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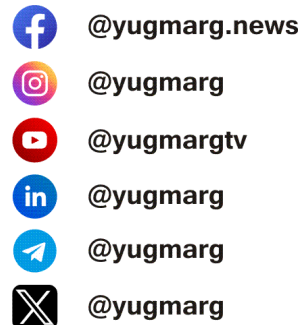
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Punjab budget focuses on drug menace, health sector

No new tax imposed, Rs 17975 crore allocated for education

BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, MAR 26

Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema on Wednesday presented a Rs 2.36 lakh crore Budget, which focusses on tackling drug menace in the state, and allocated a whopping Rs 5,598 crore for the health sector.

No fresh taxes were imposed in the budget for financial year 2025-26. It was silent on giving monthly Rs 1,000 to women which was one of the poll promises of the AAP before coming to power.

He said the biggest threat to the progress and prosperity of Punjab is the drug problem.

"We are taking yet another landmark initiative to effectively fight the war against drugs. We have to fight this war not just with force and weapons, but also scientifically through data and analysis.

"We have decided to carry out the first-ever 'drug census' in Punjab next year (fiscal). This census will cover every household of Punjab and will collect data to understand the prevalence of drugs, usage of de-addiction centres, etc, besides collecting data on socio-economic status of the people of Punjab," Cheema said.

This data will be used to craft an effective and scientific strategy to eradicate the drug menace.

He said Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's visionary leadership has been the driving force behind Punjab's remarkable progress over the past three years.

Cheema proposed a total budget expenditure of Rs 2,36,080 crore for FY 2025-26. The effective revenue deficit and fiscal deficit are expected to be 2.51 per cent and 3.84 per cent respectively.

Cheema said the Punjab government



will establish a second line of defence at border by deploying 5,000 home guards alongside BSF. He said tht for the first time in Punjab's history, Chief Minister Bhag-

want Mann's government has decided to extend the state health insurance scheme in the coming fiscal year to make it universal and cover all the 65 lakh families in Punjab. There will be no bar or discrimination-rural or urban, rich or poor-everyone can participate in this scheme, he said. Cheema said the government is extending the insurance cover for all the families of Punjab to Rs 10 lakh per annum. "This includes

PUNJAB BUDGET 2025

BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, MAR 26

In a pathbreaking move to ensure universal access to quality healthcare services, Punjab Health and Medical Education and Research Minister Dr Balbir Singh on

Tuesday, hailed the enhanced budget allocation in the Health and Medical Education sectors as "transformational" for the crucial sector. He particularly lauded the decision of the Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann led Punjab Government to cover every citizen of the state under Mukh Mantri Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojna and double the insurance cover from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh per family annually.

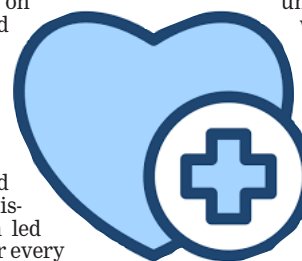
Pertinently, Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema presented the historic 'Badalda

Punjab' Budget for financial year 2025-26 at Vidhan Sabha here on Tuesday.

The health sector budget has been enhanced by 10 percent, reaching 5,598 crores—to strengthen infrastructure, expand Aam Aadmi Clinics, and improve emergency care under the FARISHTEY Scheme, while, the Medical Education and Research has received 27 percent budget increase to 1,336 crore.

Health Minister Dr Balbir Singh, while terming the budget as historic and progressive, said that the move to bring all the 65 lakh families of the state under the Mukh Mantri Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana is a game-changer, which will ensure that no citizen of the Punjab state will ever have to

worry about medical expenses again. As per the information, currently only 45 lakh families are covered under health insurance scheme—16 lakh under the Central government's Ayushman Bharat.



Rs. 2,873 crore to be spent on the construction and upgradation of rural link roads

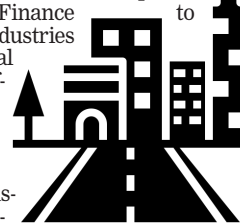
CHANDIGARH: Rs. 2,873 crore allocated for the construction and upgradation of 18,944 km of rural link roads, which will be undertaken by the Punjab Mandi Board in the financial year 2025-26.

Furthermore, he praised the Finance Minister for steps taken to boost industries and for announcing a new industrial policy. He highlighted that these efforts will foster the growth of both small and large businesses, creating more quality jobs for the youth. Notably, the budget allocates 250 crore for financial incentives to industries—the highest in Punjab's history. In contrast, the previous government spent only 53 crore over five years, while the one before that spent nothing at all.

To further promote national integration and showcase Punjab's industrial and cultural

diversity, the state government has proposed the construction of a Unity Mall in Amritsar. This mall will feature stalls representing all states/UTs and Punjab's 23 districts, providing a platform for artisans and entrepreneurs

to display and market their products. The government has allocated 80 crore for this project in the FY 2025-26 budget. The budget also includes special provisions for MSMEs. To drive innovation and competitiveness, Punjab is facilitating the establishment of Technology Extension Centers (TEC) in key industrial hubs, including Amritsar, Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar, Moga, Patiala, and Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (Mohali). Sond welcomed the dedicated allocation of 10 crore for the upgradation of the Research and Development (R&D) Centre and the Institute of Auto Parts and Hand Tools.



Expect Leader of Oppn to follow rules of procedure: LS Speaker

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, MAR 26

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Wednesday asked Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi to follow the rules of procedure that members are expected to observe to uphold the dignity of the House.

It was not immediately clear what was the reason for the Speaker to make the observation.

The Speaker said members are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that upholds the high standards and dignity of the House.

"Several instances have come to my notice where the conduct of members does not conform to the high standards," the Speaker said.



"In this House, father and daughter, mother and daughter, husband and wife have been members. In this context, I expect the Leader of the Opposition to conduct himself in accordance with Rule 349 that deals with rules to be observed by members in the House," the Speaker said.

Cash stash row: Petition seeking FIR against Delhi HC Judge filed in SC

UNI
NEW DELHI, MAR 26

A petition was filed in the Supreme Court seeking the registration of an FIR against Justice Yashwant Varma, a Judge of the Delhi High Court, over the alleged discovery of illicit cash at his official residence recently.

The petition was mentioned before Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna on Wednesday for urgent hearing.

Advocate Mathews J Nedumpara, the main petitioner, mentioned the matter before the CJI.

At the outset, the Chief Justice remarked, "Your matter has been listed... don't make any public statements."

Nedumpara responded, emphasizing the necessity of registering an

FIR against the judge, further commending the CJI for making relevant records public, including the video of burnt currency notes.

In response, the CJI advised the petitioner to check with the registry for the hearing date. Another co-petitioner, present with Nedumpara, remarked, "Had this amount been found at a businessman's house, agencies like the ED and IT would have taken immediate action." The bench refused to entertain further discussion, assuring that the matter would be listed in due course.

The petition challenges the decision of the CJI to initiate an in-house probe by a three-judge panel instead



of ordering a regular criminal investigation. It also questions the precedent set in K. Veeraswami v. Union of India, which mandates consulting the CJI before filing an FIR against a sitting High Court or Supreme Court judge.

The plea argues that while most judges uphold integrity, instances like the present case should not bypass criminal procedures.

It states "The direction that no FIR shall be filed was certainly not within the intended scope of the Hon'ble judges. Such a direction creates an exclusive class immune from the penal laws of the land.

While the judiciary largely comprises erudite and honest individuals, incidents involving corruption, as seen in cases like Justice Nirmal Yadav and now Justice Yashwant Varma, must be scrutinized under established criminal laws."

Result of Agniveer recruitment exam for Clerk and Store keeper declared

UNI
AMBALA, MAR 26

The result of Agniveer recruitment examination for Clerk/Store Keeper (Technical) held in the month of February by recruiting office (HQ) Ambala Cantt has been declared

on the official website of Join Indian Army.

Candidates whose roll number is published

in the result should report at the recruitment office (HQ) Ambala Cantt at 9.00 AM on

March 28 for further documentation.

All the selected candidates need to bring their original mark sheet of 10th and 12th class, Admit Card, two photocopies along with the Aadhaar linked Mobile number copy.

The candidates may check their result on the Website www.joinindianarmy.nic.in



Modi to visit Rameshwaram on Ram Navmi, inaugurate Pamban Bridge

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, MAR 26

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will pray at Ramanathswamy Temple in Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu, on April 6 on the occasion of Ram Navmi.

PM Modi will also inaugurate the new Pamban Bridge on the occasion. The new Pamban Bridge will replace the old 1914-built bridge, which was closed in 2022 due to corrosion problems. Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, in November 2024, posted on X about "India's first vertical lift railway sea bridge." "Built in 1914, the old Pamban Rail Bridge connected the mainland to Rameswaram for 105 years. Decommissioned in Dec 2022 due to corrosion, it paved the way for the modern New

Pamban Bridge, marking a new era of connectivity!" he said. The bridge spans over 2.5 km and is built at a cost of Rs 535 crore by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL). "It's designed to handle faster trains and increased traffic. The New Pamban Bridge is not just functional - it's a symbol of progress, connecting people and places with modern engineering," Vaishnaw posted on X. Earlier on Wednesday, President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended felicitations on the occasion of the National Day of Bangladesh. President Droupadi Murmu's message to Mohammed Shahabuddin, President of Bangladesh, stated, "On behalf of the government, the people of India and on my own behalf, I extend warm greetings and felicitations to Your Excellency."

SC shocked over Allahabad HC ruling on 'grabbing of breasts'

UNI
NEW DELHI, MAR 26

Terming it as "shocking", the Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed a controversial order of the Allahabad High Court which said that acts such as 'grabbing the breasts of a minor girl, breaking the string of her pyjama and attempting to drag her beneath a culvert' do not amount to the offence of attempt to rape.

The High Court, in its order on March 17, 2025, had observed that such acts would, prima facie, constitute the offence of 'aggravated sexual assault' under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, which carries a lesser punishment.

The High Court bench of Justice Ram Manohar Narayan Mishra had given the judgement in a matter re-



lated to an assault on an 11-year-old girl by two accused - Pawan and Akash.

The judgement was widely criti-

cised and triggered a major controversy.

Taking suo motu cognizance of the matter, a Supreme Court bench,

comprising Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice A.G. Masih expressed strong disagreement with the judgement of the High Court, calling it "shocking." Justice B.R. Gavai remarked, "It is a serious matter. There is total insensitivity on the part of the (Allahabad High Court) judge. This was at the stage of issuing summons! We are sorry to use such harsh words against the judge."

The bench ordered a stay on these observations and issued notices to the Union of India, the State of Uttar Pradesh, and the parties involved in the High Court proceedings. Justice Gavai observed that although the Supreme Court is usually hesitant to grant a stay at this stage, the observations made in paragraphs 21, 24, and 26 of the High Court order were contrary to the tenets of law and exhibited an inhu-

man approach. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, while concurring that it was a "shocking" judgement, said the way the matter was handled was extremely serious and suggested that the Chief Justice of the High Court should take steps as the master of the roster. The case reached the Supreme Court after Senior Advocate Shobha Gupta, representing the NGO We the Women of India, wrote a letter highlighting the controversial ruling. Another NGO 'Just Rights for Children Alliance' said it too is representing the victim in the case. The Supreme Court said that the NGO 'We the Women of India' "brought to our notice" that some observations by the single judge of the Allahabad High Court in the judgment passed on March 17, 2025, showed a total lack of sensitivity on the part of the author of the judgment.

Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi training organized for anganwadi workers



SUMER GARG
SUNAM: A training program under the banner 'Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi' was organized for the Anganwadi workers of Block Sunam-1 at local SUS college, here today. The training was conducted in three batches over nine days under the guidance of Ms. Rekha Rani, child development project officer (CDPO), Sunam-1. The training focused on the holistic development of children and capacity building of anganwadi workers. Resource persons from the education and health departments also addressed the participants. Key topics included growth monitoring of children aged 0 to 6 years, developing model Anganwadi centers, and effective home visits with community awareness. CDPO, Ms Rekha Rani also shared valuable insights, highlighting the crucial role of Anganwadi workers in child development. The program proved beneficial in enhancing the skills and knowledge of the workers.

No chemist to be harassed without proper reason : SP
SUMER GARG
SUNAM: The District President of chemist association, Naresh Jindal while holding a meeting with the SP(D), Navreet Singh Virk and said that the chemist association is standing with the Police, in its anti-drug campaign and had already stopped the purchase of medicines as drugs. But the chemists are scared and are feeling insulting due to checking their shops by the heavy police force. He said that the chemist unions support the genuine persons and if a chemist sells the drugs then he, himself would be responsible for him. Virk said that any chemist would not be harassed without any reason. The Police will check the shops of chemists along with drug officers only in case of doubt or any input. He urged the chemists to not buy or sell the medicines used as drugs. 'The action will continue according to the government's instructions', SP added.

Aditi Sidhu from Hoshiarpur honored as a young writer in Vrindavan



DALJEET AJNOHA
HOSHIAHPUR: A special event was organized by Neki Ki Rah Foundation at Gauri Gopal Ashram in Vrindavan, Mathura district, Uttar Pradesh, where Aditi Sidhu was honored as the youngest author of Punjab. On this occasion, spiritual preacher Dr. Aniruddh Acharya Maharaj, international boxer Vijender Singh Benival, and social worker Sadhvi Harsha Richochariya felicitated Aditi Sidhu. IPS officer Kiran Bedi, along with Aditi Sidhu and Haryana singer GD Kaur, was also specially honored at the event. The program was conducted by Dr. Gaurav Sharma, the founder of Neki Ki Rah Foundation. Expressing her gratitude, Aditi Sidhu said that this was a moment of pride for her. She stated that receiving such recognition at a young age was not only a result of her hard work but also a testament to the support of her family, mentors, and readers. She assured that she would continue to write inspiring and meaningful content for society in the future. Aditi thanked Neki Ki Rah Foundation and all the distinguished guests for the honor.

MCM marks Dr. Punam Suri's birth anniversary with Shubhkamna Diwas



CHANDIGARH : The Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women, Chandigarh, campus reverberated with celebratory spirit as the college marked the 77th birth anniversary of the leader of DAV fraternity- Padma Shri Dr. Punam Suri, President, DAV Managing Committee, with 'Shubhkamna Diwas'. Organised under the aegis of Arya Samaj Committee of the college, Shubhkamna Diwas was a heartfelt tribute to the visionary leader that Dr. Suri is. The celebration began on a thoughtful note with a plantation drive wherein 25 saplings were planted. This was followed by competitions that included Poster Making, Shloka Writing, Vedic Rangoli and Bhajan Recital. All the competitions witnessed enthusiastic participation, reflecting the respect and adoration that Dr. Suri commands among the DAVians. Officiating Principal Ms. Suman Mahajan congratulated the DAV fraternity on this occasion, and said that every single DAV member prays for Dr. Suri's long life and health. She expressed gratitude to Dr. Suri for his visionary leadership that is taking DAV to unprecedented heights.

SAS Nagar police busts spurious drugs unit; recovers big haul of tablets and injection vials

SHASHI PAL JAIN
MOHALI, MAR 26

In continuation to the ongoing campaign, Yudh Nasheya Virudh, the District SAS Nagar Police got a major breakthrough by unearthing a fake unit of drugs used as steroids and supplements in Zirakpur, said Senior Superintendent of Police, Deepak Pareek here during a media briefing. Divulging the details, the SSP said that on March 21, 2025, a police party has arrested an accused Lavish Grover from Flat No. 12 C, Shiva Enclave near Singhpura, Ziarkpur after a brief exchange of fire. He had fired three rounds of fire from his pistol when the Police knocked his door and in retaliation firing, he got injured by having an injury in his leg. After searching his flat, the



Police Party led by SHO Zirakpur, Jaskamal Singh Sekhon recovered 400 gram Opium with Drug Money of Rs 2.5 Lakh apart from illegal weapons and ammunition. Upon further interrogation, he revealed that he had handed over some quantity of Opium and an illegal weapon to his ac-

complice Gurpreet Singh village Shere of Sangrur District. On getting the tip, when the Police Party raided the flat located at Orbit Apartment, Opposite Triple C Mall, VIP road Zirakpur and arrested the Gurpreet Singh (28) with a recovery of 800 Gram Opium and a .32 bore pistol with 02 Maga-

Vehicles to be seized for non-payment of fines: RTA

PATIALA (RAWEL BHINDER): Ravinder Singh Gill, Secretary of the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) Patiala, said that vehicles violating the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988, are issued fines across the state. If these fines are not settled within 90 days as per Rule 167 of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989, the department will blacklist the vehicles. He explained that blacklisted vehicles are ineligible for essential government services, including insurance, pollution certificates, and vehicle registration. Gill urged all vehicle owners to clear their pending fines promptly at the office of the Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Patiala, to avoid blacklisting. Non-payment will lead to strict action and blacklisting of the vehicle.

