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CHANDIGARH > WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2026 | RNI.No. PUNENG/2018/76070 | VOLUME 8, ISSUE 134 | ₹3.00

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## PMO to move out of South Block on Makar Sankranti, a first since Independence

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's new office is almost ready, and he is set to shift this week on Makar Sankranti, January 14. The new address, 'Seva Teerth' complex, has been built as part of the Central Vista Redevelopment Project.

The complex has been designed to house the Prime Minister's Office, the Cabinet Secretariat, and the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), with each three of them having a separate building.

The new structure that will be housing the PMO is named 'Seva Teerth-1'. It boasts modern workspaces and grand ceremonial rooms, reflecting the theme of 'service' (seva). The relocation of the PMO will mark the end of an era; it has been located in the South Block since India's independence in 1947.

While 'Seva Teerth 2' is already occupied by the Cabinet Secretariat, which relocated in September last year, 'Seva Teerth-3' will accommodate the National Security Advisor's office. Once vacated, the South and North Blocks will be converted into a public museum, 'Yuge Yugeen Bharat Sangrahalaya'. An agreement was signed on December 19, 2024 with France's Museum Development Agency for the technical cooperation for the development of the planned museum.

The entire Seva Teerth premises (also known as Executive Enclave) is being built at a cost of Rs 1,189 crore by Larsen & Toubro. PTI

### PM Modi greets nation on Lohri

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday greeted people on the occasion of Lohri, expressing hope that the festival deepens the spirit of joy and optimism in society. The harvest festival of Lohri is celebrated mostly across north India. "Warm greetings to everyone on the auspicious occasion of Lohri. Lohri celebrates nature and is about expressing gratitude. May this special festival deepen the spirit of joy and optimism in our society. May the warmth of Lohri inspire renewed hope and harmony all around us," Modi said in a post on 'X'.

## Punjab Lok Bhawan wears traditional Punjabi look on Lohri celebrations

**PUNJAB GOVERNOR, HARYANA GOVERNOR, CM & CM HARYANA GRACE THE OCCASION**

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, January 13





Punjab Lok Bhawan celebrated Lohri in a traditional Punjabi manner here this evening reflecting the cultural ethos of the festival.

The function was hosted by the Governor of Punjab and Administrator of Chandigarh, Gulab Chand Kataria. Those present included Haryana Governor Prof. Ashim Kumar Ghosh, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, Haryana Vidhan Sabha Speaker Harvinder Kalyan, Punjab Cabinet Minister Aman Arora, Harjot Singh Bains and Sanjeev Arora, Rajyasabha Member Dr. Ashok Mittal and Satnam Singh Sandhu, Chandigarh Mayor Harpreet Kaur Babla, Chandigarh Chief Secretary H. Rajesh Prasad, and senior officials of the Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh Administrations.

Extending Lohri greetings, the Governor highlighted the festival's cultural and social significance, saying that such celebrations promote harmony, strengthen community bonds and help preserve civilisational values.

The legend of Punjabi folk hero Dulla Bhatti (Rai Abdullah Khan Bhatti) was also remembered with awe during the festivities.

A cultural programme presented by the North Zone Cultural Centre (NZCC) featured folk dances and songs associated with Lohri. The lawns of Punjab Lok Bhawan were decorated to resemble a traditional heritage village, adding to the festive ambience.

A dinner was hosted for the dignitaries and guests. The Governor conveyed his best wishes for peace, prosperity and well-being to the people of Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh on the occasion.

### CM Mann to appear before Sri Akal Takht Sahib on January 15; cancels all other programmes

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, January 13

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann put to rest all speculation around his appearance before Sri Akal Takht Sahib, stating unequivocally that neither he nor his office has sought any change in timing and that January 15 has been kept entirely free to comply with the Sri Takht Sahib's directions. Asserting that he will present himself with full humility, the Chief Minister underscored that no official communication seeking a rescheduling has been issued and that the entire day stands exclusively dedicated to Sri Akal Takht Sahib, whose orders, he said, are supreme and will be followed in letter and spirit.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, CM Mann said, "I will appear before Sri Akal Takht Sahib as a devout Sikh and there is no question whatsoever of seeking any change in the timing."

## About 2,000 killed in Iran protests, says official



DUBAI/GENEVA, JANUARY 13

Around 2,000 people were killed in Iran protests, an Iranian official told Reuters on Tuesday, blaming "terrorists" for the deaths of civilians and security personnel.

Meanwhile, the UN human rights chief said that he was "horrified" by mounting violence by Iran's security forces against peaceful protesters.

"This cycle of horrific violence cannot continue. The Iranian people and their demands for fairness, equality and justice must be heard," UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk said in a statement read out by UN rights office spokesperson Jeremy Laurence.

Asked to comment on the scale of the killings, Laurence, citing the United Nations' own sources in Iran, said: "The number that we're hearing is hundreds." PTI

## For every dog bite, we are going to...: SC's big remark on stray dog issue

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13



The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it will ask states to pay a "heavy compensation" for dog-bite incidents as it flagged its concern over the lack of implementation of norms on stray animals for the past five years.

A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta, and NV Anjaria said that even dog lovers and feeders will be held "responsible" and "accountable" for dog-bite incidents.

"For every dog bite, death or injury caused to children or elderly, we are going to ask the state governments to pay heavy compensation, as they did not do anything on implementation of norms in the past five years. Also, responsibility and accountability will be fixed on those who are feeding these stray dogs. If you love these animals so much, then why don't you take them to your house. Why should these dogs loiter around, bite and scare people?" Justice Nath said.

Justice Mehta concurred with the views of Justice Nath and said, "Who should be held accountable when dogs attack a 9-year-old? The organisation that is feeding them? You want us to shut our eyes to the problem." The top court was hearing several petitions seeking modification of its November 7, 2025 order directing the authorities to remove these stray animals from the institutional areas and roads. PTI

## Our 22-minute strike shook Pakistan's decision-making, says Gen Dwivedi

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13



Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Tuesday said that there were two turning points during Operation Sindoor, one of them being the very 22-minute strike on terror targets due to which the decision-making of Pakistan was disrupted.

Speaking at the annual press conference of the Indian Army here, Gen Dwivedi said, "The first was the 22-minute strike on terrorist targets, which derailed the opposite side's decision-making, and they took time to take that all in. Due to this, there was confusion among them, and that led to mismanaged responses, which were met with our calibrated response." PTI

### Situation along LAC stable but requires constant monitoring: Army Chief

Referring to the situation along the disputed boundary with China, Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi said on Tuesday that the situation remains "stable but needs constant monitoring." Speaking at the annual press conference ahead of Army Day on January 15, he added, "Situation at northern front remains stable but needs constant monitoring. Our deployment along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) remains balanced."

## China's claim on Shaksgam valley unacceptable; entire PoK belongs to India: Ladakh L-G Kavinder Gupta

JAMMU, JANUARY 13



Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta on Tuesday strongly rejected China's claim over the Shaksgam valley, asserting that the entire region of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) belongs to India. He also asserted that no expansionist attempt would be tolerated.

China on Monday reaffirmed its territorial claims over the Shaksgam valley in the backdrop of India's objections, stressing that the Chinese infrastructure projects in the area are "beyond reproach".

"The whole of (Pakistan-occupied) Kashmir is ours. We do not know what Pakistan has traded with China. China should understand that nothing will be achieved through its expansionist policy. India is capable. It is not the India of 1962, it is the India of 2026. Any such attempts will be foiled. The Ministry of External Affairs is taking cognisance of it," he told reporters here. PTI

### Chinese Communist Party team visits BJP office, calls on RSS

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Tuesday said it held a formal meeting with a Chinese delegation openly, given the "improved" relations between New Delhi and Beijing, unlike the Congress which, it alleged, "secretly" signed a memorandum of understanding with the neighbouring country's ruling party.

The ruling party also slammed the Congress for raising border issues, saying it has "no locus" to do so as the root of the actual problems with China can be traced back to the time of the first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. PTI

## BJP top brass meets to finalise national president election schedule

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13



Top BJP brass met in the party headquarters today to finalise the schedule for the election of the national president. BJP internal poll in charge K Laxman chaired the meeting.

The national election will be a mere formality with the recently appointed national working president Nitin Nabin set to be elected unopposed.

Nevertheless, the BJP National Council and National Executive meeting has to take place before the final formality of electing the BJP national president. National council members — chosen from among states — form the electoral college for the national president election. Nabin will replace JP Nadda who has been on an unprecedented extension.

A tentative date for the election is January 20 subject to the availability of the Prime Minister, said sources adding that the schedule would most likely be announced today. PTI

## SC delivers split verdict on validity of PC Act provision mandating prior sanction to probe govt official

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13

The Supreme Court on Tuesday delivered a split verdict on the constitutional validity of Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act which mandates a prior approval from the competent authority to launch a probe against a government official.

Terming it an attempt to "protect the corrupt", Justice BV Nagarathna held that no prior sanction was needed from the competent authority to probe a government official, while Justice KV Vishwanathan chose to uphold the provision even as he read it down.

Justice Viswanathan said the Lokpal/Lokayuta should decide if a government official should be prosecuted or not. "Section 17A has no vice of invalid classification. The possibility of abuse is no ground to strike down Section 17A," he pronounced. In view of the split verdict, the matter will now be referred to a larger Bench. The verdict came on a PIL filed by the Centre for Public Interest Litigation challenging the validity of Section 17A of the Act introduced through an amendment in 2018.

The petitioner had contended that the requirement of prior approval for investigating a public servant reintroduced a protection that had already been struck down by the Supreme Court in Vineet Narain v. Union of India and Dr. Subramaniam Swamy v. Director, CBI, wherein the top court. PTI

## 31 trains rescheduled, several cancelled & diverted due to bridge work in Jalandhar

HARISH MONGA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, January 13



As many as 31 trains have been rescheduled or regulated, with delays ranging from 30 minutes to over three hours on different dates. Major trains affected include Amritsar–Bandra Terminus, Amritsar–Katihar, Howrah–Amritsar, Amritsar–Delhi, and Amritsar–Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus.

The announcement of major changes in train operations on the Amritsar–Jalandhar section is due to traffic and OHE (Overhead Equipment) block for the replacement of existing girders with new PSC slabs at Bridge No. 28 in the Jalandhar City yard. The disruption will affect train services on different dates between January 27 and January 31, 2026.

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Railway authorities have advised passengers to check train status before commencing their journey and have sought public cooperation during the essential infrastructure upgrade work.

Train cancellations: A total of six trains have been cancelled on selected dates. These include Amritsar–Delhi (Train No. 14680) and Delhi–Amritsar (Train No. 14679) on January 29 and 31; Amritsar–Haridwar (12054) and Haridwar–Amritsar (12053) on January 31; and passenger services between Jalandhar City and Firozpur Cantt (Train Nos. 74931 and 74940) on January 31.

Diversions are: Three long-distance trains will operate on diverted routes on specified dates. Sambalpur–Jammu Tawi (18309), Pathankot–Delhi (22430), and Hoshiarpur–Agra Cantt (11906) will skip several stations, including Jalandhar City, Beas, Amritsar, Batala, Dhariwal, Gurdaspur, and Dinanagar, during the diversion.

Short Termination is - Five trains will be short-terminated, including Bhagat Ki Kothi–Jammu Tawi (14803), which will terminate at Firozpur Cantt on January 28 and 30. Some passenger and MEMU services between Firozpur Cantt and Jalandhar City will terminate at Khojewala or Phagwara on January 31.

Short Originations are - Four trains will originate from intermediate stations instead of their usual starting points. Jammu Tawi–Bhagat Ki Kothi (14804) will originate from Firozpur Cantt on January 29 and 31, while select passenger services will start from Khojewala or Phagwara.

## Amritsar administration celebrates 'Dhiyan Di Lohri' with 101 newborn girls

RAMAN CHAMAK
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Amritsar, January 13




Celebrating "Dhiyan Di Lohri" (Lohri of Daughters), Punjab Cabinet Minister Harbhajan Singh ETO and his wife Suhinder Kaur joined Lohri festivities with staff and officials of the district administration at Saroop Rani College for Women here. The event specially honoured the families and parents of 101 newborn girls, who were invited to celebrate their daughters' first Lohri.

In Punjab and mostly in North India, Lohri, especially the first Lohri, is considered significant for a newborn. Traditionally, however, the celebration was largely limited to the birth of baby boys. Over the years, this patriarchal norm has begun to fade, giving way to new traditions that promote gender equality. Minister Harbhajan Singh ETO distributed Lohri to the families of the newborn girls and congratulated them on the festival.

"These daughters should be educated and bring honour to their families and the country. It must be reiterated that daughters today are excelling in every field and bringing glory to their parents and the nation," said Minister ETO. He added that in Punjab, educated and capable women have taken charge as Deputy Commissioners in nearly seven to eight districts.

Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar, Dalwinderjit Singh said parents should not consider daughters a burden but should provide them equal opportunities for education. "To eradicate social evils like dowry, we must educate sons and empower daughters," he said.

Meanwhile, the Indian Academy of Fine Arts (IAFA) also celebrated Lohri by dedicating the festivities to art. Artists, poets and cultural enthusiasts participated in the celebrations. Prior to the event, the city's artist fraternity paid a solemn tribute to veteran Bollywood actor Dharmendra.

In another event, former chairman of the Amritsar Improvement Trust (AIT) and senior Congress leader Dinesh Bassi celebrated Lohri with residents of Ward No. 32 in the East constituency. Extending Lohri greetings to the residents, Bassi said Lohri is not merely a festival of circling around a bonfire, but a symbol of farmers' hard work, mutual brotherhood and Punjab's rich cultural heritage.

## Yudh Nashian Virudh: ANTF arrests two including woman with ICE drug




PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, January 13

Under the Punjab Government's decisive anti-drug campaign "Yudh Nashian Virudh", the Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF), Ferozepur Range, has achieved a major breakthrough against the menace of synthetic drugs with the arrest of two alleged high-profile smugglers and the recovery of a substantial quantity of methamphetamine (ICE).

The operation was carried out under the direct supervision of AIG ANTF Ferozepur Range Gurinderbir Singh and the field leadership of DSP Prithipal Singh. Acting on credible intelligence, ANTF teams executed a meticulously planned operation, leading to the arrest of the accused and seizure of contraband.

The arrested accused have been identified as Raj Singh alias Raju, son of Mal Singh, resident of Hazara Ram Singh Wala, Jalalabad, and Nisha Rani, daughter of Prem Singh, resident of Lakha Kadahi (Lakhe Ke Uttar), Police Station Sadar Fazilka.

During the operation, the ANTF recovered 512 grams of methamphetamine (ICE), a highly addictive synthetic drug. A black Hero Splendor Plus motorcycle bearing registration number PB 61 E 7213 was also seized.

According to investigation findings, accused Nisha Rani had been strategically based in Mohali for the past few months. During this period, she was employed at Fortis Hospital, Mohali, and was residing in a paying guest (PG) accommodation.

## Jalandhar industrialists strengthen night security across key factory areas

JALANDHAR, JANUARY 13

In a significant step toward ensuring the safety and security of factory workers, industrialists in Jalandhar have further strengthened night-time security arrangements across major industrial zones. What began nearly two years ago with limited resources has now expanded into a comprehensive security network covering the Focal Point, Gadaipur, Leather Complex and Surgical Complex areas.

Initially, three Bolero security vehicles were deployed for night patrolling in response to frequent incidents of robbery and snatching involving factory workers returning home late at night. With the success of the initiative, the project has now been scaled up considerably. At present, the security setup includes four Bolero vehicles, 4-5 motorcycles, around 40 trained security personnel, gunmen, live surveillance cameras and a dedicated ambulance.

Narinder Singh Sagoo, a leading industrialist and the driving force behind the initiative, said that the impact has been remarkable. "Within a year, criminal incidents in these areas have reduced by nearly 90 per cent," he stated. He added that permission has also been obtained to deploy drones for surveillance. "If someone commits a crime and tries to flee, drones will help track and catch them quickly," Sagoo said.

To further enhance worker welfare, industrialists have also arranged an ambulance service. In case of any medical emergency, whether a factory worker falls ill, a security guard requires assistance, or a worker's child needs urgent medical help, trained staff will provide first aid and transport the patient to a hospital. Sagoo noted that the initiative was launched in coordination with the city police, whose support has been instrumental in its success. Factory workers in these industrial areas had earlier expressed serious safety concerns due to repeated attacks and robberies during night hours. Taking the issue seriously, the industrial community collectively stepped in to address the problem through organised security measures.

The expanded fleet of security vehicles was officially flagged off at the Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) office in Focal Point on February 3 in 2024, marking another milestone in the effort to create a safer environment for thousands of workers employed in industrial areas. AGENCIES

## Health Dept issues warning on enforcing COTPA in Amritsar

N.P.S. CHAMAK
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Amritsar, January 13

The Health Department has issued a strong warning against smoking in public places and the sale of tobacco products near educational institutions, reiterating strict enforcement of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA). Officials said violators will face heavy fines and legal action as part of the ongoing drive to protect public health, especially that of children and youth. Health Department officials stated that smoking in public places such as markets, bus stands, government offices, hospitals and restaurants is strictly prohibited under the law. Similarly, the sale of cigarettes, bidis, gutka, pan masala and other tobacco products within a radius of 100 yards of schools, colleges and other educational institutions is a punishable offence, said Nodal Officer for National Tobacco Control Programme Dr Jaganjot Kaur.

During recent inspections, health teams found several shopkeepers flouting the rules by openly selling tobacco products near schools and displaying advertisements promoting tobacco use. Officials said challans were issued on the spot and warned that repeat offenders could face cancellation of licences.

The department has also directed school authorities to display mandatory signboards clearly stating that the sale of tobacco products within 100 yards of the institutions is prohibited. Educational institutions have been asked to sensitise students about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption through awareness programmes and counselling sessions.

Civil Surgeon Dr Satinderjit Singh stressed that tobacco use is one of the leading causes of cancer, heart disease and respiratory disorders. Exposure to second-hand smoke is equally dangerous, particularly for children, pregnant women and the elderly. "Smoking in public places not only violates the law but also puts the health of non-smokers at serious risk," the official said.

## Hoshiarpur DC mandates Punjabi for all official work in district offices



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Hoshiarpur, January 13

Under the provisions of the Punjab State Language Act 1967 and the State Language (Amendment) Act 2008, all official work in the Punjab secretariat, government/semi-government departments, boards, corporations, and educational institutions must be conducted entirely in Punjabi.

The Punjab government periodically issues directives to enforce the use of Punjabi in office proceedings.In a detailed discussion on the matter, Deputy Commissioner Ashika Jain directed employees and officers in all government/semi-government departments, boards, corporations, and educational institutions across the district to make Punjabi the state's official language mandatory for all office work.

She also issued strict instructions that departmental websites be developed in both English and Punjabi.Jaspreet Kaur, in-charge of the District Language Office Hoshiarpur, and research officer Dr. Jaswant Rai provided further details.

## Jalandhar District Task Force acts against child begging, rescues two children

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Jalandhar, January 13

The Jalandhar district administration has intensified its efforts to curb child begging under Project Jeevanjot-2. As part of this ongoing drive, a comprehensive checking campaign was conducted by the District-Level Task Force for Prevention of Child Begging. The operation was led by District Programme Officer Gagandeep Singh, along with District Child Protection Officer Harpreet Kaur and her team.

During the campaign, teams carried out inspections at several locations across Hoshiarpur district, including major markets, the railway station, Railway Road, bus stand, Phagwara Chowk, and various public places in Block Hajipur such as the bus stand, Gurudwara Hajipur, Shani Mandir, outside Civil Hospital, Buddabad Chowk, village Sandhwal, T-point, police station areas, Nikku Chakk Morh and outside government schools.

The general public was sensitised about the harmful effects of child begging and the importance of protecting children's rights. As a result of the operation, two children were rescued from begging at the Hajipur bus stand and were produced before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Hoshiarpur. The committee conducted counselling of the children and took appropriate decisions in their best interests.

Appealing to citizens, District Child Protection Officer Harpreet Kaur urged people to immediately report any case of child begging or child labour to Child Helpline 1098 so that timely intervention can ensure a secure future for the child. She emphasised that such drives will continue regularly, and strict legal action will be taken against guardians found forcing children into begging.

## Lohri festival celebrated for girls residing at State After Care Home, Amritsar

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Amritsar, January 13

The Lohri festival was celebrated with great enthusiasm and warmth for the girls residing at the State after Care Home, Majitha Road, Amritsar. The event was organized under the aegis of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Amritsar, under the leadership of Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra, Judge, Punjab and Haryana High Court, Administrative Judge, Sessions Division Amritsar and Executive Chairman, Punjab State Legal Services Authority, SAS Nagar (Mohali), Justice Rohit Kapoor, Administrative Judge, Sessions Division Amritsar and under the guidance of the Member Secretary, Punjab State Legal Services Authority, SAS Nagar (Mohali), in collaboration with Invictus International School, Amritsar.

The programme was graciously led by Jatinder Kaur, Learned District & Sessions Judge cum Chairperson, Distirict Legal Services Authority, Amritsar, along with Amardeep Singh Bains, Secretary, DLSA, Amritsar. Their presence and interaction with the girls added immense value and encouragement to the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Jatinder Kaur, Chairperson, DLSA-cum-District & Sessions Judge, Amritsar, emphasized the importance of protecting and educating girls and stated,

"Celebrating Lohri with these girls reinforces the message of 'Save the Girl Child and Educate the Girl Child'. Every girl deserves love, protection, and equal opportunities for education, which alone can empower her to become self-reliant and confident in life."

## Lohri and Makar Sankranti hold special significance in Indian culture

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Hoshiarpur, January 13



The District Cricket Association Hoshiarpur celebrated the Lohri and Makar Sankranti festivals with great enthusiasm at the HDCA sports ground, bringing together players and their parents.

On this occasion, a bonfire was lit, and everyone offered peanuts and rewris into the flames while performing puja.HDCA Secretary Dr. Raman Ghai extended Lohri and Makar Sankranti greetings to all players on behalf of HDCA and PCA, and elaborated on the significance of these festivals.

Dr Ghai stated that our festivals form the foundation of our culture, and we must observe them in accordance with our traditions. He urged the children to take vows on this occasion to conserve water and the environment, as well as maintain cleanliness.Dr. Ghai wished the players success in achieving new heights in their sport by next year's Lohri and Makar Sankranti, and prayed for their bright future. He also appealed to parents to keep their children connected to their traditions and teach them to follow these practices, so that our invaluable heritage our traditions and culture can be preserved for generations to come.

At the Lohri event organized on the HDCA grounds, players and their parents enjoyed the festivities by singing Lohri songs and dancing. HDCA President Dr. Daljeet Khela, Joint Secretary Vivek Sahni, Dr. Pankaj Shiv, Jatinder Sood, Subhash Sharma, Yograj Thakur, Manoj Ohri, Advocate Arvind Sood, Sahib Dayal, along with all HDCA office-bearers, extended Lohri and Makar Sankranti wishes to the players.

