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ITBP TO PARTNER WITH HP FOR DIRECT PROCUREMENT FROM LOCAL FARMERS

PAGE 5

RABI PROCUREMENT FROM TODAY, ALL ARRANGEMENTS COMPLETED IN STATE

PAGE 7



HUMA QURESHI RECEIVES A SHOUT OUT FROM AMERICAN FILMMAKER ZACK SNYDER

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NEWS BRIEFS

Sonia Gandhi discharged from Hospital

NEW DELHI: Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi has been discharged from the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in the capital on Tuesday morning. She will continue treatment and follow-up at home. The senior Congress leader was admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital on the night of March 24 with a fever.According to Dr. Ajay Swaroop, Chairman of the hospital, she was treated with antibiotics for a systemic infection under the supervision of Dr. D. S. Rana, Dr. S. Nundy, and Dr. Arup Basu, and responded well to treatment. "Sonia Gandhi was admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital on the night of March 24, 2026, at 10:22 PM with fever. According to Dr. Ajay Swaroop, Chairman, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, she was treated with antibiotics for a systemic infection under the supervision of Dr. D. S. Rana, Dr. S. Nundy, and Dr. Arup Basu, and responded well to the treatment. She has now recovered and has been discharged from the hospital this morning for further treatment and follow-up at home, "according to hospital authorities.

India ramps up PNG rollout, 2.7 lakh new connections given in March

NEW DELHI: India added more than 3.1 lakh new piped natural gas (PNG) connections in March and another 2.7 lakh connections were issued as the government accelerated expansion of cleaner fuel networks amid supply disruptions following the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. With the war in West Asia disrupting cooking gas LPG supplies, the government has been pushing for greater adoption of piped natural gas - considered more convenient than LPG cylinders for everyday use as gas is delivered through a pipeline directly to home without the botheration of booking refills. The war has effectively shut the Strait of Hormuz - the shipping lane through which India got most of its LPG. While LPG supplies have been disrupted, half of the country's requirement of natural gas is produced locally and for the rest there are diversified sources.

India's monthly data usage hits 31 GB; 5G traffic surge by 70%

NEW DELHI: India's average monthly mobile data consumption per user crossed the 31 GB mark as 5G traffic grew by more than 70 per cent year-on-year (YoY). According to the 13th edition of the Nokia Mobile Broadband Index (MBiT) 2026, 5G technology now accounts for approximately 47 per cent of the total mobile broadband traffic in the country. The report indicated that pan-India monthly 5G traffic reached 12.9 exabytes (EB) in 2025. The overall mobile data traffic in the country crossed 27 EB per month, supported by the continuous expansion of 5G coverage and the wider availability of affordable 5G-enabled smartphones. The growth represented an 18 per cent compound annual growth rate in data consumption over the past five years, as users move toward high-definition video streaming, cloud gaming, and artificial intelligence applications.
The Nokia MBiT Index projected that India's 5G subscriber base could exceed 1 billion by 2031. The report highlights that, "India's growing global leadership in 5G connectivity. The country now has the world's second largest 5G subscriber base and second highest level of 5G data consumption.

New income-tax regime begins today
Boost in HRA, education, meal exemptions, Tax slabs and rates remain unchanged

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, MAR 31



The new Income-tax Act, 2025, set to come into effect from April 1, 2026, marks a comprehensive overhaul of India's six-decade-old tax framework, with a focus on simplifying compliance, enhancing transparency, and rationalising exemptions for salaried taxpayers. While tax slabs and rates remain unchanged, the new regime significantly alters the way income, deductions, and disclosures are reported and verified, shifting emphasis towards more accurate and detailed reporting. Multiple income tax exemption limits are set to be increased under the new rules, particularly benefiting individuals opting for the old tax regime.One of the key changes pertains to House Rent Allowance (HRA). Currently, taxpayers residing in metro cities such as Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, and Chennai can claim exemption of up to 50 per cent of their basic salary, while those in other cities are eligible for 40 per cent. Under the revised framework, cities like Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune, and Ahmedabad have also been included in the higher 50 per cent exemption category, thereby expanding relief to a wider urban population.However, stricter compliance requirements will accompany these benefits, including the need for more detailed disclosures such as landlord information while claiming HRA exemptions.The new act also provides for a substantial increase in exemptions related to children's education. The existing allowance of Rs 100 per child per month is set to be raised to Rs 3,000 per child per month.

Similarly, hostel expenditure allowance will see a sharp jump from Rs 300 per child per month to Rs 9,000 per child per month. These benefits will continue to apply to a maximum of two children and remain available under the old tax regime.In addition, salaried employees are set to benefit from enhanced meal-related tax exemptions. Under the new Income Tax Rules, 2026, the tax-exempt limit for employer-provided meals has been increased from Rs 50 per meal to Rs 200 per meal.This change could translate into an annual tax benefit of up to approximately Rs 1.05 lakh, depending on usage and employer policies, and is expected to be available under both old and new tax regimes.The exemption limit on gifts received from employers is also proposed to be increased threefold, from the current Rs 5,000 annually to Rs 15,000 per year, with this benefit applicable across both tax regimes.On the compliance front, a major procedural change includes the replacement of Form 16 with a new system-generated Form 130, aimed at improving accuracy and standardisation in tax reporting.

8 women killed in stampede at temple in Bihar



UNI
RAJGIR, MARCH 31

At least eight women devotees were killed in a tragic stampede at a Sheetalashtami temple at Madhda village under the Deepnagar police station area in Nalanda district on Tuesday.

Confirming the incident, police said here that a large number of devotees had gathered to offer prayers on the occasion of Sheetalashtami.

The situation spiralled out of control due to huge overcrowding, leading to panic among devotees and triggering a stampede.

All eight victims were women. Authorities have identified five of them as Devanti Devi, Rekha Devi, Malo Devi, Chinta Devi and Kanti Devi, while efforts are underway to ascertain the identities of the remaining three.

Several injured persons were immediately rushed to nearby healthcare centres, where they are undergoing treatment. The condition of some of the injured is stated to be serious.

Senior police and district administration officials reached the spot soon after the incident and were monitoring the rescue and relief operations. The area has been secured to prevent further mishaps.

Preliminary reports suggest that lack of crowd control arrangements and sudden surge of devotees may have contributed to the tragedy.

However, officials said a detailed inquiry will be conducted to determine the exact cause of the incident.

Nitish announces Rs 6 lakh aid for families

PATNA: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Tuesday expressed grief on the Nalanda Sheetla Mata Temple stampede and announced Rs 4 lakhs each from Disaster Management Department and Rs 2 lakhs each from CM relief fund (a total of Rs 6 Lakhs each) for the next of kin of deceased, according to a press release.The release stated, "Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has expressed deep condolences over the deaths of devotees in a stampede that occurred at the Sheetla Devi Temple in Bihar Sharif, Nalanda district. The Chief Minister stated that this incident is extremely tragic and has left him deeply distressed.

Himachal govt withdraws entry tax hike for small and medium vehicles



UNI
CHANDIGARH: In a significant policy reversal, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu announced in the State Assembly on Tuesday that the government has decided to withdraw the recently proposed hike in entry tax for five-seater and 6-to-12-seater vehicles. Addressing the Assembly, the Chief Minister confirmed that the tax rates would revert to their previous levels, maintaining a fee of Rs 70 for five-seater vehicles and Rs110 for those with 6 to 12 seats. The state government had earlier moved to increase the entry tax for five-seater vehicles from Rs70 to Rs170, while the rate for 6-to-12-seater vehicles was set to rise from Rs 110 to Rs130. The decision had triggered widespread condemnation and protests in neighboring Punjab and Haryana, particularly among residents in border districts and taxi operators. The new rates were scheduled to come into effect starting midnight tonight, leading to warnings from various groups in Punjab to block entry points into Himachal Pradesh. The issue gained significant momentum during the legislative proceedings when BJP MLA Randhir Sharma raised the matter through a point of order. Sharma highlighted the growing unrest and potential law-and-order crisis in the border regions due to the public outcry in neighboring states.

Now, like US & Europe, police assistance in Punjab will reach within just 6 minutes: CM Mann

SUMER GARG
SANGRUR, MAR 31



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Tuesday announced that Punjab will now deliver police assistance within just six minutes, on par with developed regions such as the US and Europe, as he flagged off 508 Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs) in Sangrur to significantly strengthen on-ground policing across the state. The vehicles, equipped with advanced technology and deployed across all 28 police districts under Dial-112, are set to ensure immediate response to distress calls, marking a major leap in rapid, technology-driven law enforcement.Backed by 327.70 crore investment in police vehicles over four years, the Chief Minister highlighted that modernisation of the force has not only strengthened law and order but also tightened the grip on drug traffickers, while improved security continues to boost investor confidence, reflected in major investments like Tata Steel's second-largest plant in Punjab.

Addressing a gathering in Sagrur, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann gave a strong call to the people, stating, "Social boycott of those involved in the heinous crime of drug trade is necessary as a final blow to eradicate this menace completely from Punjab." He asserted that those who have ruined generations deserve no leniency, adding, "Such elements must be taught a lesson, and social boycott will act as a catalyst in freeing Punjab from drugs." Highlighting the government's firm action, he said, "The Punjab Government has already tightened the noose against drug trade, and the conviction rate in such cases has reached 87%, which is far higher than any other state." He added, "Yudh Nashean Virudh has been the biggest-ever crackdown on the drug network in Punjab, breaking the backbone of this illegal trade by snapping supply chains and putting big fish behind bars." Emphasising a mass-based approach, the Chief Minister stated, "A comprehensive and multipronged strategy has been formulated to transform this crusade into a people's movement with proactive public support."

Tennis icon Leander Paes joins BJP

UNI
NEW DELHI/KOLKATA, MARCH 31

Indian tennis icon Leander Paes on Tuesday joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the run-up to the 2026 West Bengal assembly polls.



Paes joined the BJP at the party's headquarters in Delhi in the presence of senior party leaders and union ministers.

After joining the BJP fold, Paes said he now wanted to serve the nation and the youth and thanked the saffron outfit for giving him the opportunity to work in a new field.

"For 40 years in my life, I have played for the country, represented India in tournaments like the Davis Cup and Olympics to earn respect. Now, this is a new field. My brothers have bestowed a responsibility, and I want to serve the nation and the youth," he said. He also thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, union Home Minister Amit Shah, and the BJP's national president Nitin Nabin. "I want to thank PM Modi, Amit Shah ji and Nitin Nabin and appreciate the way the BJP family has nurtured me and given me the opportunity.

Trump signals early exit: US may end Iran war without reopening Hormuz

AGENCY
WASHINGTON DC, MAR 31



US President Donald Trump is considering ending the US military campaign in Iran, even if the Strait of Hormuz remains closed, reported The Wall Street Journal. He indicated to aides that he is prepared to wind down military operations against Iran within a four-to-six-week timeline, even if the Strait of Hormuz remains effectively closed. This decision would likely extend Tehran's control over the vital waterway, shifting the focus to diplomatic efforts to reopen it. Trump has expressed willingness to wind down hostilities, having achieved key objectives like weakening Iran's navy and missile capabilities.According to administration officials, the President believes the US can declare victory by achieving its "core" military goals without being bogged down in a protracted maritime clearance mission, reported The Wall Street Journal. Trump characterised the closure as a problem primarily for Asia and Europe, noting that 84% of the oil through the strait is bound for Asian markets. He remained firm that the US is no longer as dependent on Middle Eastern energy.The closed strait is causing significant disruptions, with oil prices surging past $100 a barrel and potential shortages in fertiliser and other critical goods.The US could consider escorting tankers or a multinational effort to reopen the strait, but these are not immediate priorities, reported The Wall Street Journal.Despite the talk of ending the war, the U.S. military footprint in the region continues to grow, creating a contradictory picture of the administration's "exit". The USS Tripoli and the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit have arrived, with elements of the 82nd Airborne and 10,000 additional ground troops under consideration. Trump has alternately threatened to bomb Iran's civilian energy grid if the strait isn't opened, while simultaneously calling the war a "lovely stay" and an "excursion."

No shortage of petrol, diesel and LPG in Haryana: Nayab Saini

BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, MAR 31



Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that while Congress election promises during its regime were never implemented and remained confined to announcements that "ended up in dustbins," the BJP-led double-engine government since 2014 has ensured that every election Sankalp is being fulfilled on the ground in a time-bound, transparent and accountable manner. He said the present government is not a promise-making administration but a delivery-oriented governance model, where every Sankalp is translated into action with commitment and speed.

Referring to recent global circumstances, the Chief Minister said the State Government has taken proactive steps to prevent panic and misinformation. He categorically stated that there is no shortage of petrol, diesel or LPG in Haryana, and sufficient stock is available across 4,032 petrol pumps and LPG agencies in the State.

Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that the mandate for a third consecutive term is not only a matter of pride but also a huge responsibility, reminding the government to work with greater dedication and fulfil every commitment made to the people. He said the government firmly believes in the principle: "What we say, we deliver."

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Lions Club Chandigarh nightingale organised hunger relief project



MOHALI (TILAK RAJ): Lions Club Chandigarh Nightingale organised a hunger relief project at Nari Niketan sector 26 and Celebrated with the inmates and distributed a Banana fruit and Halwa.Giving information about this project club past President PMJF Lion Sudarshan Kaur Bawa told according to the directions of Distt Governer PMJF Amritpal Singh Jandu LCM chandigarh nightingale always organise such kind of projects.

In this project Lion Pritpal benipal,Lion Kanwal and other club members were also present.She told our club always ready for service of humanity and all club members are active for same. She told in future also such kind of project ll be organize for service of humanity.

Taraori's Rajni Sharma secures 5th rank in UPPSC exam

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
TARAORI, MARCH 31



Rajni Sharma, a talented resident of Taraori, has secured the 5th rank in the prestigious Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (UPPSC) examination, bringing pride to her family and the entire region.

The achievement sparked celebrations in the town, with well-wishers visiting her home and distributing sweets to mark the occasion.Congratulating her, Nilokheri MLA Bhagwandas Kabirpanthi said that Rajni's success is an inspiration for the youth.

He noted that her dedication, discipline and hard work demonstrate that no goal is unattainable with consistent effort and commitment. He urged young aspirants to draw inspiration from her journey and aim high in life.Rajni Sharma credited her success to her family, teachers and sustained hard work. She emphasised the importance of time management, consistency and self-belief during preparation.

She also advised students to learn from failures rather than be discouraged by them.

Her family expressed immense pride, describing the achievement as one of the happiest moments of their lives.

28th Flower Show concludes on fragrant and memorable note

KULWINDER KARWAL
MANSA , MARCH 31



The 28th Flower Show, organised by the Environment Society Mansa, concluded successfully at the City Central Park, leaving behind a trail of fragrance and cherished memories. The event received widespread appreciation from city residents and dignitaries for its vibrant and well-organised execution.

Providing details, Dr. Vijay Singla, President of the Environment Society Mansa and MLA from Mansa, stated that the flower show was held on Sunday, March 29, 2026, with great enthusiasm and meticulous planning. The event commenced at 10:00 AM and continued till 7:00 PM, attracting a large number of visitors throughout the day.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Mansa, Mr. Bhagirath Singh Meena, attended the event as a special guest and lauded the efforts of the Environment Society for promoting environmental awareness through such initiatives. Project Chairman Mr. Naresh Vicky said that the event featured a variety of stalls and engaging cultural performances by students from different schools and colleges, which kept the audience captivated. On the occasion, dignitaries including Dr. Vijay Singla, SSP Bhagirath Singh Meena, social worker and President of the Arhtiya Association and Trade Board Mr. Manish Babbi Danewalia, social worker Mr. Pappi Danewalia, Congress leader Mr. Aman Singla Dhaipai, Chairman Mr. Sukhpal Singh, IMA District President Dr. Janak Raj Singla, Mr. Mithu Arora, and Mr. Vineet Singla honoured students with mementos and certificates. Convener Mr. Ashok Sapolia informed that the key highlights of the show included a mega blood donation camp, flower exhibition, cultural activities, food court, refreshment stalls, quiz competitions, selfie points, floral rangoli, "Couple of the Day," and live painting sessions.

Classified

PUBLIC NOTICES

ਮੈਂ ਅਸ਼ੂ ਕਪੂਰ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਪ੍ਰਾਨ ਨਾਥ ਵਾਸੀ ਮ.ਨੰ. 14236 ਗਲੀ ਨੰ. 2 ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਨਗਰ ਟਿੱਬਾ ਰੋਡ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰੀ ਲੜਕੀ ਸ਼ਾਕਸ਼ੀ ਕਪੂਰ (ਸ਼ਾਦੀਸ਼ੁਦਾ) ਜੋ ਕਿ ਮੇਰੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹੈ। ਮੈਂ ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੱਲ-ਅਚੱਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖਲ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ। ਇਸ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ ਦੇਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਖੁਦ ਜਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ। ਮੇਰਾ ਜਾ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦਾ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਤਾਲੁਕ ਵਾ ਵਾਸਤਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ।

63372

I Balbir Singh S/o Bagga Singh Village Kapial Tehsi Bhawani garh District Sangrur declare that my Son Harjot Singh S/o Balbir Singh is out my control. So I disown with him from my movable/immovable property. If anybody dealing with him at his/her own risk.

63372

I, Rakesh Kumar S/o Late Chaman Lal R/o H.No. 341, Harnamdass Pura, Jalandhar, Punjab declare that my son Rohit Kumar and his wife Preeti are out of my control. So I disinherit them from all my moveable and immoveable properties. Myself and other family members having no relation with them. I and my family shall not be held responsible for any of their act, deed and things related to them. All concerned please note.

63372

I, Hitherto Known As Raj Kumari W/O Dalvir Lal R/O Gaadan Wali Gali, Navi Abadi, Vill Awankha, Dist. Gurdaspur, Punjab- 143531, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Sushma. It Is Certified That I Have Complied With Other Legal Requirements In This Connection.

63372

I, Hitherto Known As Staffy Jain Daughter Of Sanjeev Jain Wife Of Sushil Kumar Resding At 40, Arya High School Road, Darjia Wala Chowk, Rampura Phul, Distt Bathinda, Punjab- 151503, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Simran.

63372

I Som Nath Father Of JC294017 Nb Rank Nb Sub Ranjit Singh Rio Village Khalaspur Tehsil Bassi-Pathana Distt-Fatehgarh Sahib Punjab-140412 Declare That My Name Wrongly Written In My Son Army Record Som Nath But My Correct Name Is Som Singh. And My Date Of Birth In Army Record 1-7-1955. But My Correct Date Of Birth Is. 1-1-1958.

63372

I Mandeep Kour W/O JC 294017N Rank Nb Sub Ranjit Singh R/O Village Khalaspur Tehsil Bassi-Pathana Dist Fatehgarh Sahib Punjab-140412. Declare That My Name Wrongly Written My Husband In Army Record Mandeep Kour. But My Correct Name Is Mandeep Kaur And My Date Of Birth In Army Record Is 10/8/1991. But My Correct Date Of Birth Is, 10/8/1992.

63372

PUBLIC NOTICES

We Pawan Kalia son of Late Shri Brahm Kumar Kalia and Rajni Sharma w/o Pawan Kalia both residents of H.No. 18, Adarsh Nagar, Kapurthala declare that my son Akshat Kalia is our control and fallen into bad company so we disown him from our movable and immovable properties. If any body shall deals with him shall do at his/her own risk we and our dauther Akshima Kalia will hold no resposibily and we will not liable for his any ill deed/s.

98706

We, Ram Karan S/o late Daya Ram and Devika W/o Ram Karan, R/o # 12A King Vihar, Dhulkot, Ambala City, Distt. Ambala, declare that our son, Jatin is out of our control. We disown him from our movable and immovable properties. In future, anyone deals with him will do so at their own risk.

78645

ਮੈਂ ਰਵਿਦਰ ਸਿਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਰੱਖਾ ਸਿਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਪਿਡ ਤੇ ਡਾਕ: ਸਿਬਜ਼ੀ ਤਹਿ: ਗੜ੍ਹਸ਼ੰਕਰ ਜਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਹੁਸ਼ਿਆਰਪੁਰ ਦਾ ਰਹਿਣ ਵਾਲਾ ਹਾਂ। ਮੈਨੂੰ ਦੋ ਨਾਮ ਚੁਹੜ ਸਿਘ ਅਤੇ ਰਵਿਦਰ ਨਾਲ ਜਾਣਿਆ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਮਾਲ ਮਹਿਕਮਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਮੇਰੇ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਮੇਰਾ ਨਾਮ ਰਵਿਦਰ ਸਿਘ ਦਰਜ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ।ਸਬੰਧਿਤ ਨੋਟ ਕਰਨ।

63372

I Ravinder Kaur (Aadhar No. 2887 4368 4611) W/o Avtar Singh Jassal Resident of 1328/4, Gali No. 1, Kailash Nagar, Doraha, Ludhiana have changed my name to Ravinder Kaur Jassal after marriage, that Ravinder Kaur and Ravinder Kaur Jassal is one and the same person. All concerned please note.

63372

I Kuldeep Singh S/o Nachhatar Singh R/o Vpo Malak Tehsil Jagraon Distt Ludhiana declare that my Passport No. P0361917 my father name wrongly entered Nachttar Singh and my other documents my father name is Nachhatar Singh. but my father correct name is Nachhatar Singh.

63372

I Shinder Kaur Mother Of JC 294017N Rank Nb Sub Ranjit Singh R/O Village Khalaspur Tehsil-Bassi-Pathana Distt-Fatehgarh Sahib Punjab-140412. Declare That My Date Of Birth Wrongly Written My Son In Army Record 1-7-1960. But My Correct Date Of Birth Is 1-1-1961.

63372

I, Hitherto Known As Ritika D/O Harpal Singh R/O Mohalla Basantpur Vill. Dhol Baha, Distt Hoshiarpur, Punjab- 144206, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Ritika Kumari. It Is Certified That I Have Complied With Other Legal Requirements In This Connection.

63372

I Kavita Kalia alias Jai Mangla w/o Sanjeev Kumar resident of B-7/72, Mohalla Malkana, Tehsil & District Kapurthala, Punjab declare that on my aadhar card & other documents my name has been mentioned as Kavita Kalia while my name is mentioned as Jai Mangla in my school certificate. Kavita Kalia and Jai Mangla are two names of one and the same person. I may be known by these two names of Kavita Kalia and Jai Mangla.

98706

I, Yogesh Kumar son of Sh. Hem Raj Garg, Resident of House No.50, Street No. 2, Ferozepur Cantt, have changed my name from Yogesh Kumar to Yogesh Garg.

846213

I, Hemraj son of Sh. Banarsi Dass Garg Resident of House No.50, Street No. 2, Ferozepur Cantt have changed my name from Hem Raj to Hem Raj Garg.

846213

I Kuldeep Kaur W/o Nanak Singh R/o Kotla Mussa, PO: Qadian, Distt. Gurdaspur. I have changed my name from Kuldip Kaur to Kuldeep Kaur. Please concerned note.

989753

I, Seema Devi D/o Sh. Beli Ram Kaloopia, R/o # 1703, Sector 4, Panchkula, Haryana have changed my name to Seema Devi to Seema Sood.

98745

I Naresh Pal S/o Mohinder Ram R/o Village Safipur Po Jalbhe Distt Jalandhar 144106 Have Changed My First Name To Naresh And Pal As A Surname.

900026

I , Vikram S/o Miyan Singh R/o Vpo Nauch Tehsil & Distt. Kaithal (Haryana) Have Changed My Name From Vikram To Vikram Singh. Concerned Please Note.

84451

LOST & FOUND

I, Manmeet Kaur Deol D/o Ranbir Singh Deol R/o Benra Distt.Sangrur declare that my property paper of unit No. INTT/711-T1 Omaxe New Chandigarh all documents has been lost in Bansepur Distt. SAS Nagar dated 07-01-2026. If anybody found then contact at my above address/Mobile No. 8288002358

63372

I, Daljit Singh S/o Satnam Singh R/o Vill: Pandori Patti Chachoke Po. Ghoman Teh-Batala Distt. Gurdaspur Pb, India, hve changed my name from Daljit Singh to Singh Daljit.

63372

I, Manpreet Singh S/o Kanwaljeet Singh R/o Villa No. 1448, Ansal API Golf Links 1, Sector-114, Landran, Distt SAS Nagar (Mohali) Punjab, India, have changed my name to Monpreet Singh.

63372

I, Parmjit Kaur W/o Pawan Kumar R/o Mohalla Ravidas Nagar Nawanshahr Teh-Nawanshahr Distt. SBS Nagar have changed my name from Paramjit Bali to Parmjit Kaur.

63372

I, Pawan Kumar S/o Ram Chand R/o Mohalla Ravidas Nagar Nawanshahr Teh-Nawanshahr Distt. SBS Nagar have changed my name from Pawan Kumar Bali to Pawan Kumar.

63372

I, Jaswinder Kaur W/o Baldev Singh R/o H.No. B-6/530 Saloh Road Near Gurduwara Baba Deep Singh Nagar Nawanshahr Teh-Nawanshahr Distt. SBS Nagar-144514 Pb, declared that my given name is Jaswinder and surname is Kaur.

63372

I, Gurpreet Kaur W/o Jaswinder Singh R/o Guru Teg Bahadur Nagar Nawanshahr Teh-Nawanshahr Distt. SBS Nagar-144514 Pb, declared that my given name is Gurpreet and surname is Kaur.

63372

I Buta Ravi S/o Bahadar Singh R/o Village Sekhuwas, Tehsil Lehra, Distt. Sangrur. I have changed my name Buta Ravi to Ravi Kataria.

63372

I, Ranjeet Singh Dhillon S/o Mohan Singh R/o Vpo. Jassi Pau Wali Distt. Bathinda Pb, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ranjeet Singh.

63372

I, Pooja W/o Ravinder Kumar Kataria R/o Vpo. Jalalabad East Teh-Dharamkot (Moga) have changed my name to Pooja Kataria.

63372

I, Ravinder Kumar S/o Ramesh Kumar R/o Vpo. Jalalabad East Teh-Dharamkot (Moga) have changed my name to Ravinder Kumar Kataria.

63372

I, Shavinder Kaur W/o Paviterpal Singh Bassi R/o H.No. 706 Near ITI Godhewala (Moga) have changed my name to Shavinder Kaur Bassi.