Bains terms the 'Badalda Punjab' budget a landmark



GAURAV GOEL
CHANDIGARH, MAR 26

In a significant move to promote heritage, tourism, and wildlife conservation in the state, Chief Minister, Bhagwant Singh Mann led Punjab Government has unveiled game-changing plans to develop Nangal as Punjab's next big tourist hotspot and develop Jhajjar Bachauli Wildlife Sanctuary of Sri Anandpur Sahib into a thrilling eco-tourism destination allowing visitors to spot leopards and other wildlife in their natural habitat, said Harjot Singh Bains, education minister and MLA from

Sri Anandpur Sahib. Punjab Finance Minister, Harpal Singh Cheema, while presenting the historic 'Badalda Punjab' Budget for financial year 2025-26, mentioned the overall development and facelift of Sri Anandpur Sahib constituency. The Punjab government has also allocated a special budget for the preparations of the 350th Martyrdom Anniversary of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji. Bains, while terming the budget as a landmark, said that Nangal will be transformed into a key tourist destination with an initial allocation of Rs 10 crore budget.

Rajeev Sharma initiates development of proper parking in Nagar Sudhar Trust colony



VERMA
GURDASPUR, MAR 26

In a bid to make Nagar Sudhar Trust Colony Scheme No. 7 even more beautiful, the Chairman of the Trust, Rajeev Sharma, has launched another initiative. A new and spacious parking facility is being constructed in the commercial complex to accommodate vehicles coming into the area. Today, Rajeev Sharma inaugurated the construction work of this parking facility. After the inauguration, Chairman Ra-

jeev Sharma stated that he is working tirelessly to make this colony the most beautiful in the city. He mentioned that earlier, a modern bus stand with state-of-the-art facilities was built in the colony. He also highlighted the upcoming construction of a town park, which will feature a 150-foot tall flagpole. The park's construction is complete, and the flag will be hoisted soon. Additionally, a beautiful park with a statue of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur has been built in the colony.

SAMPARK meeting held to combat drug abuse in Jalandhar

BUNNY SODHI
JALANDHAR, MAR 26

A special SAMPARK meeting at Punjab Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) Medical College saw over 150 medical students engage in discussions on drug abuse awareness, de-addiction measures, and rehabilitation strategies.

Led by Joint Commissioner of Police, Sh. Sandeep Kumar Sharma, and ACP, Model Town, Sh. Sirivenela, the event encouraged open dialogue between students and police officials on tackling drug-related issues.

A key highlight was the adoption initiative, where each of PIMS' 900 students pledged to educate five fam-



ilies, expanding awareness to 4,500 households. The session also emphasized medical and emotional support for addicts, with students committing to street rallies and Nukkad Natak

for wider outreach. Police officials later visited the de-addiction center at PIMS, reviewing rehabilitation efforts and long-term strategies to curb drug abuse in Jalandhar.

Unique Holy Heart School students excel in annual exams



VERMA
GURDASPUR, MAR 26

The annual results of Unique Holy Heart School, located on Shiv Nagar College Road, were declared under the leadership of Principal Anita Gupta. The students performed exceptionally well, securing top positions in various classes.

The Principal congratulated all the students, teachers, and parents for their hard work and support, which played a key role in the school's outstanding performance. In the Nursery

class, students Rehandeep, Chandan Kumar, and Rajeev Kumar secured the first, second, and third positions, respectively. In the UKG class, Yashika and Abhinander took the top spot, while Anmol and Hunar secured the second and third places.

In the First Grade, Mahi Sharma, Yuvraj Singh, and Dhanishka earned the first, second, and third positions, respectively. In the Second Grade, Kirti Kaur and Bhavna shared the first position, while Parachi secured the second and third positions.

Mount Litera Zee School Rampura organizes one-day workshop



KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA
RAMPURA PHUL, MAR 26

C.B.S.E Mount Litera Zee School Rampura conducts various activities from time to time to enhance the knowledge of students and teachers.

Under this series, a one-day teacher training workshop was organized by Cambridge in the school. Madam Mridul Jhingan was appointed as the resource person for this training. School President Gagan Bansal, General Secretary Namita Bansal and School Principal Geeta Pillay welcomed them. Competency-based teaching and innovative teaching strategies were discussed in this workshop.

The importance of competency-based teaching was highlighted during the workshop. The expert explained how teachers can use the latest teaching strategies. In the workshop, teachers participated in various activities.

Which included group discussions, presentations and practical exercises. At the end of the ceremony, School President Gagan Bansal, General Secretary Namita Bansal and School Principal Geeta Pillay said that their aim is to make teachers aware of the latest teaching strategies and help them teach students more effectively. The workshop will help our teachers improve the education of students.

Discussion organized on Kavya Triveni book



CHANDIGARH: A 'Pustaka Paricharcha' program was organized in the Hindi department of Punjab University, in which the joint poetry collection 'Kavya Triveni' of Chandigarh's famous poets Dr. Sarita Mehta, Prem Vij, Dr. Vinod Kumar was released and reviewed. At the beginning of the program, Prof. Ashok Kumar, welcomed the three poets and speakers of this book by giving them a bouquet of flowers.

Speaker Pawan Sharma, while speaking on the Kavya Triveni book, said that this

Kavya Triveni book is a beautiful confluence of three delightful rivers in which literature lovers can take a dip and feel themselves painted in its colors.

Speaker Narayan Singh said that though science provides us with strength and power, only literature can teach us to make good use of it and this book is also capable of contributing to this task. Speaker researcher Reena Visht said that Kavya Triveni book is a collection of such poems that inspire the young generation to follow the right path.

Workshop on 'Advanced Computing' in Punjabi successfully organized at Baba Farid Group of Institutions

ANANTDEEP KAUR
BATHINDA, MAR 26

A two-day workshop on 'Advanced Computing (Super Computing, AI and Quantum Computing)' was organized by Baba Farid College of Engineering and Technology at Baba Farid Group of Institutions. This workshop was sponsored by AICTE-VANI, 55 delegates participated in this workshop and 7 subject experts shared information about modern computing technologies.

The workshop was inaugurated with the welcome address by Dr. Jaswinder Singh, who explained the objectives of educating the participants about modern computing and providing technical information through Punjabi language. On the first day, S. Amarjit Singh Grewal gave information about the basic principles of computing, S. Rajinder Singh Dhanoa gave information about supercom-



puting and Dr. Suman Rani gave information about artificial intelligence. On the second day, Prof. Ramanpreet Kaur gave information about machine learning, Prof. Parminder Singh gave information about data science, Dr. Sheesh Pal Jindal gave information about quantum computing and Prof. (Dr.) M. P. Poonia gave information about industrial applications of advanced computing.

Explaining complex topics of advanced computing in Punjabi language and Punjabi technical terminology was the specialty of this workshop. While praising

this workshop, the participants said that it was easy to understand complex technical topics in their mother tongue. Finally, the coordinator of this workshop, Dr. Manish Gupta thanked all the subject experts and said that this workshop is an important step in removing the language barriers and providing modern technology education to the students of Punjab in Punjabi language medium. On this occasion, the subject experts were honored by presenting them with token of Gratitude and certificates were also distributed to the participants.

Advocate Dhama criticises Indian govt's ignorance towards Sikh prisoners

CHARNJIT SINGH ARORA
AMRITSAR, MAR 26

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) President, Advocate Harjinder Singh Dhama, has strongly criticized the Indian government's ignorance on the release of Bandi Singh (Sikh prisoners), calling it a violation of human rights, an insult to the principles of justice, and an injustice to the Sikh community.

Speaking at the SGPC office today, Advocate Dhama stated that the SGPC has been making continuous efforts for a long time regarding this serious issue concerning Sikhs. However, the Centre government's negative approach has been a major obstacle. He recalled that Sri Akal Takht Sahib had constituted a five-member committee to address the cases of Bhai Balwant Singh Rajoana and other Sikh prisoners. Unfortunately, it is disappointing that the Prime Minister did not even consider



granting time to meet with this committee representing the highest Sikh religious authority, Sri Akal Takht Sahib.

Advocate Dhama further stated that several attempts were made to arrange a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi regarding this matter. However, even after more than one-and-a-half years, the government's response has been discouraging. He said that the five-member committee of Sri Akal Takht Sahib had requested a meeting with the Prime Minister in December 2023 to discuss the issue of Bhai Rajoana and Sikh prisoners. He revealed that ac-

cording to a recent communication from the Centre government, on March 21, 2025, the request was officially declined with the justification that the matter is under consideration with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Dhama questioned why the government has not taken any decision on Bhai Balwant Singh Rajoana's case, despite Supreme Court orders. He pointed out that earlier, the Prime Minister's office had suggested discussing the matter with the Home Minister, but even the Ministry of Home Affairs has not given a positive response.

Zirakpur police recover 400gms opium, pistol from gangster



VICKY BHABAT
ZIRAKPUR MAR 26

After the encounter of gangster Lavish Grover in Zirakpur, Punjab Police got a big success when a large quantity of stocked gym supplements, capsules, vaccines and food supplements were recovered from a flat in Shiva Homes Society of village Singhpura on the instructions of an arrested accused. Apart from this, bottles, labels and a packing machine were also found which were seized by the police. The Drug Control team found 40 types of medicines which were used to make gym supplements. SSP Mohali said that the accused

persons named Lavish Grover and Gurpreet were arrested by Zirakpur Police from Zirakpur Shiva Homes on the 2nd. Before the arrest, they had also fired at the police, after which Lavish was shot in the leg in the retaliatory action. A foreign pistol, 400 grams of opium were found from Lavish, a pistol and 800 grams of opium from Gurpreet. The SSP said that after that, when a raid was conducted on another flat, a large quantity of fake supplements, 1 lakh 24 thousand pills were used to make supplements, 1 lakh 75 thousand fake injections were found from there, which they used to supply to gyms.

Gatka promoter Harjeet Singh Grewal assumes charge as Additional Director after promotion

CHANDIGARH, MAR 26

The Punjab government has promoted Sardar Harjeet Singh Grewal, State Awardee, Joint Director in the Department of Information and Public Relations, Chandigarh, to the post of Additional Director. As per the department's latest appointment orders, he has officially assumed charge of his new post today.

This promotion follows a departmental committee meeting chaired by Secretary Sardar Malvinder Singh Jaggi. Renowned globally for promoting Sikh martial art - Gatka, Sardar Harjeet Singh Grewal holds a LL.B degree and Master's in Journalism and Mass Communications from Punjabi University, Patiala. Hailing from Sakraudi village in Sangrur district, Grewal has played a pivotal role over the past 17 years in preserving, promoting and popularizing Gatka as a recognized sport worldwide. His selfless contributions have earned him acco-



lades, including the Punjab State Award, Sewa Award (Dubai), and Sikh Achievers Award (Mumbai).

A former science student at Ranbir College, Sangrur, and Akal College, Mastuana Sahib, Grewal's career progression has brought pride to his village and local community. He joined service in 2001 as a Public Relations Officer and has since held key positions, including Deputy Director in the Vigilance Bureau, Punjab Police and working with over a dozen ministers, including the Deputy Chief Minister. As Joint Director, he successfully managed multiple wings of the department.

NEWS BRIEF

Harsoun-Langwan road to remain closed till April 13

RAJNEESH SHARMA
HAMIRPUR: The upgradation work on the Harsoun-Langwan road in Hamirpur subdivision has commenced, prompting authorities to suspend vehicular movement on the route until April 13. Issuing an official order, Deputy Commissioner Amarjeet Singh stated that the closure is necessary to ensure the smooth execution and timely completion of the project. During this period, commuters can use the Lambloo-Sikandar road as an alternative route. He appealed to all vehicle owners and residents to cooperate with the administration during the ongoing construction work.

Himachal's U-14 Hammer Ball team honoured for stellar performance



JOGINDER DEV ARYA
BANGANA: Himachal Pradesh's Under-14 Hammer Ball team was honored for its outstanding performance at the First U-14 Hammer Ball National Championship held in Agra. Lieutenant Colonel Raghuvir Singh presented certificates and medals to the players, boosting their morale. The team's talented players—Abhi, Harshit, Kapil, Suryansh, Rajkumar, Satvik, Akshit, Katoch, Arnav, Tushar, Utkarsh, Arav Sharma, Aditya Thakur, Ayaan Rana, Sanchit Jaswal, Shubham, and Surya—delivered remarkable performances, bringing pride to the state. On this occasion, Hammer Ball Association's acting president Jagdish Sahota and secretary Vinod Sharma urged the state government and the sports department to provide necessary facilities and resources to promote this emerging sport. They emphasized that with proper support, young players from Himachal Pradesh could achieve national and international recognition.

MLA should apologize, otherwise the consequences will be serious: Tarun Sharma



SANAJY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA: The District Bar Association Dharamshala has objected to the comment made by the Congress MLA on lawyers regarding drug abuse in the budget session of the state assembly. The lawyer community is also against all types of drug abuse. The MLA has attacked the lawyers by raising the issue of chits during the session, due to which the lawyers of the state are hurt by his comment. Bar Association President Advocate Tarun Sharma said that the MLA should apologize in the House for the comment made on the lawyers, otherwise he will have to face serious consequences. The MLA has said that the lawyers and their properties should be investigated. It is neither the job of the MLA nor the lawyers to see who is guilty and who is innocent in which case, but this is the job of the judges. He said that the MLA who has pointed fingers at the lawyers, his own government is in power in the state, in such a situation, he should bring a strict law against drug abuse through the government, so that action can be taken against the big crocodiles involved in the drug business.

Massive protest against mafia rule, 10,000 workers to participate: Bihari

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, MAR 26

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will hold a massive protest at Chhota Maidan on March 27 against the alleged mafia rule in Himachal Pradesh, with an expected participation of 10,000 party workers from across the state. BJP state general secretary and protest in-charge Bihari Lal Sharma made this announcement, stating that key party leaders, including BJP state president Dr. Rajeev Bindal, inspected the venue and motivated workers ahead of the event.

Prominent BJP leaders attending the protest include state in-charge Shrikant Sharma, co-in-charge Sanjay



Tandon, Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur, and state president Dr. Rajeev Bindal. Additionally, all Lok Sabha MPs from Himachal Pradesh, former Union Minister Anurag Thakur, former state president Suresh Kashyap, Dr. Rajeev Bhardwaj, and Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut will also be present. The gathering is scheduled to

commence at 10:30 AM. Bihari Lal Sharma emphasized that the protest is against the deep-rooted mafia system in the state, which has infiltrated various sectors, including transfers, scrap, liquor, drugs, contractors, forests, mining, and land. He alleged widespread corruption in government departments, where even minor tasks require bribes.

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA, MAR 26

The much-awaited State-Level Haroli Utsav-2025 will be held from April 27 to 29 at Kangad Ground in the Haroli Assembly constituency. To select artists for the cultural evenings, auditions will be conducted from April 8 to 10 at Lata Mangeshkar Kala Kendra, Samur Kalan. Auditions will commence at 11 AM on April 8, with April 8 and 9 reserved for artists from Una district, while April 10 will be for participants from other districts.

Deputy Commissioner Jatin Lal informed that artists can apply at the SDM office in Haroli or submit their



applications via email (statelevelharoliutsav@gmail.com). They can also register on the spot on the day of the audition. Renowned artists and winners of national-level competitions will be exempt from auditions. He emphasized that the festival will provide maximum

Objections and suggestions on land circle rates in Hamirpur invited

RAJNEESH SHARMA
HAMIRPUR: Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Hamirpur, Sanjeet Singh, has announced that the land circle rates for the financial year 2025-26 have been finalized for Tehsil Hamirpur, Tehsil Bamsan (Tauni Devi), and Sub-Tehsil Lambloo. These rates will be applicable from April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026. SDM Singh informed that if any individual has objections or suggestions

regarding the fixed land rates, they can submit them at the SDM Office in Hamirpur by March 29 or send them via post. No objections or suggestions will be entertained after this deadline. He further explained that if a piece of land is situated between two roads, its circle rate has been determined based on the nearest road. In cases where the land is equidistant from both roads, the rate will be set according to the higher-category road.

State signs MoU with UNESCO for education reforms

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, MAR 26

The State Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to enhance the quality of education in the State. The agreement was signed by Education Secretary Rakesh Kanwar on behalf of the State Government and UNESCO Director and Representative Tim Curtis and Chief of Education Program Specialist Joyce Poan on behalf of the Organization in the presence of Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu.

Under this collaboration, the UNESCO will support Himachal Pradesh in modernizing its education system by strengthening teaching methods, curricula, teacher training and assessment



systems, aiming to equip students with 21st-century skills, including critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication. A key focus will be on making education more inclusive, sustainable and future-oriented.

The agreement also emphasizes 'Greening Education', integrating environmental

awareness and sustainable development into school curricula, which will help students develop the knowledge and skills needed to tackle climate change and environmental challenges. Additionally, value-based education through sports will be promoted to foster holistic development. Chief Minister

Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu highlighted the State government's commitment to education reforms and said that efforts were underway to transform government schools into smart schools by expanding digital learning infrastructure and ensuring quality education in remote areas of the State. He said that the State Government has taken numerous steps to bring reforms in the education sector during the last two years, which were yielding positive outcomes.

