdowns.

The move comes as WTO members sit down for their next ministerial conference. Long-standing divisions over agricultural subsidies and food security are now intersecting with a far more immediate concern: the resilience of the global food system in an era of geopolitical fragmentation.

As shipping risks rise and insurance premiums climb, LNG cargoes have become more expensive and less predictable, squeezing margins for urea production. Output cuts, estimated at hundreds of thousands of tonnes per month, are already being reported at gas-based plants.

At the same time, India's broader

fertiliser dependence is being exposed. The country imports roughly a fifth of its urea, about half of its DAP, and virtually all of its potash. A substantial share of these supplies is linked, directly or indirectly, to Gulf producers and routes.

As the conflict chokes shipping lanes and raises freight and insurance costs, the result has been a sharp increase in landed prices across nitrogen, phosphatic, and potash fertilisers. Global prices reflect this strain. Urea and ammonia have surged, while potash markets have tightened further.

Officials pointed out that for now India, has decided to absorb the shock through higher subsidies. "It is a fiscal dilemma. Either absorb the shock or risk reduced fertiliser application, with knock-on effects for farm output and food prices," they pointed out.

This is precisely the kind of systemic vulnerability the new model treaty seeks to

address. A disruption in a single maritime corridor has through energy markets send price shock waves into fertiliser production and, ultimately, into food security risks for import-dependent economies like India.

"The assumption that global markets can seamlessly reallocate supply has broken down under stress. The model treaty proposes a fundamentally different architecture, one in which trade is subordinated to food security, environmental sustainability, and equity rather than treated as an end in itself," explained Dhar. "It explicitly calls for governments to reclaim policy space to support domestic production, diversify supply chains, and intervene in markets where necessary," he added.

WTO rules in order to ensure a "level playing field" between the developed farm surplus economies of the US, Australia and other western nations had actually penalised any third world government

moves to do so,

Already faced with rising fertiliser costs and uncertain supplies, policymakers in India are accelerating efforts to diversify sources of phosphates and potash, including overseas investments in mineral assets.

There is renewed emphasis on expanding domestic urea production and securing long-term LNG contracts from outside the Gulf.

Yet these are medium- to long-term adjustments; in the immediate term, food systems remain exposed. India has to plan for the longer term as the current war is likely to leave a lasting imprint.

Even in the event of a ceasefire, insurers and shipping markets are expected to embed a persistent "war-risk" premium into Hormuz-linked trade.

That implies a structurally higher cost floor for energy, fertilisers, and by extension, food production in countries like India. Which in turn means volatility is being priced in permanently.

The WTO's rules were designed for a world where efficiency and comparative advantage could be pursued under relatively stable geopolitical conditions.

However, the current crisis has shown that when supply chains are tightly coupled and concentrated, shocks do not remain localised, they cascade with ripple effects throughout the world.

"The model treaty directly targets these structural weaknesses. It calls for reducing excessive concentration in global food and input markets, regulating large agribusiness firms and commodity traders, and ensuring that farmers receive prices that reflect the true cost of sustainable production," said Dhar.

It also reframes food security as a "common concern of humankind," suggesting that states have both the right and the obligation to intervene, even if that means restricting trade under certain conditions. Such provisions would mark a significant departure from the liberalisation-first approach embedded in existing WTO agreements.

Financial literacy a "core life skill" to secure savings

Inaugurating the NSE IHC Financial Literacy Initiative on Thursday, Shamika Ravi, Member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, described financial knowledge as a "core life skill" equivalent to knowing how to drive or swim. "Financial literacy is like a core life skill, it's like knowing how to drive, like knowing how to swim.

And of course, you can stay away from the water and perhaps hire a driver or use public transport if you are in a city like that. But how do you stay away from financial knowledge? It's part of your core assets you're working hard to build," she said. During her keynote address, Ravi emphasized the necessity of an institutional platform to address a problem that the country has discussed for 30 years. She noted that financial literacy remains a "non-tractable" challenge because different segments of the market require vastly different approaches to education. Ravi highlighted a significant gap in financial understanding even among highly educated professionals. Sharing her experience teaching at global business schools, she remarked that students with "the smartest analytical minds" often struggle with basic concepts like the difference between



a flat interest rate and a declining balance interest rate. "They usually draw excellent salaries. You just give different ways of reporting a simple instrument like let's say a loan... you'll be surprised, they falter at it," Ravi said. She contrasted this with women from disadvantaged backgrounds who often pay for insurance premiums without knowing it because the products are bundled with their loans.

Ravi argued that the current state of financial literacy in India is "a little bit

like the elephant and the six blind men," where various stakeholders perceive only fragments of the problem. She pointed out that many people still lack fundamental knowledge about regulated entities, noting that very few know that "Chit Funds are actually a regulated entity in India" under the Act of 1982. She explained that while increased digitalization has simplified access through phones, it has not necessarily improved understanding of sophisticated products. She questioned why traditional assets like gold remain

attractive despite the availability of high-return market products. Addressing the transition from savings to investment, Ravi stated that while India traditionally has a high savings rate, much of it remains in illiquid assets like land and jewelry. "If savings has to be mobilized into investment, it has to go through the financial market," she explained. She observed that India now has over 100 million active participants in the equity market, a milestone that brings "its own set of innate risks."

She further explained that financial institutions are unlikely to lead literacy efforts as a business model because "it's a costly exercise" and "it will never be a business model" to spend hours educating a single borrower. Ravi stressed that financial literacy must be treated as a public good and integrated early into the schooling system. She noted that the new education policy makes a concerted effort to ensure students graduate with a "core knowledge of what does it mean cash flow" and "what is a savings account." "Knowledge is so important. What we are invoking through the invocations that you do, you're really invoking Saraswati to protect Lakshmi," Ravi noted.

Why Simplicity Matters for Happiness



Dr Rajesh K Pillania

March 20 is celebrated worldwide as the International Day of Happiness. It started in 2012. Happiness is the main goal of life for many of us, but it seems far away for many people. Human beings are experts at creating complexity even out of simple things in life. If we look around us, we can see that many things in our lives are inherently simple; however, we have made them complex and struggle with them, such as happiness. Happiness is much simpler than we have made it appear. Simplicity is one of the best ways to happiness. The evidence for simplicity in happiness

In his research over the last 15 years, both in India and outside, the author has encountered both happy and unhappy people. One thing that comes across again and again among happy

people is that they keep happiness quite simple. For example, in his book *The Indian Practice of Happiness: Secrets from Centenarians*, based on a study of happy centenarians across India, the author was amazed by how they looked and practised happiness in simple ways. On the other hand, one thing that comes up repeatedly among unhappy people is that they have made happiness overly complex.

A four step process for keeping happiness simple

So how can one keep happiness simple, or how can one be happier with simplicity? Here are some of the most important steps one can take.

First, be aware that happiness is simple and that simplicity can make one happier. One need not make happiness and life complex and complicated. This awareness and self-observation are the starting point.

Second is to know oneself and understand what happiness means for oneself, and to come up with a simple meaning or definition of happiness for oneself. By keeping it simple, one does not get overwhelmed by it and can make it a part of daily life.

Third is to make a simple beginning by starting small and doing simple things, such as finding a few minutes once in a while during the day to enjoy simple pleasures of life—watching sunshine, enjoying a coffee with a friend, spending time with parents or children, enjoying a good conversation, listening to a positive song, keeping positive thoughts, and so on.

Fourth, do regular self-evaluation—weekly, fortnightly, or monthly—to check whether one is keeping happiness simple or complicating it. Through this regular review, one can stay on the course of simplicity, keep happiness simple, and remain happy.

Do not misunderstand the author. The author is not suggesting being simplistic or compromising on depth or quality. The focus is on keeping even complex and deep things simple and not getting overwhelmed by them. One reason for focusing on simplicity is the belief that happiness has been made difficult and complex, whereas it can be kept simple and within one's reach.

Conclusion and takeaway for readers

By keeping happiness simple and doing simple things daily, one can add happiness to one's life and live a happier, more fulfilling life. What are you waiting for? Start today, start now, and embrace simplicity for a happier and more fulfilling life.

The author, Dr. Rajesh K. Pillania, is a Professor at the Management Development Institute, Gurgaon. He is popularly known as "India's Happiness Professor", and his latest work is "The Indian Practice of Happiness: Secrets from Centenarians." For more information on happiness, visit www.pillania.org.

Custodial deaths: a crisis of accountability and constitutional responsibility

Custodial death refers to the death of a person when he or she is under police or judicial custody. These deaths can be of any type, for example, it can be a violence or torturous, death or death due to negligence or even death due to encounter or police actions. These deaths are not only a violation of human rights but also an abuse of state power which weakens the rule of law and reduces the public trust in police.

