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NEWS BRIEFS

Uttarakhand Chief Secretary reviews Chardham Yatra preparations

DEHRADUN : Uttarakhand Chief Secretary Anand Bardhan visited Kedarnath Dham on Saturday to inspect the ongoing preparations and arrangements for the upcoming Chardham Yatra. According to an official statement, he first took stock of the reconstruction work underway at Kedarnath and issued necessary instructions to the concerned officials.
During his visit, the Chief Secretary also inspected the Bailey Bridge built on the Mandakini and Saraswati rivers. He informed that the work on this bridge has been completed, which will provide more convenience and ease to the passengers in commuting. He also inspected the rain shelters built on Aastha Path.

Ban on flying drones, UAVs over Noida airport and surrounding areas: UP Police

NOIDA : Flying of drones and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) over Noida International Airport and nearby areas is prohibited, police said on Saturday.
Speaking to ANI, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (ADCP) Manish Mishra said, "Drones and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) cannot be flown above the airport and surrounding areas."
"Doing this without permission will be considered a legal offence, and constitutional action will be initiated after registering an FIR. We want to give this message to make people aware and warn them," ADCP Mishra added.
The Noida International Airport, located in Jewar in Gautam Buddh Nagar, was declared a Red Zone on 8 October 2024, as per the instructions of the Civil Aviation Ministry, DGC (Directorate General of Civil Aviation), and security agencies, ADCP Mishra said. On November 25, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Noida International Greenfield .

Haryana Women Commission head visits Pahalgam attack victim's residence in Karnal

KARNAL : Haryana State Commission for Women Chairperson Renu W Bhatia on Saturday visited the residence of Pahalgam terror attack victim, Naval Officer Lt. Vinay Narwal, in Karnal.
Bhatia paid condolences to the victim's family. Lt. Vinay Narwal was among the 26 victims of the Pahalgam terror attack, which happened on Tuesday afternoon.
While speaking to reporters, Bhatia said that the pain can never be forgotten, as she has experienced the same feeling as a child.
The Haryana Women Commission Chairperson stated that when she was talking to the family, it reminded her of her own family. She also urged Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take the strictest actions against the perpetrators of the attack so that women and daughters don't have to suffer anymore.

Under pressure, Pak PM Sharif makes appeal for neutral probe into Pahalgam attack

AGENCY
LAHORE, APRIL 26



Pakistan on Saturday offered to join any "neutral and transparent" probe into the Pahalgam terrorist attack that killed 26 people.

"The recent tragedy in Pahalgam is yet another example of this perpetual blame game, which must come to a grinding halt. Continuing with its role as a responsible country, Pakistan is open to participating in any neutral, transparent and credible investigation," Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said while addressing the army-cadets passing-out parade at the Pakistan Military Academy in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's Kakul.

Talking about the suspension of the Indus Water Treaty by India, Sharif said any attempt to stop, reduce or divert the flow of water belonging to Pakistan would be responded to with full force and might.

Sharif threatened to use all options if the water of its share was stopped by India.

"Water is our lifeline and a vital national interest, and its availability will be safeguarded at all costs and under all circumstances," he said.

He said the entire nation stood by the armed forces of Pakistan to safeguard every inch of the homeland. "Our valiant armed forces are capable and remain fully prepared to defend the country's sovereignty and its territorial integrity against any misadventure," he said.

"Our armed forces are a symbol of valour, exemplary discipline and unwavering commitment to the nation." "Peace is our preference but must not be construed as our weakness," the prime minister said, adding that "we will never compromise on our dignity and security of the country".

Sharif said, "Pakistan has always condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations." "We have endured immense loss of over 90,000 casualties and economic losses exceeding USD 600 billion," he said, adding that there cannot be a more powerful manifestation of "our commitment that we will not tolerate any kind of terrorism of any hue and colour".

The prime minister said he regretted that India continued the pattern of exploitation, levelling baseless allegations and false accusations without a credible investigation or verifiable evidence.

Sharif said Muhammad Ali Jinnah had called Kashmir a jugular vein of Pakistan. He said the "globally recognised dispute" remained unresolved despite UN resolutions.

"Pakistan shall continue to support the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people till they achieve their rights through their great struggle and sacrifices," the prime minister said.

Government issues advisory to media channels to refrain from live coverage of defence operations

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, APRIL 26

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has issued an advisory to all media platforms to refrain from showing live coverage of defence operations and movement of security forces.

The advisory has come days after the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were killed.

"In the interest of national security, all media platforms, news agencies, and social media users are advised to exercise utmost responsibility and adhere strictly to existing laws and regulations while reporting on matters concerning defence and other security-related operations," said the advisory issued on Sunday.

"Specifically: No real-time coverage, dissemination of visuals, or reporting based on 'sources-based' information related to defence operations or movement should be undertaken. Premature disclosure of sensitive information may inadvertently assist hostile elements and endanger operational effectiveness and the safety of personnel," it added.

The advisory said the past incidents have underscored the importance of responsible reporting.

"During the Kargil war, the Mumbai terror attacks (26/11), and the Kandahar hijacking, unrestricted coverage had unintended adverse consequences on national interests," it said.

It noted that media, digital platforms, and individuals play a vital role in safeguarding national security.

"Apart from the legal obligations, it is a shared moral responsibility to ensure that our collective actions do not compromise ongoing operations or the security of our forces," the advisory said. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has earlier already issued advisories to all TV channels to adhere to Rule 6(1)(p) of Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2021). Rule 6(1)(p) states that "No programme should be carried in the cable service which contains live coverage of any anti-terrorist operation by security forces, wherein media coverage shall be restricted to periodic briefing by an officer designated by the appropriate Government, till such operation concludes".

The advisory said that such a telecast is in violation of the Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2021 and is liable for action.

"Therefore, all TV channels are advised not to telecast live coverage of anti-terrorist operation and movement by the security forces in the nterest of national security. Media coverage may be restricted to periodic briefing by an officer designated by the appropriate Government till such operation concludes," it said. "All stakeholders are requested to continue exercising vigilance, sensitivity and responsibility in coverage, upholding the highest standards in service of the nation," it added. The government has said that the terrorists responsible for the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam and the conspirators behind it will face severe punishment. Opposition parties have expressed their full support for the government in any action against perpetrators of the terror attack. The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) met on April 23 and was briefed in detail on the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, in which 25 Indians and one Nepali citizen were killed. A number of others sustained injuries. The CCS condemned the attack in the strongest terms and expressed its deepest condolences to the families of the victims and hoped for the early recovery of the injured.

Srinagar youth drive through Pahalgam to restore hope, urge tourists to return

AGENCY
PAHALGAM , APRIL 26



After the tragic terrorist attack on April 22 that shook Pahalgam, fear has replaced the usual sound of tourists. Streets that were once busy now stand quiet, and with tourism stopped, the local economy is struggling. But recently, this silence was broken -- not by fear, but by the roar of engines and a show of unity.

A group of young men from Srinagar drove through the empty roads of Pahalgam in a convoy of luxury cars, each car carrying bold stickers with the message "United Against Terror." Their message was clear: Terror will not define Kashmir. Peace, strength, and solidarity will. Their effort was a heartfelt gesture to reclaim the dignity of their homeland and to reassure fellow citizens that Kashmir still welcomes visitors with open arms.

Speaking to a news agency, Imtiyaz, one of the participants from Srinagar, said: "What happened here was truly unfortunate. That's why we came here, we don't represent any foundation or organisation, we're just a group of friends. We came to raise awareness and express our deep sorrow over what happened in Kashmir. We want people to continue trusting this place. It may take some time, but everyone needs to support one another."