63372

I, Kuldeep Singh S/o Sultan Singh R/o Vill: Shahabana Distt. Ludhiana have changed my name from Kuldeep Singh to Kuldip Singh.

63372

I Jujhar Singh S/o Satwinder Singh Gill R/o Patti Baja VPO Dhudike Teh. & Distt. Moga-142053 have changed my name Jujhar Singh To Jujhar Singh Gill.

63372

I Kuldeep Kumar S/o Kewal Ram R/o Vill-Begampur Po Saloh Teh-Nawanshahr Distt SBS Nagar-144514 Pb, declare that my given name is Kuldeep and my surname is Kumar.

63372

I, Shahnaz Parveen W/o Mohammad Bilal R/o Milkh Road, Nishat Colony, Teh & Distt. Malerkotla have changed my name from Shahnaz Parveen to Shehnaz Parveen.

63372

I, Gurdev Kaur Sidhu W/o Ranjit Singh R/o Vpo. Burj Kahan Singh Wala Distt. Bathinda have changed my name to Gurdev Singh.

63372

I, Swaran Singh Sidhu S/o Gurjeet Singh R/o H.No. 143 Near Vadia Vpo. Dhan Singh Khana Distt. Bathinda have changed my name to Swaran Singh.

63372

I Prabjeet Kaur W/O Chamkaur Singh Village Manguwal, Distt Sbs Nagar, Punjab India-144512 Have Changed My Name Prabjeet Kaur to Prabhjeet Kaur.

63372

I, Karmjit Kaur W/o Gurjant Singh Sandhu R/o H.No:235, Near Data Wala Road, Patti Diala, Vpo Kapure Teh & Distt. Moga 142054 Have changed my name Karmjit Kaur to Karamjit Kaur Sandhu.

63372

I Sarabjit Kaur Sangha D/o Kewal Singh, Vpo Mehandpur, Teh-Balachaur, Distt SBS Nagar, declared that Sarabjit Kaur Sangha and Sarabjit Kaur are the same person.

63372

I Gurlabh Singh S/o Karam Singh Maan Village Dhelwan Teh & Distt Bathinda has been changed to his name Gurlabh Singh Maan.

63372

I Sehnaj W/o Shehbaz Khan Village Haidar Nagar Tehsil & District Malerkotla Have Changed My Name Sehnaj to Sehnaj Shehbaz.

63372

I, Janta Singh S/o Bhajan Singh R/o Vill-Ladal, Teh-Lehra, Distt Sangrur, hereby state that I am known by both the names Janta Singh and Gurjant Singh. That I am the same person by both the names.

63372

I, Rajvinder Kaur W/o Mahinga Singh R/o Village Tarkhan Mazara, P.O. Atti, District Jalandhar have changed my name to Gurprit Kaur. All Concerned Note.

63372

I Virdavinder Kaur Dhillon D/O Gurdeep Singh R/O Kararwala Distt Bathinda Have Changed My Name To Virdavinder Kaur.

63372

I, Jagjot Singh Dhaliwal S/o Hoshiar Singh R/o Near Kutia, VPO Badhni Kalan, Distt. Moga, 142037, Punjab, India, have changed my name to Jagjot Singh.

63372

I Paramjit Kaur Doal W/o Karamjit Singh R/o Vpo Pandori Tehsil & Distt Ludhiana have changed my name to Paramjit Kaur.

63372

I Karamjit Singh Doal S/o Sadhu Singh R/o Vpo Pandori Tehsil & Distt Ludhiana have changed my name to Karamjit Singh.

63372

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

63372

I, Hardeep Singh Napper S/o Amar Singh R/o Vill: Gosal Teh-Payal Distt. Ludhiana have changed my name from Hardeep Singh Napper to Hardeep Singh.

63372

I, Kavita W/o Harbans Lal R/o 376, Ved Mandir Wali Gali, Kazi Mori Mohalla, Batala, Gurdaspur, Batala, Punjab - 143505. have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Rani.

63372

I, Simranjit W/o Lakhbir Singh R/o H.No B- 22/85, Atterian Mohalla I/S achli Gate Batala, Batala, Gurdaspur, Punjab - 143505. have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Seema.

63372

I, Onkar Singh Harchand S/o Punna Ram R/o Post Office Kahnuwan, Tehsil Gurdaspur, Kahnuwan, Gurdaspur, Punjab - 143528, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Onkar Singh.

63372

I Babita W/o Banty Yadav R/o W.No. 4 Dirba Teshil Dirba Distt Sangrur I have changed my name from Babita to Babita Devi.

63372

I Sarabjit Kaur Brar Age 56 years W/o Jasvir Singh, #46 Vill-Jeeda (Bathinda)-151201 have changed my name Sarabjit Kaur Brar to Sarabjit Kaur W/o Jasvir Singh, Please Concerned note.

63372

I, Jasvir Singh Brar Age 57 years S/o Gurjant Singh #46 Vill-Jeeda (Bathinda)-151201 have changed my name Jasvir Singh Brar to Jasvir Singh S/o Gurjant Singh, Please Concerned note.

63372

I, Jugraj Singh Mararha S/o Manpreet Singh R/o Vill: Barwali Khurd Distt. Fatehgarh Sahib have changed my name to Jugraj Singh.

63372

I, Jagdeep Singh Grewal S/o Gurdev Singh R/o VPO Lohgarh distt Ludhiana have changed my name to Jagdeep Singh.

63372

I hitherto known as Jaspreet Singh S/o Gurmukh Singh, residing at Vill. Kahlwan, PO Sidhwan Dona, Distt. Kapurthala-144625, Punjab, India have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Jaspreet Singh Dhillon.

63372

I hitherto known as Vandna D/o Balvir Kumar, residing at VPO Bajuha Khurd, Distt. Jalandhar-144033, Punjab, India have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Vandna Josephine. I have changed my name only not my religion.

63372

I Jashanvir Kaur Sidhu D/o Amandeep Singh R/o 6084, Near Park, Agwar Lopan Kalan Po Jagraon Distt Ludhiana have changed my name to Jashanveer Kaur.

63372

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Lord Mahavir's message for all of humanity: Satya Pal Jain

CHANDIGARH: Mr. Satya Pal Jain former BJP MP from Chandigarh and Additional Solicitor General of India stated that the principles propounded by Lord Mahavir including world peace, "Live and Let Live," non-possession (Aparigraha), mutual tolerance, and compassion extending even to trees, birds, and animals remain just as relevant today as they were thousands of years ago. Jain was speaking today as the Chief Guest at a ceremony organized at the Jain Sthanak in Sector 18-D to mark the occasion of Lord Mahavir Jayanti. Jain observed that, in reality, the messages of all great persons and spiritual leaders including Lord Mahavir were intended for the entirety of humanity; yet, due to our narrow mindsets and personal self-interests, we have compartmentalized even our great leaders into various religions, sects, and castes. Jain further remarked that today, the entire world is saturated with increasingly destructive nuclear weaponry, and a single act of madness by a dictator could jeopardize the very existence of the entire globe.



NEWS BRIEF

Ravi Nadan Shastri honoured by Bharat Sanatan Dharma Mahavir Dal at Ram Navami event



DALJEET AJNOHA
HOSHIARPUR: Renowned bhajan singer Ravi Nadan Shastri Ji Maharaj from Vrindavan was felicitated by members of the Bharat Sanatan Dharma Mahavir Dal during the Ram Navami festival and bhajan sandhya organised by the Shri Ram Charitmanas Prachar Mandal at Shri Ram Bhawan, Chand Nagar.
Led by urban pradhan Pawan Sharma, the delegation honoured Shastri Ji and briefed him on the dal's activities, including participation in religious programmes. Sharma highlighted that the organisation's volunteers also serve at major national events like the Kumbh Mela.
Shastri Ji graciously accepted the felicitation and blessed the members. Among those present were national president Krishna Gopal Anand, general secretary Kamal Verma, vice-president Satendra Sharma, Sukhdev Singh Lucky, Ajay Verma, as well as Harish Saini, president of Shri Ram Charitmanas Prachar Mandal, and other dignitaries.

Arrangements have been made to protect children and youth from bad society and make them great officers: Dr. Dhillon



JAGDEEP SINGH GILL
JAITU: During a seminar on health and education at Gurdwara Sahib in nearby village Jhakharwala, Dr. Manjit Singh Dhillon, Chairman of the Management Committee of Baba Farid Gurukul Group of Colleges, Katkapura, said that it has been my heartfelt desire for a long time that our Punjabi youth should be empowered by providing IAS and IPS training to their youth, then Punjab can be transformed because earlier Punjabi youth used to occupy IAS and IPS positions in various states of the country, but today IAS and IPS officers from other states are also working in Punjab. There are many officers. I am planning to conduct many such courses for my students including IAS and IPS as well as doctors, defense officers, architects, NATA, CLAT/judge training because my Baba Farid Gurukul Group of Colleges complex is built in about 7 acres, where such courses can be conducted comfortably. This institution will be the first of its kind not only in Punjab but also in North India in such a wide area. Vinod Verma, Director of Wisdom Cut Classes of the college and Garinder Singh Mehndirata, Founder of Good Morning Club, expressed surprise that often after tenth standard.

Governor assures positive consideration of demands raised by terrorism-affected families

SHASHI PAL JAIN
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 31



A delegation of terrorism-affected families from Punjab called on the Hon'ble Governor of Punjab, Sh. Gulab Chand Kataria, at Lok Bhavan Punjaband submitted a memorandum highlighting their long-pending demands and concerns.

The delegation raised key issues, including release of a pending financial package and compensation for families of martyred police personnel and government employees, along with extension of special family pension benefits.

They also sought enhancement of pension for widows and parents of civilian victims. The delegation further demanded implementation of earlier policy decisions, extension of deadlines for plot allotment and regularization, and provision of concessional or free plots to terrorism-affected families, particularly Red and White Card holders.

Highlighting employment concerns, they requested relaxation in eligibility conditions to provide jobs to one family member of victims and sought reservation in government jobs for terrorism-affected families. They also demanded pension support for elderly members of displaced families who migrated during terrorism and later returned to Punjab.

Listening patiently to the concerns, Governor Gulab Chand Kataria assured the delegation that their issues would be considered sympathetically. He stated that he would take up the matter with the concerned officers and departments and ensure that the demands are examined in a positive and constructive manner.

The Governor reiterated the government's commitment towards the welfare, rehabilitation, and support of families affected by terrorism.

Arora joins procession on Shri Balaji birth anniversary

SUMER GARG
SUNAM, MAR 31



On the auspicious occasion of Shri Balaji's birth anniversary, Sunam city witnessed immense religious fervour and devotion. A grand Shobha Yatra was taken out from Mata Naina Devi Temple to Shri Balaji Dham, in which thousands of devotees participated enthusiastically.

Punjab Cabinet Minister Aman Arora joined the procession and extended his greetings to the devotees. As the yatra passed through the newly constructed Railway Under Bridge (RUB), he termed the moment historic, stating that there could be no better inauguration than one held during such a sacred and spiritual occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Arora said that such religious events play a vital role in preserving cultural heritage and promoting love, harmony, and brotherhood in society. He added that Punjab has always been a symbol of communal harmony and unity, and such celebrations further strengthen this legacy. The procession received a warm welcome across various parts of the city, with traders, social organisations, and residents showering flowers on the devotees. Several service camps were set up along the route, offering water, refreshments, fruits, and langar to the participants. The local administration ensured smooth conduct of the event with proper law and order arrangements, traffic management, and emergency services. Cleanliness and public convenience were also given due attention. Overall, the Shobha Yatra was not just a religious event but also a vibrant display of social unity, cooperation.

Bihar Foundation welcomes Bihar government's 'Migrant labourer accident grant scheme'

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 31



The Punjab and Chandigarh Chapter of Bihar Foundation has hailed the people-centric changes made by the Bihar Government in the "Bihar State Migrant Labourer Accident Grant Scheme" for unorganized sector migrant workers working outside the state and abroad, calling it a milestone in labor welfare.

Dr. Rupesh Kumar Singh, Chairman of the Bihar Foundation (Punjab & Chandigarh Chapter), welcomed the provisions of the scheme and expressed his gratitude to the Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, Samrat Chaudhary, Industries Minister Dilip Kumar Jaiswal, and the State Industries Secretary Kundan Kumar for this initiative. He stated that this scheme by the Bihar Government provides a social security shield to millions of workers from Bihar who are working under challenging conditions in other states and abroad. It is noteworthy that the Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, Samrat Chaudhary, also serves as the Chairman of the Bihar Foundation.

Under this welfare scheme of the Bihar Government, native workers of the state aged between 18 and 65 years, who are employed in the unorganized sector in other states or abroad, are eligible. In the event of death due to an accident, a grant of Rs. 4,00,000 is provided to the dependents. Furthermore, there is a provision for Rs. 1,00,000 in cases of total permanent disability (such as loss of both eyes or two limbs) and Rs. 50,000 for permanent partial disability (such as loss of one eye or one limb).In the unfortunate event of a migrant worker's death outside the state, the entire expense of transporting the mortal remains to their ancestral home will be borne by the Bihar Government. To avail of the benefits, interested workers or their dependents can apply completely online through the portal https://serviceonline.bihar.gov.in/. The scheme aims to process and settle these applications within 44 days from the date of application.Dr. Rupesh Kumar Singh, Chairman of the Bihar Foundation (Punjab & Chandigarh Chapter), said, "This step by the Bihar Government is highly commendable and humane. A large number of our brothers and sisters from Bihar are contributing to sectors like construction, agriculture, and other unorganized fields in regions like Punjab and Chandigarh. In case of any untoward incident during work, this scheme not only provides financial support but also instills a sense of confidence that the State Government stands by its citizens in every situation.

Both Congress & AAP did politics on sacrilege: Sukhbir Singh Badal



ANIL VERMA
BATHINDA, MARCH 31

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal today held both the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) governments responsible for doing politics on the issue of sacrilege even as he asked why both governments had not taken stringent action in cases of sacrilege and why out of 597 cases there had been only 44 convictions.

The SAD president was reacting to a news report which stated that Punjab had suffered 597 incidents of sacrilege in the last ten years, but there had been only 44 convictions and 99 acquittals. Addressing a mammoth gathering here as part of the party's Punjab Bachao campaign along with Halka Incharge Suba Singh Badal, the SAD president said "I want to ask where are the self styled leaders of the Panth like Baljit Singh Daduwal and Dhian Singh Mand? Why they did not visit even one of the 597 sites where these sacrilege's took place?" He said it was obvious that these leaders did not feel the need to visit any of these sites as their sole purpose was to defame the SAD government in 2015 by falsely accusing it of being complicit in the Bargari sacrilege case on the orders of central agencies. Badal said he also wanted to remind Punjabis that incidents of sacrilege allegedly started in Punjab only after AAP entered the State in 2014. "AAP MLA Naresh Yadav was even convicted in a sacrilege case despite best attempts by AAP to shield him including fielding its senior leaders Harpal Cheema and Harjot Bains.

Blossom Convent School, Dashmesh Nagar, Nayagaon, achieves 100% annual result – students enthusiastic about outcomes



J.K. BATTA
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 31

The examination results were declared during the annual function held at Blossom Convent School, Dashmesh Nagar, Nayagaon. On this occasion, the school Principal, Mrs Geeta Sandhu, and Vice-Principal, Mrs Mukesh Chaudhary Nain, honoured all students who achieved excellent results with awards on behalf of the school, recognising their magnificent performance. Sweets were also distributed to everyone present. All students at Blossom Convent School have successfully passed their examinations, creating an atmosphere of great enthusiasm among the high achievers, and the top-ranking students were duly felicitated. The parents, too, expressed immense joy. The annual result ceremony also featured arrangements for swings and a book fair for the students. Furthermore, to foster their holistic development, expert doctors provided guidance to both students and parents regarding mental, intellectual, and physical well-being. An exhibition showcasing models prepared by students in Science and Mathematics was also organised, which was highly appreciated by the parents.

Press Club organizes first event in Dharamkot with grandeur



MOGA (JAGRAJ SINGH SANGHA): The Press Club Dharamkot organized its inaugural event in a grand manner, in which various political and social personalities of the city participated and shared their views on the importance of journalism. On this occasion, Naib Tehsildar Jaspal Singh Gill, former president Inderpreet Singh Bunty, circle president Gurmail Singh Sidhu, food supply inspector Rajwant Singh Walia, Sardar Sukhchain Singh SDO Electricity Board Dharamkot Gurmeet Singh Mukhija, block president Dr. Gurmeet Singh Gill Harpreet Singh Ricky, chairman Agriculture Development Bank Iqbal Deep Singh Harry, Gurjant Singh Chahal, Ranjit Singh Aujla, Jagtar Singh Manjhar, former president Municipal Council Dharamkot Gurpinder Singh Chahal, Sandeep Singh Sandhu, Lakhjinder Singh Mann, Dr. Bhag Singh, president Poorewal Trust, Maharaja Ranjit Singh Club president Dr. Ranjit Singh Lok Bhalai Club president Dr. Surinder Juneja, Dr. Harmeet Singh Ladi, Gurbaksh Singh Kuku, Kanungo Netarpal Singh, numberdar Gurcharan Singh, Gurmej Singh, Raja Batra, eminent social workers Navdeep Kumar Ahuja, Rajan Chhabra, Sajan Chhabra, Dr. Ranjit Singh Chairman SC Front Amrik Singh Punjab President SC Front, Dr. Ravinder Singh Gill, Master Gurmeet Singh Bahl, Harbhajan Singh Batra, Lali Bhatti, Vishal Narula, Raubrinder Pabbi, Naval Sood etc.

Samagams to mark Amrit Dhara Appearance Day, Ambedkar Jayanti at Begumpura Khuralgarh



HOSHIARPUR (DALJEET AJNOHA): A special meeting of the All India Adi Dharma Mission (Regd.) was held in Ludhiana under the leadership of national president Sant Satwinder Hira. Active mission leaders from across Punjab attended and shared their views on advancing the mission's ideology and activities.

On this occasion, the attendees unanimously decided to hold samagams dedicated to Amrit Dhara Appearance Day, Mahatma Jyotirao Phule's birthday, Vaisakhi, and the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna and Constitution maker Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar at the historic religious site Shri Guru Ravidas Charan Choh Sachkhand Begumpura Shri Khuralgarh Sahib on April 12, 13, and 14. A managing committee was also formed to oversee arrangements for these events.

Sant Satwinder Hira stated that these samagams would serve as a milestone in spreading the revolutionary ideologies of Satguru Ravidas Maharaj, community leaders Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia, Baba Saheb Dr. Ambedkar, Babu Kanshi Ram, and Baba Banta Ram Gheda to every individual. He added that saints, scholars, intellectuals.

Parent Orientation session organized at Partap World School for Academic Session 2026–27



GURDASPUR (VERMA): Partap World School (PWS), Pathankot successfully organized a comprehensive parent orientation session for the parents of newly admitted day-boarding students for the upcoming academic session 2026–27. The objective of the session was to familiarize parents with the school's functioning, academic structure, and day-boarding environment. The program served as an important platform to establish a strong partnership between parents and the school at the very beginning of the academic session. During the session, the school management elaborated on the institution's vision, teaching methodologies, and student-centric approach. Important aspects such as school policies, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), safety measures, transport guidelines, academic system, co-curricular activities, and daily routine were explained clearly and transparently. Parents were also informed about the academic framework, co-curricular opportunities, and holistic development programs aimed at the overall growth of students. Special emphasis was laid on the importance of collaboration between parents and teachers to ensure the all-round development and success of students. Through an interactive session, parents were given the opportunity to directly communicate with the school management and teachers.

Desh Bhagat University hosts International seminar on innovation and entrepreneurship in hospitality



FATEHGARH SAHIB (AJAY MALHOTRA): Desh Bhagat University, School of Hotel Management & Tourism, organized a One Day International Seminar on "From Skills to Startups: Innovation and Entrepreneurial Pathways in Hospitality". The seminar aimed to provide insights into innovation-driven entrepreneurship and skill development in the hospitality industry. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Varinder Singh Rana, Deputy Director–Research and Department Chair of Hospitality and Hotel Management at City University Ajman, United Arab Emirates. In his session, Dr. Rana emphasized how hospitality professionals can transform their technical skills into successful entrepreneurial ventures. He highlighted the growing importance of innovation, creativity, adaptability, and strategic thinking in building sustainable startups in today's competitive hospitality landscape. The seminar was graced by Hon'ble Chancellor Dr. Zora Singh and Pro-Chancellor Dr. Tajinder Kaur, who appreciated the department's efforts and motivated students to explore entrepreneurship and innovation. The event was organized under the leadership of Dr. Aman Sharma, with the support of the organizing team including Dr. Rupinder Kaur, Mr. Gurkiran Singh, Ms. Nivedita.

MCM holds free eye check-up and screening camp



CHANDIGARH: Health Committee of Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women, in collaboration with J P Eye Hospital (a unit of Dr. Aggarwal Eye Hospital, Mohali), and Optics Opticians, Chandigarh along with Bausch & Lomb, organised a free Eye Check-Up and Screening Camp for its staff and students. The camp aimed to promote awareness about eye health and facilitate the early detection of vision-related issues.
A team of experienced eye specialists and optometrists from Optics Opticians along with Bausch & Lomb conducted comprehensive eye examinations, including vision testing, refraction assessment, screening for common eye ailments, and contact lens trials. Participants also benefitted from expert consultation by Dr. Abha Wadhawan, Ophthalmologist at J P Eye Hospital, who provided valuable guidance on eye care and preventive measures to maintain healthy vision. The initiative witnessed enthusiastic participation, with around 200 students and staff availing the free screening services. Officiating Principal Ms. Neena Sharma expressed appreciation for the dedicated efforts of the medical team from J P Eye Hospital, professionals from Optics Opticians, and members of the organising committee for their invaluable support in making the camp a success.

Harish Sidana retires after rendering excellent and honest service

SHASHI PAL JAIN
KHARAR, MARCH 31



Harish Sidana, a resident of Sunny Enclave, Kharar and originally hailing from Fazilka retired from his services on March 30 after rendering excellent and invaluable service at the Punjab Financial Corporation, Chandigarh.

Harish Sidana dedicated 38 years of his life to the Punjab Financial Corporation, serving for 25 years in Ferozepur and 13 years in Chandigarh. While fulfilling every responsibility towards his family, he provided his children with strong moral values and a quality education.

His son currently serves at PSPCL, Chandigarh, while his daughter works as a Senior Manager at PNB Bank in Patiala. Having provided a happy and fulfilling life for his family, he has now stepped down from his professional duties. Harish Sidana is a devout worshipper of Mata Kalka and takes a keen interest in Jagrans and Bhajan-Kirtan. The atmosphere within his family was deeply rooted in religious faith, consequently, he has enjoyed participating in Bhajan-Kirtan at temples since his childhood.

His well-wishers and family members have extended their heartfelt congratulations to him on his retirement. Sidana is also associated with the executive committee of the newly constructed Shri Ram Temple in Kharar, where he played a pivotal role in the idol installation and Pran Pratishtha held recently. Today, the Shri Ram Mandir Ajj Sarovar Vikas Samiti also felicitated him for his successful career in public service.

Congress leaders protest, block road over delay in arrest in party leader's murder case



KHANNA (GURMINDER SINGH GREWAL): Alleging police inaction into the arrest of main culprit in Congress leader murder case the leaders of Congress party blocked traffic on Machiwara kohara road and staged a dharna demanding arrest of main alleged accused. The protesters led by former Congress Minister Gurkirat Singh Kotli and Congress Dist President and former MLA Lakhvir Singh Lakha raised slogans against the state government and police and stated that law and order had worsened in the state and the block president of Congress Parminder Tiwari was murdered and the main accused is still out of roaming without arrest. They stated that the body of slain leader will not be lit to flames till the alleged accused are arrested. Raja gill congress halka incharge said that the dilly delaying by Koom Kalan police to arrest the accused has raised eyebrows about the role of police . Gurkirat singh Kotli declared that if the police failed to arrest the alleged accused without any delay then they will be forced to sit in dharna in front of Commissioner of Police Ludhiana tomorrow on April 1. The leaders alleged that the police is enacting false story about this murder and they demanded that the real culprits should brought into light and they should be arrested.

Congress appoints Rohit as sr Congress party appoints Rohit as Sr VP of Atam Nagar constituency to strengthen organisation



LUDHIANA (SARBJIT SUFI): In an effort to enhance the organizational structure, the Congress party has appointed Rohit, a hardworking leader of Atam Nagar constituency, as the party's senior vice president. On this occasion, senior Congress leader and former MLA Simarjit Singh Bains congratulated Rohit and honored him with the party's siropa.

Speaking on the occasion, former MLA Simarjit Singh Bains said that hardworking and loyal workers are always respected in the party. He said that Rohit's appointment will further strengthen the activities of the Congress party in Atam Nagar constituency. He wished Rohit well and appealed to him to work hard to take the party's pro-people policies to every door and strengthen the party.

Newly appointed Senior Vice President Rohit thanked the party high command and Simarjit Singh Bains and assured that he will fulfill his responsibility with full dedication and honesty and will work day and night to further elevate the image of the party.

Many other party office bearers and workers were present on this occasion, who expressed happiness on Rohit getting the new responsibility. Block President Tony Arora Daljit Saigal Bunty Aadi were present on this occasion.

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ECI reviews progress of Pre-SIR mapping

JALANDHAR (PARAMJIT SINGH): Election Commissioner of India Dr. S.S. Sandhu today carried out a detailed review of the progress of Pre-SIR mapping here. Punjab Chief Electoral Officer Anindita Mitra was also present on the occasion.



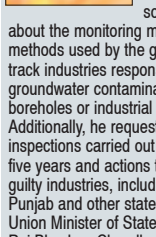
Chairing a meeting at the District Administrative Complex here with Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Election Officer Jalandhar Dr. Himanshu Aggarwal, Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Election Officer Kapurthala Amit Kumar Panchal and EROs of both districts, the Election Commissioner said that the Election Commission of India is working on a war footing to make electoral rolls accurate and error-free. Reviewing the ongoing Pre-SIR mapping in Jalandhar and Kapurthala districts, he directed officials to speed up the process. He asked officials to review the Pre-SIR mapping on a daily basis so that any delay or deficiency can be addressed immediately. He also directed them to pay special attention to polling booths with low mapping.