They say a person in custody is completely dependent on state for survival, but who is there to get the explanation since the individual is under state control. The state has duty to protect life. The word custody itself means the legal, right or duty to take care of someone or something, but when that someone to be taken care of his dead or even injured, how this duty of state could be considered as fulfilled. Such deaths, raise a serious constitutional and human rights concern, especially under article 21. Custodial deaths reflect structural deficiencies in accountability, mechanisms within law enforcement,

and custodian institution, in simple words, we can say that existing safeguard fail to prevent abuse or ensure responsibility. The topic of custodial deaths is not only a legal issue, but also a human concern, as it involves the loss of life of individuals while under state protection. The responsibility of safety and life shifts to the state when someone is taken into custody. Their family expects protection, not tragedy in a custody, as it removes personal freedom and creates a power imbalance. Authorities have a legal duty of care, but when a death occurs it damages, public trust and raises serious human rights concerns.

The death occurring in custody engage constitutional protection and statutory safeguard because the individual is under the control of state authorities. custodial death is a constitutional issue because the state has exclusive control over detainees. Although safeguards exist, but prosecution often fails due to evidence in balance. A rebuttal presumption of guilt may help to ensure accountability while remaining constitutionally valid.

The constitutional concern regarding presumption of guilt against state officials has evaluated the concept by some fancy terms such as presumption of innocence, which reverses the burden provisions and has given the power to officials by which they cannot be compelled to testify against themselves. When a death occurs in custody, a presumption arises regarding the responsibility of custodial authorities, authorities may rebut the presumption by providing some credible Evidence, independent investigation and medical evidence may also remain essential, but the presumption operates only after foundational facts are established. The presumption may be rebuttal or irrebutal, but when rebuttal it shifts the evidentiary burden to accused while preserving the ultimate burden of proof.

Custodial deaths happen due to custodial torture, which refers to infliction of physical or mental pain on a person by state officials While the person is in custody, if you talk about the forms of custodial torture, it could be physical, psychological, or sexual or

coercive, in basic words, it may include beating, electric shocks, injuries, threats, intimidation, sleep, deprivation, humiliation, assault or harassment, forced confession, or illegal pressure techniques. In the case of DK Basu versus State of West Bengal (1997) The court said that. The state cannot use torture as a method of investigation, even accused persons have fundamental rights and abuse of police power undermines the rule of law. The state handles its actions of its officials and victims can claim compensation.

Death occurring in custody, engage constitutional protection and statutory safeguard because the individual is under the control of state authorities, the deprivation of liberty imposes corresponding legal obligations upon the state. When death occurs in custody, the issue extends beyond the individual, criminal liberty and involves constitutional responsibility and procedural accountabilities. Article 21 of constitution guarantees that no person shall be deprived of life or personal liberty,

except according to procedure established by law, even the judicial interpretations have been expanded and the meaning of this provision to include protection against torture, cruel treatment, and arbitrary deprivation of life. So, the deaths occur occurring in custody, therefore, trigger constitutional scrutiny, regarding the state to demonstrate compliance with lawful procedure and constitutional safeguards. Judicial interpretations have also represented that right to life includes the right to live with dignity. Failure to ensure conditions like medical care or protection from harm amount, violation of constitutional obligations. Article 20 protects individuals against self-incrimination and arbitrary punishment while article 22 proves procedural statutes relating to arrest and detention. These articles require that the detain has been informed on the grounds of arrest, allowed to access legal council and be produced before the magistrate within defined time limits. Judicial decisions have also played a central role in defining state responsibilities in the custodial death cases quotes have

said that when a person dies in custody, the burden lies upon the state to provide a credible explanation of the circumstances that led to the death in the case of Nelabati behra v. State of Orissa, the Supreme Court held that the custodial death constitutes a violation of fundamental rights and may justify compensation under the Law remedies. The decision recognised the state liabilities, independent of private remedies. While judicial guidelines have strengthened procedural safeguards, their implementation has been uneven. Judicial remedies have primarily forced on compensation rather than criminal accountability.

If we talk about the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), they have issued guidelines requiring mandatory reporting and investigation of custodial deaths, which includes immediate reporting of custodial death, then magisterial, enquiry, videography of postmortem, examination, submission of postmortem, and forensic reports and even independent investigation of the whole scenario. The guidelines are intended to enhance transparency and

accountability, but they operate as administrative directions and depend on compliance of state authority. India has been a signatory two international human rights instruments that impose obligations relating to protection of right and prevention of torture. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) obligates state to protect the right to life and ensure human treatment of detain. They also have emphasised the duty of state to conduct effective investigations into death occurring under custody.

Despite constitutional protection and statutory provisions, custodial deaths can occur. Several structural reputation is have affected the accountability such as evidence is controlled by custodial authorities, independent witnesses are very rare to be available or found, investigations may lack independence and medical evidences may or may not be contested, prosecution, faces, difficulties, proving guilt, beyond reasonable doubts. The existing framework emphasising safeguard, but does not adequately address, evidently imbalances the continued occurrence

of custodial deaths say that prevent preventive guidelines also may be in sufficient and the legal mechanisms must address structural limitations affecting investigation and prosecution. Where that occur under executive state control, the allocation of evidentiary Burden becomes a significant issue. The reassessment of rules may be necessary to ensure effective protection of the right to life. The analysis indicates that while legal safeguard exists, the structural limitations hinder effective enforcement.

A society that tolerates custodial death silently erodes its own commitment to justice and human dignity. custodial deaths are the ultimate betrayal of states duty to protect those it has restrained, behind every custodial death lies not just a body but a broken promise of justice. They need to stop and a country like india ,which is evolving and nurturing needs new reforms to conquer this situation.

-By Manya Grover (LLM (Criminology))

RAKESH BHAYANA
PANIPAT: Haryana Urban Local Bodies Minister Vipul Goyal inaugurated a plantation drive under the "Green Panipat-Clean Panipat" campaign, with a target of planting 5,100 saplings. Interacting with mediapersons, the minister addressed concerns over staff shortage in the municipal corporation, stating that gaps are being managed through outsourcing.



He assured that essential services like door-to-door waste collection remain unaffected and added that the process of permanent

recruitment is underway to strengthen the system further. Responding to concerns over the LPG shortage affecting industries, Goyal attributed the situation to global factors and urged industrialists and the public to remain calm and use resources wisely. He emphasized that despite the shortage, no industry has shut down anywhere in Haryana and the government is closely monitoring the situation.

NEWS BRIEF

Purvanchal Society honours Gulshan Arora upon his appointment as Member of Telephone Advisory Committee



PRITI SAINI
SADHAURA: Members of the Shri Manav Seva Samiti Trust (Purvanchal Society, Chhachhrauli) honoured Gulshan Arora—a senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from Chhachhrauli—upon his nomination as a member of the Telephone Advisory Committee. Additionally, through a written petition, members of the Purvanchal community put forward a demand for the construction of a ghat (riverbank platform) near the Dadpur Chhath Puja site; a formal memorandum regarding this request is also set to be submitted. Gulshan Arora assured the residents of Purvanchal that he would make every effort to convey their demand to the government.

CM Dhama meets PM Modi, discusses development and key projects

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, MAR 27

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama paid a courtesy visit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Friday. According to the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), during the meeting, the Chief Minister expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister for the continuous support and guidance provided by the Central Government towards the development of Uttarakhand.

CM Dhama noted that with this support, the state is achieving new milestones of growth. He also extended an invitation to the Prime Minister to visit Uttarakhand.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister presented a replica of Shaktipeeth Maa Surkanda Devi, along with Badri cow ghee, five varieties of rajma sourced from different districts of the state, and honey. The Chief Minister thanked the Prime Minister for approving Rs 500 crore assistance for Haridwar Kumbh-2027, initiating a feasibility study under the river-linking project by the National Water Development



Agency, sanctioning Rs 100 crore for the development of Chaurasi Kutiya in Rajaji National Park, signing an MoU for the Naini-Saini airstrip in Pithoragarh, and extending support for safe helicopter services during the Char Dham Yatra.

He also expressed gratitude for the approvals of key infrastructure projects such as the undergrounding of electric lines in Rishikesh, Champawat bypass, Dehradun Ring

Road, and the Dehradun-Mussoorie Road. As per the CMO, during the meeting, the Chief Minister provided detailed information on the steps taken by the state government based on the Prime Minister's suggestions during his Uttarakhand visit. He highlighted that efforts are underway to develop Uttarakhand as a global wedding destination, with locations such as Chopta, Duggalbitta, Patwadangar, and the Sharda Corridor being developed,

while Ramnagar, Dehradun, Rishikesh, and Triyuginarayan have already gained popularity. A dedicated wedding destination policy is also being formulated. He further informed that regions such as Bel Kedar, Anjanisain-Tehri, and Lohaghat-Shyamlati have been identified as Spiritual Economic Zones. The introduction of the winter pilgrimage has significantly increased the number of devotees.