He added, "Everyone has their own way; some are athletes, while others have different platforms. We wanted to use ours to spread awareness. Cars are something with which we feel a deep connection. What we did was entirely within the law. We're car enthusiasts, and the people who've visited here will come again.

All crops of farmers will be purchased on MSP if BJP government is formed in Punjab: Nayab Singh Saini

BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, APRIL 26



Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said the central and state governments are true well-wishers of farmers. This is proven by the fact that all crops of farmers in Haryana are being purchased on MSP and in the last 10 and a half years, the government has given Rs 14500 crore to farmers for crop loss, whereas before 2014, during the Congress government, only Rs 1155 crore were given to farmers as crop loss compensation.

The previous Congress government in Punjab and now the current Aam Aadmi Party government have never taken care of the farmers nor have they purchased the crops of farmers on MSP. When a BJP government is formed in Punjab in 2027, all crops of farmers will be purchased on MSP on the lines of Haryana.

The Chief Minister said this during a programme organized in Dera Bassi, Punjab where he was invited as the chief guest today.

Former Union Minister Preneet Kaur, Rajya Sabha member Sh. Satnam Sandhu, Sh. Gurdarshan Singh Saini, former Speaker of Haryana Assembly Sh. Gian Chand Gupta, Sh. Sanjeev Vashisht and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

The Chief Minister said under the table leadership of Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi, India has emerged as a strong and powerful country in the world today. In Haryana too, the government has considered honesty, transparency and service as its basic mantra. The politics of casteism, appeasement and dynasty was ended due to which the people of the state formed the BJP government for the third time. Today, a responsible and sensitive non-stop government is working in Haryana.

He said as soon as the third term of the BJP government started in Haryana, 26,000 youth were given government jobs without 'parchi-kharchi'.

He said Haryana is among the leading states of the country in national highways, industry, digital services, skill development for youth, women safety and welfare of farmers.

He said Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi had announced that elderly people above 70 years of age will get free treatment under the Ayushman Yojana. The Haryana Government has given the benefit of this scheme to the elderly of the state.

He said by linking public service with technology, more than 52 lakh families in Haryana are being given direct benefit of more than 400 schemes and services at home through the Parivar Pehchan Patra. This is a unique initiative in itself. Similarly, the Haryana Government has given respect to the elderly by increasing the social security pension to Rs 3000. On the formation of BJP government in Punjab, people will be given the benefit of public welfare schemes on the lines of Haryana.

He said under the 'Mhara Gaon-Jagmag Gaon' scheme in Haryana, 5878 villages are also being given 24-hour electricity on the lines of cities. If BJP government is formed in Punjab, 24 hours electricity will be provided to people.

4 killed, over 500 injured in massive blast at Iran's biggest port as 3rd round of US nuclear talks begins

DUBAI: A huge blast on Saturday likely caused by the explosion of chemical materials stored at Iran's biggest port, Bandar Abbas, killed at least four people and injured more than 500, Iranian state media reported.
The explosion, which hit the Shahid Rajaee section of the port, occurred as Iran began a third round of nuclear talks with the United States in Oman, but there was no immediate indication of a link between the two events.
Hossein Zafari, a spokesperson for Iran's crisis management organisation, appeared to blame the explosion on poor storage of chemicals in containers at Shahid Rajaee.
"The cause of the explosion was the chemicals inside the containers," he told Iran's ILNA news agency.
"Previously, the Director-General of Crisis Management had given warnings to this port during their visits and had pointed out the possibility of danger," Zafari said.
An Iranian government spokesperson, however, said that although chemicals had likely caused the blast, it was not yet possible to determine the exact reason. Iran's official news channels aired footage of a vast black and orange cloud of smoke billowing up above the port in the aftermath of the blast, and an office building with its doors blown off and papers and debris strewn around.

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Second National Lok Adalat to be held on May 10: Iram Hasan

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL: The Chief Judicial Magistrate and Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority, Iram Hasan, announced that the second National Lok Adalat will be organized at the District Court, Karnal, on May 10, 2025. She



informed that individuals can bring pending cases to the Lok Adalat for resolution. For more information, people can contact the helpline at 0184-2266138 or the NALSA helpline at 15100.

The CJM explained that the National Lok Adalat will address cases related to bank loans, motor accidents, the Negotiable Instruments Act (NI Act), criminal cases, revenue disputes, marital conflicts, and other legal matters. The Lok Adalat aims to resolve pending cases through cooperation and amicable means.

NEWS BRIEF

Health check-up camp organised for students at Little Millennium, Sec-3



DALBIR MALIK
KURUKSHETRA: A one-day health check-up camp was organised at Little Millennium, Sector-3, on the occasion of the Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM). Renowned pediatrician Dr. Neeraj Arora from Aarogyam Hospital was specially invited for the camp, where he conducted health screenings for children and briefed parents on key aspects of child development, proper nutrition, immunization, and hygiene. The camp included checks for height, weight, dental health, vision, and general well-being. The primary aim of the initiative was to ensure the holistic growth of children through timely health assessments. Parents widely appreciated the school's proactive approach, stating that such initiatives are crucial for maintaining children's overall health. School administrator Parminder Singh Bath expressed gratitude to Dr. Neeraj Arora and Aarogyam Hospital and pledged to continue organising such awareness programs in the future.

Sun Rise Public School students win gold in CBSE Hindi Olympiad



R.K. KASHYAP
CHHACHHRAULI: Students of Sun Rise Public School, Pratap, brought laurels to their institution by winning gold medals in the Hindi Olympiad organized by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). The competitions were held in November at the school's Khizrabad campus under the aegis of Silver Zone Foundation for English and Mathematics Olympiads and CBSE for the Hindi Olympiad. Additionally, a Hindi competition was organized by the Rashtriya Shiksha Samiti, Tohana (Fatehabad). Over 200 students participated in these contests. In the International Hindi Olympiad, Vineet of Class 11 and Bhoomika of Class 8 won gold medals.

175 detained in major crackdown across Anantnag after Pahalgam attack

AGENCY
SRINAGAR, APR 26



Following the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, security forces have launched a massive crackdown across Anantnag district, detaining around 175 suspects for questioning, police said

Over the last four days , joint teams of the Anantnag Police, Army, CRPF, and other agencies have been conducting extensive cordon and search operations across the district, targeting suspected hideouts and support networks.

"As part of these operations, numerous raids were conducted at various locations throughout the district. Day and night search operations are underway with heightened vigilance. So far, around 175 suspected have been detained for questioning to dismantle the support networks aiding terrorist activities," a police statement said.

Earlier this week a deadly terror attack took place on tourists in the picturesque Baisaran meadow near the famous resort of Pahalgam in Anantnag district, which claimed 26 lives. After the attack, security agencies launched a massive operation in several districts and detained suspects for questioning.

In Anantnag to further enhance security, additional Mobile Vehicle Check Points (MVCPs) have been established across the district to monitor suspicious movements and ensure public safety.

"Moreover, Cordon and Search Operations (CASOs), ambushes, and intensified patrolling have been launched, particularly in high-density forest areas, to flush out any possible terrorist presence and secure the district," police said.

Security forces have also stepped up vigilance in Ganderbal district of central Kashmir as mountain ranges in the district are connected with Anantnag.

Police said in view of prevailing scenario so as to liquidate the threat perceptions, Ganderbal Police alongwith Army, elite Para, CRPF and SSB have adapted an aggressive approach and started combing operations especially in those areas where anti national elements can possibly take refuge or had connection with the Over ground Workers (OGWs) and other supporters.