Education Minister Rohit Thakur emphasized that the partnership with the UNESCO reflects the State's dedication to provide global-standard education and future-ready skills. Director of Higher Education Dr. Amarjeet Sharma and Director Elementary Education Ashish Kohli were also present on the occasion among others.

People celebrate CM's birthday with enthusiasm



DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, MAR 26

Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's 62nd birthday was celebrated at his official residence, Oak Over, Shimla with great enthusiasm where Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, party workers, Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of various Boards and Corporations, senior officers and a large number of people gathered to extend their heartfelt greetings.

Dressed in traditional attire, a jubilant crowd reached Oak Over, dancing to the beats of drums and nagaras and conveyed their best wishes to the Chief Minister on his birthday. Party workers cut cakes

and offered prayers for his long and healthy life. Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla also extended his birthday wishes to the Chief Minister telephonically.

A blood donation camp was also organized by State Youth Congress at the Ridge, Shimla to mark the birthday of the Chief Minister. Earlier, the Chief Minister launched a social awareness walkathon from H.P. Secretariat, by lighting a lamp and was culminated at H.P. Secretariat via the mall road. This event was organized by Himachal Pradesh Secretariat Services Sports Control Board on the birthday of the Chief Minister. He distributed 'halwa' on the occasion.

Chaitra Navratri fair in Chintpurni from March 30 to April 6

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA, MAR 26

The Chaitra Navratri fair at Mata Shri Chintpurni Temple will be held from March 30 to April 6. This was announced by SDM Amb, Sachin Sharma, while presiding over a meeting at Baba Shri Maidas Sadan to ensure the fair's smooth conduct. SDM Amb will serve as the fair officer, while DSP Amb has been designated as the police fair officer. To maintain law and order, the fair area will be divided into four sectors, with police and home guard personnel deployed. CCTV cameras will be extensively used to prevent any untoward incidents, and temple authorities have been directed to inspect the camera setup. For emergency medical aid, a 24-hour service will be available at Chintpurni Hospital, with the Block Medical Officer of Amb



serving as the fair's medical officer. Additionally, separate medical posts will be set up by the Health and Ayurveda Departments. The Jal Shakti Department has been instructed to ensure clean drinking water supply, including chlorination of all sources, while the Electricity Department has been directed to conduct inspections to prevent power disruptions. For security reasons, carrying coconuts inside the temple premises will be strictly prohibited. Devotees will have to deposit them at designated points before the main entrance. Signboards will also be placed across the

fairground for visitor guidance. Langar organizers must obtain prior permission from the Langar Committee by paying a Rs. 10,000 fee and adhering to sanitation and road safety regulations. Failure to comply could result in permit cancellation. Langars must be set up away from roads to avoid traffic congestion. Begging will be strictly prohibited during the fair, with police and home guards monitoring the premises. The Fire Department has been instructed to ensure all fire safety equipment is operational before the fair begins.

Governor calls for urgent action against drug menace in State

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, MAR 26

Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla has stressed for the setting up of de-addiction centre on large-scale in Himachal Pradesh and urged the government to take concrete steps towards its establishment. He highlighted the harsh impact of drug abuse on society and called upon every citizen to remain vigilant like a soldier and protect their homes and communities from the tentacles of drug abuse. He was speaking at the 'Kisan Mela and Anti-Drug Awareness Camp' at Khairi Research Farm, under the Regional Horticulture Research & Training Centre, Dhaula Kuan today. He stressed the importance of a united front in the fight



against drug addiction. The event was jointly organised by Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni (Solan) and ICAR – Central Cattle Research Institute, Meerut. He also inaugurated the Khairi Research Farm and the flagged off an anti-drug awareness rally on the occasion. He reaffirmed the commitment of the state to eradicating drug abuse and a

comprehensive campaign was being conducted across Himachal, in which people from various sections of society were involved. He cautioned that de-addiction efforts would remain ineffective without strong corrective measures. He particularly urged Panchayati Raj institutions particularly women to take a leading role in ensuring the success of the campaign. As a firm measure, he

announced that from the next academic session, every university student in the state will be required to sign an anti-drug pledge and any student found consuming drugs would face immediate expulsion.

The Governor said that, inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he had initiated the "Drug-Free Himachal Campaign", which, despite a slow start was now yielding positive results. He said that the fight against drugs can only be won by the active participation of teachers, parents and the youth against this. He expressed concern over the growing impact of addiction in rural areas as well, which can adversely affect the agrarian economy and well being of rural masses.

SJVN's NJHPS organises 23rd Edition of Vendor Development meet

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, MAR 26

SJVN's 1500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station (NJHPS) successfully organized the 23rd Edition of Vendor Development Meet for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) today. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Director (Personnel), SJVN was the Chief Guest of the occasion. The program commenced with lighting of the lamp by Chief Guest, Sh. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Sh. Ashutosh Bahuguna, HOP(NJHPS) and other senior dignitaries from Corporate Headquarters and various projects of SJVN. Ajay Kumar Sharma in his address highlighted that Vendor Development Meets play a pivotal role in fostering an inclusive ecosystem where MSMEs can grow and



succeed. He urged vendors to familiarize themselves with government norms and SJVN's procurement policies to ensure smooth and fair participation. The Vendor Development Meet featured detailed presentations by officials from MSME's, NSIC, National SC/ST Hub MSME and GeM, providing valuable insights for participating vendors. The vendors also shared their experiences and success stories of collaborating with the company. The event concluded with an open forum

where vendors and stakeholders engaged in discussions on best practices, challenges and the way forward in streamlining procurement processes while upholding ethical standards.

The Vendor Development Meet was attended by Sh. Manmeet Gupta, Dy. CVO from Corporate Headquarters, Sh. Rajeev Aggarwal, HOP (Sunni Dam HEP), J.S Nayyar, HOP (NMHPS), Vikas Marwah, HOP (Rampur HPS), Vivek Sharma, HOP (LHEP-I) and other senior officials from SJVN.

IIIT Una hosts inaugural session of 2-day workshop on 'Capacity Building for Design and Engineering'

DINESH AGARWAL
UNA, MAR 26

The Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Una successfully hosted the inaugural session of a two-day workshop on "Capacity Building for Design and Engineering." The workshop aims to enhance teaching methodologies and strengthen the learning process in design and engineering disciplines.

The workshop was inaugurated by the Chief Guest of the event Mr. Jayant Krishna, CEO & Executive Director of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC); in the esteemed presence of Dr. Sudhir Varadarajan, Program Director of Capacity Building for Design and Engineering (CBDE) and Dr.



H.S. Jatana, Group Head - Design & Process Group at SCL, Department of Space, Government of India. Their insights and experiences added immense value to the event. The session began with a Lamp Lighting Ceremony, followed by the felicitation of dignitaries. In his keynote address, Mr. Jayant Krishna emphasized the need for continuous capacity building and collaborative innovation in engineering education. He highlighted the role of such

workshops in shaping the future of design and engineering in India. Dr. Sudhir Varadarajan shared valuable insights on entrepreneurship, skill development, and the integration of industry needs with academic learning. Dr. H.S. Jatana provided thought-provoking perspectives on the evolving role of design and engineering and encouraged faculty members to drive meaningful transformations in pedagogy.

State-level Haroli Utsav-2025: Auditions for artists from April 8

Speaker Pathania acknowledges greetings during budget session



DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, MAR 26

Before the commencement of proceedings on the 13th day of the Budget Session, Himachal Pradesh Assembly Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania acknowledged greetings from the members inside the House. Later, Speaker Pathania presided over the proceedings, ensuring the smooth conduct of legislative discussions in the Assembly.

NEWS BRIEF

Satyra Bharti School
Tunganheri student
selected for Navodaya

GOGI KMAALPURIYA
RAIKOT: Student of Satya Bharti School Tunganheri, which is run by the Bharatiya Foundation, has been admitted to the sixth standard at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya of village Barundi, and there is an atmosphere of joy in the school and the parents.

School headmistress Sharanjit Kaur said that children are being given free quality education in Satya Bharti School and for the entrance examination of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, students have been selected for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya for the last many years and even before this, Hemant Singh of village Barundi, who has been selected for Navodaya. He further informed that the teachers are working hard to make the children eligible by providing good education through DCR in the school so that next year more male and female students can become eligible to study in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya.

Dhanaula veterinary
Hospital issue echoes in
Vidhan Sabha

KULDEEP SOOD
BARNALA: Dhanaula town of Barnala is home to the largest animal market in North India. But it is a matter of sorrow that the animal hospital built in this town is showing its dilapidated condition. Congress MLA from Barnala Kuldeep Singh Kala Dhillon asked a question to the Punjab Government's Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries Minister in this regard. In response to which Minister Gurmeet Singh Khudian said that a civil animal hospital is already functioning in Dhanaula. But its building is in a very bad condition. He said that at present there is no proposal from the government for a new animal hospital. He said that the process of bringing the land on which the hospital is built under the Animal Husbandry Department has been started.

89 students receive scholarships
at Dayal Singh College



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL: A scholarship distribution ceremony was held at Dayal Singh College, with Vice Admiral Satish Soni, General Secretary of the Dayal Singh College Trust Society, presiding over the event. College Principal Dr. Ashima Gakhar welcomed the chief guest with a sapling and encouraged students, wishing them success in their future endeavors. A total of 89 students received scholarships, including those from Arts, Commerce, and Science faculties, as well as meritorious students from NSS, NCC (Air and Army Wing), sports, cultural activities, and the women's cell. Addressing the students, Vice Admiral Satish Soni emphasized that scholarships are more than just financial assistance; they are an investment in students' potential. He congratulated the recipients and motivated them to embrace challenges, pursue knowledge, and strive for excellence. The event was hosted by Kritika, a final-year B.Com student. Dr. Mukta Jain, convener of the scholarship committee, delivered the vote of thanks. Faculty members Dr. Santosh Yadav, Dr. Ritu Sharma, Dr. Vandana Sabharwal, and Dr. Ruby were also present.

Auspicious blessing Yajna on Birthday of Padma
Shri Awardee Aryaratna Dr. Punam Suri

RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR, MAR 26

Under the aegis of the Arya Pradeshik Pratinidhi Upsabha, Haryana, and as part of the ongoing "Arya Samaj Sthapana Saptah" celebrations, a special Yajna was organized on March 25, 2025, at DAV Public School, Professor Colony, Yamunanagar, to mark the 77th birthday of the head of the Arya Samaj and DAV family, Padma Shri Awardee Aryaratna Dr. Punam Suri Ji. The Yajna was conducted under the guidance of Dharma shikshak Shri Naresh Kumar Shastri and in the presence of the school's Principal, Shri Vijay Kumar Kashiv. The entire staff participated with devotion, offering prayers for the long life, good health, and continued success of Aryaratna Dr. Punam Suri Ji. Following the Yajna, Principal Shri Vijay Kumar Kashiv highlighted Dr. Punam Suri Ji's dedication, commitment, and selfless service towards the upliftment of Arya Samaj and DAV institutions. He expressed gratitude for the opportunity to work under such an



inspiring leader and urged everyone to take inspiration from him and contribute selflessly to society. He then paid tribute to the esteemed head of the Arya Pradeshik Pratinidhi Upsabha, Mahatma Khushhal Chand Ji, recalling his sacrifices and contributions to Arya Samaj. Principal Kashiv mentioned that on March 22, 1939, Mahatma Khushhal Chand Ji, along with a large gathering, courted arrest, for which he was sentenced to 18 years of rigorous imprisonment, including breaking stones in prison.

HIV, AIDS, and drug de-addiction awareness
program organised at Indira Gandhi (P.G.)
Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Kaithal



SANJAY SHARMA
KAITHAL: An Awareness program on HIV, AIDS, and Drug De-addiction was organized at Indira Gandhi (P.G.) Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Kaithal, under the aegis of Red Cross & Red Ribbon Cell and National Service Scheme in collaboration with Shri Bhairavi Social Foundation, Kaithal, affiliated with Haryana AIDS Control Society, Government of Haryana. The event was presided over by the President , Governing Body Shri Ram Bahadur khurania. SHO Veena, In-charge, Women's Police Station, Kaithal, was the chief speaker and emphasized how drug addiction is ruining the future generations and contributing to the spread of diseases like HIV and AIDS, thereby endangering the nation's future. Dr. Ankita, Medical Officer, Civil Hospital, Kaithal, informed the students about preventive measures for HIV. Sunita Sharma, Protection Officer, Civil Hospital, Kaithal, motivated the students to lead a drug-free life.

Fake drug industry tarnishing Himachal's image

SHANTI GAUTAM
BADDI: The Himachal Pradesh State Drug Controller has exposed a fraudulent operation where counterfeit pharmaceutical manufacturers are using the names of Himachal-based companies, damaging the state's reputation. A recent case in Sonipat, Haryana, revealed that a company named "Paradox Pharmaceuticals

Baddi" was producing fake antibiotics. However, an investigation confirmed that no such company exists in Himachal Pradesh. Expressing concern, State Drug Controller Dr. Manish Kapoor stated that the increasing number of such cases indicates a deliberate conspiracy to malign Himachal's pharmaceutical industry. As one of India's leading

pharma hubs, the state is being targeted by unscrupulous elements. In the financial year 2024-25 alone, the Food and Drug Administrations of Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, and Haryana reported 20 instances of fake drug manufacturing attributed to companies supposedly based in Solan and Sirmour districts of Himachal.

Uttarakhand CM attends Shastraotsav at
Patanjali University, emphasizes Indian
scriptures as key to universal knowledge

AGENCY
UTTARAKHAND, MAR 26

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama attended the closing ceremony of the 62nd All India Shaastrotsav Competition at Patanjali University. During his address, he emphasized that Indian scriptures are not just texts but a means to understand the mysteries of the universe. He highlighted that the foundation of Indian culture and traditions lies in these ancient scriptures, which encompass deep knowledge of science, yoga, medicine, mathematics, and philosophy.

CM Dhama stated that the research conducted by sages and seers should not only be preserved as a legacy but also be expanded and developed in modern contexts. He mentioned that just as the profound



knowledge of Advaita Vedanta spread across India, Shaastrotsav would also help propagate the hidden wisdom of Sanskrit and scriptures across the nation and the world. He further stressed the need to present Vedas and scriptures in a practical manner to instill interest and confidence in future generations.

The Chief Minister reiterated that the state government is taking special steps to promote Sanatan and ancient Indian knowledge, aiming to establish it on a global level. He underscored the need to integrate India's rich Vedic knowledge more effectively into the education system. According to him, if ancient wisdom is presented with a scientific perspective, it could benefit all of humanity.

Patanjali University Chancellor Swami Ramdev also addressed the gathering, asserting that Sanskrit is not just a language but has the potential to lead the world in various fields. He stated that Sanatan Dharma and ancient Indian scriptures encompass knowledge from all domains.

Athletic competitions of girls organised under 'Save
the Daughter, Educate the Daughter' campaign



KULDEEP SOOD
BARNALA: Block level sports competitions were organized under the 'Save the Daughter, Educate the Daughter' campaign. Overall in-charge of these sports competitions and DM Sports Barnala Simardeep Singh Sidhu said that the competition of Barnala block was organized at Freedom Fighter Banta Singh Government High School Dhurkot under the leadership of Block Nodal Officer Harpreet Kaur, the competition of Block Shehna was organized at Shaheed Jashandeep Singh Sran Government High School Nainewal under the leadership of Block Nodal Officer Sureshta Rani and the competition of Block Mahal Kalan was organized at Shaheed Rehmat Ali Memorial Government High School Wajidke Kalan under the leadership of Block Nodal Officer Jaswinder Singh. From Block Barnala. In 400 m. Veeran Kaur Sass Kotduna, Gurpreet Kaur Sass Kaleke and Akanksha Sahas Bhaini Fatta, In 100 m. Rupali SOI Barnala, Khushpreet Kaur Samis Dhaula and Karanpreet Kaur Sahas Bhaini Phatta, in the long jump Lakhvir Kaur Sass Kan Barnala, Harmanjot Kaur Sahas Bhaini Phatta and Navdeep Kaur Sass Handiya.

Breakthrough in Bilaspur firing
case: Two more accused arrested

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY
BILASPUR: Police has achieved a significant breakthrough in the March 14 firing case involving former MLA Bamber Thakur, with the arrest of two more accused, Saurabh Patial alias Fandi, a resident of Naswal Tehsil Ghumarwin, and Kuldeep alias Shishu, a resident of Chalyana District Rohtak, Haryana, were taken into custody on Tuesday evening and presented in court on Wednesday. The court has granted a three-day police remand for both the accused. With these arrests, the total number of people taken into custody in this high-profile case has now reached seven. The police have intensified their investigation and dispatched teams to Haryana in search of the two remaining shooters. Sources indicate that more individuals are under surveillance, and preliminary inquiries suggest potential links between them and the accused. These suspects may also be interrogated soon. Bilaspur SP Sandeep Dhawal confirmed the arrests and stated that the interrogation of Fandi and Kuldeep will help unearth crucial details, potentially leading to the mastermind behind the attack. So far, police have recovered three pistols from those arrested, further aiding the investigation. The attack took place in broad daylight on March 14 at the government residence of Bamber Thakur's wife in Bilaspur, where unidentified assailants opened fire, injuring the former MLA and his PSO. With the arrests gaining momentum, law enforcement is inching closer to cracking the full conspiracy behind the incident.