The number of pilgrims visiting Adi Kailash increased from 1,761 in 2022 to 36,453 in 2025, supported by the launch of helicopter services. The state is also promoting adventure tourism activities such as river rafting, paragliding, and kayaking. Under the "Vocal for Local" initiative, local products are being promoted globally through the House of Himalayas brand. The Chief Minister also briefed the Prime Minister about initiatives like "One District One Fair," cluster school schemes, Bharat Darshan, and Uttarakhand Darshan programs aimed at boosting education, tourism, rural economy, and self-employment.

Green Panipat mission picks pace, Vipul Goel leads plantation drive



RAKESH BHAYANA
PANIPAT, MAR 27

Haryana's Revenue, Disaster Management, Urban Local Bodies, and Civil Aviation Minister Vipul Goel on Friday strengthened the Green Panipat Mission by planting saplings in Industrial Sector-29, Part-2. Addressing members of social and religious organizations, municipal officials, and students, he stressed that environmental protection requires collective public participation. The minister urged industrial units to dedicate at least 2% of their income toward plantation and environmental conservation,

noting that industry support can significantly enhance the campaign's impact. Highlighting development works, Goel said around 7500 crore has been invested in Panipat over the past 16 months, improving infrastructure. He emphasized that plantation is a long-term commitment and saplings must be nurtured for at least three years to ensure survival. He also proposed developing small parks into mini forests to expand the city's green cover. Referring to initiatives led by Narendra Modi and Nayab Singh Saini, he said campaigns like "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" are fostering environmental awareness.

Assault on RTI activist, journalist escalates



PREETI SAINI
SADHAURA: The assault on RTI activist Sanjay Bhud and so-called journalist Bharat Beniwal at the All-Society Mahapanchayat held in Kohliwala village has escalated. The gathering declared Amit, the accused innocent and issued a two-day ultimatum to the administration for a fair investigation. A large number of villagers, women and members of the Dalit community attended the Sarva Samaj Mahapanchayat held in Kohliwala village. During the meeting, speakers unanimously stated that Amit was not present at the scene of the assault in the mining zone on March 1 but was instead attending a ritual ceremony. Those present at the mahapanchayat alleged that the police had filed a case against an innocent man under pressure. Villagers claimed that hundreds of people were willing to provide affidavits proving that Amit was with them at the time of the incident. Pratapnagar Sarpanch Association President Vijaypal Mintu warned the administration that if the investigation is conducted impartially the society will fully cooperate, but if action is taken under any pressure thousands of people will be forced to protest at the Mini Secretariat.

Ram Navami celebrated with devotion at Haridwar Ashram



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
HARIDWAR: The birth anniversary of Yoga Yogeshwar Mahaprabhu Shri Ram Lal Ji Bhagwan was celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm on the occasion of Ram Navami, drawing hundreds of devotees from across the country. The celebrations began early in the morning with sacred rituals including Abhishek, grand Aarti, Vedic havan, and Kalash Puja performed with full religious fervor. A grand Shobha Yatra from Shri Purnanand Ashram, Kankhal, to Har Ki Pauri became the highlight of the event, with devotional music, Gurudev's Aarti, and yoga demonstrations creating a spiritually charged atmosphere. An emotional moment during the procession was witnessed when Swami Amit Dev Ji, Swami Nityananda Ji, and Swami Kartikaya Ji carried the sacred form of Mahaprabhu Shri Ram Lal Ji Maharaj on their shoulders to Har Ki Pauri, deepening the sense of faith among devotees. Renowned magician Samrat Shankar Ji, a devoted disciple of Yogeshwar Devidayal Maharaj Ji, attended the programme and expressed his deep reverence, stating that the teachings of Lord Ram Lal Ji form the foundation of his life.

Smart water initiative: MC revamps aging pipeline infrastructure

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL: Municipal Corporation Karnal has started the work of replacing old and damaged pipe lines to improve the water supply system in various areas of the city. Giving information in this regard, Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dr. Vaishali Sharma said that the corporation has issued four tenders and allotted the work to eligible agencies. A total estimated amount of Rs 4 crore 68 lakh 99 thousand will be spent on these four works. She said that the work of replacement of pipeline has been completed in Shiv Colony and Shamsad Bhag area, while the work was in progress in Azad Nagar near Nirankari Bhawan. Under this work, three inch, four inch and six inch diameter DI Pipe lines will be replaced and new ones laid as per requirement in different areas. She further said that in these works, a new tube well will be installed in the Sandhu Colony area and a pump chamber will also be constructed, which will further strengthen the water supply system in the colony. She said that after changing the pipeline, the residents of the concerned areas would be able to get clean and adequate amount of water and would get relief from the problem of dirty water. She also appealed to the citizens not to make illegal connections to the main pipeline without permission, because most of the leakage problems arise due to such connections. Special appeal regarding water conservation - She made a special appeal to the citizens regarding water conservation and said that water was an invaluable resource, whose conservation was the responsibility of all of them.

KU showcases Haryanvi Film 'Baingan' at International Film Festival, highlights language, dignity and psychology



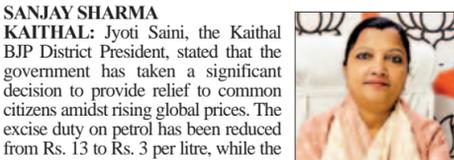
DALBIR SINGH MALIK
KURUKSHETRA: A compelling showcase of Haryanvi dialect and rural sensibilities, the film "Baingan" emerged as a powerful highlight at the 8th International Film Festival organised by the Department of Youth and Cultural Affairs in collaboration with the Sanskrit Society For Art & Cultural Development at Kurukshetra University on Thursday. Despite its seemingly humorous title, "Baingan" unfolds as a deeply sensitive and psychologically layered narrative rooted in Haryanvi folk life. The 90-minute film revolves around the character of Radheshyam, portrayed with remarkable depth by noted Haryanvi actor Jagbir Rathi. His performance captures the emotional extremes of a man driven by self-respect and familial honour. The film effectively highlights how colloquial expressions, often used casually in everyday Haryanvi speech, can carry unintended emotional weight. Through its narrative, it explores how certain words, though humorous on the surface, can deeply affect an individual's psyche—sometimes leading to severe psychological distress. The storyline follows Radheshyam, a landlord who depends on rental income for his livelihood. The plot takes a significant turn when a tenant, a wrestler, refuses to pay rent and dismissively responds with "Le le na baingan" (take brinjal instead).

Special seminar organised by Employees' State Insurance Corporation



SANJAY SHARMA
KAITHAL: A special seminar was organised by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) at the local Jat Educational Institute in Kaithal. Ravinder Gupta, Branch Manager of the ESIC, Panipat, attended the seminar as the keynote speaker. Upon his arrival at the event, Mr. Rajkumar Beniwal, President of the Jat High School Society, along with the entire Managing Committee and the Principals of the educational institute, accorded him a warm welcome by presenting a floral bouquet. Speaking on the occasion, Ravinder Gupta stated that the primary objective of today's seminar was to provide information regarding the insurance policies issued by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation for the welfare of employees. He explained that employees drawing a monthly salary of less than Rs. 21,000 fall within the ambit of this scheme, and this coverage scope may be further expanded in the future.

Relief for the public through major cut in fuel excise duty: Jyoti Saini



SANJAY SHARMA
KAITHAL: Jyoti Saini, the Kaithal BJP District President, stated that the government has taken a significant decision to provide relief to common citizens amidst rising global prices. The excise duty on petrol has been reduced from Rs. 13 to Rs. 3 per litre, while the duty of Rs. 10 on diesel has been completely abolished. Due to ongoing tensions in the Middle East, crude oil prices have surged from approximately \$70 per barrel to \$122 per barrel over the past month. Consequently, petrol and diesel prices have witnessed a massive increase worldwide—ranging from 30-50% in Southeast Asia, about 30% in North America, 20% in Europe, and nearly 50 per cent in Africa. In such times, India has emerged as an exception. In this challenging situation, the government faced two options: either pass the burden onto the public by raising prices—as other nations have done—or absorb the financial pressure itself to provide relief to its citizens. The Modi government chose the latter path, deciding to shield the common man from the impact of global inflation. This measure will also mitigate the heavy financial losses incurred by oil companies, while ensuring that no additional burden is placed upon the common public.

