



I Will Not Rest Until Punjab Becomes the Leading State in the Country: CM Mann

CHANDIGARH : Addressing the summit, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann attended the Rising Punjab Summit 2026, organized by the Rising Samar News Group in Chandigarh, as the chief guest. Mann said that over the past four years, more than 67,550 government jobs have been provided to the youth. In many families, as many as three members secured government jobs during the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government's tenure. He also stated that industries established in Punjab under his government have generated more than 500,000 employment opportunities.

country's leading state," he said, adding that "my green pen has always been used for the progress and prosperity of Punjab and its people." Highlighting his government's achievements, Mann said that over the past four years, more than 67,550 government jobs have been provided to the youth. In many families, as many as three members secured government jobs during the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government's tenure. He also stated that industries established in Punjab under his government have generated more than 500,000 employment opportunities.

Mann said that over the past four years, more than 67,550 government jobs have been provided to the youth. In many families, as many as three members secured government jobs during the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government's tenure. He also stated that industries established in Punjab under his government have generated more than 500,000 employment opportunities.

during the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government's tenure. He also stated that industries established in Punjab under his government have generated more than 500,000 employment opportunities.

ment opportunities. The Chief Minister noted that the state has witnessed significant improvements in education, healthcare, industry, agriculture, and infrastructure over the past few years. He added that transparent policies introduced by the government have boosted investment in Punjab, creating new employment opportunities for young people.

the past few years. He added that transparent policies introduced by the government have boosted investment in Punjab, creating new employment opportunities for young people.

I Understood the System Like a Student Before Changing the State : CM Mann

Reflecting on his political journey, Chief Minister Mann said it had not been an easy one. He explained that during his eight years as a Member of Parliament, he studied every aspect of the system like a student and later used that knowledge to safeguard Punjab's interests. He also shared that reforming the traditional bureaucratic system was a challenging task. To achieve this, he relied on books to understand the legal framework and administrative processes, enabling him to make officials aware of both citizens' rights and their own responsibilities.

'Keep the Place Clean- I Will Come Here One Day'

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann also shared a memorable incident from his early life. Recalling the episode, he said that while walking along the road near Raj Bhavan in Chandigarh years ago, he asked security personnel who lived there. They informed him that it was the official residence of the state's head and that the occupant was not always present. At that moment, Mann smiled and told the officials, "Keep the place clean. One day, I will come here." He said that, by the grace of Waheguru, those words eventually came true, as he now resides there as the Chief Minister of Punjab.

Forming the STF Gave Me the Greatest Satisfaction: Mann

During an interaction at the summit, Group Editor Arshdeep Singh Samar asked the Chief Minister which achievement had given him the greatest sense of satisfaction during his tenure. Responding to the question, Mann said that the formation of the State Task Force (STF) had brought him the greatest happiness. He said the government trained 5,000 personnel from the Punjab Armed Police (PAP) and established the State Support Force (SSF). Today, the SSF operates 142 Toyota Hilux vehicles and has an impressive response time of 5.20 seconds. The force has significantly reduced road fatalities and has also recovered valuable jewellery and belongings lost by accident victims. He added that Union Minister Nitin Gadkari had appreciated the initiative and that Punjab has provided training on the model to five other states.

strong measures to curb corruption

Mann further said that the government has generated employment and taken strong measures to curb corruption within the administrative system. "We told people to record videos of corrupt practices, and we would take care of the rest," he said. To tackle corruption in revenue offices (tehsils), the government simplified the language used in affidavits, making procedures easier and more transparent for the public. The Chief Minister emphasized that the government's objective is not merely to implement development projects but to improve the quality of life of ordinary citizens. He said welfare schemes are being extended to every section of society as part of the government's vision of transforming Punjab into a progressive and prosperous state.