"This time the security forces have established a sound security matrix and are strategically targeting the areas close to the forest line and close to the snow line. During this course, house to house searches are being conducted and the suspected persons are being interrogated," Police said

Pakistan running a terror factory, its own minister admits: Anil Vij

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
AMBALA, APR 26



Haryana's Energy, Transport and Labour Minister Sh. Anil Vij said that Pakistan's Defence Minister has spoken the truth by admitting that Pakistan is running a factory of terrorism and has established terror bases in various places. Vij said that as far as possible, these (terrorists) will be destroyed and now Pakistan's terrorism school will not be able to continue.Sh.Vij was responding to questions asked by media personnel today. It is noteworthy that Pakistan's Defence Minister shamelessly admitted that their country has been supporting and training terrorists for the past three decades but blamed America and Western countries for it.

When asked about Bilawal Bhutto's remarks on the Indus Water Treaty, where he said that either the Indus River will remain theirs or it will flow with their blood, Anil Vij responded that "The Indus River belongs to us because its waters come from the Himalayas. As long as there was brotherhood, we shared the water. Now, no matter how much they cry, they will not get the water." Vij reminded that Pakistan's flour supply had already stopped, and now their water has also been stopped.

3-day International conference at IARI, Delhi co-hosted by KU concludes

DALBIR MALIK
KURUKSHETRA, APR 26



On the third day of the international conference on "Vision 2047: Prosperous and Great Bharat" held at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute(IARI) in New Delhi. On this occasion, the Chief Guest of the afternoon session, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, underscored the vital role of rural development, a robust village economy, and the use of homegrown energy sources in shaping a stronger and self-reliant India. Minister Gadkari highlighted the uneven contributions of various sectors to the national GDP—pointing out that while the service sector contributes over 50%, the agriculture sector, which sustains rural India, contributes only 12% to 14%. Reflecting on Mahatma Gandhi's vision of an India rooted in its villages, he lamented the forced migration of people from rural areas to urban slums due to a lack of development, infrastructure, and employment in the countryside. R. Sundaram, National Convenor of the Swadeshi Research Institute, and Prof. Som Nath Sachdeva, Vice Chancellor of Kurukshetra University welcomed the Union Minister Nitin Gadkari. During the conference, the Chief Guest of the morning session, Delhi Chief Minister Mrs. Rekha Gupta emphasized that women empowerment is the foundation of a strong and developed India. CM Gupta said that women power is central to nation-building and the creation of a self-reliant India and it is imperative to ensure that every daughter has equal opportunities, becomes self-reliant, and actively participates in the campaign for a developed India.

Arjun Ram Meghwal distributes appointment letters to 56 youth during 15th Tranche of Rozgar Mela in Panchkula

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
PANCHKULA, APR 26



In a grand ceremony held under the 15th tranche of the Rozgar Mela today, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi distributed over 51,000 appointment letters to newly recruited youth across various government departments and organizations nationwide. Addressing the events virtually from New Delhi, the Prime Minister hailed this initiative as a significant stride towards building a self-reliant India (Atmanirbhar Bharat). Extending his best wishes, he urged the newly appointed personnel to take a solemn pledge to serve the nation with unwavering commitment.In Panchkula, the Rozgar Mela was organized by the Office of the Principal Commissioner of Income Tax at the iconic Red Bishop Complex. Gracing the occasion as Chief Guest, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Law & Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal handed over appointment letters to 56 candidates appointed in government departments including the Ministry of Home Affairs, Income Tax Department, Bank of Baroda, Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), Indian Railways, Telecom Department, and Directorate of Food and Supplies (DFSO), among others.In his address, the Union Minister congratulated the newly inducted youth and their proud families. He emphasized that these appointments are not merely job opportunities but vital avenues to contribute to the nation's holistic development. Urging the appointees to perform their duties with integrity, diligence, and devotion, he reiterated the Government's commitment to creating 10 lakh government jobs. He further encouraged the recruits to view their roles as an opportunity to participate in the creation of a vibrant and prosperous India. Highlighting the nation's journey of transformation, Shri Meghwal proudly noted that India, which ranked as the world's 10th largest economy in 2014, has ascended to the 5th position and is poised to become the third largest economy globally by 2027.

Vaishya Aggarwal Panchayat boosts tourism and social welfare in Kurukshetra

DALBIR MALIK



KURUKSHETRA: The historic Shri Vaishya Aggarwal Panchayat of Kurukshetra continues to play a vital role in promoting tourism, social welfare, and development projects across the city. In addition to its ongoing contributions in the fields of social service, education, religion, and healthcare, the Panchayat is currently undertaking the construction of Maharaja Agrasen Bhavan in Sector-8, which is progressing rapidly. Providing details, Panchayat President Satya Prakash Gupta and Treasurer Kapil Mittal informed that the basement and first-floor slab of the building have been completed, while the second floor is under construction. The upcoming structure will house two multipurpose halls and 12 air-conditioned rooms. Plans also include a physiotherapy centre and a charitable para-lab facility. The leaders also highlighted the nearing completion of 16 air-conditioned rooms at the Aggarwal Dharamshala near the railway station, which will soon be made available for visiting pilgrims and tourists. In addition, newly constructed rooms at the Aggarwal Dharamshala in Moti Chowk have also been completed, further enhancing facilities for visitors. Gupta emphasised that for years, the Panchayat has significantly contributed to the hospitality of domestic and international tourists visiting this sacred city. He further noted that the foundation stone for the new Maharaja Agrasen Bhavan was laid a few months ago by Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini.

HERC launches consumer advocacy campaign in Yamunanagar

RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR, APR 26



Taking a significant step towards strengthening consumer rights, the Haryana Electricity Regulatory Commission (HERC) launched the Consumer Advocacy Cell (CAC) campaign from the Gymkhana Club in Yamunanagar on Friday. The first field meeting was chaired by Mr. Mukesh Garg, Member (Law) of the Commission, and was attended by senior officers of the Commission and distribution companies, media representatives, and members of consumer organizations.

Mukesh Garg stated that strengthening the grievance redressal mechanism at the grassroots level to ensure swift resolution of consumer complaints is the Commission's top priority. He informed that currently, 21 Circle-level, 4 Zonal, and 2 Corporate-level Consumer Grievances Redressal Forums (CGRF) are functional across the state. To further enhance consumer convenience, the Commission has now decided to establish CGRFs at the Division level as well.

The meeting was attended by Electricity Ombudsman Mr. R.K. Khanna, Chief Engineer (Operations) Mr. Chandan Singh, Superintendent Engineer Mr. Puneet Kundu, Joint Director Mr. Manoj Garg, Joint Director (Law) Ms. Aloka Sharma, Deputy Director (Media) and CAC Coordinator Mr. Pradeep Malik, Executive Engineers of UHBVN, and various consumer representatives. Garg directed the officers to ensure that all consumer complaints are recorded seriously and resolved within a stipulated timeframe. Complaints that can be settled at the SDO level should be prioritized, and satisfactory responses should be provided for all other complaints.

Terror attack cowardly, Government will deliver befitting reply: Renu Bhatia

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KURUKSHETRA, APR 26



Haryana State Women Commission Chairperson Renu Bhatia visited the residence of Navy Lieutenant Vinay Narwal in Sector-7, Karnal, on Saturday to pay her respects following his martyrdom in the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir. She offered condolences to the bereaved family and assured them of the nation's unwavering support.