## Tek Chand Sood Charitable Trust celebrates Lohri festival

DALJEET AJNOHA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Hoshiarpur, January 13




The Tek Chand Sood Charitable Trust in Hoshiarpur marked the auspicious occasion of Lohri with great enthusiasm and zeal. Children from the ashram, along with staff members, lit a bonfire, offered peanuts and rewri to the fire deity, and savored rewri, gachak, and peanuts amid celebrations. On this festive day, children, staff, and attendees enjoyed songs and dances for entertainment.Trust chairman Sh. Navdeep Sood, also associated with Bhagwan Das Sood Charitable Trust in Hoshiarpur, extended Lohri greetings, expressing hope that the festival would bring happiness and prosperity to all lives.

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# Mann govt introduces landmark reforms to secure property rights in cooperative housing societies

**PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU**
Chandigarh, January 13

In a landmark decision aimed at strengthening property rights and easing long-pending legal uncertainties, Punjab government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann has introduced major citizen-centric reforms to benefit residents living in Cooperative Housing Societies. Acting on the directions of the Chief Minister, who also holds the Cooperation Department portfolio, the Government has approved a comprehensive framework to make registration of cooperative housing properties affordable, secure, and legally robust, while ensuring legitimate recovery of stamp duty for the state.

Sharing details of the decision, the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said that the Punjab government has taken far-reaching steps to formalise property transactions in cooperative housing societies, many of which have remained unregistered for decades. "The Chief Minister has approved a set of reforms to ensure that property transactions in cooperative housing societies are formally registered, legally secure, and financially affordable for citizens, while also safeguarding the State's revenue interests," the statement said.

Explaining the key provisions, the Chief Minister's office stated that instruments of original allotment executed by Cooperative Housing Societies in favour of their original members have been completely exempted from stamp duty. "Such registrations will be permitted at face value, with only a nominal registration fee payable," the CMO said, adding that the same exemption has also been extended to legal heirs, spouses, and eligible family members, as defined and notified by the Department of Revenue, to ensure that genuine successor cases are fully protected.

To further enable thousands of families to secure clear legal title to their homes, the Government has introduced highly concessional, time-bound stamp duty rates for non-original allottees and transferees, notified on January 12, 2026.

# Expanding free anti-rabies vaccination to 881 Aam Aadmi Clinics marks major public health milestone under Mann govt: Dr Balbir Singh

**PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU**
Chandigarh, January 13



For years, a dog bite in Punjab carried consequences far beyond the wound itself. With nearly three lakh dog bite cases reported annually, the risk of rabies, a disease that is 100 percent fatal if untreated yet fully preventable with timely vaccination, loomed large over thousands of families. Access to Anti-Rabies Vaccination (ARV) was limited to just 48 Primary Health Centres, forcing victims, often children, the elderly and daily wage workers, to travel long distances, wait for hours, lose wages and, in many cases, abandon the crucial five dose vaccination schedule midway. The gaps were systemic, and the human cost was severe.

That reality has now been decisively altered under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann. Leveraging the expansive network of 881 Aam Aadmi Clinics established over the last three years, the Punjab Government has delivered one of its most consequential public health reforms by universalising ARV services at the primary care level.

On this. Punjab Health Minister Dr Balbir Singh stated, "Under the visionary leadership of CM Bhagwant Singh Mann, Punjab is committed to protecting every life through accessible and affordable healthcare. With nearly 3 lakh dog bite cases annually, expanding Anti-Rabies Vaccination services to 881 Aam Aadmi Clinics is a critical public health milestone. By ensuring timely, complete treatment close to people's homes, we are building a safer, healthier Punjab."

# Govt's efforts to promote Punjabi Language pays off; over 2.25 lakh students participated in Olympiad across globe, says Harjot Bains

**PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU**
Chandigarh, January 13



The results of the highly successful Third International Punjabi Language Olympiad-2025, organised by the Punjab School Education Board (PSEB), were declared today.

In the Class 3rd-5th international category, Niamat Kaur Brar topped, followed by Ahil Singh and Harseerat Kaur, all from Oslo, Norway. Simrit Kaur secured the top spot in the Class 6th-8th international category, with Amrit Kaur Virdi and Navjot Singh Matharu finishing second and third, respectively trio from Nairobi, Kenya. Parmeet Singh Gurm from Oslo topped the Class 9th-12th international category.

In the Punjab category, Reenat Mahal from Amritsar topped Class 3rd-5th, followed by Avneet Kaur from Moga and Sangampreet Kaur from Faridkot. Karajneet Kaur from Patiala won Class 6th-8th, with Jasmine Roopra from Faridkot and Anisha Kumari from Roopnagar securing second and third spot, respectively. Inderjeet Singh from Moga topped Class 9th-12th, followed by Simranjot Kaur from Fatehgarh Sahib and Navroop Kaur from Gurdaspur.

In the other states category, Parneet Kaur Ahuja from Delhi topped Class 3rd-5th, followed by Khushnoor Kaur from Rajasthan and Jasmeen Kaur from Uttar Pradesh. Daksha from Haryana won Class 6th-8th, with Gurnoor Singh and Navneet Uniyal from Chandigarh securing second and third spot, respectively. Mantej Singh Virk from Chandigarh topped Class 9th-12th, followed by Vanshdeep Singh from Haryana and Ekansh Singh from Chandigarh.

Congratulating the winners and participants of the Olympiad, Punjab Education Minister S. Harjot Singh Bains lauded the PSEB for making the 3rd Olympiad a huge success with participation jumping many fold from mere 8000 to over 2.25 lakh students this year as compared to previous Olympiad. This overwhelming response reflects the public's trust in CM Bhagwant Singh Mann led Punjab Government's mother-tongue friendly policies, he added.

"The Olympiad was not merely a competition but a powerful movement to instill pride, linguistic confidence and strengthen cultural identity associated with our mother tongue among students," said the Education Minister, while adding that such initiatives play a crucial role in fostering cultural pride and self-confidence in the youth.

# Planned urban growth gets boost as PRTPD board clears key master plans



**PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU**
Chandigarh, January 13

In an endeavour to ensure planned development of the State, a high-level meeting of the Punjab Regional and Town Planning and Development (PRTPD) Board was today held here at Punjab Bhawan, under the Chairmanship of Punjab Housing and Urban Development Minister Hardeep Singh Mundian, Vice Chairman, PRTPD Board-cum-Minister In-Charge, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Punjab.

The meeting was attended by Sanjeev Arora, Minister In-Charge, Department of Local Government, Industries and Commerce, Investment Promotion and Power, while Harbhajan Singh, Minister In-Charge, Public Works Department and other officers joined the deliberations through virtual mode. The Board took up key agendas aimed at strengthening orderly urbanisation and infrastructure-led growth across the State.

During the meeting, the PRTPD Board accorded approval to the new Master Plans of Dera Baba Nanak, Nangal, Barnala and Nabha.

The approvals will ensure systematic development of these regions and open avenues for fresh investment through upcoming industrial hubs and residential townships, thereby creating employment opportunities and improving civic amenities.

# Zero tolerance against corruption: Cheema announces strict action against corrupt employees

**PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU**
Chandigarh, January 13



Reaffirming the Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann-led Punjab Government's zero-tolerance policy against corruption, Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema on Tuesday said strict and exemplary action was being taken against corrupt officials in the Finance Department, underlining that no one would be spared, irrespective of rank or position.

Sharing details of the ongoing crackdown, Cheema said complaints of corruption were received in mid-2022 against four employees posted in the Treasury and Accounts Branch (Head Office) and various District Treasury Offices. "The moment complaints were received, the department acted without delay. All four officials were immediately suspended and the matter was handed over to the Vigilance Bureau for a thorough and independent investigation," he said.

Explaining the outcome of the departmental inquiry, the Finance Minister stated that after an exhaustive probe, decisive action was taken in December 2025. "One official holding the rank of Superintendent Grade-2 was dismissed from service, while the remaining three employees were awarded major punishments as per the service rules. This itself reflects the Punjab Government's zero tolerance towards corruption," he said.

Cheema further informed that legal proceedings were also taken to their logical conclusion.

BEANT SINGH MURDER

# SC defers hearing on Jagtar Singh Hawara's plea for transfer to Punjab jail

**NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13**

The Supreme Court on Tuesday deferred by two weeks the hearing on Beant Singh murder convict Jagtar Singh Hawara's plea seeking his transfer from Tihar Jail in the national capital to a prison in Punjab.

Hawara — a Babbar Khalsa terrorist — is serving life term in the case related to the assassination of former Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh in 1995.

A Bench of Justice MM Sundresh and Justice N Kotiswar Singh adjourned the hearing as Solicitor General Tushar Mehta was not available.

The 55-year-old prisoner has sought his transfer to a Punjab jail on grounds that he demonstrated good conduct in jail, the crime was committed at a time of social unrest and his daughter lived in Punjab. He has contended that all co-accused involved in the jail break were in Punjab jails and the Director General (Prisons) recommended his transfer to a jail in Punjab almost eight years ago on October 7, 2016. He also claimed that there was not a single case pending against him in Delhi and that he was unable to attend proceedings in a case pending in Punjab.

Former Punjab CM Beant Singh and 16 others were killed on August 31, 1995, in an explosion outside the Civil Secretariat in Chandigarh on August 31, 1995. **AGENCIES**

# Defaulting plot allottees get fresh relief window: Minister Mundian



**PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU**
Chandigarh, January 13

Punjab Housing and Urban Development Minister Hardeep Singh Mundian on Tuesday said that the Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann led Punjab Government has taken a major propeople step by approving the extension of Amnesty Policy 2025, bringing substantial relief to defaulting plot allottees across Punjab.

The Cabinet Minister said the Cabinet has approved the extension of Amnesty Policy 2025 for allotted and auctioned plots under various schemes of the Housing and Urban Development Department. With this decision, defaulting allottees of Development Authorities will get a fresh opportunity to apply under the policy up to March 31, 2026. The eligible applicants will have to deposit the due amount within three months from the date of approval by the concerned Development Authority and applications must be submitted on or before the revised cutoff date.

Explaining the public oriented intent behind the decision, the Cabinet Minister said, "Mann Government is focused on resolving long pending housing related issues of common people. Several families and institutions were facing hardship due to accumulated dues and procedural delays and the policy extension provides them a practical chance to regularize their properties and move forward."

# SIT seeks SGPC records in 328 'missing saroops' probe

**CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 13**

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Punjab Police on Tuesday sought records from the SGPC in connection with their probe into the 328 missing 'saroops' of the Guru Granth Sahib case.

The SIT on Tuesday formally requested the records from the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) offices in both Amritsar and Chandigarh.

"We met the SGPC officials and have given a written request that the record be provided. They said they will soon provide us with the record. Once we have the record, we can properly investigate," SIT member Jagatpreet Singh told reporters in Amritsar after meeting the SGPC officials.

Earlier on Monday, Akal Takht acting Jathedar Giani Kuldeep Singh Gargajj had directed the SGPC to cooperate with the Punjab government over the 328 missing sacred 'saroops' case.

The Jathedar on Monday said, "In view of the confusion being created among the 'sangat' by some people in the present matter of the sacred 'saroops' and keeping in mind the larger Panthic interests, the president of the SGPC, Harjinder Singh Dhami, is hereby authorised to extend due cooperation to the government only with regard to the issue of the 328 sacred 'saroops'." **PTI**

YUDH NASHIAN VIRUDH

# On day 318, Punjab Police nab 68 drug smugglers with 2.7kg heroin

**PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU**
Chandigarh, January 13

Continuing the war against drugs "Yudh Nashian Virudh" waged by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann to eradicate drug menace from state consecutively for the 318th day, Punjab Police conducted raids at 228 locations on Tuesday leading to the arrest of 68 drug smugglers after registration of 50 first information reports (FIRs) across the state. With this, the number of total drug smugglers arrested has reached to 44,312 in 318 days.

The raids have resulted in recovery of 2.7 kg heroin, 977 intoxicant tablets/capsules and Rs 32,650 drug money from the possession of arrested drug smugglers.

Notably, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann has asked the Commissioners of Police, Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendent of Police to make Punjab drug free state. The Punjab government has also constituted a 5-member Cabinet Sub Committee led by Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema to monitor the war against drugs.

Over 80 Police teams, comprising over 600 police personnel, under the supervision of 45 gazetted officers have conducted 228 raids across the state. Police teams have also checked as many as 226 suspicious persons during the day-long operation.

The state government has enforced a three-pronged strategy— Enforcement, Deaddiction and Prevention (EDP)— to eradicate drugs from the state, the Punjab Police as part of 'De-addiction' has convinced 31 persons to undergo de-addiction and rehabilitation treatment today.

# Punjab-origin youth shot dead in Canada's Abbotsford amid 'drug gang conflict'

**RAIKOT, JANUARY 13**

A Canada-born Punjabi youth from Sudhar village in Ludhiana was shot dead in West Abbotsford on Friday, allegedly as part of an ongoing gang conflict among drug peddlers in British Columbia. The Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT) of Abbotsford had earlier confirmed that the murder was linked to gang activity but had withheld the victim's identity. The deceased has now been identified as 28-year-old Navpreet Singh Dhaliwal.

Dony Bal, who had previously claimed responsibility for the murders of Kabaddi promoter Rana Balachaur and Sarpanch Jarmal Singh, has reportedly taken responsibility for Navpreet's killing.

Sources from Dhaliwal's native village said he had rarely visited Sudhar during his adulthood.

Former Block Committee chairman and SAD leader Mehar Singh Dhaliwal stated that the deceased was the grandson of his cousin Nazar Singh.

Navpreet's father, Gurjinder Singh Dhaliwal, had moved to Canada in 1995, two years before Navpreet's birth.

On the day of the shooting, Navpreet and his mother were at home while his father cared for his grandfather, Nazar Singh Dhaliwal, at a hospital in Abbotsford.

"They broke open the door and shot a bullet in Navpreet's leg while he was preparing for an exam in his study. Before his mother could call police, the intruders had finished their job," said Mehar Singh Dhaliwal.

Abbotsford police received a report of the shooting at 12:38 am on January 9, at the 3200 block of Siskin Drive. Navpreet was found seriously injured and later succumbed to his injuries at the scene. **AGENCIES**

# Police bust narcotics network in SBS Nagar

**SBS NAGAR, JANUARY 13**

In a push against drug trafficking, district police have launched a series of successful enforcement operations leading to the registration of multiple cases under the NDPS Act and the arrest of three accused individuals. Significant recoveries of heroin and intoxicant tablets have been made during targeted checking and patrolling drives.

SSP Tushar Gupta told here today that in the first operation, a police team headed by ASI Baljinder Kumar (196/LDH-R) apprehended a suspect identified as Mukesh Kumar, resident of Khachar Kalan.

The accused, reportedly attempted to discard a polythene packet upon noticing the police vehicle near Railway Station Khachar Kalan. Swift police action led to his detention, and subsequent checking revealed 6 grams of heroin in his possession. A case under Sections 21, 61, and 85 of the NDPS Act has been registered, and the accused was taken into custoday.

SSP Gupta said in another incident, an operation led by HC Chandandeep Singh (782/SBSN) resulted in the recovery of 6 grams of heroin from Ajay Kumar, resident of Bhoot village. The accused allegedly tried to flee and discarded a transparent polythene packet near Kapand Gosal area during routine police checking, but was apprehended after a brief chase. **AGENCIES**

# Punjab Governor felicitates Sankalp IAS Alumni at 'Annual Parv Milan' function held at Punjab Lok Bhawan

A.S. PRASHAR
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, January 13



The Governor of Punjab and Administrator Chandigarh, Gulab Chand Kataria, on Tuesday felicitated selected candidates and serving civil servants—alumni of Sankalp IAS, Chandigarh—during the annual 'Parv Milan' function held at Punjab Lok Bhawan. The programme was organised to honour successful candidates and serving officers trained at Sankalp IAS, a premier civil services coaching institution.

Addressing the gathering, the Governor stated that civil servants are custodians of constitutional values and serve as a vital bridge between the State and its citizens. He emphasised the importance of integrity, transparency, and human-centric governance, and acknowledged the critical role played by institutions and mentors in shaping responsible and ethical civil servants.

He felicitated 20 officers from the IAS, IPS, IRS, IIS, HCS, PCS, and AETC cadres, who are currently serving in various capacities across the country, and lauded their achievements and commitment to public service.

The Governor also appreciated the faculty and mentors of Sankalp IAS for instilling discipline, academic excellence, and public service values among students, and expressed confidence in the institution's continued contribution to nation-building.

Charanjit Rai, President, Sankalp IAS, Chandigarh, informed that the Chandigarh centre has so far guided 133 successful candidates in UPSC and other competitive examinations. Referring to the recent PCS results, he congratulated the institution for achieving 13 selections out of 18 candidates.

Prominent dignitaries present on the occasion included Mahamuni Ramdas Ji from Jodhpur (Rajasthan); Gian Chand Gupta, former Speaker, Haryana Vidhan Sabha; V.P. Singh, Principal Secretary to the Governor of Punjab; Sanjay Tandon; T. Padam Nair, Director, Thapar University, Patiala; along with other officials and distinguished guests.

# Mohali district admn celebrates Lohri of 51 newborn daughters, promotes gender equality

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Mohali, January 13




Led by DC Komal Mittal, Mohali District Administration celebrated the Lohri festival of 51 newly born baby girls to spread the message of gender equality and to promote the "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" campaign.

The event was organized in a traditional manner with the lighting of a Lohri bonfire, symbolizing warmth, prosperity and happiness, where families and officials offered prayers for the bright future of the newborn daughters at District Administrative Complex, SAS Nagar, Mohali.

On this occasion, the mothers of the babies were felicitated with gifts and sweets on behalf of the Department of Social Security, Women and Child Development, Punjab.

While extending heartfelt congratulations to the mothers and families, Deputy Commissioner Komal Mittal said that there is no discrimination between boys and girls in today's progressive society, as girls are excelling in every field. She recalled that there was a time when the birth of daughters was not celebrated, but now daughters are welcomed with great enthusiasm and pride.

She further said that the recent Cricket World Cup victory, achieved with the contribution of several players of Punjab origin, reflects how dedication and opportunity can help young talent reach global heights, and this should inspire parents to nurture their daughters with confidence.

Congratulating the families and the women staff of the District Administration present on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner urged parents to provide equal opportunities, education and freedom of decision-making to girls so that they can achieve new milestones in life.

ADC (General) Geetika Singh, ADC (Development) Sonam Chaudhary, SDM Kharar Divya P., Assistant Commissioner (General) Ankita Kansal, District Programme Officer Nikhil Arora and other officers were also present during the celebration.

## MCC celebrates Lohri at MCC Building: Mayor extends greetings to citizens



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, January 13

The Municipal Corporation Chandigarh celebrated the festival of Lohri with great enthusiasm and traditional fervour at the MCC Building, Sector 17, Chandigarh creating a festive and joyful atmosphere among officers and employees.

The celebration was graced by the presence of the city Mayor, Harpreet Kaur Babla, MC Commissioner, Amit Kumar and Special Commissioner Pardeep Kumar along with councillors, senior officers and officials of the Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh.

On the occasion, the dignitaries extended warm Lohri greetings to the officers and staff members and participated in the ceremonial bonfire, symbolising prosperity, happiness and togetherness. The event reflected the rich cultural heritage of the region and strengthened the spirit of unity and camaraderie among the MCC family.

Addressing the gathering, the Mayor appreciated the dedication and hard work of MCC employees in delivering civic services to the citizens of Chandigarh and conveyed her best wishes for their continued success and well-being.

## MC Commissioner reviews infrastructure and security issues of transport area, Sector-26



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, January 13

Amit Kumar, Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Chandigarh, on Tuesday reviewed long-pending infrastructure, safety and civic issues of the Transport Area, Sector-26 alongwith the office bearers of Transport Association.

During the review, members of the Transport Association highlighted that road re-carpeting in the Transport Area was last undertaken in 2018 and 2021, and the condition of roads has since deteriorated considerably. The Commissioner was informed about the urgent need for re-carpeting and strengthening of internal roads to ensure smooth vehicular movement.

The President of the Association, J. S. Gill, drew attention to the poor and dilapidated condition of the night shelter at the Idle Truck Parking area. He emphasized that the shelter requires immediate repair and renovation so that it can be made fully functional. He suggested provision of basic facilities such as proper bedding, adequate ventilation, open sitting space, kitchen arrangements, fans and coolers for the benefit of truck drivers and helpers.

The Commissioner also reviewed the demand for construction of four rain shelters within the Idle Truck Parking area, as the lack of shade causes inconvenience to drivers and workers during extreme weather conditions. To address security concerns and incidents of theft, the association requested concertina fencing on the boundary wall and installation of CCTV cameras across the parking area.

## Chandigarh records season's coldest night

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, January 13

Chandigarh reeled under an intense cold wave as the minimum temperature plunged to 2.8°C, the lowest recorded in the city in the past nine years.

The sharp dip brought winter blues to residents, with foggy mornings and icy winds adding to the chill.

Streets wore a deserted look in the early hours as people stayed indoors to escape the biting cold.

Homeless shelters witnessed an increased rush, while authorities urged citizens to take precautions, especially the elderly and children.

The Meteorological Department attributed the cold spell to northerly winds and clear skies, predicting persistently cold conditions over the next few days.

Chandigarh had recorded a minimum temperature of 2.4°C on January 11, 2017 and 2.1°C on January 24, 2016.

# PU celebrates Lohri with traditional fervour



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, January 13

Panjab University (PU), Chandigarh celebrated Lohri with traditional fervour on the PU campus on Tuesday. Faculty, staff and students organised several functions to observe the festival with customary rituals, folk traditions and community participation.A large number of administrative staff members, teachers, students and senior officers took part in the celebrations held near the Single Window Enquiry Cell. The celebrations included traditional prayers, folk songs and dance performances, reflecting the cultural spirit of the festival.

Addressing the function organised by the PU Non-Teaching Employees Federation near the Single Window Enquiry Cell, the Vice Chancellor Prof Renu Vig greeted students, alumni and other stakeholders of the University and wished them collective success. She said that Lohri symbolises new beginnings, gratitude for nature and the spirit of togetherness.

During the event, the Vice Chancellor also released the official PU Calendar for the year 2026.

Registrar Prof. Y. P. Verma, Director, Research and Development Cell, Prof. Meenakshi Goyal, Controller of Examinations Prof. Jagat Bhushan, Dean Student Welfare Prof. Amit Chauhan, Dean Student Welfare (Women) Prof. Namita Gupta, Executive Engineer Anil Thakur, Director Public Relations Dr Vineet Punia, and PU PUSA President Honey Thakur were also present on the occasion.

