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## Maoist carrying Rs 1 crore bounty among 14 killed in Chhattisgarh encounter

AGENCY GARIABAND, JAN 21

Fourteen Naxals were killed in an encounter with Chhattisgarh police at the Chhattisgarh-Odisha border on Monday, the Chhattisgarh Police stated.

According to the police, a member of the Naxal group, who had a bounty of 1 crore rupees on his head, was also killed in the encounter.

According to the police the encounter is still underway and more details are awaited on the matter.

On January 17, two Border Security Force (BSF) jawans sustained injuries after Naxals set off an improvised explosive device (IED) in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district.

The incident happened when in the morning when a BSF road-opening party was being deployed up between Camp Garpa and Garpa village, added the police official. The incident has been confirmed by Narayanpur SP Prabhat Kumar and detailed information will be shared by the officials later in the day.

On January 16, two CRPF jawans were injured in a pressure IED blast planted by Naxalites near Putkel village under the Basaguda police station in Bijapur district. T

On January 12, five Naxalites including two women were killed in an encounter with security forces in Bijapur. Several automatic and other weapons and explosives were recovered from the forests under the Nation-



### Another mighty blow to Naxalism: Amit Shah

NEW DELHI: Describing it as "another mighty blow to Naxalism", Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said 14 Naxalites were killed in a joint operation by the CRPF, SoG Odisha and Chhattisgarh Police along the Odisha-Chhattisgarh border. With the resolve for a Naxal-free India and joint efforts of security forces, Naxalism is breathing its last today, Shah said.

al Park area of the Bijapur district. The recovered weapons included one SLR rifle, one 12-bore rifle, two single-shot rifles, one BGL launcher, and one locally made Bharmar gun, along with explosives, Maoist literature, and other Naxal materials.

Speaking to ANI about the South Bastar naxal encounter, IG Bastar P Sundarraaj said, "Bodies of 12 Naxalites, including 5 women, were recovered in the encounter that took place at 9 pm between security forces and Naxalites on January 16."

"A large number of arms and ammunition were also recovered. We are moving ahead in our goal of taking action against Naxalism," said P Sundarraaj.

## Trump threatens 100% tariffs against BRICS countries if they try replacing US dollar

AGENCY WASHINGTON, JAN 21

President Donald Trump has again warned that he will impose 100 per cent tariffs against countries of the BRICS bloc, of which India is a part, if they take any steps to replace the US dollar.

Trump, who took oath as the 47th president of the US on Monday, said, "If the BRICS nations want to do that, that's okay, but we're going to put at least a 100 per cent tariff on the business they do with the United States."

They "have a 100 per cent tariff if they so much as even think" about reducing the use of the dollar in global trade, he added.

BRICS is an intergovernmental organisation of 10 countries - Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates.

In December too, Trump warned BRICS nations against such a move.

"We require a commitment from these countries that they will neither create a new BRICS



currency, nor back any other currency to replace the mighty US dollar or, they will face 100 per cent tariffs and should expect to say goodbye to selling into the wonderful US economy," Trump had warned. External affairs minister S. Jaishankar in December said India had never been for de-dollarisation and there was no proposal to have a BRICS currency. Responding to a question on immigration, Trump on Monday said he is fine with legal immigration.

## Ropar resident wins Punjab State Lottery's Rs. 10 cr prize

BUREAU LUDHIANA, JAN 21

The Punjab State Lottery Directorate conducted the draw for the Punjab State Deer Lohri Makar Sankranti Bumper 2025 Lottery Scheme on January 18, 2025, in Ludhiana. This scheme guaranteed a first prize of 10 crore exclusively from sold tickets. The lucky winner of the 10 crore prize is Mr. Harbinder Singh, a resident of Barwa village in Ropar dis-



trict. Mr. Singh, who works as a JCB operator in Kuwait, visited the lottery office on January 21, 2025, to submit his prize

claim form. Expressing his joy, he stated that the prize money would be used to meet personal needs and secure his children's future. He also lauded the Punjab State Lottery for conducting the draws with full transparency, which has boosted public enthusiasm for these lottery schemes. The Punjab State Lottery Directorate announced that the upcoming draw for the Punjab State Deer Holi Bumper 2025 will take place on March 22, 2025.

## Four criminals killed in UP encounter



UNI SHAMLI (UP), JAN 21

Four criminals were killed and an Inspector was injured during an encounter with the Special Task Force (STF) of the Uttar Pradesh and local police in Jhijnhana area of Shamli district, police sources said on Tuesday.

Sources said that on Monday night the Meerut unit of the STF received a tip-off that an active member of the Kagga gang, Arshad, who carried a cash reward of Rs 1,00,000 on his arrest, was going to pass through the Jhijnhana area of Shamli district. "The STF team cordoned off the area and attempted to intercept the criminals," they said.

When challenged the criminals opened fire on the police team. "During the encounter which ensued for half an hour

Arshad and his three aides sustained bullet injuries in retaliatory firing. The injured criminals were taken to the hospital where they were declared dead," they said.

Sources said that Arshad's aides included Manjit, Satish, and an unidentified criminal. "STF Inspector Sunil sustained bullet injuries in the encounter and has been admitted to a hospital in Gurugram where his condition is stated to be serious," they said.

Sources said that Arshad's activities in Saharanpur and surrounding districts had challenged the police. "Cases were registered against him in Saharanpur, Shamli, Muzaffarnagar, and Panipat in Haryana under various sections including serious crimes like 302 (murder), 395 (robbery), 397 (armed robbery) and the Gangster Act," they said.

## 66 dead in hotel fire at ski resort in Turkey

AGENCY BOLU, JAN 21

At least 66 people were killed and 51 others were injured in a massive fire that broke out at a hotel in northern Turkey on Tuesday, Anadolu Agency (AA) reported, citing local authorities.

According to AA, the fire broke out at around 00:27 GMT in the restaurant area of the hotel, which quickly engulfed the building, as per Bolu Governor Abdulaziz Aydin.

AA reported that emergency teams from neighboring cities, including firefighters, disaster response units,

and medical teams supported by helicopters, were dispatched to the scene.

Authorities evacuated around 230 guests from the hotel as firefighting efforts continued. Justice Minister Yilmaz Tunc said a judicial investigation was initiated by the Bolu Chief Public Prosecutor's Office, with six public prosecutors assigned and a five-person expert committee formed, AA noted.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he had been monitoring the incident closely via relevant institutions since the moment the fire started. "I wish Allah's mercy to our citizens who lost



their lives ... and wish a speedy recovery to our wounded," he said in a post on X.

As per AA, Kartalkaya in the province of Bolu is one of Turkey's leading winter tour-

ism destinations that attracts thousands of visitors during the ski season. The resort is located around 295 kilometers east of Istanbul. The resort is a popular destination for holidaymak-

ers during the winter, particularly during school holidays, which begin in January and end in the first week of February, the report said. Governor Abdulaziz Aydin stated that there were around 234 guests staying at the hotel. CNN reported, citing Anadolu Agency, Aydin mentioned that two of the victims died after jumping out of the building "in panic." Several videos, some posted on social media platforms and others broadcast by Turkish TV channels, showed flames coming out of the top floors of the hotel. In the video, some people tried to use tied bed sheets to escape the blaze.

## 699 candidates in fray for Delhi assembly polls

AGENCY NEW DELHI, JAN 21

As many as 699 candidates are in the fray for the February 5 polls to the 70-member Delhi Assembly, marking a slight increase from the number of people who fought the elections in 2020. Five years ago, 672 candidates had fought the Delhi Assembly polls. According to the Delhi chief electoral officer, the high-profile New Delhi where AAP supreme Arvind Kejriwal is locked in a keen contest against the BJP's Parvesh Verma.



## JPC on 'One Nation One Election' Bill to next meet on Jan 31

AGENCY NEW DELHI, JAN 21

The second meeting of the Joint Committee of Parliament on 'One Nation One Election' Bill, also known as the 'Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024 and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill', 2024 will be conducted on January 31, 2025.

The meeting will be convened at the Parliament Annexe Building in New Delhi at 3 pm.

The first meeting on the 'One Nation One Election' bill was conducted on January 8, marked by an intense debate between ruling and opposition parties over the proposed legislation. Senior representatives from the Ministry of Law and Justice made a detailed presentation before the committee, outlining the bill's historical background and highlighting re-

forms since the 1950s that influenced its drafting.

The presentation focused on reducing election-related costs and ensuring governance stability. The officials given many salient points on the basis of which the centre has come up with this



legislation. As per the source, after the presentation of the ministry, MPs from various political parties gave their views and raised many issues, which are matters of concern for their party's agenda. The JPC is supposed to examine the 'One Nation, One Election' Bill, which consists of members from Lok Sabha including Congress leaders Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Manish Tewari, NCP's Supriya Sule, TMC's Kalyan Banerjee.

## Bloodbath in Indian stocks as Sensex sheds about 1,200 points

AGENCY MUMBAI, JAN 21

Domestic stock markets on Tuesday witnessed a bloodbath, ending on a weak note due to the selling pressure in heavyweight stocks such as Kotak Bank, Zomato, RIL and US President Donald Trump's aggressive take on the trade tariffs on various countries.