PRPC distributes 96 motorized tricycles to divyangs



RAKESH BHAYANA
PANIPAT: Indian Oil Corporation's Panipat Refinery & Petrochemical Complex (PRPC), under its CSR initiative for 2025-26, distributed 96 motorized tricycles to differently-abled beneficiaries from villages across Panipat and Karnal. The distribution ceremony was held on March 27 at the Officers' Club in the refinery's Mini Smart City township. The tricycles were provided free of cost in collaboration with Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, following assessment camps conducted earlier to identify eligible beneficiaries. Executive Director and Refinery Head M.L. Dhariya, along with senior officials including Om Prakash (CGM-HR), Sanjay Kumar (GM-HR), and other dignitaries, handed over the tricycles. District Training Officer Harmesh and ALIMCO representative Swapendu Kumar Rath were also present.

Ram Navami celebrated with devotion and enthusiasm in Machhiwara



DEEPAK KUMAR
MACHHIWARA: The festival of Rama Navami was celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm at Ram Bagh in Machhiwara, where a large number of devotees gathered to mark the birth anniversary of Lord Ram. The event was organised by the Sarvhitkari Sabha Shri Ram Leela Committee. BJP Punjab vice president Vikramjit Singh Cheema and Municipal Council president Mohit Kundra attended the ceremony as special guests. Addressing the gathering, they said that the Ramayana is a sacred text that teaches the values and dignity of relationships. They emphasised that in the age of social media, relationships are weakening, and it is important to educate children about the life and ideals of Lord Ram to build a harmonious society. The programme began with a havan ceremony in the morning, followed by devotional hymns presented by a women's bhajan mandali.

Rs. 50 lakh scholarships empower 503 students at GNK

RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR, MAR 27

Continuing its commitment to education, sports, and skill development, the CSR Unit of Janna Auto Industries (CSR JAI) extended financial support to 503 meritorious students and sportspersons at the Annual GNK JAI Scholarship Award Ceremony 2026 organised by Guru Nanak Khalsa (GNK) Group of Institutions. Under the leadership of Sardar Randeep Singh Jauhar, the CSR initiative provided assistance worth approximately Rs. 50 lakh. Of this, around Rs. 35 lakh was distributed as scholarships to deserving students and achievers in sports, while nearly Rs. 15 lakh was allocated towards skill development, diet



support, and infrastructure enhancement. The programme began with the college anthem and ceremonial lighting of the lamp. Principal Dr. Arvinder Singh Bhalla welcomed Chief Guest Dr. Pritpal Singh, Vice Chancellor of Shri Guru Granth Sahib World University, Fatehgarh Sahib, and Special Guest Lt. Dr. Virender Pal, Registrar, Kurukshetra University. Vice President of the

Dr. Sukhpal Singh Gill takes charge as Chief Agriculture Officer Barnala

KARANPREET KARAN
BARNALA: Dr. Sukhpal Singh Gill has today taken charge as Chief Agriculture Officer Barnala. After assuming charge, Dr. Gill said that under the directions of the Punjab Government and under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Barnala Harpreet Singh, his first priority is to deliver the agricultural schemes being run by the government to the real beneficiaries, i.e. the farmers, in a transparent and effective manner. He stressed that it is very important to adopt new technologies to reduce farming costs and increase the income of farmers and the department will make more efforts in this direction. Dr. Sukhpal Singh Gill has earlier served as Soil Testing Officer cum Block Agriculture Officer and District Training Officer in Barnala. Dr. Gill said that efforts will be made to provide information about new technologies to farmers by organizing camps at the village level, to encourage the use of balanced fertilizers based on soil testing, and to make the office approach more convenient for solving the problems of farmers. On this occasion, all the staff welcomed Dr. Gill. Dr. Gill called upon the departmental staff to work with honesty and responsibility and appealed to the farmers to keep in touch with the department for advice related to agriculture.



District and Sessions Judge makes surprise inspection of OAT Center in District Jail

KULDEEP SOOD
BARNALA: Today, Miss Anshul Beri, Honorable District and Sessions Judge - cum - Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Barnala, paid a surprise visit to the OAT Center running at District Jail Barnala. Shri Madan Lal, Secretary District Legal Services Authority, Barnala was also present with her at this time. On this occasion, the District and Sessions Judge, including the Chairman, District Legal Services



Authority, Barnala, interacted with the staff, prisoners and detainees present at the OAT Clinic and checked the record of medicine being given to the prisoners and detainees at the OAT Clinic and gave necessary directions to bring more transparency in the record. On this occasion, when the prisoners and detainees were asked about the availability of medicine and the difficulties they were facing, the prisoners and detainees expressed their satisfaction.

AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED
(CIN:L65922RJ2011PLC034297) Regd. & Corp. Office: 201-202, 2nd Floor, South End Square, Mansarovar Industrial Area, Jaipur. 302020

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred upon me under section 13(12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said rules on the dates mentioned as below.

The borrower and Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED for an amount mentioned as below and further interest thereon.

| Name of the Borrower | Date & Amount of Demand Notice | Description of Property | Date & Type of Possession |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Ram Chandar Kushwaha, Sharita Devi | 7 Oct 25 Rs. 476007/- | Part Of Plot No 10, Kh. No 590, Residential Property Situated At Village Rawail Mahood | Physical Possession Taken On 25 March 26 |
| Guarantor : Awad Prasad Gupta (A/C NO.) 191218801303385 & 211218802104178 | Rs. 141565/- 3 Oct 25 | Pargana Jwalapur Haridwar Th. & Dist. Haridwar, Uttarakhand 249402 Admeasuring 435 Sq. Ft. | |

Place : Uttarakhand Date: 28-03-2026 Authorised Officer Aavas Financiers Limited

CHANDIGARH: Evidence placed before the Punjab & Haryana High Court has revealed the continued operation of organised dog fighting networks across parts of Punjab and Haryana, raising serious concerns about enforcement gaps despite existing legal provisions. The Public Interest Litigation filed by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), documented multiple instances of illegal dog fighting through news reports, event posters, video evidence, and on-ground documentation. The petition highlighted that dog fights are being conducted in farmhouses and private premises, often accompanied by high-stakes betting reportedly ranging from Rs.1 lakh to Rs.20 lakh, with participation from organised groups. In several instances, event posters and online communications openly advertised dog fights, including entry fees and rewards.

NEWS BRIEF

When Endometriosis Returns: Why Fertility Preservation Matters?
CHANDIGARH: Cricket in India has always been larger than the game itself. It lives in stadium chants, living room debates, and the shared anticipation of every ball. But increasingly, some of the most meaningful moments aren't just happening on the field - they're unfolding in between. Cricketers on Snap, such as Arshdeep Singh, Axar Patel, Ravi Bishnoi, Abhishek Sharma, Washington Sundar, Rahul Chahar & Karrik Sharma, are offering fans a window into life beyond the 22 yards. From light-hearted dressing room exchanges to travel snippets and everyday routines, it's content that feels less like a performance and more like access, bringing fans closer to the inner circle. Sharing his personal experience, Arshdeep Singh says, "On the field, authenticity is everything."

ICICI Prudential Life Smallcap 250 Index Fund Launch

LUDHIANA/AMRITSAR: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has launched the ICICI Prudential Life Smallcap 250 Index Fund under its Unit Linked Insurance Plans (ULIPs). The fund enables customers to participate in a broad basket of emerging listed companies and build wealth over the long term through a disciplined, index-based approach. Commenting on the launch, Mr. Manish Kumar, Chief Investment Officer, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited, said, "The Smallcap 250 Index Fund provides customers with a simple and transparent way to participate in the growth potential of emerging companies and build wealth over the long-term. This makes it suitable for long-term investors seeking a structured exposure to the emerging companies across diverse sectors of the market."

Aditya Rikhari, Kutle Khan and Ravator Set the Tone for Coke Studio Bharat Season 4 with Ae Anjabe

CHANDIGARH/LUDHIANA: Coke Studio Bharat, the platform celebrating India's diverse musical heritage, kicks off Season 4 with its first track, Ae Anjabe, a song about the one feeling that never goes out of style: longing. Featuring the warm, effortless charm of Aditya Rikhari alongside the evocative artistry of folk maestro Kutle Khan and Ravator's production, the track is a conversation between eras, between the love that was written in letters and the love that lives in unmet messages. Shantanu Gangane, IMX (Integrated Marketing Experience) Lead, Coca-Cola India and Southwest Asia, said, "Indian music today is not confined to one lane. Listeners move between folk, indie, electronic and many more genres. With Ae Anjabe, Coke Studio Bharat bridges generations, cultures and sonics."

Tata AIA Life Insurance Launches Three New Funds

LUDHIANA: Tata AIA Life Insurance, a leading private life insurance company in India, today launched three new funds offering investors a unique opportunity to capitalize on India's growth potential and global technological advancements, all while benefiting from life insurance protection through Tata AIA's Unit Linked Insurance Plans (ULIPs). Harshad Patil, Chief Investment Officer, Tata AIA Life Insurance, commented, "Innovation is reshaping economies, both in India and globally. With the launch of the Tata AIA Large Mid Cap Innovation Fund, Tata AIA Large Mid Cap Innovation Pension Fund, and the Tata AIA Global AI & Technology Leaders Fund, we are providing our policyholders with the opportunity to invest in these transformative sectors while continuing to benefit from the protection of life insurance."