# PGIMER celebrates Lohri with patients and attendants

- SPREADS WARMTH AND COMPASSION AT SEWA BHARTI SARAI



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, January 13

PGIMER celebrated the festival of Lohri on Tuesday with patients and their attendants at Sewa Bharti Sarai in a heartfelt initiative aimed at spreading warmth, hope, and a sense of belonging among those who are away from their homes during treatment. The celebration was organised by the Department of Hospital Administration and Reception, reflecting the institute's continued commitment to compassionate and patient-centric care.

The Lohri celebration was specially curated for patients and their attendants, many of whom are undergoing prolonged treatment and are unable to be with their families during the festive season. The initiative sought to recreate the spirit of Lohri as a festival of bonding, warmth, and togetherness, ensuring that patients feel cared for not only medically, but emotionally as well.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Vipin Koushal Medical Superintendent &Head Dept of Hospital Administration, PGIMER highlighted PGIMER's ethos of empathy and human values. He said,"PGIMER is not just a centre for clinical excellence, but also a place of compassion and humanity. Celebrating festivals like Lohri with our patients and their attendants reinforces our belief that healing extends beyond medicines it lies equally in kindness, warmth, and emotional support."

As part of the celebration, Vishav Manav Ruhani Kendra distributed blankets to patients and attendants, symbolising care, comfort, and solidarity during the winter season. The gesture was deeply appreciated by beneficiaries, many of whom expressed gratitude for being remembered and supported during a difficult phase of their lives.

A representative from Vishav Manav Ruhani Kendra, associated with the blanket distribution, shared, "Our aim is to serve humanity beyond boundaries. By sharing warmth with patients and their families at PGIMER during Lohri, we hope to remind them that they are not alone and that society stands with them in their journey towards recovery."

# Classifieds

## CHANGE OF NAME

I Darbara Singh Alias Bhura Singh s/o Chanan Singh R/o village kankwal Bhanguan, po Dharam garh, Teh Sunam Distt Sangrur (PB) 148028 I have known as both names

I Jasvir Singh S/o Kulwant Singh R/o ward no. 02, khanauri mandi teh Moonak Distt Sangrur Have Changed my name Jasbeer Singh

I hitherto known as JASPREET SINGH S/o IQBAL SINGH MANN residing at Near Bus Stand Burj Manshia, Tehsil Rampura Phul, District Bathinda, Punjab-151103, India, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known JASPREET SINGH MANN

I hitherto known as RUKHSAR W/o IKBAL AHMAD Residing at H.No.B-1/171, G.T.Road, Maqsudan, Jalandhar, District Jalandhar, Punjab-144008, India, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RUKHSAR KHATUN

I Manpreet Kaur W/O Mandeep Singh R/O Ward no -1, VPO Maqsudpur district Kapurthala declare that have changed my name from Manpreet Kaur to Kaur Manpreet. Please note.

I Kriti Bagga D/o Satish Chopra R/o H.No.160-B, Vikas Nagar, Pakhowal Road, Near Geeta Mandir, Ludhiana have changed my name from Kriti Bagga to Kriti Chopra.

I Aanchal W/o Vinod Kohli R/o H No 10141,St No 1, Ranjodh Park, Haibowal Kalan, Ludhiana Have Changed My Name from Aanchal to Aanchal Kohli.

I, Bhuri Bai Legally Mother of Army No. 15726546W LNK BALASTAR Unit: 1 ADSR (Corps of Signals) C/o 56 APO, Permanent Resident of Gram Ganga Ram Ka Pura Banamor, PO: Banmore, Distt: Morena, Madhya Pradesh, Pin Code- 476444 have changed my Name & DOB from Bhuri Devi & 11-03-1972 to Bhuri Bai & 01-01-1970.

I, Kuljeet Kaur is Legally Wedded Wife of Army No. JC-287939N, Rank: Sub. Name: Dilbag Singh Unit: 31 Med. Regt. C/o 56 APO, have changed my Name from Kuljit Kaur to Kuljeet Kaur due to wrongly mentioned in my husband's service record/ sheet roll.

I, Somari Bai Nag is real Mother of Army No. 15503995P Rank, SWR Name Dinesh Kumar Nag Unit 45 Cavalry C/o 56 APO, Patiala Cantt, permanent resident of Guriya Sulenga Bijlee, Bijli. Narayanpur, Chhattisgarh-49461, That in my son military part-II order / service record my name is wrongly written as Somari Bai, but my correct name is SOMARI BAI NAG.

I, hitherto known as Reena W/o Sunny Gill residing at House No. 218, Ward No. 5, Shalimar Nagar, Tehsil & District Hoshiarpur, Punjab-146001 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Reena Gill.

I, Dalvir Singh S/o Swaran Singh R/o Village Dholowal, PO. Garhdiwala, Tehsil Dasuya, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab, India declare that I have my name Dalvir Singh changed to my first name Dalvir and surname as Singh. All concerned note.

I, hitherto known as Sukhmanjot W/o Jagpreet Singh residing at Village Badshahpur, PO. Muridwal, Tehsil Shahkot, Distt. Jalandhar-144701, Punjab have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sukhmanjot Kaur.

I, Jasmel Kaur Ubhi W/O Rajinder Singh Ubhi R/O Jodhan Ludhiana changed my name to Jasmail Kaur.

I, Bhajan Lal S/O Mela Ram R/O Guru Kirpa Enclave Qutabewal Araian, Ludhiana changed my name to Bhajan Singh.

I, Akashdeep Singh, father of Shri Jagtar Singh, resident of village Kalyan, Tehsil Ahmedgarh, District Malerkotla. I have adopted the word Singh as my surname.

I Khushpreet Kaur W/o Devinder Singh Sandhar, Village Bulepur, Tehsil Khanna Distt Ludhiana have changed my name to Khushpreet Kaur Sandhar

## PUBLIC NOTICE

We Virbinder Singh S/o Karnail Singh and Babli wife Virbinder Singh R/o Bagh Basti, Tapa Teh Tapa District Barnala declare that our son Gagandeep Singh Brar and his wife Kamaljit Kaur were earlier out of our control. Who are currently living in England. We had evicted them from our movable and immovable property by publishing an advertisement in the Daily Pehredar and Times of India dated 2nd September 2025. Now our son Gagandeep Singh Brar and his wife Kamaljit Kaur are in our control. We withdraw their eviction.

I, Paramjit Singh, son of Dalip Singh, resident of village Kaind, District Ludhiana, hereby declare that my son Jaspreet Singh does not obey me and quarrels with me. Therefore, I disown my son from all my movable and immovable property. Anyone dealing with him shall be solely responsible for such dealings.

I, Dharam Pal Singh, son of Surta Singh, resident of House No. 1402, Street No. 13, Darshan Singh Nagar, Patiala, declare that my son Gurpreet Singh, son of Dharam Pal Singh, is beyond my control. I hereby disinherit him from my movable and immovable property. Whoever transacts with him will be responsible for it. There will be no responsibility on my part or on my family.

ਮੈਂ, ਬਲਵੰਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਅਰੂੜ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਮਕਾਨ ਨੰ.1753/133ਏ ਗਾਂਧੀ ਨਗਰ ਜਲਾਲਾਬਾਦ (ਪੱ.) ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਜਲਾਲਾਬਾਦ ਜਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਫਾਜਿਲਕਾ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰਾ ਲੜਕਾ ਨਵਜੋਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਤੇ ਨੂੰਹ ਗਗਨਦੀਪ ਕੌਰ ਮੇਰੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹਨ। ਮੈਂ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੋਵਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੱਲ-ਅਚੱਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖਲ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ। ਅੱਜ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਇਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਪੈਸਿਆ ਦਾ ਲੈਣ-ਦੇਣ ਜਾਂ ਲੜਾਈ ਝਗੜਾ ਕਰੇਗਾ, ਇਹ ਖੁਦ ਆਪ ਜ਼ੁੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਣਗੇ। ਮੇਰਾ ਤੇ ਮੇਰੇ ਬਾਕੀ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦਾ ਕੋਈ ਸਬੰਧ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ।

## ਮੋਟਰ ਵਹੀਕਲ ਸੂਚਨਾ

A vehicle number PB39H-0964 is registered in the name of Surekha Rani wife Vijay Kumar. After her death on 26-02-2025, her son Anuj Wasan son Vijay Kumar has applied to get it registered in his name. If anyone has any objection in this regard, they can contact the Regional Transport Authority Patiala within 15 days.

MORE CLASSIFIED ADVTs ON PAGE-7

Abhishek Garg S/o Bharat Bhusha R/o 7, New Lehal Colony, Patiala ਨੇ ਉਕਤ ਕਾਰ/ ਮੋਟਰ ਸਾਈਕਲ/ ਸਕੂਟਰ/ ਟਰੈਕਟਰ ਨੰ: PB 11CZ 5717 ਆਪਣੇ ਨਾਮ ਤੇ ਟਰਾਂਸਫਰ ਕਰਵਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਅਰਜੀ ਦਫਤਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕੀਤੀ ਹੈ। ਕਾਰ/ ਮੋਟਰ ਸਾਈਕਲ/ ਸਕੂਟਰ/ ਟਰੈਕਟਰ ਨੰ: PB 11CZ 5717 ਦੀ ਰਜਿਸਟਰੇਸ਼ਨ Om Parkash S/o Sadhu Ram ਦੇ ਨਾਮ ਪਰ ਹੈ ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੀ ਮੌਤ ਮਿਤੀ 27-09-2025 ਨੂੰ ਹੋ ਚੁੱਕੀ ਹੈ, ਉਕਤ ਵੀਹਕਲ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਜੇਕਰ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਕੋਈ ਇਤਰਾਜ ਹੈ ਉਹ 15 ਦਿਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਅੰਦਰ ਅੰਦਰ ਇਸ ਦਫਤਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੇ। ਰਿਜਨਲ ਟਰਾਂਸਪੋਰਟ ਅਥਾਰਟੀ, ਪਟਿਆਲਾ

Splendor+ (M/Cycle) ਜਿਸਦਾ ਰਜਿ. ਨੰ. PB11CN-6429 ਹੈ। ਉਕਤ ਵਹੀਕਲ Rupesh Kumar S/o Sajjan Lal Gupta R/o H.No. 130, Kartar Colony, Ablowal, Patiala ਦੇ ਨਾਮ ਦਰਜ ਹੈ। Rupesh Kumar ਦਾ ਮਿਤੀ 06-08-2023 ਨੂੰ ਦੇਹਾਂਤ ਹੋ ਚੁੱਕਾ ਹੈ। ਹੁਣ ਉਕਤ ਵਹੀਕਲ Reena Sahu W/o Late Sh. Rupesh Kumar R/o # 130, Kartar Colony, Ablowal, Patiala ਨੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਨਾਮ ਟਰਾਂਸਫਰ ਕਰਵਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਪੇਪਰ ਇਸ ਦਫਤਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕੀਤੇ ਹਨ। ਜੇਕਰ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਕੋਈ ਇਤਰਾਜ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ 15 ਦਿਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਅੰਦਰ ਅੰਦਰ ਇਸ ਦਫਤਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰੇ। ਰੀਜ਼ਨਲ ਟਰਾਂਸਪੋਰਟ ਅਥਾਰਟੀ, ਪਟਿਆਲਾ

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## MC Commissioner reviews waste management, sanitation and fire safety compliance in city schools

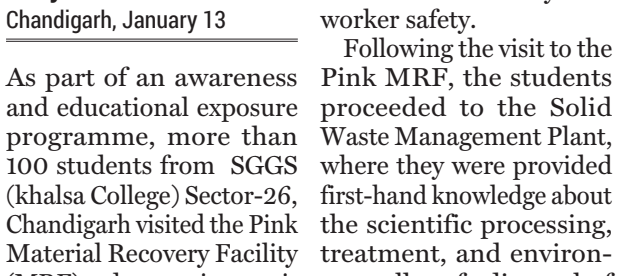
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, January 13

A review meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Chandigarh Amit Kumar, to assess compliance of waste management, sanitation, awareness programmes, and fire safety measures in schools across the city.

During the meeting, it was emphasized that segregation of waste at source is mandatory in all schools. Schools were directed to ensure the installation and regular use of dual bins, sanitary bins, and to strictly follow the Reduce, Reuse and Recycle (RRR) principle as per Solid Waste Management Rules.

The Commissioner directed that horticulture waste must be processed in-house by schools, and necessary arrangements should be completed within the prescribed timelines. Proper handling and disposal of garden and green waste was stressed to prevent environmental hazards.

## MC Chandigarh facilitates educational tour to promote cleanliness and recycling awareness



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, January 13

As part of an awareness and educational exposure programme, more than 100 students from SGGS (khalsa College) Sector-26, Chandigarh visited the Pink Material Recovery Facility (MRF) today to gain practical insights into the city's solid waste management system.

During the visit, the students were sensitised about the importance of source segregation, recycling of dry waste, and the overall functioning of the Pink MRF, which plays a crucial role in strengthening Chandigarh's waste management infrastructure. Officials and technical staff at the facility explained the end-to-end process of waste sorting, recovery of recyclable materials, and safe handling practices being adopted to ensure efficiency and worker safety.

Following the visit to the Pink MRF, the students proceeded to the Solid Waste Management Plant, where they were provided first-hand knowledge about the scientific processing, treatment, and environmentally safe disposal of municipal solid waste. The interactive session helped students understand modern waste processing techniques and the significance of sustainable practices in urban waste management.

The educational visit aimed to enhance awareness among students regarding cleanliness, waste reduction, recycling, and responsible environmental behaviour. Such initiatives also seek to encourage youth participation in supporting the objectives of the Swachh Bharat Mission and promoting a cleaner and greener city.

# Ludhiana Police achieve major success; recover 174 lost mobile phones and hand them over to owners

YOGESH KAPOOR
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, January 13



**The Jamalpur Police team, with the help of the Central Government's CEIR (Central Equipment Identity Register) portal, traced and recovered a total of 174 mobile phones that had been reported lost and subsequently blocked through the CEIR portal.**

In a major achievement, the Ludhiana Police have successfully traced, recovered, and returned 174 lost mobile phones to their rightful owners, reaffirming their commitment to public service and the effective use of technology.

Acting on the directions of Commissioner of Police Ludhiana, Swapan Sharma, a special drive was launched to trace missing mobile phones. Under the guidance of Jaswinder Singh Gill, ADCP Police, Zone-4, Ludhiana, and Inderjit Singh Boparai, ACP, Industrial Area-A, Ludhiana, and under the supervision of Sub-Inspector Daljit Singh, Station House Officer, Police Station Jamalpur, the IT Cell team of Police Station Jamalpur achieved significant success.

The Jamalpur Police team, with the help of the Central Government's CEIR (Central Equipment Identity Register) portal, traced and recovered a total of 174 mobile phones that had been reported lost and subsequently blocked through the CEIR portal.

After completing due verification and all legal formalities, all 174 recovered mobile phones were handed over to their rightful owners at Police Station Jamalpur on January 12.

Citizens who received their mobile phones expressed their happiness and gratitude towards the Ludhiana Police and the IT Cell team. This achievement reflects the Punjab Police's dedication towards public welfare, protection of citizens' property, and the effective use of modern technology to serve the people.

# Health Dept honours newborn girls on Lohri, spreads message of gender equality

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, January 13



The Health Department, Ferozepur, celebrated the "Lohri of Daughters" by organizing a district-level function under the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' campaign in the campus of the Civil Hospital. The programme was held under the leadership of Senior Medical Officer Dr. Nikhil Gupta, while Civil Surgeon Dr. Rajiv Parashar attended the event as the chief guest.

Among those present on the occasion were Assistant Civil Surgeon Dr. Sushma Thakkar, District Family Welfare Officer Dr. Mandeep Kaur, and District Immunization Officer Dr. Meenakshi Abrol. During the event, girls conveyed the message of 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' through traditional giddha performances and songs, creating an atmosphere of celebration and social awareness.

As part of the Lohri celebrations, Civil Surgeon Dr. Rajiv Parashar honoured newborn baby girls born at the Civil Hospital by presenting them with gifts. Peanuts and 'rewris' were distributed, and Lohri was celebrated with children and their parents. Dr. Parashar congratulated the parents of the newborn girls and extended his best wishes for the health, bright future, and overall progress of the children.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Rajiv Parashar emphasized that there should be no discrimination between boys and girls. He said girls should be raised and educated on par with boys, adding that girls are no less capable in any field, provided they are given equal opportunities. He appealed to parents not to consider daughters as a burden but to give them the chance to explore and succeed in the world.

District Family Welfare Officer Dr. Mandeep Kaur and Senior Medical Officer Dr. Nikhil Gupta stated that due to the combined efforts of the Health Department and other departments, there has been a significant improvement in the gender ratio compared to earlier years. They informed that the Punjab Govt offers a reward of Rs 1 lakh to anyone who provides credible information leading to action against those involved in sex determination tests or female foeticide.

District Mass Media Officer Sanjeev Sharma, Dy Mass Media Officer Ankush Bhandari, and Neha Bhandari appealed to the public to eliminate social evils such as dowry and to educate boys to respect girls.

# Ludhiana Police launch special enforcement drive outside Khalsa College for Women, focus on women's safety and public order

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, January 13



Under the leadership of Ludhiana Commissioner of Police Swapan Sharma conducted a special enforcement drive outside Khalsa College for Women, Ghumar Mandi, with a strong focus on women's safety, public order, and traffic discipline.

As part of the special campaign, ADCP Traffic Gurpreet Kaur Purewal led the operation along with traffic police teams to ensure the safety of students and the general public, while taking strict action against anti-social elements and traffic rule violators.

During the drive, special checking and enforcement were carried out in the area surrounding the college. A total of 14 challans were issued for various violations, including the use of modified silencers and lack of valid documents.

Measures taken during the drive: Prevention of Eve-Teasing: Keeping the safety of women students in mind, heightened surveillance was maintained in the area. Individuals found loitering without valid reasons were warned.

Action against noise pollution: Strict checks were conducted on motorcycles fitted with modified silencers producing loud, firecracker-like noise that disturbs the academic environment.

Inspection of street vendors: Vendors and stalls outside the college premises were inspected to ensure that no illegal or intoxicating substances were being sold to youngsters.

Ludhiana Police appealed to the general public to strictly follow traffic rules and to immediately report any suspicious activity, harassment, or untoward incident to the police helpline number 112.

# Ludhiana Commissionerate Police cracks Canadian Dollar robbery case



- 4 ACCUSED ARRESTED, 30,000 CANADIAN DOLLARS, 2 PISTOLS RECOVERED

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, January 13

Ludhiana Commissionerate Police has successfully solved a high-value Canadian Dollar robbery case with the arrest of 4 accused and the recovery of 30,000 Canadian Dollars (approx. Rs 20 lakh), 2 licensed pistols along with a white Innova SUV. Under the leadership of Swapan Sharma, Commissioner of Police, Ludhiana, and the supervision of senior officers, the CIA Staff Ludhiana carried out a well-coordinated operation based on technical analysis and confidential inputs.

The case pertains to an incident on January 5, 2020, when a money exchanger's employee, was robbed of Canadian Dollars near Bharat Nagar Chowk, Ludhiana. The accused pretending to be from CIA Staff had snatched the cash-filled bag and fled in an Innova SUV. An FIR was registered at Police Station Sarabha Nagar under relevant sections of BNS.

Sharing the information, Rupinder Singh, Additional Commissioner of Police, stated that on January 13, the CIA team arrested 4 accused involved in the robbery. The arrested persons have been identified as Sarabjit Singh alias Gosa (Ludhiana), Harjeet Singh (Amritsar), Sattar Singh (Amritsar) and Steven Masih (Gurdaspur).

From their possession, police recovered 30,000 Canadian Dollars, 2 licensed .32 bore pistols and 12 live rounds and an Innova SUV.

# MLA Prashar continues 'Yudh Nashian Virudh' awareness marches to spread mass awareness

GURKIRPAL SINGH
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, January 13



With an aim to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Ludhiana Central MLA Ashok Prashar Pappi continued 'Yudh Nashian Virudh' awareness marches in the constituency.

On Monday, the awareness march was held in Madhopuri area (ward number 10). Councillor, volunteers and residents participated in the march in large numbers.

MLA Prashar stated that working under the guidance of Chief Minister (CM) Bhagwant Singh Mann, the state government has stepped up the fight against drugs and rigorous steps are being taken to eradicate the menace from the society.

The goal to become a drug-free society cannot be achieved without active support of the residents. The residents should join hands with the administration and police to save the youth from drugs.

Stating that more such awareness marches would be organised in the coming days, MLA Prashar appealed to the residents to participate in these marches in large numbers and spread awareness in their neighbourhood.

# Chakshdeep Singh becomes Splitsvilla X6's 1st Sikh contestant, says he carries his roots with pride

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, January 13

Chakshdeep Singh has become the first Sikh contestant to enter the popular dating reality show "Splitsvilla X6".

Raised between Ghaziabad and Punjab, the Punjabi Sikh said he carries his cultural roots with pride wherever he goes and that his upbringing has shaped his values.

"Being the first Sikh on the show isn't just a title for me. I feel a real responsibility to represent my roots with honesty and grace," he said, adding that his Punjabi Sikh background has taught him discipline, humility and respect – traits he hopes will guide him through the competitive series.

# MLA Sidhu inaugurates new boundary wall of park in ward 49

INDERJIT SINGH
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, January 13



Aam Aadmi Party MLA from Atam Nagar, Kulwant Singh Sidhu, on Monday inaugurated the new boundary wall of Park No. 127 in Ward No. 49 as part of the ongoing campaign to beautify parks in the constituency. The project is being undertaken at a cost of approximately Rs 10.5 lakh.

The MLA said that providing basic facilities such as clean drinking water, good roads, well-maintained parks and playgrounds to residents remains a top priority. Earlier in the day, he also led a cleanliness drive at the historic Vishwakarma Park along with the Municipal Corporation team, in the presence of Joint Commissioner Gurpal Singh.

Addressing residents, Sidhu urged people to maintain cleanliness in their surroundings and appealed for the use of cloth bags instead of plastic to protect the environment and animals. He also announced that better sports facilities and a library would be developed at Vishwakarma Park in the near future.

# Ludhiana celebrates Lohri with traditional fervour, kite flying and religious devotion

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, January 13

The festival of Lohri was celebrated with great enthusiasm and traditional fervour across Ludhiana, bringing together people of all age groups in a vibrant display of cultural and religious spirit. The city witnessed a festive atmosphere throughout the day, especially among youngsters who filled the skies with colourful kites, marking the celebration with joy and excitement.

From early morning, children and youth were seen on rooftops and open grounds flying kites, turning the skyline into a lively spectacle. The cheerful shouts and friendly competitions added to the festive charm, reflecting the age-old Punjabi tradition associated with Lohri and the harvest season.

Alongside the celebrations, strong religious sentiments were also visible. Many devotees visited gurdwaras to offer prayers, seeking prosperity, good health, and happiness for their families. Special prayers and ardas were performed, highlighting the spiritual significance of the festival, which marks the end of the winter solstice and the beginning of longer days.