I Am on a Mission, Not on Commission: Mann

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said in Punjabi, "Main mission te haan, commission te nahin" ("I am on a mission, not on commission."). During the summit, when Group Editor Arshdeep Singh Samar asked which achievement had given him the greatest satisfaction during his tenure as Chief Minister, Mann replied that the formation of the

State Task Force (STF) in Punjab was his most fulfilling accomplishment. He said the government trained 5,000 personnel from the Punjab Armed Police (PAP) and established the State Support Force (SSF). Today, the STF operates 142 Toyota Hilux vehicles and has an impressive response time of 5.20 seconds. According to Mann,

the force has helped reduce road fatalities and has also recovered valuable jewellery and belongings lost in road accidents. The Chief Minister added that Union Minister Nitin Gadkari had praised the initiative, and Punjab has also trained officials from five other states to replicate the model. Mann said his government has created employ-

ment opportunities and taken strong measures to curb corruption in the system. "We asked people to record videos of corrupt practices, and we would take care of the rest," he said. To eliminate corruption in tehsil offices, the government simplified the language used in affidavits, making the process easier and more transparent for the public. The

Chief Minister emphasized that the state government's objective is not merely to implement development projects but to improve the quality of life of ordinary citizens. He said the benefits of the government's welfare schemes are being extended to every section of society, with the vision of transforming Punjab into a progressive and prosperous state.



Financial Reforms Will Continue for the Welfare of the People: Harpal Cheema



CHANDIGARH :

Addressing the Rising Punjab Summit 2026, organized by the Rising Samar News Group in Chandigarh, Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema highlighted the state's financial position and revenue reforms. He said the Punjab government has adequate financial resources to carry out revenue reforms. Cheema announced that under the Maanvaan-Dhiyaan Scheme, the Punjab government's flagship initiative for women, financial assistance will start being credited to beneficiaries' bank accounts from



July. He said the state government is giving top priority to financial discipline and transparency. Effective measures have been taken to improve tax collection, curb corruption, and increase revenue. The government's objective,

he said, is to generate greater resources for development projects while ensuring the proper and efficient use of public funds. He said the government is focusing on transparent governance, better tax administration, efficient use of

public funds and fiscal discipline. According to Cheema, these reforms have helped increase revenue collection, enabling the government to invest more in education, healthcare, infrastructure and social welfare schemes.

Mann Government Has Fulfilled All Five Guarantees

Speaking at the summit, Cheema said the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government had made five guarantees to the people before coming to power and has fulfilled all of them through its latest budget. "We did not complain

about an empty treasury, unlike opposition parties. Instead, we ensured adequate revenue to finance public welfare programmes," he said. The Finance Minister noted that the 2026-27 Punjab Budget, with a total

outlay of 2,60,437 crore, is the largest budget in the state's history. It includes several major initiatives such as direct cash transfers for women, health insurance, education reforms, and relief packages for farmers.

Historic Initiatives for Women

Cheema announced that the free bus travel scheme for women will continue, with an allocation of ₹600 crore. An additional ₹932 crore has been earmarked for Anganwadi ser-

vices. Overall, the government has allocated ₹18,304 crore for women-centric schemes, the highest-ever allocation for women's welfare in Punjab.

Major Investment in the Healthcare Sector

Under the Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme, 65 lakh families will receive health insurance coverage of up to ₹10 lakh per family. The government has allocated ₹2,000 crore for the scheme. The govern-

ment will also expand the Aam Aadmi Clinics network by establishing 143 new clinics and upgrading 308 health sub-centres. An additional 1351 crore has been allocated to strengthen the healthcare sector. Punjab

Health Services are being strengthened through improved hospitals, expanded healthcare infrastructure, better medical facilities, recruitment of doctors, affordable treatment and preventive healthcare initiatives.

Focus on Education and Agriculture

The budget places special emphasis on strengthening school infrastructure, promoting digital education, and enhancing teacher training. The government also announced special programmes to improve the quality of education in rural areas. A total of ₹19,279 crore

has been allocated to the education sector, representing a 7% increase over the previous year. Cheema said Punjab's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) is projected at ₹9,80,635 crore, with a targeted growth rate of 10%. He added that the government has announced a relief

package for flood-affected farmers and assured timely compensation. Special allocations have also been made for irrigation and rural infrastructure, while the agriculture sector will focus on crop support measures and the adoption of modern farming technologies.

Cheema added that the objective is to ensure sustainable economic growth while providing quality public services and improving the overall standard of living for the people of Punjab. He also stressed that the government would continue efforts to curb tax evasion, digitise financial processes and improve accountability in public spending. He said prudent financial management has enabled Punjab to meet development goals without compromising fiscal responsibility.