NEWS BRIEF

Spiritual satsang of Guru Ji organised with devotion and reverence in Doraha

AMRISH ANAND

DORAHA: With the blessings of Guru Ji, a spiritual satsang was organised with great devotion and enthusiasm at the Hindu Dharamshala, Railway Road, Doraha. A large number of devotees, along with their families, attended the gathering and sought divine blessings.



The programme commenced at 4:00 PM with a welcome band accompanied by dhol beats, creating a vibrant and devotional atmosphere. This was followed by the satsang session from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM, during which bhajans were sung and the glory and spiritual teachings of Guru Ji were shared.After the satsang, mantra jaap and aarti were performed, with devotees participating wholeheartedly in a spirit of faith and devotion. The event concluded with the distribution of langar prasad among all attendees.On the occasion, former MLA S. Lakhvir Singh Lakha and Chairman Bant Singh Doburji,Vinit Ashat,Rajinder Gahir,Mandeep Mangat marked their special presence.

Central govt evades key question on injection of contaminated water into ground

ARVIND PATHAK

SULTANPUR LODHI: The central government appeared to sidestep key questions raised by Rajya Sabha Member Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal regarding the practice of factories and industrial units injecting contaminated water directly into the ground through boreholes. Sant Seechewal had specifically asked for details of such factories and industrial units that dispose of toxic and polluted water underground through bore drilling. He also sought information about the monitoring mechanisms and methods used by the government to track industries responsible for groundwater contamination via boreholes or industrial waste disposal. Additionally, he requested details of inspections carried out over the past five years and actions taken against guilty industries, including those in Punjab and other states.In response, Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Raj Bhushan Choudhary, provided an answer but failed to address the core issue raised in the question, which has become a major concern in Punjab. He stated that there are a total of 4,498 highly polluting industries across the country. Of these, action has been taken against 601 industries found violating environmental norms—29 have been ordered to shut down.



Social activist and AAP leader Arsh Sachar demands construction of fire station in Sadiq

SURINDER DAMDAMI

FARIDKOT: Social activist and senior Aam Aadmi Party leader Arsh Sachar has placed a demand before the Chief Minister of Punjab to immediately establish a fire station in the Sadiq area. Giving information to the press in this regard, he said that Sadiq is a central place for about 50 villages and three districts, but there is no fire brigade facility here yet. Every year, farmers have to face huge losses due to fire incidents during the ripening of wheat. Arsh Sachar said that in the event of a fire, it takes a long time for the fire brigade from Faridkot to reach Sadiq due to the distance of about 25 kilometers and traffic, which delays the control of the fire and increases the damage. They demanded that in view of the wheat harvesting season, at least 2 fire brigade vehicles be deployed in Sadiq immediately and a permanent fire station be built here for the future.



He said that this issue is not just about convenience, but is related to the lives of people, the hard work of farmers and the safety of the entire region. He said that by taking timely decisions, the government can prevent huge losses. He demanded from Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann that immediate action should be taken in this public interest matter and relief should be provided to the people.

North India's first glass bridge to be built over Nangal Lake: CM Mann

NANGAL, MARCH 31



Amid an aggressive push to transform Nangal into a hub of modern infrastructure, skill development and tourism, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann rolled out a Rs 75 crore development package, anchored by North India's first Glass Bridge, a Rs 23 crore Centre of Excellence named after Kargil martyr Captain Amol Kalia, and major upgrades in education infrastructure.

Declaring these initiatives as a decisive break from years of stagnation, the Chief Minister outlined a governance model that combines industry-aligned skill training in cutting-edge fields such as Robotics, Electric Vehicles, Solar Technology and Drone Training, expanded access to technical education including for women, and large-scale water augmentation equivalent to the Bhakra Canal to strengthen Punjab's agrarian backbone. Positioning the development push alongside a political contrast, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann asserted that those who presided over the rise of the drug trade and weakened Punjab's social fabric can never be forgiven, stating that the people of the state have moved decisively towards a model of honest governance focused on jobs, education and infrastructure.

After dedicating development works worth Rs 75 crore to the people, Punjab CM Bhagwant Singh Mann stated, "The Akalis should be booked for the genocide of generations as the drug trade was patronised by them and flourished during their long misrule. The hands of these leaders are drenched with the blood of millions of youth who fell prey to drugs supplied in the state in their official vehicles.

These sins are unpardonable and they can never be forgiven by the people for their long saga of misdeeds."

Coming down heavily on the Akali leadership, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann asserted, "These are opportunist leaders who change their colours and stance like a chameleon as per their convenience and vested political interests.

They have long fooled people by calling themselves farmers, but can they explain how any food grower acquires a huge fleet of buses and a lavish hotel in Gurgaon? All this has been accumulated by selling the interests of the state and its people for their vested political gains." The Punjab CM continued, "Sukhbir Singh Badal has lost his base among the masses and paid workers are being used to show crowds in rallies. In every Akali rally, the same crowd is present. Baffled by the unprecedented work done by the state government, he is making baseless and irrational statements.

On the basis of such statements, the former Deputy Chief Minister is daydreaming about returning to power, which will never be possible."

Referring to past incidents, he recalled, "The former Deputy Chief Minister claims massive development during their regime but turns a blind eye to Kotakpura, Behbal Kalan and other places where 'beadbi' (sacrilege) of Sri Guru Granth Sahib took place and innocents were killed. All of this happened under their regime.

State govt announces landmark industrial reforms to boost ease of doing business

CHANDIGARH, MAR 31 (UNI)



In a major push to transform the state's industrial landscape, the Punjab Government has approved a series of path-breaking reforms aimed at simplifying land ownership and modernizing infrastructure management.

Punjab Minister for Industries & Commerce, Sanjeev Arora, announced on Tuesday that the Cabinet has cleared significant amendments to the policy for converting leasehold industrial plots and sheds to freehold, alongside a comprehensive restructuring of post-allotment services to foster an investor-centric ecosystem.

Under the new reforms, the conversion fee from leasehold to freehold has been fixed at a minimum of 5 per cent, with the Minister announcing a 100 per cent stamp duty exemption for all conversions completed by April 30, 2026. Addressing long-standing grievances, the government has provided substantial relief by remitting charges where the 'unearned increase' clause is not applicable, such as in cases of family transfers, inheritance, or where the clause is absent from original title documents. To further streamline the process, recurring annual charges have been replaced by a one-time fee structure in several categories, and documentation requirements have been simplified, including the acceptance of bank letters for mortgaged properties.

The Punjab Small Industries and Export Corporation (PSIEC) has also undergone a digital and administrative overhaul. Eighteen mandatory services have been reclassified as optional, and the traditional requirement for notarized affidavits has been replaced with self-declarations. To ensure the time-bound disposal of pending cases, powers have been delegated to Estate Officers, significantly reducing the compliance burden on industrialists. Minister Arora emphasized that these moves are designed to clear legacy issues and provide a transparent framework for entrepreneurs. In another landmark decision, the Cabinet approved the Punjab Common Infrastructure (Regulation & Maintenance) Amendment Bill, 2026.

This legislation introduces a unified mechanism for the operation and maintenance of all industrial focal points and clusters. A key highlight of this bill is the elimination of double taxation; service charges will now subsume property tax in municipal areas. Furthermore, an innovative collection system has been introduced where service charges will be collected seamlessly through electricity bills via the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL).

The reforms also introduce an industry-led governance model through Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs). These SPVs, registered under the Societies Registration Act, will be managed by a seven-member executive committee elected from among the industrial allottees.

NHAI hikes Ladowal toll rates by Rs 5; FASTag-only payments from today

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 31 (UNI)



The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has announced a revised tariff structure for the Ladowal toll plaza, one of Punjab's busiest and most expensive transit points, effective from midnight on April 1.

According to the official notification, commuters will face a general increase of Rs 5 in toll rates.

Furthermore, the authorities have declared a complete cessation of cash transactions at the plaza starting tomorrow, making digital payments mandatory for all vehicles.

Toll Manager Vipin Rai confirmed that the adjustments were made in accordance with a directive issued by the NHAI on March 27, as part of the annual revision process. Under the new rate list, light motor vehicles, including cars, jeeps, and vans, will now be charged Rs 225 for a single journey, up from the previous Rs 220, while a round trip will cost Rs 340 instead of Rs 335. Similarly, light commercial vehicles (LCV), mini-buses, and light goods vehicles (LGV) will see single-trip rates rise to Rs 365, and double-trip charges increase to Rs 550.

The revision also impacts regular commuters and commercial operators utilizing monthly and annual passes.

The monthly pass has seen a marginal increase of Rs 10, moving from Rs 340 to Rs 350. For long-distance commercial vehicles and frequent travelers, the annual pass, which facilitates 200 trips, has been hiked by Rs 75, bringing the new cost to Rs 3,075 from the earlier Rs 3,000.

The NHAI determines these toll adjustments based on the Wholesale Price Index (WPI), factoring in road length, the presence of infrastructure like flyovers and underpasses, and the quality of amenities provided.

This year's annual revision reflects a calculated modification ranging from 2.5% to 10% across various vehicle categories, aligning with current economic indicators and maintenance requirements.

Govt releases Rs 23.32 crore under Ashirwad Scheme for 4,572 beneficiaries: Dr. Baljit Kaur

GAURAV GOEL
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 31



Punjab Minister for Social Justice, Empowerment and Minorities, Dr. Baljit Kaur, said that the Punjab Government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, is continuously working for the welfare of weaker sections of society. In this direction, financial assistance amounting to Rs 23.32 crore has been released under the Ashirwad Scheme for 4,572 beneficiaries belonging to Scheduled Castes during the current financial year 2025-26.

She stated that this financial assistance provides support to low-income families at the time of marriage of their daughters, thereby reducing the financial burden on families and helping them conduct marriages with dignity. She added that the scheme is providing significant relief to needy families and strengthening social security. Dr. Baljit Kaur further informed that beneficiaries from districts Barnala, Bathinda, Faridkot, Ferozepur, Sri Fatehgarh Sahib, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Ludhiana, Mansa, Moga, Patiala, Pathankot, Rupnagar, SAS Nagar, SBS Nagar, Sangrur, Malerkotla and Tarn Taran have been covered under this scheme. Providing district-wise details, the Minister said that financial assistance has been provided to 125 beneficiaries in Barnala, 761 in Bathinda, 87 in Faridkot, 266 in Ferozepur, 155 in Sri Fatehgarh Sahib, 164 in Gurdaspur, 441 in Hoshiarpur, 332 in Ludhiana and 441 in Mansa.

Principals share essential tips for students to excel in exams: "A healthy mind resides in healthy body"



GURDASPUR (VERMA): The principals of various schools in Pathankot jointly shared special tips with students to help them achieve excellent results in their examinations. The principals included Mrs. Vinita Mahajan of Mount Litera Zee School, Pathankot; Mrs. Manjit Mall of Avalon Girls Senior Secondary School, Mission Road, Pathankot; Mrs. Kamlesh Patial of The Shishya School, Jugial Road, Pathankot; Mrs. Anju Mahajan of Pilot Senior Secondary School, Pathankot; Mrs. Mishi Chawla of KLM Kidz School; and Mrs. Ruchi Chauhan of Auxilium International School, Jugial Road, Pathankot. All the principals emphasized that the key to exam success lies in a thorough understanding of the curriculum and planned, disciplined study. They advised students to focus only on the prescribed syllabus and avoid unnecessary subjects or extra material. To enhance the quality of learning, they recommended repeatedly revising study material and using flashcards for important points. Additionally, solving previous years' question papers and self-assessment were highlighted as crucial practices. This not only helps students understand the exam pattern but also improves time management and builds confidence. Keeping in mind the principle that "a healthy mind resides in a healthy body", the principals advised students to maintain a balanced diet, get adequate sleep, and stay properly hydrated. Maintaining a balance between study and health is an effective way to reduce exam stress and improve performance.

Differently-abled protesters burn effigy of Chief Minister, warn of intensified agitation



KULWINDER KARWAL
SARDULGARH, MARCH 30

Members of the Physically Handicapped Association, Block Unit Sardulgarh, staged a protest near the local bus stand by burning an effigy of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, alleging failure to address their long-pending demands. Earlier, a large number of differently-abled individuals gathered at the grain market and marched in protest to the bus stand, raising slogans against the Punjab government. The protesters expressed strong resentment, stating that despite already facing challenges due to their physical conditions, they feel neglected by the present government, which has allegedly failed to fulfil both their demands and pre-election assurances. Condemning the state government, district president Avinash Sharma, block president Aseem Goel, and Sunil Masih alleged that the senior leadership of the Aam Aadmi Party had, prior to the 2022 Assembly elections, promised government jobs to educated persons with disabilities, a monthly pension of Rs 2,500, and essential facilities to improve their quality of life.

Grand farewell given to J.E. Hatinder Sharma of Water Supply and Sanitation Department on his retirement



RAKESH JINDAL
NABHA, MARCH 31

Engineer Hatinder Sharma Union Engineer at Water Supply and Sanitation Sub Divisional Office Nabha, Nabha, has retired today. It is worth mentioning that Hatinder Sharma is the uncle of prominent NRI promoter Sinku Nabha. On this occasion, Sinku Nabha congratulated his uncle Hartinder Sharma on the occasion of retirement through phone and said that my uncle not only maintained his family relations well. At the same time, while serving in his department, he earned love and respect with his fellow employees like a family by treating them with full dedication and honesty. On the retirement of Engineer Hatinder Sharma, a grand farewell party was given by all the office staff, sub divisional engineers, junior engineers and social staff. Eminent Sikh thinker Abjinder Singh Jogi Nanonki, who was specially present during the farewell party ceremony, said that in the present times, despite unnecessary political pressure on the employee class, it is considered a big challenge to retire with an immaculate chadar after 34 years of long service, which Sharma ji met in a very good manner.

Congress leader Manmohan Singh Kahlon joins Akali Dal, meets president Sukhbir Badal

SHARANJEET
PATHANKOT, MARCH 31



A new turn came in the politics of Sujanpur constituency when prominent Congress leader Manmohan Singh Kahlon, along with his colleagues, announced his joining the Shiromani Akali Dal. On this occasion, he met Akali Dal President Sukhbir Singh Badal and expressed his commitment to work for the party's policies and the interests of Punjab.

Giving information in this regard, Manmohan Singh Kahlon said that Shiromani Akali Dal Badal is the only party that has always come forward and worked for the protection of the interests of Punjab and the welfare of the people. He said that he has decided to join the Akali Dal after being impressed by the visionary leadership of Akali Dal President Sukhbir Singh Badal and the strong thinking of the party.

Kahlon said that the party's base has become much stronger due to the continuous hard work and public service done by Avtar Singh Kaler, the District Rural President of the Pathankot Akali Dal Badal. He said that in the coming time, he will work diligently to take the party's policies to every door and will remain committed to solving the problems of the people of the constituency.On this occasion, Manmohan Singh Kahlon said that many Congress workers and leaders are also influenced by the policies of the Akali Dal and many more people may also join the party in the coming days. He said that it is a matter of joy for the people of Sujanpur constituency that experienced leaders will come together and work for the development of the area.

Green Field Convent School Dangarh annual result announced

BALWINDER AZAD
BARNALA, MARCH 31



The annual result of Green Field Convent (Senior Secondary) School Dangarh was announced today. In which the students of the school excelled by securing very good marks and entered the next classes. Giving information in this regard, Principal Preet Kamal Sharma said that the result of the annual examinations held now has been announced today.

In which all the students have secured good marks and increased the pride of the parents, teachers and the school. He said that there was great excitement among the children regarding the result.

Seeing the marks obtained in the result, the students and parents highly appreciated the performance of the school. During this, the parents discussed with the teachers and discussed the future to bring more relevance in the education of the children. On this occasion, Chairman S. Sukhminder Singh Gill praised the entire staff of the school for the good results of the students and said that while parents are worried about the education of their children, the teachers are also worried, for which the teachers leave no stone unturned in preparing with full dedication and hard work, the results of which are seen in the annual results of the children.

He assured the parents on this occasion that the school will continue to strive for good results for the students in the future as well.

The students who came in first, second and third positions in the annual results were specially honored with trophies and gifts.

Annual results declared at Sheikh Farid Senior Secondary School Bajakhana

JAGDEEP SINGH GILL
JAITU, MARCH 31



The annual results were declared at Sheikh Farid Senior Secondary School Bajakhana. On this occasion, there was an atmosphere of joy as the results of all the classes of the school were 100 percent.

The annual function organized in this regard was led by Principal Mrs. Satwinder Pal Kaur, MD Maninder Singh and Coordinator Navreet Singh Mani. The program was started with Shabad singing by the students. It was also announced that the school will start an AI-based robotics lab under new technology in the coming time. An AI exhibition was also organized on this occasion. In which students and parents participated in large numbers. This new initiative was highly appreciated by the parents. Teachers Lakhandeep Singh, Manpreet Kaur Madam and Pooja Madam played a special role in the success of the exhibition. Students who participated in various activities were honored during the ceremony. The prize distribution ceremony was started by Principal Satwinder Pal Kaur, MD Maninder Singh and Coordinator Navreet Singh Mani. The stage was conducted by Madam Kuljit Kaur (Computer Teacher), Seema Madam and Amritpal Singh in a very sincere manner. In the end, Principal Satwinder Pal Kaur motivated the students to achieve greater heights in the future and best wishes were given. On this occasion, Principal Satwinder Pal Kaur, MD Maninder Singh, Coordinator Navreet Singh, Seema Rani, Pooja Madam, Kamaljit Kaur Madam, Sukhpreet Madam, Arshdeep Singh, Prince Kumar, Jaspal Kaur Madam and all the staff were present.

Orientation conclave' organized at Punjabi University



PATIALA (TAPINDER SINGH): An 'Orientation Conclave' was organized today at the Punjabi University campus under the Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Career Hub. The event, titled 'Gall Punjab Di', was presided over by Vice-Chancellor Dr. Jagdeep Singh. Prof. Rajeev Ahuja, Director of IIT Ropar, attended the occasion as the Chief Guest.Dr. Jagdeep Singh, addressing the students, said that in the modern era, youth should aspire to be job providers rather than just job seekers. He emphasized that the youth of Punjab possess immense potential. Students should focus on start-ups and come forward with innovative ideas. Entrepreneurial efforts are essential to contribute to the state's economy and progress, he added.The Chief Guest, Prof. Rajeev Ahuja, shared his insights and highlighted the significance of technical expertise and innovative thinking.

Faculty members and a large number of students from various university departments attended the conclave.Students and teachers from various affiliated colleges also joined the discussion.

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CM condoles demise of Thakur Jog Dhyan

DINESH AGARWAL

SHIMLA: Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has condoled the demise of Thakur Jog Dhyan, father of Kullu Assembly constituency MLA Sundar Singh Thakur. Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said that the passing away of Thakur Jog Dhyan is a great loss to the bereaved family. He expressed condolences with Sundar Singh Thakur and his family in this hour of grief. He has prayed to the Almighty for the peace of the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family members to bear this irreparable loss.

NEWS BRIEF

HPV awareness camps held in Una Villages



KISHORI LAL BAINS

UNA: The Health Department organized HPV vaccination awareness camps in Pandoga and Bhadsali villages on Tuesday under the guidance of Shingara Singh. During the camps, health officials informed residents that the HPV vaccine helps protect girls from Cervical Cancer. The initiative received a positive response, with girls and their parents showing keen interest in vaccination. The department announced that HPV vaccine doses will be administered across the district on April 5 and April 12 for girls aged 14 to 15 years. The awareness drive was conducted by a team including Dr. Pariniti, MHS Mohan Lal, FHS Nikki Devi, CHC Dipti, and ASHA workers.

ITBP to partner with HP for direct procurement from local farmers

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, MAR 31



Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) is set to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Himachal Pradesh for the procurement of locally produced fresh vegetables, fruits, milk, paneer, meat, trout fish and other agricultural products. Under this arrangement, ITBP will directly source produce from farmers, cooperative societies and local producers. The initiative aims to provide farmers with a reliable market within their own villages, thereby enhancing income opportunities and reducing dependency on intermediaries. The move is expected to generate employment for farmers, horticulturists and rural communities residing in border areas, while also contributing to inclusive and sustainable regional development.

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) is set to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Himachal Pradesh for the direct procurement of locally produced agricultural and allied products, including fresh vegetables, fruits, milk, paneer, meat, trout fish and other commodities. Under this initiative, the ITBP will source its requirements directly from farmers, cooperative societies and local producers, ensuring a steady supply of high-quality produce while simultaneously creating a dependable market for rural communities within their own regions. This progressive step is aimed at enhancing the income of farmers by minimizing reliance on intermediaries and fostering self-sufficiency in border areas. By enabling direct market access, the initiative is expected to generate sustainable employment opportunities for farmers, horticulturists and rural households, thereby contributing significantly to inclusive and balanced regional development.

Naxalism on verge of extinction due to Modi govt's policies: Anurag Thakur

SANJAY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA, MAR 31



Former Union Minister and MP from the Hamirpur Lok Sabha constituency, Anurag Thakur, stated that the Congress party consistently took the Naxal issue lightly, allowing it to fester into a malignant wound, and was never serious about eradicating the problem from its roots. However, it is solely the result of the Modi government's efforts that the country is now poised to become free from the decades-old Naxal menace within the next two days. He stated, "The Congress party inflicted one of the most painful wounds upon Mother India in the form of Naxalism. During the Congress regime, vast tracts of the country became 'no-go zones.' In districts like Bastar, Dantewada, Sukma, and Bijapur, hoisting the Indian Tricolor was a perilous act. Villages that should have housed schools witnessed bomb blasts instead. Routes meant for roads were instead strewn with IEDs. Between 2006 and 2011, the Naxals demolished 260 schools. From 2009 to 2012, there were 1,183 attacks targeting railways, power grids, and telephone exchanges. This was the murder of development, yet the Congress remained a silent spectator. The very people with whom the Congress leadership in Delhi used to 'party' were the ones orchestrating attacks against our soldiers in the forests.

Sukhu govt has turned Himachal into 'Tax State': Sanjay Sharma

SANJAY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA, MAR 31



BJP State Spokesperson Sanjay Sharma has stated that, instead of making Himachal Pradesh tourism-friendly, the Sukhu government has transformed it into a 'tax state.' He remarked that the government's policies have now become akin to plundering the pockets of both the common people and tourists. Development activities across the state have come to a complete standstill, and the government's entire focus has narrowed down to nothing but extracting money from the public. Sanjay Sharma pointed out that, following the imposition of exorbitant entry fees on famous trekking routes like Triund—along with wildly excessive entry charges for vehicles—the government has now set its sights on pedestrians. Taking a sarcastic dig, he remarked that, given the government's modus operandi, it appears that permits for pedestrians will soon start being issued even on public thoroughfares in major cities and towns such as Shimla's Mall Road, Manali's Mall Road, Mandi, Solan, Kullu, Chamba's Chaugan, and Dharamshala-McLeod Ganj. He alleged that while Himachal's economy relies entirely on tourism, the new levies being imposed by the government at various locations have caused tourists to begin shying away from visiting the state. He asserted that the true definition of the government—which had coined the slogan of "System Change" (Vyavastha Parivartan)—has now been reduced to nothing more than imposing new taxes. The mindset of levying fees for movement across major markets and thoroughfares is akin to the 'Jizya tax' of the medieval era; this approach will not only cripple the tourism sector but also break the backs of local traders and the common people. Issuing a stern warning, Sanjay Sharma declared that if the state government does not immediately withdraw these anti-people taxes and levies, the Bharatiya Janata Party will not remain silent.

ADC directs intensified anti-drug campaign, stresses road safety measures in Una

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA, MAR 31



Additional Deputy Commissioner Mahender Pal Gurjar has directed all departments to intensify efforts against drug abuse and strengthen road safety measures in the district, emphasising accountability and coordinated action to ensure public safety. Chairing meetings of the district-level coordination committee under the National Narcotics Coordination Portal (NCORD) and the District Road Safety Committee at the DRDA hall, the ADC called for stricter enforcement under the NDPS Act. He instructed police officials to accelerate action and ensure visible results both in data and on the ground, with regular monitoring of progress. Highlighting Una's status as a border district, he stressed the need for heightened vigilance against drug-related activities, describing the issue as a serious social challenge requiring joint efforts from administration and society. He directed that de-addiction committees at the panchayat level hold regular meetings and that targeted awareness campaigns be conducted in 10 sensitive panchayat areas affected by drug abuse. Special emphasis was also laid on educating school students about the harmful effects of drugs. The ADC further instructed SDMs and DSPs to ensure regular inspection and effective monitoring of de-addiction and rehabilitation centres. He also directed officials to complete demarcation in encroachment cases on government land within two weeks. During the road safety review, he ordered immediate corrective measures at accident-prone black spots and directed that safety railings on national highways be installed as per standards without leaving unsafe gaps.

Education dialogue and annual results declared in PM Shri Govt Model Sr Sec School Amb



AVINASH CHAUHAN

AMB: An education dialogue program was held at PM Shri Government Model Senior Secondary School, Amb, on March 31, 2026, and the students' annual exam results were announced. On this occasion, meritorious students who secured first, second, and third positions in various classes were honored with mementos, school kits, and water bottles. School Principal Vinod Vanyal greeted the parents and students present and wished them a bright future. He said that from the beginning of the new academic year, students will have to work harder so that they can achieve even better results in the future and bring glory to the school and the region. He also stated that now that the school is affiliated with CBSE, education will be provided in a more qualitative manner. On this occasion, Principal Vinod Vanyal specially appreciated Gulzari Lal for the successful organization of the program. The school's SMC head, Mr. Deep Kumar Sanju, also congratulated the students on their excellent results. SMC members Anoop Sharma, Basant Lal, Anita Devi, Mashlo Devi, Gulabi Devi, and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Dalai Lama appeals for renunciation of war and weapons



SANJAY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA: On the occasion of Palm Sunday, the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, has endorsed the appeal for peace made by Pope Leo. He described the Pope's call to renounce weapons and abandon the path of violence as absolutely essential for humanity. The Dalai Lama stated that this appeal by the Pope had deeply touched his heart. He characterized it as being in harmony with the core teachings of all the world's major religions. The spiritual leader clarified that whether it be Christianity, Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, or any other great spiritual tradition, the fundamental message of all is love, compassion, tolerance, and self-discipline. The Dalai Lama emphasized that violence has no place within these sacred teachings.



Speaker of the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Kuldeep Singh Pathania, receives a ceremonial salute at Gate No. 1 upon his arrival at the Vidhan Sabha Secretariat to preside over proceedings on the 11th day of Phase II of the Budget Session.