At the close of today's trading, Nifty ended at 23,024.65, down 320.10 points or 1.37 per cent, while the Sensex was down at 1,235.08 points or 1.60 per cent, at 75,838.36.

During the day, around 1,019 shares advanced, 2,552 shares de-



clined, and 79 shares remained unchanged.

At the National Stock Exchange (NSE), stocks of Apollo Hospitals Enterprise, Tata Consumers, BPCL, Shriram Finance, and JSW Steel emerged as the top gainers while the top losers included Trent, NTPC, ICICI Bank and Adani Ports.

On BSE, the midcap and small-cap indices shed 2 per cent each.

Among the sectoral indices, consumer durables and realty indices witnessed a decline of 4 per cent each, while banks, power, telecom, and capital goods were down 2 per cent each.

"Despite starting strong, the do-

mestic markets ended the day negatively. Nervousness driven by Trump's uncertain tariff plan, a sell-off triggered by foreign institutions, and disappointing Q3 earnings weighed on the market," said Ameya Ranadive, Senior Technical Analyst, StoxBox. VLA Ambala, co-founder of Stock Market Today, said markets experienced a turbulent session as the US President reiterated his statement to hike tariffs for BRICS countries, including India. In the context of the broader market, small-caps and mid-caps fared considerably more compared to the frontlines, led by disappointing earnings during the quarter.









## Ambedkar's important contribution in making of Constitution: Jagmohan Anand



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, JANUARY 21

Karnal MLA Jagmohan Anand on Tuesday participated in the seminar organised in connection with the Samvidhan Gaurav Abhiyan at the BJP office "Karn Kamal" located in Sector-9. During this, he said that Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar has made an important contribution in the making of the Constitution. Under this Samvidhan Gaurav Abhiyan, the work of bringing the lies being spread by the Congress regarding the Constitution in front of the public will be done. Jagmohan Anand said that respect for the Constitution is the identity of the BJP and every worker is committed to it. The BJP government is working with determination to uplift the society and build the India of Baba Saheb's dreams. He said that how the Congress has used the name of Baba Saheb, never gave him the respect he deserves and neither did it uplift the Scheduled Caste and Sched-

uled Tribe society as per his wish. Only the Bharatiya Janata Party government has done all this work.

Jagmohan Anand said that every BJP worker keeps the Constitution and the values of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar close to his heart. The Constitution reflects the diverse richness of the country and reminds the rights and responsibilities of citizens. He said that the Congress has failed to respect the Constitution and true ideals, due to which the people of India have rejected it. On this occasion, Union Minister Manohar Lal's representative Kaveri Rana, former MLA Ramesh Kashyap, District Vice President Sanjay Rana, Amarnath Sauda, Meena Chauhan, General Secretary Sunil Goyal, District Media Incharge Dr. Ashok Kumar, Rajni Procha, Mandal President Mohan Lodhi, Mandal President Mohita Sachdeva, Mandal President Gaurav Khurana, Rajesh Saini, Priyanka Kathpal and other workers were present.

## Special focus on agriculture in upcoming Budget: Rana

BUREAU CHANDIGARH, JAN 21

Haryana Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Sh. Shyam Singh Rana has reiterated the state government's commitment to the welfare of farmers and strengthening the agriculture sector. He said the double engine government led by Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini will focus on the welfare of farmers in the upcoming Budget.

Sh. Rana said the Chief Minister had organized a pre-Budget consultation meeting at Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar for the financial year 2025-26. In this meeting, discussions were held with farmers, agricultural scientists and representatives of farmer producer organizations. More than 52 suggestions were shared by farmers and experts during the meeting. These included inputs from members of



Meri Virasat, Kisan Mitra Yojana, and Bhavantar Bharpai Yojana. He said these schemes promote water conservation, crop diversification and ensure economic security of farmers.

He claimed that Haryana is the only state in the country which procures all 24 crops at the Minimum Support Price fixed by the Central Government. He also said that every effort is being made to ensure that farmers get timely payment for their crops.

The Agriculture Minister also mentioned the approval of a one-time special package on Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) fertilizer by the Central Government. He said a subsidy of 3,500 per tonne has been given under this package with a financial provision of 3,850 crore. Due to this, farmers are getting DAP fertilizer at cheaper rates despite fluctuations in the global market.

farmer associations, farmer producer organizations and federations. The Chief Minister had assured in the meeting that the government is working on a special strategy to increase the income of farmers and improve their economic condition.

The Agriculture Minister said the Chief Minister has recently held detailed discussions with farmers to understand their problems. He assured that steps will be taken to re-

solve these problems in the upcoming Budget session.

Referring to the joint initiatives of the Central and State Governments, Sh. Rana said the farmers of Haryana are getting the benefit of schemes like Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, Soil Health Card Yojana, e-NAM (National Agriculture Market), Mera Pani-

### NEWS BRIEFS

#### Condolences expressed on death of social worker Mahavir Prasad Jain

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL: Mahavir Prasad Jain, the revered father of senior journalist of the state and bureau chief of Arthprakash, Shailendra Jain, passed away last

evening. The last rites were performed in his native town of Gwalior. He was 83 years old. Mahavir Prasad Jain was a social worker and educationist. Political, religious, social and literary organisations have expressed condolences on his death. His funeral will be held at his residence in Gwalior on January 22 from 1 to 2 pm.

#### Buddhijivi Prakoshth to celebrate Bose's birth anniversary as Parakram Diwas on Jan 23



DALBIR MALIK KURUKSHETRA, JANUARY 21

On January 23, the Intellectual Cell will celebrate Parakram Diwas on the occasion of Subhash Chandra Bose's birth anniversary. For the arrangement of this programme, a meeting of the main workers of the Intellectual Cell was held today at the District BJP Office, Kurukshetra, in which guidance was received from the State Co-Convenor of the Intellectual Cell, Dr. Rishipal Mathana and all the arrangements of the programme were decided. Dr. Mathana ji said that in 2021, on the call of the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi,

Parakram Diwas was announced on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Subhash Chandra Bose, since then Bose's birth anniversary is celebrated as Parakram Diwas on 23 January.

In this programme, Dharmveer Singh Mirzapur will be the keynote speaker and Kurukshetra District BJP District President Sushil Rana will be the chief guest. Today District convenor Dr Chand Dutta, district co-convenor BL Arora, Mahendra Singh Mehta, Same Singh, Ram-sanehi, Premchand Mahala, Mohinder Saini, Sher Singh, Ashok Saini, Dr Rampal Sagwal, Dheeraj Goyal and Ramphal workers were present in the meeting.

## Shri Shyam Seva Samiti's contribution in service, religious works: Gupta

KAMAL SHARMA TARAORI, JANUARY 21

Advocate Munish Gupta, CMD of R.L. Foods Taraori and social worker, said that Shri Shyam Seva Samiti has an important contribution in religious events along with service works. From time to time, Shri Shyam Seva Samiti has been organising events in Taraori city that inspire mutual brotherhood and unity. He said that on 2nd February also, marriages of six girls from needy families will be organised by Shri Shyam Seva Samiti. Apart from this, on 3rd February, a grand Nishan Yatra along with Shri Shyam Mahotsav and Amritmay Bhandara will be organized in Taraori city. CMD of R.L. Foods Taraori. And social worker advocate Munish Gupta while inviting people from all over the city said that this event is for all of us. Such a grand event is going to be organised in Taraori grain market with the co-operation of all.

Munish Gupta said that the festival to be organised on 3 February will be grand. Famous artists will



spread their charm through bhajans. He said that the glory of Baba Khatu Shyam ji is immense. May his infinite grace always shower on the city dwellers and Shyam lovers. He said that Shri Shyam Seva Samiti Tarawadi will organize Shri Shyam Annual Festival and Amrita Bhandara on Monday, 3 February in the new grain market. Before this, on Sunday, 2 February, mass marriage of girls from 6 needy families will be organized in Celebration Palace. On 3 February morning, a huge grand Nishan Yatra will be taken out from Nagar Kheda of Taraori city. While

inviting people from all over the city, industrialist Munish Gupta said that Bhajan singer Sakshi Agarwal from Jaipur, Shubham Rupam from Calcutta and Pramod Sharma from Padwala along with many other singers will entertain with the Bhajans of Baba Khatu Shyam Ji. Preparations are underway by Shri Shyam Seva Samiti. This festival will be worth seeing. On this occasion, several dignitaries including Manish Gupta, Nathi Rana Nadana, Vinay Kumar Delhi and Krishna Kumar Padhana etc. were present.

#### Discussions held on organisational issues with officials of BJP : Sapra



RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR: BJP District President Rajesh Sapra,

while giving information, said that on reaching the BJP District Office Yamuna Kamal, BJP's Jagadhari Mandal President Priyank Sharma thanked the party for his new appointment. BJP District President Rajesh Sapra gave sweets to Mandal President Priyank Sharma. Rajesh Sapra, while guiding the BJP officials under the BJP's Organisation Festival Campaign, said that the main objective of the BJP is to strengthen the party at every level. Under this, the leadership is being prepared for the future by providing the leadership of the organization to the youth. He said that through the BJP Organisation Festival, the party leadership wants to ensure that every BJP worker is connected to the roots of the BJP organisation and provides maximum strength to the party. Apart from the Bharatiya Janata Party, there will hardly be any party in India which is completely re-preparing itself, this subject is a new example of democracy within the BJP party which the BJP is setting. During this, BJP District General Secretary Krishna Singla, BJP District Yamuna Nagar Media Incharge Kapil Manish Garg, Mandal President Priyank Sharma, Mandal General Secretary Ankit Goyal, BJYM District General Secretary Deepak Sharma, Ajay Verma, Ashok Kumar and many other BJP officials and workers were present.