Government Focused on Rural Development and Social Welfare : Malvinder Singh Kang

CHANDIGARH

■ Speaking at the Rising Punjab Summit, Malvinder Singh Kang, Member of Parliament from Sri Anandpur Sahib, highlighted the

welfare schemes and development initiatives being undertaken by the Punjab government. He said the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government's primary objective is

to strengthen basic infrastructure in rural areas, encourage youth participation in sports, and effectively implement social welfare schemes across the state.

Improving Rural Infrastructure

Kang said several initiatives have been launched to improve the quality of life in villages. Open gyms have been established in Mank Majra, Mankpur Kallar, and Giga Majra, each at an estimated cost of around ₹3 lakh. Solar-powered street lights have been installed in Mank Majra, ensuring environmentally friendly lighting and improved public safety. Public benches have also been installed in Giga Majra, providing villagers with better community spaces.

Promoting Sports and Empowering Youth

Malvinder Singh Kang said that such extensive development work is being carried out in village panchayats that there is now a shortage of labourers and skilled masons. He emphasized that the government is actively promoting sports to empower young people. An inter-university basketball gold medallist himself, Kang said volleyball and basketball courts have been developed to encourage youth participation in sports. He believes sports help instill discipline, improve physical health, and strengthen social bonding among young people.

Emphasis on Healthcare Schemes

Kang also highlighted the government's healthcare initiatives. He said efforts are underway to provide health insurance coverage of up to ₹10 lakh for every family under the Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme. The government is also reviewing the implementation of the Janani Suraksha Yojana and the Janani Shishu Suraksha Programme to make them more effective. Special emphasis has been placed on preventing water-borne diseases in rural areas and ensuring the availability of safe drinking water. He added that the government is also focused on ensuring that eligible beneficiaries receive the benefits of the Smart Ration Card Scheme and the National Food Security Act.

Focus on Social Welfare

The MP said social security schemes remain a priority for the government. Information about old-age pensions, widow pensions, and disability pensions under the National Social Assistance Programme is being disseminated to rural residents. The progress of schemes such as Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao and the Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana is also being regularly reviewed. Kang alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Central Government is not extending adequate cooperation to the AAP government in Punjab. He claimed that funds meant for several welfare schemes have been withheld and that the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) has increased the state's financial dependence on the Centre. Despite these challenges, he said, the Punjab government has undertaken commendable work to improve people's quality of life, with visible results at the grassroots level.

Making Youth Self-Reliant

Malvinder Singh Kang said Punjab's youth possess immense talent, and the government is making every possible effort to help them succeed. He said young people are being encouraged to become self-reliant through employment generation, skill development, and entrepreneurship promotion. Expressing confidence in Punjab's future, Kang said the state is poised to achieve new milestones in development. He added that the government is continuously organizing events across Punjab to promote traditional sports. He also claimed that the area irrigated through canal water has increased from 21 percent to 70 percent during the tenure of the AAP government.



Kang said that the Punjab Government remains committed to strengthening social welfare through transparent governance and people-centric policies. He stated that the government is working to ensure quality education, better healthcare, employment opportunities and improved civic amenities for every section of society. Kang emphasised that special attention is being given to the welfare of women, youth, farmers and economically weaker families. He added that inclusive development, social justice and equal access to government schemes remain key priorities, with the objective of improving the quality of life and ensuring that welfare benefits reach every deserving household across Punjab.

ESI Card Holders to Receive Free Medical Treatment Worth Up to 10 Lakh: Balbir Singh

CHANDIGARH : At the Rising Punjab Summit 2026, organized by the Rising Samar News Group, Punjab Health Minister Dr. Balbir Singh answered several important questions regarding the state's healthcare services, government hospitals,

Aam Aadmi Clinics, free medicines, free treatment up to ₹10 lakh, drug de-addiction, CM Di Yogshala, and the establishment of new medical colleges. During the interaction, Dr. Balbir Singh said that the Punjab government is continuously working

to strengthen healthcare, education, and employment, with its primary focus on providing quality and free healthcare services to the common people. The Health Minister said the government is aware of the problems faced by workers covered

under the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) scheme. He announced that ESI card holders will now also be entitled to free medical treatment worth up to ₹10 lakh. They will be able to receive treatment at nearby government general hospi-

tals, eliminating the need to travel to Chandigarh or ESI hospitals for admission. He added that the condition of ESI hospitals and dispensaries also needs improvement, and the government is discussing the matter with the concerned departments

and officials. He said Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann is equally serious about the welfare of the labour class and wants to ensure that no worker or economically weaker family has to struggle to obtain medical treatment.