BJP to protest fuel cess, entry tax hike in Himachal

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, MAR 31



Rajeev Bindal has launched a strong attack on the Congress-led Himachal Pradesh government over the imposition of a Rs. 5 cess on petrol and diesel, along with an increase in entry tax on vehicles. He alleged that the move has significantly burdened the common people, traders, and transporters, including taxi drivers, bus operators, and truck unions. Bindal said the rising taxes, coupled with already high VAT, are worsening inflation and affecting livelihoods across the state. Raising concern over the hike in entry tax, he noted that it has drawn objections from neighboring states like Punjab and Haryana, putting additional pressure on Himachal's trade and transport sectors. Announcing agitation, Bindal said the BJP will hold protests in all 68 Assembly constituencies from April 8 to 11 if the government fails to roll back the decisions. He asserted that the party stands with the public against what he termed as "anti-people policies." He also accused the state government of increasing electricity tariffs, stamp duty, and prices of essential commodities such as ration and cement, further straining household budgets. Meanwhile, Bindal expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for approving Rs. 3,920 crore in special financial assistance to Himachal Pradesh. He described the support as crucial in reviving the state's economy, claiming it helped restore the budget from Rs. 54,000 crore back to Rs. 58,000 crore. Bindal concluded that the assistance would help restart stalled development works and reaffirmed BJP's commitment to protecting the interests of the people of Himachal Pradesh.

DAV School Solan students witness Assembly proceedings, Speaker interacts with them

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, MAR 31



As many as 47 students from DAV School, Solan visited the Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha and witnessed the proceedings of the House on Tuesday. The students observed the Question Hour and Zero Hour from the visitors' gallery and expressed enthusiasm after experiencing the legislative process firsthand. During the session, Assembly Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania made a special mention of the students from his chair and addressed them. After the proceedings, the students interacted with the Speaker at Gate No. 1 of the Council Chamber and shared their experience. They also posed questions regarding the functioning of the Assembly. Responding to a query on how he manages the proceedings with experienced legislators, Pathania said that members are senior and knowledgeable, and he tries to anticipate their concerns and conduct the proceedings in accordance with rules to avoid disruptions. He compared his role to that of a teacher managing a classroom. He added that students are allowed to witness Assembly proceedings in Shimla and Dharamshala based on seating capacity so that awareness about the parliamentary system can be spread among the public. He also recalled a special "Children's Parliament" organised earlier, where students effectively played roles such as Chief Minister, Leader of Opposition and legislators. The Speaker appreciated the students' awareness of contemporary issues and their enthusiasm for discussions. He encouraged them to pursue education with dedication and contribute towards nation-building.

Three-hour blockade at Barotiwala border over toll hike, traffic disrupted



SHANTI GAUTAM
BADDI, MAR 31

Residents from Haryana staged a protest at the Barotiwala border on Monday morning against the proposed toll hike, blocking traffic for nearly three hours and causing major disruption to movement in the Baddi-Barotiwala-Nalagarh (BBN) industrial region. The protest began around 8 am, with demonstrators stopping vehicles from entering or exiting the state. Protesters raised slogans against the government, alleging that the steep increase in toll charges was unjustified. According to the protesters, the entry fee for cars has been raised from Rs. 70 to Rs. 170, while rates for other vehicles have also been increased. They termed the hike as arbitrary and warned that they would not allow vehicles to enter Haryana from April 1 if the decision is not rolled back. The blockade led to long queues of vehicles on both sides of the border, severely affecting industrial operations as workers and goods carriers were unable to reach factories on time. Many commuters were forced to take alternative routes. Officials from the Baddi administration reached the spot and received a memorandum from the protesters. The blockade was lifted after assurances from the authorities. Police personnel from both Himachal Pradesh and Haryana were deployed at the site to maintain law and order. The protest saw participation from local representatives, including former Panchkula Zila Parishad chairman Rajesh Kona, along with sarpanches, BDC members, women's groups, youth organisations and members of various political parties, who expressed unity on the issue.

Governor Kavinder Gupta visits Himachal Emporium in New Delhi

BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MAR 31



Governor Kavinder Gupta today visited the Himachal Emporium during his stay in New Delhi. During the visit, the Governor observed a wide range of Himachali products displayed at the Emporium and expressed keen interest in the rich craftsmanship and traditional heritage reflected in these items. The Governor interacted with the officials and staff of the Emporium and lauded their efforts in promoting the unique cultural identity and traditional craftsmanship of Himachal Pradesh. He noted that such platforms play a significant role in showcasing the State's indigenous products, including handloom and handicraft items, to a wider national and international audience. Gupta emphasized the importance of supporting local artisans, weavers and entrepreneurs by providing them with better marketing opportunities and modern infrastructure. He observed that the promotion of traditional products not only preserves the State's cultural heritage but also strengthens the rural economy and generates sustainable livelihoods for local communities.

The Governor further stated that Himachali products are known for their quality, authenticity and aesthetic appeal, and there is immense potential to expand their reach in domestic as well as global markets. He encouraged the authorities to continue their efforts in promoting locally made products and enhancing brand value through innovation, quality assurance and effective marketing strategies.

LIC Officer Sanjeev Goel retires after 37 years



KISHORI LAL BAINS

PALAMPUR: A heartfelt farewell was accorded to Sanjeev Kumar Goel, Development Officer at Life Insurance Corporation of India, on his retirement after 37 years of dedicated service. A dignified ceremony was held at the Palampur branch, where colleagues and officials lauded his exemplary contribution. Senior Branch Manager Atul Gupta described him as a disciplined, committed, and inspiring officer who elevated the branch's performance and mentored numerous agents. Born on March 31, 1966, in Balota village of Himachal Pradesh, Goel completed his B.Sc. (Medical) from DAV College Kangra in 1987. He began his professional journey as a teacher in Bhawarna before joining LIC as a Trainee Development Officer on August 21, 1989, and was confirmed in 1991. During his career, he earned the distinction of being the youngest Development Officer at the Palampur branch and also recorded the longest tenure in the role. In recognition of his outstanding service, he was promoted as Assistant Branch Manager (Sales) in 2022, later continuing again as a Development Officer.

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MLA inaugurates development works worth 19 lakhs in Makhsoospur

DALJEET AJNOHA

HOSHIARPUR: In a significant step toward rural development, MLA Dr. Ishank Kumar inaugurated and dedicated multiple development projects to the residents of Makhsoospur. The works, completed with a grant of Rs. 8 lakh, included the construction and renovation of two Dharamshalas, while an additional Rs. 11 lakh was utilized for the development of a village street. The inauguration ceremony witnessed an enthusiastic response from villagers, who expressed their happiness and satisfaction with the improved infrastructure. They lauded the efforts, highlighting how these projects will enhance daily life and provide better facilities for social and community gatherings.



NEWS BRIEF

Hry Governor pays tribute to Mahavir Jayanti at Lok Bhavan



BUREAU

CHANDIGARH: Haryana Governor Prof Ashim Kumar Ghosh along with Lady Governor Smt Mitra Ghosh paid their obeisance to Bhagwan Mahavir Jain on his jayanti at Haryana Lok Bhavan on Tuesday. DK Behera, Secretary, Haryana Lok Bhavan, ADC to Governor Shri Nitish Agarwal and other officers also paid their obeisance to Bhagwan Mahavir Jain on the occasion.

Centre grants Rs. 3,920 cr to Himachal under 'Pride of Hills' scheme: Kamlesh Kumari

ANIL KUMAR

SHIMLA: Former MLA and BJP Mahila Morcha state general secretary Kamlesh Kumari expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the central government for approving financial assistance of Rs. 3,920 crore to Himachal Pradesh under the 'Pride of Hills' initiative. She said the assistance, provided under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme, will prove to be a milestone in the state's development. According to her, the Prime Minister's continued support for Himachal Pradesh is reflected in this significant allocation. Kamlesh Kumari stated that the funds will strengthen infrastructure and accelerate development works across the state. She added that the increase in capital expenditure will also ensure long-term economic benefits. She urged the state government to utilise the funds with full transparency and strictly for the intended development purposes. Reiterating the Centre's commitment, she said the 'Pride of Hills' scheme will play a key role in taking Himachal Pradesh's growth to new heights.



Smart City Mission nothing short of deception: Rahul Gandhi

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, MAR 31



Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Tuesday slammed the Centre's Smart City Mission, flagging a lack of clean water and air, and safety concerns in cities.In a statement, the Congress MP highlighted deaths due to contaminated water and collapsing bridges, despite the Centre stating Rs 48,000 crore expenditure to complete 97 per cent of projects under the Smart City Mission. Rahul Gandhi alleged that the mission was limited to "grand announcements and zero accountability". In a statement, Rahul Gandhi said, "No city can truly be 'smart' if it fails to provide its citizens with basic dignity, clean water, clean air, and safety. You surely remember the Modi government's Smart Cities Mission, a scheme the Prime Minister never tired of lauding with extravagant praise." "Now that this scheme is nearing its conclusion, I sought an account from the government in Parliament regarding its actual outcomes. And the truth that emerged can be described as nothing short of a deception: the objective of this scheme was never, in fact, to develop the entire city. The nation was sold a half-baked scheme, packaged as a narrative of total transformation. Questions were asked: What constitutes a 'Smart City'? On what basis was success determined? How many cities were truly transformed? What tangible changes occurred in people's lives? Yet, no clear answers were received," he added. Gandhi hinted at a "failure" of the mission, despite incurring a huge expenditure." We were merely informed that approximately Rs 48,000 crore had been spent, and that 97 per cent of the projects were deemed 'complete.' But if everything is indeed complete, then what exactly has changed in your city? The reality on the ground tells a very different story: Deaths are occurring due to contaminated water and open sewers; Collapsing bridges and caving roads further expose the magnitude of this failure. This scheme serves as a prime example of the Modi government's true modus operandi: grand announcements, even grander publicity, and zero accountability.

Ward-wise seating plan set for Councillors in Jagadhri

RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR, MAR 31



The seating arrangements for councillors from wards 1 to 7 will be at the Jagadhri Municipal Corporation office. Furthermore, councillors from wards 8 to 15 will be seated at the main Municipal Corporation office at ShaheedBhagat Singh Chowk, and councillors from wards 16 to 22 will be seated at the Municipal Corporation office at Kanhaiya Sahib Chowk. This information was provided by Municipal Corporation Mayor Suman Bahmani. Mayor Suman Bahmani, accompanied by Councillor ReenaRastogi, Councillor Jayant Swami, Councillor BhanuPratap, Chief Sanitation Inspector Harjeet Singh, Assistant Engineer Muneshwar Bhardwaj, and other officials, inspected the Jagadhri Municipal Corporation office. During the inspection, she identified a seating area for councillors and directed officials to make adequate arrangements for their seating as soon as possible. During the inspection, the Mayor carefully evaluated the cleanliness of the office, the seating arrangements for employees and the general public. She visited various departments within the Municipal Corporation office, including the Tax Branch, Sanitation Branch, Citizen Facilitation Center, Birth and Death Certificate Branch, and Marriage Registration Branch, to assess the working conditions and facilities there. She laid special emphasis on providing better seating arrangements and maintaining cleanliness for the citizens visiting the branches.

During the inspection, Mayor Suman Bahamani told officials that the Municipal Corporation office should provide a comfortable environment for both the public and public representatives, so that people do not experience any inconvenience when visiting for their work.

Haryana Governor Prof Ashim Kumar Ghosh visits Siswan Lake and forest reserve

BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, MAR 31



Governor of Haryana Prof Ashim Kumar Ghosh, accompanied by Lady Governor Smt Mitra Ghosh, on Tuesday visited the serene environs of Siswan Lake and the adjoining forest reserve to experience its mesmerizing natural beauty and ecological richness. During the visit, Governor Prof Ashim Kumar Ghosh, Lady Governor Smt Mitra Ghosh and DK Behera, Secretary, Haryana Lok Bhavan, had the motorboat ride and previewed the surroundings of Shivalik Hills. He also visited the museum, which showcases the ecological and cultural heritage of the region and has been meticulously preserved by the department. Deeply impressed by the pristine surroundings, tranquil waters and the well-maintained infrastructure, Haryana Governor Prof Ghosh lauded the efforts of the Forest Department, Punjab, for preserving this natural hidden trail. Divisional Forest Officer Shri Amneet Singh, IFS, apprised him about the significance of the lake, the biodiversity of the forest reserve and the conservation efforts undertaken by the Forest Department, Punjab. On the occasion, Harpreet Sandhu, State Information Commissioner, Punjab, presented a portrait of the Siswan Lake to Governor Prof Ashim Kumar Ghosh and Lady Governor Smt Mitra Ghosh along with personalized name plates and flower pots as a token of respect and remembrance. ADC to Governor Nitish Agarwal, SMO Dr Rajesh Talwar, Private Secretary to Governor Shri Shankha Chatterjee, and other Haryana Lok Bhavan officials were also present on the occasion.

Bauji dedicated his life to social service: Pawan Garg



HANS RAJ

KURUKSHETRA: On the death anniversary of Om Prakash Jindal former Member of Parliament for Kurukshetra Lok Sabha constituency and former Energy Minister of Haryana government he was remembered with deep reverence at O.P. Jindal Park. Dignitaries, social activists and local residents gathered to pay their heartfelt tributes to him. Those present offered floral tributes at Bauji's statue and pledged to follow path shown by Bauji Om Prakash Jindal. Social worker Pawan Garg remembered him with reverence and shared several inspiring anecdotes from his life. He stated that Om Prakash Jindal was not merely a politician, but a true leader of masses who dedicated his entire life to service of society. He undertook numerous initiatives specifically for upliftment of backward classes, underprivileged and farmers—efforts that ensure he remains alive in hearts of the people to this day. His deeds and ideals have inspired every section of society to move forward. He further noted that the task of upholding and advancing ideals and values of Bauji Om Prakash Jindal is being continuously carried forward by his son, current Member of Parliament, Naveen Jindal.

IGMMV Kaithal students' outstanding results in M.Sc. Mathematics third semester



SANJAY SHARMA

KAITHAL: Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, declared the M.Sc. third semester exam results on March 21, 2026, and Indira Gandhi (P.G.) Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Kaithal, achieved truly commendable performance. Students make the college proud by excelling in examinations .In the exam, Isha Devi secured first place in the college with an impressive 9.23 SGPA. Mafi Devi took second place with 9.15 SGPA, while Saloni claimed third with 9.08 SGPA. A total of 3 students scored above 9 SGPA, and 6 others earned between 8 and 9 SGPA—clear proof of the department's high academic standards. President of the Governing Body Sh. Ram Bahadur Khurania, expressed delight over the results, calling it the fruit of the students' hard work and teachers' guidance. He wished them bright futures and urged them to keep pushing forward. Principal Dr. Arti Garg was thrilled with the achievement, attributing it to the students' dedication, discipline, and teachers' commitment.

Devotees seek darshan and blessings of sages and saints

CHAMAN LAL
KARNAL, MAR 30



The annual installation ceremony of the highly potent, wish-fulfilling Shri Ghantakarna Mahavir Dev Pilgrimage Site—along with the inauguration of the Shri Atma Manohar Jain Niramayam Center and the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the second floor of the Shri Atma Manohar Jain Charitable Hospital—was organised under the spiritual guidance of 'Bharat Sant Gaurav' (India's Pride among Saints), Shri Piyush Muni Ji Maharaj, at the Shri Atma Manohar Jain Aradhana Mandir pilgrimage site on Indri Road, Karnal. On this auspicious occasion, the Governor of Haryana, Professor Ashim Kumar Ghosh, attended as the Chief Guest; he sought the *darshan* (holy sight) of the saints present and received their blessings. The inauguration of the Shri Atma Manohar Jain Niramayam Center was graced by the dignified presence of Dattatreya Hosabale, the Sarkaryavah of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). On this occasion, devotees sought the darshan and blessings of several eminent spiritual leaders, including 'Chakravarti Yajna Samrat' Tripurapithadhishwar Swami Shri Hariom Ji Maharaj, 'Gita Manishi' Mahamandaleshwar Swami Shri Gyananand Ji Maharaj, Mahamandaleshwar Swami Shri Dharmadev Ji Maharaj, Mandaleshwar Swami Shri Sampurnanand Ji Maharaj, Mahamandaleshwar Swami Shri Rajeshwaranand Ji Maharaj, and Paramhansa Sant Shri Jagjit Singh Ji, alongside Shri Piyush Muni Ji Maharaj. During the event, the organizers honored Governor Prof. Ashim Kumar Ghosh by presenting him with a turban, a shawl, a garland, and a memento. On behalf of the organizers, Mayor Renu Bala Gupta and Megha Bhandari—Vice-Chairperson and Chairperson of the Haryana Welfare Committee for Persons with Speech and Hearing Impairments—honoured the Governor's wife, Mitra Ghosh, by presenting her with a shawl, a garland, and a memento.

Orientation programme held at New Happy Public School, Sudhail

RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR, MAR 31



New Happy Public School, Sudhail successfully organized a Parent-Teacher Orientation Programme before the commencement of the new academic session. All parents were invited to the programme to familiarize them with the school's academic framework, teaching methodology, and the innovative approaches adopted for the holistic development of students. During the programme, the teachers effectively demonstrated the "Learning by Doing" and activity-based teaching methodologies. Through various examples and presentations, they explained how students are encouraged to move beyond textbook learning and gain practical knowledge through hands-on experiences. This approach helps in developing curiosity, creativity, confidence, and problem-solving skills among students. On this occasion, students also showcased cultural performances along with demonstrations of yoga and karate skills. The Principal of the school, Mrs. Toshal Wadhwa, addressed the gathering and said, "Our aim is not just to complete the syllabus, but to focus on the overall development of every child. We want each student to enjoy the learning process and grow with confidence. The support of parents is extremely important in this journey." She also expressed her gratitude to the parents for their continued trust in the school. The Director of the school, Mr. Vikas Sharma, said, "In today's changing world, the nature of education is also evolving. We must prepare children not just for exams, but for life. At New Happy Public School, we integrate modern teaching techniques with strong values to provide a solid foundation for our students."

Extended Executive meeting of All India Gurjar Mahasabha concludes in Gurugram



MAHENDER GOYAL

FATEHABAD: Extended executive meeting of All India Gurjar Mahasabha was concluded in Gurugram. Extensive discussions and deliberations were held regarding community unity, dissemination of education, upliftment of youth and expansion of organization.Atmaram Kasana (from Khairati Khera)—former District Public Relations Officer of Fatehabad district—was entrusted with the responsibility of serving as State Spokesperson. Atmaram Kasana expressed his gratitude to all members of state and national executive committees, including State President Sanwarmal Gurjar. Extending his thanks on behalf of his family and associates, Kasana stated that he would discharge responsibility entrusted to him by organization with honesty and dedication. He gave an assurance that he would play an active and significant role in advancing community and would remain ready at all times with his body, mind and resources to serve community.

Bilaspur sets stage for Civic Polls with ward-wise reservation roster announcement



AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY

BILASPUR: In a significant step towards the forthcoming civic body elections, Deputy Commissioner Rahul Kumar has officially unveiled the ward-wise reservation roster for Municipal Councils and Nagar Panchayats across District Bilaspur, ensuring structured representation and inclusive participation. As per the notification, the Shri Naina Devi Ji Municipal Council comprises 7 wards, with Ward No. 4 (Durga) reserved for Scheduled Caste women, while Wards No. 5 (Sheetla), 6 (Shakti), and 7 (Ambika) are reserved for women. The remaining three wards—Devi, Tara, and Kalika—will remain unreserved. In Ghumarwin Municipal Council, out of 9 wards, four wards—Baddu, Indira, Tikri, and Dakri—have been earmarked for women, with Jagdamba reserved for Scheduled Caste women and Bajoa for Scheduled Castes, reflecting balanced social representation. The Bilaspur Municipal Council, comprising 11 wards, has allocated five wards for women, one for Scheduled Caste women (Stadium), and one for Scheduled Castes (Lakhanpur), while key wards including Main Market and Town Hall remain unreserved. Similarly, Talai Nagar Panchayat's roster highlights focused inclusion, reserving three wards for women and one for Scheduled Tribe women, alongside a dedicated Scheduled Caste ward. The administration further confirmed that reservation-related processes for Jhanduta and Swarghat Nagar Panchayats are underway.

One day NEP 2020 seminar organised at Baba Siddhanath International Public School



HANS RAJ
KURUKSHETRA, MAR 31

An in-house seminar was organized at Baba Siddhanath International Public School to discuss the importance of AIM (a framework designed by the Government of India to modernize, inclusive and quality education system of the country). This seminar was addressed by Mrs. PoonamDavra, who is an experienced and skilled teacher. All the teachers of the school participated in this seminar and understood the importance of (NEP-2020) education system. SmtPoonamDavra told that through this education system we can help in improving the lives of students by developing their thinking skills and how we can develop qualities like thinking, understanding, reading and writing in our students. The objective of this seminar was to make the teachers understand the importance of (NEP-2020) and motivate them to teach various types of skills to their students and it teaches students to increase self-confidence, learn by doing something new in the class room, solve problems, build good character, learn by doing something new in the group and stay disciplined. At the end of the seminar, the teachers resolved to incorporate (NEP-2020) into their teaching.

NIC Senior Director Vinod Kumar Singla retires after 34 years of service

HANS RAJ
KURUKSHETRA, MAR 31



Deputy Commissioner Vishram Kumar Meena stated that NIC Senior Director Vinod Kumar Singla has rendered commendable, remarkable, and outstanding services toward development and promotion of Kurukshetra. Thanks to these services, people from both within the country and abroad remained connected with the International Gita Mahotsav; furthermore, he discharged his duties with complete honesty and dedication. The District Administration will never be able to forget these services. He was speaking at a farewell ceremony organized by the NIC Department in the auditorium of the Mini Secretariat. Earlier in the program, Deputy Commissioner Vishram Kumar Meena, City Magistrate Ashish Kumar, KDB CEO Pankaj Setia, Honorary Secretary of the Kurukshetra Development Board Upendra Singhal, DIPRO Dr. Narendra Singh, Accounts Officer Satya Bhushan, and ADIO Bharti congratulated NIC Senior Director Vinod Kumar Singla on his retirement, extended their best wishes, and presented him with a memento as a token of remembrance. DC remarked that NIC Senior Director Vinod Kumar Singla has always adhered to every order and directive issued by the government and the administration. He made a pivotal contribution in steering NIC Department to new heights.

NEWS BRIEFS

Adopt 'live and let live' principle to ensure global peace: Sachin Jain

DINKAR GAVDI
HANSI: Terapanth Yuvak Parishad Hansi media in-charge and Aam Aadmi Party youth state vice-president Sachin Jain extended greetings on the occasion of Mahavir Jayanti and urged people across the world to follow the path of "live and let live" to promote peace. He said that in the current global scenario, rising conflicts and violence reflect a growing tendency of individuals turning against one another. In such times, he emphasised that the teachings of Lord Mahavir are more relevant than ever and can guide humanity towards harmony.



Jain stated that instead of blaming others, individuals and nations should introspect and identify their own shortcomings, as advocated in Lord Mahavir's teachings. He added that self-reflection is essential for reducing conflict and fostering mutual understanding. Highlighting Lord Mahavir's life, he said that despite facing numerous hardships and suffering, he remained composed and steadfast on the path of non-violence.

Rabi procurement from today, all arrangements completed in state

BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 31

Haryana is fully geared up for the Rabi procurement season 2026–27, with government procurement set to begin from April 1 and continue till May 15, backed by extensive arrangements across mandis and administrative machinery.

Divulging more details in this regard, Minister of State for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Sh. Rajesh Nagar said that grain markets across the state have been readied with a focus on cleanliness and essential facilities for farmers. Officers concerned, including District Food and Supply Controllers and the District Managers of the agency, have undergone specialised training to ensure smooth procurement operations.

He said that procurement in the mandis will be biometric-based; to simplify the process, the State Government has mandated biometric verification for either the farmer personally or for only one of the three nominees designated by them, eliminating the need for farmers to be physically present at the mandi.



The Minister said that all mandi locations have been geo-fenced. Under this facility, it will be ensured that all activities, including the issuance of gate passes, auctions, the generation of 'J-Forms' (sale receipts), and the lifting of produce are conducted exclusively within the mandi premises. To achieve this, physical presence within the geo-fenced zone of the mandi is verified, thereby preventing any unauthorized individual from fraudulently selling a farmer's produce in the farmer's name.

He further informed that for gate pass issuance, uploading of the vehicle photograph along with the vehicle number has been made mandatory. In cases where vehicles do not have number plates, farmers will be allowed to display the number manually on paper or by paint, which will be treated as valid.

The Minister further said that exit gate passes will be issued only when the vehicle is physically present within the geo-fenced mandi area. Similarly, geo-fencing of storage locations has been implemented to ensure that foodgrain is accepted in warehouses only when the vehicle is physically present within the designated storage premises.

He added that procurement will be carried out for all farmers registered on the Meri Fasal Mera Byora portal. Crop verification will be done through a satellite imagery-based system started by the Agriculture department to verify the crops grown on the land declared by the farmers, along with checks by revenue and district agriculture officials, and a third layer of validation using heat maps generated by HARSAC.

Dr. Padam Singh Sharma 'Kamlesh' Memorial Poetry Recitation Competition held at Jayaram Kanya Mahavidyalaya



HANS RAJ SHARMA
KURUKSHETRA, MARCH 30

Inspired by Brahm Swaroop Brahmachari—the Supreme Head of the nationwide network of Shri Jayaram Institutions and Chairman of the Shri Jayaram Educational Institute—a grand Dr. Padam Singh Sharma 'Kamlesh' Memorial Poetry Recitation Competition (Hindi) for the 2025–26 session was organised at the Seth Navrang Rai Lohia Jairam Kanya Mahavidyalaya. This institution is dedicated to the mission of providing higher education to young women from rural backgrounds. The competition was conducted under the guidance of the Department of Youth and Cultural Welfare at Kurukshetra University. Vivek Chawla, Director of the Department of Youth Welfare and Cultural Affairs at Kurukshetra University, graced the occasion as the chief guest. In his address, he enlightened the students regarding the significance of literature and the Hindi language, emphasizing that such competitions are indispensable for personality development. The program was presided over by the college Principal, Dr. Sudesh Rawal. In her welcome address, she extended a warm welcome to all the guests, judges, and participants, stating that poetry serves as a beautiful expression of the heart's emotions and that platforms such as this offer students a golden opportunity to showcase their talents. Additionally, Dr. Harvinder Rana, Supervisor of the Cultural Programs Department at Kurukshetra University, was also present on this occasion.