Amazon Business helps enterprises streamline End of Financial Year purchasing with curated deals, bulk discounts and exclusive cashback

SHIMLA: Amazon Business' End of Financial Year Sale 2026 is now live, giving businesses an opportunity to plan and complete year-end procurement across a wide range of categories. From laptops and tablets to office furniture, industrial supplies and kitchen appliances, customers can access deals from brands including Acer, HP, Lenovo, Bosch, Havelis, Noise, boAt and more. Prepaid orders on select categories are eligible for additional cashback of up to INR 9,999 along with instant 30-day interest-free credit, with the flexibility to extend financing up to 12 months at minimal interest rates and no hidden costs. Amazon Business has integrated AI across the procurement experience to make purchasing faster and more relevant for business customers. With the reduction in new customer verification time by around 30%, new businesses can now get verified and start purchasing within minutes. The platform also delivers personalised product recommendations, deals and credit options based on a customer's purchase history, industry and buying behaviour, ensuring businesses receive communication that is relevant to their specific needs.

Amazon Ads marks a decade in India; simplifies full-funnel advertising with the launch of AI tools and a new advertiser experience

SHIMLA: Amazon Ads has celebrated a decade of its first-ever flagship event in India. The event drew advertisers, agencies, and partners as Amazon Ads introduced new AI tools like Creative Agent and Ads Agent, unified campaign management, Amazon Ads Creator Program, and democratised creativity for Indian brands. Connected Worlds brought together three core pillars - ad tech, content, and commerce - to deliver a seamlessly connected, full-funnel advertising experience. In its ten-year journey, Amazon Ads has grown from helping brands of all sizes reach customers to building connections through the entire consumer journey, from awareness to purchase, across formats including video, display, and device ads. With Prime Video, Amazon MX Player, and third-party publishers on Amazon Demand Side Platform, Amazon Ads today reaches customers wherever they shop, stream, and spend time online.

IndusInd Bank launches Capital Gains Account Scheme to Enable Seamless Reinvestment of Capital Gains

GURUGRAM/FARIDABAD: IndusInd Bank today announced the launch of Capital Gains Account Scheme (CGAS), under which customers can park long-term capital gains until reinvestment, and avail tax exemptions in accordance with the provisions of Income-tax Act, 1961. The scheme provides a secure and compliant facility for holding unutilised capital gains, allowing customers to make well-informed reinvestment decisions, within prescribed statutory timelines. The launch follows the authorisation granted by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) permitting IndusInd Bank to accept deposits under the Capital Gains Account Scheme, 1988. Under the scheme, the Bank will accept deposits of unutilised proceeds arising from the sale of eligible capital assets, including residential properties, flats, farmhouses, agricultural land, urban land, and land in Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

590 inputs received on helpline since Jan 21; leads to registration of 63 FIRs: DIG AGTF Gurmeet Singh



CHANDIGARH: Following the vision of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann to make Punjab a gangster-free state, the "Gangstran Te Vaar" campaign has achieved significant milestones through the Anti-Gangster Helpline 93946-93946, which has seen an overwhelming response from the general public since its launch on January 21, 2026. Sharing the success of the initiative, Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) Gurmeet Singh Chauhan today informed that a total of 590 inputs have been received on the dedicated helpline. Out of these, 83 were related to drugs, 35 to extortion, 43 regarding gangsters, 86 concerning illegal weapons, 74 related to personal enmity, 13 for robbery/theft, 11 regarding Proclaimed Offenders (POs)/Absconders, and 2 related to immigration fraud, while 97 were categorised as others. "The proactive participation of the citizens has been instrumental. This

want to assure the public that complete confidentiality will be maintained," he added.

DIG Gurmeet Chauhan also sounded a note of caution against anti-social elements sitting abroad who lure innocent youth with meagre amounts of money to commit crimes. He strictly advised the public against facilitating financial transactions via UPI or other digital sources for unknown persons. Furthermore, he warned against picking or dropping packages from unidentified locations, noting that criminals abroad are using "dead letter boxes" to deliver weapon consignments for illegal activities. Highlighting the crackdown on the digital ecosystem of crime, the DIG revealed that the AGTF is launching a special campaign to monitor mischievous activities on social media. "We have already got 643 pages blocked across various social media platforms for glorifying weapons or criminal activities. I appeal to parents to remain vigilant about their children's activities to ensure they are not misled," he said.

It is pertinent to mention that the Punjab Police has already identified 61 foreign-based gangsters operating from abroad. To expedite their extradition, an Overseas Fugitive Tracking and Extradition Cell (OFTCE) has been established to ensure these criminals are brought back to face the law.

Fenesta expands Punjab footprint with 2nd showroom in Ludhiana, 10th in the state

LUDHIANA: Fenesta, India's No. 1 windows & doors brand, has further expanded its presence in Punjab with the launch of its second showroom in Ludhiana. Operated by S.C. Trading Co., the showroom is located at 16-K, Ferozepur Road, opposite PAU Gate No. 1, Sarabha Nagar, Ludhiana, bringing Fenesta's advanced fenestration solutions closer to customers in one of the region's key residential and commercial markets. The newly inaugurated showroom enables customers to explore Fenesta's diverse product portfolio, including uPVC and Aluminium Windows and Doors, Solid Panel Doors, and Facades. Designed to offer a comprehensive product experience, the space caters to homeowners, architects, and developers seeking durable, high-performance, and aesthetically refined window and door solutions for modern spaces. Speaking on the launch, Mr. Saket Jain, Business Head, Fenesta, said, "Punjab has emerged as an important market for Fenesta, supported by growing construction activity and an increasing preference for premium and energy-efficient building solutions. The opening of our second showroom in Ludhiana, in partnership with S.C. Trading Co., reflects our continued focus on expanding accessibility for customers across the state. This new space will allow customers and industry professionals to experience Fenesta's product range firsthand and make informed choices for their residential and commercial projects." With this addition, Fenesta continues to strengthen its presence across North India while enhancing access to its premium windows and doors solutions. The Ludhiana showroom reflects the brand's focus on innovation, design excellence, and long-term product reliability.

GI Mahotsav Opens in Shimla with Strong Response; Visitors Flock to Explore Authentic GI Products

SHIMLA: The exhibition features 45+ stall/showcasing over 100 Geographical Indication (GI) certified products from across India. The first day witnessed a strong turnout of visitors, including both locals and tourists, who gathered to explore India's rich and diverse cultural heritage. The vibrant atmosphere and wide variety of offerings ensured that hardly anyone left without a shopping bag, reflecting the strong interest and engagement from attendees. The exhibition brings together artisans, producers, and sellers from different parts of the country, featuring some of the rarest GI-certified products from the farthest corners of India. Visitors can explore unique offerings such as Agates of Cambay, Baluchari Sarees, Bhagalpur Silk & Fabrics, Madhurakathi, Karvath Kati Sarees, along with specialty food products from Manipur including Chak Hao (black rice), Tamenglong Orange, Sirarakhong Hathei (chilli), and Kachal Lemon. In addition, a wide range of handicrafts, sarees, textiles, jewellery, handicrafts, home décor, fabrics, agricultural products, spices, syrups, footwear, fruits, toys, and more are on display. All products are GI-certified, assuring authenticity, high quality, and a deep-rooted cultural identity. Visitors particularly appreciated the quality, uniqueness, and diversity of the products, along with the opportunity to interact directly with artisans and purchase from the source. An important highlight of the event was the visit of Dr. Rajneesh, IAS, Additional Secretary & Development Commissioner, MSME, along with Shri R.D. Nazem, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Himachal Pradesh, who graced the exhibition on 27th March. Addressing the audience, Dr. Rajneesh emphasized the importance of understanding the vast potential of the MSME sector and highlighted GI products as a high-growth segment for Indian MSMEs.

HDFC Bank Parivartan Partners with Smile Foundation



CHANDIGARH/LUDHIANA: HDFC Bank, through its CSR programme Parivartan, has partnered with Smile Foundation to launch 8 Mobile Medical Care Units (MCUs) across select remote communities in North India, serving approximately 4 lakh individuals. The programme spans Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Punjab, and Uttarakhand, with eight MCUs deployed in total. Speaking about the initiative, Ms. Nusrat Pathan, Head CSR, HDFC Bank, said, "At HDFC Bank, we believe that good health is the foundation of resilient communities. In many remote parts of North India, quality healthcare remains out of reach for the most vulnerable. Through this partnership with Smile Foundation, we are bringing integrated primary healthcare directly to the people who need it most. This initiative reflects Parivartan's deep commitment to last-mile healthcare and to the communities we serve." Under its Healthcare and Hygiene pillar, HDFC Bank Parivartan works to improve access to primary and preventive healthcare. This initiative focuses on geographically remote and resource-scarce communities.