Campaign launched by Punjab government, 'War
on Drugs', has become 'Burden' for the police

KULDEEP SOOD
BARNALA, MAR 26

The 'War on Drugs' launched by the Punjab government may be a good step, but this war has reminded us of the terrorism that took place in Punjab to some extent. The sacrifices made by the police to end terrorism during this period of terrorism are an unforgettable context. There were some such allegations made against the police to end it, which are still remembered today. According to the allegations, the police had tortured many innocent and innocent people to their heart's content in order to increase the stars on their uniforms and to take ransoms of lakhs of crores. The 'War on Drugs' is gradually taking a similar path. Under the guise of this war, some policemen pick up such youths etc. who are



drug addicts to some extent, but it is not their job to bring drugs and sell and distribute them. Some police officers pick up such individuals and start bargaining with their family members.

The family members are threatened that if they do not bargain with the police, they will be booked under a white collar (Chitta) case and sent to jail for at least 10 years. The family members, fearing the future of the young man, bargain with the police. A similar incident took place in

Barnala district, where the police picked up a youth who was taking drug pills during a raid. On investigation, the police find out that he only uses drugs and does not sell them, it is said that a deal of Rs 50,000 is struck. According to sources, he is given bail after being given 25 bottles of illicit liquor. When the senior police officers of the district were contacted to inform them about this incident, they adopted a policy of evasion.

Jathedar Daduwal leads sacred transportation of
Sri Guru Granth Sahib Swaroops to Hong Kong

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, MAR 26

Under the leadership of Jathedar Baljit Singh Daduwal, head of the Religious Propagation Committee of the Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (HSGPC), five Swaroops of Sri Guru Granth Sahib were transported to Hong Kong with full religious protocol via a special aircraft. Representatives from the Khalsa Diwan Sikh Temple in Hong Kong received them, and these sacred Swaroops will be ceremoniously enshrined at the Gurdwara.

Meanwhile, a Sikh delegation from Hong Kong brought back six older Swaroops to India. Inderpal Singh, General Secretary of the Guruparv Management Committee, stated that the



HSGPC's Religious Propagation Committee, under Jathedar Daduwal's guidance, is actively spreading Sikh teachings worldwide. This religious initiative was also conducted under his supervision.

The delegation from Hong Kong included Jaskaran Singh, Secretary of the Khalsa Diwan Sikh Temple Committee, along with Bhai Jivan Singh, Bhai Baljinder Singh, and other associates. They formally handed over the old

Swaroops to the Religious Propagation Committee while receiving the new ones with due reverence. The entire process was carried out in accordance with Sikh traditions, from their transportation to their placement aboard the special aircraft. Present at the occasion were HSGPC's internal member Guru Prasad Singh, Religious Propagation Committee Secretary Sarvjit Singh, In-charge of Nada Sahib Sikandar Singh.

Employment fair held at Karnal Employment Office, 51 youths selected

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL: A job fair was organized at the employment office premises on Wednesday, where 51 youths secured employment opportunities. Divisional Employment Officer Rajesh Kumar informed that four recruiters participated in the fair, offering around 122 vacancies. Over 115 candidates attended the event. Representatives from Berry Udyog Pvt. Ltd., Pukhraj Health Care, Ramya Health



Care, and Reliance Nippon Life Insurance interviewed candidates for positions such as wellness advisor, life planning officer, welder, fitter, painter, and helper.

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Demand Notice Under Section 13(2) of Securitisation Act of 2002

As the Loan Account Became NPA therefore The Authorised Officer (AO) Under section 13 (2) Of Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 had issued 60 day demand notice to the borrower as given in the table. According to the Notice if the Borrower does not deposit the Amount within 60 days, the amount will be recovered from Auction of the security as given below. As the demand Notice send to the borrower/guarantor has not been served, copy of demand notice has also been affixed on the secured assets as given below. Therefore you the borrower is informed to deposit the loan amount along with future interest and recovery expenses within 60 days, otherwise under the provisions of section 13 (4) and 14 of the said Act, the AO is free to take possession of the Security as given below.

Name of the Borrower	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of Mortgaged property
MEERA DEVI, KRISHNA AVTAR (A/C NO.) LNHLD17623-240293259	26 MAR 25 Rs. 1280940/- 26 MAR 25	KHASRA NO 104 MIN, NEAR BHARAT GAS GODAM, PREMPUR LOSHGyani, TEHSIL-HALDOWANI, DIST:- NAINITAL, UTTARAKHAND 263139 ADMEASURING 589.15 SQ.FT

Place : Jaipur

Date : 27.03.2025

Authorised Officer Aavas Financiers Limited

NEWS BRIEFS

Worship programme in Anganwadi centres held

RANVIR PARASHAR
GUHLA-CHEEKA: Women and Child Development and Health Department organised a well worship programme in Anganwadi centres with the help of women with daughters under Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao Abhiyan in Hansu Majra and Sultania villages of Guhla block. During the programme, Supervisor Kavita told the women that gender-based discrimination is wrong, do not commit female foeticide, nor support anyone in such a crime. While making women aware, Supervisor Kavita said that female foeticide, gender discrimination is not only a dreadful disease spread in the society but it is also a sin. Son-daughter based discrimination in society is not good. Daughters should be educated well and they should not be married before 18 years of age.

Huge consignment of illegal weapons recovered

RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNA NAGAR, MAR 26

DSP Ashish Chaudhary said that Superintendent of Police Rajiv Deswal has given strict orders to arrest the criminals who trade in illegal weapons. Working in this regard, the team of Crime Branch-2 has arrested Sachin son of Arun resident Mahesh Nagar Ambala Cantt and Kewal Singh son of Valvinder Singh resident Sector-23 Defense Colony Ambala. So far 4 pistols, two pistol magazines, one revolver and 51 live rounds have been recovered from their possession. Both the accused will be produced in honorable court today and taken on police remand and will be thoroughly interrogated about the recovered pistols, revolvers and ammunition. Previous criminal record of the accused is being investigated. Many criminal cases are registered against ac-



cused Sachin in district Ambala. Accused are also being strictly interrogated about

other crimes and his associates. He said that Superintendent of Police Rajiv

Deswal has given strict orders to arrest criminals who trade in illegal weapons. Team of Crime Branch-2 has arrested Sachin son of Arun resident Mahesh Nagar Ambala Cantt and Kewal Singh son of Valvinder Singh resident Sector-23 Defense Colony Ambala. So far 4 pistols, two pistol magazines, one revolver and 51 live rounds have been recovered from their possession. Both the accused will be produced in the honorable court today and taken on police remand and will be thoroughly interrogated about the recovered pistols, revolvers and ammunition. The previous criminal record of the accused is being investigated. Many criminal cases are registered against accused Sachin in district Ambala.

Traders, small taxpayers will benefit from 'OTS 2025 for Recovery of Haryana Dues': Jagmohan Anand

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL MARCH 26

Karnal MLA Jagmohan Anand thanked Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini for approving the amendment to the 'One Time Settlement Scheme 2025 for Recovery of Haryana Dues' in the budget session and said that this scheme will benefit small traders and taxpayers. The MLA said that the main objective of the revised scheme in line with the BJP's Sankalp Patra is to benefit small taxpayers. Under this scheme, an applicant who has tax dues up to Rs 10 lakh in all the years under any relevant Act will get a rebate of Rs one lakh. He said that the percentage of arrears of small traders is quite high, which is less than Rs 10 lakh and they will be able to avail the benefits of this scheme. The applicant can opt for this scheme within 180 days from the due date and interest as well as penalty levied under any section of the concerned Act will be waived for the particular year under the concerned Act for which the applicant has ap-



plied. Further, the outstanding amount to be recovered under the scheme will be determined on the basis of outstanding amount till the date of application for the scheme. The MLA said that with the objective of reducing the burden of arrears, litigation in the GST system and speeding up the recovery of arrears, the government has decided to settle the quantitative arrears of taxpayers by launching this settlement scheme. Due to recovery challenges and disputed demands at various levels, a large amount of arrears has been pending for a long time. This scheme will settle the matters related to pending arrears. The MLA said that the promises made in the BJP's Sankalp Patra will be fulfilled one by one. The state government under the leadership of Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini

is on the path of all-round development and development works are being carried out without any discrimination. Now a triple engine government will work in the state and development work for the common people will be done at a faster pace.

Awareness programme organized on topic of importance of decision in building future at Titram Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya

RANVIR PARASHAR
KAITHAL: Divisional Child Welfare Officer Rohtak and State Nodal Officer Anil Malik said that the decisions we take today start a series of events, which determine the direction of future life. Therefore, the choice of options during adolescence is like the foundation of future life. Adolescence is the age of physical, mental and emotional change, so before taking any decision, question yourself with complete honesty on every aspect and move forward only after taking an unbiased decision.

State Nodal Officer Anil Malik was speaking at a program organized under the aegis of the State Level Child Advice, Counseling and Welfare Center established by Haryana State Child Welfare Council at PM Shri School Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya located in Titram village on Wednesday. He appealed to the students to never take any decision by getting carried away by emotions, never be afraid of change or transformation, take important decisions of life only after thinking about the long-term consequences, keep the goal clear.

Cadet Lalit brings laurels by winning gold in obstacle training contest

PRITI SAINI
SADHAURA, MARCH 26

First year cadet Lalit of NCC unit of DAV College Sadhaura has brought laurels to the constituency by winning first place and gold medal in the two-day obstacle training competition organised by 14th Haryana Battalion in Yamunanagar. NCC in-charge of DAV College Sadhaura, Dr. Anupam Khanna said that 16 colleges of the district had participated in this competition. In this competition, a total of 10 levels had to be crossed like straight balance, clear jump, gate vault, zigzag balance, high wall, double ditch, etc. which cadet Lalit successfully crossed in just 25 seconds without any mistake. Dr. Khanna told that 15 cadets from the NCC unit of the college had participated in this competition, in which 10 were boys and 5 were girls. Out of 53 cadets in NCC in the college, 21 are girls who are in no way less than boys. College Principal Prof. Tejveer Singh praised Lalit's success and said that this achievement



is the result of hard work, discipline and dedication. This success is a matter of pride not only for a cadet but for the entire unit. He said that Lalit's excellent performance will become a source of inspiration for other cadets as well. He encouraged all the cadets to move forward with the same energy and commitment in the future and set new dimensions.

Closing ceremony of 7-day NSS camp held

MAINPAL KASHYAP
INDRI, MARCH 26

Closing ceremony was organised on the last day of the seven-day camp being run by National Service Scheme of Shaheed Udham Singh Government College Matak Majri. Dr. Anand Kumar NSS Program Coordinator Kurukshetra University Kurukshetra participated as the chief guest in the camp. The programme was started by lighting the lamp by the chief guest, college principal Dr. Mahendra Singh Bagi, all the members of the advisory committee and college council. First Unit in-charge Professor Dimple gave a warm welcome and felicitated to the chief guest, principal and all the staff members present and thanked the state level NSS cell, Kurukshetra University Kurukshetra NSS Coordinator for providing financial assistance and permission to organize this camp. College principal Dr. Mahendra Singh and members of the college council formally welcomed today's chief guest by giving flowers. Chief guest Dr Anand Kumar while addressing all the volunteers said



that organising such camps develops students' confidence and personality, and motivated the students to actively participate in such camps. While addressing the students, he said that whatever they are learning from this camp they should also work to propagate it in the society and imbibe the spirit of social service. Cultural presentations were presented by the volunteers.

Second unit in-charge Professor Kuldeep took the proceedings forward and distributed the certificates. Certificates were distributed to all the volunteers by the chief guest. In the end, third unit in-

charge Professor Bal Rishi formally thanked all present. On this occasion, Dr. Rajiv Kumar Gupta, Dr. Rajkumar, Dr. Anil Dhillon, Dr. Karamveer Singh, Dr. Ranveer Singh, Dr. Gulab, Dr. S.B. Bhardwaj, Professor Pradeep, Professor Sumit, Professor Naresh, Professor Laxmi, Professor Rajni, English Department, Professor Manju Saini, Sanskrit Department and Professor Bharti and Ankur were also present. The Principal congratulated National Service Scheme unit in-charge Professor Dimple, Professor Kuldeep and Professor Bal Rishi on the successful completion of the camp.

Dr Arvind Sharma expresses grief over demise of former RS MP DP Vats' mother



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
HISAR: Cabinet Minister Dr. Arvind Sharma reached Hisar on Wednesday and expressed grief over the demise of former Rajya Sabha MP and Lieutenant General DP Vats' mother Harkara Devi and expressed condolences to the family. He offered flowers to the picture of late Harkara Devi and prayed to the Almighty God to give place to the departed soul at his feet and give strength to the family to bear this grief.

Rotary Yamunanagar Rivera organises blood donation camp

RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR: Rotary Yamunanagar Rivera organised a blood donation camp at Guru Nanak Khalsa College. 251 units of blood were collected in this camp. Principal Rotarian Sanjeev Sethi said that blood donation is considered Mahadaan (great donation) because it can save someone's life. Donating blood not only benefits the person to whom your blood is transfused, but you also benefit from it. Giving a new life to someone else with your blood is considered a great deed. This is the reason why blood donation is called Mahadaan (great donation). Usually, donated blood is used to treat various medical conditions such as blood deficiency, anemia, accidents and cancer. This should be done regularly. On this occasion, Rotarians Ritu Sethi, Ritu Gupta, Amit Gupta, Amardeep Singh, Kamalpreet Kaur, Anil Kumar Grover, Mini Grover, Neeraj Mahajan, Abhishek Midha, Arvind Singh, Tarun Chawla, Puneet Nair, Munish Agarwal, Seema Agarwal, Sanjay Anand, Manoj Panjeta, Ghanshyam Agarwal, Jagjit Singh Mann, Divya Arora, Rajiv Gupta, Rajesh Sethi, Jagjit Singh Mann made important contributions. Guro Nanak Khalsa College Committee, Yamuna Nagar S. Randeep Singh Johar, President, Major Rajinder Singh Bhatti, Vice President S. Balwant Singh Banga, General Secretary, S. Amardeep Singh, Finance Secretary Dr. Peer Ghulam Nabi Suhail, Group CEO Chief Executive Officer Dr. Peer, Management Head Dr. Bhatti and College Principal Dr. Pratima Sharma also encouraged people to donate blood.



Students of Guru Brahmanand Govt Polytechnic Institute selected by companies

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL/NILOKHERI, MARCH 26

Students of Guru Brahmanand Govt Polytechnic Institute got selected in many companies. All the teachers of the institute including the Principal congratulated and blessed the selected students. The results of various national/international companies for employment held recently in Guru Brahmanand Government Polytechnic Institute Nilokheri, one of the best polytechnics of Northern India, have been declared. The Principal and the Heads of the Departments congratulated all the selected students. They informed that 40 students of various branches of the institute have been selected in different national/international companies in a single day. Addressing all the selected students, Principal Benu Bajaj congratulated everyone and motivated them to move forward. Box

Selection in these companies: Principal Benu Bajaj informed that the companies in which the students have been selected include Jindal Stainless Steel, Vivo Mobile India Private Limited, Faridabad and Pi Soft Mohali and the salary of these companies is between 3.60 lakhs to 4 lakhs. Pradeep Rana said that this institution is so famous that the companies want to get

the students to join from 1st April itself. For which the companies have taken written consent from the students and their parents. Head of the Department Ajit Singh and Head of the Department Pawan Verma also congratulated all the selected students and inspired everyone to bring glory to the society and the country.



Training was done. Placement Officer Vikas Sharma congratulated the students. He said that his goal is that 100 per cent of the students should get employment in good companies. He said that his entire team is engaged in this work. On this occasion, senior professor Ashit Bajaj and Virendra Chaudhary also congratulated the selected students for their dedication, hard work and bright future.

UKG class result declared in St. Peter Convent School

DALBIR MALIK
KURUKSHETRA, MARCH 26

UKG class result was declared in St. Peter Convent School in which the students of the class and their parents also participated enthusiastically. While conducting the stage, Vanshika Sharma greeted all the parents. The chief guest of this programme was MD Pankaj Arora of Little Campus International School. The programme started by lighting a lamp in front of Maa Saraswati. Pankaj Arora said in his address that today is a proud moment for all of us. Today is a special day for all the children because the result of the hard work they have done throughout the year is that they have now been promoted to the next class. On this occasion, he welcomed all the parents and children to the annual function of the school. School director Ranjana Sharma said that the entire education in the school is activity based and technology based. She also said that the school is always ready for the all-round development of the students. After this, UKG students presented a colourful programme which mesmerised the audience. After that, the school's head teacher Vipin Kumar, chief guest and director Ranjana Sharma awarded the children. On



this occasion, the parents of the children praised the school.