#### Love connects us with inner peace and power: Anmolnand Maharaj

ROHIT LAMSAR TARAORI: On behalf of Shri Hanuman Seva Samiti Regd. Taraori, a huge crowd gathered in the evening program organised on the second day of the auspicious programme of the first anniversary of the Prana Pratishtha Mahotsav at Maa Annapurna Dham Ashram. The entire pandal echoed with cheers through bhajan kirtan. While preaching, the most revered Mahatma Param Anmolnand Ji Maharaj, who came from Anandpur Dham in Madhya Pradesh, said that love is the true food of the soul, it frees us from the sorrows of the world. Love makes us experience unity by erasing the distance between ourselves and others and until we cannot love others, we cannot understand true love. In fact, loving God is the biggest penance, because that love connects us with our inner peace and power. Love is that divine power, which binds everyone in one thread. True love neither pretends nor has any expectations, it is just pure and constant. He said that people say that if you do good deeds, you will go to heaven after death, if you take the name of God in the morning and evening, you will find happiness in heaven, I said go to Shri Anandpur Dham, you will be able to see heaven while alive and sit in the court in front of Satguru ji, you will forget heaven itself. On this occasion, many people including Balkishan Tripathi, Aman Sharma, Ved Saluja, Vipin Chhabra, Pradeep Garg, Praveen Garg, Anil Singla, Rajesh Jain, Ashok Luthra, Counsellor Naresh Gaba etc.



## Jagmohan Anand lays foundation of 2 development works in Ward-8

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, JANUARY 21

Karnal MLA Jagmohan Anand on Tuesday laid the foundation stone for two development works worth Rs 58 lakh in the city. He laid the foundation stone for installation of wall near the community centre in Sector-14 of Ward-8 and tubewell in Sector-5. He greeted the people who reached the spot by feeding them laddus. Jagmohan Anand reached Sector-5 of Ward-8. Here he inaugurated the work of tubewell installation. First of all, he performed Bhoomi Pujan and inaugurated the work by breaking a coconut. The total cost of this work will be Rs 38 lakh. During this, a large number of sector residents arrived. He greeted everyone by feed-



ing them laddus. After this, MLA Jagmohan Anand reached Sector-14 of Ward-8. Here he laid the foundation stone for the construction of a wall near the community center. This work will cost a total of Rs 20 lakh. The MLA inaugurated the work by performing Bhoomi Pujan. He in-

structed the officials to complete this work as soon as possible and the construction work should also be done with quality.

MLA Anand said that it is his responsibility to resolve the problems related to Karnal assembly constituency in a timely manner. Any person

from Karnal assembly constituency can come to his camp office with his problem. The problem should be in writing and the name, address and mobile number of the said person must be there on it so that he can be contacted later. He said that development work is going on continuously under the leadership of Haryana Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini and Union Minister Manohar Lal. Karnal city is getting the gift of development projects worth crores of rupees. On this occasion, representative of Union Minister Manohar Lal, Kavinder Rana, senior leader Shri Ashok Bhandari, Chairperson Megha Bhandari, former Mandal President Sunil Gupta, Rakesh Batra and Sankalp Bhandari along with local residents were present.

## Cabinet Minister, Arvind Sharma reviews Haryana Dairy Development Cooperative Federation

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA JIND, JAN 21

Haryana Cooperation Minister Dr. Arvind Sharma said that Veta will now also produce sugar-free products, ensuring availability for people suffering from diabetes. He directed the Haryana Dairy Development Cooperative Federation to increase the range of Veta products and give strong focus to branding, so that these products can establish a place in the hearts of people for their quality. He also gave instructions to enhance the plant's capacity and increase the production of ghee from Jind, which is witnessing growing demand.

Today, in a review meeting, chaired by Cooperation Minister Dr. Arvind Sharma, along with General Manager, and CEOs of six Veta plants, discussed in detail the progress of Veta products and plants. The meeting, which lasted about two hours, included a thorough

review where the minister provided essential directions. Dr. Sharma emphasized expanding the range of Veta products to make high-quality products more accessible to the general public. He also instructed the production of sugar-free products for people with dia-

betes. Based on the growing demand for Jind ghee, he suggested increasing the plant's capacity and focusing on its branding. Furthermore, he directed that display boards be installed at Veta plants to provide information about all products.

Dr. Arvind Sharma also said that a food product testing laboratory will be established in Karnal under the central government's National Dairy Development Project. This laboratory will be set up at the Haryana Cooperative Export House, Agro Mall, Karnal. This facility will benefit small, micro, and large entrepreneurs in the state by enabling timely testing of food products with advanced technology. He directed the authorities to ensure the convenience of milk producers and prevent any kind of inconvenience. He emphasized the need to increase public trust in Veta products through collective efforts. The review meeting was attended by Federation, MD Mr. Rohit Yadav, GM, Mr. S.S. Kohli, Mr. Sanjay Setia, CEO, Mr. Vishambar Singh, Charan Singh, Mr. Rakesh Kadiyan, Mr. Narendra Dhaniya, Mr. Sukhdev Raj, Ms. Kamini, and others.



## World University of Design hosts 4th convocation ceremony; confers 220 degrees

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA SONIPAT, JAN 21

World University of Design (WUD), India's first university dedicated to education in the creative domain, held its 4th convocation ceremony at the Sonapat Campus in Haryana. Mr. Sameep Shastri, Vice Chairman, BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BRICS CCI), graced the event as Chief Guest, where the varsity awarded degrees to 220 students. The convocation marked the transition of students from diverse design disciplines into professionals and with degrees conferred and a design pledge made, the university confidentially sent them on their professional journey. Equipped with knowledge and a global outlook, these graduates are set to shape the future of the design industry.



World University of Design also awarded Honorary Doctorate Degrees to three creative luminaries, highlighting its commitment to recognizing and rewarding excellence. K.S. Radhakrishnan, a modernist sculptor blending traditional and contemporary forms, celebrated for iconic figures like Maiya and

Musui; Bappa Ray, an anthropological filmmaker whose award-winning documentaries preserve India's rural and tribal cultures, earning global acclaim and UNESCO recognition; and Ashok B. Lal, a visionary architect and educator advancing sustainable, socially responsible design through iconic projects and

advocacy for low-carbon, affordable housing. These pioneers have redefined their fields, leaving lasting legacies in art, film, and architecture. Guest of Honor, Mr. Sameep Shastri, Vice Chairman, BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BRICS CCI), shared his excitement, saying, "It is an honor to be part of the 4th Convocation at the World University of Design, an institution that plays a vital role in shaping the future of design education. In a rapidly evolving global landscape, creativity, innovation and cross-cultural collaboration are paramount. As BRICS nations continue to strengthen ties, the graduates here today represent the visionaries who will drive progress and foster collaboration across borders. I congratulate the class of 2024 and wish them success in their journeys as leaders in the creative industries."



## Editorial

## Diversionsary

The Congress's fusillade against the remark by Mohan Bhagwat, the chief of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, that India achieved its "true independence" on the day of the consecration of the Ram temple, was, unsurprisingly, led by Rahul Gandhi. In a stinging rebuttal, the Congress leader said that the Bharatiya Janata Party and its ideological parent, the RSS, had captured the nation's institutions and that only the Congress had the ideological robustness to wage a battle not only against the sangh parivar but also the "Indian State" by which Mr Gandhi presumably meant institutions partisan towards and peopled by the ruling regime. The equation of the State with one party may seem preposterous. But the charge of the parivar's imprint on many an edifice cannot be labelled as specious. New India, after all, is witness to a sitting judge mouthing prejudicial remarks against a minority community; elected politicians brazenly spouting communal rhetoric; chapters and texts pertaining to, say, Mughal rulers or M.K. Gandhi getting summarily excised from the educational curriculum — the list of acts of omission by institutional representatives is long.

The BJP's enthusiasm to highlight Mr Gandhi's reference to the Congress battling the Indian State is meant to drill into the public consciousness the image of the Congress leader as a negative, destabilising force. But the BJP's response must be called out for what it is — a diversionsary tactic meant to distract attention from Mr Bhagwat's outrageous statement that was disrespectful not only towards India's glorious struggle for freedom from colonial rule but also to the architects of that movement — the nation's freedom fighters. Mr Bhagwat was, of course, living up to the RSS's reputation. The organisation bears the shameful record of having maintained a careful distance from the Independence movement. Even after Independence, the RSS had refused to hoist the Tricolour for a period of over five decades after 1950. Its commitment to religious majoritarianism also goes against one of the foundational tenets of India's Constitution — that of a secular polity. The leader of a quasi-political and ideological apparatus that never misses an opportunity to crow about its credentials as a nationalist force showing disrespect to the most important date on the national calendar must count as more than an irony. It is an ignominious act that every patriotic Indian must criticise wholeheartedly. The greater — collective — task, however, is to fortify the national consciousness from the regressive, revisionist points of view of the kind periodically aired by Mr Bhagwat and the sangh parivar.