Trident Group commissions additional 5.40 MWp rooftop solar project at its Budhni - Madhya Pradesh plant ; total capacity rises to 57.32 MWp

PUNJAB / CHANDIGARH: Trident Group, a leading diversified conglomerate with interests spanning textiles, paper, chemicals and energy, has commissioned successfully an additional new 5.40 MWp rooftop solar power addition, the Budhni facility further strengthens its position as a key hub for Trident's renewable energy initiatives in central India. The Budhni plant facility was previously operating with an installed solar capacity of 51.92 MWp, with 100 per cent utilization. The latest capacity addition has been completed on March 27, 2026, the company said in a statement. The project entails an estimated investment of around ₹10 crore. The move is in line with the group's strategy to scale up renewable energy adoption across its manufacturing operations and lower its overall carbon footprint.

Chandigarh to Witness First Stylish 'Black & White' 90's Day Party Experience on April 4

CHANDIGARH: party scene is all set to witness a unique blend of nostalgia and elegance with the upcoming Black & White Special - 90's Era Day Party, scheduled for April 4 at Barrio by Bodega. Organized by Dead Zone and Alcoholics India Events, the event promises a refreshing daytime party experience inspired by the timeless charm of the 90s. With a strict black and white dress theme, attendees can expect a visually stunning ambience paired with classic music vibes that celebrate the golden era. The event will take place from 12:00 PM to 5:30 PM, offering the perfect daytime vibe with high-energy DJ performances and curated music. Guests can also enjoy exclusive experiences including complimentary vodka shots for early arrivals, creating an electrifying yet sophisticated party atmosphere. Designed especially for Chandigarh's youth and party enthusiasts, the event aims to bring together fashion, music, and social energy under one stylish theme. Organizers have also collaborated with leading ticketing platforms to ensure easy access for attendees. With limited entries and growing buzz, the Black & White Special is expected to be one of the most talked-about day events of the season.

Axis Max Life reinforces importance of valuing 'protectors' behind life insurance promises

AMRITSAR: Axis Max Life Insurance Limited has highlighted the critical role of employee recognition in strengthening trust and delivering meaningful customer experiences in the life insurance sector. In an industry often driven by metrics such as claim settlement ratios and assets under management, the company emphasized that trust remains its most valuable asset—built and sustained by people. Shailesh Singh, Senior Director and Chief People Officer, noted that life insurance is fundamentally about long-term promises that may span decades, requiring employees who act as "protectors" for customers and their families. "At Axis Max Life, we believe those who safeguard customer trust must themselves feel valued and supported. Recognition is not an HR formality; it is a strategic priority that fuels purpose and performance," he said. The company pointed out that life insurance is deeply emotional in nature, with employees often engaging with customers during their most vulnerable moments. Whether it is an advisor guiding a young family or a claims executive supporting a bereaved household, each interaction demands empathy alongside technical expertise. Axis Max Life has focused on building a high-trust, high-performance culture where recognition is embedded in everyday practices. Its consistent presence on the Great Place to Work Best Companies to Work For list for over a decade reflects its people-first philosophy. The organization's recognition framework is designed to be immediate, value-driven, and peer-led. Initiatives such as peer-to-peer appreciation platforms, quarterly recognition programs, and company-wide celebrations ensure that contributions are acknowledged at every level. These efforts aim to reinforce behaviors like customer obsession, integrity, and collaboration. According to the company, recognition also plays a vital role in addressing challenges such as workplace stress and burnout in high-pressure sectors like BFSI. Studies indicate that employees who feel appreciated are more motivated and productive, directly impacting customer satisfaction and organizational performance. Axis Max Life further noted that strong internal recognition practices contribute to improved employee retention, reducing the long-term costs associated with hiring and onboarding new talent. A recognized workforce, it said, is more resilient and better equipped to deliver compassionate customer service.

Trishla Builders Group Unveils 'Irish Town', a Breathtaking Gated Township in banur



MUKESH CHAUHAN ZIRAKPUR: First and only township of its kind in tricity for exclusive 2 kanal (1000 sq. Yards) plots, "Irish town" introduced by Trishla Builders Group, a renowned name in real estate. This exclusive development is introduced on the theme, "breathe in the forest." It's a perfect blend of modern living, lush greenery, and state-of-the-art amenities. This township is designed by OSR design inc USA - a renowned architects and designers group of USA and ARCH build consultants India. Trishla group is developing a forest in this township in collaboration with Eco Sikh charitable society, who is developing forest in different parts of Punjab. This forest is being developed with Miyawaki technique developed in Japan. By this technology a forest can be fully developed within two years. They have planted 33 different traditional species of trees in this sacred Shree Guru Nanak Dev Ji Forest, developed with in township. Mostly medicinal and fruit plants are grown in this forest. Residents of this township will enjoy healthy lifestyle, leveraging international standard amenities, and enjoy unparalleled 7-tier security. Township is consisting 55 plots of two kanals only. This township is just 20 minutes away from Chandigarh airport. A lazy river is being developed with in the township for rafting and swimming. Most of the plots are water front or green parks facing.

IndiGo Expands International Network with New, Direct Flights between Delhi and Colombo

CHANDIGARH / LUDHIANA: IndiGo, India's preferred airline, is further strengthening its connectivity to Sri Lanka, with the launch of new, direct flights between Delhi and Colombo. Commencing 29 March 2026, the airline will operate six flights every week on this route using its A320 aircraft, offering seamless and convenient travel options for customers. India and Sri Lanka share deep historical, cultural, and economic ties; improved connectivity will significantly strengthen these connections by boosting trade and tourism between the two neighbouring countries. With the addition of these flights, IndiGo will operate over 55 weekly flights to Colombo from five cities in India, namely Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai and New Delhi. IndiGo also connects Chennai and Tiruchirappalli to Jaffna with 10 weekly flights. This expanded network further solidifies IndiGo's presence in the island nation, consistently offering affordable, reliable, and hassle-free travel experiences to its customers. Customers can plan and book their travel through IndiGo's official website www.indigo.in, mobile app, or authorised travel partners. They can also pre-book their meals and beverages, including alcoholic beverages. Additionally, they can personalise their travel experiences by opting for offerings that suit their respective preferences, including UltraFront and Flexi, which give best value, comfort seats, complimentary snacks, and hassle-free cancellations.

HDFC Bank, Smile Foundation to deploy 8 mobile medical units across North India

CHANDIGARH: HDFC Bank said it has partnered with Smile Foundation to deploy eight mobile medical care units (MCUs) across remote regions of North India, aiming to provide primary healthcare access to over 4 lakh people. The initiative, under the bank's CSR programme 'Parivartan', will cover Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Punjab and Uttarakhand, and will run from April 2026 to March 2028. The MCUs will offer services such as OPD consultations, diagnostics, free medicines, and referral linkages to public health centres, the bank said. The programme will also focus on maternal and child healthcare, screening for non-communicable diseases including hypertension, diabetes and anaemia, as well as school health interventions covering hygiene, nutrition and menstrual health. Speaking on the initiative, Nusrat Pathan, Head - CSR, HDFC Bank, said it aims to bridge gaps in healthcare access in underserved geographies. Santanu Mishra, Co-Founder and Executive Trustee of Smile Foundation, said the partnership will strengthen last-mile healthcare delivery and complement government efforts. Smile Foundation will implement the programme, including deployment of medical staff and adherence to protocols set by the Indian Council of Medical Research, while linking beneficiaries to schemes under the National Health Mission. The initiative aligns with SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being).