The panel of judges for the competition comprised Dr. Shailesh Kapoor (Retired Principal, Mukund National College, Yamunanagar), Brij Sharma (Film Artist, Theatre, and Multicultural Art Centre), and Dr. Chitranjan Dayal Singh Kaushal. Participants representing 15 teams from various colleges enthusiastically took part in the competition, effectively presenting social, cultural, and contemporary themes through their poetic renditions. The performances delivered by the participants left the audience spellbound. At the conclusion of the competition, the winners were announced; participants securing the first, second, and third positions were awarded cash prizes of 3,100, 2,100, and 1,100, respectively, while two participants received consolation prizes of 500 each. Krish Kumar, Ramneet, Kanishka, Vanshika, and Kumkum brought honor to their respective colleges by winning the first, second, and third prizes, as well as the consolation prizes.

Seven-day NSS camp concludes at SIATE Kurukshetra

HANSRAJ
KURUKSHETRA, MAR 31

The seven-day special camp organised under the National Service Scheme (NSS) at the State Institute of Advanced Studies in Teacher Education (SIATE), Kurukshetra concluded on Tuesday with a grand event held in the institute's auditorium.

The camp was conducted under the guidance of institute director Dr Rishi Goyal. Haryana Chief Minister's representative Kailash Saini attended as the chief guest, while Kurukshetra University NSS coordinator Dr Anand Kumar was present as the guest of honour.

The programme began with a formal welcome by institute in-charge Dr Praveen Kumar, followed by a Saraswati Vandana presented by students. NSS volunteers showcased patriotic songs, poetry and energetic dance performances, earning applause from the audience.



Addressing the gathering, Kailash Saini emphasised that education is not limited to obtaining degrees but also involves understanding one's social responsibilities. He encouraged students to adopt moral values and actively contribute to nation-building. Dr Anand Kumar elaborated on the functioning of NSS and appreciated the role of volunteers, highlighting that such camps help develop leadership skills and a sense of social harmony among students. A detailed report of the camp was presented by student Yana, outlining activities conducted over the seven days. Volunteer Alok shared his experiences, stating that the camp brought positive changes in his personality. For their outstanding performance, Alok Maharana was awarded Best Volunteer, while Komal Rani received the Best Volunteer (Female) award. Certificates were distributed to all participants for their active involvement.

Annual results declared at Satyam Public School in Bapoli

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
PANIPAT/BAPOLI: The annual examination results were declared at Satyam Public School in Jalalpur First village on Tuesday in a ceremony held on the school premises. Chairman of Bapoli Market Committee Rajendra Rawal attended as the chief guest and felicitated students with awards for their academic performance.

School principal Satyawan Sharma expressed gratitude to the chief guest and parents, stating that students who worked hard throughout the year were rewarded with their results. He emphasised that the school regularly organises various activities to impart knowledge and urged parents to pay special attention to their children's education, calling it the most valuable asset in life.

School director Pooja Sharma highlighted that the institution focuses on the overall development of students along with academics. She added that the school also prepares students for entrance examinations of Army School, Sainik School, Rai Sports School and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, while special emphasis is laid on Vedic mathematics and supporting weaker students.



Addressing the students, Rajendra Rawal said that success cannot be achieved overnight and requires consistent hard work and dedication. He advised students to value time and avoid postponing tasks, adding that determination and discipline are key to achieving goals. He also encouraged students to conserve water and use resources responsibly.

Several dignitaries, including BJP leader Ranjeet Sharma, Bhim Singh Rawal, Sachin Rawal, Dinesh Rawal, Sonu Sharma, Arvind, Monu, Rekha Bhatia, Sweety Rawal, Priyanka Lakda, Kshama, Kajal, Anita, Shalu, Priya and Aarti, were present on the occasion.

Following Lord Mahavir's path can bring 'Ram Rajya': Sangeet Shri Maharaj

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL: Sangeet Shri Maharaj, a disciple of Jain Sadhvi Sundari Devi, said that the world can overcome unrest by following the path shown by Lord Mahavir. Addressing a religious gathering at Jain Sthanak in Hanuman Gali on the occasion of Mahavir Jayanti, she said that if rulers adopt the principles of Lord Mahavir, the ideal of 'Ram Rajya' can be achieved.



The event also marked the 41st diksha anniversary of the Jain sadhvi and featured various cultural programmes. Devotees celebrated the occasion with religious fervour, including rituals and devotional activities.

The programme was conducted by general secretary Naveen Jain.
Discourses were also delivered by Sangeet Shri Maharaj's disciples Rakhi Ji Maharaj and Sneha Ji Maharaj. Devotional bhajans were presented by Prachan Jain, Sudha Jain and Pawan Jain.

A large number of community members, including Ashok Jain, Satish Jain, Inder Jain, Mahendra Jain, Surender Jain, Vicky Jain, Gautam Jain, Krishna Jain, Viresh Jain, Rishu Jain, Raman Jain, Gogi Jain and Neetu Jain, were present on the occasion.

Meanwhile, the Jain Digambar community organised a separate programme at the Jain temple in the morning, where rituals including abhishek were performed. A procession (rath yatra) was also taken out through various parts of the city before concluding at the temple. Devotees participated enthusiastically in the celebrations.

Property tax collection crosses Rs. 29.53 crore in Karnal, Rs.20.39 lakh deposited on last day



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL: The Municipal Corporation Karnal collected a total of ₹29.53 crore as property tax during the financial year 2025–26, Municipal Commissioner Dr Vaishali Sharma said on Monday.

She informed that on the last day of the financial year, nearly ₹20.39 lakh was deposited, reflecting growing awareness and cooperation among citizens.

Despite the holiday on account of Mahavir Jayanti, all counters at the Citizen Facilitation Centre (CFC) remained open for the entire day to ensure that residents could conveniently deposit their property tax without any difficulty.

Expressing gratitude to residents, the commissioner said that public cooperation plays a crucial role in strengthening civic services and accelerating development works in the city.

She also appealed to all defaulters to ensure timely payment of property tax in the upcoming financial year so that development activities can continue smoothly.

Nursing students take oath at Baba Mastnath University, pledge service and dedication

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
ROHTAK, MARCH 31



A solemn oath-taking ceremony for nursing students was organised at Baba Mastnath University, Rohtak, marking an important milestone in their professional journey. The students pledged to uphold the values of service, dedication and humanity in their careers.

The programme began with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, followed by the oath administered to the students. University registrar Dr Vinod Kumar, nursing director Dr Manoj Kumar and principal Dr Meena Rani were present on the occasion, along with faculty members.

Addressing the gathering, Dr Vinod Kumar said nursing is not merely a profession but a symbol of service and compassion. He urged students to perform their duties with sincerity, honesty and empathy. Dr Manoj Kumar described nurses as a ray of hope for patients and encouraged them to maintain patience and sensitivity in their work.

Dr Meena Rani highlighted the dignity of the nursing profession, stating that it demands discipline, dedication and strong ethical values. She advised students to continuously enhance their knowledge and skills while prioritising patient care.

The students took the oath with enthusiasm and sincerity, reflecting their commitment to the profession. The organisers concluded the event with a vote of thanks, terming the ceremony a significant step in shaping responsible and compassionate healthcare professionals.

213 people benefit from free medical camps Organised by Naveen Jindal Foundation

YAGYADATT SHASHTRI
PEHOWA: A free medical camp was organised by the Naveen Jindal Foundation in the villages of Tikri and Harigarh Bhaurakh. During the event, a medical team led by Dr. Pramod Singh examined 193 patients, while laboratory tests were conducted for 20 individuals. At the camp, Dr. Pramod Singh's team examined patients and provided them with appropriate medical advice. Additionally, free medicines were distributed to the patients. The medical camp offered diagnostic facilities for various ailments, including blood pressure issues, diabetes, and women's health-related concerns. Teja Ram, the Sarpanch (village head) of Tikri, stated that the camp provided residents with a timely opportunity to identify and seek treatment for their ailments. Jeet Ram, the parliamentary constituency incharge, explained that the Foundation is continuously organizing such camps with the objective of extending healthcare facilities to rural areas. Speaking on the occasion, Dharamvir Singh, the in-charge of the MP's office, remarked that the Naveen Jindal Foundation is consistently engaged in social service activities. He emphasized that ensuring access to healthcare facilities in rural regions is the need of the hour, and that such free medical camps are proving to be immensely beneficial for the general public. He further stated that the Foundation's mission is to ensure that no individual suffers due to a lack of medical treatment, and that timely healthcare services reach every person in need. Present at the event were numerous individuals, including former Sarpanches Ranjit Singh and Amar Gir; Panchayat member Joginder Singh; Ramkumar, Surta Ram, Amar Singh, and Shiv Kumar; as well as Sahil Saini (BJP General Secretary from Harigarh Bhorakh), Sarpanch Kamal Kajal, Secretary Surendra Saini, Shrikant Saini, Bhura, Manish, and Gurpej.



Ramayana authored by Maharishi Valmiki presented to VHP Provincial President

MAINPAL KASHYAP
INDRI, MARCH 31

Tejinder Singh 'Teji'—a resident of Samoura village in Karnal district and the convener of the "Har Ghar Valmiki Ramayana" (Valmiki Ramayana in Every Home) campaign—along with his followers, gave fresh momentum to the campaign by presenting a copy of the Ramayana to the Provincial President of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), former Justice Pawan Kumar, upon his arrival in Samoura village. Speaking on the occasion, former Justice Pawan Kumar remarked that there is a profound need for such campaigns within society. He emphasized that human birth is granted, in part, for the purpose of worshipping the Supreme Lord. He urged people to carve out time from their busy schedules to remember the Divine and thereby become worthy recipients of His grace.



He further advised people to steer clear of sins and vices. He noted that one can draw lessons by observing the conduct and behavior of the members of households where recitations of the Ramayana are regularly performed; such individuals find peace and patience within their minds and refrain from speaking ill of others. He added that education is also crucial for social upliftment. Today's students, he suggested, could be inspired by the episodes and anecdotes of the Ramayana to conduct research into the profound mysteries of deep science. He conveyed a message urging everyone to follow the teachings of Lord Valmiki. The Ramayana, authored by Maharishi Valmiki, has provided knowledge and direction to humanity for ages—and will continue to do so forever. This ancient epic of the world continues to serve as a source of inspiration for everyone to this day.The campaign's convener, Tejinder Singh 'Teji', stated that this initiative was launched on March 6 of last year from the New Delhi residence of the Union Minister for Power and Urban Development, Manohar Lal.

Mandatory police verification of domestic servants, tenants, and employees: SP Vinod Kumar

DINKAR GAWRI
HANSI: SP Hansi, Vinod Kumar, has appealed to the general public to strictly ensure the police verification of domestic servants, drivers, gardeners, security guards, and other employees—as well as tenants—working in their homes, shops, offices, and other establishments, in order to safeguard against any potential criminal incidents.He stated that several cases have come to light in which individuals hired without prior verification have committed acts of theft, fraud, embezzlement, and other criminal activities. In such instances, it was observed that had the verification of the concerned individuals been conducted in a timely manner, these incidents could have been prevented. The Superintendent of Police advised citizens to thoroughly verify the identity, permanent address, previous place of residence, and other essential documents of any individual before hiring them for work or renting out a house to them. Citizens should keep a secure copy of the concerned individual's Aadhaar card, identity card, and latest photograph, and must complete the verification process—either online or at the nearest police station or outpost—in accordance with the prescribed procedure.



Furthermore, he directed landlords to maintain comprehensive records of their tenants and to review these records periodically. They must not permit any unknown or suspicious individual to enter or work within their premises without proper identification and verification.

Every section of society unhappy under BJP government: Parag Gaba

SHIV KUMAT SHARMA
KARNAL, MARCH 31



Parag Gaba, Urban President of the District Congress Committee, took aim at the BJP government, stating that currently, every section of society is plagued by inflation. He alleged that due to the government's policies, the economic condition of the common man is steadily deteriorating. Gaba asserted that farmers, laborers, traders, and employees—every single section—are unhappy with this government. Rising inflation has broken the back of the poor, making it increasingly difficult to meet daily necessities. He noted that the value of the rupee is constantly declining, a factor that has further exacerbated the situation. According to him, on March 1, the dollar stood at 91.06, a figure that has now risen to 94.86. He dismissed the government's announcement to reduce excise duty on petrol by 10 as mere tokenism.

He argued that India imports approximately 85 per cent of its crude oil from abroad, and payments for this are made in dollars. Consequently, as the dollar appreciates, oil prices automatically rise, effectively nullifying the impact of any relief measures. He recalled that even during the global economic crisis of 2008, India faced challenges, yet the economic management at that time was robust. The country was steered through that period through increased exports, balanced expenditure, and sound policies. Today, he emphasised, there is a need for that same foresight and strong leadership. He urged the government to take appropriate measures to curb rising inflation so that the common man may find relief.

YUGMARG

CHANDIGARH

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026

Opinion

Change your life today. Don't gamble on the future, act now, without delay.

Simone de Beauvoir

EDITORIAL

Canada on a correction course

Over the decades, Canada has allowed itself to become a safe sanctuary for anti-India elements, particularly pro-Khalistan groups, openly calling for secession and asking Hindus to leave the country. India's repeated requests through diplomatic channels for the extradition of peddlers of hatred went unheeded. In fact, these radical elements had a free run during the Justin Trudeau regime, as reflected in frequent attacks on Indian consulates in different Canadian cities. Thankfully, things are changing now. Since his victory in the national election in April last year, Prime Minister Mark Carney has been taking sagacious steps to put the strained bilateral relations back on track. Carney's pragmatic approach towards India has helped send across an unambiguous message to the anti-India elements that they cannot take Canadian freedom for granted to malign India. The legislation against hate crimes, passed recently by the Canadian House of Commons, is the latest demonstration of Ottawa's resolve to rein in the hate mongers. The Bill, which covers hate crimes against all religions and ethnicities, will now go to the Senate and, after being passed, will require royal assent to become law. No wonder the proposed legislation is widely hailed by the Indian community across Canada, which has long been targeted by pro-Khalistan extremist groups. These pro-Khalistani groups frequently exploited religious occasions to promote extremism. A few years ago, during a religious parade, these elements displayed bullet-riddled images of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi alongside her assassins, glorifying the act. Anti-India elements often used Canada's liberal laws on liberty and expression to target India and Indians. Gurpatwant Singh Pannun of Sikhs for Justice had issued open threats to the Hindu community in the past. Once Bill C-9 becomes law, such actions could attract prosecution and severe punishment. While Bill C-9 is expected to impact pro-Khalistan activities, its primary objective is to curb anti-Semitism linked to pro-Palestine campaigns. Attacks on Hindu temples and Jewish synagogues in recent years have raised serious concerns, with authorities often criticised for inaction. Canada has now acknowledged the growing problem of hate crimes and extremist activities on its soil. The proposed law aims to curb the use of symbols and messages that glorify violence, including those used by groups such as Babbar Khalsa International. Importantly, it will not allow exemptions under "good faith" in the name of religion, closing a loophole that had been misused to promote hate. Although not targeted at any specific group, it is expected to make it harder for those exploiting legal gaps to incite hatred and violence against religious and ethnic communities. The Trudeau administration had faced severe criticism for pursuing a dangerous appeasement policy for political survival. His desperate moves were aimed at playing to the gallery, especially the supporters of Khalistan. However, his successor, Carney, has adopted a more balanced and pragmatic approach.

Kharg: The world's most dangerous oil island



In the volatile geopolitics of the Persian Gulf, the flashpoint on which every eye is currently trained is the tiny Kharg Island, through which some 90 per cent of Iran's oil flows.

A strike on this small, heavily fortified outpost would not simply be another episode in the long shadow war between United States and Israel, on the one hand and Iran on the other.

It would represent a decisive rupture in the global energy order, capable of transmitting shockwaves from Asian megacities to European industrial corridors within days.

"You can expect the price of crude which is already between USD 100-115 a barrel, to jump to USD 130-150, if Kharg island is attacked, gas and helium prices will go up. Fertilisers will be in short supply … in short all hell could break loose," said Sandeep Johri, a commodities trader.

If Iran retaliates by not only blocking maritime flow through the Hormuz strait but by using Houthi proxies to attack shipping passing thtough the Red Sea, "the economic shock would be many more times," Pinak R Chakravarty, former Secretary-Economic Relations, Ministry of External Affairs, told .

Normally about 12 per cent of world's global oil ships through the Red Sea, which the Houthis can blockade with missile hits. However, with the Hormuz route uncertain many more vessels have been redirected through the Red Sea and an attack on it could disastrous for world commerce.

"Any effective blockade of both chokepoints would be painful for the global econopmy," said Chakravarty.

Kharg Island is not just Iran's economic lifeline, its geographic location at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow artery through which 20 per cent of the world's seaborne oil passes, makes it both uniquely vulnerable and uniquely important. Any disruption here would end the distinction between a localised military strike and a global economic crisis. Iranian barrels would vanish overnight, and the risk premium attached to Gulf energy flows would spike dramatically. "Markets would begin pricing not just scarcity, but uncertainty, an even more destabilizing force," said Johri.

Tehran has long signalled that Kharg is a red line and that any attack would invite retaliation not only in kind but in scope. "Iran's strategic doctrine emphasises asymmetry which includes mining shipping lanes, harassing tankers, and leveraging allied non-state actors across the region," said Vice Admiral Shekhar Sinha, former Flag Officer Commanding Western Naval Fleet.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps would likely activate a network that stretches from Lebanon to Yemen, drawing in groups such as Hezbollah and the Houthis. The Gulf could quickly transform into a contested battlespace where commercial shipping becomes collateral damage.

"For energy-importing economies, the consequences would be severe. Not just India, South East Asia or China, which are deeply reliant on Gulf hydrocarbons, but the entire global economy would face immediate inflationary pressure and serious supply chain disruptions," pointed out Chakravarty. Widening current-account deficits, and renewed stress on domestic fuel pricing regimes are seen as the obvious fall-out.

In India's case, the political economy of energy, already delicately balanced through tax calibrations and subsidy mechanisms, would come under more strain, forcing the Centre to raise prices once the state elections are done and dusted.

Europe, still navigating the aftershocks of its decoupling from Russian energy, would find its diversification strategy tested once again, while the rest of the world would pay a price through an inflationary spiral and far slower growth than normal.

"However, our belief is that the Americans who have not yet attacked but are signalling they are in readiness have a longer game to play. It's about control of global oil supplies and re-establishment of the dollarization of oil," said Vice Admiral Sinha.

Analysts point out that Venenzuela and Iran were pricing their oil in Yuan and selling to China. Reimposition of dollar pricing and controlling the flow could act as brakes on China's rise to the top.

Beyond oil, the disruption could ripple through the arteries of global trade. Insurance premiums for vessels transiting the Gulf will soar, some shipping lines might suspend operations altogether and supply chains, already reconfigured in the wake of pandemic-era shocks and geopolitical fragmentation, would have to absorb yet another blow.

The cost of moving goods, from fertilisers to semiconductors, would rise, feeding into a broader cycle of global inflation and even food scarcities in many parts of the world. However, the most enduring consequence of this war may actually lie in accelerating the global push toward energy diversification, deepening investments in renewables, a push towards nuclear power, a power infrastructure no combatant wants to bomb, and a reshaping of the supply chains for critical minerals.

"The long-term trajectory away from concentrated hydrocarbon chokepoints would gain urgency, even as the short-term costs mount," pointed out Johri. Strategically, a strike on Kharg island would simply harden the emerging fault lines of the international system and push back chances of peace. Washington and Tehran would be locked into a prolonged confrontation, with secondary theatres stretching across Iraq, Syria, and the Red Sea.

New chapter in India's energy journey begins

As India moves to unlock vast frontiers for energy exploration across land and sea, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, on Monday said round 11 of India's Open Acreage



Licensing Policy (OALP) has been launched. Highlighting the nation's energy journey, Puri in a post on X said, "With OALP Round-XI now live, we unlock vast frontiers beneath our land and seas--

powering growth, resilience, and self-reliance. Round-X (~25 blocks; ~182,589 sq km) and Round-XI (~80,228 sq km) are now on offer - together unlocking ~262,817 sq km for exploration.

"The Union Minister described the launch as a decisive step aligned with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi under the Samudra Manthan initiative. "This is a decisive step aligned with the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh @narendramodi Ji under #SamudraManthan: fast-tracking bidding, expanding acreage, and strengthening India's energy security.The quest to discover India's hidden energy wealth continues."Earlier in December, India marked a transformative milestone in its energy sector by offering 50 new exploration and production (E&P) blocks across oil, gas and coal bed methane (CBM) assets, signalling a renewed push to unlock domestic hydrocarbon potential and strengthen energy security, said Puri.In a social media post on X, Puri said the move reflected a "transformative milestone" under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and underscored India's openness to global and domestic investors.

"We are offering 50 new E&P blocks across Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP-X): 25 blocks, Discovered Small Field (DSF-IV): 55 fields across 9 contract areas/blocks. Special CBM Bid Rounds 2025 and 2026: 3 blocks (2025) & 13 blocks (2026)," Petroleum Minister said in his post.As per the information shared by him, under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy, 25 blocks covering about 1.83 lakh square kilometres were on offer, comprising six onland blocks, six in shallow water, one deepwater block and 12 ultra-deepwater blocks."Main features of these blocks are exploration rights retained throughout the contract duration; Revenue share at LRP for initial 5-7 years in Cat-I basins; No revenue sharing in Cat-II/III until windfall gains; Graded reduced royalty for offshore; Swapping of work programme allowed," he said."The quest to unlock the potential of India's sedimentary basins gains a new thrust and momentum."In parallel, the Discovered Small Field (DSF) Bid Round-IV includes 55 discoveries spread across nine contract areas, aimed at accelerating the journey from discovery to production.

Nari Nauka: Empowering women through the rivers of life

From Lake Superior's primordial shores, from the mighty Mississippi and Missouri, tribal women in rivers of the North American heartland prayed to Mother Aki and mermaid-like Nibiinaab spirits. The Ojibwe women's heartfelt call reached the Ganga, and her daughters answered with their own life-changing river adventure.

Great rivers connect cities and continents, people, and cultures. Nari Nauka('Woman's Boat'), India's first training programme for female river rafting guides, is connecting training for a livelihood to training for living a better life.

In India, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Scotland, and Costa Rica, top river rafting veterans from the US-based 'Worldwide Women of Whitewater are training young women to be masters of their rafts and kayaks, and masters of their lives: conquer fears, gender barriers, self-doubts, and weakness, causing problems in the work they do, and with whom they work.

Nari Nauka's third edition is running from March 20 to 28 in the ancient Himalayan gateway town of Rishikesh. No coincidences, I often say, only the Law of Cause and Effect at work. Nothing happens "by chance".

So it came to pass that I, son of the Himalayas (Himalaya Putra is my given ascetic name), heard about the daughters of Ganga while I was briefly back in Rishikesh. I decided to share their story before returning to my higher Himalayan abode for solitary Vipassana meditation.

I practice Vipassana alone in a heavenly abode between Nanda Devi and Drona Giri, two of India's tallest and revered Himalayan peaks. I live below towering cliffs in a mountain forest, beside the silvery Dhauli Ganga river flowing to Rishikesh, 300 kms away.

Alone in the mountains, I am sometimes asked: "Are you not afraid?" No, I reply. Vipassana practice reduces the ego and self-centeredness. Fear reduces when thinking more about the safety and welfare of others than oneself.

Fear vanishes when the mind prepares for worst-case scenarios. For Vipassana works to serve all beings, I reached the higher Himalayas ready to starve to death.



There were cold January nights when I thought there would be no morning - but there was no fear.

Likewise, 14 young women began their own individual journey to freedom from fear. They are where I am, in Uttarakhand, the beautiful Himalayan state called 'Land of the Gods'. The 14 Nari Nauka pioneers came from villages along the Ganges, the sacred river considered the daughter of the Himalayas.

Among the pioneering 14 women was 23-year-old Priyanka Rana from Sirasu, a scenic village 20-minutes' drive from Rishikesh. She grew up like other "water babies" by the Ganges, children revering the river. "Maa Ganga has always been a source of peace, strength and healing," she said.

Small of stature and big of heart, Priyanka passed gruelling training, physical tests, and the government's river guide exam. She became the first female safety kayaker with Red Chilli Adventure, a gold standard company in India's fast-growing adventure sports industry (Rs 1.6lakh crore/USD 19 billion turnover in 2025-IMARC Group).

Co-founded by Arvind Bhardwaj and Vipin Kumar Sharma, Red Chilli, owns a rare TripAdvisor 4.9 rating, higher than the iconic Taj Mahal Palace (4.7) and The Oberoi (4.8) in my home city of Mumbai.

With Red Chilli rafts and Nari Nauka trainers, Priyanka and other Ganga girls learnt to read the river's boil lines, hold ferry angles against hydraulics, shout clear commands to paddlers amid the spray-splashed mayhem of 'Return to Sender' and 'Wall' Grade 4 rapids. They learn to rescue and self-rescue in the water. After a fall, learn to haul yourself back.

Red Chilli's Vipin is confident that girls can succeed as rafting guides."I believe we have to follow our heart in what we do in life," he says.

Follow your heart and gain support of universal forces. The nine-day Nari Nauka3 this March unfolded during the nine-day Navratri festival of warrior goddess Durga. Nine returning graduates are mentoring nine new women. Organizers happily see this as cosmic symmetry.

Govt taps 16 countries to diversify fertilizer Imports amid global price surge

Amid evolving global supply challenges and price volatility, the Government has intensified efforts to ensure uninterrupted availability and smooth distribution of fertilizers across the country, while maintaining stable prices for farmers ahead of the Kharif 2026 season.

Officials said that despite disruptions in global supply chains, particularly from the Gulf region, a major source of Urea, Diammonium Phosphate (DAP), and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), the overall domestic situation remains stable, with adequate stocks and proactive measures in place to bridge supply gaps.

The Gulf region continues to play a critical role in India's fertilizer ecosystem, contributing 20-30 per cent of Urea imports and nearly 30 per cent of DAP supplies, besides accounting for around half of LNG imports used as feedstock in Urea production.