## Challenges to Xi Jinping, grow from Party, people and PLA

Chairman Xi Jinping once looked supreme, unimpeachable and irreplicable. He was perched high upon a pedestal he and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) erected after he became supremo in 2012.

At first, he could do no wrong, as China's economy and military might inexorably grew. However, a lot has happened since then, and the gloss of his aura has rubbed off and is now tarnished.

Much of the reason for that has been Xi's poor handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, increasingly restrictive surveillance and control over the minutest aspect of Chinese society, unstinting support for tsar Vladimir Putin and his war machine, and his failed economic policies.

Consider too that Xi and a militant CCP have done nothing to endear themselves to other nations - as China grabbed territory in India and the South China Sea, tightened the screws against Taiwan, trampled on human rights in Xinjiang, and subjugated Hong Kong. He has rubbed neighbours up the wrong way and alarmed Europe and the US.

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) has been complicit in all manner of sabre-rattling activities and in bullying others smaller than themselves. Yet the PLA is in a degree of disarray, wracked by scandal, corruption and political interference. Commander-in-chief Xi is not filled with confidence in his armed forces.

Furthermore, the PLA seems to be reacting somewhat to Xi's constant remonstrations and "meddling" with the CCP's armed wing. As an example, the PLA Daily recently championed the virtues of collective leadership in an article published on December 9, 2024. Such a plea was a direct insult to Xi,



who unceremoniously scrapped recent CCP practice by elevating himself far above anyone else in the hierarchy and rolling back all the advantages that collective leadership provided in recent decades.

When Xi came to power, he insisted that all decisions should "rely on a single voice of authority," something the PLA seems now to be agitating against. Amidst such unfavourable conditions at home and abroad, opposition forces are slowly stirring, although, of course, the country's Orwellian security apparatus prevents anything from breaking out into the open, at least for now.

Willy Wo-Lap Lam, a Hong Kong scholar who writes for The Jamestown Foundation think-tank in the USA, believes Xi is in trouble. Indeed, Lam has identified four key opposition groups against Xi: retired Politburo Standing Committee members; fellow princelings; some military top brass; and

some in China's middle class.

Lam noted: "As a result, his ability to shape policy in the financial, foreign affairs and other arenas has been truncated. It might be far-fetched to speculate that Xi, the so-called 'eternal core of the party', might be driven out of office this year, but it is crucial to understand who his enemies are and how they challenge the commander-in-chief."

Xi, a one-man band possessing supposed godlike knowledge and control over every aspect of policy, must take responsibility for the economic malaise in which China now finds itself.

Lam asserted that "Xi's clout over economic decision-making appears to have been reduced," and he cited two Xi-led commissions - the Central Financial and Economic Affairs Commission and Central Comprehensive Deepening Reforms Commission - that now seem to meet only sporadically.

Lam opined that this "could be due to the underwhelming results of the massive program of monetary and fiscal quantitative easing - known to Chinese officials as 'using ample water to undertake massive irrigation' - that has been executed since September."

Xi's abrasive foreign policy stance also seems to be undergoing a marked change. His "wolf warrior" approach to diplomacy is being jettisoned as China covets precious exports and as the US and other multinational corporations pull out of China.

Xi even sent an envoy Vice-President Han Zheng to attend Donald Trump's presidential inauguration on 20 January, the first time Beijing has ever sent an official to such an American swearing-in ceremony.

Returning to the four opposition groups, Lam provided further details on each in his article written for The Jamestown Founda-

tion. Former party heavyweights have been kept under tight reins by Xi.

For example, they cannot hold meetings or travel around China without Xi's permission. There are rumours many of these elders have disapproved of Xi's policy directions since the Third Plenary Session held in July 2024.

Interestingly, former premier Wen Jiabao and Li Ruihuan, former chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, sat either side of Xi at the official banquet on the eve of 1 October.

This was a subtle signal by Xi that he is receptive to advice from former leaders. Of course, such former luminaries have no power to remove Xi, but China's leader is being forced to acknowledge criticism from elder statesmen.

Princelings are another group dissatisfied with Xi. He has worked hard to marginalize those with "red genes" (the so-called princelings) as he considers them competitors to his own authority. Many have become fierce critics of Xi, particularly those who grew rich from their privileged positions and who moved overseas with their families to preserve their ill-gotten gains. It is reported many are collaborating with foreign intelligence agencies.

Lam discerns that wider social discontent is rising, with anti-party and anti-Xi activities increasing. The academic noted: "These appear to consist largely of victims of Xi's policies, including those [policies] that prioritize state-owned enterprises at the expense of private capital, those that have led to mass unemployment for graduates from high schools and colleges, and those that have created the conditions for the current economic downturn."

## Literature &amp; Health

## Investing in women's health could add USD 400 billion to global GDP annually

A report by the World Economic Forum (WEF), in collaboration with the McKinsey Health Institute (MHI), estimates that addressing key women-specific health challenges could unlock USD 400 billion in global GDP annually by 2040.

The report, titled Blueprint to Close the Women's Health Gap: How to Improve Lives and Economies for All, revealed the transformative potential of closing the women's health gap.

The research identifies nine critical health conditions—spanning lifespan and health span—that could reduce the global disease burden by 27 million disability-adjusted life years each year, adding 2.5 healthy days annually for every woman.

These conditions include maternal hypertensive disorders, postpartum haemorrhage, ischemic heart disease, cervical cancer, breast cancer, endometriosis, menopause, migraine, and premenstrual

syndrome.

As part of its initiative to bridge health disparities, the Forum has launched the Women's Health Impact Tracking (WHIT) platform.

This publicly accessible tool is designed to monitor health inequities and promote scalable, data-driven solutions worldwide.

The WHIT platform focuses on three underfunded conditions—menopause, premenstrual syndrome, and migraine—which alone present a USD 315 billion GDP opportunity.

Shyam Bishen, Head of the Centre for Health and Healthcare and member of the Executive Committee, World Economic Forum, said, "Despite the opportunity to add 2.5 additional healthy days to women's lives, they are often overlooked due to a lack of sex-specific research - only 10 per cent of clinical trials for ischemic heart disease and migraine report such data."



## US President Trump issues executive order to withdraw from WHO

US President Donald Trump, in a major shocker, cut the United States' ties with the global health agency, World Health Organisation (WHO), as he issued an executive order of withdrawing from the organisation on Monday (local time).

According to the order, the withdrawal was due to the organisation mishandling the COVID-19 pandemic and other global health crises.

Trump, who had long been critical of the WHO, had earlier also formally withdrawn the US from the WHO back in July 2020 as the COVID-19 continued to spread.

"The United States notified its withdrawal from the World Health Organi-



sation (WHO) in 2020 due to the organisation's mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic that arose out of Wuhan, China, and other global health crises, its failure to adopt urgently needed reforms, and its inability to demonstrate independence from the inappropriate political influence of WHO member

states," the order read.

Additionally, Trump stated that the WHO continues to demand payments from the US that are disproportionate to those required from other countries, criticising the financial demands, stating that the payments required of the US are significantly higher than those of other nations.

"In addition, the WHO continues to demand unfairly onerous payments from the United States, far out of proportion with other countries' assessed payments. China, with a population of 1.4 billion, has 300 percent of the population of the United States, yet contributes nearly 90 percent less to the WHO," the order further read.

## POEM

## The Deserted House

Life and Thought have gone away  
Side by side, Leaving door and  
windows wide.

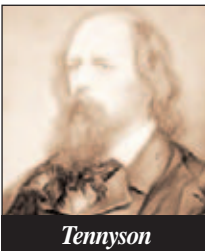
Careless tenants they!  
All within is dark as night:  
In the windows is no light;

And no murmur at  
the door,  
So frequent on its  
hinge before.

Close the door; the  
shutters close;  
Or through the win-  
dows we shall see

The nakedness and vacancy  
Of the dark deserted house.  
Come away: no more of mirth  
Is here or merry-making sound.

By Alfred, Lord Tennyson



Tennyson

## Women's empowerment through co-ownership in property cards created under SVAMITVA Scheme

The distribution of around 65 lakh SVAMITVA Property Cards on 18th January, 2025 marks a historic milestone in India's journey towards rural empowerment and economic transformation. This initiative underscores the Government's commitment to strengthening property rights and fostering inclusive rural development. It is a significant step towards empowering citizens, especially women and vulnerable sections of the society, while advancing the vision of a prosperous and developed India or Viksit Bharat.

Historically, rural women in India have been central to agriculture, household management and community life. Despite their significant contributions, systemic barriers have denied them legal recognition of the land they cultivate and maintain. This inequity has restricted women's access to financial resources, opportunities and independence, perpetuating economic and gender disparities. The SVAMITVA Scheme is reshaping this narrative by officially recognizing women as co-owners of land. This transformative initiative grants women equal shares in family property, empowering them both financially and socially. It is a

vital step in advancing gender equality and fostering financial independence for women in rural areas. In rural India, land ownership extends beyond financial value—it represents social status and security. Without property rights, women often face financial instability, displacement, and domestic violence. By granting legal land rights, the SVAMITVA Scheme provides women with security and decision-making power regarding land use, access, and resources.