Ab Sab Jayenge School with P&G Shiksha

BADDI: Building on its recently achieved milestone of reaching and positively impacting 1 Crore children across India, P&G Shiksha today launched its anthem Ab Sab Jayenge School with P&G Shiksha as part of its continued mission to #EraseTheLearningGap. how easily they are missed—until they begin to shape how a child sees themselves. P&G Shiksha has been on a mission to create awareness about learning gaps - the gap between the current learning level and the expected learning level of a child. Along with this, many on ground programs continue to pave the way to #EraseTheLearningGap. Rajat Bar, Senior Director, Brand Operations, P&G India, added, "Studies such as ASER continue to highlight a stark reality—millions of children in India are in school, but a lot are learning at grade level, making learning gaps one of the most urgent challenges facing our young learners today. The launch of Ab Sab Jayenge School with P&G Shiksha builds on our milestone of positively impacting 1 Crore children. classroom where every little one seemed to move ahead just a few faster. Slowly, those moments add up. Curiosity turns into silence, effort turns into self-doubt, and a child who once raised their hand begins to hold back. What makes learning gaps so challenging is how easily they are missed—until they begin to shape how a child sees themselves. P&G Shiksha has been on a mission to create awareness about learning gaps - the gap between the current learning level and the expected learning level of a child. Along with this, many on ground programs continue to pave the way to #EraseTheLearningGap. A question they were too hesitant to ask. A

BHIM Payments App Introduces Biometric Authentication for UPI Payments on Android and iOS

LUDHIANA: NPCI BHIM Services Limited (NBSL), a wholly owned subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), today announced the launch of Biometric Authentication for UPI Payments on the BHIM Payments App. The new feature allows users to approve UPI transactions up to ₹5,000 using their smartphone's fingerprint or facial recognition, making everyday payments quicker, simpler, and more secure. The feature is currently available for iOS and Android devices, which supports fingerprint and facial recognition capabilities. With this launch, BHIM users can transact without manually entering their UPI PIN for every payment. This is especially helpful in situations where users may forget their PIN or enter it incorrectly, which can lead to failed payments, making the experience smoother and more reliable. The feature can be used across common payment scenarios, including sending money to friends and family, merchant QR payments, and online transactions, making digital payments more intuitive for everyday use. Lalitha Nataraj, MD & CEO, NBSL, said, "BHIM Payments App has always focused on making digital payments simple, secure and accessible for every Indian. With biometric authentication, we are making everyday payments easier while strengthening trust in how they are approved. By enabling users to confirm transactions through their fingerprint or face unlock."

Kurukshetra District Showcases AI-led Innovations to Strengthen Tuberculosis Control on World TB Day

KURUKSHETRA: On the occasion of World TB Day, the District Health Administration of Kurukshetra, in collaboration with Wadhvani AI and Genpact CSR, organized a special event to highlight the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) within the district's tuberculosis (TB) program to strengthen screening, improve patient management, and accelerate progress towards TB elimination. The initiative, implemented in close coordination with the district TB program under the leadership of the state TB cell within the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP), focuses on embedding AI-driven solutions within Kurukshetra's public health systems to enhance TB care and management. As part of this effort, three AI-powered solutions, Cough Against TB (CATB), Prediction of Adverse TB Outcomes (PATO), and Vulnerability Mapping for Tuberculosis (VMTB), have been deployed to support frontline health workers and program managers in improving early detection, prioritizing high-risk patients, and enabling targeted public health interventions.

"Make Health Education Mandatory in Punjab Schools: Dr Rahul Mehra"

CHANDIGARH: Punjab must urgently integrate structured health education into school curricula to combat rising cases of anaemia, obesity, and drug abuse among students, said Dr. Rahul Mehra, India's National Representative for the UNESCO Chair on Global Health & Education and Executive Chairman of Tarang Health Alliance. Addressing a webinar titled "Building a Health-Smart Punjab: Integrating Health Education for a Productive and Drug-Free Future," Dr. Mehra highlighted a growing public health crisis among children and adolescents in the state. "Punjab is facing a serious health paradox. While academic performance remains strong, a large number of students suffer from anaemia, poor nutrition, obesity, and substance abuse, which directly affects their learning outcomes," he said. Citing alarming data, he noted that over 50% of school-going children in Punjab are anaemic, leading to low energy levels, poor concentration, and reduced academic performance. The state is also witnessing a dual burden of malnutrition, with both underweight and overweight children. Sedentary lifestyles and unhealthy eating habits are further increasing the risk of early diabetes and hypertension among youth. On substance abuse, Dr. Mehra pointed out that nearly 7 lakh children aged 10-17 years in Punjab are reportedly using drugs. He stressed that the current curriculum introduces drug awareness too late, in Grades 11 and 12, whereas experimentation often begins as early as age 10. He recommended introducing this education from Grade 6. He also raised concerns about rising mental health issues, noting that around 74% of secondary school students report high levels of stress, anxiety, and depression.

vivo unveils Y21 5G and Y11 5G

CHANDIGARH: vivo India announced the launch of the vivo Y21 5G and vivo Y11 5G, further strengthening its Y series portfolio with smartphones that promise endurance, offering long-lasting power throughout the day and reliable durability. Designed for consumers who rely on their devices throughout the day, both smartphones deliver dependable all-day performance, complemented by a sleek design and smooth user experience. Both devices are powered by a 6500mAh battery, delivering dependable all-day performance across entertainment, communication, and productivity, which allows 48.4 hours of Watching Videos, 80 Hours of Music Playback, 33.3 Hours of Surfing social media, and 10.1 Hours of Navigation5. This sustained battery performance is enabled by an ultra-high energy density design, coupled with advanced battery health algorithms. This endurance is further enhanced by intelligent power management features such as Battery Life Extender for usage even at 1%, Super Battery Saver Mode, adaptive power-saving settings, and Overnight Charging Protection to minimize battery aging. For added convenience, the vivo Y21 5G supports 44W fast charging for quick top-ups, while the vivo Y11 5G offers 15W charging for steady, reliable power. Both devices also ensure 5 Years of Battery Health7 for long-term performance.

Sanjay Dutt set to appear in 'Aakhri Sawal', first poster out



After entertaining movie buffs with his performance in Aditya Dhar's blockbuster 'Dhurandhar: The Revenge,' Sanjay Dutt will next be seen in the film titled 'Aakhri Sawal.' The makers took to Instagram on Thursday to share the first look poster for the film along with an announcement about its release date. The poster shows Dutt in a serious and intense pose, framed within a large question mark. The artwork features dark tones and fire-like visuals, giving it a powerful and mysterious feel. The tagline on the poster reads, "The Question India Never Stopped Asking," hinting at the film's theme. Take a look

Aakhri Sawal is produced by Nikhil Nanda, Dhanraj Nathwani, and Sanjay Dutt, and is backed by Nikhil Nanda Motion Pictures and Neem Tree Entertainment. Alongside Dutt, the film stars Amit Sadh, Namashi Chakraborty, Sameera Reddy, Tridha Choudhury, and Neetu Chandra. The film is set to hit cinemas on May 15, 2026. The announcement comes as Sanjay Dutt is enjoying the success of his recent film 'Dhurandhar: The Revenge,' in which he plays Pakistani police officer Chaudhary Aslam. The film, starring Ranveer Singh in the lead, has been storming the box office since its release. Directed by Aditya Dhar, 'Dhurandhar 2: The Revenge' is a sequel to Dhurandhar (2025), the highest-grossing Hindi film of that year. Produced by Jio Studios and B62 Studios, the project features a multi-star cast including Sanjay Dutt, R. Madhavan, Rakesh Bedi, and Arjun Rampal.

GARNIER COLOR NATURALS CELEBRATES MOTHER-DAUGHTER TRUST WITH RAVEENA TANDON AND RASHA THADANI IN NEW CAMPAIGN

CHANDIGARH : Garnier Color Naturals strengthens its association with actor Raveena Tandon and introduces Rasha Thadani in its latest campaign, bringing together a real-life mother-daughter duo to celebrate the brand's core pillar of trust while celebrating effortless at-home hair color. The campaign marks a natural progression for the brand, blending Garnier Color Naturals' legacy of trusted, natural-looking hair color with Raveena's enduring appeal resonating across generations and Rasha's fresh, new-age relatability. An iconic star, Raveena, along with her daughter Rasha, brings an effortless warmth and authenticity to the campaign through their real-life bond. The film captures a tender, everyday moment between the two, as Rasha turns to her mother after coloring her hair, seeking her vote of confidence. What follows is a simple yet meaningful exchange that reflects just how reassuring a mother's validation is for confidence-building. Their natural chemistry and effortless interaction make the moment deeply relatable, reinforcing how beauty choices are often guided by trust, shared experiences, and the comfort of validation. Sharing her thoughts on the campaign, Raveena Tandon said, "As a mother, there is nothing more meaningful than your child placing their trust in your choices, and nothing more reassuring than seeing them embrace their own with confidence. This campaign beautifully captures that heartfelt, powerful bond. It feels authentic and deeply relatable, mirroring the relationship I share with Rasha. I've always believed in choosing what I trust, and Garnier Color Naturals has consistently been that choice for me." Ajay Simha, General Manager, Garnier, said, "Garnier Color Naturals has long been an icon in at-home hair colour, trusted by generations of women for its rich, natural-looking color and ease of use. It is a brand that has been equally loved by mothers and daughters, making Raveena Tandon and Rasha Thadani a natural choice to bring this story to life. At a time when the at-home hair color category is evolving, this campaign builds on our legacy by placing trust at the centre of the conversation. By tapping into the universally relatable mother-daughter dynamic, we aim to make hair color feel more intuitive, reassuring, and relevant for today's consumers."