However, recent increases in input costs, including LNG, ammonia, and sulfur, along with elevated freight charges, have exerted pressure on global fertilizer markets. These developments have had a cascading impact on domestic production, prompting authorities to initiate corrective measures.

The government has projected total fertilizer requirement for Kharif 2026 at around 390 lakh tonnes, compared to actual sales of 361 lakh tonnes in the previous season.

Despite the higher anticipated demand, current availability remains comfortable. Total stock levels stand at approximately 180 lakh tonnes, significantly higher than 147 lakh tonnes recorded during the same period last year.

Officials noted that the ongoing lean agricultural months of April and May are



being strategically utilised to build buffer stocks ahead of peak demand.

To address production constraints, gas supply to Urea plants initially reduced to about 60 percent has been gradually ramped up to 75-80 per The cent through alternative arrangements. This has resulted in an increase in daily Urea output by 12,000 to 15,000 tonnes, reducing monthly production losses.

While March production stood at around 18 lakh tonnes for Urea and 9-10 lakh tonnes for P&K fertilizers, lower than last year's levels, steps have been taken to ensure continuity in operations.

Additionally, domestic refineries have been directed to supply adequate Sulphur to fertilizer manufacturers.

In a bid to mitigate external dependencies, the government has adopted a multi-pronged import strategy. A global tender for 13.07 lakh tonnes of Urea was floated in February, while long-term supply arrangements have been secured with key international partners.

These include annual supplies of 31.10 lakh tonnes of DAP from Saudi Arabia over five years, along with additional Urea imports from Oman and Saudi Arabia.

Supplies from Russia via the Cape of Good Hope route are also being facilitated.

The Indian government is actively diversifying sourcing across multiple countries, including Russia, Morocco, Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Jordan, Canada, Algeria, Egypt, Finland, and Togo.

Indian missions in 16 countries are engaged in identifying alternative supply channels.

The Centre has stepped up coordination with states to ensure efficient distribution and prevent market distortions. Senior officials have held consultations with multiple Chief Ministers and State Agriculture Ministers to discourage panic buying and ensure smooth supply chains.

Strict monitoring is underway to curb diversion, hoarding, and black-marketing under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. States have also been encouraged to promote alternative fertilizers such as Ammonium Sulphate, SSP, TSP, and Nano fertilizers to optimise usage patterns.

The government has reiterated that fertilizers are being made available to farmers at existing prices, despite global cost escalations. Authorities are closely tracking international price trends and will take appropriate decisions on subsidy rates under the nutrient-based subsidy regime for the upcoming season.

A contingency "war room" has been established for real-time monitoring of production, imports, logistics, and distribution. Officials emphasised that all stakeholders including manufacturers, importers, port authorities, railways, and state governments, are working in close coordination.

With adequate stocks, diversified sourcing, and continuous monitoring mechanisms in place, the government has assured that there is no shortage of fertilizers and no cause for panic among farmers in the coming months.

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Exam results for non-Board classes at Jat Sr Sec School announced

SANJAY SHARMA
KAITHAL: As in previous years, the annual results for the non-board classes at Jat Senior Secondary School have once again been outstanding. In the Class 11 Arts stream, Manisha and Himanshu secured the first position; Varsha and Lavish took the second; and Shruti and Manjeet achieved the third position. In the Commerce stream, Anjali secured the first



position, Ayush the second, and Tannu the third. In the Science stream, Rishu Kumari secured the first position, Yash Kumar the second, and Lakshya the third. In Class 9, Ritika and Priyanshu secured the first position; Ritika Chahal and Armaan took the second; and Shivani and Yash achieved the third position. In Class 8, Pravesh Saini secured the first position, Chirag Saini the second, and Yashpal the third. In Class 7, Rakhi and Naitik Gill secured the first position; Neha and Aryan took the second; and Divya and Ishan achieved the third position.

NEWS BRIEF

MLA Ugoke highlights govt achievements in Village outreach



KULDEEP SOOD
BARNALA: On the completion of four years of the Punjab government, MLA Bhadaur S. Labh Singh Ugoke is conducting a dialogue program in various villages of the constituency. Under this, MLA Ugoke shared information about the public interest achievements under the program "Four Years with Bhagwant Mann" in various villages including Tapa Mandi, Tajoke, Jangiana, Dhaula. Addressing the people on this occasion, he said that under the leadership of Chief Minister S. Bhagwant Singh Mann, the Punjab government has taken big steps towards fulfilling the promises made to the people in the last four years. Schemes like health guarantee of up to Rs 10 lakh for the people of Punjab, promises of Rs 1000 and Rs 1500 as respect to women, quality education through Schools of Eminence and free treatment through Aam Aadmi Clinics have been implemented.

Farmers will benefit from MSP, transparency is our priority: Surya Pratap Shahi

BUREAU
LUCKNOW, MAR 31



Farmers will continue to receive the benefits of Minimum Support Price (MSP) in Rabi season 2026-27. Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi, while interacting with journalists at Lok Bhawan on Tuesday, said that procurement of gram, lentil and mustard will be carried out from April 7 to June 30. During this period, goal is to directly benefit farmers through a transparent digital system, DBT payments and an extensive procurement network.

Surya Pratap Shahi said that under the leadership of CM Yogi Adityanath, state government is continuously working to increase farmers' income, ensure fair prices for crops and strengthen agricultural sector. He added that this strategy for procurement of pulses and oilseeds at MSP will prove beneficial for farmers and make them economically stronger. He also informed that there is no shortage of fertilizers in the state and supplies are being maintained smoothly across all 75 districts.

Agriculture Minister said that MSP rates have been increased this year to provide additional benefits to farmers. He added that MSP has been raised by Rs. 225 per quintal for gram, Rs. 300 per quintal for lentil and Rs. 250 per quintal for mustard, which will directly increase farmers' income. Government is continuously making efforts to enhance farmers' income and this increase in MSP is an important step in that direction.

Agriculture Minister said that to ensure complete transparency in procurement process, Aadhaar-enabled POS machines have been installed at all procurement centers. This will ensure identification of genuine farmers and eliminate possibility of any irregularities. Payments for produce will be transferred directly to farmers' Aadhaar-linked bank accounts through DBT, making process faster and more transparent. Agriculture Minister said that a large number of procurement centers are proposed to be set up this year to further strengthen the system. Government of India agencies NAFED and NCCF, along with five state agencies UPPCCU, UPPCF, JAFED and UPSS will procure produce from farmers and supply it, with benefits directly transferred to farmers' accounts. Coordination among these agencies will make the procurement process more effective and widespread, ensuring that maximum farmers can benefit. Surya Pratap Shahi said that significant progress has been made in agriculture sector in the state. In 2025-26, more than Rs. 5,700 crore was spent by agriculture department on various schemes, which is a record achievement. Implementation of reform measures in 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana' has resulted in savings of Rs. 303 crore for the state.Agriculture Minister said that large-scale seed distribution has been carried out to empower farmers. Seeds were provided to 11.25 lakh farmers at a 50% subsidy, while 12.73 lakh farmers received free seeds. To promote Zaid crops, 31,950 quintals of seeds were made available this year, including groundnut, urad and moong.Keeping in mind the needs of farmers, adequate availability of fertilizers has been ensured in the state.

12 officers will keep close watch on black marketing, hoarding and unauthorized use of LPG: DC



HANS RAJ
KURUKSHETRA, MAR 31

Deputy Commissioner Vishram Kumar Meena said that 12 officers will keep a close watch to stop black marketing, hoarding and unauthorized use of LPG in Kurukshetra district. These officers have been appointed as area wise nodal officers and their team members. Not only this, the administration has also issued four helpline numbers for the convenience of the common people. On these helplines, consumers can give their problems or important information from Monday to Sunday from 8 am to 8 pm. He said that as per the orders of the state government, four help lines and control rooms have been established in Kurukshetra district to stop black marketing, hoarding and unauthorized use of LPG. Among these, 01744-220935 have been established in the Deputy Commissioner Camp office, 01744-221035 in the DRO office, DFSC office 01744-294418 and Deputy Commissioner office 01744-220270. Any consumer can raise his/her problem on these telephone numbers and give information related to black marketing and hoarding. On the basis of this information, action will be taken by the administration. He said that the administration has appointed Assistant Food Supply Officers as nodal officers. For this, four separate teams have been formed, in which Assistant Food and Supply Officer Rampal has been appointed as the nodal officer for Jhansa, Amin, Kurukshetra and Pipli.

Ayodhya pilgrims return to Karnal, receive grand welcome at railway station



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL: Pilgrims from Karnal returned safely on Tuesday evening after visiting Shri Ram Lalla in Ayodhya under the Chief Minister Teerth Yatra Scheme. On their arrival at Karnal railway station, they were accorded a warm welcome by the administration. Haryana Roadways General Manager Kuldeep Singh greeted the devotees with garlands and extended his congratulations on the successful journey. The returning pilgrims expressed deep satisfaction and devotion, describing their visit to Ayodhya as a memorable and spiritually enriching experience. They also thanked Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and the state government for making excellent arrangements for accommodation, food and security during the Yatra. As the train arrived at the platform, the station premises resonated with chants of "Jai Shri Ram," with devotees raising slogans in praise of the Chief Minister and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, creating a deeply devotional atmosphere. Kuldeep Singh informed that special Haryana Roadways buses were arranged to transport the pilgrims from the railway station to their respective destinations, ensuring a smooth and comfortable return journey.

Devotees come in large number for Darshan of Mata Bala Sundari in Ladwa



KARAMBIR
LADWA: Thousands of devotees of Mata gathered on the very first day of Mata Bala Sundari fair which started from Monday midnight to have the darshan of Mata. The eight day fair of Mata Bala Sundari, which started from Chaturdashi of Chaitra Shukla Paksha and continued till Saptami of Baisakh Krishna Paksha, has begun. Adequate security arrangements have been made by the police administration along with the fair management committee for the fair. On the first day, about three dozen male and female personnel have been deployed by the police administration to protect the crowd that gathered in the temple to have the darshan of Mata. Along with this, Ladwa police station in-charge Gurnam Singh was seen patrolling the fair with the police team. This time, the third eye CCTV cameras are playing an important role in keeping a check on the miscreants and pickpockets coming to the fair. In fact, the police administration has also deployed police personnel in civil uniform to deal with these miscreants and pickpockets. Apart from this, Ladwa Police Station in-charge Gurnam Singh along with Police PCR and Dial 112 were also seen patrolling the fair.

Grand felicitation ceremony organised at Geeta Niketan Residential School on retirement of Dr.Gargi Sharma



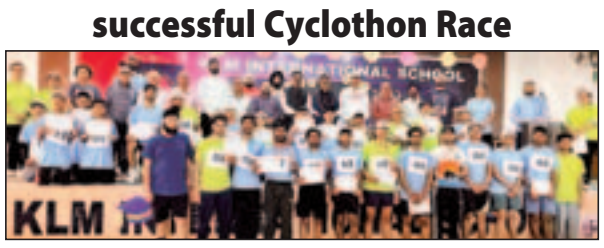
HANS RAJ
KURUKSHETRA: A grand felicitation ceremony was held at Geeta Niketan Residential School to mark the retirement of Dr. Gargi Sharma, a senior science teacher on Tuesday. During her 32 years of service, Dr. Gargi Sharma made significant contributions to the all-round development of students through her dedication, commitment, and excellent teaching. The program began with Saraswati Vandana. Principal Narayan Singh then introduced the guests on the stage. School President Dr. Ghanshyam Sharma and Vice President Dr. Mamta Sachdeva felicitated Dr. Gargi Sharma with a bouquet and garland. All the teachers, supervisors and staff of the school also honored her on this occasion. Sharing their experiences, various teachers praised Dr. Gargi Sharma's unassuming nature, warm-heartedness, friendly demeanor and skillful teaching. They said that her personality and work will always be a source of inspiration for teachers. Principal Narayan Singh also praised her dedication and dedicated work style. In his address, school president Dr. Ghanshyam Sharma highlighted the multifaceted talent of Dr. Gargi Sharma and expressed his expectation of her cooperation in guiding the school in future also.

Masked miscreants open indiscriminate fire at former MLA's factory; case registered



NIRMAL SAINI
RADAUR: Masked miscreants, arriving on a motorcycle, opened indiscriminate fire at a factory belonging to a former MLA located near the Jathlana police station on the Yamunanagar–Karnal road. Bullets struck the factory gate and the front section of a truck parked on the premises. While the firing resulted in no loss of life, it triggered panic throughout the area. After committing the crime, the accused fled the scene on their motorcycle in the direction of Yamunanagar. The factory belongs to Dilbag Singh, a former MLA from the INLD party. Upon receiving the information, the local police, the District Superintendent of Police, the CIA (Crime Investigation Agency), and a Scene of Crime team immediately rushed to the spot and commenced an investigation. The police recovered eight spent shell casings from the site. Acting on a complaint filed by the factory's security guard, the police have registered a case and launched a manhunt for miscreants. In his complaint to the police, Navjot—a resident of Purana Hamida—stated that he has been employed at the Trainox Laminate Factory for approximately four years. On the night of March 30, around 10:00 PM, he was seated in the security room situated near the main gate.

KLM International School organises successful Cyclothon Race



VERMA
GURDASPUR: KLM International School, Mamoon (Defense Road), Pathankot organized a grand event "Cyclothon – Run for Peace" on March 31, 2026. The race was inaugurated by District Revenue Officer Mr. Parampreet Singh Gauraiya, who flagged off the event. On this occasion, Brigadier Satish Mahindra, Brigadier S.C. Verma, Colonel Bandral, Professor Manoj Sharma, Rotary Club President V.B. Trehan and other distinguished guests were specially present. The race started from Valmiki Chowk and concluded at the KLM International School campus. More than 100 participants enthusiastically took part in the competition and displayed excellent sportsmanship. Manik Kumar and Bhavlesh emerged as winners and were awarded a cash prize of Rs. 5100. Naman and Satyam secured the runner-up positions and were awarded Rs. 2100 each along with certificates.

Bhandara organised on first day of Mata Bala Sundari fair



KARAMBIR
LADWA: Due to the greatness of Mata Bala Sundari Temple, on the first day of the fair, Tuesday, huge food distribution was organized at many places in the city including Ladwa Mata Bala Sundari Temple premises. A large number of Mata's devotees reached the food distribution and took the Prasad. Ladwa's famous social worker Sachin Garg organized a huge food distribution of Kadhi-Rice and Kheer in the Ladwa Temple premises, in which the crowd gathered to have darshan of Mata took the Prasad. Social worker Sachin Garg inaugurated the bhandara by offering the prasad at the feet of Mata Bala Sundari and was himself seen serving in the bhandara.

BJP dignitaries and workers pay floral tributes to OP Jindal on his death anniversary



KARAMBIR
LADWA: BJP workers, councillors, and numerous dignitaries paid floral tributes to the late O.P. Jindal's statue in Jindal Park, Ladwa, remembering him and commemorating his death anniversary. It should be noted that the late Om Prakash Jindal served as the Energy Minister in the Haryana government from the Congress Party and had a special affinity for the people of Ladwa. Even today, his son Naveen Jindal is serving the people of the area by becoming a Member of Parliament from KurukshetraLokSabha for the third time on behalf of BJP. His contribution in the development of Haryana will never be forgotten. On Tuesday, Ladwa's Ward No. 2 CouncilorRohitGarg, Market Committee Chairman Dr. Ganesh Dutt, BJP's District Treasurer AnkushGoyal paid tribute by offering flowers and said that late OP Jindal was a source of inspiration for them. He was a true messiah of the poor, whose life was spent for the welfare of the poor. He fought for the welfare of the poor, laborers and farmers.

Grain Market Association holds meet; various Issues discussed



NIRMAL SAINI
RADAUR: A significant meeting of Radaur Grain Market Association was held under chairmanship of President Karamvir Khurdban. During meeting, it was decided to organize Bhandara' within market premises on April 7 to pray for bountiful harvest. Various issues anticipated during the upcoming wheat season were deliberated upon. A decision was taken to merge two associations that have been operating within grain market for several years with aim of safeguarding interests of farmers, commission agents and laborers. With unanimous consent of all members, a 12-member committee was constituted. The committee comprises Pooran Singh, Rishipal, Rajesh Kamboj, Satish Saini, Sanjay, Karnail Singh, Praveen Jaipur, Rahul Sandhala, Karamvir Khurdban, Pradeep Arya, Sushil Batra, and Rajendra Mehta.

Muskan and Madhav Verma create history with outstanding Class 11 results

AJAY MALHOTRA
FATEHGARH SAHIB, MAR 31





In an inspiring display of academic brilliance, cousins Muskan and Madhav Verma from Bassi Pathana have scripted history by achieving exceptional scores in the recently declared Class 11 (Plus One) results. Muskan secured a remarkable 97.16%, while Madhav earned an equally impressive 97%, placing both among the top performers of the region. Their outstanding achievement has brought immense pride not only to their families but also to the entire Bassi Pathana community.

Muskan, daughter of Shri Manmohan Jargar, is a student of Ashoka Senior Secondary School (Girls), Sirhind, whereas Madhav, son of Shri Kamal Nain Verma, studies at Ashoka Senior Secondary School (Boys), Sirhind. Both cousins are pursuing the Non-Medical stream, known for its challenging curriculum. Their consistent hard work, disciplined study habits, and dedication have enabled them to excel in a highly competitive academic environment.

Both young achievers credited their success to the unwavering support of their parents, teachers, and the conducive atmosphere provided by their institutions. They expressed sincere gratitude, acknowledging that their accomplishments would not have been possible without the guidance and encouragement they received at every step. Sharing their future aspirations, Muskan and Madhav said they aim to pursue higher education in reputed institutions and ultimately serve the nation and society through their knowledge and skills. They added that the values of discipline, patriotism, and service were instilled in them by their family—especially their uncle, Shri Shyam Sunder Jargar, whose influence has played a significant role in shaping their mindset.

Manjit Sharma stakes claim for Congress ticket in Fatehgarh Sahib



AJAY MALHOTRA
FATEHGARH SAHIB: As the atmosphere heats up ahead of the upcoming Punjab Assembly elections, political activities across the state are gaining momentum. While the number of ticket aspirants within various parties continues to rise, a new and influential name has now emerged from the Fatehgarh Sahib constituency. Senior Congress leader Manjit Sharma has formally placed his claim for the party ticket, expressing his deep-rooted loyalty towards the Congress. Becoming emotional, Sharma said, "Congress is my mother party, and I am its true soldier." His wife, Mamta Sharma, has previously served as the Chairperson of the House Tax Committee of the Nagar Council, Sirhind, and has also been a councillor herself. Sharma proudly highlighted that his family has been associated with the Congress for three generations. Manjit Sharma shared that he has been deeply connected with the Congress ideology and party service since 1984. He recalled attending a Youth Congress training camp in Delhi when former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi passed away. He emphasized that he has stood firmly with the party through every difficult phase. His long-standing experience and unwavering loyalty, he believes, make his candidature stronger and distinct from others.

4 family members entangled in drug trafficking ring held

JAIBEER RANA THAMBER
BARARA, MAR 31



The police's campaign against narcotics in the Barara region took a new turn when the involvement of an entire family in illicit activities came to light. The Barara police have arrested four suspects—including a mother and her two sons—in possession of 34 grams of heroin. The scope of the police investigation has now expanded significantly, and raids are currently being conducted to apprehend other individuals named in this case, particularly a daughter of the family.

According to DSP Suresh Kumar, this drug trafficking network was woven around a single family unit. The arrested accused include Salman (alias Madu), Naseem (alias Ghuggi), and their mother. The implication of members from the same family in this illegal trade has become a matter of concern for the local community.

The family members were caught red-handed with a substantial quantity of heroin when the police cordoned off the area near Pandit Dhaba and intercepted their car. Following interrogation, the name of Rajdeep surfaced, and the police subsequently arrested him as well, seizing Rs. 9,000 in cash from his possession. Currently, two of the accused are in judicial custody, while the other two have been taken into police remand as the authorities attempt to trace the network's primary supplier. DSP Suresh Kumar clarified that, in this case registered under the NDPS Act, the law is taking its course.

CHANDIGARH

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026

YUGMARG
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Annual results announced at Diamond International Public School in Hamirpur

ANIL KUMAR

HAMIRPUR: The annual examination results were declared with great enthusiasm and celebration at Diamond International Public School, Patta in Himachal Pradesh's Hamirpur district. Students and their parents gathered at the school premises to receive the annual progress reports. The occasion witnessed joy and pride as young students celebrated the outcome of their hard work. The excitement was evident in the children's faces, while parents expressed satisfaction and pride over their wards' achievements. The school stated that students not only performed well academically but also showcased their talents in various co-curricular activities throughout the year. Their overall development remained a key focus of the institution. Congratulating the successful students and their parents, the school management extended best wishes for their bright future. It also expressed confidence that students would continue to move forward with renewed energy and enthusiasm in the upcoming academic session 2026–27.

NEWS BRIEF

Truecaller surpassed 500 million users worldwide

SHIMLA: Truecaller announced that it has surpassed 500 million users worldwide, marking a significant milestone in the company's mission to build trust in communication. The platform continues to see significant user growth, adding over 50 million users in 2025 alone. Truecaller has crossed 350 million in India alone and 150 million users outside of India as demand for protection against spam, scam and unwanted communication continues to grow globally. Truecaller also crossed 4 million paying subscribers globally earlier this year, further strengthening one of its key revenue streams. "This is an important milestone for us, but it also says something bigger about the world we live in," said Rishit Jhunjhunwala, CEO of Truecaller. "More and more people need help navigating spam, scams, and unwanted communication every day.

MSE completes the process of Appointment of Market Makers for Equity Segment

SHIMLA: MSE announces the successful completion of the appointment of Market Makers for its Equity Segment. This development is expected to strengthen market depth, support efficient price discovery, and enhance the overall trading experience. Effective April 1, 2026, MSE will initiate liquidity enhancement measures as part of its continued efforts to deepen market participation and create a more vibrant trading ecosystem. These steps reflect MSE 's ongoing commitment to fostering a transparent, efficient, and competitive marketplace for all stakeholders.

HDFC Bank was adjudged 'India's Safest Private Bank' and 'India's Best for Premier Banking'

CHANDIGARH/LUDHIANA: HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector bank, was adjudged as 'India's Safest Private Bank' and 'India's Best for Premier Banking' at the Euromoney Private Banking Awards 2026. The awards were organised by Euromoney magazine. Rakesh K Singh, Group Head - Investment Banking, Private Banking, International Banking, Digital Ecosystems and BaaS, HDFC Bank said, "We are happy to have been recognised as India's Safest Private Bank and India's Best Bank for Premier Banking. These awards reflect our team's unwavering commitment to serve clients and the trust they have placed in HDFC Bank for nearly three decades. Our relationship managers are equipped to understand and meet the unique investment needs and goals of our clients.

Worry-Free Retirement with Assured Income for Life with ICICI Pru GPP Flexi

LUDHIANA/AMRITSAR: Worry-Free Retirement with Assured Income for Life with ICICI Pru GPP Flexi, According to UNDP's 2025 Human Development Report, India's life expectancy rose from 58.6 years in 1990 to 72 years in 2023. Interestingly, a government data on 'Elderly in India' suggests that by 2036 nearly one in seven Indians will be aged 60 years or older. While these projections are good signs of the improving healthcare in India, an individual must be cognizant about the challenges posed by the rising life expectancy as well. Commenting on the plan, Mr. Vikas Gupta, Chief Product Officer of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, said, "Retirement planning is driven by one core need – certainty of income for life. ICICI Pru Guaranteed Pension Plan Flexi is designed to deliver this certainty through a simple and flexible structure.

Orient Electric launches India's first oxygen-enriching fan Aero O2

CHANDIGARH : Orient Electric Limited, part of the USD 3 billion CKA Birla Group, today unveiled Aero O2, a first-of-its-kind lifestyle innovation that evolves the ceiling fan from simple air movement to active air revitalization. Powered by patented Bio-Oxy Plasma ION+ Technology, Aero O2 is India's first oxygen-enriching fan designed to create a fresher, more energizing indoor atmosphere for modern urban homes.Urban consumers today spend more time indoors than ever before, often in enclosed, air-conditioned spaces where the air can feel heavy. Clubbed with challenges of urban deforestation and plummeting air quality, this presents a health hazard that deeply concerns today's consumers. Aero O2 addresses this everyday reality by enriching indoor oxygen levels to improve breathing comfort, reduce fatigue, and support overall vitality. Powered by patented Bio-Oxy Plasma ION+ Technology, it releases active ions that break down pollutants such as PM2.5, smoke, and microbes to create a cleaner, oxygen-enriched environment. Talking about this innovation, Ravindra Singh Negi, Managing Director and CEO of Orient Electric, said, "Urban consumers today are deeply concerned about the invisible health risks inside their homes.

Hybe India Announces Nationwide Girl Group Audition

CHANDIGARH: HYBE INDIA today announced that it has opened applications for a new girl group audition, with talent scouting scheduled from March 31 to July 31, 2026.The audition invites female talent from across India—born between 2005 and 2011—to showcase their individuality and creativity across a range of performance categories. Application categories include vocals, rap, dance, acting, modelling, and more. The decision to focus on a girl group is informed by a mix of online and in-person research conducted across India in recent years. Building on insights from a nationwide quantitative study of audiences in their teens and twenties, complemented by qualitative research across six key cities—both conducted in collaboration with Nielsen—HYBE INDIA found a clear aspiration among young Indian women for artists who reflect their voices and serve as inspirational role models. From this, HYBE INDIA identified an opportunity for a girl group to showcase 'Harmony in Diversity' while bringing authentic stories and voices of today's Indian women to global.

GB Legends Chandigarh and Army Service Corps registered wins

CHANDIGARH: GB Legends Chandigarh registered their second consecutive win by defeating Army Service Corps (ASC) on the third day of the Maharaja Ranjit Singh Polo Cup at the Chandigarh Polo Club on Tuesday. The tournament is part of the Polo Season 2026 being organised by the Indian Polo Association in association with the Chandigarh Polo Association. ASC entered the arena with a one-goal handicap advantage but the hosts quickly asserted themselves with an attacking approach. Naveen Singh struck early to equalize in the third minute, setting the tone for Chandigarh's dominance. Lt Col Vishal Chauhan soon converted to give the hosts the lead. Riding on excellent form, Naveen continued his scoring spree, netting three more goals to put GB Legends firmly in control. Sepoy Mukesh Gujjar added another in the first chukker, helping Chandigarh close the period with a strong 5–2 lead.