One of the scheme's most impactful outcomes is the financial independence it offers women. Land ownership enables access to financial services like loans, credit, and insurance, which were previously inaccessible without formal land titles. This access allows women to invest in their families' futures and establish financial stability. With the inclusion of women as co-owners in the property titles, rural women now have the ability to use their land as collateral for loans. For example, in Pune district, Maharashtra, local authorities actively encouraged women to become co-owners of properties. As a result, the percentage of residential properties jointly or solely owned by women rose dramatically from 16% to

88%. This shift has empowered women to access loans, start businesses and achieve financial independence while reducing property disputes and enhancing economic stability. Similarly, in Madhya Pradesh, the inclusion of women as co-owners under the state's Land Revenue Code has had transformative effects. Women like Smt. Shaliya Siddiqui from Harda have shared how receiving property cards through the SVAMITVA Scheme secured their land and provided legal backing to protect their rights. This empowerment has enabled access to loans, agricultural support, and other financial resources, significantly improving their quality of life.

Beyond financial and legal empowerment, the scheme represents a critical social milestone. For many women, property ownership fosters a sense of security, recognition, and belonging within their families and communities. It challenges cultural norms that have historically excluded women from property-related decisions, enabling them to take active roles in household and community governance. By securing land rights, the SVAMITVA Scheme addresses deep-rooted gender biases and empowers women

to participate in decision-making processes. Legal recognition strengthens their standing within families and society, offering greater control over household resources and reducing the risk of displacement or rights violations during property disputes. In times of financial or personal crises, land ownership serves as a protective buffer, enabling women to assert their rights and secure their livelihoods.

Moreover, the scheme aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 1, which aims to end poverty, and Sub-Goal 1.4.2, which emphasizes strengthening tenure security for vulnerable groups, including women. By recognizing women as property owners, the SVAMITVA Scheme contributes significantly to these global goals, fostering inclusive and sustainable development.

The benefits of secure land rights extend beyond individual households. Women who own land are better positioned to access financial services, improve education and health outcomes for their families, and reduce gender-based violence. Empowered landowners gain autonomy over economic choices, en-

hance their social status, and actively participate in community affairs. This creates a ripple effect, with women reinvesting in their communities, strengthening local economies, and driving sustainable growth.

The scheme's success is evident in states like Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, where its implementation has brought tangible benefits. With 13 states already adopting women's co-ownership in property, there is hope that more states will follow suit, extending the scheme's transformative impact across rural India. The scheme's implementation has achieved remarkable progress across 31 states and union territories. Drone surveys have been completed in 3.17 lakh villages, covering an area of 67,000 square kilometres. This comprehensive mapping exercise has unlocked an estimated economic value of land amounting to Rs 132 lakh crore, showcasing the scheme's potential to transform rural economies.

As India strives towards its vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047, the SVAMITVA Scheme serves as a critical enabler of rural transformation. By formalizing property rights, enabling access

to credit systems, and promoting women's economic empowerment, the scheme lays a strong foundation for inclusive growth. Its use of modern GIS technology and accurate land records further supports development programs and strengthens rural governance.

The distribution of 65 lakh property cards on a single day is more than just a transfer of documents; it symbolizes the government's commitment to empowering rural citizens and ensuring their active participation in India's development journey. By equipping rural communities with the tools and resources needed to contribute meaningfully to the vision of Viksit Bharat, the SVAMITVA Scheme is creating a more equitable and prosperous rural India for generations to come. In conclusion, the SVAMITVA Scheme is not merely a policy but a transformative initiative that breaks barriers, empowers women, and drives social and economic change. By giving women, a stronger voice, greater financial independence.

Sushil Kumar Lohani,  
Additional Secretary,  
Ministry of Panchayati Raj



**RANVIR PARASHAR KAITHAL:** District Sports Officer Rajrani said that the All India Civil Services Chess Competition (Women and Men) 2024-25 will be organized from February 5 to February 13 at Manohar Parrikar Indoor Stadium, Goa and Bahusaheb Bandodkar Sports Complex, Mapusa, Goa.

The trial of the players participating in this competition and the team selection will be held on January 25 at 10 am at Tau Devi Lal Sports Complex, Sector-3, Panchkula. The traveling expenses for participating in the trials and the traveling expenses for participating in the competition will be borne by the department of the respective

players. All heads of departments should make efforts to send the officers/employees of their department/office/district who are excellent players of this sport by giving them special sports leave and other facilities in recognition of their success in this selection and also give them a certificate that they are the best players of the particular

department/ district. There are government employees/ officers of the office. He also informed that as per the instructions of the Central Civil Services Cultural and Sports Board, officers/ employees of Board, Corporation, Police Department, Electricity, Board HSIDC will not participate in these Civil Services Competition.

### NEWS BRIEF

#### Baddi Police arrests two accused for forcibly transferring money

**A N WAR HUSSAIN**  
**BADDI:** Baddi Police recently arrested two individuals involved in separate cases of forcibly transferring money and assaulting victims. In both incidents, a total of Rs. 46,580 was forcibly transferred from the victims' accounts. The first incident occurred on January 9, near a Dhaba in Katha, where two unidentified individuals stopped Mukesh, son of Chumbad, a resident of Uttar Pradesh (currently residing in Bhatolikalan, Baddi), and physically assaulted him. They then transferred Rs. 11,580 from his account. The second incident took place on January 16, near Sikka Hotel, where Dinesh Kumar, son of Kishori Lal from Chamba district, Himachal Pradesh, was assaulted, and Rs. 35,000 was transferred from his account. According to police, after receiving complaints, they registered cases and, with the help of technical investigations, including bank account analysis and CCTV footage, identified and arrested the accused. The suspects were identified as 23-year-old Parmjeet Singh and 19-year-old Ranul Singh, both residents of Tonsa, Tehsil Balachaur, District Nawanshahr, Punjab.

## Solar power house should be built in every village: Anil Vij

**BUREAU JAIPUR, JAN 21**

Haryana Energy Minister Anil Vij said that "I have suggested to my government/department that a solar power house should be built in every village so that all the tubewells there can be supplied power from that solar power house, enabling all farmers to operate their tubewells. This will also prevent any objections from farmers."

Vij was speaking today at a regional workshop organized in Jaipur by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy with Energy, Power and Renewable Energy Ministers from various states. The workshop was also attended by Rajasthan Chief Minister Sh. Bhajan Lal, Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy Sh. Pralhad Joshi and other



Energy and Power Ministers from different states.

The Haryana Energy Minister mentioned that his suggestions were made considering the needs of farmers, especially in areas where water levels are deep, and 10-kilowatt motors are not viable. He noted that the KUSUM scheme has also been initiated for farmers, and Haryana has successfully achieved its target, ensuring that every farmer in Haryana can operate their tubewells

using solar energy.

He explained that the Prime Minister introduced the Surya Ghar Yojana, which he considers a form of providing free electricity to lower-income groups. Through this initiative, solar panels are installed on rooftops to provide affordable electricity to households. The government is offering subsidies for this, with the central government providing Rs. 60,000 and the Haryana government

## Don't sacrifice your life to addiction, stay aware: Dr. Ashok Kumar

**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, JAN 21**

Seva Bharati organized an awareness program titled "Samarth Kishori Vikas Prakalp" at Seva Shri Ashram's premises in Karnal. The event witnessed participation from students of various initiatives like the hostel program, Samarth Kishori Vikas Prakalp, Mehndi Project, Beauty and Grooming Classes, Sewing Center, and Computer Training Center. Dr. Ashok Kumar Verma, Sub-Inspector and Awareness & Rehabilitation Officer from the Narcotics Bureau, graced the occasion as the chief guest and addressed the students. Dr. Ashok emphasized India's rich cultural heritage, which is unique and admired globally. He noted that even Western countries are now adopting elements of Indian culture. Addressing the students, especially girls, he urged



them to report incidents of harassment or any problems by calling the emergency number 112, assuring them of prompt police assistance.

Highlighting the growing threat of cybercrime, Dr. Ashok cautioned against sharing personal information with anyone. He explained how cybercriminals exploit personal data for financial thefts and misuse through technology. He warned about the rising dangers of social media misuse, leading to numerous challenges in society. Dr. Ashok also advised the students to

minimize vehicle use, opting for bicycles or walking wherever possible to combat pollution and reduce traffic congestion. He stressed that excessive vehicle usage is not only polluting the environment but also leading to health issues.

Addressing the menace of addiction, Dr. Ashok explained its devastating impact on individuals and their families. He shared an example of how addiction is becoming a widespread problem and urged everyone to exercise caution and stay away from substances like tobacco, cigarettes, alcohol, and gutkha.