Describing the attack as a cowardly act, Bhatia said the central government will give a fitting reply to the perpetrators. "The Prime Minister has already convened a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security and taken firm decisions. In the past, such attacks have been avenged through surgical strikes. This time, the response will be even stronger, deterring anyone from daring to threaten India again," she said.

She added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and the entire government are alert and taking the situation seriously. "The entire nation is grieving with the families of those who lost their lives. The central and state governments stand with them in this time of sorrow," Bhatia affirmed.

She condemned the incident in strong words and reiterated that such tragedies only strengthen the nation's resolve to fight terrorism.

Free Medical check-up camp organized by Maha Sangam Seva Samiti at Indira Gandhi High School

RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR, APR 26



Maha Sangam Seva Samiti organized a free medical checkup camp for eyes and dental health at Indira Gandhi High School today. Dr. Deepak from IQ Hospital conducted eye checkups, while Dr. Kamal from Shri Shyam Hospital, Sasauli Road, provided dental checkups. The camp was graced by Dr. Vijay Dahiya, former Chief Medical Officer, as the chief guest. Dr. Dahiya addressed the children, advising them on the importance of maintaining good health. He also appreciated the efforts of Maha Sangam Seva Samiti for organizing such camps and praised their ground-level work in the community. He assured continued support for their initiatives.

Maha Sangam Seva Samiti's President, Jony Kumar, expressed gratitude towards Dr. Vijay Dahiya for attending and honored him for his contributions. Rajesh Nagpal, Principal of Indira Gandhi High School, presented a commemorative plaque to Dr. Dahiya in appreciation of his support. He also thanked the organization for their health initiative and pledged continued collaboration.

The event was attended by committee advisors Ram Bihari Sharma and Rajkumar Singh, along with the entire school staff.

College of Forestry crowned overall champions at 9th annual inter-college sports meet

DINESH AGARWAL
NAUNI, APR 26



The College of Forestry, Nauni has been crowned the overall champion of the 9th Annual Inter-College Sports Meet held at Dr. YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni. The event witnessed spirited competition among teams from the university's four constituent colleges — the Colleges of Horticulture and Forestry at Nauni (main campus), and the Colleges of Horticulture and Forestry at Neri and Thunag. This year, over 360 athletes participated across various track and field disciplines and team events, showcasing exceptional talent and determination. Speaking at the closing ceremony, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Rajeshwar Singh Chandel commended the participants for their exemplary sportsmanship, fitness and teamwork. He emphasized the importance of sports as an integral part of education, promoting holistic student development. Congratulating all the winners and participants, Prof. Chandel remarked that sports instill a sense of belonging and teamwork, and play a vital role in steering youth away from social evils like substance abuse. Dean of Students' Welfare, Dr. HP Sankhyan, expressed gratitude to the students for making the sports meet a thrilling and memorable event. The Chief Guest presented awards to the winners and runners-up across various disciplines.

Awareness camp held at Gandhi Arya Sr Sec School



KARANPREET KARAN
BARNALA: Under the 'War Against Drugs' campaign launched by the Punjab Government against drugs, awareness activities are continuing in villages and cities on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Barnala Mr. T. Benith. Continuing this campaign, Sakhi: One Stop Center Barnala organized an awareness camp against drugs at Gandhi Arya Senior Secondary School, Barnala. During this camp, under the leadership of Center Incharge Madam Jyoti Vansh, Madam Jaspal Kaur made the students aware against drugs. While telling them about the harm caused by drugs, she called upon the students to stay away from drugs, adopt a good lifestyle and connect with Punjabi culture. He said that the government under the leadership of Chief Minister S. Bhagwant Singh Mann is working with full enthusiasm to eradicate drugs, therefore we should also work together to eradicate drugs so that the future of the country and the state remains safe.

NEWS BRIEFS

CM announces Rs 50 lakh, job for family of Lt. Vinay Narwal

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL: Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini has announced to give Rs 50 lakh and a government job to the family member of Navy Lieutenant, Late Vinay Narwal, a Karnal resident, who was killed by terrorists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. The Chief Minister said that the government job will be given to any of the family member, as per the wish of the parents of Lt. Vinay Narwal.
Notably, on April 22, 2025, terrorists had attacked unarmed tourists in Pahalgam, in which Lt. Vinay Narwal was killed. The Chief Minister has strongly condemned the cowardly act of the terrorists.

Modi government will give a befitting reply to the attack on humanity: Dr Arvind Sharma

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
ROHTAK, APRIL 26

Cooperative, Prison, Heritage and Tourism Minister Dr Arvind Sharma said that terrorists have attacked humanity in Pahalgam, to which the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will give a befitting reply. He said that Pakistan will have to pay a heavy price for supporting terrorism. The government will root out terrorism and terrorists, so that such incidents do not recur.

On Saturday, Cooperative Minister Dr Arvind Sharma participated in the unveiling of the statue of Lord Parshuram in Brahmin Dharamshala located in Indira Colony and the installation of the idol in the newly built Shiv temple in Shiv Enclave. While talking to journalists, Cooperative Minister Dr. Arvind Sharma said that Pakistan will have to pay the price for the martyrdom of our 26 citizens in the terrorist attack in Pahalgam. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's order to cancel the Indus River Water Treaty, stop traffic from Attari border, withdraw officials from Pakistan High Commission in Delhi, recall officials from Indian High Commission in Islamabad and Pakistani citizens to leave India is the beginning of strict steps. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi does what he says. He has announced to wipe out terrorism and terrorists from Bihar, so it will definitely happen. Cooperative Minister Dr. Arvind Sharma said that this attack is on the entire humanity and the whole world knows the capability of India, certainly the Pakistani land being used for terrorism will have to pay the price for this.



Cabinet Minister Dr. Arvind Sharma said that the programs of Lord Parshuram Jayanti continue throughout the state for a month from Akshaya Tritiya. Lord Parshuram Jayanti celebrations are being held in different corners of the state. In this series, the state level Bhagwan Parshuram Jayanti celebration has been scheduled in Paharwar of Rohtak. He said that the Chief Minister of the state Naib Singh Saini will attend this state level celebration as the chief guest. Union Ministers, State Government Ministers, MPs, MLAs, representatives of Panchayati Body Institutions, representatives of Body Institutions will participate in this event. Cabinet Minister Dr. Arvind Sharma announced to give an amount of Rs 21 lakh from his voluntary fund for the construction of hall in Indira Colony Brahmin Dharamshala. During this, former Mayor Renu Dabla, Manmohan Goyal, Corporation Councilor Praveen Kaushik, Bijendra Brahmachari, Pradhan Khushiram Shastri, Subhash Sharma, Rakesh Vats, Narendra Kaushik, Ramphal Sharma, Bharat Bhushan Sharma, Jagdish Sharma, Ritesh Sharma, Suresh Sharma, Jitendra Atri, Shri Bhagwan Sharma, Praveen Vats, Chandrakant Sharma and a large number of intellectuals of the society were present with him.

Block Committee Chairman Gaurav Sorsi honoured

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, APRIL 26



Today, Block Committee Chairman Mr. Gaurav Sorsi visited the Government Senior Secondary School, Taprana (Karnal) after the school building was beautified. Gaurav Sorsi was thanked a lot by the Taprana school staff and villagers for this work and he was honored with a memento. On this occasion, the Chairman addressed the students and motivated them to study diligently and assured to help as much as possible in the future.

The Block Committee Chairman was made to inspect the classroom activities of the primary school by the Principal of the school, Mrs. Sunita ji, after which the Chairman praised the teaching work of all the teachers.