AAP youth wing to take 'Shandaar 4 Saal, Bhagwant Mann De Naal' campaign to every village & ward: Parminder Goldy



CHANDIGARH: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has stepped up its outreach under the 'Shandaar 4 Saal, Bhagwant Mann De Naal' campaign, with its youth wing announcing a statewide mobilisation drive to take the Punjab Government's work directly to people across villages and urban wards.

Addressing a press conference, Chairman Punjab Youth Development Board and Acting President of AAP Punjab Youth Wing Parminder Singh Goldy said, "The AAP's youth wing will actively participate in the ongoing 'Shandaar 4 Saal, Bhagwant Mann De Naal' campaign and take the achievements of the Punjab Government to every village and ward across Punjab."

He noted that under the leadership of Punjab CM Bhagwant Singh Mann, the government has delivered historic work over the past four years, particularly in the youth and education sectors. "Under the leadership of CM Bhagwant Singh Mann, the AAP Government has delivered historic work in the last four years, particularly for the youth and education sector," he said, adding, "The youth wing will organise 'nukkad sabhas' and meetings across Punjab to directly connect with people and highlight these achievements."

Highlighting the government's focus on employment, Parminder Singh Goldy said, "The youth wing will inform people about the transformative steps taken by the Mann Government, especially for the empowerment of young people." He emphasised, "The government has fulfilled its promise of providing employment based on merit, and around 65,000 government jobs have been given to the youth in a transparent manner. These jobs have not only supported individuals but also provided stability and hope to thousands of families."

He further underlined the growth in private sector opportunities, stating, "The government has also generated more than five lakh private sector job opportunities by bringing investments and major industrial projects to Punjab."

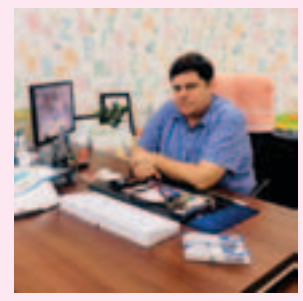
He added that these developments have "reignited confidence among the youth and encouraged them to pursue education and career opportunities within Punjab."

On education reforms, Parminder Singh Goldy said, "Government schools in Punjab are witnessing a major transformation with modern infrastructure and advanced teaching methods." He added, "Entrepreneurship programs are being introduced at the school level to equip students with skills to become job creators rather than job seekers." He further noted, "Teachers and principals are being sent abroad for training to countries like Singapore and Finland to bring global best practices to Punjab's education system."

Referring to the campaign against drugs, he said, "The Mann Government has taken strict action under its 'Yudh Nashean Virudh' initiative, leading to the arrest of thousands of drug smugglers. This sends a strong message that illegal activities will not be tolerated in Punjab." He also highlighted the government's push for sports development, stating, "Large-scale development of playgrounds, indoor gyms, and sports infrastructure is underway across Punjab." He added, "Youth clubs are being strengthened and provided with sports kits to engage young people in positive activities and channel their energy towards nation-building."

Renowned Dr. Bharat Jain Strengthens Vaccine Access for Underprivileged Girls Through G.A.U.R.I Initiative

CHANDIGARH: Strengthening the need for equitable healthcare access, Dr. Bharat Jain, Paediatrician from Axon Hospital, Chandigarh recently supported a focused vaccination drive for underprivileged girls against chickenpox. The activity was carried out under G.A.U.R.I. (Generating Awareness on Underprivileged Girls' Right to Immunization), an initiative by Novo Medi Sciences Pvt. Ltd., with support from CRY (Child Rights and You), enabling wider outreach and on-ground implementation. As part of the campaign, citizens were encouraged to participate through a missed call initiative, turning a simple show of support into a growing movement advocating preventive healthcare access for underserved girls.



While India has made strides in immunization, access gaps remain. Key vaccines, including the one for chickenpox, are not currently included in the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP), leaving many children—especially those in rural and economically weaker communities—without adequate protection. This continues to create uneven vaccine coverage across regions and populations. Commenting on the initiative, Dr. Jain said, "Chickenpox is largely preventable, yet vaccination gaps persist, particularly among vulnerable groups. Ensuring timely immunization for every girl child is essential for stronger, healthier communities. Platforms like G.A.U.R.I. help raise awareness and improve access where it is needed most."
Chickenpox, caused by the varicella virus, spreads easily and can lead to complications such as infections and scarring. In certain high-risk cases.

Banarsi Das social worker and educationist bid an emotional farewell on his retirement

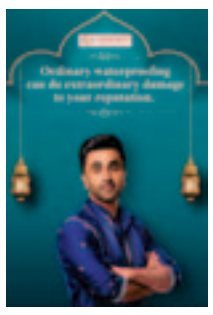
SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

KARNAL- Karnal's well-known social worker and educationist Banarasi Das retired after 31 years of illustrious service in the education department. He retired from Government Middle School Gullarpur. He was bid an emotional farewell by the villagers, children, teachers, sympathizers and representatives of religious and political organizations. Everyone extended a warm welcome and wished for his better future. On this occasion, ABRC of Education Department Shobha Rani said that the service of Banarasi Das was an example. He rendered excellent services as the original head teacher. He told that Banarasi Das started serving as a social teacher in Government High School Rahada 31 years ago. After that he became the Head Master of Government Senior Secondary School, Government High School, Jani, after which he was promoted as Head Master of Government High School, Sitamai.



Asian Paints Damp Proof: The Waterproofing Champion that stands the test of time

GURUGRAM: Indian homes battle two relentless forces every year heavy monsoons and scorching summer heat. Yet when it comes to protecting terraces and rooftops, many homeowners rely on temporary fixes and unreliable waterproofing solutions. With its latest campaign, Asian Paints Damp Proof puts the spotlight on a simple but powerful truth: not all waterproofing is the same. For over 13 years, Asian Paints Damp Proof has been helping homeowners protect their homes from water seepage and harsh weather conditions.



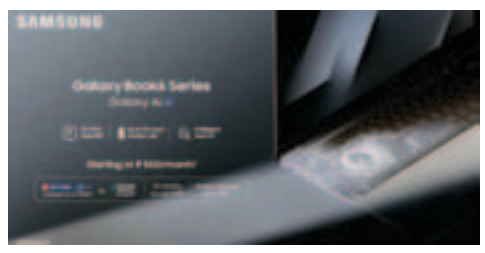
Designed to deliver long-lasting protection, the solution forms a thick, seamless waterproofing membrane that prevents water ingress while standing strong against India's demanding climate. Bringing this insight to life, the brand's latest film featuring Ranbir Kapoor and Saurabh Shukla unfolds through a lively narrative packed with wit, playful banter and sharp exchanges. Rooted in everyday homeowner realities, the film captures familiar concerns from stubborn terrace leakages during monsoons to heat radiating from exposed rooftops turning them into an engaging and entertaining conversation. Amit Syngle, MD & CEO, Asian Paints said, "Indian homes face extreme weather from heavy monsoons to scorching summers and terraces are often the most vulnerable. Asian Paints Damp Proof delivers the most dependable & long-lasting waterproofing that goes beyond preventing seepage to also combating rising heat. Its advanced heat-reflective coating lowers surface temperatures by up to 10°C and is backed by a 10-year waterproofing warranty, helping keep homes protected and comfortable throughout the year. This campaign brings the core propositions to life in an engaging, culturally rooted format. By using "Qawwali", a form deeply rooted in Indian storytelling, we've transformed a technical category into a memorable cultural conversation, helping consumers better understand the difference between ordinary waterproofing and true Asian Paints Damp Proof Waterproofing. With Ranbir Kapoor leading the narrative, we drive home a critical message: har waterproofing "Damp Proof" nahi hoti - Asian Paints Damp Proof is the real waterproofing champion, offering dependable performance and enhanced living comfort.

Bharti Airtel Secures $1B Investment for Nxtra Data Expansion

CHANDIGARH: Bharti Airtel (NSE: BHARTIARTL) ("Airtel"), today announced an investment of US$ 1 Billion by Alpha Wave Global, Carlyle (NASDAQ: CG) and Anchorage Capital, through their affiliates, in Nxtra Data Limited ("Nxtra"), a subsidiary of Bharti Airtel engaged in the data center business, to expand its network across India and accelerate growth. Airtel will also participate in this round.
As part of the pact, Alpha Wave Global will invest US$435 million, Carlyle US$240 million, Anchorage Capital US$35 million, with the rest being infused by Airtel. The investors' final shareholding will be subject to finalized post-closing adjustments. Airtel will continue to retain a controlling stake in Nxtra. The deal is subject to regulatory approvals in India.
Nxtra - the first data center company in India to deploy AI at scale for predictive maintenance, energy efficiency, and automated operations - intends to deploy proceeds from the fund infusion to accelerate its growth plans. It plans to extensively scale its infrastructure and broaden its portfolio of services, catering to the evolving needs of enterprises, hyperscalers, and government organisations across the country. India's data center sector is currently witnessing rapid growth, driven by accelerating digital transformation across enterprises, rising adoption of cloud services, and expanding demand from hyperscalers. According to a Savills India report, India's data center market is expected to grow at a CAGR of around 21% between 2024 and 2030 to reach nearly 3,400 MW of IT capacity. "At Nxtra, we have built one of India's most advanced and sustainable data center networks, designed to meet the evolving needs of enterprises, hyperscalers, and government. With ~300 MW capacity today, we aim to scale to 1 GW in the next few years, targeting ~25% market share," Gopal Vittal, Executive Vice Chairman, Airtel, said. Strategic partnerships with global investors and technology leaders are central to our growth roadmap, enabling us to accelerate expansion, harness world-class expertise, and deliver next-generation digital infrastructure solutions at scale. With strong market demand, we are committed to stepping up investments and strengthening India's position as a leading data center hub." "We have built a strong partnership with Airtel and continue to believe Nxtra is well-positioned to benefit from India's long-term digital infrastructure tailwinds. The company has made significant progress in expanding its capabilities, strengthening customer relationships and building a scalable platform, and we look forward to further working with Airtel and Nxtra's management team to build the company into one of the largest datacenter players in India," said Kapil Modi.

Samsung Launches Galaxy Book6 in India with Cutting-Edge Performance and AI-Driven Productivity

CHANDIGARH— Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, has launched the Galaxy Book6 series at a starting price of INR 127990. Samsung's most advanced Galaxy Book series elevates AI-powered productivity through precise engineering and a balanced, slim profile.
Unmatched Performance
The Galaxy Book6 series is powered by Intel® Core™ Ultra Series 3 processors to deliver over 60% faster CPU performance than previous generations for fast processing, seamless multitasking, and responsive AI. The integrated NPU supports up to 50 TOPS for AI-driven tasks like image cleanup, instant translation, and intelligent search; all executed instantly without cloud reliance. The Galaxy Book6 Ultra further elevates the experience with the latest NVIDIA® GeForce RTX™ 5070 Laptop GPU for high-speed AI image generation, smooth video playback and editing, and immersive gaming.



To maximise performance, the Galaxy Book6 Ultra and Pro feature a larger optimised vapour chamber for heat distribution. Enhanced fins increase surface area to improve cooling efficiency by 35% compared to the previous generation. The Galaxy Book6 Ultra also boasts of a dual-path outlet fan and heatsink to absorb and dissipate heat effectively.
The Galaxy Book6 Ultra and Pro series are equipped with Samsung's longest-lasting Galaxy Book battery that delivers up to 30 hours of video playback, while its super-fast charging restores up to 63% of battery life in just 30 minutes.

All Set for PPSC Main Examination; 12 Centres Established in Patiala

RAKESH JINDAL

PATIALA: Rakesh Kinda up
The Punjab Public Service Commission (PPSC), Patiala is fully geared up to conduct the PCS (Executive Branch) Main Examination from April 1 to April 10, 2026. Disclosing details, PPSC Secretary Charanjit Singh informed that under the leadership of PPSC Chairman Major General (Retd.) Vinayak Saini, all necessary arrangements have been put in place to ensure the smooth, transparent and fair conduct of the examination. A total of 12 examination centres have been established across Patiala City.
He further stated that the examination will be conducted in the afternoon session on all scheduled days. To maintain strict supervision and transparency, senior IAS and PCS officers have been deputed as observers at each examination centre.
Elaborating on the arrangements, Charanjit Singh said that biometric verification systems have been installed at every centre to ensure accurate identification of candidates.
Additionally, jammers have been deployed to prevent the use of any electronic devices during the examination.
The Secretary added that comprehensive security and traffic management arrangements have been made by the Patiala Police to facilitate the smooth conduct of the examination.

TDI Connaught Estate, Rajpura to Host Shrimad Bhagwat Katha from April 6-12, 2026

RAJPURA: TDI Infratech Ltd. will organise a week-long Shrimad Bhagwat Katha at TDI Connaught Estate, Rajpura, from April 6 to April 12, 2026, bringing together devotees for a spiritual and cultural gathering.



The programme will begin on April 5 with a Kalash Yatra at 10:00 AM, starting from Durga Mandir, Rajpura, and concluding at TDI Connaught Estate. The Katha will be held daily from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, where devotees can come together to listen to sacred stories and teachings of Lord Krishna, and experience the spirit of devotion, faith, and togetherness.
The discourse will be delivered by renowned spiritual speaker Devi Chitralekha, who is widely respected for presenting the Shrimad Bhagwat in a simple and heartfelt manner, making it meaningful for people of all ages.
Sharing his thoughts, Mr. Akshay Taneja, Managing Director, TDI Infratech Ltd., said that Shrimad Bhagwat Katha holds a special place in our cultural and spiritual traditions. Such gatherings create a sense of peace, devotion, and unity within the community. At TDI, we believe our developments should go beyond living spaces and become places where people come together to celebrate shared values and traditions. We warmly invite everyone to join us and be part of this sacred occasion."

Graduation Day Ceremony Organized by Little Kingdom Pre-School and The City Middle School



PANCHKULA: A Graduation Day ceremony was organized by Little Kingdom Pre-School and The City Middle School. The event was graced by the presence of Chief Guest Prabhunath Shahi (Former Flight Engineer, Indian Air Force) and Guest of Honor Jasbir Kaur (President, Women and Child Welfare Foundation). During the programme, the chief guest and guests of honor were felicitated. The ceremony commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp. Following this, the students filled the atmosphere with melody through a delightful musical instrumental performance. A powerful portrayal of Goddess Kali was presented through devotional hymns dedicated to Goddess Durga and a 'Kali Dance' performance, leaving the audience spellbound.
Guest of Honour Premlata Manchanda lauded the students and encouraged them to strive for continuous progress in the field of education. Seema Dua, Vice Chairperson of the Dua Group of Schools, expressed her gratitude to the parents, and announced the launch of Saraswati High School.

Annual Nagar Kirtan to Mark Vaisakhi in Pathankot on April 2



SHARANJEET

PATHANKOT: To commemorate Vaisakhi (Khalsa Sajna Diwas), a grand annual Nagar Kirtan will be organised from the historic Gurdwara Barth Sahib on April 2 (Thursday). The religious procession is being arranged by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) with the support of local devotees. Providing details, Gurdwara Barth Sahib Manager Sarabjit Singh Gajjugaji said that the Nagar Kirtan will commence at 8 am under the holy presence of Guru Granth Sahib and the leadership of the Panj Pyaras. The Nagar Kirtan will begin from Gurdwara Barth Sahib and pass through Jaswali, Sarna, Chhoti Nehar, Barfani Mandir, Air Force Station Pathankot, Tudi Wala Chowk, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Chowk, Model Town, Saingarh Chowk, Pir Baba Chowk, Lightan Wala Chowk, Dalhousie Road and Sant Ashram School Ground. It will then return via Lightan Wala Chowk, Railway Road, Gurdaspur Road, Tank Chowk, Malkpur Chowk and Sarna Station before concluding at its starting point. He appealed to the Guru Nanak Naam Leva Sangat and residents of the area to participate in large numbers and seek the blessings of Guru Sahib.

REDMI 15A 5G: Performance You Feel, Reliability That Lasts

CHANDIGARH : Xiaomi India today introduced the REDMI 15A 5G, a smartphone designed around one simple idea, to keep up with how people actually use their phones every day. Whether it's streaming, scrolling, staying connected, or juggling multiple apps, the REDMI 15A 5G fouses on delivering a smooth, reliable, and long-lasting experience without overcomplicating things. Smartphones today are expected to do a lot more, and the REDMI 15A 5G is built with that in mind. Its 6300mAh battery is designed to comfortably last up to two days on a single charge, even with heavy usage across video streaming, social media, calls, and navigation. This reduces the need to constantly reach for a charger, making it especially useful for users who are always on the move.And when you do need to top up, the device supports 15W charging, along with 7.5W wired reverse charging, adding a layer of everyday convenience. The REDMI 15A 5G features a large 6.9-inch display that makes everything from watching videos to browsing feel more immersive. With support for up to a 120Hz refresh rate, interactions feel smoother and more responsive, whether you are scrolling through feeds or switching between apps.It is also built to handle real-world conditions. With up to 800 nits brightness, the screen remains visible outdoors, while Wet Touch Technology 2.0 ensures the display responds accurately even with damp hands. For extended usage, the display comes with triple TÜV Rheinland certifications, low blue light, flicker-free, and circadian-friendly, helping reduce eye strain.
At its core, the REDMI 15A 5G is powered by an octa-core 5G processor that delivers a smooth balance of performance and efficiency. Whether it's switching between apps, attending video calls, or streaming content, the device handles everyday tasks with ease.



InterGlobe Foundation and IndiGoReach Organise 'My City My Heritage' Walk in Patiala



PATIALA:- InterGlobe Foundation, the philanthropic arm of InterGlobe Enterprises, and IndiGoReach, the CSR arm of IndiGo, jointly organised a heritage walk in Patiala under the 'My City My Heritage' campaign. The specially curated walk provided an immersive journey into the city's vibrant culture and rich historical legacy, fostering a sense of pride and encouraging long-term commitment to cultural preservation.
Speaking on the occasion, Rohini Bhatia, Chairperson, InterGlobe Foundation, said, "Patiala's heritage reflects a rich tapestry of royal tradition, architectural excellence, and cultural expression. Through our 'My City My Heritage' initiative, we bring renewed attention to the city's historic treasures to strengthen local pride and encourage collective stewardship, ensuring its distinctive legacy continues to inspire generations to come.

PNB MetLife and Responsenet Train 500 Women Under 'Kshamata' Skill Development Initiative

ROHTAK / JHAJJAR: PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited has partnered with Responsenet, to implement the Kshamata skill development and livelihood program for young women. The initiative is part of PNB MetLife's commitment towards community development and women's empowerment. Launched in August 2025, the Kshamata initiative aims to train 500 young women in customer care, data entry, and digital marketing. The program equips participants with industry relevant and digital skills to improve their job readiness, income potential, and access to sustainable livelihoods.



The training is being delivered through two dedicated centers of Responsenet in Bahadurgarh (Jhajjar district) and Rohtak, Haryana. The curriculum combines technical training, practical exposure, and workplace readiness, enabling participants to either enter the formal workforce or pursue self employment and freelance opportunities, particularly in the digital and services sectors. Upon completion, participants are expected to secure placement opportunities, while others will receive support to start their own ventures or work as freelancers and consultants. 70% of participants have secured sustainable livelihood, marking an early milestone for the program. Sourabh Lohtia, Chief Marketing & Communications Officer at PNB MetLife said, "There is a clear need to expand access to skills and livelihood opportunities for women, who account for about a third of India's working-age population. Kshamata helps young women learn in-demand skills so they can find jobs, gain financial independence, and contribute to their communities.

The Board of IndiGo announces the appointment of William Walsh as Chief Executive Officer

CHANDIGARH / LUDHIANA: The Board of InterGlobe Aviation Limited (IndiGo) today appointed Mr. William Walsh as the Chief Executive Officer, subject to Regulatory approvals. Mr. Walsh's tenure at IATA comes to a close on the 31st of July, 2026, and he is expected to join no later than on the 3rd of August, 2026.
Mr. Walsh (popularly known as Willie) is currently the Director General of IATA (International Air Transport Association) and was formerly CEO of British Airways and IAG (International Airlines Group, a holding company which owns Aer Lingus, British Airways, Iberia, Level and Vueling). Mr. Walsh's distinguished career highlights commence from his role as a pilot, COO and then CEO of Aer Lingus, (2000-2005); CEO of British Airways, (2005-2011); CEO of IAG (2011-2020); and since then, the Director General of IATA (International Air Transport Association). In his new role as IndiGo's CEO, Mr. Walsh will be responsible for the overall management and strategic direction of the airline with a focus on transformational initiatives to strengthen the operational performance, advance the Company's network and commercial strategy while enhancing customer experience. He will work closely with the Board and the leadership team to rightfully position IndiGo as it scales up to the next phase of its growth. 'Welcoming Mr. Walsh, Mr. Vikram Singh Mehta, IndiGo's Chairman said, "I am thrilled that Willie will be at helm of IndiGo. He is an exceptional global aviation leader with a stellar track record of outstanding leadership across several airlines. His experience in managing large scale airline
operations and navigating complex market dynamics make him ideally suited to strengthen and lead IndiGo for continued growth in an ever evolving and competitive international aviation environment. His appointment will mark a new chapter for IndiGo, as it continues its journey in one of the fastest growing aviation markets in the world."

Chamba children leave for educational tour to Daman under Sukh Ashray Yojana

SUBHASH MAHAJAN

CHAMBA : Children from child care institutions in Chamba were flagged off for an educational tour to Daman under the Chief Minister's Sukh Ashray Yojana. Deputy Commissioner Mukesh Repswal formally flagged off the tour on Monday. The tour, scheduled from March 31 to April 7, 2026, includes 35 children identified as "Children of the State" along with five officials. The will proceed from Chamba to New Delhi and then to Daman, covering various historical, educational and tourist destinations.
Mukesh Repswal said the initiative aims to provide practical exposure and new experiences to the children. As per the itinerary, the group will halt at Himachal Bhawan in New Delhi before proceeding to Daman via Surat. During their stay in Daman, the children will visit industrial units and tourist spots such as Namo Path, Devka Beach, Dudhani Lake, Lion Safari, Nakshatra Van Garden and Vandhara Garden. Recreational activities including water sports and visits to night markets are also part of the programme. After completing the Daman visit, the group will return to Delhi by air from Surat and explore prominent landmarks including Rashtrapati Bhavan, India Gate and Chandni Chowk before heading back to Chamba on April 6 and reaching on April 7. Separate travel arrangements have been made for children from the Pangi region via Manali.

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YUGMARG

Sports

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Jharkhand wrestler Poonam's inspiring comeback ends 9-year wait for gold

AMBIKAPUR : In a physically demanding sport like wrestling, where peak fitness is essential, stepping onto the mat with an injured shoulder is a significant risk. However, for Jharkhand wrestler Poonam Oraon that risk looked like an opportunity, which she seized to clinch a gold medal at the first Khelo India Tribal Games 2026. Battling pain through every bout, Poonam crafted an inspiring comeback story. Every time Poonam Oraon made a tackle in the final of the women's 50kg match at the Khelo India Tribal Games (KITG) 2026. She would wince in pain due to her injured shoulder. The 19-year-old wrestler had dislocated her shoulder when she was 10, and the pain keeps cropping up now and then. The pain once again flared up ahead of the final bout, and she had to heavily strap the left shoulder to just turn up for the bout. And she braved through that pain to beat Telangana's K Geetha to clinch her first gold medal in any national-level competition.

"How could I give up? Nine years ago, my shoulder got dislocated. It recovered in between, but it keeps hurting. If I have not given up in so many years, then how could I have given up now?" Poonam told SAI Media after the title triumph.

NEWS BRIEF

Anahat, Abhay Singh secure top honours at ASF Awards 2025

NEW DELHI : India's squash stars, Anahat Singh and Abhay Singh secured the top awards, the Asian Squash Federation (ASF) Player of the Year honour in men's and women's categories in the ASF Awards 2025 on Tuesday.

Anahat, the world number 20th in senior women's singles rankings, secured the ASF Girls' Player of the Year award, known as the 'Hassan Musa award', following some top performances last year, as per Olympics.com.

Anahat, 18, emerged as one of the brightest young Indian stars in the sport, with the bronze medal at World Junior Championships in Cairo and was also a part of the team which made history by capturing the Squash World Cup last year. Her recent performances include a successful defence of the Indian Open title. She has 16th PSA level titles overall. Japan's Satomi Watanabe secured the senior ASF Women's Player of the Year award. Anahat had also beaten Commonwealth Games champion Georgina Kennedy of England to bag her maiden PSA Bronze-level title this February. This win in Washington propelled her into the world's top 20 player. She made history by becoming the youngest Asian women's squash player ever to achieve the milestone, surpassing Malaysia's icon, Nicol David. Anahat had an impressive 2024-25 season during which she was named as the 'PSA Challenger Female Player of the Season' and the 'PSA Young Female Player of the Season' Also, the world number 25 and Asian Games medalist Abhay secured the ASF Men's Player of the Year Award, which is also known as the 'Dato Alex Lee Award'.

Fakhar Zaman receives two-match ban in PSL for ball tampering

LAHORE : Pakistan and Lahore Qalandars batter Fakhar Zaman has been handed a two-match ban after being found guilty of tampering with the condition of the ball during the franchise's Pakistan Super League (PSL) clash against Karachi Kings on Sunday.

As per ESPNCricinfo, the sanction was announced after a hearing as a part of which the match referee Roshan Mahanama concluded that Fakhar had altered the condition of the ball and violated the article 41.3 of the league's code of conduct. The batter had contested the charge, and the hearing took place to decide if he had done it or not.

A player is given a suspension of one match minimum or two at maximum for a first-time level three offence as a part of PSL's code of conduct. The incident surfaced during the start of the last over of Kings' run chase. The on-field umpire Faisal Afridi, sought the ball from Haris Rauf after it had changed hands between Shaheen Shah Afridi and Fakhar.

A lengthy exchange between Faisal and Sharfuddoula followed, and both decided to bring a replacement ball, deeming it as a ball that had been tampered with.

A statement by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said as quoted by ESPNCricinfo, "Match Referee Roshan Mahanama conducted the disciplinary hearing and made the determination after reviewing all evidence and providing an opportunity of personal hearing to Fakhar. Lahore Qalandars Captain Shaheen Shah Afridi, Team Director Sameen Rana and Team Manager Farooq Anwar were also present during the hearing." As per PSL's code of conduct, Fakhar can lodge an appeal against the decision within 48 hours of receiving the written verdict from Roshan Mahanama with the league's technical committee.