#### 25-day theatre workshop under Municipal Commissioner Aparajita's guidance held



**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA**

**PANCHKULA:** A 25-day theatre workshop organized by the Municipal Corporation Panchkula under the guidance of Municipal Commissioner Aparajita is currently underway. Held in collaboration with HSVP, Haryana Police, and the Education Department, the workshop took place on Tuesday at Model Sanskriti School, Sector-26. District Education Officer (DEO) Satpal Kaushik, who attended the session, emphasized that schools are not just centers of education but also incubators for nurturing cleanliness and traffic ambassadors. The DEO remarked that the theatre performance being prepared with the theme of a "Clean, Safe, and Healthy Panchkula" would inspire awareness among citizens. Renowned theatre artist Rajeev Gaur from the National School of Drama (NSD), New Delhi, highlighted that when children address societal issues through performance-based workshops, their voices resonate with the community.

#### All property holders should do self certification of their properties: Sushil Kumar

**RANVIR PARASHAR**

**KAITHAL:** District Municipal Commissioner Sushil Kumar said that as per the facility started by the Municipal Bodies Department for the property owners in their area, all the property owners can self-certify their properties in the Municipal Council and all the Municipality areas. The general public should take advantage of this facility because by doing so the property owner concerned will get a lot of benefits as well as his property will be safe. He told that for self-certification of the property, one can use the portal <https://property.ulbharyana.gov.in/>. Apart from this, to make the process of property self-certification easy and convenient, help desks have been set up in the offices of Municipal Council Kaithal and all Municipal Corporations. Cheeka, Kalayat, Rajound, Siwan, Pundri where the property can be self-certified. For more information related to property self-certification, information can be obtained from the concerned office of the municipality. He told that after self-certification of property ID, various types of benefits will be available. By doing this your property will become safe and no other outsider can tamper with it. Change in property ID can be done only through your mobile number. While self-certifying, you can check your property information like name, address, area and mobile number. If there was any deficiency in it, then you can get it corrected. By getting self-certified, you can get your property tax or other information/facilities online in future from the comfort of your home.

#### Nutrition training given to workers on second day



**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA**

**KARNAL:** The three-day Anganwadi worker training at the block level by the Women and Child Development Department Block Nilokheri continued for 2nd day today which was conducted by Program Officer Seema Prasad and W CDPO Dr. Rajbala. Main objective of training is to develop children holistically along with physical development and to provide education in playful way. 90 workers of Nilokheri block are participating in training. Today subject of training was nutrition. Workers were told about role of nutrition in a healthy child and human life cycle. Deficiency of small and micro nutrients was discussed. Identification, prevention and management of severely malnourished and moderately malnourished children were taught. Information was also given about benefits of breastfeeding and personal hygiene.

#### Youth Parliament held in Govt Sr Secondary School Bhiwani Khera



**DALBIR MALIK**

**KURUKSHETRA:** A Youth Parliament was organised in Bhiwani Khera School under the guidance of Dr. Rajendra Kumar and Professor Rajesh Kumar, spokesperson of District Education Institute Palwal and the jury, which was chaired by Vice Principal Jasbir Kaur. In the Youth Parliament, a dramatization of parliamentary proceedings (Lok Sabha) was done in which 50 students did an excellent dramatization of the oath taking of the newly elected MPs proposals, question hour, zero hour, attention motion, adjournment motion and the process of law making. In this, the students depicted the role of various positions such as Prime Minister, Speaker, Home Minister, Opposition members. This program was prepared under the guidance of Anil Kumar, Professor of Political Science, Kanwarjit Professor of History and Jasbir Kaur and Tarsem.

#### International Saraswati Mahotsav will be held on lines of Gita Jayanti: Neha Singh



**YAGYA DUTT SHASTRI**

**PEHOWA:** Deputy Commissioner Neha Singh said that International Saraswati Mahotsav 2025 will be celebrated on a grand scale on lines of Gita Jayanti. With special efforts of government, this time International Saraswati Mahotsav is being organized from January 29 to February 4 at Pehowa Saraswati pilgrimage site. In this festival, an unbroken confluence of Haryana's culture and craftsmanship will be seen. She was giving some necessary guidelines to officials today regarding preparations for International Saraswati Festival. DC as well as all officials, Vice President of Haryana Saraswati Vikas Board Dhumant Singh Kirmach took detailed information about all programs of International Saraswati Festival to be celebrated from 29 January to 4 February and also gave some necessary guidelines to administrative officials to make proper arrangements of all arrangements in time and to make pilgrimage site completely clean.

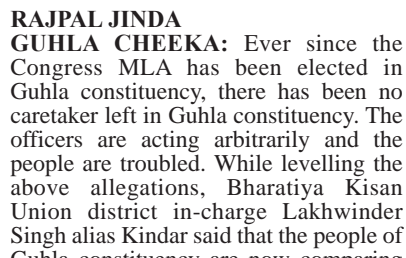
#### Galaxy Basmati Rice is fulfilling objectives of serving humanity: Aman Sharma



**KAMAL SHARMA**

**TARAORI:** Goyal International Pvt. Ltd. CMD Vijay Goyal was honored by Shri Hanuman Seva Samiti for his outstanding contribution in social service and important contribution in social welfare works. He was given this honour in Pran Pratishtha Mahotsav organized at Annapurna Ashram Dham in Tarawari. It is worth mentioning that Galaxy Basmati Rice CMD Vijay Goyal is always ahead in works of service. He and his family members have made a good contribution in works of social welfare. Social worker Vijay Goyal is always ready to help needy people and for works of service. Due to his social service works, he was honored by Shri Hanuman Seva Samiti by giving a memento. Master Aman Sharma, President of Shri Hanuman Seva Samiti said that Goyal International Pvt. Ltd has an important contribution in works of service and social service. Social worker Vijay Goyal has made a significant contribution in social service. Not only this, his family members have also spread message of service.

#### Ever since Congress MLA was elected in Guhla, there is no caretaker

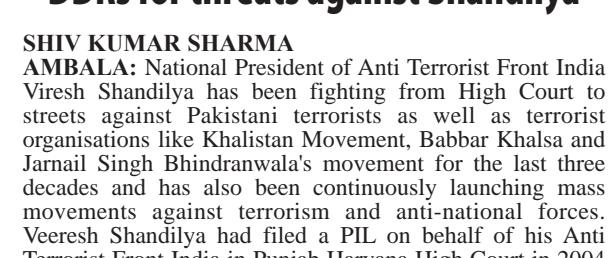


**RAJPAL JINDA**

**GUHLA CHEEKA:** Ever since the Congress MLA has been elected in Guhla constituency, there has been no caretaker left in Guhla constituency. The officers are acting arbitrarily and the people are troubled. While levelling the above allegations, Bharatiya Kisan Union district in-charge Lakhwinder Singh alias Kindar said that the people of Guhla constituency are now comparing the officers with the saying 'Ghar wala ghar nahi, humein kisi ka dar nahi' (the people of the village are not at home, they are not afraid of anyone). He said that the people of Guhla constituency say that instead of solving the problems of the people, they come to the office at their own will and instead of solving the problems of the people, they are just passing time. He said that it is a different matter that the traffic police definitely stand on the roads to issue huge challans to the people in the name of road safety. The farmer leader said that Cheeka city is very small and the said chowk is the heart of the city, as a result, when shopkeepers, employees, youth and common people go home from their shops or businesses for eating or for some other work, almost everyone has to pass through this chowk, due to which the traffic police are causing trouble to the people. He said that the famous Shaheed Udham Singh Chowk Cheeka remains choked due to traffic jam 24 hours a day, but neither the local police nor the traffic police are making any effort to clear the jam.



#### Ambala police registers 21 cases and DDRs for threats against Shandilya



**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA**

**AMBALA:** National President of Anti Terrorist Front India Viresh Shandilya has been fighting from High Court to streets against Pakistani terrorists as well as terrorist organisations like Khalistan Movement, Babbar Khalsa and Jarnail Singh Bhindranwala's movement for the last three decades and has also been continuously launching mass movements against terrorism and anti-national forces. Viresh Shandilya had filed a PIL on behalf of his Anti Terrorist Front India in Punjab Haryana High Court in 2004 against Babbar Khalsa terrorists who had killed Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Beant Singh and escaped by digging a 119 feet long tunnel in Burail Jail. Not only this, after the Burail jail break, when the notorious terrorists of Babbar Khalsa terror group Jagtar Singh Hawara and Paramjit Singh Bhyora were sent to Tihar jail for security reasons, then these terrorists used to appear in Chandigarh and Ropar courts by road from Tihar jail with security of lakhs and crores of rupees from Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh, which could become a threat to the general public apart from the expenses of the general government. In 2010, Shandilya, through his organisation Anti Terrorist Front India, had filed a PIL in the Punjab Haryana High Court for the trial of these terrorists from Tihar jail to Chandigarh courts through video conferencing. The High Court, accepting Shandilya's petition, had taken an important decision regarding the security of the nation by ordering the trial of these terrorists to be conducted through video conferencing.