47 Diagnostic Tests and 107 Medicines Available Free of Cost

Dr. Balbir Singh said the Punjab government is strengthening healthcare at every level—from primary to secondary and tertiary care. The government has established around 990

Aam Aadmi Clinics across the state, benefiting millions of people. According to him, nearly 59.6 million (5.96 crore) patient visits have been recorded at these clinics. About 35

million (3.5 crore) people have undergone blood pressure, blood sugar, and other medical screenings, while nearly 40 million diagnostic tests have been conducted.

Digital Drug Management and Recruitment of Healthcare Staff

Dr. Balbir Singh said while 107 medicines are available at Aam Aadmi Clinics, district hospitals stock around 350 medicines. If a prescribed medicine is unavailable, Civil Surgeons and Medical Officers have been instructed to procure it and provide it to the patient. The government has digitized the procurement and distribu-

tion of medicines, making it possible to track when medicines are purchased and whether they reach patients. A patient feedback mechanism has also been introduced. He added that thousands of vacancies for doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and Male and Female Multi-Purpose Health Workers (MPHWs) are being filled.

₹10 Lakh Health Cover for Nearly Three Crore People

Calling the health insurance scheme a major relief for the people of Punjab, Dr. Balbir Singh said nearly 30 million (3 crore) residents would be eligible for cashless treatment up to ₹10 lakh. Under the scheme,

patients can receive treatment at both government hospitals and empanelled private hospitals. Lists of empanelled hospitals have already been issued at the district level, and more hospitals are continuously

being added. He said that so far around 225,000 (2.25 lakh) people have benefited from the scheme, with the government bearing treatment costs worth hundreds of crores of rupees.

Government Also Funding Expensive Treatments

The Health Minister acknowledged that treatment for certain rare diseases is extremely expensive and that some medicines are not

readily available in India. He said the government evaluates such cases with sensitivity while considering available resources and pri-

orities. Although the healthcare system has broader obligations, every possible effort is made to assist families in need.

A Chance to Serve the Entire State

Dr. Balbir Singh said his purpose in entering politics was to serve the people. "As a doctor, I could treat only a limited number of patients each day. As a minister, I have the opportunity to serve the entire state of Punjab," he said. He added that the government's mission is to ensure every citizen of Punjab receives healthcare services, medicines, diagnostic tests, and medical treatment with dignity and without financial hardship.

Lifestyle Diseases on the Rise

Dr. Balbir Singh said changing lifestyles, reduced physical activity, increased stress, and unhealthy eating habits have contributed to the growing incidence of heart disease, diabetes, hypertension,

and cancer. He stressed that the government's focus extends beyond treatment to public awareness and preventive healthcare. He also highlighted the importance of timely treatment in heart attack

cases. Government doctors have received specialized training, and several hospitals have been equipped to administer life-saving clot-busting injections immediately after a heart attack.

New Medical Colleges Being Established

Dr. Balbir Singh said the Punjab government is committed to strengthening medical education. Construction work has already begun on two new medical colleges—one in the Malerkotla/ Mandi Gobindgarh region and another in the Hoshiarpur region. The process of establishing another medical college in Jalandhar is also underway. He said the government is working toward establishing a total of nine medical colleges so that students from Punjab do not have to travel to countries such as Ukraine, China, or elsewhere to pursue MBBS degrees.

De-Addiction Centres Providing Treatment and Skill Development

Dr. Balbir Singh described addiction as a complex problem. He said the government differentiates between drug users and drug traffickers. Those addicted to drugs are considered patients who require compassion, medical treatment, and counselling rather

than imprisonment. Such individuals should be treated in hospitals and rehabilitation centres. At the same time, the government is taking strict action against those involved in large-scale drug trafficking and commercial drug distribution. He said de-addiction and

rehabilitation centres now offer sports, music therapy, meditation, counselling, and vocational training. Young people are being trained in tailoring, baking, hairdressing, cooking, electrical work, welding, and other skills to help them rebuild their lives after recovery.