At the end of the programme, the school's head teacher Vipin thanked the guests and inspired the mother power by saying that she is the first teacher of the student. Giving the example of Shivaji and Maharana Pratap, he said that they are called good rulers and warriors in history who are remembered even today only because of the first education given by their mothers.

Blood donation camp held by NIFAA under Samvedna 2 campaign

CHAMAN LAL
KARNAL, MARCH 26

Under the "Samvedna 2" campaign of the National Integrated



ana Roadways Driving School officials Davinder Kumar, Vinod Kumar, Ashok Arora, NIFAA's founding president Pritpal Singh Pannu, senior advisor Bhupinder

on them and presenting them with a special certificate. This certificate bore the signatures of the family members of martyrs Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev,

Udhham Singh, Ashfaqulla Khan, as well as Param Vir Chakra awardees Abdul Hamid, Nirmaljit Singh Sekhon, Captain Vikram Batra, Jayant Rishi, and G.S. Dhindsa.

The smooth execution of the camp was significantly supported by NIFAA district executive members Satinder Gandhi, Mukul Gupta, and city president Maninder Singh. NIFAA Chairman Pritpal Singh Pannu stated that the organisation is running a

nationwide campaign in memory of martyrs and to address the shortage of blood. So far, approximately 1,600 blood donation camps have been registered across the country, with more than 200 of them in Haryana alone. Haryana State President Shrawan Sharma is actively coordinating with NIFAA branches and other organizations across districts to collect a large number of blood units under this campaign. The Indian Red Cross Society and NIFAA are also collaborating as supporting partners in this initiative. Swami Prem Murti urged everyone to come forward and donate blood. Haryana Roadways Head Foreman Davinder Kumar emphasized that blood donation is a noble act, and the extensive blood donation camps organised by NIFAA.

Will prepare mass movement against khalistanis: Shandilya

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
AMBALA, MARCH 26

Anti Terrorist Front India and Vishwa Hindu Takht Pramukh Veeresh Shandilya in the presence of Jagatguru Shankaracharya Swami Gyanananda of Tirth Jyotimath Avantara Bhanupura Peeth said that till the last drop of blood is running in his body, he will continue to prepare a mass movement against terrorists, Khalistanis and anti-national forces and will be ready to make any sacrifice for the strengthening of Sanatan Dharma. Veeresh Shandilya today reached Shri Krishna Divya Ashram Shiv Dham Gaurital Mandir Mullana to pay tribute to Shri Shri 1008 Param Puja Shri Maa Divya Bharti Ji Maharaj on her demise on behalf of



Anti Terrorist Front India and Vishwa Hindu Takht and paid tribute to Maa Divya Bharti and took blessings of many saints including Jagatguru Shankaracharya Swami Gyanananda of Bhanupura Peeth. Thousands of devotees associated with Krishna Divya Ashram were present on this occasion. Jagatguru

Shankaracharya blessed Veeresh Shandilya by garlanding him with flowers.

Shandilya paid tribute to Param Puja Maa Divya Bharti who was born in Indore in 1951 and for the last many years was doing the work of public welfare, renovation of temples and awakening faith in God in Mullana Ashram un-

der the guidance of Jagatguru Shankaracharya Gyananand. Veeresh Shandilya said that today I am sitting on the stage among Jagatguru Shankaracharya and many saints and paying tribute to Mata Divya Bharti, which I am not worthy of, but sitting with the saints, I am definitely feeling that the sins committed knowingly or unknowingly will be forgiven and in the presence of Jagatguru Shankaracharya, I am feeling as if I have taken a Kumbh bath today. Veeresh Shandilya said that souls like Maa Divya Bharti never die, they become immortal. He said that when Shankaracharya and many religious gurus and saints came to pay tribute to her on her demise today, then definitely the doors of Vaikuntha have opened for them.

Editorial

Problematic

Pronouncements by courts carry special resonance. Not only can these be used in later cases as legal precedents but a controversial judgment heightens the chances of misinterpretation and even misapplication. The recent verdict by a judge of the Allahabad High Court which declared that grabbing a minor's breasts, tearing her pyjama strings, and trying to drag her under a culvert were not enough to suggest an attempt to rape merits attention in this regard. This judgment on the degree of offence is in conflict with the view of the Supreme Court, which has, in the past, clearly laid down that even mens rea — moral guilt or the intention to commit a crime — “is no less than the actual commission”. It is thus surprising that the apex court, which is usually a steadfast defender of women's rights and safety, has refused to entertain a plea challenging the verdict. The Union minister of women and child development has pointed out, quite rightly, that the verdict will have an adverse impact on society. Legal experts have also expressed concern that verdicts such as these can end up trivialising sexual assaults on women and leave them even more vulnerable than they already are by introducing a sense of licence; there has been an appeal to the chief justice of India to take suo motu cognisance of this case.

The wisdom of the judgment also needs to be questioned in light of data: figures from the National Crime Records Bureau show that one woman is raped every 16 minutes in India. One of the reasons for this shocking number is the abysmally low conviction rate in rape cases. In 2024, the ministry of statistics and programme implementation revealed that only 2.56% of rape cases that went to trial ended in conviction. On many occasions, the courts' views on relevant matters have been perplexing. In 2020, a Karnataka court gave bail to a man accused of rape because the woman had fallen asleep after the violative act; the woman's action, the court said, was “unbecoming of an Indian woman”. In 2020, the Madhya Pradesh High Court had granted bail to a man accused of sexual harassment on the condition that he would request the complainant to tie a rakhi on him and promise to protect her. The issue thus goes beyond the question of legality; such judgments lay bare the embedded nature of misogyny and patriarchal notions in society and its institutions. Could the induction of more women judges help?

Religious minority victimisation
soars in Pakistan in 2025

The Human Rights Focus Pakistan (HRFP) on Wednesday released a damning report on the first quarter of 2025, spotlighting a sharp rise in victimisation rates and challenges faced by religious minorities in Pakistan.

The organisation condemned the escalating abuses, noting that relief and justice remain elusive due to resource constraints and the emboldened mindset of perpetrators, often backed by influential religious and political figures.

HRFP President Naveed Walter, addressing the findings, stated, "Religious minorities in Pakistan are easier targets for attacks, murders, blasphemy charges, abductions, forced conversions, and forced marriages. The lack of attention to their suffering and neglect is even more painful."

He pointed to a surge in incidents since January 2025, citing cases like Wasif Masih, a Christian youth from Chak Jhumra, Faisalabad, falsely accused of theft, assaulted, and publicly humiliated with black paint on his face.

The report detailed harrowing cases, including the abduction of 12-year-old Ariha Gulzar from Okara on January 20, who was forcibly converted and married to her abductor, Sajjad Baloch, with her family still fighting for her release amid threats. Similarly, Javed Masih, a 30-year-old shopkeeper



from Sahiwal, was brutally attacked on February 11 over a fabricated blasphemy claim after a pricing dispute, forcing him into hiding. Shahnaz Bibi, 24, from Pattoki, was faced with abduction and forced conversion on February 20, amplifying concerns within the Christian diaspora.

Other incidents include Mehwish Nazir from Faisalabad, accused of theft by her employers on February 6 due to her faith, with her brother Rehman still imprisoned, and Farhan Masih from Sahiwal, falsely charged with

blasphemy on January 26, pushing his family into financial ruin.

Walter also flagged ongoing cases like Akash Karamat's 17-month imprisonment on blasphemy charges and the mysterious death of 16-year-old Samia Boota in Lahore on March 1, treated as murder.

The report highlighted communal unrest, such as protests in Khaliq Nagar, Lahore, on March 20 over flooding of dirty water, and the desecration of a Christian cemetery in Narowal in February for land-grabbing.

A church fire in Sargodha on February 23, officially attributed to a short circuit, destroyed the UP Church, with HRFP urging a thorough probe.

Walter noted, "HRFP's REAT Helpline received over 400 calls in the first three months of 2025, mostly about religious persecution."

HRFP called for independent investigations into the rising blasphemy cases, particularly those involving minors, as advocates press for systemic change to protect Pakistan's vulnerable minorities.

Literature & Health

RBI to continue with rate cuts as growth faces potential headwinds

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is expected to continue reducing the repo rate as economic growth faces potential headwinds and inflation is likely to fall in the central bank's target range, according to a report by HDFC Mutual Fund.

The report highlighted that global growth momentum is at risk of slowing, particularly as economic conditions in the US begin to show signs of softening.

The report noted that while US economic growth has remained relatively stable, recent data points, including Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), consumption spending, and the housing sector, indicate a gradual slowdown.

It said, "Policy uncertainty and escalating trade tensions under the new US administration might weigh on growth over time. Thus, there is increasing risk of global growth momentum decelerating".

The report raised concerns about whether the period of "U.S. exceptionalism"—a phase of strong economic outper-



formance—may be fading. Additionally, policy uncertainty and rising trade tensions under the new U.S. administration could weigh on economic expansion over time, further contributing to global growth concerns.

In this context, the report says that the RBI is expected to continue with the rate-cut cycle to support economic growth. The report adds that inflation is expected to remain close to the central bank's target, aided by stable core inflation and a favorable base effect.

South Korea: Death toll rises to 18 as wildfires

The death toll from a series of wildfires in the southeastern region of South Korea has climbed to 18, with one person still missing, Yonhap News Agency reported, citing forest service officials on Wednesday.

According to Yonhap News Agency, firefighters are still working to control the rapidly spreading fires as the wildfires, which started in Sancheong County, South Gyeongsang Province, last Friday, have spread to Uiseong and are advancing toward Andong, Cheongsong, Yeongyang, and Yeongdeok, fuelled by strong, dry winds.

Of the victims, two were found in Andong, three in Cheongsong, six in Yeongyang, and seven in



Yeongdeok. One person remains missing in Cheongsong. Additionally, 10 people have been injured, with two suffering serious wounds.

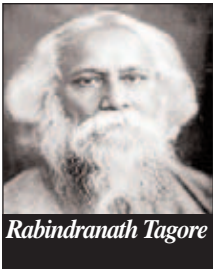
In Yeongyang, four of the five victims were discovered burnt to death on a road around 11:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Yonhap News Agency reported. On

Wednesday, South Korean acting President Han Duck-soo urged a full-scale effort to prevent further spread of the deadly fires, calling them "the worst wildfires ever." According to Yonhap News Agency, citing Han's report, fires have so far destroyed 17,000 hectares of forest and 209 houses and factories.

POEM

My Song

This song of mine will wind its music around you, my child, like the fond arms of love.



This song of mine will touch your forehead like a kiss of blessing. When you are alone it will sit by your side and whisper in your ear, when you are in the crowd it will fence you about with aloofness. My song will be like a pair of wings to your dreams, it will transport your heart to the verge of the unknown.

Rabindranath Tagore

Renowned urdu scholar Dr. H.K. Lall passes away

Dr. H.K. Lall was not just a scholar of Urdu; he was its devoted guardian, a torchbearer who illuminated countless lives with the beauty of the language. Born in Pak-Pattan (now in Pakistan) and uprooted during Partition, he found his true calling in a language that was not even his mother tongue—Urdu.

The first person to earn a Ph.D. in Urdu from Panjab University, his journey was one of relentless dedication. For nearly five decades, he taught Urdu free of cost, shaping the linguistic and literary futures of judges, bureaucrats, artists, professors, housewives, lawyers, doctors, and scholars, many of whom went on to earn Ph.D.s themselves.

His magnetic personality, wit, and effortless grace made him a legend in his lifetime. He said that: “NOT THAT PEOPLE SHOULD LEARN MORE URDU, BUT MORE PEOPLE SHOULD LEARN URDU. Some students who had joined his session 20-30 years ago still came to meet



him, stay in touch with him and even join again only to listen to his voice. His unique style of teaching by giving examples, reciting Urdu couplets, relating his teachings to different stories, showing his

own immense knowledge and a very firm grasp on the subject. He has so much knowledge that even famous scholars do not possess. And the marvel is that he has learnt all this himself and not from any formal teacher and nor is Urdu his mother tongue.

He said he is still learning and will always continue to do so. Claims Urdu is a sweet language and as it is written from the right to left, it is the correct language, the right language. Along with shouldering the responsibility of his job, he made sure, just like he does today, that his duty and passion towards the Urdu class is fulfilled. At times, he used to give his social and domestic 9/10/21, 5:28 PM 3/4 responsibilities a miss, but never missed the Urdu Classes. He wishes to spread it to every nook and corner of the world.

According to him, Urdu should be linked with employment. He appeals to each student to refer one student at least for the next session. He is truly

Urdu personified. Even at the age of 84, he embraced the challenge of online teaching during the pandemic, proving that his passion knew no bounds.

The online classes have been a raging success with students joining from all parts of the world. BBC Punjabi prepared a special programme feature on him. Punjabi Tribune gave him an assignment to write weekly articles under the caption “Aao Urdu Seekhein” which went very well and he got a tremendous response which cannot be described in words. In about seven, eight articles, he received over one hundred phone calls from readers not only from India but abroad.

He has had many write ups, articles and creations published in several magazines, papers and other publications. He has been covered by press many number of times with articles about him being published in newspapers like Hindustan Times, The Tribune and many more. Magazines like India Today, Democratic

World, etc. have covered him many a time. Many news channels have interviewed him time and again over the years. Showered with numerous accolades, including Lifetime Achievement Awards and recognition from Sahitya Akademi and Panjab University and multiple others, the only honor that eluded him was a high state recognition—one that now, in his absence, we hope is rightfully bestowed.

Dr. Lall never sought accolades; his only mission was to ensure that Urdu flourished. Dr. Lall often said, “Khidmat-e-Urdu karoonga umr bhar, ye meri pooja mera imaan hai,” and he lived by these words. His passing leaves an irreplaceable void in the world of education and literature, but his name and contributions will shine eternally, immortalized in the very language he loved.

His Instagram and Facebook pages by the name Dr. H.K. Lall often showcase snippets and videos of his classes and loved by people around the globe!

NEWS BRIEF

Jhansa Grain Market's Aahartiya Association tear into two factions



YAGYA DUTT SHASTRI
PEHOWA: The Association of Grain Market Jhansa has been torn into two factions when on Tuesday a group met and announced its head. At the same time, the second faction of the agents also held a meeting under the chairmanship of former head Jagdish Pahlwa and unanimously declared Nirdosh Kakkar as its head. With which the atmosphere of grain market turned hot. The newly appointed head Mr Kakkar said that they would fulfill the responsibility entrusted by the Grain Market's Aadhatis with full loyalty and honesty and would continue to work to remove the problems of the agents, farmers, paledars. He said that the work will be done to carry forward the farmers and the agents by taking decisions in the interest of the grain market.

This budget will take Punjab forward and make state prosperous and thriving once again: Aman Arora

GAURAV GOEL
CHANDIGARH, MAR 26

Praising the Punjab Budget 2025-26, Aam Aadmi Party Punjab President Aman Arora said that this budget will take Punjab forward and make the state prosperous and thriving once again. Addressing a press conference at the party office along with Cabinet Minister Harbhajan Singh ETO, AAP leaders Neel Garg and Sunny Ahluwalia, Aman Arora stated that no new tax has been levied in the Rs. 2.36 lakh crore budget. At the same time, revenue has increased by 14% compared to the previous year. He said that this budget reflects the AAP government's action against drugs and its commitment to eradicating drugs. The budget has allocated Rs. 110 crore for advanced anti-drone systems to combat cross-border smuggling. Additionally, Rs. 150 crore has been allocated for Punjab's first "drug census." Furthermore, Rs. 125 crore will be spent on improving



the '112 emergency' services. For this, the government will purchase 1,674 two-wheelers and four-wheelers, reducing the police response time to just 8 minutes. Arora said that promoting sports is a better way to eradicate drugs. Therefore, the AAP government is also reviving Punjab's sporting tradition. A budget of Rs. 979 crore has been allocated for sports in the 2025-26 budget, the highest ever. Sports grounds in every village and over 3,000 indoor gyms are also

being constructed. The AAP government is also building a "Healthy Punjab." This year's budget has decided to bring 65 lakh families under health insurance, increasing the coverage under the 'Chief Minister Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana' from Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh per family, with Rs. 778 crore allocated for this purpose. The health department's budget has been increased to around Rs. 5,600 crore, including Rs. 268 crore for Aam Aadmi Clinics. These clinics treat

over 70,000 patients daily and have treated more than 3 crore people so far. An allocation of over Rs. 18,000 crore has been made for education, the highest ever. Arora stated that quality education and health are the government's priorities. Additionally, the budget includes provisions for installing 2.5 lakh streetlights, which will provide significant convenience and enhance safety for people. This year's budget also includes Rs. 250 crore to incentivize industry. Arora stated that the AAP government is promoting trade and industry in the state. Over the last three years, Punjab has attracted investments worth approximately Rs. 97,000 crore. Special provisions have also been made in the budget for rural development, under which nearly 19,000 kilometers of link roads in villages will be repaired and constructed. He said such a budget is possible because the AAP government is working honestly for the development of the people of Punjab.