#### HC rejects government's family Identity Card

**SHALU PARMAR KALAYAT:** Former Chief Parliamentary Secretary and INLD State President Rampal Majra said that the Haryana government has received a setback from the High Court for the second consecutive time. The way the government has harassed thousands and lakhs of people in the name of family identity cards. The High Court has rejected it and said that family identity cards cannot be made mandatory for essential services. It is not mandatory but a voluntary service. Majra said that earlier the government had to face defeat on the Dadpur Nalvi Canal. Due to which now the High Court has given instructions to issue compensation to the farmers. Majra said that the government should issue compensation to the farmers for the Dadpur Nalvi Canal as per the High Court's decision. Now when the High Court has also issued instructions regarding the family identity card that it is not a mandatory service, then the government should change all its rules, where the government has declared the family identity card mandatory and not thousands but lakhs of people are facing problems due to the family identity card. Rampal Majra welcomed the decision of the High Court and said that this decision will give relief to the common people. The High Court has now also sought a reply from the government. It is hoped that the government will not impose such unnecessary decisions on the people, understanding the problems of the public.



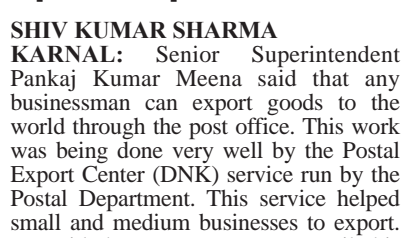
#### City youth launch signature campaign to prevent drug abuse



**SHALU PARMAR**

**KALAYAT:** To prevent the increasing drug abuse in Kalayat area, a signature campaign was started on Tuesday by Jagrook Nagrik Manch on the theme of Nasha Mukta Kalayat in front of Girl School and Gauskhala Market. In the awareness campaign of Jagrook Nagrik Manch, Ajay Kumar, Jassi Rana, Rakesh Kumar, Vikas, Kuldeep, Vikram, Subhash, Rajesh said that drug abuse is increasing rapidly in Kalayat area. Most of the students and youth are coming under its grip. Many youths have died due to increasing drug abuse. Many deaths are not even mentioned in the official figures. He said that the signature campaign has been started to draw the attention of the government and administration so that the increasing drug abuse can be stopped. On January 23, during the Raahgiri programme, a memorandum containing signatures of hundreds of people will also be submitted to SP Rajesh Kalia on behalf of the forum. He has demanded from the government and administration to strictly stop the increasing drug business.

#### Businessmen can export goods through postal export center across the world



**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA**

**KARNAL:** Senior Superintendent Pankaj Kumar Meena said that any businessman can export goods to the world through the post office. This work was being done very well by the Postal Export Center (DNK) service run by the Postal Department. This service helped small and medium businesses to export. He said that any person can avail this service at Karnal Post Office. He said that through DNK service any person can deliver his product to the international market. The purpose of Post Office Export Center was to save exporters sending goods abroad from customs related problems and other problems. This facility saved both time and money of exporters. He said that the Postal Export Center service provided exporters better control over export transactions and payments. Exporters get facilities like packaging, free pick-up, tracking and volume-based discounts. Along with this, exporters also got assistance and guidance. Facility of electronic custom clearance was also available. The post office export hub helped exporters and international logistics aggregators. Senior Superintendent Pankaj Kumar Meena said that for filling and filing the PBE form for Postal Export Center Service, the notifications of the Customs Department have to be followed. Correct bank account details have to be given so that IGST refund can be received on time. To export goods from Postal Export Centre, the exporter must have a valid Import-Export Code (IE Code). To send goods from the Post Office Export Centre, they have to register on the India Post website.

#### DC pays surprise visit to school and Anganwadi center



**RANVIR PARASHAR**

**KAITHAL:** DC Preeti conducted a surprise inspection of the Government Secondary School located in Sector 19 on Tuesday morning and gave necessary directions. She reached school at nine in the morning where first of all she inspected the cleanliness. She instructed the principal not to burn the garbage collected in the school. After this DC went to the class room and talked to the children. She asked the children about the lesson being taught. After this she went to the store room of Mid Day Meal where she observed the expiry date on the packing products and the quantity of goods mentioned in the stock register. She also inspected the toilet. After this the DC inspected the vegetables grown by the Eco Club for the mid-day meal. Then, while inspecting another room, DC obtained information from the children about the lesson being taught and made the children aware about maintaining discipline. She checked the school attendance register. After this, she gave instructions to make the drinking water places of children much clean.





# Akshay Kumar unveils first look in 'Kannappa,' set for April 2025 release



**The Supreme Lord Who Rules Over The Three Worlds Surrenders Himself to Pure Devotion.**

Bollywood star Akshay Kumar has officially unveiled his first look as Lord Shiva in the upcoming Telugu film 'Kannappa'. Directed by Mukesh Kumar Singh, the film is scheduled for release on April 25, 2025, and marks Akshay Kumar's debut in Telugu cinema.

Kumar's portrayal of Lord Shiva has been the subject of much excitement, especially after a teaser poster was shared on his 57th birthday, September 9, 2024, which revealed his character without revealing his face.

Now, the actor has released a captivating poster that showcases him performing the

revered Shiva Thandavam—an iconic dance associated with Lord Shiva—while holding a trishul (trident) in his right hand and a damru (small hand drum) in his left.

The poster's caption reads, "The supreme lord who rules over the three worlds surrenders himself to pure devotion."

Sharing the poster on his social media, Akshay Kumar wrote, "Stepping into the sacred aura of Mahadev for #Kannappa. Honoured to bring this epic tale to life. May Lord Shiva guide us on this divine journey. Om Namah Shivaya!" The movie Kannappa is a mythological fantasy based on the story of Kannappa, a devotee of Lord Shiva, and is set

to capture the grandeur and devotion of ancient times.

Akshay Kumar's appearance as Lord Shiva marks his second portrayal of the deity, following his role in 'OMG 3' (2023). Kannappa is being produced by Vishnu Manchu's AVA Entertainment and 24 Frames Factory. Along with Akshay Kumar, the film stars Vishnu Manchu in the lead role and features a star-studded cast including Mohan Babu, R. Sarathkumar, Madhoo, and Mukesh Rishi, Mohanlal, Prabhas, and Kajal Aggarwal. The film is set to be released in multiple languages, including Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, Hindi, and English.

## Tina Exposed as Reehan Faces a Tough Decision on Love"



In the latest episode of Mannat-Ik Sanjha Parivar, the drama intensifies as unexpected twists unfold. Tina, who previously faked a suicide attempt to gain sympathy, faces serious consequences when Dadi, in an authoritative move, orders her to leave the house. Meanwhile, Mannat is left reeling from the emotional revelations as she openly confesses her feelings for Reehan, shocking everyone around her.

In a surprising turn of events, Dadi steps in to secure the future of the two lovers by fixing their shagun, signaling a potential union. However, Reehan, still burdened by his mother's pressure, asks Mannat to meet him outside, leaving the audience wondering about the future of their relationship.

Will Tina's manipulation be exposed? Can Reehan overcome his mother's emotional hold and pursue his love for Mannat?

## Celebrate Republic Day with the World Television Premiere of The Greatest Of All Time (G.O.A.T), airing on Zee Cinema this 26th January!

CHANDIGARH: Get ready for an intense and thrilling experience with GOAT, where action, drama, and powerful moments come together in true 'Cinema' style. This Republic Day, Zee Cinema brings to you the World Television Premiere of The Greatest Of All Time on Sunday, 26th January at 12 PM & 8 PM. Starring the powerhouse performer Thalpathy Vijay and the versatile Prabhu Deva, this high-energy entertainer is packed with gripping twists, unforgettable scenes and a mission to save the nation!



A tale of rivalry and greatness, the film masterfully blends family sentiment, patriotism, action, emotion, humor and of course Vijay's trademark charm! Packed with unexpected twists and director Venkat Prabhu's signature tributes, we see Vijay delivering a powerhouse performance as the ultimate hero and Prabhu Deva adding his signature style, making every scene memorable. This film isn't just a story, it's an experience, and when it comes to facing any challenge related to the nation, G.O.A.T. is always ready!

Prabhu Deva said, "Being part of this film was such an adrenaline rush. It's a movie that pushes boundaries, it's got explosive action, but also moments that make you think. I'm excited for the Zee Cinema audience to see what happens next."

Director Venkat Prabhu said, "GOAT is everything I love about filmmaking - massive action, a gripping storyline, visuals and some of my favorite actors. Vijay, once again, brings something different to the table. This is not just about good versus bad; it's about how far you'll go when everything's on the line."

## "Every day on set with her is like a masterclass," says Ayushi Khurana on working with Jayati Bhatia in Zee TV's Jaane Anjaane Hum Mile

CHANDIGARH: It's a well-known fact that actors often spend significant time with their co-stars, learning, collaborating, and creating memories. For Jaane Anjaane Hum Mile's Ayushi Khurana, who plays Reet, this experience has been nothing short of a blessing.



Sharing the screen with a seasoned actor like Jayati Bhatia, who portrays Sharda Bua, Ayushi has found not just a co-star but a mentor.

On-screen, Reet and Sharda Bua might be at odds, but behind the scenes, Ayushi shares that her bond with Jayati is the polar opposite. For Ayushi, working alongside Jayati has been an inspiring journey filled with learning and growth. From tackling tough scenes to finding the perfect tone for a dialogue, Ayushi feels she's grown so much under Jayati's guidance. Ayushi said, "I am truly grateful to share the screen with Jayati ma'am. Working with her has been an incredible experience. Despite being such a senior actor, she is so down-to-earth and approachable. Every day on set with her is like a masterclass, we all get to learn so much from her, the way she carries herself, her dedication to the craft, and her willingness to help others on set, it's inspiring. While we don't see eye-to-eye as our characters on-screen, off-screen we have a lot of fun together."