On this occasion, Manjeet Singh, Shivkumar, villagers Vinod Kumar, Monu, Dharampal and school management committee members and all staff members were present with him.

Vijay Ved Pal opens front against terrorism

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL: Sarvajatiya Mahasabha unanimously passed a condemnation resolution against the brutal Pahalgam massacre. At the residence of Sarvajatiya Mahasabha chief Vijay Ved Pal, the office bearers of the Mahasabha paid tribute to the martyrs of Pahalgam and observed two minutes of silence.



Vijay Ved Pal said that terrorism and anti-national forces have become a scourge like cancer and the terrorists have challenged the pride of the country through the Pahalgam incident. Their action should be answered according to the iron and blood policy of Bismarck and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel so that such a recurrence does not happen. He said that Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini and State President Mohan Lal Badauli proved that the State Government and the entire State are with the martyrs by participating in the last rites of martyr Vinay Narwal. Similarly, Union Minister Manohar Lal shared the grief of the family at their residence and showed that the Central Government and the whole of India are with them. Vijay Ved Pal demanded that a memorial be built in Karnal in memory of martyr Vinay Narwal and a government job be given to a member of his family. General Secretary O.P. Sachdeva praised the steps taken by the government and talked about destroying the hideouts of the enemies to destroy their plans. Treasurer Sham Sundar Paruthi got the Gayatri Mantra and Mahamrityunjay Mantra recited collectively. Vice President K P Agarwal, citing the example of Shri Krishna in Mahabharata, asked the Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to take strict steps against the unpardonable crime. Gulshan Madan, S. Parminder Pal Singh, Lakhpat Shastri etc. also supported the steps taken by the government.

Pratap Public School Taraori celebrates Earth Day with Speech, Poem, and Skit



KAMAL SHARMA
TARAORI: In celebration of Earth Day, Pratap Public School, Tarawadi, organized a special prayer assembly with the participation of fifth-grade students. The event was inaugurated by the school director, Pithi Chaudhary, and principal, Vikas Uttaija. The students presented speeches, poems, short plays, and activities like tree plantation and sharing the history of Earth to raise awareness about environmental conservation. As part of the celebration, the students participated in tree planting and pledged to plant more trees while committing to contribute towards maintaining a clean environment. On this occasion, Director Pithi Chaudhary informed the children that Earth Day is observed worldwide to promote environmental protection. She explained how changing weather patterns and threats like plastic pollution are harming our environment, directly affecting the Earth.

LM Thapar School of Management earns prestigious AACSB accreditation

BUREAU
DERABASSI, APRIL 26

LM Thapar School of Management (LMTSM), business school of the renowned Thapar Institute of Engineering & Technology, proudly announces its achievement of the highly prestigious AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) International Accreditation-marking a historic milestone for business education in the region. With this recognition, LMTSM joins an elite group of just 1,051 business schools across 68 countries worldwide that hold AACSB accreditation-an honor held by less than 6% of business schools globally. The school also becomes the first in Punjab, one of only 9 in Northern India, and one of just 24 AACSB-accredited institutions across India.



The celebration at the Derabassi campus was charged with pride and excitement as faculty, students, alumni, and leadership came together to commemorate this historic occasion. Mr. Prathap Das, Regional Head - South Asia at AACSB, graced the event as chief guest, lauding the institution's unwavering commitment and palpable energy. With over two decades of experience in higher education, Mr. Das plays a key role in enhancing the global stature of South Asian business schools. He has held leadership roles at ProQuest, Clarivate, and EBSCO, and collaborates with Dr. Geoff Perry, Executive Vice President at AACSB, to strengthen business education in the region.

Commenting on the occasion, Mr. Das said, "I congratulate the senior leadership for their vision in achieving this milestone. I'm truly impressed by the enthusiasm and energy across the campus. The excitement and sense of accomplishment are very visible, and it's commendable."

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Rajeev Ranjan Vederah, Chairman, Board of Governors, Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology. said: "I'm truly delighted with the milestone achieved. In the history of the emergence of LM School of Management, we can clearly see ourselves developing and evolving. This recognition has added a sense of legitimacy and confidence in our journey forward-it shows we're headed in the right direction. I've always believed that institutions today must think and operate with a global perspective, transcending regional boundaries. This accreditation reflects that ambition. It's not just about curriculum or pedagogy-it's about the entire ecosystem: the quality of faculty, students, infrastructure, placements. It encompasses everything."

Prof. Padmakumar Nair, Director, Thapar Institute of Engineering & Technology, and Dean of Thapar School of Liberal Arts & Sciences, said: "I want to congratulate all our stakeholders-faculty, students, alumni-everyone who made this possible. This is not just an accreditation. It is a global gold standard.

Students of Shiksha Bharati School hold protest march against Pahalgam terror attack

SHALU PARMAR
KALAYAT: In response to the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, educational institutions are also raising their voices. Staff and students of Shiksha Bharati Vidya Niketan School, Kalayat, organized a protest march on Friday, condemning terrorism and expressing solidarity with national security forces.



The three-kilometre march commenced from the school premises and proceeded through the heart of the town, concluding at the Kalayat police station. Chanting powerful slogans against terrorism, the participants urged citizens to stand united in the face of such threats. Students, dressed in school uniforms and attires resembling military and police personnel, were led by staff members. School Chairman Kuldeep Bidhan and Managing Director Jitendra Bidhan expressed outrage over the incident and stressed the need for strict action against terrorists and those supporting them. They also demanded that the Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan be revoked and called for stringent measures to prevent such attacks in the future.The protest saw active participation from staff members including Shyam Sunder, Hardeep Singh, Anoop Singh, Bheem Singh, Surender Lalit Sharma, Jyoti, Mukesh, Sabina, Varsha, Pinky, and Sweety. The school management emphasized that the march was not just a protest, but a call for national unity and resilience.

PhonePe celebrates Akshaya Tritiya with assured cashback offer

CHANDIGARH: PhonePe, today announced exciting cashback offers on 24k Digital Gold on the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya. Users can avail a Flat 1% cashback (up to INR 2000) on purchasing a minimum of INR 2000 worth of digital gold on the PhonePe platform. The offer is applicable only on 30th April for one-time transactions* (valid once per user). Users can choose to pay through multiple modes of payment such as UPI, UPI Lite, credit & debit cards, wallet and gift cards.To add to the festive cheer, PhonePe also has a special offer for redemption of digital gold at Caratlane stores & website, that includes:- Additional 2% discount on gold coin. Additional 3% discount on unstudded jewellery. Additional 5% on studded jewellery. Users can purchase 99.99% purity-certified 24K Digital Gold on the PhonePe platform, from leading and trusted players in the digital gold space like MMTC-PAMP, SafeGold and Caratlane. Over 1.2 Crore customers across India have bought high purity 24K gold on the PhonePe platform.Apart from one time purchase, PhonePe also empowers users to invest in Gold digitally via Daily or Monthly SIPs and helps customers invest long term systematically. Customers also have the flexibility to invest any amount (starting as low as Rs. 5) and sell their gold holdings anytime, with the money credited to their bank accounts.