Ganga Mai Ki Betiyan: Shehzad Shaikh Joins Amandeep Sidhu, Sheizaan Khan Starrer Show; "Ravi, Sargun Are Among the Best Producers to Work With"

CHANDIGARH: Zee TV's popular show Ganga Mai Ki Betiyan, starring Sheizaan Khan (Siddhu) and Amandeep Sidhu (Sneha), is set to welcome a new character to its engaging narrative. Popular actor Shehzad Shaikh has joined the cast and will be seen essaying the role of Shlok, a hotelier who is all set to bring fresh twists and intriguing dynamics to the lives of Siddhu and Sneha.

Confirming the news, Shehzad shares, "I started my career with Zee TV 12 years ago with Qubool Hai, and now, being a part of the Zee family once again feels surreal. I had been following Ganga Mai Ki Betiyan, and when I was offered the show, I was initially a bit skeptical. However, after a few conversations and understanding the character and the vision, I was very happy to come on board. Returning to the channel after all these years with one of its top shows is truly an honour. I've admired the world the team has created, the cast, the characters, and the effort that has gone into building it. I feel extremely privileged to be part of such an amazing team and to work with some of the best in the business, especially Ravi and Sargun, who I believe are among the best producers in the industry to work with."

Speaking about his character Shlok and how much he relates to it, the actor mentioned, "I am playing hotelier in the show and interestingly I had pursued a hospitality course when I first came to India and studied hotel management at a Taj institute. Playing this character feels like life has come full circle. So in a way, Shlok and I are similar in certain aspects."

While, as of now, the show focuses on Siddhu trying to be a peacemaker between his mother Durgavati (Indira Krishna) and Sneha, with Shlok's entry, it will be exciting to see what new twists and turns unfold in Siddhu and Sneha's journey.

Catch all the drama of Ganga Mai Ki Betiyan every day at 9 PM, only on Zee TV!

Chetak Screen Awards: Dhurandhar leads with 24 nods; Saiyaara and Homebound follow ahead of April 5 ceremony

CHANDIGARH: The Indian Express Group's Screen Academy has unveiled the full slate of nominees across 31 categories for its upcoming Chetak Screen Awards ceremony on April 5, celebrating the best of Hindi cinema and OTT from 2025. Aditya Dhar's spy thriller Dhurandhar received the highest number of nominations at 24, with Mohit Suri's Saiyaara earning 17 and Neeraj Ghaywan's Homebound picking up 15. The nominations span theatrical and OTT releases, reflecting the breadth and evolution of contemporary Indian storytelling. Having been established in 1995, the Screen Awards are anchored in editorial integrity and governed by the Screen Academy, an independent, not-for-profit body of more than 50 acclaimed filmmakers, artists, and cultural voices. Over 95% of Academy members participated in the evaluation process, with an average of 38-40 members scoring each category using a trimmed mean (Olympic) methodology to ensure fairness and neutrality. To further strengthen the process, Professor Priya Jaikumar, Chair of Cinema and Media Studies at the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts, developed a detailed scoring rubric for Academy members. For the first time in 20 years, a film award show will be broadcast live.

NeuEN Green Energy Secures 10KTPA Green Hydrogen Contract From Numaligarh Refinery

CHANDIGARH: NeuEN Green Energy Pvt. Ltd. (NeuEN), a 50:50 joint venture between Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Sembcorp Green Hydrogen India Private Limited, has secured a contract to supply 10,000 tonnes per annum (10KTPA) of green hydrogen to Numaligarh Refinery Ltd. (NRL). Under the contract, NeuEN will develop a green hydrogen production facility at NRL's refinery in Assam, supported by a long-term offtake arrangement. The project is expected to begin commercial operations in 2028 and will integrate renewable energy with advanced storage solutions to enable reliable, round-the-clock operations to support refinery decarbonisation. Commenting on the development, Sanjay Khanna, Chairman & Managing Director, BPCL, said, "This project marks a significant milestone in BPCL's journey towards building a future-ready and resilient energy portfolio. Through NeuEN, we are strengthening our presence across the green hydrogen value chain and progressing towards becoming a supplier of clean energy solutions. Securing this project through a competitive bidding process reflects both the evolving maturity of the green hydrogen sector and our focus on developing scalable, market-aligned solutions. As we move forward, our emphasis will remain on building robust execution capabilities and contributing meaningfully to industrial decarbonisation and India's long-term energy security." Vipul Tuli, President & CEO, Renewables, West, and CEO, Hydrogen Business, Sembcorp, said, "This award marks a significant step forward in advancing India's green hydrogen ambitions and aligns closely with Sembcorp's strategy to enable a lower-carbon energy future. The landmark tariff achieved demonstrates the importance of well-structured long term offtake contracts. We are pleased to support NRL in its decarbonisation goals, and together with BPCL, deliver a project of national importance."

Gwyneth Paltrow to lead film based on Belle Burden's bestseller 'Strangers'



Gwyneth Paltrow is set to headline the film adaptation of 'Strangers: A Memoir of Marriage', marking another big project in her ongoing return to acting. The project, based on Belle Burden's critically acclaimed memoir, has been acquired by Netflix following a highly competitive six-way bidding war, according to People magazine. Paltrow will not only star in the film but also serve as its executive producer. The memoir, which debuted at the top of The New York Times bestseller list and has remained in the top 10 for nine consecutive weeks, explores the emotional fallout of a long-term marriage unraveling. The story centres on Burden's personal journey as she confronts the sudden collapse of her 20-year marriage during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the official logline obtained by People, Burden's seemingly stable domestic life, spent with her family at Martha's Vineyard, takes an abrupt turn when her husband unexpectedly announces his decision to leave. The narrative then traces her attempt to make sense of the transformation in her partner, while also reflecting on her own upbringing and ingrained beliefs about relationships and resilience. The adaptation will be produced by Stacey Sher, with Heidi Schreck attached to pen the screenplay. The film aims to capture the introspective tone of the memoir, which has been widely praised for its emotional depth and candid exploration of betrayal, identity and self-discovery. For Paltrow, the project marks her second major film following her widely discussed performance in 'Marty Supreme', where she portrayed a 1950s movie star. As per People magazine, in a recent interview, Paltrow reflected on her time away from acting, describing a period of reassessment after experiencing burnout earlier in her career. She noted that stepping back allowed her to "reconsider the kind of roles" she wanted to pursue, ultimately shaping her return to the screen "under more deliberate circumstances".

"I pray that the war should stop," says Ravi Kishan at IFFD 2026



Actor and parliamentarian Ravi Kishan attended the International Film Festival of Delhi (IFFD) 2026 on Thursday to promote his film 'Mahadev Ka Gorakhpur' and the upcoming second season of his Netflix hit 'Mamla Legal Hai,' and lauded the initiative as a testament to India's growing global stature. Speaking to the media, Kishan credited the festival's success to a robust national vision. He further extended his gratitude to the Delhi government and Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, noting that the platform provides vital encouragement for domestic filmmakers to screen their work and engage with global media. "Indian cinema will get a lot of strength from it. Indian film makers, new film makers, youth, will get a lot of strength from it," he added. Reflecting on the history of the Bhojpuri film industry, Kishan traced its roots back to

1962 and the vision of India's first President, Rajendra Prasad.

Kishan highlighted the industry's resurgence, which has since provided employment to over 1,00,000 people. "Bhojpuri industry has a history with a great writer. Rajendra Prasad Ji was our president in 1962. He wanted cinema to be made in Bhojpuri. Nazir Hussain made a film and it was planned in an airplane. The film was called 'Ganga Maiya', then the industry started. The industry shut down in the 90s. I was doing Hindi cinema. I was not getting any work. We got an offer from Bhojpuri. In the third phase, we started it with the help of Mahadev. We got a very big industry where 100,000 people got jobs. I have done 750 films and 450 Bhojpuri films. My Bhojpuri film also got a national award. The achievements are good," he said, "Mahadev Ka Gorakhpur

was made. Since I am a parliamentarian and I am busy with Hindi cinema, I am not able to do Bhojpuri. But of course, if I get a good script, I will do a wonderful and meaningful film very soon," he added. Beyond cinema, Kishan took a moment to address global concerns on the occasion of Ram Navami. Expressing hope for peace amidst international conflicts, he stated, "I pray that the war in the Middle East should stop so that the people of the world should get relief." The IFFD 2026, organized by the Delhi Tourism and Transport Development Corporation, continues until March 31. The opening night on March 25, also honored industry veterans Sharmila Tagore, the late legendary actor Dharmendra, and Nandamuri Balakrishna with Lifetime Achievement Awards, celebrating their enduring contributions to Indian cinema.

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