Season 2 of Canada Super 60 to take place from September 29-October 4

VANCOUVER: The Canada Super 60 League is set to return for its highly anticipated second season from September 29 to October 4, 2026, at the iconic BC Place Stadium in Vancouver.

Following a groundbreaking debut season that captured the imagination of fans across continents, Canada Super 60 continues its journey to become a marquee event on the international cricket calendar. Yuvraj Singh, League Partner, said as quoted by a press release: "After the success of last year's inaugural season, I am truly delighted to share that Canada Super 60 is returning for Season 2. The response from fans, players, and the global cricket community was incredibly encouraging, and it was clear that the world took notice of what we are building here."

"This year, we are even more eager to establish Canada Super 60 as a marquee event in the global cricket calendar. It is a league that not only entertains but also creates meaningful opportunities for young cricketers, both men and women, from Canada to rub shoulders with some of the game's greats."

"Personally, I am very excited to be back at BC Place. It is a truly unique venue, and playing under the roof, in front of such passionate fans, makes this experience very special," he continued. The President of Cricket Canada, Amjad Bajwa, added, "Canada Super 60 represents a major step forward for the growth and development of cricket in Canada and across North America. The success of the first season demonstrated the sport's growing popularity in this region and the immense potential here."

"Vaibhav Suryavanshi has a very fearless mindset": Ravindra Jadeja



AGENCY

GUWAHATI : Rajasthan Royals' (RR) all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja praised young batting sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi for his fearless and aggressive approach, saying he bats the same way in the nets as he does in matches.

Jadeja highlighted the difficult pitch conditions in RR's Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 opener against Chennai Super Kings, were their was help for the seamers with the new ball, yet Suryavanshi still played attacking shots and raced to a quickfire fifty, calling it an exceptional effort.

"Can't bowl him into the stumps in nets, he smashes every ball into the stands. Vaibhav has a very fearless mindset. Because he bats in the net the same way as he bats in the match. The batting that Vaibhav did today, it wasn't that easy. The new ball was swinging. It was so difficult, yet he was hitting big shots and scored 50 runs in just a few balls," Jadeja said in a video posted by the Rajasthan Royals on Instagram.

It was another Suryavanshi special, the second-fastest fifty by an RR batter in IPL history, which helped RR to a one-sided win over CSK by eight wickets in Guwahati on Monday.

While chasing 128 runs, it was his 15-ball half-century and quickfire 75-run stand with Jaiswal which totally put the match beyond CSK's reach.

Suryavanshi also hailed Jadeja's vast experience and game awareness, noting that his deep understanding of batters and ability to outthink them make him a challenging opponent.

He admitted that facing Jadeja is tough because of his smart, strategic bowling, but also said the contest is enjoyable and a valuable learning experience.

"He has been playing in all three formats for India for a long time. He has a lot of experience. He knows everything about which batsman is going to do. He has so much knowledge because he is a big player. He knows where to bowl. It's obvious that if I am batting against him. It's a little tough, but it's fun in the competition," Suryavanshi said.

Ahead of the 2026 season, Jadeja made a return to the Rajasthan Royals through a high-profile trade deal with CSK. Jadeja, along with Sam Curran, joined the Rajasthan franchise as Sanju Samson moved to the five-time champions.

Jadeja was part of the Rajasthan Royals' historic 2008 title-winning squad, and later became an integral part of the Chennai Super Kings after joining them in 2012.

LSG vs DC: Former teammates turn rivals in blockbuster encounter



LUCKNOW, MARCH 31 (UNI) The IPL 2026 encounter between Lucknow Super Giants and Delhi Capitals presents a high-intensity contest shaped by star reunions, individual matchups, and contrasting tactical approaches. With both teams featuring strong international players and dynamic Indian talent, the match tomorrow is expected to be closely fought under typical Ekana conditions that often favour spin and disciplined bowling.

A major storyline revolves around the reunion of key players who have previously shared dressing rooms. Rishabh Pant, now leading Lucknow Super Giants, faces his former side Delhi Capitals, while KL Rahul, a former LSG stalwart, now represents Delhi Capitals. This adds an emotional dimension to the contest, with both players carrying leadership responsibilities and deep familiarity with each other's game plans.

Another central theme is the battle between aggressive batting and spin dominance. Nicholas Pooran is expected to play a crucial role for LSG with his attacking stroke play in the middle overs. Delhi Capitals will counter with their premier spinner Kuldeep Yadav, whose variations and wicket-taking ability could prove decisive on a surface that traditionally offers assistance to slow bowlers.

Lucknow appear to be a top-heavy side with significant firepower in the upper order. The combination of Mitchell Marsh, Aiden Markram, Pant, and Pooran provides explosive potential. Their bowling attack has been strengthened by the inclusion of experienced pacers Mohammed Shami and Anrich Nortje, who bring pace, accuracy, and death-over expertise.

Delhi, on the other hand, offer a more balanced batting unit with depth in both top and middle order. Nitish Rana, Tristan Stubbs, and David Miller provide stability and finishing strength, complementing the consistency of KL Rahul at the top. Allround contributions from Axar Patel further enhance their flexibility in both batting and bowling departments.

The surface at Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium is expected to be on the slower side, with low-to-medium bounce and assistance for spinners, particularly during the middle overs. The average first-innings score at this venue typically ranges around 170-175, indicating moderate scoring conditions.

Jharkhand's Shiv Kumar and Prithvi Oraon are fastest men and women athletes

RAIPUR: Shiv Kumar Soren and Prithvi Oraon, both from Jharkhand, were crowned the fastest men and women athletes in the inaugural edition of the Khelo India Tribal Games 2026 at the Kreeda Parisar ground in Jagdalpur on Tuesday. Further, Siddharth Nagesh clinched a shot put gold and discus throw silver while Tilak Barsel bagged the men's 100m silver for hosts Chhattisgarh. Shiv Kumar and Prithvi led their 100m races respectively from start to finish to capture the golden double for their State. Shiv Kumar clocked a time of 10.58s while Barsel finished the race in 10.87sec to clinch the silver medal. Odisha's Atish Kindo (10.91s) took the bronze medal. In the women's 100m final, 16-year-old Prithvi clocked her best time ever to clinch the gold, stopping the clock at 12.73s.



Nagaland's Ruduolhounuo Belho (12.90s) and Putul Bakshi of Jharkhand (13.03s) took home the silver and bronze medals, respectively. "I was confident of winning a medal as I had done well in the selection trials for the Games. Today, I focused on giving my best, and I am happy that I could set my personal best time," said Prithvi after the race. For the hosts, Siddharth Nagesh began the day with a silver medal in men's discus throw with a distance of 35.56m.

Gujarat's Danish Makvana bagged the gold with a throw of 44.83m while Chandray Murmu of Odisha (33.97m) won the bronze. In the evening session, he went one step further by grabbing the shot put gold with a distance of 13.52m. Danish Makvana got the silver with a throw of 13.04m. Hosts Chhattisgarh also reached the women's football final, beating Arunachal Pradesh in a penalty shootout. Chhattisgarh are now in 10th place in the medals tally with two gold, seven silver, and four bronze medals.

ITTF World Cup: Manika Batra, Sreeja Akula produce contrasting outings

AGENCY

MACAU: The Indian table tennis stars Manika Batra and Sreeja Akula had contrasting outings on day two of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) World Cup 2026 in Macau on Tuesday.

Manika, the world number 47th in women's competition, secured a a 3-2 (11-7, 11-2, 14-16, 5-11, 11-6) win over world No. 42 Lily Zhang of the USA. Manika was dominant, looking on track to seal the match in straight games, but Lily produced a brilliant comeback to enforce a tie-break in the third game and won the fourth game as well to take the game to a decider fifth game, as per Olympics.com.

The class of three-time Olympian Batra shone under pressure as she finished with a win in her final group stage match of the tournament.

On the other hand, the 44th-ranked Akula did make a promising start against Portugal's Fu Yu by winning the first game, but she went down 1-3 (8-11, 11-9, 15-13, 11-8) against the world number 48.



Sreeja's final group stage match will come on Wednesday against world number two and Olympic gold medalist Wang Manyu of China.

Manav Thakkar, who lost to South Korea's Park Ganghyeon in his campaign opener in the men's singles' competition, will face Olympic silver medalist world No. 2 Truls Moregardh of Sweden on Wednesday.

No Indian player has ever secured an ITTF WC medal. Manika and Sreeja competed in the 2025 edition as well, but failed to make past the group stage.

Himachal Pradesh Team Wins Gold at the 1st Senior National Para Kabaddi Championship 2026

AGENCY

MOHALI: The Himachal Pradesh team won the gold medal at the 1st Senior National Para Kabaddi Championship 2026, organized by the Para Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India (PAKFI), affiliated with the Paralympic Committee of India, at Chandigarh University. The Delhi team secured second place and won the silver medal.



PAKFI President Rajinder Saini stated that this आयोजन proved to be a historic milestone in promoting para sports in the country. He emphasized the importance of such national platforms in encouraging para kabaddi and providing equal opportunities for differently-abled athletes to excel at national and international levels.

The closing ceremony was attended by Indian Volleyball Federation President Virender Kanwar, PAKFI General Secretary Gurdeep Singh, Treasurer Baljeet Singh, Technical Director Pawan Rana, members Narendra Rana and Sandeep, and Indian para athletics coach Bansi Lal, along with officials, coaches, and players from all participating states.

Teams from across the country participated enthusiastically in the championship, showcasing exceptional talent, determination, and sportsmanship during the three-day event.

The spirit of participation, unity, and resilience displayed by all teams was also appreciated during the closing ceremony. Dignitaries congratulated the medal winners and praised the efforts of all players for their outstanding performances.

The Para Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India (PAKFI) expressed heartfelt gratitude to all participating teams, officials, supporters, and partners for making the championship a grand success and reaffirmed its commitment to the development of inclusive sports in India.

Advani Clinches 9-Ball National Title on Debut as Champions Crowned



SHARMA

LUDHIANA: The Manisha Constructions National Pool Championship 2026 concluded in Ludhiana with a landmark moment in Indian cue sports, as Pankaj Advani (PSPB) captured the Men's 9-Ball National Title in his very first appearance in the discipline.

In a high-quality final against Nitin Sharma (Chandigarh), the match began on even footing with both players locked at 4–4. However, Advani's experience and control came to the fore as he shifted momentum decisively, pulling away to secure an emphatic 11–5 victory.

The win marks a significant addition to Advani's decorated career, reinforcing his stature as one of India's greatest cueists while showcasing his adaptability across formats.

Podium Finishers – Men's 9 Ball

Pankaj Advani (PSPB)

Nitin Sharma (CHD)

S. Shrikrishna (PSPB)

Kushal Chandrashekhar (KAR)

In the 3rd/4th place playoff, Shrikrishna secured the bronze with a convincing 7–2 win over Kushal Chandrashekhar. Advani's debut triumph remains the defining storyline of the event, symbolizing both excellence and versatility at the highest level of cue sports.

Confident Blue Colts ready to face Bhutan in SAFF U20 Championship semifinal

MALE: Defending champions India will look to rise to the occasion when they take on Bhutan in the semifinals of the SAFF U20 Championship at the National Stadium in Malé, Maldives, on Wednesday. The other semifinal will be played between Nepal and Bangladesh.

The India U20 men's team heads into the semifinal after making full use of the three-day break following their group-stage matches. The Blue Colts used the time to recover physically and reset mentally after their outings against Pakistan and Bangladesh.

The squad also enjoyed a day out at the beach, allowing the players to unwind and strengthen team bonding ahead of the decisive encounter. The positive atmosphere carried into training, where the players showed sharpness, enthusiasm, and renewed focus as preparations intensified.

India progressed to the semi-finals as group toppers after composed performances against Pakistan (3-0) and Bangladesh (1-1) in Group B. The team showed resilience in key moments and handled pressure well, particularly in phases where the matches demanded patience and discipline.



India head coach Mahesh Gawali praised his players for their effort and mindset so far. "The boys have been playing well as they handled pressure well. We didn't get time to prepare before the tournament, but the boys are giving their 100 per cent. I am really happy and proud of the way we have performed so far," said Gawali.

While the group-stage results were encouraging, the Indian camp is aware that the semi-final will require another step forward. The team created opportunities in both matches, but will aim to be more clinical in front of the goal. Maintaining concentration during defensive phases will also be important in a knockout encounter.

"Nothing is easy. We created chances to score, and we need to convert more. We also need to be more focused when defending," Gawali added.

Bhutan entered the semifinal after showing determination in Group A. They began with a defeat against Nepal but recovered with a goalless draw against the hosts, the Maldives. Their qualification was sealed dramatically when they scored in injury time to beat Sri Lanka 1-0. The late winner underlined Bhutan's persistence and ability to stay in the contest until the final whistle.

Huma Qureshi receives a shout out from American filmmaker Zack Snyder



Tuesday morning became extra special for actor Huma Qureshi as she woke up to a surprise shout-out from acclaimed global filmmaker Zack Snyder.In an Instagram post, Zack recalled working with Huma in 2021 Netflix zombie heist film 'Army of the Dead'. Calling Huma an "amazing" actor, Zack wrote, "@iamhumaq -- one of the most amazing actors I've had the pleasure of working with on Army of the Dead. Talent, presence, and pure brilliance on screen."Have a look at his post here. In response, Huma dropped a comment filled with gratitude. "You the best .. boss man," she wrote.

She also penned a thank you message for Zack on her Instagam story. "Such a sweet surprise getting this shout out from Zack Snyder. Miss you and my AOTD family (Red heart emoji)," Huma posted. Bautista leading the cast, the film follows a group of men and women who come together to stage a heist at a casino in Vegas.Ella Purnell, Omari Hardwick, Ana de la Reguera, Theo Rossi, Matthias Schweighofer, Nora Arnezeder, Hiroyuki Sanada, Tig Notaro, Raul Castillo, Samantha Win, Michael Cassidy, Richard Cetrone, and Garret Dillahunt. also featured in the film, which marked Huma's Hollywood debut. Meanwhile, currently, Huma is gearing up for the release of 'Toxic' with Yash. Written by Yash and Geetu Mohandas and directed by Geetu Mohandas, 'Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups' will also feature Tara Sutaria, Kiara Advani, and Nayanthara in key roles.

'Kaptaan' trailer: Saqib Saleem, Siddharth Nigam lock horns in gritty crime thriller



The makers of Saqib Saleem, Siddharth Nigam, Kavita Kaushik, Varun Badola, Anjumm Sharma, Aarif Zakaria, Poojaa Gor, Vikram Kochhar, and Anushka Kaushik starrer 'Kaptaan' series, unveiled the trailer on Monday.Saqib Saleem plays the role of SSP Samardeep, the celebrated officer, known for his unorthodox methods. Siddharth Nigam plays Kabir, a dangerous and unpredictable character whose personal history drives his actions.The trailer shows isolated crime scenes, highlighting a network of counterfeit operations, organised rackets, and a growing turf war. At the centre is the clash between Samardeep, and Kabir, as past events start affecting the present. What begins as a routine crackdown soon turns into a complex series of events. Check out

While talking about the series, Saqib Saleem said, "'Kaptaan' pushed me to explore a space that was both emotionally demanding and internally conflicted. Playing SSP Samardeep meant stepping into the shoes of a cop who doesn't always go by the book, but believes in getting the job done. He's someone who is constantly navigating the weight of his past while trying to stay in control of the present, and that very tension shapes his decisions. It's a layered character that made the entire journey both challenging and rewarding for me. I can't wait for audiences to experience this world."Siddharth Nigam added, "Kabir walks into the story with fire in his veins. He is angry, damaged, and driven, and that makes him dangerous in ways even he may not fully understand. There's an unpredictability to him that keeps the tension alive, because you're never quite sure which way he'll go next. What I found most compelling about the show was how his journey becomes increasingly personal as the story unfolds, and I'm really looking forward to audiences experiencing that."Kavita Kaushik said, "Having played a cop before, it was exciting to revisit the uniform with a fresh perspective in Kaptaan. My character brings a certain sharpness along with an otherwise intense narrative, which made it a lot of fun to portray. It was refreshing to be part of a story that balances intensity with moments of sheer unpredictability."Amogh Dusad, Head of Content, said, "'Kaptaan' is a story that unfolds at the intersection of power, conflict, and personal motivations, set against a world where every decision carries weight. What makes the narrative compelling is how it blends elements of cop drama, action, and character-driven storytelling to create something that feels both engaging and layered."'Kaptaan' will stream on Amazon MX Player from April 3.

Shriya Pilgaonkar, Divya Dutta highlight rise of diverse storytelling, layered roles for women

Actors Shriya Pilgaonkar, Divya Dutta, and Shweta Basu Prasad on Monday spoke about the growing role of OTT platforms in shaping diverse storytelling and expanding opportunities for women, during the ongoing International Film Festival Delhi (IFFD) 2026.Highlighting the impact of streaming platforms, Shriya Pilgaonkar said OTT has opened up the space for more inclusive and experimental narratives. "Streaming platforms have been very crucial to open the field, be more expansive, be more inclusive, and allow for storytelling that's diverse and experimental. It's wonderful that we have had the opportunity to play complex, layered women on screen. It's a writer's medium, where the focus goes back to the text," she said.



Shweta Basu Prasad noted that socially relevant themes have long been part of Indian cinema and are now reaching wider audiences through OTT. "It's not that issues about social reforms were never raised in films before. From Mrinal Sen to Ritwik Ghatak to films like Mahanagar and Devi, we have a strong history. With OTT, we are taking a bigger jump. There are all kinds of stories, and audiences are now watching films from all over the world," she said.

She added that the shift has given actors greater freedom. "It has given us as actors a great opportunity to explore and not be stuck to a particular kind of roles. That is something to celebrate, along with women who are doing wonderful work," she said.Divya Dutta also praised the International Film Festival of Delhi, calling it a significant platform for cinema lovers. "It's the first International Film Festival Delhi, and the crowd coming in throngs shows how much we love cinema. To have a platform where actors, directors, writers, audiences, and students come together is amazing. It's a great effort by the government and should be lauded," she said.The IFFD is a week-long festival which began on March 25.

April Fool's Day 2026: Zee TV Stars Spill Their Funniest Pranks & Mischievous Memories



CHANDIGARH: April Fool's Day is a celebration of joy, laughter, and a little mischief. While there may not be an official occasion for harmless pranks, this day gives everyone the perfect excuse to indulge in some light-hearted fun, where a successful prank brings an unmatched sense of delight. In the same spirit, Zee TV actors Niharika Chouksey from Tumm se Tumm Tak, Amandeep Sidhu from Ganga Mai Ki Betiyan, Aayushi Khurrana from Jaane Anjaane Hum Mile and Sonakshi Batra from Jagadhatri shared their fond April Fool's memories. While some recalled being hilariously pranked by co-stars or production teams, others looked back at the innocent and playful tricks from their childhood days.

Niharika Chouksey aka Anu from Tumm se Tumm Tak said, "April Fool's Day has always been one of my favourite days because it's the perfect excuse to just let loose and have some fun. On the sets of Tumm se Tumm Tak, I think I've earned a bit of a reputation for being the prankster, I'm always planning something or the other to catch everyone off guard. While I do enjoy pulling pranks on my co-actors and the unit, I've also had my fair share of being fooled, and those moments are just as memorable. Being one of the younger ones on set, I love bringing that playful energy in, and it really helps us bond beyond our scenes. For me, it's all about creating happy, light-hearted memories while we work."

Amandeep Sidhu aka Sneha from Ganga Mai Ki Betiyan, "April Fool's Day, for me, is all about love, laughter, and sharing light-hearted moments with your loved ones. While there doesn't need to be a specific day to play harmless pranks, this day gives us the perfect excuse to have some fun with family and friends. With our hectic shooting schedules, we rarely get time to prank each other, but whenever we do, it's always memorable. On our set, Sheizaan is the prank master, he's pulled off quite a few tricks, and though I don't fall for them easily, he has managed to get me a couple of times. On this April Fool's Day, I just hope everyone enjoys these little moments of joy, spreading happiness, laughter, and positivity all around."

Aayushi Khurrana aka Reet from Jaane Anjaane Hum Mile said, "I remember when I was a kid, I once told my mother that I wasn't feeling well and couldn't go to school, saying I didn't think I'd be able to make it that day. She was quite understanding and told me to rest. But later in the evening, I casually told her I wanted to go to a friend's place. That's when she got suspicious and said, 'You weren't well enough for school, but now you're fine to go out?' And that's when I revealed, 'It's April Fool's Day" It wasn't just my plan, it was something my friends and I had planned together because we wanted to skip school. We even had a Sanskrit test that day, so this was our way of escaping it without studying! Looking back, I think that's one April Fool's prank I'll always remember."

Sonakshi Batra aka Jagadhatri from Jagadhatri said, "For me, it would be Rakesh and Salil ji from the production team, because the actors are quite innocent. April or no April, they make it a point to try and fool me in the most convincing ways. If by any chance I have an early pack-up, they come to me with a very serious face and inform me that there's going to be overtime that day and that I'll have to work a few extra hours. It's already happened twice, and somehow, I still end up believing them almost every time. They really enjoy pestering me in this friendly manner because they know I get a little disappointed and that reaction is exactly what they're waiting for."

Sony Pictures Networks India to telecast the star-studded Chetak SCREEN Awards 2026 LIVE on 05th April

CHANDIGARH : Sony Pictures Networks India (SPNI) is set to bring the culture of LIVE awards back to screen as Chetak SCREEN Awards 2026 goes LIVE across Sony Entertainment Television (SET) and Sony LIV on 05th April 2026 at 8:00 PM IST.



Recognised as one of India's most credible honours in cinema and storytelling, the Chetak SCREEN Awards celebrate excellence across Indian filmmaking while spotlighting the creative forces shaping the industry. This year's edition will feature a star-studded event as we witness a powerhouse of hosts like Alia Bhatt, Farah Khan, Sunil Grover, Zakir Khan, bringing together the worlds of cinema, music, comedy, and pop culture all on one stage. In a first for the property, the awards will be experienced live across linear television and the streaming platform underscoring SPNI's content-first, platform-agnostic approach. The ceremony will air on SET and stream on Sony LIV, alongside a live broadcast on the SCREEN Awards' YouTube channel, expanding its reach to a wider, digitally native audience and will also be available for audiences on 7thApril 2026 on Sony Entertainment Television's YouTube channel. By leveraging the combined strength of its linear and digital ecosystem, SPNI aims to transform the awards into a high-impact, real-time cultural moment for its viewers—driving both scale and deeper audience engagement.

"I Started Mumbling in Real Life for Revati," says Manasi Srivastava on Lakshmi Niwas

CHANDIGARH: Zee TV's family drama Lakshmi Niwas continues to strike an emotional chord with viewers through its heartfelt portrayal of middle-class family life, relationships, and the little nuances that make each character feel real and relatable. As the story progresses, audiences are increasingly connecting with the distinct personalities that bring warmth and authenticity to the world of Lakshmi Niwas.One such character that has been quietly yet strongly resonating with viewers is Revati, played by Manasi Srivastava. A simple, caring homemaker, Revati is someone who finds joy in looking after her family and home. While her warmth is endearing, it is her constant habit of mumbling that has caught the audience's attention, adding a unique charm to her personality. In fact, in the show, her adorable quirk has even earned her the nickname 'Gungunati Gauri' from Dadi, making it a memorable trait for viewers.Interestingly, this small yet impactful characteristic seamlessly translated into Manasi's real life as well. To make the portrayal feel completely natural, the actor began mumbling in her everyday life, allowing the behaviour to become instinctive rather than performed.Speaking about it, Manasi Srivastava shared, "Revati is a very simple, warm, and caring woman who finds her happiness in taking care of her home and everyone around her. That's something I connected with instantly because even in my real life, I enjoy looking after people. One of her most distinctive traits is that she keeps mumbling to herself while going about her day. Somewhere along the way, I realised I had started doing that in real life too. It just became a part of my rhythm without me even noticing it. I think when something like that happens organically, it reflects very honestly on screen."She added, "Revati is deeply rooted in her world, her home, her kitchen, and her people, and I relate to that sense of belonging. I've tried to bring that comfort and simplicity into the way she speaks and behaves. It's these little nuances that make her feel real."



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."

Sharing her perspective, Rasha Thadani added, "I think we all, in some way, look to our mothers for validation, especially when trying something new. When it comes to beauty, my mom has always been my biggest inspiration and my most honest critic. This campaign felt very close to home because it captures a real moment between us.

"Women have always been a lot more courageous": Bhumi Pednekkar on how OTT gives stronger roles

Actor Bhumi Pednekkar shared how OTT platforms are creating stronger opportunities for women in Indian cinema, allowing them to explore more diverse and courageous roles.Speaking at the ongoing International Film Festival Delhi (IFFD) 2026, she said, "I feel with OTT, especially for women, the narrative has become a lot stronger, because a lot of those shows, a lot of those films are led by women... Absolutely, women have always been a lot more courageous and brave while choosing their scripts. OTT just gives them the right platform."Pednekkar, who attended the festival alongside filmmakers and actors, praised Delhi for hosting the event. "Delhi, of all the places, really deserved an International Film Festival... The scale at which it's happening, the number of people attending, the talks, seminars, and films... everything is operating at such a high level. And this is only the first year," she said. On staying relevant in the industry, she added, "I think the biggest thing is that you should not stay relevant, you should just stay true to your craft, because relevance is very short lived. And it's exhausting. How long will you keep staying relevant? What's important is finding what your true talent is, understanding the artist in you. And constantly doing riyaz so that that never goes."Bhumi also spoke about the importance of health and self-care for women in the film industry, especially as they age. She explains that the physical demands of acting, like gaining or losing weight for a role, become more challenging over time because the body's ability to handle these changes decreases. She emphasised that at a certain stage, it's more important to prioritize overall health and well-being over strictly altering one's body for a role. "I was doing this for many years, where I was increasing my weight, reducing it. Now I have reduced it a little, because as a woman, as your age increases, your body's ability to take that weight gain and weight loss reduces. So now I prioritise my health and my body over the parts, because at some age, women have to start doing that," she added.Sharing advice for aspiring women actors, Pednekkar said, "Even now in India, we think the world of films is very dangerous, but it's not.