As evening set in, families and neighbourhoods gathered around traditional Lohri bonfires. Residents offered peanuts, rewri, popcorn and til to the sacred fire while singing folk songs and performing parikarma around the bonfire. The lighting of the bonfire symbolised warmth, unity, and gratitude to nature for a good harvest.

# Illegal mining turns fatal: 27 years old tipper driver drowns in Sutlej

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ropar, January 13

What was meant to be another night's hard labour turned into a tragedy for 27-year-old Yakub Ali, whose life was cut short in the early hours of Monday due to rampant illegal mining in the Sutlej River near the Anandpur Sahib Assembly constituency of Ropar district.

Yakub Ali, a resident of village Hayatpur in the Nurpur Bedi area, was working as a driver for stone crusher operators. According to sources, around 3.30 am, he drove a tipper into the riverbed near Nangran village to collect illegally mined material. In the darkness of the night, he failed to notice a deep ditch carved out of the riverbed by illegal mining activity.

# GNDU set to host its golden jubilee convocation on Jan 15

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Amritsar, January 13

Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU), Amritsar, is going to mark a milestone by hosting its 50th (golden jubilee) convocation on January 15, 2026. The event, as vice-chancellor Prof Karamjeet Singh had previously stated, will be a reflection of the university's academic excellence, research, cultural contribution and social service and will further elevate Punjab on the global map, serving as an inspiration for the students and a future foundation. This institution, a centre of education and research, established in 1969, has made its place among the top educational institutions of the country by achieving the status of a 'Category-1' university.

VC Prof Karamjeet Singh said that the social impact of GNDU's academic and research achievements follows the philosophy of 'Sachhu Ure Sabu Ko Upari Sachu Acharu', a verse from Guru Nanak Dev's Japji Saheb, which means, "Truth is high, but higher still is truthful living."

The golden jubilee convocation will have a special guest, President of India, Droupadi Murmu, attending and giving away degrees to graduates. In attendance will also be the Governor of Punjab, Gulab Chand Kataria and Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann. A total of 463 students will be awarded degrees and medals in this convocation. This includes 74 undergraduates, 102 postgraduates, 270 PhD degrees and seven memorial medals. Two renowned and inspiring personalities will be honoured with honorary doctorates by the university, including Padma Shri awardee Vikramjit Singh Sawhney, who will be conferred the title of Doctor of Literature and Jasvir Gill, who will be conferred the title of Doctor of Engineering.

Dr Vikramjit Singh Sawhney is the founder of 'Sun Foundation' and is known for his extraordinary contribution in the field of social service. Apart from empowering over 23,000 rural women through the 'Surya Kiran' campaign, he upgraded 10 ITIs in Punjab, and played a key role in the safe return of 500 Hindu-Sikh families from Afghanistan.

# 26 years on, HC shuts door on challenge to 1999 kanungo selection under disability quota

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, January 13

Bringing finality to a recruitment dispute dating back to 1999, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has refused to unsettle the appointment of a revenue official selected against a post reserved for persons with disabilities. Justice Namit Kumar held that a decades-old service career could not be disturbed in the absence of any substantive illegality.

The matter was placed before Justice Namit Kumar after a candidate challenged the selection of a kanungo from amongst the quota fixed for handicapped category pursuant to an advertisement issued on March 24, 1999. The petitioner alleged that the selected candidate was "neither handicapped, nor suffered from disability". He was wrongly sent for training and his name was not sponsored by the SpecialEmployment Officer (for Disabilities). It was argued that the selected candidate was not recruited through a selection process either in 'general category' or in 'physically handicapped category'. As such, his selection and appointment was liable to be set aside.

The litigation itself reflected a sharp reversal of fortunes. In 2012, the high court had set aside the selection after holding that the list of candidates purportedly sponsored by Employment Exchange was not genuine.

# Vajra Corps, under aegis of Western Command, to commemorate 10th Armed Forces Veterans Day at Khasa today

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Amritsar, January 13

In a solemn yet celebratory tribute to courage, sacrifice and lifelong service to the nation, Vajra Corps, under the aegis of Western Command, will commemorate the 10th Armed Forces Veterans Day on January 14 at Khasa. The event will honour the indomitable spirit and selfless contributions of veterans, gallantry awardees, Veer Naris and widows of the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force. Designed as both a tribute and a welfare outreach, the programme aims to honour and felicitate veterans, Veer Naris, widows and disabled veterans, while also providing a strong and responsive support interface.

More than 40 dedicated grievance redressal counters will address matters related to SPARSH, pension, ECHS, CSD and resettlement, reaffirming the Army's enduring commitment to the well-being of its extended family. Comprehensive medical support will be provided through over nine specialist OPDs, complemented by focused awareness initiatives on welfare schemes, healthcare and post-retirement employment opportunities.

The rally is expected to witness the participation of 2,000–2,500 veterans and family members in person, with an additional 4,000–5,000 participants joining on virtual mode across Western Command.

bright Punjab Express

# India, Germany collaboration

The ongoing problems in ties with the US over trade have failed to faze India which has now decided to move closer to the European nations and diversify its trade relations. As part of its plan, India and Germany have finalised measures to deepen economic and security cooperation, including a roadmap for defence industrial collaboration. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chancellor Friedrich Merz have described the two countries as natural partners in a world grappling with geopolitical upheaval and uncertainty.

Merz, on his first visit to Asia since taking office last year, was accompanied by a large business delegation to emphasise the importance of bolstering economic ties with India amid unpredictability created by US trade policies. During talks with Modi in Ahmedabad, Merz underscored the importance of finalising the India-European Union (EU) free trade agreement to drive trade and investment.

The two sides finalised 19 agreements, including a joint declaration of intent on strengthening bilateral defence industrial cooperation, and unveiled other measures such as a Track 1.5 foreign policy and security dialogue, and a dialogue on the Indo-Pacific region that will see them working more closely on defence and security matters. The two sides also announced visa-free transit for Indian passport holders transiting through Germany.

Prime Minister Modi noted that the growing cooperation in defence and security is a symbol of our mutual trust and shared vision. He expressed his gratitude to Chancellor Merz for simplifying the processes related to defence trade. On his part, Merz emphasised the need to deepen the bilateral strategic partnership amid "profound geopolitical changes and upheavals in the world". He said, "Europe and trans-Atlantic relations remain important to us. Today, we need to forge a broader network of partnerships and we need to do so swiftly. India is a desired partner, a partner of choice for Germany, and the preconditions for a renewed and deepened and intensified partnership couldn't be more favourable."

Both sides noted that India-Germany trade has surpassed $50 billion – about a quarter of India's total trade with the EU bloc – and pointed to the scope to do more, especially with the speedy conclusion of the India-EU trade deal, which is expected to be finalised during the visit of the bloc's top leadership to New Delhi later this month.

Modi underlined that the presence of more than 2,000 German companies in India reflected their "unwavering confidence" in the country and said the two sides were working to build secure and trusted supply chains. Technology cooperation too has grown stronger and the two sides will establish a centre of excellence to drive cooperation in renewable energy.

With Germany already home to 300,000 Indian expatriates and 60,000 students, an agreement on a Global Skills Partnership will facilitate the mobility of healthcare professionals. Merz said the number of skilled workers, including care-givers and nurses, needed from India is increasing rapidly. Indians are among the most successful group of immigrants in Germany, which wants to promote this trend in future.

Merz also highlighted the need to intensify economic relations with India, the fastest growing economy in the G20 and a pivotal partner in the Indo-Pacific, against the backdrop of the "resurgence of protectionism directed against free trade and open markets" – an apparent reference to the geo-economic churn caused by US trade policies.

Among the agreements finalised by the two sides were a joint declaration of intent on strengthening economic cooperation by establishing a CEOs Forum as part of a joint economic and investment committee, a joint declaration of intent on a Semiconductor Ecosystem Partnership, pacts for cooperation in critical minerals, telecommunications and sport, an offtake agreement for green ammonia between India's AM Green and Germany's Uniper Global Commodities, and an Indo-German roadmap on higher education.

The two sides also announced new funding commitments of €1.24 billion under the bilateral Green and Sustainable Development Partnership to support projects in renewable energy, green hydrogen, and climate resilient urban infrastructure, and the launch of a battery storage working group under the India-Germany Platform for Investments in Renewable Energy Worldwide.

## SPIRITUAL WORLD




# From edge of map to centre of decision: PRAGATI and Rail Infrastructure in Mizoram



Varun Adhikari

When I joined the Bairabi-Sairang railway project in 2015, it felt like stepping into a part of the country that rarely entered national focus. The journey itself told the story. National Highway-154, now NH-06, the only access route, was badly damaged and unreliable.Heavy trucks were often stranded for days, and bumpy travel became a routine part of site visits. The surrounding hills were young, deeply weathered, and unstable, shaped by intense rainfall and constant slope movement. On paper, the project was historic, Mizoram's first railway connection to the national network cutting through mountains, steep gradients and deep gorges.

On the ground, however, progress was painfully slow. Site idling was common due to material unavailability, labour shortages, delayed transportation, local disturbances, and endlessly deferred decisions. As a tunnel design consultant and geologist, the geology was challenging but understandable. What proved far more difficult was institutional inertia. The project lay at the extreme periphery of the country. Reviews were sporadic. Decision-making authority was scattered across ministries, state departments, and agencies.Gradually, an unsettling realization took shape: it appeared as though no one truly expected the project to be completed in the foreseeable future.

Then, quietly and without announcement, urgency entered the system. There was a noticeable sense of urgency in the project offices. Phones rang more frequently. Senior officers began visiting sites with unusual regularity. Files pending for extended periods were promptly retrieved, reviewed, and circulated. Meetings were scheduled in rapid succession, often involving agencies that previously worked in isolation.

As a private consultant, I was not part of the administrative core, and no one explained the reason for this sudden activity. But long experience on large infrastructure projects had taught me to recognize the signs. This was not routine pressure. It was preparation for scrutiny at the highest level.

Soon, the reason became clear. Soon, the reason became clear: the Bairabi-Sairang railway project was scheduled for review under PRAGATI, the Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation platform chaired by the Prime Minister. For a project long on the margins, this brought authority, accountability, and real-time scrutiny to every pending issue and inter-agency bottleneck. After this meeting decisions aligned, and progress followedshowing how governance often determines outcomes.

The PRAGATI review meeting of March 2016 fundamentally altered the project's trajectory.Under this framework, problems could no longer be examined in isolation or deferred indefinitely. The severely deteriorated condition of NH-06 was no longer considered external to the railway's mandate. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways was directed to undertake repair and improvement works, with clear timelines and continuous monitoring. Land acquisition delays were no longer treated as routine administrative hurdles, the Government of Mizoram was instructed to expedite resolutions, and progress was tracked. Lawandorder related issues were formally recognized as critical risks to execution and placed under close observation.

What stood out was not individual decisions, but their synchronization. Under PRAGATI, agencies could no longer work in isolation. Responsibilities were fixed, coordination became mandatory, and follow-up was constant. The effect was immediate, the Katakhal-Bairabi section was commissioned in March 2016, enabling freight movement and improving access, logistics, and planning.

As months passed, it became clear that PRAGATI was changing institutional behaviour in a measurable way. Reviews shifted from explaining delays to resolving them, with photographs, timelines, and sitestatus data replacing narrative reports. Digital monitoring ensured that issues raised once returned to the table until they were closed. This discipline altered responses across the system. Engineers became more decisive, contractors more accountable, and state and central agencies coordinated more closely because fragmentation was no longer tolerated. On the ground, the effect was visible. Tunnel excavation, once sporadic, began advancing steadily despite complex geology, fractured rock mass, shear zones, water ingress, and weak strata. Approvals for support systems and design modifications moved in weeks instead of months. Bridges started rising across deep gorges, some over seventy metres high, translating decisions taken hundreds of kilometres away into concrete and steel on site. Even during the COVID-19 period, the same framework ensured continuity; labour shortages, contractual disputes, and execution challenges were closely monitored, and the project slowed but did not drift.Over time, the scale of achievement became evident: forty-five tunnels covering nearly one-third of the alignment, over 150 bridges, ballast less track through tunnel sections, and a design speed of up to 100 kmph through one of the most demanding terrains in the country. Four new stations Hortoki, Kawnpui, Mualkhang, and Sairang prepared to serve longisolated communities. Beyond engineering, the project underscored a deeper truth. Fragile geology can be managed, monsoons planned for, and logistics strengthened. What ultimately determines outcomes is governance the ability of institutions to align, decide, and act together.

Beyond its impact on projects in the Northeast, the PRAGATI portal has had a measurable influence on nationwide growth, as accelerated decision-making and improved coordination have supported the steady expansion of infrastructure across the country. In a recent press conference, Cabinet Secretary highlighted the impact and effectiveness of the PRAGATI mechanism. He stated that by December 2025, 382 major projects had been reviewed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi under the PRAGATI framework. The PRAGATI ecosystem has significantly accelerated the implementation of infrastructure projects valued at over ₹85 lakh crore (approximately USD 850 billion). As per government sources, this period has also seen a sharp rise in infrastructure spending, with capital expenditure increasing from Rs. 1.97 lakh crore in 2014-15 to a budget estimate Rs. 11.21 lakh crore in 2025-26 more than a five-fold jump. As a share of the Union Budget, infrastructure capital expenditure doubled from nearly 12 percent to about 22 percent. As per Cabinet Secretary - PRAGATI functions as part of a broader, integrated digital ecosystem that includes PM Gati Shakti, PARIVESH, and the Project Monitoring Group (PMG).

Viewed in totality, on-ground observations, spatial outcomes, and financial indicators together suggest that infrastructure spending in India has been systematically scaled and effectively managed, reinforcing its role as a stable contributor to national growth.

*(The authoris a Principal Engineering Geologist with over 17 years' experience in complex underground infrastructure projects across India.)*

# Digital reforms to speed up consumer grievance redressal in eastern states: Nidhi Khare

The digital consumer grievance redressal systems can greatly improve access to consumer justice in rural and geographically dispersed districts of Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha, Nidhi Khare, Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, said on Tuesday.

In her keynote address at the 'Regional Workshop on Consumer Protection for Eastern States' in Patna, Khare highlighted the major reforms undertaken by the Department of Consumer Affairs to modernise the consumer grievance redressal system across the country.




Khare underlined the growing role of the National Consumer Helpline (NCH 2.0) as a pre-litigation platform that provides multi-lingual access, online complaint filing and faster resolution through technology.

The Secretary also detailed the nationwide rollout of E-Jagriti (CONFONET 2.0) a single integrated digital platform for Consumer Commissions'-Jagriti brings together e-Daakhil, online case management, video conferencing, data dashboards and AI-based tools, creating an end-to-end digital workflow for consumer cases.

"E-Jagriti marks a shift from fragmented systems to a transparent, efficient and real-time digital ecosystem, enabling better monitoring and quicker disposal of cases," she mentioned, urging state and district consumer commissions to make full use of video hearings, automated case tools and performance dashboards to reduce delays and ensure timely execution of orders.

She also spoke about the need to strengthen domestic production and procurement of pulses, noting a shift in household consumption from cereals towards pulses.

Pratyaya Amrit, Chief Secretary, Bihar Government, emphasised that citizens must be seen not just as beneficiaries, but as consumers with the right to clear information, fair treatment and timely redressal. He praised initiatives like E-Jagriti and expressed confidence that discussions on emerging issues such as dark patterns would lead to meaningful outcomes.

The workshop focused on reducing case pendency, improving compliance of consumer commission orders, using digital tools for faster justice, and addressing emerging challenges such as dark patterns and unfair trade practices in the digital market. **IANS**

# 97 pc HR leaders in India expect humans to work alongside AI by 2027: Report

Around 97 per cent of HR leaders in the tech sector in India feel that work by 2027 will be done by humans working alongside AI rather than engaging with it intermittently, a report said on Tuesday.

The report from Nasscom and Indeed, based on a poll of over 120 HR leaders in the tech sector in the country, found that 20-40 per cent of work in technology firms is already AI-driven. Around 45 per cent of respondents reported that over 40 per cent of software development is now handled by AI, it said.

"As AI adoption deepens, skilling and capability building will be central to ensuring that talent continues to move up the value chain and delivers meaningful outcomes for businesses," said Ketaki Karnik, Head of Research, Nasscom.



The report highlighted a shift from AI as a supplementary tool to becoming an integral part of everyday roles, workflows, and decision-making processes, with strong participation in intelligent automation (39 per cent) and business process management (37 per cent). Meanwhile, over half of respondents cited low-quality or incomplete AI outputs, underscoring the need for human oversight.

Most effective human-AI partnerships are emerging across higher-order activities such as scope definition, system architecture, and data model design. More routine and repeatable tasks, including boilerplate code generation and unit test creation, are expected to be increasingly automated by AI over the next two to three years, the report said.

Hiring is evolving toward skills-based assessment, with 85 per cent of managers prioritising skills-based hiring over credentials and 98 per cent highlighting the need for hybrid and multidisciplinary skills. Around 83 per cent of HR leaders redesigned work by adding AI-specific roles.

With respect to AI adoption, 79 per cent prioritised internal reskilling as a dominant strategy. Around 80 per cent of organisations followed a hybrid approach, with most employees working from the office three or more days a week, the report noted. **IANS**

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## NEWSBRIEFS

### Elections to zilla parishads, panchayat samitis in Maha to be held on Feb 5

**MUMBAI:** The Maharashtra State Election Commission (SEC), on Tuesday, announced the elections to the 12 zilla parishads and 125 panchayat samitis on February 5.The counting of votes will take place on February 7. The 12 zilla parishads, which are well within the 50 per cent quota limit, include Pune, Satara, Sangli, Solapur, and Kolhapur, Raigad, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Parbhani, Dharashiv, and Latur. The 125 panchayat samitis, which will go for the polls, fall under these 12 zilla parishads. Nominations filing will start from January 16 to 21, scrutiny on January 22 and withdrawal of nominations on January 27. **IANS**

### Telangana forms SIT to probe defamatory content against CM, IAS officer

**HYDERABAD:** Telangana Police have formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe two cases booked for alleged defamatory and obscene content targeting Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, a minister and a woman IAS officer. The eight-member SIT will be headed by Hyderabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar. Director General of Police B. Shivadhar Reddy has constituted the SIT to investigate the case booked against one Kavali Venkatesh for posting a morphed photograph of the Chief Minister, and another case registered against some television channels and social media handles for publishing fake news about a minister and an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer. **IANS**

## 'MGNREGA Bachao Sangram' reaching 2.5 lakh gram panchayats: Congress

**NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13**



The Congress said on Tuesday that its 'MGNREGA Bachao Sangram' is reaching 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats, accusing the Union government of letting loose a bulldozer on the rural job schemes of the UPA-era.

Jairam Ramesh, Rajya Sabha MP MP and Congress General Secretary Communications In-charge, in a message on social media platform X, said, "The Union government has run a bulldozer over the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme, which has become the lifeline for crores of people in India."

Urging people to join the Congress' protest against the replacement of MGNREGA with Viksit Bharat — Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB — G RAM G) Act, Ramesh said, "This nationwide struggle is... for the restoration of the constitutional rights to work, to wages, and to accountability. Join this movement too."

The Congress leader's X account also ran a live counter indicating, in real time, the number of people joining the struggle.

Till Tuesday afternoon, as many as 30,177 people had joined the campaign by giving a missed call.

The 'Sangram' launched by the Congress follows a decision by the party President Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, to take the issue to the people and mount pressure on the Union government to reverse its decision like in the case of the farm laws that were forced to be withdrawn.

Rahul Gandhi claimed the VB-G RAM G Act was rushed through the Parliament without adequate scrutiny and debate.

He described MGNREGA as the most successful poverty alleviation programme, and said that he and the Congress will not let the Narendra Modi-led Union government destroy the rural poor's last line of defence.

"We will stand with workers, panchayats, and states to defeat this move and build a nationwide front to ensure this law is withdrawn," he said in a hard-hitting social media post.

Taking exception to the "hurried" passage of the VB-G RAM G Bill through both the Houses of Parliament, Rahul Gandhi claimed that the Narendra Modi government demolished 20 years of MNREGA in just one day and also questioned the "anti-state and anti-village" design of the new scheme, which is set to replace the UPA-era MGNREGA. **IANS**

## Petrol pump bomb blast accused among 3 militants arrested in Manipur; arms recovered



**IMPHAL, JANUARY 13**

Security forces have arrested three hardcore militants, including a cadre of a banned outfit, for their alleged involvement in a bomb explosion at a fuel station in Manipur's Bishnupur district, officials said on Tuesday.

A police official said that the three militants belong to the Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL) and the People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK).

They were arrested from Imphal West and Kakching districts in the past 24 hours.

Of the three arrested militants, the KYKL cadre, identified as Hijam Manichandra Singh (35), was allegedly involved in causing an explosion at a petrol pump at Moirang Thana Leikai in Bishnupur district on January 8.

Following his arrest, other accomplices involved in the blast have been identified, and efforts are on to arrest the remaining accused.

According to the police, militants riding a two-wheeler hurled a bomb at the fuel station at Moirang Thana Leikai on January 8, triggering an explosion.

Although no one was injured, the blast caused damage to the fuel station.

To protest the two consecutive attacks on January 8 in Bishnupur district and December 6 in Imphal East district all petrol pumps across Manipur Valley and adjoining areas remained shut on January 10. **IANS**

## Gunshots fired at Delhi gym; Lawrence Bishnoi gang 'claims' responsibility

**NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13**

A firing incident has been reported from Delhi's Paschim Vihar area, where unidentified men opened fire at a gym, police said on Tuesday.

The incident occurred around 11 p.m. on Monday when two bike-borne assailants allegedly fired two rounds in the air outside the gym, 'RK Fitness', located on the Outer Ring Road in Paschim Vihar, officials said. No injuries were reported in the incident, police added.

Officials said that a case has been registered in connection with the firing, and further investigations are currently underway.

Meanwhile, the Lawrence Bishnoi gang has claimed responsibility for the attack through a post on social media, which is being verified by the Delhi. **IANS**

## Asked police to collect details about Bangladeshis living in Bengaluru: HM Parameshwara

**BENGALURU, JANUARY 13**

Karnataka Home Minister G. Parameshwara has stated that Bangladeshi nationals are settling in Bengaluru as it is a peaceful city, and he has instructed the Karnataka Police Department to gather information in this regard.

He, however, cautioned against vigilantism by BJP leaders and other organisations. Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru on Tuesday, Home Minister Parameshwara made the statement while responding to a question.

He said he had directed Director General and Inspector General of Police M.A. Saleem and Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh to collect details about Bangladeshi nationals living in Bengaluru and across the state.

"They will look into the facts regarding where they are living and whether they possess documents. The probe will ascertain how and from where they obtained these documents. They are behaving as if they are not Bangladeshis at all. We will verify this and take necessary action. We have already deported illegal Bangladeshis," he said. **IANS**

## Bengal SIR: ECI clarifies reasons behind appointment of 2,000 additional micro-observers

**KOLKATA, JANUARY 13**




The Election Commission of India (ECI) has clarified its plans to appoint 2,000 additional micro-observers for the hearing session on claims and objections to the draft voters' list in West Bengal, and to consider a proposal to increase the number of hearing centres.