SDM Munjal tells importance of conserving water

MAINPAL KASHYAP
INDRI, MAR 26

SDM Ashok Munjal said that water was very important in our life. It was the basis of the life of all beings living on earth. We can stay for several days without food but it becomes difficult to spend half a day without water. Knowing that water is life, we remain unaware of the importance of water and are constantly wasting it. We are wasting so much waste we could not understand this simple thing. This simple thing is actually very precious.

In fact, we neither understand our responsibility towards the use of water nor tell others its importance. If the tap is open somewhere in the public sector, then we do not consider our responsibility to close it. We waste water by using excess water for bathing, washing clothes, cleaning, says SDM Ashok Munjal. He said that there were many places in our country, where people were badly disturbed by water



shortage. Animals and birds also die with thirst. At the same time, people have to walk miles to get a bucket of water in many places.

Water crisis was increasing in many parts of the world, especially in developing countries. The government was taking necessary steps to solve the water problem rapidly. He told that it was the responsibility of all of them to save water, only then they can keep water safe for the future generation.

He said that started water saving step from home. With a little sense, we can give this important gift to the coming generations.

DAV Management Committee National President Padmashree Poonam Suri's birthday celebrated



YAGYA DUTT SHASTRI
PEHOWA: The Arya Samaj Week at Anil Kumar DAV Public School, which was running from March 19 to 30 March by Arya Territorial Representative Subs Assembly, under which the National President and Principal Arya Regional Assembly of DAV Management Committee, New Delhi Padmashree Dr. Poonam Suri was organized to commemorate the 77th birthday of Vedic Havan Yagya in the school for his longevity. In which the Principal of the school Sanjay Sharma and Om Prakash Garg Memorial Public School Ladwa, Bhavna Gupta and all the staff members made a full sacrifice in the Havan Yagya and wished the longevity and good health of the Pradhan Padmashree Dr. Poonam Suri. On this occasion principal of the school Sanjay Sharma said that Dr. Poonam Suri was not only an active social person but she was also a true patriot.

Darshan Academy Kaithal organises Graduation Ceremony



SANJAY SHARMA
KAITHAL: Graduation Ceremony at Darshan Academy, Partap Gate, Kaithal held with great enthusiasm and joy for the students of UKG and Grade VIII on Wednesday. The event marked an important milestone in the lives of the young graduates as they have completed their foundational years of learning. The graduates, dressed in colorful gowns and caps, proudly marched to the stage to receive their certificates. The event was also featured delightful performances, including songs, dances. Parents beamed with pride, capturing precious moments as their children celebrated their achievements in the ceremony. The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks by the honorable Principal, left everyone with happy memories and a sense of accomplishment. It was indeed a memorable day for the students, parents, and teachers alike.

Officers should deal with complaints received on CM window on priority basis: DC



RANVIR PARASHAR
KAITHAL: A meeting was organized in auditorium of Mini Secretariat today regarding CM window and Jan Samvad portal. While chairing meeting, DC Preeti gave instructions to officers to resolve pending complaints soon as well as basic mantra. She said that all officers should take CM window complaints seriously and deal with them on priority basis. Call complainant and listen to his complaint carefully and satisfy him by taking action on it as per rules. She said that all officers should handle CM window portal and Jan Samvad portal themselves. Check your portal every day and upload action taken report on time. Action taken report should be based on facts and of good quality. There are many complaints in which more than one department is involved. Officers should solve such problems by mutual coordination instead of sending complaints to each other. If any problem arises, come and meet them. DC said that most of complaints are related to marking in the village. All BDPOs should coordinate with Tehsildar offices and resolve such complaints as soon as possible.

ADC investigates crop girdawari in Balu and Patti Kayastha Seth



RANVIR PARASHAR
KAITHAL: ADC Deepak Babu Lal Karwa visited Balu and Patti Kayastha Seth village today and investigated the girdawari on spot. Inspecting spot with the officials of Revenue Department, ADC matched information recorded in Sajra and Tab. Matching of crops in some acres was not found to be correct on which ADC gave strict instructions to the concerned Patwaris and said that only that crop should be entered which has been planted on the spot. Do Girdawari by going to the field and not sitting at home. He said that Girdawari of crops is an important task, so there should be no negligence at any level. According to this Girdawari, the produce is purchased in the market. Due to the data not being correct, the farmer faces difficulty in selling the crop in the market.

Geeta Modern Sr Sec School examination results declared and report cards distributed



KAMAL SHARMA
TARAORI: The examination results of Geeta Modern Senior Secondary School Tarawadi were declared. The results of children from nursery class to ninth and eleventh classes were announced. On this occasion, the meritorious children who secured first, second and third positions in various classes were honored by the school manager Balkrishna Tripathi and Principal Ragini Rai by giving them mementoes and report cards. The parents of the school children also came to hear the examination results of their children. The school children themselves welcomed the parents and dignitaries in a grand manner by applying Tilak amidst religious tunes. Happiness could be clearly seen on the faces of the students after hearing the examination results. Everyone was seen happy by showing their annual report records to the parents. The school manager Balkrishna Tripathi encouraged all the children of the school and motivated them to work harder and score more marks in the next class.

Students given information about starting their business, exchange of startup ideas takes place: Dr. Rekha Tyagi



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL: With aim of helping students to establish their own startup company and establish new dimensions in world of startups, 7-day special event Idea Kriti 7.0 workshop was formally concluded under 7th edition of Startup Incubator at Startup Incubator and Center of Excellence located at Pt. Chiranjilal Sharma Government College. College Principal Dr. Rekha Tyagi, participated as chief guest and honored winning participants by giving them prizes. She said that present era is era of competition, everyone wants to touch heights. For this, it is necessary to study and also participate in such workshops as such workshops provide information about new technologies for purpose of setting up one's own business. He said that Startup Incubator was started in 2019 and since then it has been inspiring college students to set up their own startup company. Many students have realized their ideas on this platform and many students are also earning good profits through it.

Megha Bansal vows to serve public as her first priority



YAGYA DUTT SHASTRI
PEHOWA: The newly elected chairman of the city, Megha Bansal, took over the charge of the municipality on Wednesday. Newly elected chairman was took oath in swearing in ceremony at the swearing -in ceremony in Panchkula. After assuming office, he said that he aimed at the responsibility entrusted by the people of the city to fulfill. His priority will be to complete the incomplete works as soon as possible. He said that the general public has to face a lot of problems due to stoppage work in the middle. In such a situation, to give relief to the people of the city, she will work and work to complete the incomplete works first. After that along with cleanliness, other tasks will also be done to make beauty of the city. She said that the people of the city were facing the problem of taking NDC from the municipality. It will be fixed soon and there will be no problem of any kind of city dwellers. She informed that the first budget meeting of the municipality has been held on Friday. In which the outline will be prepared by taking the views of all about the beautification of the city and according to that the city will be given a new look.

Saraswati Public School organises science exhibition



KAMAL SHARMA
TARAORI: A science exhibition was organized in Saraswati Public School Tarawadi on Wednesday. In this exhibition, the students displayed their scientific talent brilliantly. The school's principal Rakesh Bhatia observed the exhibition. The students presented various science models in the exhibition which included hydraulic system, automatic light, power filter, carbon emission, block power house, water storage, kidney structure, green village model and volcano model. Principal Rakesh Bhatia praised the scientific thinking of the students and said that today's youth were the future of tomorrow's India. He said that the Saraswati Public School management believed that such scientific activities led to all-round development of children and increase their abilities. He said that the main objective of the competition was to create interest in science among the students so that the students can know science closely and end their curiosity towards it.

Narendra Sharma takes charge as new Principal of Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Sr Sec Public School



VIJAY KAUSHIK
LADWA: Narendra Sharma nominated as the new Principal of Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Senior Secondary Public School, Dhanora-Ladwa. Narendra Sharma took charge as the new Principal in the presence of Management Committee Chairman Pawan Garg, Secretary Ravindra Bansal, Joint Secretary Narendra Singhal, Yashpal Saini, Parth Sharma, Azad Sharma. Management Committee Chairman Pawan Garg said that they were confident that under the leadership of Narendra Sharma the school would continue to grow and achieve excellence. He has a wealth of experience and knowledge. Narendra Sharma was heartily welcomed as the new Principal. It is a matter of great joy that the students of Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Senior Secondary Public School, Dhanaura-Ladwa participated in the shooting competition at Mohali on March 22. Around 15 students participated in this competition. Shubham was awarded the gold medal and he scored 377 marks. Vihaan was awarded the silver medal and he scored 356 marks. Harshpreet and Pushpinder Kaur were awarded the bronze medal and they scored 341 and 330 marks respectively.

Education promotion vehicle flagged off in Govt Girls Sr Sec School Barot to encourage children to seek admission



VIJAY KAUSHIK
LADWA: In Ladwa block, the education promotion vehicle was flagged off with the aim of encouraging admissions for the new academic session 2025-26 at the Government Girls Senior Secondary School Barot. This promotional vehicle was flagged off under the leadership of District Education Officer Kurukshetra Santosh Sharma and Block Education Officer Ladwa Hardeep Kaur and School Principal Neelam Saini. District Education Officer Santosh Sharma met the SMC head, SMC members, parents, Sarpanch and Panch members. During the program, she said that through the promotional vehicle, people will be made aware about the facilities, quality education and co-curricular activities available in the school by going to different parts of the area. Block Education Officer Ladwa Mrs. Hardeep Kaur said that government schools were providing cultured education to the students along with modern facilities. She appealed to the parents to get their children enrolled in government schools and avail the benefits of high quality education.

Newly elected chairman and councillors take oath, pledge urban development



JAIBEER RANA THAMBER
BARARA: Rajat Malik, the newly elected chairman of Barara Municipal Council, along with 16 councillors, formally assumed office in a grand ceremony on Monday. The event, attended by hundreds of citizens and dignitaries, began with a havan-yajna and religious rituals, following which the representatives took an oath of office and pledged to work for the comprehensive development of the town. Having won the trust of the people, these representatives now bear the responsibility of addressing civic issues and improving infrastructure. Plans are underway to enhance roads, water supply, sanitation, and street lighting. Chairman Rajat Malik affirmed his commitment to making Barara a clean, beautiful, and progressive town through collective efforts with the councillors. Local residents, who attended the ceremony, expressed optimism that the new leadership would prioritize basic civic issues such as road maintenance, clean drinking water, and efficient waste management. Business owners also called for improved market infrastructure and better security.

Three teachers of Kurukshetra honored in state level felicitation ceremony of SCERT



HANS RAJ
KURUKSHETRA: A state- level program was organized to honor the top 50 participants and district mentors of DIET who achieved outstanding achievements in the 21st Century Skills program run by the Educational Technology Department of the State Council of Educational Research and Training Haryana on Wednesday. In which Kurukshetra marked its outstanding achievements. This program was organized at the State Council of Educational Research and Training Haryana Gurugram under the guidance of Director Samvartak Singh HCS and under the chairmanship of Deputy Director Saroj Dahiya and Deputy Director Virendra Nara. The State Council of Educational Research and Training Gurugram started an online course called 21st Century Skills from November last year. The objective of which was to prepare teachers for the challenges coming under the National Education Policy 2020. In this, 1597 teachers and officers and employees from all over the state of Haryana registered themselves. Out of which 1428 participants completed this course. In this series, a state level felicitation ceremony was organized at SCERT Gurgaon in which the top 50 participants of the state and the mentor of DIET were honored.

NEWS BRIEF

Samsung Launches Galaxy A26 5G
CHANDIGARH: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, continues to push the boundaries of AI democratisation with the launch of Galaxy A26 5G, its most affordable smartphone with the power of AI. Crafted for a seamless experience, Galaxy A26 5G delivers a balance of style, durability, performance, and innovation, making it a perfect choice for everyday use. Samsung brings Awesome Intelligence to Galaxy A26 5G, making everyday tasks smarter and easier. The Intelligent AI Suite enhances user experience with features like Circle to Search with Google, AI Select, Object Eraser, My Filters and more.

Kinetic Green announced an exclusive 'Assured Buy Back Offer' for E-Luna
CHANDIGARH: Kinetic Green, a pioneer in electric vehicles in India, has announced an exclusive Assured Buy Back Offer for E-Luna. This limited-period offer reinforces Kinetic Green's commitment to customer satisfaction and unparalleled peace of mind. Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Sulajia Fiordia Motwani, Founder and CEO of Kinetic Green, said, "At Kinetic Green, we are committed to redefining urban mobility with sustainable and affordable solutions. The E-Luna has been a game-changer, and with the Assured Product Buy Back Offer, we are making it an even more attractive choice for our customers. This initiative not only assures value but also strengthens trust in the growing electric vehicle ecosystem."

CoE Inaugurated by Amrit Aggarwal, Chairman, District Planning Board
Bathinda: Daikin Airconditioning India Pvt. Ltd. (DAIPL), the fully owned subsidiary of Daikin Industries Ltd., Japan & the market leader in the air-conditioning market in India, as a part of the Skill India Initiative, established a Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Centre of Excellence(CoE) at the Industrial Training Institute(ITI), Bathinda. The CoE was inaugurated by Mr. Amrit Aggarwal, Chairman, District Planning Board, in the presence of Mr. Shiv Kumar, Regional Director North, Daikin India. Others who were present at the inauguration were Mr. Ashok Kansal, MD, Mahashakti Energy Ltd. and Ms. Gurpreet Kaur Gill, Principal, Government ITI, Bathinda. The facility known as Daikin Centre of Excellence (CoE) will be expanded to other institutes and this collaborative relationship with educational institutions will provide a platform for students to develop skills as per international standards in new Technologies, helping them better their employability. The CoEs supported by Daikin, are reinforced with many Daikin technologies, working models, literature & study material for the students & faculty. It is noteworthy that a Daikin Centre of Excellence (CoE) has also been set-up at ITI.

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank offers competitive interest rates for microfinance and individual loans
SHIMLA: Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (Ujjivan) continues to reinforce its commitment towards financial inclusion by offering one of the most competitive interest rates within the microfinance sector. With a focus on affordability, the Bank has strategically reduced its interest rates, ensuring greater financial empowerment for under-served communities in India. The microfinance industry in India has undergone significant transformation, with Small Finance Banks (SFBs) playing a crucial role in bridging the credit gap for micro entrepreneurs, low-income households, and small businesses. The recent regulatory changes introduced by the Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN – A self-regulatory body) in July 2024, capped the number of lenders serving a microfinance borrower to four (and to three from April 2025). This move further underscored the need for responsible lending practices.

Amazon announces Zero referral fees on over 1.2 crore products
Ludhiana : Amazon India today announced its highest-ever reduction in seller fees to support lakhs of small businesses selling on Amazon.in from across the country. In a move aimed at further boosting growth of sellers on Amazon.in, the company has introduced zero referral fees on over 1.2 crore products that are priced below ₹300. Referral fees is a commission that sellers pay to Amazon for each product sold. The zero referral fees apply to more than 135 product categories. Amazon has also brought in a simplified flat rate for sellers using external fulfillment channels like Easy Ship and Seller Flex, with national shipping rates now starting at ₹65, down from ₹77. While Easy Ship is a fulfillment channel where Amazon collects packages from a sellers' location and delivers them to customers, as part of Seller Flex, Amazon manages a portion of the sellers' warehouse as an Amazon fulfillment center. Additionally, the company has reduced the weight handling fees for lightweight items under 1 kg by up to ₹17, lowering the overall fees that sellers pay to Amazon.

Amazon promotes entrepreneurship and financial literacy for 30,000 women and young people
CHANDIGARH : Amazon India announced the launch of a three-year programme 'Entrepreneurship for Enablement' to help 30,000 women and young people learn about starting their own business and managing their finances. The programme will run in collaboration with ACCESS Development Services, a livelihoods support organization with focus on incubating innovations for sustainable livelihoods. Co-created and funded by Amazon, the initiative will run across the states of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra. The launch event in Gurgaon on March 20, 2025, brought together key stakeholders including officials from Development Department, Gurgaon, Reserve Bank of India, The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Rural Development & Self Employment Training Institute (RUDSETI), who discussed opportunities and challenges in the development of entrepreneurs.