CM Di Yogshala Changing People's Lifestyle

Dr. Balbir Singh said the CM Di Yogshala initiative has been receiving an excellent response across Punjab. A large number of trained yoga instructors have been deployed, and people now practice yoga in parks, community centres, and open spaces during mornings and evenings. He noted that the initiative has had a particularly positive impact on women and senior citizens, many of whom report improved mental well-being, greater positivity, and better physical health. He added that yoga is not merely a form of exercise but also promotes meditation, healthy eating habits, and community participation.

Empowering Women at the Core of Government's Agenda: Raj Lali Gill



CHANDIGARH :

The Rising Punjab Summit began with an interactive session featuring Raj Lali Gill, Chairperson of the Punjab State Women's Commission. During the discussion, she spoke at length about women's safety and empowerment. Gill said that providing a safe environment for women is one of the government's highest priorities. She observed that today, women often face more abuse within their homes than outside. "We are available at all times to address and resolve the problems faced by women," she said.

She highlighted that a special assistance project has been launched for survivors of domestic violence. An inspection drive of Women's Cells is underway across the state to ensure that victims receive both legal and emotional

support. Under the "Saanjh Rahat Project," two women police officers have been appointed to provide counselling and assistance to victims of domestic violence. Survivors of sexual violence are also being provided with legal aid, emotional support, and rehabilitation services.

Gill said the Women's Commission has exercised its quasi-judicial powers to ensure the speedy hearing and resolution of cases involving women. She also drew attention to the increasing exploitation of young women through modern technology and artificial intelligence, emphasizing the need to address such emerging challenges. Several schemes are being implemented to promote women's advancement in education, employment, and social security. She stressed that the compre-

hensive development of society and the state is impossible without the active participation of women.

Gill said the Commission has placed special emphasis on women's education, healthcare, and legal assistance. It has also played an active role in advising the government on policies relating to women and recommending corrective measures. She noted that during her tenure, the Punjab State Women's Commission has become more active and effective.

It has not only focused on women's safety and rights but has also taken concrete steps to address issues such as domestic violence, sexual offences, and social discrimination. According to Gill, these efforts have made the Commission a more transparent, accountable, and supportive institution for women.

Ensuring a Safe Environment for Women

Reiterating her message, Raj Lali Gill said that ensuring a safe environment for women remains a top government priority. She again pointed out that many women today face greater abuse within their homes than in public spaces and assured

that the Commission remains available to assist women at all times. She also highlighted the misuse of modern technology and artificial intelligence in the exploitation of young women, calling for greater awareness and preventive measures. Gill

said the government is implementing several initiatives to promote women's education, employment, and social security, emphasizing that the state's overall progress depends on the equal participation of women in every sphere of life.

MLAs Bagga and Pappi Also Shared Their Views

During the summit, Ludhiana MLA Madan Lal Bagga emphasized urban development and the expansion of infrastructure, stating that several major projects are currently underway to improve cities across Punjab. Meanwhile, MLA Rajesh Parashar "Pappi" appreciated the government's efforts to strengthen development in rural areas, improve road connectivity, and enhance

public infrastructure and civic amenities. Throughout the summit, experts and representatives from various sectors shared their views on a wide range of subjects. Detailed discussions were held on investment, industry, education, healthcare, digital governance, women's empowerment, and employment generation. The speakers emphasized the need to transform Punjab into a lead-

ing destination for investment and innovation. In a unanimous message, participants said that accelerating Punjab's development would require stronger coordination among the government, industry, social organizations, and citizens. The Rising Punjab Summit concluded on a positive note, highlighting new opportunities and a fresh vision for the state's future growth and development.



Punjab Intensifies Anti-Drug Drive

Expands Rehabilitation Efforts to Build a Drug-Free State

CHANDIGARH : he Punjab government has stepped up its campaign against drug trafficking while simultaneously strengthening rehabilitation and de-addiction services, underlining that its strategy goes beyond arrests to address the broader social impact of substance abuse.