An insider from the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) explained that the decision to appoint these 2,000 additional micro-observers had been taken not just because such a large number of "logical discrepancy" cases had been identified in the course of "progeny mapping", but also because of the diverse nature of discrepancies identified by the system.

While the total number of logical discrepancy cases identified in "progeny mapping" is so huge at nine lakhs, at least six forms of discrepancies have been identified in the case of these voters. In certain cases, more than one discrepancy has come to the notice of the ECI.

"On one hand, there is a deadline to complete the hearing within a reasonable period before the publication of the final voters' list on February 14 this year. At the same time, the Commission is determined to ensure that the name of a single genuine voter is not deleted from the voters' list, and also that the name of a single bogus voter is deleted from the list. Since a thorough examination of the logical discrepancy cases is required to achieve that goal, there was a necessity for increasing the number of micro-observers," a source in the CEO's office explained. **IANS**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is for the information of **General Public** that our project namely **"CM Luxury Homes"** developed by **M/s CM Luxury Homes** been accorded Environmental Clearance by SEIAA Punjab Vide EC Identification No EC24C3801PB5271602N, dated: 27.07.2024.

**ਜਨਤਕ ਸੂਚਨਾ**

ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਕਲੋਨੀ **CM Valley** ਪਿੰਡ ਜੋਨਪੁਰ/ਤਲਵਾੜਾ ਜਿਲਾ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ (ਆਨਲਾਈਨ ਨੰਬਰ 544472) (ਕੁੱਲ ਰਕਬਾ 23.71 ਏਕੜ) ਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਦਫਤਰ ਵਲੋਂ ਰੈਗੂਲਰਾਈਜੇਸ਼ਨ ਪਾਲਿਸੀ ਮਿਤੀ 18.10.2018 ਤਹਿਤ ਪੱਤਰ ਨੰ 8885 ਮਿਤੀ 20.12.2022 ਰਾਹੀਂ ਇਕ ਸਾਲ ਲਈ ਪ੍ਰੋਵੀਜ਼ਨਲ ਤੌਰ ਤੇ ਰੈਗੂਲਰਾਈਜ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ ਇਸ ਕਲੋਨੀ ਦੇ ਕਲੋਨੀਕਾਰ ਵਲੋਂ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਕਿ ਕਲੋਨੀ ਦੇ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਪ੍ਰਵਾਨਤ ਲੈ-ਆਉਟ ਪਲਾਨ ਵਿਚ ਗਲਤੀ ਨਾਲ ਕਲੱਬ ਦੀ ਜਗ੍ਹਾ ਕਮਿਊਨਿਟੀ ਸੈਂਟਰ ਅਤੇ ਪਾਰਕ ਲਿਖਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਸੀ। ਇਸ ਤੋਂ ਇਲਾਵਾ ਪਲਾਟ ਨੰ 75, 76 ਅਤੇ 77 ਨੂੰ ਵੀ ਨਾਲ ਲਗਦੀ ਸੜਕ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ **Vice-Versa** ਕਰਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਰਿਵਾਈਜ਼ਡ ਲੈ-ਆਉਟ ਪਲਾਨ ਜਾਰੀ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਉਕਤ ਕਲੋਨੀ ਦੇ ਲੈ-ਆਉਟ ਪਲਾਨ ਵਿਚ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਤਬਦੀਲੀ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਵਾਨਗੀ ਜਾਰੀ ਕਰਨ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਪਬਲਿਕ ਤੋਂ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਮੰਗਣ ਲਈ ਇਸ ਜਨਤਕ ਸੂਚਨਾ ਰਾਹੀ ਆਮ ਪਬਲਿਕ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਜੇਕਰ ਕਿਸੇ ਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਲੈ-ਆਉਟ ਪਲਾਨ ਵਿਚ ਤਬਦੀਲੀ ਕਰਨ ਸੰਬੰਧੀ ਕੋਈ ਇਤਰਾਜ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਉਹ ਆਪਣਾ ਇਤਰਾਜ 10 ਦਿਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਅੰਦਰ-ਅੰਦਰ ਲਿਖਤੀ ਤੌਰ ਤੇ ਦਫਤਰ ਜਿਲਾਂ ਨਗਰ ਯੋਜਨਾਕਾਰ (ਰੈਗੂਲੇਟਰੀ), ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਵਿਖੇ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਨਿਸ਼ਚਿਤ ਮਿਤੀ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਤੇ ਕੋਈ ਕਾਰਵਾਈ ਨਹੀਂ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ ਅਤੇ ਇਸ ਕਲੋਨੀ ਦੇ ਲੈ-ਆਉਟ ਪਲਾਨ ਵਿਚ ਲੋੜੀਂਦੀ ਤਬਦੀਲੀ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਵਾਨਗੀ ਜਾਰੀ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ।

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Original Sale Deed No. 107 dated 9-4-2019 as executed by Darshan Singh and Jarnail Singh sons of Nek Singh to the extent of land measuring 16.66 Marla in favour of Amrik Singh son of Malkit Singh regarding the Property measuring as mentioned below. The said property is currently owned by Jarnail Singh son of Sajjan Singh the said Sale Deed has been lost and not mortgaged with any Bank or Financial Institution, in that regard DDR No. 669211/2026 dated 13-1-2026 has been got registered. Anybody having objection regarding mortgage of property with Roha Housing Finance Pvt. Ltd. Feroze Gandhi Market Branch Ludhiana may respond or raise objection within 7 Days, to Sh. Tarsem Chand Mittal, Advocate, Chamber No. 32, New Judicial Complex, Mansa 151505.Mobile: 9872755236. Detail of the Property: Land Measuring 0 Kanal and 16.66 Marla i.e. 50/441 share of land measuring 7 Kanla and 7 Marla comprised in Khasra No. 117//5(7-7) Khewat and Khata No. 39/225, _as per jamabndi for the year 2020-2021, located within the revenue estate of Karamgarh Hudbust No. 48, Tehsil and Distt Barnala at presently owned by Jarnail Singh son of Sajjan Singh through Sale Deed No. 2023-24/86/1/4824 dated 12-3-2024 SRO Barnala and having boundaries as per deed as under: East: Side 62' Ram Singh son of Gajjan Singh West: Side 62' passage wide 11' North: Side 73'6" Manjit Singh South: Side 73'6" Harpal Kaur**

**ਪਟਿਆਲਾ ਸ਼ਹਿਰੀ ਯੋਜਨਾਬੰਦੀ ਅਤੇ ਵਿਕਾਸ ਅਥਾਰਿਟੀ (ਪੀ.ਡੀ.ਏ.), ਪਟਿਆਲਾ**




**ਜਨਤਕ ਸੂਚਨਾ**

ਮਕਾਨ ਨੰ: ਐਮ. ਆਈ.ਜੀ-613, ਅਰਬਨ ਅਸਟੇਟ, ਫੇਜ਼ 1, ਪਟਿਆਲਾ ਦੀ ਮਲਕੀਅਤ ਤਬਦੀਲ ਇਸ ਦਫਤਰ ਦੇ ਪੱਤਰ ਨੰਬਰ-1684 ਮਿਤੀ 16.03.1998 ਰਾਹੀਂ Sh. Harbhajan Singh S/o Sh Milkha Singh ਦੇ ਨਾਮ ਤੇ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਸੀ। Chief Registrar (Birth and Death), Punjab ਵੱਲੋਂ ਜਾਰੀ ਮੌਤ ਸਰਟੀਫਿਕੇਟ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ Sh Harbhajan Singh S/o Sh Milkha Singh ਵਾਸੀ R/o Mig 613, Urban Estate Phase-1, Patiala ਦੀ ਮੌਤ ਮਿਤੀ 14.05.2021 ਨੂੰ ਹੋ ਗਈ ਸੀ। ਉਕਤ ਅਲਾਟੀ ਦੀ ਮੌਤ ਉਪਰੰਤ ਉਸਦੇ ਕੁਦਰਤੀ ਵਾਰਸਾਂ ਦੇ ਤੌਰ ਤੇ ਉਕਤ ਸਾਈਟ ਦੀ ਮਲਕੀਅਤ ਆਪਣੇ ਨਾਮ ਤਬਦੀਲ ਕਰਵਾਉਣ ਲਈ Smt Kulwant Kaur W/o Sh. Harbhajan Singh (Wife), Sh. Paramjeet Singh S/o Sh. Harbhajan Singh (Son), Smt Vimaljit Kaur D/o Sh. Harbhajan Singh (Daughter), Smt Jaswinder Kaur D/o Sh Harbhajan Singh (Daughter), R/o Mig 613, Urban Estate Phase-1, Patiala ਵੱਲੋਂ ਅਪਲਾਈ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੈ। ਉਕਤ ਦਰਖਾਏ ਕੁਦਰਤੀ ਵਾਰਸ ਦੀ ਤਸਦੀਕ Dr. Charanpreet Singh S/o Sh Avtar Singh, Medical Officer, CHC Bhawanigarh, Sangrur ਵੱਲੋਂ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜਾਂ ਦੇ ਆਧਾਰ ਤੇ ਉਕਤ ਸਾਈਟ ਦੀ ਮਲਕੀਅਤ ਉਕਤ ਦਰਖਾਏ ਵਾਰਸ ਦੇ ਨਾਮ ਤਬਦੀਲ ਕਰਨ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਆਮ ਜਨਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਵਿਰਿਆਪਨ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਕੋਈ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਉਹ ਇਸ ਵਿਗਿਆਪਨ ਦੀ ਮਿਤੀ ਤੋਂ 15 ਦਿਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਅੰਦਰ ਅੰਦਰ ਆਪਣਾ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਨਿਮਨ-ਹਸਤਾਖਰ ਪਾਸ ਲਿਖਤੀ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਦੇ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਨਿਸ਼ਚਿਤ ਮਿਤੀ ਅੰਤਮੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਤੇ ਕੋਈ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਨਹੀਂ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ ਅਤੇ ਉਕਤ ਪਲਾਟ ਦੀ Sh Harbhajan Singh S/o Sh Milkha Singh ਦੀ ਮਲਕੀਅਤ ਬਿਨੈਕਾਰ ਦੇ ਨਾਮ ਤੇ ਤਬਦੀਲ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ।

ਅਸਟੇਟ ਅਫਸਰ,
ਪੀ.ਡੀ.ਏ. ਪਟਿਆਲਾ।

**PUBLIC NOTICE**



**Before NAVEEN DANICS, ASSISTANT. ESTATE OFFICER-1, EXERCISING THE POWERS OF THE ESTATE OFFICER, CHANDIGARH**

**Subject: Transfer of ownership rights to the extent of 40% share in respect of House No. 2025, Sector 21-C, Chandigarh, in the name of Sh. Bharat Bhardwaj and Miss Mamta Bhardwaj, on the basis of intestate Death/ Court Decree dated12-11-2025/ Release Deed dated 11-08-1969 of Late Krishan Kumar.**

It is notified for the information of general public and all concerned that as per record of this office the property known as House No. 2025, Sector 21-C, Chandigarh to the extent of 40.00% share was standing in the name of Sh. Krishan Kumar.

It has been informed by **Sh. BHARAT BHARDWAJ and Miss Mamta Bhardwaj that SH. Krishan Kumar died on 26-11-2018.**

**Now Sh. Bharat Bhardwaj and Miss Mamta Bhardwaj have applied for transfer of ownership rights of 40% share in respect of House No. 2025, Sector 21-C, Chandigarh in their name/s, on the basis of Intestate Death/ Court Decree dated 12-11-2025/ Release Deed dated 11-08-1969 of Late Krishan Kumar.**

However, if anybody has any information about any other legal heirs of the deceased other than mentioned above, the same may be intimated to the Estate Officer, U.T., Chandigarh, immediately. If anybody has any objection upon the mutation of the said property in favour of above named applicant they may furnish in writing in the office of the undersigned within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the said share in the said property will be mutated accordingly and no further claim whatsoever shall be entertained at any later stage.

**Naveen, DANICS,**
**Assistant Estate Officer, Exercising the powers of the Estate Officer, U.T., Chandigarh**

# DELHI/NCR

## VP Radhakrishnan launches drug-free campus campaign at Delhi University




**NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13**

Vice-President (V-P) C.P. Radhakrishnan, on Tuesday, inaugurated the Drug Free Campus Campaign at the Delhi University (DU), calling for efforts to make the drive an integral part of all Central higher educational institutions.

The Vice-President called upon the Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to ensure that sustained and collective efforts are made to protect the youth from substance abuse and to realise the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

He said that the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, reflects a holistic vision by emphasising mental health, life skills and student well-being.

He added that initiatives such as the Drug Free Campus Campaign resonate with the spirit of the NEP by creating safe, inclusive and nurturing learning environments.

Commending the varsity for integrating awareness programmes, counselling mechanisms, student-led initiatives and stakeholder collaboration, the Vice-President said that when students become ambassadors of change, the impact extends beyond campuses to families and communities.

He urged students to remain vigilant, support peers in distress, speak up against substance abuse and lead by example.

Highlighting that India is a youthful nation, the Vice-President described substance abuse as not merely a personal problem but a serious social challenge, public health concern and a threat to the country's demographic dividend.

Emphasising that strong nations require strong leadership, V-P Radhakrishnan said universities are not merely centres of academic learning but institutions where values are shaped, leadership is nurtured and the future of the nation is forged. He added that when a premier institution like the DU takes a firm stand against substance abuse, it sends a powerful message to society at large. **IANS**

## Delhi-NCR hit by double whammy of biting cold and high air pollution

**NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13**

People across Delhi-NCR are facing a double whammy of biting cold and severe air pollution on Tuesday. While the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued orange and yellow alerts due to an ongoing cold wave, the Air Quality Index (AQI) remains at dangerously high levels in several areas.

According to the IMD, a cold wave is likely to persist throughout January 13 and 14 across Delhi-NCR. During this period, the maximum temperature will hover around 20 degrees Celsius, while the minimum temperature can drop to as low as 4 degrees Celsius. The situation has been further aggravated by extremely high humidity levels, which have reached 97 to 98 per cent during the morning hours.

The combination of cold winds and high humidity has intensified the chill, making the weather feel harsher than the actual temperature. Although a slight temperature rise is expected from January 15, with the minimum temperature likely to increase to around 6 degrees Celsius, moderate to dense fog is forecast during the early morning and night hours, potentially affecting visibility and transportation.

Meanwhile, the air pollution situation remains a major concern. Data from monitoring stations operated by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards indicate that the AQI has crossed the 400 mark in several parts of the national capital, placing air quality in the 'severe' category. Anand Vihar recorded an AQI of 411, Rohini 397, Chandni Chowk 380, Bawana 378, Wazirpur 375, and Ashok Vihar 366. **IANS**

## Atishi untraceable: Delhi Minister Kapil Mishra flays Punjab cops, govt for FIR against him

**NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13**




Accusing the Punjab Police and the AAP-led Punjab government of disrespecting the Delhi Assembly, Delhi Minister Kapil Mishra on Tuesday declared former Delhi Chief Minister Atishi as "untraceable" ever since she allegedly made disrespectful remarks against Sikh Gurus in the city's legislature.

Mishra, who faces an FIR in Punjab's Jalandhar district for circulating an allegedly "doctored" video clip of Atishi's controversial remark, released a poster featuring the AAP leader with "Untraceable" written boldly on it in Hindi. "The one who committed the crime is absconding, missing," said Mishra in a post on X, along with his photo holding the poster. On January 6, a sin was committed in the Delhi Assembly.

"A sin that has never been committed in any other House of Parliament in the country," he said. **IANS**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is brought to the notice of Public at large that Mr. Simran Jeet Singh, s/o Kawal Jeet Singh, r/o Village Namgal, Salempur, Simran Enterprises, Dhogri Road, Jalandhar, Jalandhar, Punjab 144001, Simran Enterprises Dhogri Road Jalandhar Namgal Salempur, Jalandhar, Punjab, India has applied for credit facilities amounting to Rs. 90000000/- which is paying interest every month and renewal every year from my client i.e. HDFC Bank Limited, Jalandhar (branch) by creating equitable mortgage of Property Plot/land measuring about 07 Marlas as comprised in Khasra no. 2390/5-10, 2391/1/4-6, 2382/1/4-18, 2385/1-17, 2386/7-0, 2387/2/6-17, 2388/3-7, 2389/2-2, 2393/1/6-6 Which is bounded as East: 42'-9"/Arora Owner, West: 44'-2"/Other owner, North: Road/18' and South : 29'-6"/Arora Owner situated at Village Kapurthala Garbi, Rose Avenue, Jammu Colony Area Tehsil and District Kapurthala Mrs. POONAM w/o KANWALJIT SINGH r/o House No. 349/112 Rose Avenue Kapurthala, Kapurthala, Punjab, India borrower has stated to the HDFC Bank Limited that previous title deed bearing number 225 dated 23/04/2002 as executed and registered in favour of Sh. Saravpreet Singh is lost and he has also got registered one police report regarding loss of said document on LRN : 661268/2025 with the police authorities. It is further claimed by said borrower that above mentioned documents are not involved in any dispute/litigation and charge and are stated to be not mortgaged with any Bank or Financial Institution. If anybody have any objection regarding this publication or the mortgage of above said property with HDFC Bank Limited may respond within 15 Days to Mr. Susheel Kumar Pandita working as BBG with HDFC Bank Limited, Marble Market Branch Jammu at his mobile number 8530142556 or may contact to Sh. Vikas Kumar Gupta, Advocate Jalandhar for the HDFC Bank Limited at his mobile number 9463182928. After expiry of stipulated period no claim would be entitled regarding any charge of any Bank or Financial Institution on Said Documents.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**I, Harish Kumar Verma s/o Daulat Ram, R/o Shiv Mandir Wali Gali, Central Town, Tehsil and District Hoshiarpur, I am a permanent resident of above said address. I have loan from Punjab National Bank, Main Branch, Jalandhar Road, Tehsil and District Hoshiarpur and in this loan I am depositing a property with the bank, the document number of which is 4093, Volume number 2088, Page number 96, Book number 1, and dated 11.10.2000. The previous document number 2929, Bahi number 1, dated 25.08.1999 is lost. The DDR number is 669064/2026, dated 13.01.2026 and if anyone finds the document/registry, they will be bound to deposit it with the bank and will not misuse it and if anyone has any objection regarding this loan, they can contact the address written below within 7 days.**

**From: Varun Kumar Sharma Advocate, Chamber Number 413, Fourth Floor, District Courts, Hoshiarpur.**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to notify all concerned that, on behalf of my client AU Small Finance Bank Ltd., Branch office at Opp. F.C.I Godown G.T Road, Municipal Council Khanna, Ludhiana. I hereby give notice that one customer Raj Kumar Rai s/o Rama Shankar Rai and Ruma Devi w/o Raj Kumar Rai both R/o. Ward No. 5, Azad Nagar, Khanna Tehsil Khanna Kalan, District Ludhiana has applied for taking loan for LAP loan Property measuring 0K-3-1/3M, Comprised in Killa No. 50//11 (7-7), 13/1 (0-4), 18/2/2 (0-4) Killa No. 57//6/1 (3-16), 15 (8-0), 16/1 (2-13), Khewat No. 357, Khatoni No. 387 as per Jamabandi years 2016-17, Situated at Village Lalheri, locality Known as Near Krishanpal Di Chakki, Azad Nagar Tehsil & District Ludhiana. Smt. Ruma Devi w/o Raj Kumar Rai is the owner of the Above mentioned Property. The Previous original Sale Deed bearing document No. 2190 dated 18/09/2013 registered by Daljit Kaur w/o Jagpal Singh in favour of Kamaljit Kaur w/o Jasvir Singh. The part of chain of title document has been misplaced by Smt. Ruma Devi s/o Raj Kumar Rai and the same is not traceable. To this effect Smt.Ruma Deviw/o Raj Kumar Rai lodged DDR No. 669114/2026 Dated 13.01.2026 with P.S. Khanna Kalan. As per the declaration furnished by the present owner Smt. Ruma Devi w/o Raj Kumar the above sale deed was earlier in his possession and the said property is unencumbered and no mortgage has been created over the said property in favour of any Bank or any financial Institution. The said property has never been sold or transferred to any person and the same is not a subject matter of any dispute in court of law. **Smt. Ruma Devi w/o Raj Kumar** is proposed to mortgage in favour of **AU Small Finance Bank Ltd.** If anybody finds out the above mentioned Original sale deed or has any objection to the proposed mortgage then in that event he/she shall hand over the same to the undersigned within 7 days of this publication otherwise it will be deemed that there is no objection to anybody.

**Nanak Kumar Advocate, Chamber No. 5014, Distt. Court Ludhiana. M: 98727-40402**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**I, Pranshanth alias Prashanth S. (UID No.6095-2113-3890) s/o Shantha Devan alias Shanta Devan** r/o 8212/32, Street no. 11/4, Daba Road, Kabir Nagar, Ludhiana declare that I am exclusive owner in possession of One property/house measuring 100 sq.yards, comprised of khata no.321/414, khasra no.146, as per jamabandi for the year 2008-09, Hadbast No. 262, situated at Village Daba, locality known as Street No. 11/4, Kabir Nagar, Ludhiana on the basis of Sale Deed wasika no.2021-22/103/1/5085 Registry wasika No. 3422 dated 12/05/1998 related to said property which was dated 05/08/2021. I lost my Original previous sale deed in favour of Smt. Bhupinder Kaur w/o Sh. Daljeet Singh, at Daba Road, in Ludhiana on 02/12/2025. A DDR had been lodged in PSOC Daba, Ludhiana City against SR No.656842/2025 on dated 09/12/2025. Now I being owner, want to create equitable mortgage over said property by depositing of original title deeds in favour of Punjab & Sind Bank, Village Sarinh Branch, Distt. Ludhiana. So, Bank requires previous said sale deed for completing chain of title for creating valid equitable mortgage. Through this public notice I, inform that if anybody or any financial institution or Bank have any information regarding lost of said previous sale deed wasika no.3422 dated 12/05/1998 and also any kind of objection/s related to creation of equitable mortgage in favour Punjab & Sind Bank, he/she may respond within 7 days from the date of publication, after expiry of stipulated period no objection or claim whatsoever would be entertained and it will be considered consent related to said matter. **Contact: S. Harpreet Singh (M) 7355997919 or PSB, Sarinh Branch, Distt. Ludhiana. E-mail Id: s1313@psb.bank.in.**

**LUDHIANA SSI BRANCH, 223, INDUSTRIAL AREA, LUDHIANA, PUNJAB**

**APPENDIX–IV [SEE RULE–8(1)]**

**POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)**

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **Bank of India** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **demand notice dated 06.08.2025** calling upon the borrowers **Shri Harjinder Partap SIngh S/o Late Sh. Bansi Lal Chowdhary (Son of principal borrower, late Sh. Bansi Lal Chowdhary and co-borrower), Mr. Gurpartap SIngh S/o Late Sh. Bansi Lal Chowdhary (Son of principal borrower, late Sh. Bansi Lal Chowdhary and co-borrower) and Ms. Meenakshi Jeevan Kanojiya W/o Mr. Jeevan Kanojiya (Daughter of principal borrower, late Sh. Bansi Lal Chowdhary)** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 8,76,449.45 (Rupees Eight Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Four Hundred Forty Nine & Paisa Forty Five Only) (contractual dues upto the date of notice)** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **symbolic possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the **08th day of January of the year 2026.**

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Bank of India** for an amount **Rs. 8,76,449.45 (Rupees Eight Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Four Hundred Forty Nine & paisa Forty Five Only)** (contractual dues upto the date of notice) and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

All that part and parcel of the Residential building admeasuring 70 Sq. Yards, situated at B-11-218/5, Mohalla Fatheganj, Near Baba Than Singh Chowk, Tehsil & Distt. Ludhiana- Punjab, vide wasika No. 4378 dated 06.06.2007, in the name of Mr. Bansi Lal Chowdhary, Mr. Harjinder Partap SIngh & Mr. Gurpartap Singh. The property bounded as per site as below: East : Street (15'–0"), West : Neighbour (15'–0"), North : Neighbour (43'–0"), South : Neighbour (43'–0").