Amazon announces Zero referral fees on over 1.2 cr products; move aimed at boosting growth of lakhs of sellers across India
PANIPAT: Amazon India today announced its highest-ever reduction in seller fees to support lakhs of small businesses selling on Amazon.in from across the country. In a move aimed at further boosting growth of sellers on Amazon.in, the company has introduced zero referral fees on over 1.2 crore products that are priced below ₹300. Referral fees is a commission that sellers pay to Amazon for each product sold. The zero referral fees apply to more than 135 product categories. Amazon has also brought in a simplified flat rate for sellers using external fulfillment channels like Easy Ship and Seller Flex, with national shipping rates now starting at ₹65, down from ₹77. While Easy Ship is a fulfillment channel where Amazon collects packages from a sellers' location and delivers them to customers,

CHANDIGARH: Haryana Chief Minister Sh Nayab Singh Saini said that the state government has taken stringent action against travel agents involved in sending youth abroad through illegal means. A total of 127 cases have been registered, and action has been taken against 102 agents, with eight travel agents arrested.

The Chief Minister was speaking during the discussion on the Haryana Travel Agents Registration and Regulation Bill 2025, presented during the ongoing budget session in the Assembly here today.

He said that the bill aims to protect the youth from exploitation, ensuring transparency, accountability of travel agents, and the investigation and curb of illegal activities.

The Chief Minister added that while he is unsure of the opposition's stance on the bill, the state government's intention is clear that stringent action will be taken against travel agents who facilitate illegal migration.

He further informed that the bill, which concerns the

youth, had been introduced in the House earlier. However, after the introduction of three new criminal laws, some sections were revised. This



bill is now being reintroduced with strengthened provisions

to safeguard the youth from exploitation. He highlighted that many youth used to sell their land to go abroad and they were sent abroad in an unsafe manner. Once the bill becomes law, the government becomes successful in curbing all such illegal practices.

The Chief Minister also informed the House that the bill includes provisions to combat human trafficking, with penalties of 7 to 10 years of imprisonment for those found guilty.

He said that the state government has established a

Foreign Cooperation Department to manage the process of sending youth abroad for business, education, or employment. The primary goal of this bill is to ensure that all travel agents are registered, and that they operate under the new legal framework and the government can also have accurate information.

Sh Nayab Singh Saini said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Sh Narendra Modi, the Central Government successfully brought back 23,000 youth stranded in Ukraine during their MBBS studies.

Amity University hosts 18th Int'l Conference on 'AI Revolution: Opportunities, Challenges, and Path Forward'

Gurgaon: Amity University organised two days 18th International Conference on 'AI Revolution: Opportunities, Challenges, and the Path Forward' to provide a platform to leading academicians, industry experts, policymakers, and students to deliberate on the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in shaping the future. Organised by Amity Business School and Amity Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics on March 20 and 21, this conference fostered dialogue on AI's potential, challenges, and ethical considerations. It began with ceremonial

lighting of lamp by Dr Aseem Chauhan Chancellor, Amity University and other dignitaries, followed by opening remarks from Prof (Dr) Vikas Madhukar, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Amity University Haryana. He emphasized AI's transformative impact on industries while addressing ethical and governance challenges. Highlighting four key pillars—interdisciplinary learning, AI-driven innovation, ethical AI development, and industry-academia collaboration—he reaffirmed Amity's commitment to AI education through its Center for Artificial Intelligence and Data Science. Prof Madhukar announced the establishment of

38 student-led startups, including 18 AI-driven ventures, showcasing Amity's role in fostering entrepreneurial excellence. He also acknowledged Google India and ICEA for their support in AI research and skill development. Vice-Chancellor, Prof (Dr) PB Sharma, in his welcome address, highlighted AI's transformative role in education, sustainable development, and societal progress. He emphasized AI as a catalyst for growth, augmenting human intelligence through VR, automation, and knowledge augmentation. Commending Amity University Haryana's leadership in AI education, he reaffirmed its commitment.

Market Committee Chairman Deepak Sood releases calendar of Rajpura Press Club Rajpura



Rajpura (Bhupinder Kapoor) Today at the Market Committee office here, Rajpura Press Club Reg. Rajpura President Darshan Singh Miha led by Market Committee Chairman Deepak Sood released the new year calendar of the Press Club. On this occasion, Mr Sood praised Rajpura Press Club and said that this club has been playing a leading role in social service work for more than two decades. He said that thousands of units of blood have been donated so far during the blood donation camps organized by the club. He said that the media is considered the fourth pillar of democracy. It is a matter of great pride for them that they are releasing the calendar of the oldest club of Rajpura. On this occasion, Market Committee Chairman Deepak Sood spoke to the journalists that the Press Club considers it its duty to contribute to social service works besides medical check-up camps, cultural fairs. On this occasion, Club Chairman Dr. Gurvinder Aman said that Rajpura Press Club Rajpura was first formed in Rajpura in 1995 and all the other clubs came into existence after that. He said that the club has printed the calendar for the first time. On this occasion, Club President Darshan Singh Miha, Chairman Dr. Gurvinder Aman, Patrons G.P Singh and Ashok Jha, Journalist Ravinder Lali, Journalist Bhupinder Kapoor, Journalist Gurpreet Bal, Madan Lal, Munish Batra, Kamal Puri, Channan Singh, Bhupinder Kaur, Anil Chaudhary and other personalities were present.

Rotary organised Wildlife Learning Trip for Don Bosco Students



CHANDIGARH, The Rotary Shivalki Chandigarh organised an educational trip for 720 students from Don Bosco Navjeevan Society to Chhatbir Zoo, offering an invaluable learning experience. The group included students from Faidan Nizampur, Daddu Majra, Maloya, Babu Dham, Mauli Jagran and special children from various slum areas of Chandigarh. The visit allowed the students to explore wildlife, biodiversity and conservation in an interactive setting. Father. Reji Tom, Director, Don Bosco Navjeevan Society expressed gratitude towards Rotary Shivalki for their generous support while Rotary representatives emphasized the importance of experiential learning beyond the classroom to make the day truly memorable and enriching for the children.

New Defender Octa Launched In India



CHANDIGARH : Defender launches the toughest, most capable and most luxurious SUV in the unstoppable 4x4 family of Defender in India, the New Defender OCTA. This high-performance adventure icon is engineered to conquer any terrain with unparalleled confidence and refinement. Powered by a 4.4i Twin Turbo mild-hybrid V8 engine, the OCTA model is the most extreme and most powerful Defender ever, with 467 kW and up to 750 Nm of torque enabling 0-100 km/h in 4.0 seconds. Heavily revised chassis components with innovative technologies, including 6D Dynamics suspension, ensure its dynamic capabilities are taken to new heights. The exterior is bolder and tougher than ever, with a distinct character. The ride height is raised, its stance widened, and wheel arches extended for incredible presence. Redesigned bumpers give improved approach and departure angles, while tough underbody protection gives drivers the confidence to explore further over rough terrain. And, it will wear deeper than any production Defender before it too – through up to one metre of water.

Third Edition of Gully Cricket Tournament 2025 to Kick Off from April 20

CHANDIGARH: The UT Cricket Association (UTCA) and Chandigarh Police have officially announced the launch of the third edition of the 'Gully Cricket Tournament 2025', which will kick off on April 20. This annual tournament aims to encourage a passion for cricket among the youth of Chandigarh while simultaneously supporting the 'Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan' (Drug-Free India Movement) and curbing petty criminal activities. This year, a total of 600 teams representing around 7200 young cricketers aged 14 to 19 will participate and showcase their sporting talents in this exciting event. The tournament is well-supported by the Municipal Corporation, Social Welfare Department, Sports Department, Education Department and Chandigarh Administration. With this massive participation,



organizers are aiming to register the event in the Guinness Book of World Records. This edition is being strengthened by Allengers, Tynor, ICICI Bank, IDBI Bank and others. The tournament will be inaugurated by Gulab Chand Kataria, UT Administrator and Governor, Punjab Matches will be played at 20 venues across the city to ensure convenient access for players. Registration for the tournament is being conducted through all police stations in Chandigarh with the deadline for team registration on April 7. The tournament will be held on a knockout basis as each match consists of ten overs per side and players will compete with tennis balls to avoid injury. To further engage the community, intellectuals from across the city will also participate in exhibition matches on weekends during the course of the tournament to promote the spirit of cricket. Sanjay Tandon, President, UTCA emphasized that the Gully Cricket Tournament is a unique initiative aimed at tapping the cricketing potential of young people from slums, colonies and sectors. UTCA's goal is not only to provide a platform for these young cricketers but also to mentor and nurture talent, giving them the opportunity to represent Chandigarh in national-level BCCI tournaments. The UTCA panel of selectors will be closely monitoring the tournament and the most outstanding players will receive further guidance and support after the event.

Bandhan AMC Introduces Vedartha – A Wealth Creation Platform for Onshore and Offshore Investors

CHANDIGARH : Bandhan AMC, a leading name in the Indian investment management industry, announced its new alternate investment platform, Vedartha. The new platform seeks to offer products using listed equities and fixed-income solutions under Bandhan AMC's Alternative Investment Funds (AIF) as well as Portfolio Management Services (PMS). Equity-focused products offered under Vedartha will be managed by a team led by Mrinal Singh, Head – Alternates (Listed Equities), whereas Fixed Income products offered under Vedartha will be managed by a team headed by Bhupendra Meel, Head – PMS & Alternative – Fixed Income. "Vedartha was born out of a vision to cater to a niche audience with distinct needs. Vedartha derives its essence from Sanskrit words— Veda, embodying the timeless pursuit of wisdom through knowledge, and Artha, signifying prosperity through purposeful wealth creation. Together, they reflect a philosophy where expertise drives prosperity, and wealth becomes a means to create enduring impact. Vedartha is supported by a dedicated and seasoned investment team with proven expertise, along with a senior management team with an average experience of 15-20 years. It is backed by Bandhan AMC's 25-year legacy and supported by Bandhan Group, GIC (Singapore), and ChrysCapital," said Vishal Kapoor, CEO, Bandhan AMC. "Vedartha reflects our commitment to offering bespoke solutions that cater to the nuanced financial aspirations of our clients."

Finvasia bets big on Punjab with 'Jumpp', India's first AI-powered financial superapp

CHANDIGARH(RAJENDRA KHATRY):Finvasia, a global enterprise headquartered in Mohali, is expanding its presence in Punjab, with its newly launched platform – 'Jumpp', India's first AI-powered financial superapp. Developed in partnership with YES Bank, Jumpp provides banking, savings, payments, investments, and credit, all packaged into a single, intuitive platform. Addressing a press conference here today, Sarjeet Singh Virk, Co-Founder and CEO, 'Jumpp' said Punjab is rapidly embracing digital finance, with Chandigarh leading the way in per capita digital payment transactions, averaging over 38 transactions per person. UPI-enabled credit card usage is also on the rise, with users making 40 transactions and spending ₹40,000 monthly. Across the state, fintech adoption is transforming MSMEs and startups, especially in rural and semi-urban areas. Government initiatives are further fueling this shift. The RBI has been conducting financial literacy camps, while Digital Banking Units (DBUs) are making digital banking more accessible. Credit card spending in smaller cities surged by 175 per cent between 2019 and 2024, highlighting the growing digital finance wave. Virk said as digital payments grow, so does the need for better financial management. Jumpp helps users track spending, manage credit, and optimize digital transactions, making it the perfect solution for Punjab's evolving financial landscape. He said recognizing the rising demand, Jumpp is expanding beyond major cities like Ludhiana, Amritsar, Jalandhar, and Patiala into underserved regions such as Bathinda, Moga, Pathankot, and Barnala—strengthening financial inclusion across Punjab. Sarjeet Singh Virk said 'Jumpp' is more than just an app—it's a step towards enhancing financial reach. With AI-powered features and a simple interface, we are helping people manage their money smarter. Punjab's fast-growing digital adoption and entrepreneurial spirit make it an important market for us. Through our partnership with YES Bank, we aim to bridge financial gaps and empower users across the state to take control of their finances with ease," he said.



Jindal Stainless and M1xchange partner to strengthen supply chain ecosystem

HISAR: Jindal Stainless along with its wholly owned subsidiary, Jindal Stainless Steelway Limited, acquired 9.62% stake in M1xchange, India's leading RBI-licensed Trade Receivables Discounting System (TrEdS) platform. This deal involved a combination of primary capital and a secondary purchase of shares from existing shareholders. With this investment, M1xchange will continue to accelerate enabling seamless access to working capital for MSMEs and corporates, further strengthening the digital supply chain financing ecosystem in India. Commenting on this development, Managing Director, Jindal Stainless, Mr Abhydya Jindal, said that at Jindal Stainless, we recognise that access to timely and affordable financing is a crucial growth enabler for businesses, especially MSMEs. This investment will have a two-pronged advantage - it will empower our domestic and international channel partners - both upstream and downstream; and provide enhanced liquidity to further strengthen JSL's balance sheets. It reflects our ethos of building a holistic ecosystem that aligns with our vision of strengthening industry partnerships and driving inclusive economic progress.

Punjab Art Initiative – Amritsar Edition enriched the city's art and cultural landscape

Amritsar, 26 March: The second edition of the Punjab Art Initiative – Amritsar Edition, held at VR Ambaras, concluded and drew an enthusiastic response from people across all corners of the city. The month-long festival, based on the theme "Transcending Boundaries," inspired artists to create innovative artworks and sculptures that showcased their vision, imagination, and talents. Featuring over 200 art installations, sculptures, paintings, and photographs, the festival saw participation from more than 400 students from the Bhagat Puran Singh School for the Deaf, BBK DAV College for Women, and Khalsa College of Education, Ranjit Avenue. The installations garnered widespread interest. "The overwhelming response from the local community to this year's festival reflects the city's deep connection to art and culture. We look forward to building on this momentum and bringing more innovative and diverse offerings to future editions of the Punjab Art Initiative – Amritsar Edition," said Sumi Gupta, curator of the Punjab Art Initiative – Amritsar Edition. This edition of the festival marked significant collaborations, including partnerships with UNESCO, Sacred Amritsar and the New York-based Arts for the Future festival, powered by the United Nations Civil Society Conference. The festival transformed VR Ambaras into a hub of artistic celebration, featuring fine art, folk performances, exhibitions, workshops, and an artisan bazaar—all of which brought the community together in a shared appreciation for creativity and culture. Katran, a fashion showcase by students from the International School of Design, Amritsar, presented imaginative designs that fused traditional craftsmanship with contemporary global trends. The Literature and Book Festival celebrated new voices in writing through engaging book readings, panel discussions, and interactive sessions. Aspiring authors also benefited from hands-on workshops led by experienced writers and publishers. In partnership with Timeless Amritsar, the festival hosted a lively three-day Art Bazaar, offering local and student artists a platform to exhibit their work – from paintings and sculptures to crafts and live art installations.

PHDCCI Organizes Two-Day National IP Yatra Program in collaboration with Ministry of MSME

SHIMLA: The PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), in collaboration with the Ministry of MSME Government of India, successfully organized a two-day National IP Yatra Program at Hotel Holiday Home, Shimla during 25th-26th March 2025. On the second day of the workshop the subjects of commercialization, licensing and franchising, leveraging IP for funding and investment, joint venture and strategic alliances and enforcement of IPRs were discussed. IPR Helpdesk was also organized for the participants. D P Goel, Co-Chair, MSME Committee, PHDCCI in his welcome address apprised the participants comprising of MSMEs, Start ups and young entrepreneurs planning to launch their innovations. He also highlighted the importance of registering intellectual property rights (IPRs) to gain significant benefits of their commercialization. Vasant Chandra, Head-Prosecution, United and United in his technical address stressed upon the significance of selecting an appropriate name for their product. He highlighted the necessity of licensing, which secures ownership rights over the product. Through licensing, businesses can generate revenue by granting production rights to other companies while maintaining control over quality and brand identity. The session was also graced by Dr Shamsher S Kanwar, Chairman, Department of Biotechnology, Himachal Pradesh University, Mr Abbas Mehdi, Addl. Director, STPI and Mr Sunil Awasthi, Joint Director, STPI. Mr. Anil Saunkhala, Resident Director, PHDCCI moderated the session.



Airtel Launches IPTV Services

Bharti Airtel, one of India's leading telecommunications service providers, has launched its IPTV services across Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Haryana, offering customers an unparalleled large-screen viewing experience. These services provide access to a vast library of on-demand content from 29 popular streaming apps, including Chaupal, Sony Liv, Netflix, Apple TV+, Amazon Prime, Zee5, 600+ popular television channels, and Wi-Fi service, with plans starting at Rs. 599. As part of an introductory offer, all Airtel customers will enjoy up to 30 days of free service upon purchasing IPTV plans, which can be availed through the Airtel Thanks App. Commenting on the launch, Anupam Arora, CEO, Bharti Airtel, Upper North, said: "Entertainment has long been an integral part of the vibrant culture of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Haryana. Today, we are delighted to announce the launch of our cutting-edge IPTV service in these regions. This service will usher in a new era of immersive experiences for our customers. With this launch, we are confident of setting a new standard for entertainment solutions that will resonate with the aspirations and desires of the people in these states."