While Ayushi enjoys the camaraderie with Jayati off-screen, viewers can expect exciting twists and turns as Sharda Bua stirs up Reet's life on-screen. To know what happens next, watch 'Jaane Anjaane Hum Mile' every Monday to Friday at 9:30 PM, only on Zee TV!

## Aamir Khan attends son Junaid's and Khushi Kapoor's Loveyapa screening in style

Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan attended the screening of his son Junaid Khan and late Sridevi's daughter Khushi Kapoor's upcoming film 'Loveyapa' on Monday evening.



The 'Andaz Apna Apna' actor looked classic in a white kurta, which he paired with blue denim. His son Junaid was seen twinning in black with co-star Khushi Kapoor, who opted for a casual, cool black crop top that she paired with flared denim. Last week, the makers unveiled the film's trailer, which is packed with comedy, drama, and love. The trailer showcases the story of a young couple whose lives are exposed to each other after they exchange their mobile phones.

Recently, Aamir shared his initial reaction to the film after watching the rough cut. "I have watched the rough cut. I liked this film. It is very entertaining. The way our lives have turned out these days due to cellphones, and the interesting things that happen in our lives because of this, have been shown here. All the actors have done a good job. When I watched the film and saw Khushi (Kapoor), I felt that I was watching Sridevi. Her energy was there, I could see it. I am a huge fan of Sridevi," Khan told a news agency. The Ghajini actor also expressed his admiration for late actor Sridevi and found similarities in the performance of her daughter Khushi Kapoor.

## Trailer of Rajeev Khandelwal's show 'The Secret of the Shiledars' out now

Rajeev Khandelwal-starrer show 'The Secret of the Shiledars' is all set to be streamed on OTT soon.

Ahead of the release of 'The Secret of the Shiledars' on Disney+ Hotstar, the makers on Monday unveiled the project's trailer.

The series is based on the acclaimed Marathi novel Pratipashchandra [1] [2]. It stars Rajeev Khandelwal as the protagonist leading the viewers on a quest for the hidden treasure with Sai Tamhankar, Gaurav Amlani and Ashish Vidyarthi in prominent roles.

Excited about the show, Rajeev in a statement said, "Playing a character like Ravi has been an incredible journey for me. It's a contradiction of sorts that despite knowing what I was stepping into I actually had no idea what I was stepping into. From the moment we started shooting, I knew we may end up creating something magical under the skilled direction of Aditya."

He added, "And we actually did. With The Secret of the Shiledars, he has ventured into an entirely new and intriguing genre, showcasing his brilliant creative vision. The show's unique premise inspired me to push my limits as an actor, and working with Sai, Ashish sir and all other cast and crew members made the experience even more rewarding. I can't wait for the world to see what we've made. Hope they enjoy this joyride as much as we did while creating it."

Actor Sai Tamhankar also shared her experience working on 'The Secret of the Shiledars'.

"To be part of such an enriching show that challenges you at every step and shapes you as an artist is truly what an actor craves. With The Secret of the Shiledars, I'm glad to have put my best foot forward. Being from the heartland of Maharashtra, seeing it represented on-screen so authentically is immensely fulfilling. I believe this story will keep viewers hooked till the very end. Sharing screen time with stalwarts like Rajeev, with his incredible body of work, was truly inspiring."

## Diljit Dosanjh starrer biopic on Jaswant Singh Khalsa not to release on Feb 7

Fans eagerly waiting for Diljit Dosanjh's much-anticipated biopic, 'Punjab 95', will have to wait longer as the film's release has been postponed. The film, which was originally scheduled to hit theatres on February 7, is based on the life of Sikh activist Jaswant Singh Khalsa, who disappeared in 1995. Taking to his Instagram Stories, Diljit shared a note along with an image of Khalsa.

"We are very sorry, and it pains us to inform you that the movie Punjab 95 will not release on 7th Feb due to circumstances beyond our control," read the note.

The film, directed by Honey Trehan and produced by Ronnie Screwvala, tells the story of Khalsa, who was known for uncovering



human rights violations during Punjab's militancy era.

Meanwhile, Diljit will next be seen in Border 2. The film's shooting officially began

in December last year.

The film stars Ahan Shetty, Sunny Deol, and features Varun Dhawan and Diljit in crucial roles.

Directed by Anurag Singh, Border 2 is set to be a grand cinematic spectacle with a star-studded ensemble cast that includes Sunny Deol reprising his legendary role, Varun Dhawan, Diljit Dosanjh, and Ahan Shetty.

The original film, helmed by JP Dutta, was a landmark in Indian cinema, depicting the 1971 India-Pakistan war and introducing audiences to unforgettable characters like Suniel Shetty's portrayal of BSF officer Bhairav Singh.

The film is produced by Bhushan Kumar, JP Dutta, and Nidhi Dutta, with Anurag Singh taking the reins as director. The film is set to release on January 23, 2026.

## Tabu's team slams demeaning articles carrying false statement from actress

Tabu's team has issued a statement condemning derogatory articles that recently surfaced online regarding the actor. Several news websites and social media handles published reports mentioning Tabu's views on marriage. As per the team of the 'Hum Saath - Saath Hain' star, the quotes used in the articles were fabricated and there's no truth to them. "There are several websites and social media handles that have falsely attributed certain undignified statements to Tabu. We would like to clarify that she never made these quotes, and it is a serious breach of ethics to mislead the audience," the statement read.

Tabu's team has also demanded an apology from those who "have falsely attributed certain undignified statements to Tabu."

"We demand that these websites remove the fabricated quotes immediately and issue a formal apology for their actions," the statement added. Meanwhile, on the work front, Tabu is currently busy shooting with Akshay Kumar for the film 'Bhooth Bangla', which also features Paresh Rawal. 'Bhooth Bangla' marks the reunion of Priyadarshan and Akshay Kumar after a long gap. The duo has earlier given blockbuster films such as 'Hera Pheri', 'Bhagam Bhag', 'Garam Masala', 'De Dana Dan' and 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa' among others.

Secondly, the film will also see a reunion of Akshay and Tabu after 25 years. The two were last seen together in 'Hera Pheri'. Bhooth Bangla is produced by Shobha Kapoor and Ektaa R Kapoor's Balaji Telefilms and Akshay Kumar's production house, Cape of Good Films. The film is slated for a theatrical release on April 2, 2026.

Tabu was last seen as Sister Francesca in the web series 'Dune: Prophecy'.

## Bite-Sized Stories, Big Performances: Mrinal Kulkarni & Sai Deodhar On Acting in Zee Mini Series

CHANDIGARH: In a pioneering move within the Hindi General Entertainment Channel (GEC) space, Zee TV is proud to present the 'Zee Mini Series,' an innovative and first-of-its-kind programming format that airs short yet impactful narratives tailored for today's viewers. Each new story unfolds over 7 episodes, merging immersive storytelling of traditional television with the brisk pace and relatability of contemporary content.

Offering a captivating collection of stories, Zee Mini Series has been crafted to deeply resonate with viewers by exploring a wide array of compelling themes including the likes of:

**Paithani:** A show celebrating the rich heritage of the Paithani saree while exploring a mother-daughter bond that defies challenges.

**Vitromates:** A series chronicling the heartfelt journey of resilience and friendship among women navigating fertility struggles.

**Beintehan Chahtein:** A gripping tale of materialism and re-



demption, centered on a dysfunctional family.

**Divorce Ke Liye Kuch Bhi Karega:** A hilarious yet heartwarming rom-com about two undercover journalists-turned-reluctant newly-

each story unfolding completely in just a week. The narratives bridge traditional values and modern challenges, creating stories that feel both timely and relatable.

Whether you're drawn to

weds

**Pyaar Testing:** A fresh take on modern relationships, as a couple tests their compatibility in a live-in setup before tying the knot.

**Khoj:** A gripping psychological thriller unraveling mysteries of identity, reality, and betrayal.

**Maeri:** An emotional story of a mother's courageous fight for justice against systemic inequality.

These mini-series offer bite-sized drama and entertainment that seamlessly fits into the busy lives of today's viewers, with each story unfolding completely in just a week. The narratives bridge traditional values and modern challenges, creating stories that feel both timely and relatable.

heartfelt family dramas, hilarious rom-coms, gripping thrillers, or modern tales of love and self-discovery, the diverse range of genres ensures there's something to captivate every taste. These concise, compelling stories promise high-quality entertainment without requiring a long-term commitment, making them perfect for the contemporary audience.

Maeri lead Sai Deodhar said, "For me, Maeri has been a very exciting project for various reasons, but above all, it's a brilliant story. I knew it was adapted from MOM, but when Sachin narrated it to me, it was an instant YES from my side. It's a very powerful role, and I must say it's incredibly relatable as well. Being the mother of a daughter, the emotions and experiences came to me naturally and while I have played the role of a mother many times on screen, this one was different because the character feels very contemporary and modern to me. With the show coming on Zee TV, in an innovative programming format with Zee Mini Series,."

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