**DATE: 08.01.2026**
**PLACE: LUDHIANA**

**AUTHORISED OFFICER, BANK OF INDIA**

# Cold wave grips Haryana, Gurugram, other districts cooler than Shimla

RAJENDRA KHATRY
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, January 13



The entire state of Haryana is in the grip of a severe cold wave. Gurugram turned colder than hill town Shimla as the minimum temperature plunged to 0.6 degrees Celsius, the lowest recorded in Haryana. People of the state are also troubled by the dense fog lingering for the past week. Meanwhile Chandigarh recorded a minimum temperature of 2.8 degrees today.

Previously, a temperature of 0.6 degrees was recorded 48 years ago on January 22, 1977. On January 11, 1971, a minimum temperature of 0 degrees was also recorded, according to records.

According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), Chandigarh, the sharp dip came amid an ongoing cold wave across North India, prompting an orange alert for the city while frost and dense fog added to the winter chill.

According to the Meteorological Department's forecast, there will be no relief from the cold till 15. A red alert has been issued for Mahendragarh, Rewari, Jhajjar, Bhiwani, and Charkhi Dadri. A warning of extremely dense fog and cold winds has been issued for these areas. Fog will also prevail in other areas.

With temperatures dipping further, IMD officials issued an orange alert for Gurugram for the next two days, warning residents to brace for continued cold wave conditions and dense fog.

According to the Meteorological Department, the daytime temperature was recorded at 4.4 degrees below normal, and the night temperature was three degrees below normal. Gurugram district recorded the coldest temperatures in the state. On Monday, dense fog covered many parts of Haryana. Due to the lack of sunshine, the days have also become extremely cold. Although the sun came out around 12 PM, people did not get any relief from the cold.

Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar reported that the weather will remain dry until January 16. During this period, due to northwesterly cold winds, there is a possibility of a slight drop in nighttime temperatures and a slight increase in daytime temperatures. Frost may occur in one or two parts of the southern and western districts of Haryana. During this period, light to moderate fog is likely in most parts of the state in the early morning and late at night. Two western disturbances are becoming active by January 20. The western disturbance becoming active on January 16 may cause partial cloud cover. There is a possibility of scattered light rain in one or two places. The western disturbance becoming active on January 19 is likely to bring rain to most places.

Meanwhile Sonepat and Bhiwani districts recorded a minimum temperature of 1,5 degrees, Narnaul 1. 6, Sonepat Sonepat 1.6, Hisar 2.6, Karnal 3.5 and Rohtak 3.2 degrees. Ambala's temperature was slightly higher at 4.5 degrees celsius.

# Haryana Police's digital crackdown; 67 songs removed to curb gang culture

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, January 13

In a major crackdown against gang culture and the glorification of weapons and violence, the Special Task Force (STF) and Cyber Unit of Haryana Police have carried out a landmark operation that has significantly reshaped the digital space. During an extensive investigation, the STF and cyber teams found that several songs were influencing youth, glorifying gangsters, and portraying an unrealistic image of luxury associated with criminal life, thereby pushing young people toward crime.

Responding to this alarming trend, Haryana Police acted against 67 objectionable songs available on platforms such as YouTube, Spotify, Amazon Music, Gaana, and JioSaavn. As a result, most of the content has either been removed or blocked. Haryana Police has made it clear that this is only the beginning and more stringent actions will follow against such content.

Director General of Police (DGP) Haryana, Ajay Singhal, termed the action a crucial step taken in the interest of society and the younger generation. He said that the objective of Haryana Police is not merely to stop crime, but also to save young people from stepping into the world of crime.

# Man dies after electric scooter battery explodes while charging in Haryana

CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 13

A 55-year-old man died after the battery of his electric scooter exploded while it was being charged at his residence in Narnaul, Haryana, officials said on Tuesday.

The explosion, which took place on Monday night, triggered a massive fire that gutted a large portion of his house and destroyed most of his belongings.

The deceased has been identified as Shiv Kumar, a resident of Barkoda village who had been living in a self-constructed house in Ramnagar Colony, Narnaul.

He worked as a labourer and belonged to the Bawaria community. He is survived by two daughters and a son, all of whom are married. One of his daughters is employed in a Group D government post.

According to police and local residents, Shiv Kumar was sleeping alone in one room while his electric scooter was charging inside the house. Other family members were sleeping in a different room. At around 9.30 p.m., the scooter's battery exploded with a loud bang, causing a fire which rapidly spread through the house.

Neighbours, alerted by the explosion, rushed to the spot and informed the police, fire department and ambulance services. Firefighters reached the spot and brought the blaze under control after nearly 30 minutes.

Shiv Kumar was rescued from the room in a severely injured condition and taken to the civil hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

The fire caused extensive damage to the house, destroying furniture, doors, windows, beds, sofas and other household items.

Preliminary information suggests that the electric scooter, purchased about a year ago from a showroom in Naseebpur, was a Toxmo Rhino Plus model. PTI

# 'Strictly avoid' 'Harijan' 'Girijan' in official communications state govt tells depts

CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 13

The Haryana government has asked all its departments, public and educational institutes and others to "strictly avoid" using the terms 'Harijan' and 'Girijan' in official communications in respect of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) respectively.

The Haryana Chief Secretary's Office issued a letter in this regard on Tuesday.

Mahatma Gandhi had named the SCs as 'Harijans', meaning 'people of God'. However, BR Ambedkar was against the use of 'Harijans' and he preferred to call them Dalits.

"The Haryana government has issued directions to all Administrative Secretaries, Heads of Departments, Boards, Corporations, Public Sector Undertakings, Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Sub-Divisional Officers (Civil) and Registrars of Universities in the State to strictly avoid the use of terms such as 'Harijan' and 'Girijan' in all official matters and correspondence," an official statement said.

It has been reiterated in the letter that the Constitution of India does not use these expressions for denoting SCs and STs.

The state government has referred to the instructions of the government of India which clearly mandate the discontinuation of these expressions in official dealings. PTI

# ED seizes flat, cryptocurrencies worth ₹10.86 cr in land sale fraud

CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 13

The ED seized a flat, land and cryptocurrencies worth Rs 10.86 crore belonging to the accused who cheated dozens of investors after luring them with high returns on buying land at low rates, an official said on Tuesday.

The ED, Chandigarh Zonal Office, provisionally attached the movable and immovable properties worth Rs 10.86 crore, including cryptocurrencies lying in the crypto wallets in the shape of Ramifi Tokens worth Rs 4.79 crore, under PMLA, 2002, in the case of cheating against Sandeep Yadav, Manoj Yadav and others, the official said.

The accused, who duped investors in the name of selling plots at cheaper rates and illegal cryptocurrency investments, had used the Proceeds of Crime by diverting the funds to properties, the ED said.

In August last year, the Enforcement Directorate (ED), Chandigarh Zonal Office, conducted search operations at four locations across Gurugram (Haryana) under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

The searches were carried out in connection with an ongoing investigation into a case involving cheating in the name of selling plots at cheaper rates and illegal cryptocurrency investments, where the public was lured with promises of exorbitant returns by Sandeep Yadav, Manoj Yadav and others.

The search operations led to the seizure of various incriminating documents and digital devices, along with the freezing of 17 bank accounts having a balance of approximately Rs 42 Lakh, linked to the accused persons, the ED said.

In addition, immovable properties valued at over Rs 15 crore were identified, said the probe agency.

The ED initiated the investigation based on an FIR registered by the Haryana Police against Sandeep Yadav, Manoj Yadav and others.

Investigations have revealed that Sandeep Yadav, Manoj Yadav and Mohan Sharma, in connivance with other close associates, were involved in cheating the public by enticing them into selling land at lower rates, the ED said.

The Proceeds of Crime (PoC) generated through these fraudulent activities were subsequently invested in movable and immovable assets as well as in cryptocurrencies with the assistance of their associates, the ED said. IANS

## HIMACHAL/J&K

# Trekking, camping, hiking prohibited in Poonch for security reasons

JAMMU, JANUARY 13

The District Magistrate (DM) of Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch on Tuesday banned trekking, camping, hiking and similar activities in the forested areas of the district, citing security reasons.

An order issued by Poonch DM said, "...whereas inputs have been received from security agencies and field functionaries regarding security and safety concerns in certain high altitude and forested areas falling within the jurisdiction of Poonch district. And, whereas it has been reported that unrestricted movement of individuals and groups poses a serious risk to public safety due to difficult terrain, adverse weather conditions and other unforeseen hazards.And, whereas trekking, camping, hiking and similar outdoor pursuits in high altitude areas are likely to adversely affect public safety and may also lead to law and order complications."

"Now, therefore, I Ashok Kumar Sharma, JKAS, district magistrate Poonch, in exercise of powers conferred in me under section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023, hereby order as under: Trekking, camping, hiking and similar outdoor/adventure activities are hereby prohibited in all high altitude areas of district Poonch with immediate effect. The restriction shall apply to all individuals, groups, tour operators and adventure clubs except those having prior written permission from the competent authority for official purposes," said the order.

The security forces, emergency and essential services and government officials on official duty have been exempted from the purview of this order. IANS

# J&K L-G terminates services of five govt employees for 'terror' links

JAMMU, JANUARY 13

In a major strike against the terror ecosystem, Jammu and Kashmir Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha, on Tuesday, terminated the services of five government employees, allegedly for their established terror links, official sources said here.

Five government employees who got terminated were Mohd Ishfaq (teacher), Tariq Ahmad Rah (lab technician), Bashir Ahmad Mir (Assistant Lineman), Farooq Ahmad Bhat (Field Worker, Forest Dept), and Mohd Yousuf (Driver, Health and Medical Education Department).

Mohd Ishfaq: Appointed as Rehbar-e-Taleem in the School Education Department, Ishfaq was confirmed as a Teacher in 2013.

According to the investigators, Ishfaq was working for Pakistan-based terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and was in regular contact with Mohd Amin alias Abu Khubaib, a terrorist operating from Pakistan.

"Ishfaq was tasked to execute the killing of a Police Officer in Doda in early 2022. He was arrested in April 2022 by the Jammu and Kashmir Police before he could execute the plan with the help of an OGW based in Marheen. After the arrest of Ishfaq and his associate, police recovered arms and ammunition, and sustained interrogation revealed that Ishfaq exploited his position as a teacher and influenced youth to join terror groups," the sources said.

"Ishfaq, being a teacher with unhindered access to young and impressionable minds was a critical asset of LeT. We have received inputs that despite being in Jail, Ishfaq continues to indulge in radical activities by indoctrinating jail inmates," the sources revealed.

Tariq Ahmad Rah: Appointed as a Lab technician on a contractual basis in 2011, he was regularised in the Health Department in Sub-District Hospital, Bijbehera, Anantnag in 2016.

Sources revealed that "Tariq came under the influence of the terror outfit Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM) right from a very young age. One of his relatives (Uncle) Amin baba alias Abid, was also Divisional Commander of HM from 1998-2005."

According to investigators, Tariq's "terror link" emerged during the State Investigation Agency (SIA) probe into the escape of Amin Baba to Pakistan in 2005.

The investigation of the case was transferred to SIA in September 2023.

The probe revealed that Tariq facilitated the stay of Amin Baba in Anantnag and later arranged his transportation to the Attari-Wagah border.

"Tariq ensured the exfiltration of a wanted terrorist across an international border. Due to his conspiracy, Amin Baba successfully crossed over to Pakistan and is currently operating from there for carrying out terrorist activities in India," sources said.

"It is learnt that Amin Baba is currently based in Islamabad, and according to intelligence inputs, he attends regular meetings with ISI, LeT and JeM terrorists. He is responsible not only for training HM cadres in PoJK terror camps but also recruit new youth into the terror folds, and planning and executing terrorist operations from Pakistan," the sources added. PTI

# Apple import duty reduction affecting interests of orchardists, says HP CM



SHIMLA, JANUARY 13

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, while chairing a meeting with representatives of orchardists, expressed concern over the reduction of import duty on apples from New Zealand, as it has been affecting the interests of orchardists.

He assured them on Tuesday that the issue would be raised with the Central government to find a way out to address the concerns.

"I will meet the Union Finance and the Commerce Minister and urge them to take necessary measures to protect the interests of the orchardists of the state," he said, adding that apple production is a major pillar of the state's economy and its protection and promotion is a top priority of the government.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Sukhu directed the Agriculture Department to link detailed data of farmers practising natural farming with the Him Parivar portal by January 20 so that a block-level database of farmers could be prepared and mapped accordingly.

While presiding over the meeting of the Agriculture Department, he said the youth would be encouraged to adopt natural farming to strengthen the rural economy.

He said that promoting this method of farming across the state would boost and strengthen the economy of the farmers.

He said the government is working to bring revolutionary changes in the natural farming-based system, adding he will interact with farmers this month in Hamirpur.

CM Sukhu reviewed issues of the farmers related to wheat, maize and raw turmeric produced through natural farming.

He said wheat flour produced through natural farming is being marketed under the brand 'Him Chakki Atta', maize flour as 'Him Bhog Makki Atta' and raw turmeric as 'Him Haldi'.

The Chief Minister said 606.8 metric tonnes of naturally grown maize have been procured, and Rs 2.31 crore has been transferred directly to the bank accounts of the farmers.

Similarly, 2,123 quintals of naturally grown wheat have been procured at the minimum support price, and 1.32 lakh transferred to farmers through direct benefit transfer (DBT). IANS

# Himachal seeing rampant 'corruption', 'administrative collapse', says BJP

SHIMLA, JANUARY 13




Senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament Suresh Kashyap on Tuesday criticised the Congress government in Himachal Pradesh over rampant "corruption, administrative collapse, and growing lawlessness", saying the state has been witnessing one of the worst phases of "misgovernance" in its history.

Kashyap said corruption and administrative disorder have reached alarming levels under the Congress regime, where neither public funds are safe nor constitutional discipline is being upheld.

He pointed out alleged irregularities in the Rs 36.77 crore GI pipe procurement scam case in the Jal Shakti Department in 2024-25, which he said was clear evidence of "systemic corruption" under political patronage. According to official screening committee reports, 4,770 metric tonnes of GI pipes were procured in gross violation of tender norms, he claimed. PTI

# Bone chilling cold in Kashmir as temperatures drop; dense fog in Jammu

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 13

Due to a clear night sky, the minimum temperature again dropped in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, and Srinagar city recorded minus 4.9 degrees Celsius as the night's lowest thermal reading.

Dense morning fog affected life adversely in Jammu city in the morning, with both surface and air traffic getting halted due to very poor visibility.

In Srinagar city, few people ventured out in the morning as harsh, chilly wind blew into the Valley from the mountain tops.

With little prospect of any major snowfall in the next week, the bitter winter cold is likely to continue.

Srinagar city had minus 4.9 degrees Celsius minimum temperature, while Gulmarg and Pahalgam had minus 3.5 degrees and minus 6.2 degrees, respectively. Jammu city had 3.8 degrees Celsius, Katra town 6.2, Batote 4.1, Banihal 8.9 and Bhaderwah minus 0.2 as the minimum temperature.

The Meteorological (MeT) forecast said partly to generally cloudy weather is expected till January 18 and 19. On January 20, generally cloudy weather with light rain/snow at isolated places. "Between January 21 to 23rd, partly to generally cloudy weather with light rain/snow at scattered places is expected," the MeT Department said. PTI

## NEWSBRIEFS

### French farmers hold protest in Paris against EU-Mercosur trade deal

**PARIS:** Farmers in France drove some 350 tractors through Paris on Tuesday for the second time in a week to protest against an EU-Mercosur trade deal and low incomes. The farmers entered Paris with their tractors shortly after 6 a.m. (local time) through Porte Dauphine, escorted by police, and travelled through Avenue Foch towards the Arc de Triomphe before driving along the Champs-Elysees, Euro News reported. The farmers crossed the Seine River to reach the National Assembly. The protests led by the FNSEA farmers' union and Jeunes Agriculteurs (Young Farmers), demanded action to protect France's food security. **IANS**

### Karachi residents suffering as gas supply to several areas suspended

**ISLAMABAD:** Several areas of Pakistan's Karachi remained without gas supply on Monday while other regions received gas with low pressure, local media reported on Tuesday. Residents in Karachi continue to face reduced gas supply amid severe winter weather. People said that winter weather had once again exposed the gas utility distribution infrastructure's failure. They have been facing a gas crisis for the past four days, leading to residents turning to expensive LPG cylinders, further increasing their financial woes, Pakistani daily Dawn reported. "How long will Karachi tolerate a utility that can't secure its own supply," Dawn quoted a housewife from Gulistan-i-Jauhar as saying. Meanwhile, a Nazimabad resident said that the people of Karachi paid the price while the gas utility provided the same narrative each winter. "Until the company is held accountable, infrastructure is upgraded, and the government stops turning a blind eye, Karachi's residents will remain hostages of a broken system," she said. **IANS**

### Indian student killed, two others injured in road accident in Kazakhstan's Oskemen

**ASTANA:** An Indian student died while two others were injured in a road accident in Kazakhstan's Oskemen, the Indian Embassy in Kazakhstan said on Tuesday. In a statement on X, the embassy stated that 11 Indian students of Semey Medical University who were on an excursion trip to Altai Alps in East Kazakhstan from Oskemen City, met with an accident while they were returning. The deceased student has been identified as Mili Mohan, 25, while the two injured students are Ashika Sheejamini Santhosh and Jaseena B. The duo are currently receiving medical treatment at City Hospital No. 1, Ust-Kamenagorsk, it said. "As per the latest information, their condition is stable. The Embassy conveys its deepest condolences to the bereaved family of the deceased. The Embassy is in touch with the University, Hospital authorities and families," it added. Last week, the Indian Embassy said that two Indian students died and three others suffered injuries in a road accident that occurred near Almaty on January 6. **IANS**

# Japanese PM Takaichi plans to dissolve House of Representatives for snap election

**TOKYO, JANUARY 13**



Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi intends to dissolve the House of Representatives for a snap election at the start of the regular Diet session scheduled to be held on January 23, local media reported on Tuesday, citing a source familiar with the matter. The move conveyed to senior ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) members comes at a time when Takaichi's cabinet enjoys a high approval rating, raising hopes that an early election could improve her fragile political standing, considering the ruling coalition has a razor-thin majority in the lower house, Japan's Kyodo News reported.

On Tuesday, the Japanese government, during a meeting of senior members of the steering committees of the lower house and the House of Councillors, informed the ruling and opposition parties that the ordinary Diet session will be convened on January 23

If the lower house is dissolved on January 23, the official campaign for the general election may begin on January 27 or February 3, with voting possibly on February 9 or February 15, respectively. According to a source, Takaichi is expected to announce her decision soon, Kyodo News reported.

This would be the first general election that will be held under Takaichi's leadership. She assumed office as Japan's first female Prime Minister in October last year, forming an alliance with the Japan Innovation Party after the Komeito party ended its coalition partnership with the LDP due to the latter's handling of a fundraising scandal. Although there are over two years left before the four-year term of current lower house members expires, Takaichi seems to have chosen to take a gamble to gain people's support for her commitment to build a "robust" economy through expansionary spending and for her hawkish security policies.

A former television anchor, Takaichi entered Japanese politics in 1993, winning a seat in the Lower House as an independent. The 64-year-old lawmaker currently represents her home prefecture of Nara. Takaichi joined Japan's LDP in 1996 and entered the Cabinet for the first time under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. She held the position of the Minister of State for Okinawa and Northern Territories Affairs. Later, she went on to become the first woman to chair the LDP's Policy Research Council.

From 2022 to 2024, Takaichi was Japan's Economic Security Minister. She also holds the record as the longest-serving Minister for Internal Affairs, a post she held in several tenures.

Takaichi, a prominent voice of the LDP's conservative wing and advocating its causes for a long time, was elected as the leader of the LDP after receiving 185 votes. She defeated Shinjiro Shinjiro, who garnered 156 votes in a runoff after none of the five candidates in the party leadership race secured a majority in the initial round of voting. **IANS**

# Trump announces additional 25 per cent tariff over Iran trade

**WASHINGTON, JANUARY 13**



US President Donald Trump on Monday announced that countries doing business with Iran will face a 25 per cent additional tariff on trade with the United States, signalling a tougher approach toward Tehran and its international partners.

For India, this implies a whopping 75 per cent tariff on all its products being exported to the United States, a development that might badly impact Indian businesses. "Effective immediately, any Country doing business with the Islamic Republic of Iran will pay a Tariff of 25 per cent on any and all business being done with the United States of America," Trump said in a social media post.

"This Order is final and conclusive," he added. "Thank you for your attention to this matter!"

The statement did not spell out how the tariff would be applied or which sectors would be affected.

Earlier in the day, the White House said Trump is pursuing diplomatic engagement with Iran while keeping military options firmly on the table, as protests continue inside the country and back-channel communications signal a different tone from Tehran.

White House Press Secretary Caroline Leavitt said the President's objective remains focused on preventing further violence while assessing private outreach from Iranian officials.

"He certainly doesn't want to see people being killed in the streets of Tehran, and unfortunately, that's something we're seeing right now," Leavitt told reporters during a gaggle at the White House.

Asked whether the administration is still seeking complete denuclearization, Leavitt did not outline specific terms but stressed the President's flexibility and readiness to escalate if necessary. "One thing President Trump is very good at is always keeping all of his options on the table, and airstrikes would be one of the many, many options that are on the table for the Commander in Chief," she said. **IANS**

# Concern over Russia's deployment of hypersonic nuclear-capable missile expressed at UNSC

**UNITED NATIONS, JANUARY 13**



As the Ukraine War nears its fourth year, the UN and several Security Council members expressed concern over the latest escalation by Russia, which used a nuclear-capable hypersonic missile that hit targets near the border with NATO member Poland.