Over the past few weeks, the state has intensified coordinated operations against drug traffickers across multiple districts. Police teams have conducted sustained raids, dismantled trafficking networks and taken action against individuals allegedly involved

in the illegal narcotics trade. Alongside law enforcement measures, the government has focused on expanding the capacity of de-addiction and rehabilitation centres to help individuals recover and reintegrate into society.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has repeatedly stated that the fight against drugs remains one of the government's highest priorities. According to the government, the objective is not merely to arrest offenders but to eliminate the entire drug ecosystem while providing treatment and support to those struggling with addiction.

action against organized drug syndicates

Punjab Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav has also held a series of review meetings with senior police officials, directing them to intensify action against organized drug syndicates. Officers have been instructed to identify and dismantle supply chains, trace financial networks linked to narcotics trafficking, and initiate legal proceedings to confiscate properties allegedly acquired through proceeds of the drug trade, wherever permitted under law.

enhance infrastructure at de-addiction centres

To complement police action, efforts are being made to enhance infrastructure at de-addiction centres by increasing treatment capacity, improving counselling services and ensuring better access to medical care for recovering addicts. Special attention is being given to the rehabilitation of young people who have successfully completed de-addiction programmes, with the aim of helping them return to education, employment and normal social life.

Awareness programmes

Officials have also highlighted the importance of community participation in the campaign. Awareness programmes are being conducted in schools, colleges and villages to educate young people about the dangers of drug abuse. Families affected by addiction are being encouraged to seek professional help without fear of stigma, while local administrations have been asked to extend support to victims and their families wherever required.

The 'Golden Hour' Can Save Lives After Road Accidents



What Is a Polytrauma Team?

Dr. Abhimanyu explained that a polytrauma team is designed for patients who sustain severe injuries to multiple parts of the body at the same time. In road accidents, it is common for the head, spine, chest, abdomen, and limbs to be injured simultaneously. The hospital's dedicated polytrauma team includes emergency physicians, general surgeons, orthopedic specialists, neurosurgeons, anesthesiologists, critical care experts, nursing staff, and other healthcare professionals. The moment a critically injured patient reaches the emergency department, all specialists begin evaluating injuries within their respective fields, ensuring that no life-threatening condition goes unnoticed.

Equipped with Advanced Medical Technology

According to Dr. Abhimanyu, the hospital is equipped with state-of-the-art medical technology and advanced diagnostic facilities to manage critically injured patients. Depending on the patient's condition, continuous monitoring, ventilator support, emergency surgery, CT scans, X-rays, ultrasound examinations, and other essential investigations are performed immediately. If necessary, patients are shifted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) without delay, where specialists continuously monitor their condition. He emphasized that modern technology is not only used for treatment but also for real-time monitoring so that any deterioration can be identified and addressed immediately.

Treatment Begins with the ABC Protocol

Dr. Abhimanyu said that every critically injured or polytrauma patient is initially managed according to the internationally accepted ABC protocol.

A – Airway: Doctors first ensure that the patient's airway is open and unobstructed. Any blockage is removed immediately to restore adequate oxygen supply.

B – Breathing: The patient's breathing is assessed, and oxygen therapy, ventilator support, or other respiratory assistance is provided whenever required.

C – Circulation: Doctors evaluate pulse, blood pressure, and blood circulation. Severe bleeding is controlled immediately, and blood transfusions or other life-saving interventions are initiated whenever necessary.

He added that the primary objective of this protocol is to stabilize the patient's vital functions. Once breathing, circulation, and other life-support systems are stable, treatment of other injuries begins.

No Injury Is Overlooked

Dr. Abhimanyu noted that in many serious road accidents, external injuries may appear minor while internal bleeding or organ damage can be life-threatening. Therefore, every specialist examines the patient simultaneously. Neurosurgeons assess injuries to the brain and spine, orthopedic surgeons evaluate fractures, while general surgeons examine the abdomen and other internal organs. This multidisciplinary approach significantly reduces the chances of missing a critical injury.

The Golden Hour Is Crucial

Dr. Harish Mata emphasized that the initial period following a major accident is the most important for saving a patient's life. If the victim is taken to a hospital where all necessary specialists are available under one roof, treatment can begin immediately. He pointed out that smaller hospitals often need to call specialist surgeons from outside, leading to valuable time being lost and increasing the risk of complications. In contrast, a dedicated polytrauma center has all specialists readily available, allowing treatment to begin during the Golden Hour without unnecessary delays.

dents, falls from height, industrial mishaps, and other complex traumatic injuries.

Speaking on the subject, Dr. Abhimanyu, Head of the Emergency Department at Fortis Hospital, and Dr. Harish Mata, General Surgeon, explained that polytrauma management is not the responsibility

of a single department but the result of coordinated efforts by multiple medical specialists.