Harshwardhan Chauhan unveils Special Coffee Table Book 'Twenty Tales of Triumph'



CHANDIGARH: Procter & Gamble India (P&G India), makers of brands like Ariel, Tide, Gillette etc., today celebrated 20 years of impact of its flagship CSR initiative – P&G Shiksha, at an event held in Tatyana, in Sirmaur district of Himachal Pradesh. Sh. Harshwardhan Chauhan, Hon'ble Industries Minister, Government of Himachal Pradesh graced the event, and unveiled P&G Shiksha's special coffee table book 'Twenty Tales of Triumph' to commemorate the occasion, in the presence of children from Himachal Pradesh – Anushka, Parikshit and Shivani whose stories have been featured in the book, and senior dignitaries from the government and P&G India. The book is a powerful reminder of the change education can bring when every child is given the chance to thrive. It captures powerful stories of resilience and progress from across India, with a spotlight on children from Himachal Pradesh who were also felicitated at the event for the remarkable strides they have made by leveraging P&G Shiksha's initiatives.

At the event, the hon'ble minister also inaugurated a new school block at the Government Senior Secondary School in Tatyana, in the Sirmaur district of Himachal Pradesh, that it has built in partnership with the NGO - Round Table India (RTI) as part of P&G Shiksha.

Several students from the school attended the inauguration event, who also witnessed their fellow schoolmates put up exciting cultural performances on the special momentous occasion. Further, the Hon'ble Minister addressed the gathering applauding P&G India and RTI for taking the noble initiative and emphasized upon the importance of education in positively impacting the future of the state and the country.

ONE Group Developers to invest over 1,200 crore in Mohali for residential and commercial projects

MOHALI : In a major push to expand its footprint in Punjab's booming real estate market, ONE Group Developers has announced an investment of over ₹1,200 crore over the next two years to develop a series of residential and commercial projects in Mohali. This investment will be strategically deployed across several prime sectors of the city, reaffirming the company's commitment to shaping modern urban living in North India.



The company is gearing up to launch multiple projects, including low-rise independent floors, residential plots in Sector 98, and an upcoming group housing project.
Plans are also underway to develop premium commercial spaces in prime sectors of Mohali.
The low-rise projects and plotted developments are already in advanced stages of planning, while land acquisition for the group housing and commercial segments has been completed, with planning activities set to begin shortly.
ONE Group has already established a strong presence in Mohali with the successful delivery of landmark projects such as ONE Rise in Sector 99, ONE City Hub and One City Hamlet in Sector 98. Building on this legacy, the company aims to elevate the residential and commercial landscape of the city with its upcoming developments.

SBI Life Insurance registers New Business Premium of Rs. 35,577 crores for the year ended on 31st March

CHANDIGARH: SBI Life Insurance, one of the leading life insurers in the country registered a New Business Premium of Rs. 35,577 crores for the year ended on 31st March, 2025 vis-a-vis Rs. 38,238 crores for the year ended March 31, 2024. Regular premium has increased by 11% over previous year ended on 31st March, 2024.
Establishing a clear focus on protection, SBI Life's protection new business premium stood at Rs. 4,095 crores for the year ended March 31, 2025. Protection Individual new business premium stands at Rs. 793 crores for the year ended March 31, 2025. Individual New Business Premium stands at Rs. 26,360 crores with 11% growth over previous year ended on 31st March, 2024.
SBI Life's profit after tax stands at Rs. 2,413 crores for the year ended March 31, 2025 with a growth of 27% over previous year. The company's solvency ratio continues to remain robust at 1.96 as on March 31, 2025 as against the regulatory requirement of 1.50. SBI Life's AUM also continued to grow at 15% to Rs. 4,48,039 crores as on March 31, 2025 from Rs. 3,88,923 crores as on March 31, 2024, with the debt-equity mix of 61:39. 94% of the debt investments are in AAA and Sovereign instruments.
The company has a diversified distribution network of 309,034 trained insurance professionals and wide presence with 1,110 offices across the country, comprising of strong bancassurance channel, agency channel and others comprising of corporate agents, brokers, Point of sale persons (POS), insurance marketing firms, web aggregators and direct business.

OPPO India Launches A5 Pro 5G: Setting a New Benchmark for Durability with Rugged, Reliable Performance

CHANDIGARH : OPPO India delivers on its promise of durability with the OPPO A5 Pro 5G, setting a new benchmark in smartphone resilience. It continues to redefine smartphone durability by extending its legacy of resilience from the F Series to the A Series. The entire OPPO flagship, mid-ranger and A5 Pro are now equipped with industry-leading IP69 certification, reinforcing the brand's commitment to creating a durable champion family. Building on this legacy, OPPO is democratizing durability for the masses with the A5 Pro 5G—making extreme toughness accessible to a wider set of consumers.
Priced at INR 17,999 for the 8GB+128GB variant and INR 19,999 for the 8GB+256GB variant, the OPPO A5 PRO 5G will be available on Amazon, Flipkart, OPPO Store, and mainline retail outlets, in two colour options – Mocha Brown and Feather Blue. Customers can avail up to ₹1500 cashback* and enjoy up to 6 months of no-cost EMI* with leading credit cards from SBI, IDFC FIRST Bank, BOB Financial, Federal Bank, and DBS. What's more, a Zero Down Payment scheme* is also available, making it easier than ever to own this powerhouse of durability and performance.
The smartphone boasts industry-leading IP69, IP68, and IP66 certifications, offering complete protection against water, dust, and high-pressure jets. It also features 18 multi-liquid resistance protection—designed to withstand exposure to a variety of everyday liquids such as salt water, sweat, coffee, and more—making it an ideal companion for unpredictable real-world conditions. So, whether you are caught in a sudden downpour, working in dusty environments, or facing accidental drops, this device stands strong. Beyond water and dust resistance, the military-grade shock-resistant A5 Pro 5G is engineered to endure the harshest conditions. It features reinforced double-tempering glass which improves drop resistance by 160%, and OPPO's own Sponge Bionic Cushioning that absorbs shocks from accidental impacts. Its aerospace-grade AM04 aluminum alloy frame shields critical components like the motherboard for long-lasting durability.

Peter England pays a nostalgic tribute to cricket's greatest legends

CHANDIGARH: Peter England, India's leading menswear brand from the house of Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Limited, proudly announces the return of The Gentlemen's League with its bold new collection – The League of Legends.
Launched during the country's most celebrated cricketing festival, JioStar IPL, the brand pays homage to the game's most iconic figures – Kapil Dev, Sir Vivian Richards, and the unmistakable voice of international cricket, Harsha Bhogle. In a nation deeply passionate about cricket, this first-ever collaboration between Peter England and cricketing legends marks a celebration of heritage, style, and the enduring charm of the gentleman's game.



Originally introduced in 2023 as a tribute to cricket's timeless spirit, The Gentlemen's League returns with an elevated vision – not just as a collection, but as a cultural moment. The League of Legends capsule features a striking range of polos and crew necks, adorned with graphics inspired by the most iconic on-field moments of Kapil Dev and Sir Vivian Richards. Each piece reflects their attitude, flair, and fearlessness, designed for today's modern gentleman who values legacy while embracing the present. Unlike traditional sports merchandise, this collection reimagines cricket-inspired fashion through a smart casual and sport-formal lens – a distinctive positioning in India's fashion landscape. With precision tailoring, breathable fabrics, and heritage-inspired details, The League of Legends offers a versatile wardrobe that moves effortlessly from the boardroom to after-hours, from match screenings to weekend outings.