Under-Secretary-General Rosemary DiCarlo, who briefed the Council on Monday, said, "The Oreshnik system is believed to be capable of carrying nuclear weapons, which has heightened concern over its deployment". This was the second time since 2004 that the "the potentially devastating weapon" has been fired at Ukraine, she said.

An intermediate-range ballistic missile that can carry nuclear weapons and travel at 2,300 kilometres per hour – about ten times the speed of sound – the Oreshnik hit targets in Lviv on Friday. Russia's Permanent Representative Vassily Nebenzia boasted at the Council that "there is no air defence protection so far" against the Oreshnik.

The deployment of the missile, as the US and the Europeans intensified peace efforts, was seen as an escalation of the war by Russia's President Vladimir Putin.

US Deputy Permanent Representative Tammy Bruce said, "This constitutes another dangerous and inexplicable escalation of this war, even as the United States is urgently working with Kyiv, other partners, and Moscow, to end the war through a negotiated settlement".

Britain's Deputy Permanent Representative James Kariuki like many others, echoed the characterisation saying it "threatens regional and international security, and carries significant risk of escalation and miscalculation."

Ukraine called for the Council meeting after Russia started a massive attack using missiles and drones, as frigid temperatures amplified the effects of Moscow's barrage that hit infrastructure facilities and other civilian targets around the country.

DiCarlo said that between Thursday and Friday, Russia "reportedly launched 242 drones and 36 missiles". Ukraine's Permanent Representative Andriy Melnyk said the attacks showed that Russia was sinking "even lower in proving that there is no bottom to its criminal intent". Ramesh Rajasingham, who heads the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), said that as temperatures dropped to nearly minus 10 degrees Celsius, "the plight of civilians has grown more desperate, as large-scale attacks continue to push energy systems, emergency services and the very means of winter survival to the brink". **IANS**

# North Korea replaces top officials guarding Kim: South Korea

**SEOUL, JANUARY 13**

North Korea has replaced its top officials in charge of guarding leader Kim Jong-un in recent years, Seoul's unification ministry said on Tuesday.

North Korea has changed the chiefs of three major North Korean units defending the security of the North's leader -- the Guard Office of the ruling party, the Guard Department of the State Affairs Commission and the Guard Command -- the ministry said in its analysis of the major reshuffle of North Korean officials in 2025.

The ministry did not disclose the exact timing or the reason for the replacement, but it said the changed chiefs of such agencies were detected during a military parade marking the 80th founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) in October 2025, Yonhap News Agency reported.

"It is noticeable that North Korea has replaced officials in charge of guarding the 'supreme leader' in a relatively short period of time," a ministry official said.

Meanwhile, Ri Pyong-chol, a top North Korean military official, is presumed to be removed from the post of vice chairman of the WPK's Military Central Commission, the ministry said.

North Korea saw the number of members of the praesidium of the political bureau fall to four from the previous five with Ri's presumed demotion to a member.

The praesidium currently comprises the North's leader Kim; Premier Pak Thae-song; Choe Ryong-hae, chairman of the parliament's standing committee; and Jo Yong-won, a party secretary. **IANS**

### Afghan women struggle with poverty, lack of shelter amid forced returns from Pakistan, Iran

**KABUL, JANUARY 13**

Thousands of Afghan women and families, who have been deported from Pakistan and Iran, face poverty, lack of shelter, and growing human rights concerns, local media reported on Tuesday.

Afghan returnees report facing economic hardships, lack of shelter, and limited access to basic services. Many of these female-headed households used to work in Pakistan and Iran, the Afghan news agency Khaama Press reported. However, deportation from Iran and Pakistan has left them without financial support, resulting in families facing extreme poverty during harsh winter conditions.

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) warned that more than two million returnees face livelihood challenges. Forced deportations are further intensifying the extreme refugee situation, with Afghan migrants, particularly women and children, being sent back to regions where there is gender-based violence, early or forced marriages, and restricted freedoms.

Journalists and media workers in Afghanistan also face similar threats. Reporting on forced deportations, protests and women's rights has become dangerous, with many facing detention, harassment or violence, Khaama Press reported. According to UN reports, only 11 per cent of Afghan returnees are employed, while one in four do not have adequate housing. Over half of households cannot even meet basic needs, and women-headed households face food insecurity and unemployment. UN reports have indicated that women make up almost half of all returnees from Pakistan and a third from Iran. **IANS**

### Govt employees protest in Balochistan, seeking 30 pc disparity reduction allowance

**QUETTA, JANUARY 13**

Government employees held protests in Pakistan's Balochistan, demanding the implementation of the Disparity Reduction Allowance (DRA), leading to road blockades and arrests, local media reported.

The employees from various government departments have been holding protests for the past seven months, demanding 30 per cent DRA, like how it has been granted in Punjab and Sindh provinces.

Employees from various sectors joined the protest led by the Balochistan Grand Alliance (BGA). They have claimed that employees of institutions like the Governor's House, Chief Minister's Secretariat, and High Court have been paid higher salaries despite being in the same grade as workers in other government departments, The Balochistan Post reported.

The BGA emphasised the need to address this salary disparity, stressing that the committee established by the Balochistan government has already recommended the DRA. **IANS**

# Flood emergency prompts widespread warnings in Australia's Queensland

**SYDNEY, JANUARY 13**

Flood warnings have been issued across the north-east Australian state of Queensland as ex-Tropical Cyclone Koji continues to cause widespread intense rainfall. As of Tuesday morning local time, the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) had multiple flood warnings in place for rivers and catchments in central, northeast and northwest Queensland after some regions received more than a year's worth of rainfall in one week.

In the small town of Clermont, about 750 km northwest of the state capital of Brisbane, residents in low-lying areas were on Monday afternoon ordered to move to higher ground. Over 300 properties remained without electricity on Tuesday in the town of around 3,000 people, which has been cut off by floodwaters.

Authorities said on Tuesday that three people were rescued from floodwaters in Clermont overnight.

Two men were picked up by swift water rescue boats around 2:40 a.m. local time after getting trapped on the roof of their car in floodwaters while a third person was rescued from the roof of another vehicle a few hours later. In a separate incident, two other people were eventually able to make their own way to safety after also becoming stranded on the roof of a vehicle near Clermont on Monday night.

Ex-Tropical Cyclone Koji made landfall on Queensland's northeast coast on Sunday morning, bringing damaging winds and heavy rainfall, and is now moving west across the state. David Crisafulli, the premier of Queensland, told reporters on Monday that communities in western Queensland that already received significant rainfall earlier in January should stay on high alert as further rain there could be devastating, Xinhua news agency reported. **IANS**

# Rights body condemns custodial death of Awami League leader in Bangladesh, alleges medical negligence

**PARIS, JANUARY 13**

A leading international human rights organisation strongly condemned the custodial death of renowned Bangladeshi musician and Awami League's Cultural Secretary, Prolay Chaki in the Pabna district of Bangladesh, alleging medical negligence.

Justice Makers Bangladesh in France (JMBF) said that even after the rapid deterioration of the physical condition of the Awami League leader, while in custody, his family was not informed in a timely manner, and there was serious negligence in ensuring necessary medical treatment.

Citing media reports and information obtained from sources, JMBF stated that Chaki passed away on Sunday night while undergoing treatment at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Earlier, on December 16, 2025, it stated that he was detained by the Detective Branch of the Bangladesh police from his residence in Pabna town and subsequently sent to jail after being arrested in a "politically motivated false case."

According to the rights body, "Despite suffering from heart disease, the concerned prison authorities failed to provide him with the required specialised medical care and intensive care (CCU or equivalent)." **IANS**

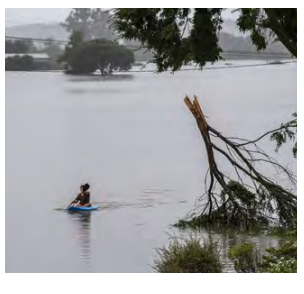
# US urged to act on 'tech triad' to counter China

**WASHINGTON, JAN 13**

The United States must urgently adopt a coordinated national strategy to develop nuclear energy, artificial intelligence and autonomous systems if it hopes to stay ahead of China in emerging military technologies, according to a new commentary by top aerospace and defence executive Vivek Lall.

In the article in National Review, Lall argues that while China publicly revealed its nuclear triad in September 2025, its faster and more consequential progress has been in what he describes as a "tech triad" integrating nuclear energy, AI and autonomous systems.

He says Beijing has moved "at lightning speed" to link these technologies,



while the United States has only begun to recognise how interconnected they are.

"You can say this for the Chinese Communist Party: It sees the big picture," Lall writes, noting that China views nuclear energy, AI and autonomous systems as the three pillars of future military power.

He says nuclear energy provides the steady electricity required for advanced AI, while AI enables autonomy across platforms ranging from coordinated drone swarms to unmanned aircraft.

Lall points to China's construction of 34 nuclear reactors, with plans for nearly 200 more, as part of a coordinated effort to power energy-intensive AI models. He says China is already using large amounts of electricity to deploy AI for autonomous technologies with military applications, including robot scout dogs and war-game simulations. **IANS**

# lifestyle



## Priyanka, Nick Jonas enjoy a pizza date post Golden Globes event

Following the Golden Globe Awards ceremony, global icon Priyanka Chopra Jonas and husband Nick Jonas were seen unwinding as the couple enjoyed a fun pizza date night after the star-studded event.

After a glamourous evening at the event night, the couple chose a relaxed and intimate way to celebrate post a series of red carpet interviews and socialising.

Priyanka, on her social media account, shared a series of pictures from their post-Golden Globes moments. In the pictures shared, the actress is seen dressed in a sleek ivory satin gown, while Nick looked sharp in a black tuxedo.

One photograph captures Priyanka relaxing casually on a bed as Nick sweetly offers her a slice of pizza, while on a pizza date. In another picture the couple is seen standing close, sharing an intimate moments. Another picture also shows Nick helping Priyanka drink from a cocktail glass.

Priyanka captioned it as, "After after.." along with a mention of the Golden Globes, on her social media account.

Earlier, during an interview on the Golden Globes red carpet, Priyanka and Nick were asked how they manage their professional commitments while also being a full-time parents. Responding candidly, the actress credited her daughter's grandparents for playing a crucial role in maintaining balance. **IANS**



## SAMANTHA is all praises for Yami Gautam's 'Haq': Stories like this are rare

The fan club for Yami Gautam's courtroom drama "Haq" continues to expand.

Most recently, actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu showered praises on the team for making a film that is so layered and so free of judgment.

Taking to the Stories section of her Instagram account, Samantha penned an appreciation post saying, "I had to write this the moment the film ended because I was scared I'd lose even a fraction of what it made me feel. Stories like this are rare. So deeply human. So layered. So free of judgment or bias. And even rarer when they're brought alive by an actor of this caliber @yamigautam. (sic)."

Samantha admitted that Yami's portrayal as Shazia Bano left her moved in ways that are hard for her to put into words. "@reshunath your writing stayed with me. @yamigautam your performance moved me in ways I can't fully explain. I felt everything all at once. Love. Rage. Strength. Vulnerability. Hope." the 'Yashoda' actress added. **IANS**



## Kendall Jenner speaks about list of 'beautiful normal' baby names

Reality star Kendall Jenner has said that she has a secret list of "beautiful normal" baby names for when she eventually becomes a mother.

The 30-year-old reality star has revealed she hopes to become a mom in the future and she has already picked out a number of options for her children, and she's insisted they won't start with a "K" like her siblings, reports 'Female First UK'.

During an appearance on the In Your Dreams With Owen Thiele podcast, Kendall was asked if the options she's picked are "insane" or "nepo baby names", and she said, "(I'm) so over that ... I think that it's kind of ridiculous. The whole name situation. I definitely have my list. It's not crazy. I actually love my baby list. My baby name list. (I love) like a good normal name. Like a beautiful normal name".

When asked if the names start with the letter "K" like her sisters, Kim, Khloe, Kourtney and Kylie, she said, "No, babe. Absolutely not".

As per 'Female First UK', she also insisted some unusual names can be good, as she said, "Joaquin Phoenix is an incredible name. It's a unique name, but it's not, like, 'Doorbell'. There's so many good names. Brad Pitt is an incredible name". Kendall has previously shared that she longs to become a mother one day and she had previously hoped to start a family by the time she was in her late 20s, but she enjoyed her "freedom" too much to settle down. She told 'Vogue', "When I was young I used to say that by 27 I'd love to have kids. Now I'm past that and I feel like I'm still so young. I'm enjoying my kidless freedom".

She also revealed she wants a big family. In a previous episode of her family's reality show 'The Kardashians', she was asked if she will ever become a mother and she insisted she wants at least two babies because she wants her children to have a sibling. **IANS**

## Fatima says 'Love you so much' as she spends birthday with Dia Mirza



Actress Fatima Sana Shaikh turned a year older on Sunday, and she decided to spend her special day working.

Nevertheless, her birthday was celebrated by her team in the presence of actress Dia Mirza.

Fatima took to her Instagram handle and expressed her gratitude to Dia and all those present for making her birthday memorable with good food and also some much-appreciated words of encouragement.

Thanking them for always having her back, the 'Dangal' actress wrote, "Working birthdays are the best and getting to celebrate with @diamirzaofficial and my team was really special (red heart emoji) Thank you for making my day special and feeding me great food. And always hyping me and encouraging me. You've always got my back! Thank you for being you being you. (sic)."

Showering some more love on Dia, she added, "Love you so much!!! @diamirzaofficial". **IANS**



## Divya Dutta shares lessons on co-existence as questions people's narcissism

Actress Divya Dutta, who is known for films like 'Badlapur', 'Bhaag Milkha Bhaag', 'Veer-Zaara' and others, has spoken up on the importance of co-existence.

On Tuesday, the actress took to her Instagram, and shared a video in which she spoke about how stray animals live their own lives without disturbing anyone.

She also penned a long note in the caption, as she wrote, "Co-existence, chahein to sab ek sath exist kar sakte hain, ek jagah pe..haq hai sabka barabar. upar wale ne diya. Thoda patiently aur tolerance ke sath handle karein to sab ho sakta hai..hum human race akele hi rahenge iss duniya mei , jo chahiye rakhenge jo nahin chahiye hata denge...sahi hai? Hoping and praying, sab theek hoga. I'm sure hoga (If they want to, everyone can exist together in one place. Everyone has an equal right. The one above gave it. If you handle it with a little patience and tolerance, everything is possible. The human race will be alone in this world, keeping what they want and removing what they don't... right? Hoping and praying, everything will be alright. I'm sure it will happen)". **IANS**

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Saint Soldier International School celebrates Lohri

**CHANDIGARH:** Saint Soldier International School, Sector 28-B, Chandigarh celebrated the vibrant festival of Lohri with great enthusiasm and traditional zeal. The programme commenced with the lighting of the sacred fire, during which the dignitaries, teachers, and administrative staff offered their prayers and paid reverence to the holy fire, symbolizing gratitude, prosperity, and new beginnings. Traditional rituals such as sharing festive delicacies like rewri and gajak added warmth and authenticity to the occasion. **BPE**

### Get ready for The Fake Shaadi Happening at Sector 7 SOCIAL with VAN HEUSEN

**CHANDIGARH:** Social invites you to a wedding celebration that skips the rituals and goes straight to the party. This Fake Shaadi brings together all the best bits of a big fat Indian wedding - music, dancing, style, and endless photo moments - without the pressure of being related to anyone there. Guests are encouraged to dress in their finest wedding-ready looks and immerse themselves in an evening filled with live music, mehendi experiences, interactive games, exciting giveaways, and a high-energy dance floor that truly captures the spirit of a wedding after-party. **BPE**

### Nissan appoints Thierry Sabbagh as President

**CHANDIGARH:** Nissan has announced a series of senior management changes in its Africa, Middle East, India, Europe and Oceania (AMIEO) region, designed to strengthen delivery of the Re:Nissan transformation plan and enhance operational efficiency, speed and customer focus. Effective January 1, 2026, Thierry Sabbagh's responsibilities have been expanded to include Nissan India, as he becomes Divisional Vice President and President, Middle East, KSA, CIS and India – Nissan and Infiniti. The expanded scope reflects Nissan's focus on maintaining leadership continuity across established markets while strengthening governance, execution and growth momentum in India as a strategic priority within the AMIEO region. **BPE**

### IndiGo announces New Year sale – 'Sail Into 2026', with special fares across domestic and international routes

**CHANDIGARH:** IndiGo, India's preferred airline, today announced the launch of its New Year sale 'Sail into 2026', offering customers attractive all-inclusive one-way fares across select domestic and international sectors, along with exclusive discounts on popular ancillary services. The sale will be open for bookings from 13 January 2026 to 16 January 2026, for travel between 20 January 2026 and 30 April 2026. The offer is valid on bookings made at least seven days prior to departure and is available across all booking channels. **BPE**

### NBSL and Canara Bank partner to power UPI payments

**CHANDIGARH:** NPCI BHIM Services Limited (NBSL),has partnered with Canara Bank to enable UPI-based digital payments on the bank's payment application, Canara ai1Pe, strengthening secure and scalable payment access for Canara Bank customers and non-customers.The partnership uses BHIM's bank plugin capabilities to support UPI services on Canara Bank's app, enabling faster adoption of new UPI features while ensuring compliance, reliability, and system scalability. Through this collaboration, Canara Bank will gain access to the latest UPI functionalities and feature upgrades adopted by the BHIM Payments App as part of ongoing UPI launches. The integration supports improved security, operational resilience, and scalability, while helping the bank reduce the cost and resources involved in developing, maintaining, and regularly upgrading an independent UPI interface. **BPE**

### Samsung India launches 'Super Big Republic, Super Big TV' offers on Vision AI Big-Screen TVs

**CHANDIGARH:** Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, announced the launch of Republic Day offers 'Super Big Republic, Super Big TV' running from January 8 to January 31, 2026. The campaign brings limited-period offers on Samsung's Vision AI-powered big-screen TVs, encouraging consumers to begin the year by upgrading to smarter and more immersive home entertainment. During Samsung's 'Super Big Republic, Super Big TV' campaign, buyers of select big screen Samsung TV models will receive a complimentary Samsung Soundbar worth up to INR 92990, creating a complete cinematic experience at home. **BPE**

### EV ownership in Himachal is moving from caution to confidence

**SHIMLA:** Electric vehicle (EV) ownership in India is entering a more confident phase. What once felt like an early-adopter experiment is increasingly becoming a considered mobility choice, even in hill states like Himachal Pradesh, where terrain, weather, and access add layers of complexity to everyday driving. India crossed over 2 million electric vehicle registrations in 2025, with EVs now accounting for more than 7% of new vehicle registrations nationwide. Passenger electric cars, while still a smaller base, are among the fastest-growing segments. **BPE**

### Samsung and Netflix offer exclusive 'Stranger Things' theme for Galaxy

**CHANDIGARH:** As the door closes on "Stranger Things," Samsung Electronics and Netflix are giving fans a chance to celebrate the final season of the iconic show that has shaped pop culture for nearly a decade. Starting Jan. 12, Samsung Galaxy users in 186 countries can download an exclusive "Stranger Things" theme and wallpapers via Galaxy Store available at no additional cost for a limited time to those who download or launch the Netflix app. **BPE**

### Samsung Innovation Campus certifies 1,750 youth in Future-Tech Skills in Uttar Pradesh

**LUDHIANA:** Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, on the occasion of National Youth Day, announced the certification of 1,750 students in Uttar Pradesh under its flagship Samsung Innovation Campus (SIC) programme, marking a significant milestone in the company's youth-skilling efforts in the state. The certification ceremony was held at the City Group of Institutions in Lucknow, in the presence of Rajni Tiwari, Minister of Higher Education, Government of Uttar Pradesh, along with academic leaders and programme partners. **BPE**

### Kotak Mahindra Bank strengthens leadership team with appointment of Anup Kumar Saha as whole-time Director

**CHANDIGARH:** Kotak Mahindra Bank announced the appointment of Anup Kumar Saha as Whole-time Director, subject to regulatory approvals. Till such time, Anup will act as whole-time Director (Designate) and will be a part of Senior Management from January 12. Anup most recently served as Managing Director at Bajaj Finance, where over eight years he played a pivotal role in transforming the company into one of India's leading and most profitable NBFCs in consumer finance. He led business transformation, digital innovation and customer-focused strategies, expanding the customer base to 100 million and diversifying the product portfolio. **BPE**

### After disbursing 11,000+ scholarships to truck drivers' daughters, Mahindra announces the 12th edition of 'Saarthi Abhiyaan' Programme

**CHANDIGARH:** Mahindra's Truck and Bus business, as a part of its much celebrated and renowned CSR Program, Mahindra Saarthi Abhiyan, has announced the onset of its 12th edition, with plans to awards another 1,000 scholarships of Rs 10,000 each to truck drivers' daughters who have passed Class X exam and are pursuing further studies. Vinod Sahay - President – Trucks, Buses & Construction Equipment, Member of Group Executive Board, said, "Through Mahindra Saarthi Abhiyaan, we are not just providing scholarships but opening doors to a brighter future for girls and instilling hope in young hearts. **BPE**

### Mahindra Manulife Mutual Fund launches 'Mahindra Manulife Innovation Opportunities Fund'

**CHANDIGARH:** Mahindra Manulife Mutual Fund, a joint venture between Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited and Manulife Investment Management (Singapore) Pte. Ltd has announced the launch of the Mahindra Manulife Innovation Opportunities Fund ('Scheme'), an open-ended equity scheme aiming to capture long-term growth opportunities arising from radical and disruptive innovation across sectors. The New Fund Offer (NFO) will open on January 9, and close on January 23. **BPE**

# Apple launches creator studio subscription to power video, music

**NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13**



Apple on Tuesday launched Apple Creator Studio, a new subscription-based suite that brings together some of its most powerful creative apps for video, music, imaging and productivity, aimed at creators across skill levels.

Unveiled from Apple's headquarters in Cupertino, California, Apple Creator Studio combines professional tools such as Final Cut Pro, Logic Pro, Pixelmator Pro, Motion, Compressor and MainStage into a single offering.

The subscription also includes new intelligent features and premium content across Keynote, Pages and Numbers, with Freeform set to be added later.

Apple said the new service is designed to give creators studio-grade capabilities on Mac, iPad and iPhone, while keeping user privacy at the core.

The company noted that millions of creators already rely on Apple devices, and Apple Creator Studio builds on that foundation by making advanced creative tools more accessible and flexible.

Final Cut Pro receives new intelligent features for faster and easier video editing on Mac and iPad.

Users can now search through footage using text with Transcript Search, find specific visuals using Visual Search, and edit videos in sync with music using Beat Detection.