CT Group's Law Students Shine in Intra-Departmental Moot Court Competition

Jalandhar(J S SODHI): The Department of Law at CT Group successfully hosted an Intra-Departmental Moot Court Competition, providing students with a platform to enhance their advocacy skills and legal reasoning. The competition featured distinguished judges, including Shri Jasvir Singh Kang (Retd. ADJ), Advocate G.K. Agnihotri, and other senior legal professionals. Students demonstrated well-researched arguments and courtroom expertise, impressing the panel with their persuasive advocacy. The first position was secured by the appellant team of Manraj Kaur, Deepawali, and Jashanpreet Singh, while the respondent team included Baljot Kaur, Sunidhi, and Amandeep Kaur. CT Group Chairman S. Charanjit Singh Channi, Dr. Nitin Tandon (Executive Director), and Dr. Manavpreet Kaur Dhindsa (Principal, CT Institute of Law) congratulated the participants and encouraged them to continue excelling in the field of law.



“Raid 2’: Riteish Deshmukh’s look as politician leaves wife Genelia excited

Actor Riteish Deshmukh will be seen as a politician in ‘Raid 2’.

On Tuesday, he treated his fans and followers to his look from the film. Donning a kurta pyjama with brown Nehru jacket, Riteish maintained a stern expression on his face as he stood in the middle of a crowd.

“Kanoon ka mohtaj nahi, kanoon ka malik hai Dada Bhai! #Raid2 knocking in cinemas near you from 1st May,” Riteish captioned the post, leaving netizens excited. Reacting to the poster, Riteish’s wife and actor Genelia commented, “Can’t wait (green heart emojis).”

Earlier, on Monday, Ajay Devgn’s first look poster of his character IRS Amay Patnaik was unveiled.

Ajay posed amid hordes of files in the backdrop, giving intense expressions. “Naya Shehar. Nayi File. Aur Amay Patnaik Ki Ek Nayi Raid. #Raid2 knocking at your doors in cinemas near you on 1st May, 2025,” he captioned the post.

Raid 2 is produced by Bhushan Kumar, Kumar Mangat Pathak, Abhishek Pathak and Krishan Kumar. The film, which will be released on May 1, is presented by Gulshan Kumar and T-Series and is a Panorama Studios production.

Raj Kumar Gupta has helmed the film, which is the sequel to the 2018 crime thriller that captivated audiences with its gripping story of tax raids and corruption.

Vaani Kapoor and Rajat Kapoor are also a part of the film.

‘Raid’ was released in 2018 and also starred Saurabh Shukla and Ileana D’Cruz. It was inspired by a real-life raid conducted by the officers of the Income Tax Department in the 1980s. Ileana played Ajay’s wife in the movie.

Hansal Mehta, Kangana Ranaut engage in heated exchange



Filmmaker Hansal Mehta and Bhartiya Janata Party MP and actor Kangana Ranaut found themselves in a social media confrontation after a discussion over comedian Kunal Kamra’s recent controversy led to comparisons with Kangana’s past ordeal.

The debate began when Mehta voiced his support on social media for Kamra, whose Mumbai studio was vandalized and later demolished by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) after he joked about Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

While Mehta condemned the attack on Kamra’s freedom of speech, a social media user questioned why he hadn’t shown similar support when Kangana’s Mumbai home was partially demolished in 2020.

Responding to the query, Mehta asked whether Kangana’s house was vandalized as an attack on her freedom of expression or if the demolition was linked to alleged violations of Floor Space Index (FSI) regulations.

“Was her house vandalised? Did goons enter her premises? Did they do this to challenge her freedom of expression or for alleged FSI violations? Please enlighten me. Maybe I don’t know the facts,” he wrote on X (formerly Twitter).

Kangana, in turn, reacted strongly to Mehta’s remarks, recalling the events surrounding her home’s demolition.

She claimed she was subjected to abuse and threats before her house was torn down overnight.

Re-sharing Mehta’s tweet, Kangana accused him of being “bitter and stupid” and dismissed his response as ignorant.

“They called me names..., threatened me, served a notice late at night to my watchman, and before the courts could open, bulldozers demolished the entire house. The High Court called the demolition completely illegal. They laughed at it and raised a toast to my pain and public humiliation,” she wrote.

Criticizing Mehta, she added, “It seems your insecurity and mediocrity have not only made you bitter and stupid but also blinded you. It’s not some third-class series or atrocious films that you make. Don’t try to sell your dumb lies and agendas in matters related to my ordeals. Stay out of it.” Mehta kept his reply brief, responding to Kangana’s attack with a simple “Get well soon.”

This controversy dates back to September 2020, when the BMC had demolished parts of Ranaut’s office-cum-residential bungalow in Bandra, citing unauthorized construction. Meanwhile, on March 25, Kangana Ranaut slammed standup artist Kunal Kamra for his alleged disparaging remarks against Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

Being asked about the demolition of her office by Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) in 2020 and the vandalism of the

studio where Kamra had performed, the ‘Emergency’ actor said that what happened with her was “illegal”, but what has happened now is “legal action”.

While speaking to the media, Kanagana said, “The way he (Kamra) was mocking me, what happened with me illegally...I will not connect these two incidents. What had happened with me was illegal, but here is being done legally.”

“You might be anyone, but insulting and defaming someone. A person for whom his/her respect is everything, and you insult and disregard them in the name of comedy. Shinde ji used to drive rickshaws, and now he has come so far on his own,” she added.

She accused Kamra of defaming and disregarding people in the name of comedy for “2 minutes of fame,” and questioned the “credentials” of Kamra. She also raised ‘concerns’ about where the society is headed.

“Who are these people, and what are their credentials? Who couldn’t do anything in their lives...If they can write, they should do so in literature. Abusing people and our culture in the name of comedy. We should think about where society is heading when someone does this only for 2 minutes of fame,” she added.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on March 24, Monday, slammed comedian Kunal Kamra’s remarks against Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, stating that such acts can’t be justified as “freedom of speech”.

Aamir Khan, Salman Khan’s reunion leaves director AR Murugadoss puzzled

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan is gearing up for the release of his action-packed film ‘Sikandar’, which is directed by AR Murugadoss.

Recently, Salman and Murugadoss met with Aamir Khan and created a fun promotional video.

On Tuesday, Salman took to Instagram and shared a teaser of the video.

“Amar Prem ka Andaz with AR Murugadoss! #Sikandar-MeetsGhajini #AamirKhan (sic),” his caption read.

The clip shows Aamir and Salman giving intense expressions as they sit down for a conversation with Murugadoss. It takes a dramatic turn when Aamir asks his Ghajini director to tell who, between him and Salman, is the real “Sikandar.”

Sikandar also stars Rashmi-Ka Mandanna and Sathyaraj in pivotal roles.



Recently, at the film’s trailer launch event, the ‘Ghajini’ director shared his fan moment for superstar Salman Khan which includes an unexpected meet with the actor in Chennai.

back. So I wanted to watch a shoot, so I went to Prasad Studios in Chennai. I requested the security guard to let me in and watch me shoot. He allowed me on two conditions. You have to be in corner and you cannot talk to anyone. He gave me 20 minutes. After that, I had to leave.”

He further explained how he became a fan of Salman after one unexpected encounter with the actor and decided to cast him in a film. “So I entered. I don’t know what the shoot was. Full dark smoke, light comes, Sridevi was there. I was surprised. Then suddenly, I saw a hero’s backside. He was combing his hair. So I tried to see who the hero was. He was none other than Salman Sir. So, I tried to go one step forward, and I saw the guard looking at me. He said no. So I went outside and thought that one day I would direct a film with him. So after so many years, I have directed the film with him,” he shared.

How far would you go to uncover the truth? ‘Khadaan’, streaming now exclusively on Hungama OTT

CHANDIGARH: Hungama OTT, one of India’s leading digital entertainment platform, launched its original series ‘Khadaan’ on March 19, 2025, a gripping thriller around an intriguing investigation set in a small village. The show features Aly Goni as the lead, alongside Karanvir Bohra, Jinal Joshi, and Rebecca Anand in intriguing roles. The original series promises a fascinating narrative that has a series of surprising discoveries, enough to keep the viewers hooked to uncover the mystery. In a mining village haunted by a dark and sinister past, Inspector Veer Pratap Singh (Aly Goni) arrives seeking solace but is instead drawn into a chilling investigation. An entire family is found brutally murdered, raising unsettling questions. Has an angry spirit returned for revenge? Has the village’s long-dormant curse been reawakened? And who—or what—is behind the hundreds of bodies unearthed during the investigation? As Veer unravels the mystery, he is pulled deeper into a web of secrets and deception. With every revelation, the lines between folklore and reality blur, leading to a truth that will test his resolve and alter the course of his life forever.



Celebrities prepare food for Sai Baba devotees

CHANDIGARH : Sony Entertainment Television’s Celebrity MasterChef is all set to serve up a soulful and spiritual episode as emotions run high in the upcoming episode of Celebrity MasterChef. The episode begins on a heartfelt note, with Tejaswini Prakash and Rajiv Adatia opening up about their deep devotion to Sai Baba, followed by visiting Shri Sai Baba temple in Shirdi. Upon returning to the set, Tejaswini offers prasad to all the judges and contestants, leading to a Sai Baba pooja on set. It is then revealed that contestants will cook food for more than 500 Sai Baba devotees as part of the latest challenge on the show. Rajiv, who is a Sai Baba bhakt, reflects on his connection to Sai Baba and shares details about the special episode. He says, “My parents always told me—whatever you wish for, you get that if you are a true devotee. I have been a devotee of Sai Baba for the last 20 years. Bringing Sai Baba’s blessings into the kitchen fills me with purpose and strength. The episode moves into one of the biggest tasks so far—contestants must cook for thousands of people!” Divided into two teams, Rajiv and Tejaswini take charge as captains in this high-stakes culinary challenge, bringing both leadership and emotion to the forefront.



Actors Hitesh Bhardwaj and Rachhi Sharma roped in for Aami Dakini

CHANDIGARH : Sony Entertainment Television, the channel that introduced Indian audiences to the iconic horror series, Aahat, is set to redefine the supernatural genre with its latest show – Aami Dakini. This gripping new show blends horror, mystery, and drama, in a haunting setup in Kolkata. At the heart of this spine-chilling tale are Ayaan Roy Choudhary, played by Hitesh Bhardwaj, and Meera Ghosh portrayed by Rachhi Sharma. Ayaan refuses to believe in the supernatural - until his own life is threatened by a vengeful spirit whereas Meera, a naive, yet fearless girl who sees herself as the family’s protector. Confirming his role, Hitesh Bhardwaj excitedly states, “Ayaan is unlike any character I’ve played before. The horror backdrop and the emotional depth of the character makes it extremely gripping for the viewers. The relationship between Ayaan and Meera starts on an unexpected note, and as the story progresses, their bond is tested in ways neither of them could have imagined. It’s been an intense but rewarding process, and I can’t wait for audiences to watch his journey.”



Actors Celebrate Theatre’s Influence on World Theatre Day



CHANDIGARH: On World Theatre Day, &TV actors reflect on their journey from stage to screen, crediting theatre for shaping their craft. Neeta Mohindra (Bheema) highlights how theatre instilled spontaneity and emotional depth, enriching her TV performances. Himani Shivpuri (Happu Ki Ultan Paltan) shares how theatre’s discipline and live audience connection refined her acting. Rohitashv Gour (Bhabji Ghar Par Hai) emphasizes how theatre sharpened his comedic timing and authenticity. Despite the shift to television, these actors cherish theatre’s impact on their careers. Catch them on Bheema (8:30 PM), Happu Ki Ultan Paltan (10:00 PM), and Bhabji Ghar Par Hai (10:30 PM), Monday to Friday on &TV!

COLORS’ upcoming show ‘Meri Bhavya Life’ challenges society’s obsession with size over self-worth



CHANDIGARH: In a world where waistlines often define worth, COLORS’ upcoming show ‘Meri Bhavya Life’ throws a bold punch at superficial standards with a question that hits home: Mota hona ya motape ke aage dekh na paana...Kya badi bimari hai? The show’s eye-opening promo invites viewers into the vibrant life of Bhavya essayed by Prisha Dhatwalia, a fiercely talented, unapologetically overweight girl, whose journey challenges society’s obsession with appearances. The promo unfolds with a prospective groom’s family being thoroughly impressed by her achievements. But when she enters, the compliments quickly fade, replaced by judgmental glances about her weight. Refusing to be sized down to anyone’s narrow definition of perfection, she makes a powerful statement by rejecting the marriage prospect. But will Bhavya’s attitude inspire a change in those around her, or will society’s prejudice weigh her down? Set to step into the role of Bhavya, Prisha Dhatwalia said, “Debating on television with COLORS, a channel known for crafting powerful narratives is a dream come true. Bhavya’s story is not just her journey as an overweight girl, but a reflection of the lives of so many people who are judged for how they look rather than who they are. To be part of such a thought-provoking show that inspires people to see beyond appearances and value humanity over harsh judgments is both humbling and empowering.”

Pyaar Ke Liye Koi Umar Ki Seema Nahi – A Love Story, Tum Se Tum Tak, starring Sharad Kelkar & Niharika Chouksey

CHANDIGARH: In Indian society, relationships and marriage are often shaped by age-old traditions where factors like age, financial status, and social background hold great significance. But love doesn’t follow rules—it charts its own course, breaking barriers along the way. For decades, Zee TV has been at the forefront of storytelling, bringing audiences thought-provoking narratives that challenge norms and redefine relationships. Now, with its new offering - Tum Se Tum Tak, the channel presents a fresh and heartfelt love story that will go beyond societal conventions.

The show will beautifully explore the unconventional romance between Anu, a 19-year-old middle-class girl with big dreams and deep-rooted values, and Aryavardhan, a 46-year-old self-made business tycoon known for his discipline and elegance. Despite their stark differences in age, class, and lifestyle, love finds its way into their hearts, challenging everything society deems acceptable.

Popular actor Sharad Kelkar steps into the role of Aryavardhan, portraying a powerful yet grounded businessman who commands respect with his wisdom, charm, and humility. But despite his wealth and status, he remains a man of integrity, valuing relationships over riches. Niharika Chouksey, on the other hand, brings Anu’s character to life - a vibrant, sin-



cere, and affectionate young woman with dreams of securing a better future for her family. Loyal and determined, she is a girl who values love but also understands life’s responsibilities. The one thing that holds the utmost importance in Anu’s life is the trust that she places in the people she loves.

Tum Se Tum Tak will go on to beautifully contrast the warmth and simplicity of a close-knit middle-class family with the grandeur and refinement of an affluent household. It also raises a poignant question—can love alone bridge the gap between generations, social expectations, and deep-seated traditions?

Sharing her excitement, Niharika said, “I’m beyond thrilled to be a part of this show! It’s such a refreshing and heartwarming love story—something we don’t often see on television. The story is beautifully written, and I was drawn to it from the very beginning. It explores love in such a unique way, and I feel lucky to be playing a character as special as Anu.

Bhangra Premier League Season 2 Concludes with Electrifying Performances and Unmatched Energy – Ikk Vaari Hor!

CHANDIGARH : India’s leading private radio and entertainment network, Red FM, celebrated Bhangra Premier League Season 2. The competition showcased high-energy performances, with roaring dhols and an electrifying atmosphere. The grand finale took place at HLP Galleria, Sector-62, Mohali, Chandigarh. Passionate dancers and Punjab’s rich cultural pride were at the heart of the celebration.

This year’s league set new benchmarks, for talent, competition, and cultural celebration with 3 categories, 10 cities, 40 On-Ground Promotions and a sea of registrations pouring in from across the nation, making it undoubtedly the grandest Bhangra battle ever. Contestants poured out their hearts and souls to perform and the winners were rewarded with a total cash prize of ₹3,25,000. Additionally, winners in group categories won 1 lakh cash prizes each.

Renowned figures of the Bhangra world, Supneet Singh, Sonu Pardhan, Hardeep Singh, and Rajbir Mahi were the eminent jury at the finale of league. From choreography and mentorship to global performances and academic contributions, they have shaped the art form. The competition’s digital-first approach allowed participation from every corner of India, uniting dancers in a grand celebration of Punjab’s heritage. Vishal Bhatia was crowned



as the ultimate Solo Bhangra Champion, Mohindra College, Patiala claiming victory in Group Folk Live Bhangra, and Bhangra Attraction leading the way in Group Music Bhangra categories.

Speaking about the grand success of the event, Nisha Narayanan, Director & COO, RED FM and Magic FM, said, “At Red FM, we are cultural evangelists, championing the traditions, stories, and passions that define us. Being in the business of creating content, we strive to build platforms that celebrate culture, amplify voices, and bring communities together. Bhangra Premier League Season 2 was about the unbreakable spirit of a community that moves to the rhythm of its roots. It was a stage where passion met performance, where every beat carried the weight of tradition, and where the energy was nothing short of electric. The talent and the sheer love for Bhangra turned this season into an unforgettable spectacle.

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