Centrum launches Centrum Recharge Energy Drink Mix with Brand Ambassador Anushka Sharma

CHANDIGARH : Centrum, a trusted name in comprehensive multivitamin support, today announced the expansion of its product portfolio with the launch of Centrum Recharge, a new entrant into the competitive Energy drink mix category. This innovative product is designed to enable consumers to replenish essential vitamins and minerals lost during daily activities, offering support for energy, immunity, and hydration.
While many talk about electrolyte loss but the fact is our body also loses vitamins and minerals everyday which makes us feel tired. Many products help to restore electrolytes, but the need to replenish vitamins & minerals is equally important, and for that vitamins & minerals like B Vitamins, Vitamin C, Magnesium & Zinc play a very important role. This is where Centrum Recharge comes into play, formulated with 13 essential vitamins and minerals, including B Vitamins, Vitamin C, Magnesium, and Zinc, all crucial for supporting energy levels, supporting immune function, and maintaining hydration. Centrum Recharge has 2X more Vitamins & Minerals than leading multivitamin energy drink beverage additives and mixers in the market, and contains No added sugars, making it a nutritious choice for consumers.
The product is packed in individual sachets, perfect for on-the-go consumption. Sharing insights on the new launch, Mr. Atish Negi, Category Lead – Vitamin & Mineral Supplements, Haleon ISC, said, "We are excited to add Centrum Recharge to our Centrum India portfolio. We believe Centrum Recharge addresses a significant need for a nutritious solution for energy and hydration - that aligns with the active lifestyles of today's consumers.

Free health check-ups to over 80,000 delivery associates and delivery partners by end of 2025

CHANDIGARH: Amazon India today announced plans to provide free health check-ups to over 80,000 delivery associates through a series of medical camps across the country by the end of 2025. The initiative, already underway with four camps organized across Tamil Nadu and Delhi NCR regions, highlights Amazon's commitment to the health and safety of delivery associates and delivery partners.
The medical camps are conducted by Marsh and Care Insurance and provide essential health services including eye examinations, dental check-ups, BMI assessments, and general physician consultations. Delivery associates and delivery partners can access these services by presenting a government-issued identity proof at any of the camps set up at Amazon's last-mile delivery stations. Dr. Karuna Shankar Pande, VP Amazon Logistics, Amazon India said, "We're proud to launch these comprehensive medical camps across India to support delivery associates' and delivery partners' wellbeing. This initiative strengthens Amazon's and their delivery service partner's robust benefits package, which already includes Group Mediclaim and Group Personal Accident insurance. By bringing preventive healthcare directly to our delivery stations, we're making essential medical services accessible to 80,000 delivery associates and delivery partners who form the backbone of last-mile operations."



Nothing happens unless first we dream.

Carl Sandburg

Editorial

Multiple benefits

The president of the United States of America has his eyes — and mind — trained on a single goal. It is to prevent a waste of federal funds by granting billions to universities which allegedly do not penalise anti-Semitism. So he is penalising these universities, including Columbia and Harvard, and setting the path they should tread in the future. It is, no doubt, good to have a president who looks to the future, but history might help in moderating present passions. The unique system of the American research university grew out of federal government funding, millions of dollars at first and billions later. Military paraphernalia — from radars to bombs were born in university research laboratories. The best-known is perhaps the Manhattan Project. The idea then was of a national supremacy, and the universities were the instruments of it with research funding. The symbiotic relationship allowed universities to attain the highest quality in research facilities, hire the best teachers with any number of Nobel laureates and attract the best students from all over the world. Meanwhile the government got what it wanted; its funds ensured that.

Military ware were not the only products. From medicines to cure the worst diseases to the means to explore space, from methods to produce the best crops to the most used search engine — the research laboratories produced everything. In science as in the social sciences, the strength and excellence of the universities could not be questioned. The fact that the higher education system in the US is decentralised with the states in charge of it helped, not hindered, the development of research and excellence, something that governments nearer home could note. In 1980, patent rights for federally funded research were transferred to the universities from the federal government. This gave a special fillip especially to work in biomedicine, computer science and engineering. The feeling of discomfort that was never totally absent about being beholden to Washington was a little neutralised. This was also a step in increasing the university's autonomy in academic and research matters.

In spite of the disadvantage of the academia being dependent on politicians, the greater good that federal funding and its acceptance achieved was remarkable: excellence in learning on the one hand and national progress on the other. The US's past system — past now with Donald Trump cancelling funding for one university after another — was exemplary in underlining how the government's gain and the national good are intimately linked with excellence in learning.

Indus waters: Yawning gap between threat and reality

In retaliation for the dastardly attack on tourists in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, the Narendra Modi government has decided to scrap the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan, even if it will have quite a few consequences. After the Uri incident, our Prime Minister had said that "blood and water cannot flow together". The truth is that while the flow of blood can be stopped, water will continue to flow.

The geography makes it next to impossible to stop the flow of the waters from the Indus, Chenab and Jhelum. Yet there was ample reason to revisit this treaty, because of Pakistan's persistent misuse of the provisions of the IWT that enable it to adopt a "dog in the manger" attitude to prevent or delay any development of hydel projects on the three rivers that is permitted by the treaty. This will now stop.

The entire Indus river system has a total drainage area which exceeds 11,165,000 sq km. Its estimated annual flow stands at around 207 km3, making it the twenty-first largest river in the world in terms of annual flow. It is also Pakistan's sole means of sustenance. The British had constructed a complex canal system to irrigate the Punjab region of Pakistan. Partition left a large part of this infrastructure in Pakistan.

The World Bank brokered the IWT between India and Pakistan after many years of intense negotiations to allocate the waters of the Indus river basin. Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and President Ayub Khan signed the treaty in Karachi on September 19, 1960. Under the IWT, control over the three "eastern" rivers -- Beas, Ravi and Sutlej -- was given to India, while control over the three "western" rivers -- Indus, Chenab and Jhelum – was given to Pakistan. On the face of it, the pact is seen as generous to Pakistan as it gives the lower riparian state



80 per cent of the waters of the western rivers. But the reality is that the IWT makes a virtue of a necessity, as it is the geography of the region that decides this rather than any Indian altruism.

The main Kashmir Valley is just a hundred km wide at its maximum and 15,520.30 km2 in area. While the Himalayas divide the Kashmir Valley from Ladakh, the Pir Panjal range, which encloses the valley from the west and the south, separates it from the great plains of northern India. This picturesque and densely settled valley has an average height of 1,850 metres above sea level, but the surrounding Pir Panjal range has an average elevation of 5,000 metres. Thus the Pir Panjal range stands between the Kashmir Valley and the rest of the country and is an insurmountable barrier that precludes the transfer of water anywhere else. And neither do the contours of the Kashmir Valley allow for more waters to be stored in any part of it. Since the waters cannot be stored or used by diversion elsewhere, it has to keep flowing into Pakistan.

Of the three western rivers "given" to Pakistan, the Indus, which debouches from Indian territory near Kargil and then flows entirely in Pakistan-controlled territory. The Jhelum originates near Verinag near Anantnag and meanders for over 200 km in the Kashmir Valley before it enters Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. After flowing through Srinagar, it fills up the Wular Lake and then traverses past Baramulla and Uri into PoK. The run of the river hydel projects constructed on it supply most of the electricity to the Valley.

The Chenab, also known as Chandrabhaga, originates in Lahaul Spiti in Himachal Pradesh and flows through the Jammu region into the plains of Pakistan's Punjab. The catchment area of the Chenab is elongated and narrow. The catchment area of the Chenab is mostly in India. But the Chenab runs through deep valleys and the river drops by as much as 24 metres per km, imposing physical constraints and huge economic costs on harnessing it.

The three "eastern" rivers allocated to India under the IWT are the Beas, Ravi and Sutlej. These waters sustain agriculture in Punjab and to some extent Haryana and are substantially used. What enters Pakistan is usually just enough to keep the stream flushed. But despite this, Pakistan has from time to time blamed India for its floods and the sudden and deliberate release of storage gates.