On iPad, a new AI-powered Montage Maker can automatically create a dynamic edit from footage, helping creators get started in seconds.

Music creators also get major upgrades with Logic Pro for Mac and iPad. New AI-driven tools such as Synth Player and Chord ID are designed to help users compose, produce and experiment with music more easily.

Logic Pro also adds a refreshed sound library and advanced features that support songwriting, remixing and music production for video content.

For creative imaging, Pixelmator Pro is coming to iPad for the first time. The app brings a touch-optimised interface, full Apple Pencil support and powerful editing tools that work seamlessly across iPad and Mac.

Apple said the app takes advantage of Apple silicon to deliver fast performance and advanced features such as intelligent image upscaling and automatic composition suggestions.

Apple Creator Studio also enhances productivity tools. Subscribers get access to premium templates, themes and curated content in Keynote, Pages and Numbers, along with new intelligent features that help users create presentations, documents and spreadsheets more quickly.

Apple clarified that these apps will remain free for all users, with the subscription unlocking additional premium content and capabilities. **IANS**

# World Bank estimates India's growth in FY25-26 at 7.2 per cent

**WASHINGTON, JANUARY 13**



India's economy is projected to remain among the world's fastest-growing major economies, with growth estimated at 7.2 per cent in FY2025-26, supported by strong domestic demand despite rising global trade tensions, the World Bank said on Tuesday.

In its latest Global Economic Prospects report, the World Bank said India's resilience helped lift overall growth in South Asia in 2025, offsetting the impact of heightened policy uncertainty and global trade frictions.

Growth in South Asia strengthened to 7.1 per cent in 2025, "mainly because of resilient activity in India", the report noted.

The World Bank does not include Pakistan and Afghanistan in South Asia, and their economies are included in the Middle East and North Africa division.

India's expansion is "mainly reflecting robust domestic demand, including strong private consumption, supported by earlier tax reforms and improvements in real household earnings in rural areas", the bank said.

India's growth is projected to slow modestly to 6.5 per cent in FY2026-27, assuming higher US import tariffs remain in place, before edging up to 6.6 per cent in FY2027-28, the report said. The bank attributed this to strong services activity, a recovery in exports, and improved investment flows.

The report said that despite higher tariffs on certain exports to the United States, India's growth forecast is unchanged from earlier projections because "the adverse impacts of higher tariffs will be offset by stronger momentum in domestic demand than previously anticipated".

Across South Asia, India remains the region's primary growth engine. Excluding India, growth in South Asia is forecast to strengthen to 5.0 per cent in 2026 and 5.6 per cent in 2027, while the region as a whole is expected to slow to 6.2 per cent in 2026 before rebounding. **IANS**

# FICCI seeks steps to fast-track tax appeal cases in Budget 2026-27

**NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13**



Apex business chamber FICCI on Tuesday listed its key expectations from Union Budget 2026-2027 regarding direct taxes and processes dealing with customs collections that include a reduction in the pendency of appeal cases, and tax neutrality for fast-track mergers.

According to a FICCI statement, the reduction of pendency before the Commissioner of Income Tax, Appeals, is critical to the success of the new Faceless Appeal system and for alleviating hardships faced by taxpayers by way of demands and blockage of refunds.

It has highlighted that currently, there is a huge pendency of appeals filed before CIT(A). Around 5.4 lakh cases are stuck there as on April 1, 2025, involving an amount of Rs 18.16 lakh crore.

Further, the Central Action Plan (CAP) for 2025-26 targets call for disposing of 2 lakh cases and Rs 10 lakh crore of disputed demand for various charges (international tax and transfer pricing, central faceless and JCIT (appeals)). Without capacity augmentation or differentiated tracks and timelines for disposal, it is infeasible to clear the backlog, it said.

Pending litigation reflects as contingent liabilities in the books of companies, pulling down the valuation of their shares during the sale of shares by Indian promoters to FDI investors. The government also loses revenue due to the high pendency of cases, the statement said.

FICCI has also sought the rationalisation of provisions to facilitate obtaining a full stay of demand during the pendency of appeals to unlock amounts locked up in litigation, ease working capital blockage for taxpayers without adversely impacting the interest of revenue collection. The business chamber has further stated that providing clarity on the tax neutrality of fast-track demergers will facilitate demergers in small-sized companies and intra-group restructuring in a smaller time frame, relieve the burden on NCLT for processing such applications, and thereby improve "ease of doing business" without adversely impacting revenue's interests.

It has also sought restoration of the Associated Enterprise (AE) definition in the new Act as per the old Act. This will preserve continuity of tax policy as recommended by the Select Committee; provide certainty on TP compliance for taxpayers and avoid unwarranted litigation on coverage of AEs, the statement said.

FICCI's wishlist on indirect taxes includes the constitution of more offices of the Customs Authority for Advance Rulings (AAR). Expanding Customs AAR offices and allowing self-declared extensions would enhance trade certainty, reduce compliance burden and lower litigation on customs matters, it said. **IANS**

# ICICI Lombard's Q3 profit falls 9 pc to ₹659 crore

**MUMBAI, JANUARY 13**



ICICI Lombard General Insurance, India's largest private sector general insurer, on Tuesday reported a 9.04 per cent year-on-year (YoY) decline in its net profit for the October–December quarter of FY26.

The company's profit fell to Rs 658.88 crore in Q3 FY26 from Rs 724.38 crore in the same period last financial year (Q3 FY25), according to its stock exchange filing.

Total expenses during the quarter increased by 16.19 per cent year-on-year to Rs 6,039.06 crore, while commission payouts rose by 15.5 per cent to Rs 1,343.1 crore.

The higher cost burden affected the insurer's bottom line despite healthy growth in business. The company also said that under the new labour codes introduced by the Government, it estimated an additional gratuity expense of Rs 53.06 crore as past service cost for the quarter and the nine months ended December 31, 2025.

This adjustment led to a corresponding reduction in profit and an increase in gratuity obligations. As of December 31, 2025, the unrecognised past service cost related to gratuity obligations stood at Rs 16.93 crore.

On the positive side, ICICI Lombard's business growth remained strong. The company's gross written premium rose by 14.8 per cent year-on-year to Rs 7,432.98 crore in Q3 FY26 from Rs 6,474.45 crore in Q3 FY25.

Net premium income also increased by 12.7 per cent to Rs 5,685.3 crore. Investment income grew by 8.23 per cent to Rs 909.01 crore during the quarter. **IANS**

# Adani Energy Solutions bags ₹18,000 crore project in Q3 FY26, expands transmission network

**AHMEDABAD, JANUARY 13**



Adani Energy Solutions Limited (AESL) on Tuesday announced its operational highlights in the third quarter (Q3 FY26), in which the Adani Group company secured a major transmission project worth around Rs 18,000 crore, apart from further expanding its transmission network.

The order, named the KPS III (Khavda South Olpad) HVDC project, will enable the evacuation of 2,500 MW of renewable energy from the Khavda Renewable Energy Park in Gujarat's Kutch district to Olpad near Surat, said the company. The project is seen as a key addition to India's renewable energy transmission infrastructure.

During the quarter, AESL also fully commissioned the North Karanpura Transmission Line project, which has a network length of around 300 circuit kilometres.

With this commissioning, the company's total transmission network expanded to 27,901 circuit kilometres, while its transformation capacity rose to 1,18,175 MVA.

The transmission order book has now grown to Rs 77,787 crore, according to its stock exchange filing.

In the distribution business, AESL reported improvement in operational efficiency. Distribution losses declined to 4.22 per cent in year-to-date (YTD) FY26 from 4.91 per cent in the same period last financial year.

Supply reliability remained extremely high, with the Average Supply Availability Index standing at 99.998 per cent. **IANS**

### India's private equity market rebounds 44 pc in Q4 2025: Report



**NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13**

India's private equity activity strongly rebounded in the fourth quarter of 2025 with investments touching $3.7 billion, up 44.3 per cent from the previous quarter, a report said on Tuesday.

The report from London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG) said that total equity investments in Q4 touched the highest quarterly level since Q4 2024.

Despite the late-year surge, full-year private equity investments eased 23.7 per cent year-on-year to $12.1 billion, underscoring the continued impact of a cautious investment environment for much of the year, the report said.

"Although the slowdown in investment activity was broad-based, technology-led sectors remained comparatively resilient, continuing to absorb the majority of private equity capital," said Vianca Sanchez, Analyst, LSEG Deals Intelligence.

Internet-specific and computer software companies attracted a combined $6.7 billion in 2025, representing more than half of total PE deployment, the report said. It added that investment in these sectors still moderated 1.9 per cent year-on-year, reflecting heightened investment selectivity.

Fundraising was subdued, with Indian private equity fundraising falling to $3.8 billion in 2025, the lowest since 2017, the report said. **IANS**

# SPORTS

**BCB**

"THE BCB REMAINS COMMITTED TO SAFEGUARDING THE WELL-BEING OF ITS PLAYERS, OFFICIALS AND STAFF WHILE ENGAGING CONSTRUCTIVELY WITH THE ICC TO ADDRESS THE MATTER."

## India eye series clincher in Rajkot as New Zealand look to bounce back

**RAJKOT, JANUARY 13**






Following a narrow four-wicket win in the series opener at Vadodara, India will now face New Zealand in Rajkot to try to clinch the series by taking an unbeatable lead in the three-match series. The two sides will lock horns at the Niranjan Shah Stadium, a typically batting-friendly surface, where the BlackCaps will aim to level the series while the hosts will aim to grab a 2-0 lead.

India's playing XI for the second ODI will witness at least one change after Washington Sundar was ruled out of the remainder of the series following an injury. The all-rounder was replaced by Ayush Badoni in the squad as the 26-year-old received his maiden ODI call-up. Captain Shubman Gill faces a typical 'selection dilemma' after several fringe players stepped up under pressure.

The first match showed that although veterans like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma remain crucial, the inclusion of relatively inexperienced players like Harshit Rana is changing the team's tactical approach. As the action shifts to Rajkot, the team management must decide whether to maintain the successful lineup or rotate bowlers to reduce their workload.

India clinched their eighth consecutive ODI win over New Zealand since 2023. At home venues, they have now secured eight straight ODI victories against New Zealand since 2017.

The ODI series opener also saw India successfully chase the second-highest target against New Zealand, behind the 316 runs achieved in Bengaluru in 2010.

New Zealand responded strongly in the first game. It appeared they were done for when Kohli and Iyer were dominating, and India looked poised to win easily with a comfortable margin. However, the BlackCaps demonstrated great resilience before India secured the victory. Rohit Sharma scored the first runs for India but was dismissed in the Powerplay, while Gill had a slow start against the new ball but regained his rhythm after Kohli came in to support him.

India's No. 3 entered with confidence, aggressively facing the bowlers and hitting boundaries, establishing a strong partnership of over 100 runs with the captain. Following Gill's dismissal, Shreyas Iyer maintained the same aggressive approach, forming another steady partnership with Kohli and ensuring India stayed in command.

Then, Kyle Jamieson entered the scene and took three wickets in just seven balls to dismiss Kohli and Iyer, putting New Zealand right back into the game. With Washington injured, Rana was sent in before him, delivering a useful cameo that eased the pressure on wicketkeeper-batter KL Rahul.

Even after Rana's dismissal, a hobbling Washington walked out to the middle, and together he and Rahul guided India home with an over to spare. New Zealand threw everything they had at India and pushed them all the way, but in the end, they just lacked that extra bit of firepower in the crunch moments. **IANS**

**SQUADS**

**India:** Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill (c), Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul (wk), Nitish Kumar Reddy, Harshit Rana, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Rishabh Pant, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ravindra Jadeja, Ayush Badoni

**NEW ZEALAND:** Devon Conway (wk), Will Young, Henry Nicholls, Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Michael Bracewell (c), Zakary Foulkes, Nick Kelly, Josh Clarkson, Michael Rae, Kyle Jamieson, Mitchell Hay, Adithya Ashok, Kristian Clarke, Jayden Lennox

## BCB admits ICC's reluctance to shift games out of India but refuses to budge

**DHAKA, JANUANY 13**



The ICC on Tuesday "requested" the Bangladesh Cricket Board to reconsider its demand of shifting the country's T20 World Cup matches out of India but the BCB has refused to back down, reiterating its security concerns.

In a statement, the BCB said the board's position remains unchanged despite the ICC's reluctance to entertain its request and both parties will continue to "explore possible solutions".

BCB has written to the ICC multiple times demanding that its World Cup games be shifted out of India due to security concerns but considering that the schedule for the T20 showpiece beginning February 7 is finalised, the world body is unlikely to relent.

"While the ICC highlighted that the tournament itinerary has already been announced and requested the BCB to reconsider its stance, the Board's position remains unchanged. Both parties agreed that discussions will continue to explore possible solutions," the BCB said.

"The BCB remains committed to safeguarding the well-being of its players, officials and staff while engaging constructively with the ICC to address the matter," said the BCB after its officials attended the video conference with ICC," it added.

While the BCB considers it unsafe for its players to travel to India, ICC's risk assessment report does not flag any specific or direct threat to the team if it participates in the tournament.

In Tuesday's video conference with the ICC, the BCB was represented by its president Aminul Islam and CEO Nizam Uddin Chowdhury among other senior officials.

"During the discussions, the BCB reaffirmed its position regarding the decision not to travel to India, citing security concerns. The Board also reiterated its request for the ICC to consider relocating Bangladesh's matches outside India," the BCB added.

Bangladesh are scheduled to play three games in Kolkata and one in Mumbai during the league stage.

BCB asked for a relocation after the BCCI instructed Kolkata Knight Riders to release pacer Mustafizur Rahman from its IPL 2026 roster amid violence against Hindus here.

Following Mustafizur's removal, an irate Bangladesh government banned IPL's broadcast in the country.

Former captain Tamim Iqbal and current Test skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto have cautioned against a very hard-line approach with the former saying that decisions taken today would have repercussions 10 years down the line. Shanto has voiced the psychological stress that the players are feeling at the prospect of missing a World Cup.

However, sports ministry advisor Asif Nazrul has taken an unyielding position, repeatedly stating that Bangladesh will not budge from its demand for relocation of its games to co-host Sri Lanka. **PTI**

## Jasmine takes lead in opening leg of 2026 WPG Tour

**MUMBAI, JANUARUY 13**



Jasmine Shekar sunk in two late birdies for a solid round of 3-under 67, that gave her the sole lead after the opening round of the first leg of the 2026 Women's Pro Golf Tour, here Tuesday.

Jasmine, who won one title in the previous season, was one shot clear of young pro Lavanya Jadon, who also had one win last season.

Lavanya carded 2-under 68 and the only other player with a par or better score was former winner, Seher Atwal (70), at the Par-70 layout at the Bombay Presidency Golf Club.

Sneha Singh and Amandeep Drall, two of the multiple winners in 2025, were among five players who shot 2-over 72 each and were tied fourth. The others were Ridhima Dilawari, Jahanvi Bakshi and Khushi Khanijau.

Jasmine played each of the 15 events in 2025 and finished third on the Hero Order of Merit behind Vani Kapoor, who skipped this week, and Amandeep.

Birdies on the third and the eighth saw her turn in 2-under 35 and she added further gains on the 16th and the 17th, while dropping her lone shot of the day on the Par-3 13th hole.

Lavanya opened with a bogey but made no further errors and picked strokes on the second, sixth and the 12th.

Seher had four birdies and four bogeys in her round of 70. She had two birdies and two bogeys on either side of the BPGC course.

Sneha was 3-over through 17 before picking her first and only birdie on the 18th, while Jahanvi had three birdies in the last six holes after three bogeys and a double bogey earlier on.

Amandeep birdied twice while dropping four bogeys and Ridhima had one birdie against three bogeys. **IANS**

## Lewis, Joseph return as WI announce squad for AFG T20Is

**ST. JOHNS (ANTIGUA), JANUARY 13**



Cricket West Indies (CWI) announced a 16-player squad for the upcoming three-match T20 International series against Afghanistan, set to take place at the Dubai Cricket International Stadium in the UAE from January 19-22.

The series will be an important build-up before the ICC Men's T20 World Cup starting on February 7. The final squad for this highly anticipated event will be revealed before the three-match T20I series against South Africa, scheduled from January 27 to 31.

T20 Captain Shai Hope, along with key players Roston Chase, Akeal Hosein, and Sherfane Rutherford, were not available for selection due to commitments in the ongoing SA20 tournament.

With Hope absent, Brandon King has been named captain. He has previously led the West Indies in T20 Internationals, such as during the home series against South Africa in early 2024, and offers significant leadership experience.

Shamar Joseph and Evin Lewis have returned for this series, having successfully cleared return-to-play protocols after recovering from previous injuries.

Alzarri Joseph, also sidelined by injury late in 2025, was showing promising progress in his return-to-play programme but has not been included at this stage as a precaution after a medical review.

He will remain under observation and evaluation to assess his eligibility and possible inclusion in the World Cup squad. Quentin Sampson, recognised as the Breakout Player of the 2025 Caribbean Premier League, has received his first international call-up. **IANS**

## Australian PM, cricket fraternity laud Healy's incredible career after Aussie great announces retirement

**SYDNEY, JANUARY 13**



Australia captain Alyssa Healy, on Tuesday, announced that she will draw the curtains on her glittering 16-year international career after the home series against India. The wicketkeeper-batter will lead Australia in three ODIs, three T20Is and a one-off Test before signing off in front of the home crowd.

Healy's announcement received widespread reactions from the cricket community and Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, who praised her for her remarkable contributions to the sport. He also believed that Healy has the potential to become an excellent commentator.

"Alyssa Healy is a legend. She has had such an incredible career playing for Australia and leading Australia. The rise of women's cricket, which has in parallel seen a rise of other women's sports, is a great thing. It is a fantastic team that she has led. She is not only a great player, but she will also, I'm sure, continue to evolve as I think she's a great cricket commentator," he said in a post shared on X.

Mitchell Starc, Australia's ace pacer and Healy's partner, posted a photo of the cricketer celebrating her century against England on Instagram, with an orange heart as the caption, and also posted a picture on his Insta story, writing "Proud of ya." **IANS**

## Paris FC eliminate holders PSG from French Cup

**PARIS, JANUARY 13**



Paris FC caused a major upset at the Parc des Princes as they knocked the holders Paris Saint-Germain out of the Coupe de France with 1-0 win in the Round of 32.

Despite dominating possession and creating numerous chances, PSG never managed to break down the opposing defense, as exemplified by Obed Nkambadio, who made several crucial saves.

Luis Enrique's men were ultimately caught out on a counter-attack finished by Jonathan Ikone, who sealed the victory for his former club in the 74th minute (1-0).

The match got underway at a one-way pace in favour of the title holders PSG, who lacked cutting edge against a particularly compact defence.

Sharp on the counter-attack, Stephane Gilli's men sent the first shivers through the stands of the Parc des Princes around the quarter-hour mark. It would take more, however, to beat a Lucas Chevalier who is once again imperious on his line, getting down perfectly to deny Alimani Gory's effort (13'), PSG reports.

In quick succession, Obed Nkambadio came to his team's rescue by tipping away a deceptive cross-shot from Bradley Barcola (23') and an audacious strike from Goncalo Ramos (24').

Despite clear dominance and two further efforts from Senny Mayulu (36') and Khvicha Kvaratskhelia (45+1'), PSG were unable to make the breakthrough before the break.

After the break, PSG picked up the pace and tried to break down the Paris rearguard, who relied on Obed Nkambadio to keep the scores level.

Outstanding up to that point, the Paris FC goalkeeper won his one-on-one battle with Kvaratskhelia (51'), Ramos (56') and Warren Zaïre-Emery (60').

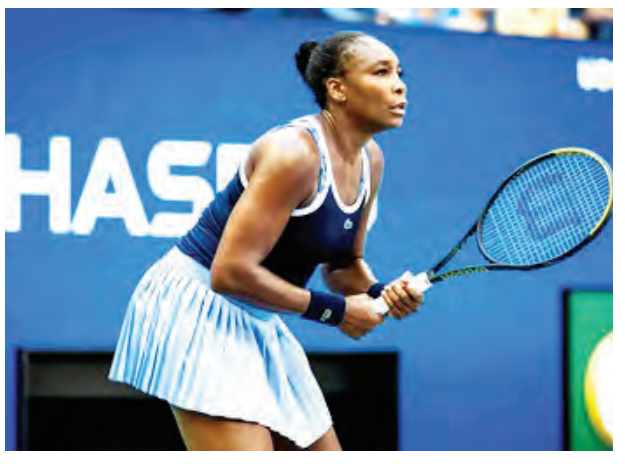
Enrique then injected fresh legs on the hour mark, bringing on Desire Doue, Nuno Mendes and Ousmane Dembele. The latter quickly caused problems for the PFC defence, but he too was denied by an ever-unbeatable Nkambadio (72').

Moments later, the visitors took full advantage of a lightning counter-attack to cut through the Rouge et Bleu defence and open the scoring through Jonathan Ikoné (0–1, 74').

The hosts raised the intensity in a bid to claw their way back into the game. Warren Zaire-Emery came agonisingly close to sending the stadium into raptures, but his effort crashed against the crossbar (87'). **IANS**

## Tatjana Maria tops Venus Williams in Hobart International opener

**HOBART, JANUARY 13**



Germany's Tatjana Maria registered a 6-4, 6-3 win over Venus Williams in the first round of the Hobart International on Tuesday.

The first-ever meeting between the two players featured the oldest combined age between competitors, with Maria entering the tilt at age 38 and Williams at 45, since the 1973 founding of the WTA Tour by nearly three years.

Venus has received a wild card entry for the Australian Open, which is set to begin on January 18 in Melbourne. This will be the first major tournament of the year. She featured at the Hobart International as part of her preparation for the season's first Grand Slam, but exited empty-handed after losing in the opening round.

It was the second consecutive tournament in which the American bowed out at the first hurdle, following her defeat at last week's Auckland Classic.

Williams will return to Melbourne Park after a five-year absence. Her participation will also see her rewrite the record books, as she becomes the oldest player ever to compete at the Australian Open. The previous age milestone was held by Japan's Kimiko Date, who was 44 years old when she played in the 2015 edition of the tournament.

Williams has won seven Grand Slam singles titles, five at Wimbledon and two at the US Open. She also achieved the world number one ranking in singles for 11 weeks in 2002, becoming the first African American woman to do so in the Open Era.

Her success extends to doubles as well, where she and Serena won 14 Grand Slam titles and remained undefeated in major doubles finals. The most decorated tennis player in Olympic history, Venus has claimed four gold medals and one silver medal across five Olympic Games, including singles and doubles gold at the Sydney 2000 Games. Despite later career disruptions due to injuries, she still continues to battle for glory. **IANS**

Printer, Publisher & Owner: Dr Tejinder Pal Singh. Printed at IE Press, C-5, Institutional Area, Sector 6, Panchkula-134108 and published at SCO 118-119 (First Floor), Sector 8-C, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh-160009. Managing Editor-cum-Managing Director: M.P.S. Pali.
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