As soon as a critically injured patient arrives at the hospital, the entire team becomes active simultaneously to ensure that no serious injury is overlooked and treatment begins without delay.

ordinated treatment from a team of trained specialists during this period, the chances of survival increase significantly, even in severe cases. With this objective, the Polytrauma Team at Fortis Hospital, Ludhiana, provides immediate and comprehensive care to patients suffering from serious road acci-

Punjab Launches 'Maanwan Dheeyan Satkar Yojana'

₹1,100 Crore Transferred to Women Beneficiaries

Sangrur: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Friday formally launched the Maanwan Dheeyan Satkar Yojana, transferring nearly ₹1,100 crore directly

into the bank accounts of more than 4 million eligible women across the state. The scheme was inaugurated at a public event in Dhuri, Sangrur, the Chief Minister's home constituency, where beneficiaries began receiving SMS

alerts confirming the transfer even as the programme was underway.

Under the scheme, women from the General category will receive ₹1,000 per month, while eligible Scheduled Caste (SC) women will receive ₹1,500

per month. In its first disbursement, the Punjab government released three months' assistance (July, August and September) together, crediting ₹3,000 to General category beneficiaries and ₹4,500 to SC beneficiaries through

Direct Benefit Transfer. Addressing the gathering, Mann said more than 40 lakh women had successfully registered under the scheme by Thursday. He described the launch as the fulfilment of one of the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP)

key promises made during the 2022 Punjab Assembly elections, in which the party had pledged monthly financial assistance for women aged 18 years and above. According to the Punjab government, the scheme is expected to benefit

around 97% of the state's adult women population. To support its implementation, the government has earmarked ₹9,300 crore in the 2026-27 state budget, making it one of Punjab's largest women-centric welfare programmes.



Politically Significant Initiative

-Over 4 million women covered in the first phase.

-1,100 crore transferred directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts.

-General category: 1,000 per month (3,000 released for three months).

-Scheduled Caste category: 1,500 per month (4,500 released for three months).

-9,300 crore allocated in the 2026-27 Punjab Budget.

-Benefits transferred through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system.

-Government claims the scheme will eventually cover about 97% of Punjab's adult women.

Registration and Verification Process

Applications for the scheme were accepted over the past few months through Anganwadi centres, Seva Kendras and special registration camps organised across the state. Officials said beneficiaries' Aadhaar details, bank accounts and eligibility documents were verified before funds

were released to ensure transparency and eliminate middlemen. Government officials added that women whose applications are still under verification or whose bank details require correction will receive the pending amount once the verification process is completed.

Boost to Women's Financial Independence

The Punjab government says the objective of the scheme extends beyond financial assistance. Officials believe the monthly support will help women meet household expenses,

healthcare costs, children's education, nutrition and other essential needs while strengthening their financial independence and decision-making within families. Economists

note that direct cash transfer schemes have increasingly become a preferred welfare model because they reduce leakages and ensure benefits reach recipients without intermediaries.

Politically Significant Initiative

The rollout carries considerable political significance. Financial assistance for women was among AAP's flagship election promises in Punjab in 2022. Although the government announced the scheme after assuming office, its implementation was delayed due to beneficiary identification, eligibility criteria, Aadhaar verification and digital infrastructure requirements. Political observers say the launch comes ahead of crucial electoral contests and is likely to strengthen the government's outreach among women voters. At the same time, opposition parties have questioned the delay in implementing the promise and have demanded greater clarity on long-term funding and eligibility norms.

Punjab Government Approves New Rural Infrastructure Projects

Chandigarh: The Punjab government has approved a series of new rural infrastructure projects aimed at improving connectivity, public utilities and civic amenities across the state. The latest initiatives include the construction and upgrading of rural roads, expansion of drinking water supply systems, improvement of sewerage networks and execution of other development works to strengthen basic infrastructure in villages.

According to government officials, the projects are part of the state's broader strategy to enhance the quality of life in rural areas and ensure that essential

public services reach every village. The administration has instructed all concerned departments to expedite the implementation of sanctioned projects and complete them within the stipulated timelines.

The state government has also directed local bodies, municipal authorities and gram panchayats to closely monitor ongoing development works and remove administrative bottlenecks that could delay execution. Officials have been asked to coordinate effectively with district administrations to ensure that infrastructure projects progress without interruption.

District administrations have been instructed to clean drainage systems

With the onset of the monsoon season, the government has placed special emphasis on preventive

measures to minimize disruptions caused by heavy rainfall. District administrations have been instructed to

clean drainage systems, desilt canals and roadside drains, repair damaged roads and strengthen flood-con-

trol infrastructure in vulnerable areas. Authorities have also been asked to identify flood-prone villages

and keep emergency response teams and essential equipment ready to deal with any eventuality.

emergency services during the rainy season

Officials said that improving drainage facilities before the peak monsoon period would help prevent waterlogging in both rural settlements and

adjointing agricultural areas. Timely road repairs are also expected to ensure uninterrupted movement of residents, schoolchildren and

emergency services during the rainy season. The government has further stressed the importance of ensuring uninterrupted

drinking water supply and maintaining sanitation infrastructure, particularly in villages that have experienced flooding or drainage issues in previous

years. Departments concerned have been directed to carry out regular inspections and take immediate corrective action wherever required.

long-term development agenda

According to the administration, strengthening rural infrastructure is a key component of Punjab's long-term development agenda.

Better roads, reliable water supply, improved sewerage systems and effective drainage are expected to enhance public health, support agricultural

activities and facilitate economic growth in rural areas. Officials said the government will continue reviewing the progress of these projects at regular in-

tervals to ensure timely completion and quality execution. The administration maintains that proactive planning, improved coordination among departments

and advance monsoon preparedness will help minimize inconvenience to residents while creating more resilient rural infrastructure across Punjab.

CGC University Mohali Shaping the Future of Youth Through Its 'Gen Z' Model

Students' Career Roadmap Is Prepared Right at the Time of Admission: Dr. Goyal

University Focusing on AI, Skill Development and Startup-Based Education

Mohali : Choosing the right college or university after Class 12 is one of the biggest challenges for students and their parents. In today's competitive world, earning a degree alone is no longer enough. Students need an institution that prepares them for employment, entrepreneurship, and emerging technologies. Speaking on this, Dr. Vinay Kumar Goyal, Vice-Chancellor of CGC University Mohali (Jhanjeri), shared insights into the university's academic model, artificial intelligence (AI)-driven education, career planning, and startup ecosystem.

Dr. Goyal said the university has recently received two national awards for excellence in education and innovation. According to him, CGC University has also earned recognition as a "Gen Z University" for adopting a modern education system and an AI-enabled learning model.

He said the education landscape has changed dramatically over the past five years. Along with conventional classroom teaching, artificial intelligence, digital technologies, and practical

skills have become increasingly important. Therefore, students must go beyond textbooks and develop the ability to use new technologies, solve real-world problems, and make informed decisions in practical situations.

According to Dr. Goyal, today's youth aspire to become financially independent at an early age. Keeping this in mind, the university prepares every student's career roadmap from the moment they are admitted. Each student's interests, abilities, personality, and career goals are assessed to create a personalized learning path. Whether a student aims for a corporate career, government services, a family business, or launching a startup, the academic and training plan is designed accordingly.

He added that clear, stage-wise goals are defined for every student from the first semester to the final semester. These include technical and practical skill development, project-based learning, industry exposure, and preparation for campus placements through interview training, group discussions, and technical assessments.



Encouraging Students to Become Job Creators

Speaking about the university's startup culture, Dr. Goyal said CGC University not only prepares students for jobs but also inspires them to become job creators. When a student comes up with a business idea, experts evaluate its feasibility, market demand, target custom-

ers, cost, and future potential. Based on this assessment, students receive the necessary technical and entrepreneurial training. He said the university also forms teams of like-minded students to work on projects together. In addition, students receive expert mentoring, legal

assistance, company registration support, and opportunities to connect with industry professionals. Promising startups are also linked with Startup Punjab, Startup India, and investor networks to help them access mentorship and funding opportunities.

Launching Startups While Still Studying

Dr. Goyal claimed that the university's startup ecosystem enables many students to reach a stage where they are ready to launch their startups by the pre-final year, while some even establish their ventures during their studies.

He emphasized that the purpose of education today is not merely to award degrees but to equip students with technical expertise, self-reliance, and the skills needed to compete globally. CGC University, he said, is committed to

providing every student with education tailored to their interests and abilities, along with industry exposure and entrepreneurial opportunities, enabling them to build successful careers and create value for society.