The question that still remains is about the Jhelum waters. Dr Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, head of earth sciences at the geology and geophysics department, University of Kashmir, recently said: "Let us assume we stop the water supply for the sake of argument. Where would the water go? We do not have infrastructure to store this water. We have not built dams in J&K where we can store the water. And being a mountainous state, unlike Tamil Nadu or Karnataka, you cannot move water to another state. So, you cannot stop the water technically."

But even if it can be done, climate change is upon us, with severe implicit consequences for both countries, but mostly for Pakistan. The Indus river basin is fed mostly by glacier melt, unlike the Ganga and Brahmaputra basins, which are fed mostly by the monsoons.

Literature & Health

NASA's Curiosity rover finds large carbon deposits on Mars

Research from NASA's Curiosity rover has found evidence of a carbon cycle on ancient Mars, bringing scientists closer to an answer on whether the Red Planet was ever capable of supporting life.



Lead author Dr. Ben Tutolo, PhD, an associate professor with the Department of Earth, Energy and Environment in the Faculty of Science at the University of Calgary, is a participating scientist on the NASA Mars Science Laboratory Curiosity Rover team. The team is working to understand climate transitions and habitability on ancient Mars as Curiosity explores Gale Crater.

The paper, published this week in the journal Science, reveals that data from three of Curiosity's drill sites had siderite, an iron carbonate material, within sulfate-rich layers of Mount Sharp in Gale Crater.

"The discovery of large carbon deposits in Gale Crater represents both a surprising and important breakthrough in our understanding of the geologic and atmospheric evolution of Mars," says Tutolo.

Reaching the strata, he says, was a long-term goal of the Mars Science Laboratory mission.

"The abundance of highly soluble salts in these rocks and similar deposits mapped over much of Mars has been used as evidence of the 'great drying" of Mars during its dramatic shift from a warm and wet early Mars to its current, cold and dry state," says Tutolo.

Sedimentary carbonate has long been predicted to have formed under the CO2-rich ancient Martian atmosphere, but Tutolo says identifications had previously been sparse.

Even light exercise can help slow cognitive decline in people at risk of Alzheimer's: Study

Researchers at University of California San Diego and Wake Forest University have found that both low and moderate-high intensity exercise could be valuable tools in the fight against Alzheimer's.

The new research, published as two papers in Alzheimer's and Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association, describes the results of the EXERT study (Exercise in Adults with Mild Memory Problems).

It is a multi-site clinical trial of lower or moderate-high intensity exercise in sedentary older adults with amnestic mild cognitive impairment, a major risk factor for Alzheimer's dementia. The researchers also compared their results to an existing dataset of comparable individuals who only received usual



care, such as regular check-ups with health care providers and medication management. Individuals with amnestic mild cognitive impairment, a condition characterised by memory complaints and objective memory decline, are at high risk of developing Alzheimer's dementia, with approximately 16% of people with this condition progressing to Alzheimer's each year.

"This is a critical time to intervene in this population, because they don't have dementia yet, but are at a very high risk," said Aladdin Shadyab, Ph.D., M.P.H., lead author of one of the new papers and associate professor at the UC San Diego Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Human Longevity Science and School of Medicine.

POEMS

Ocean of Forms

I dive down into the depth of the ocean of forms, hoping to gain the perfect pearl of the formless.

No more sailing from harbor to harbor with this my weather-beaten boat.

The days are long passed when my sport was to be tossed on waves. And now I am eager to die into the deathless. Into the audience hall by the fathomless abyss where swells up the music of toneless strings I shall take this harp of my life.

I shall tune it to the notes of forever, and when it has sobbed out its last utterance, lay down my silent harp at the feet of the silent.

Rabindranath Tagore

The 'Grand Mughals' at London's V&A: Of Tipu Sultan, Sufis & Some Surprises

"There aren't many Rubayii about 'love' -- Apart I suppose from words like 'above' -- There aren't enough flattering rhymes to go With that emotion when push comes to shove? And yet, Bachchoo, your rhyming has to strain As love has let you down, you must complain You don't always have to do it in rhyme It can just be in prose -- a paean to pain?"

From The Rubaiyat of Dawn

The Victoria and Albert Museum in South Kensington, London, is a repository of history, art and objects for posterity. It also features expertly curated exhibitions of periods of history, of innovation, art, fashion… etc.

One exhibit that has always drawn my attention is Tipu Sultan's tiger holding a British East India company soldier, one of Arthur Wellesley's troops, in its jaws. Even in the nineteenth century, the V&A didn't censor displays of Indian triumph over British colonialism. Perhaps it was because visitors would know that Tipu



was boastful, and in the end was beaten by the man who was to subsequently defeat Napoleon at Waterloo. Or maybe they just bravely thought that all dramatic displays had their place and to hell with nationalistic sensitivities or concerns?

Memorably, in 2012, the V&A had an exhibition on Indian maharajas and their royal courts. It was about the flamboyant displays of the principle and better-endowed (er … in territory) maharajas who held their titular "kingdoms" through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries before Independence from Britain in 1947. The exhibition had a vast array of photographs and paintings of royal processions with elephants, of parades of elaborately-dressed troops in the pay of the maharajas and displays of thrones and "authority". There were of course several depictions of these potentates meeting with British royalty such as the brother of King Edward VII and then King George V, who visited India in 1911-1912.

The exhibition's curators presented all the pomp, but none of the circumstance. The V&A exhibition connived to present the maharajas as real kings. They didn't say anywhere that they were powerless puppets of the British Raj, licensed to maintain ceremonial armies and directed in their policies by the agents of the Raj, resident and all-powerful in every state. When India gained its Independence from the Raj in 1947, these ridiculous "potentates" were deprived of their thrones by the great Congress politician Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and told to accept large pensions and go quietly. No mention in the exhibition.

Curation or decoration? Last week I saw at the V&A an exhibition called "The Grand Mughals".

It doesn't feature the history of the Mughal dynasty's conquest and rule in India. It is a display of the art, artistic objects, armaments, jewellery and architectural triumphs of the reigns of Akbar, Jehangir and Shah Jahan. There is scant mention of Babur, Humayun and then of Aurangzeb. I was startled to see what I didn't know -- that in the reign of Akbar and Jehangir there were "Mughal miniature" paintings from the annals of the Sufi poet Amir Khusrau.

There were also miniatures made of Rustam, the Zoroastrian pre-Muslim Persian hero from the Shahnama of Firdausi.

And yes, there were miniatures of scenes, commissioned by these emperors, depicting characters and action from the Ramayan. There is a "miniature", among several others, which depicts the scene from Sita's story, where she mistakenly believes that Hanuman, who approaches her in exile, is Ravan in disguise.

There is a "portrait" of the Sufi saint Moinuddin Chishti of Ajmer, who lived centuries before this depiction, presumably from the inspired imagination of the artist. Then there is the portrait of a Muslim being instructed in piety by a Brahmin. After Portuguese Jesuits arrived in India during Jehangir's reign, the Hindu and Muslim artists are depicted in the miniature scenes from the Bible and Christian lore.

These were surprises. That there is a stately portrait of the young emperor Aurangzeb was not. The exhibition has no section beyond that of the artists of Shah Jahan's reign.

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Ex-Servicemen rally in Bilaspur to condemn Pahalgam terror attack, demand atern action

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY

BILASPUR: The Ex-Servicemen Welfare Committee of Himachal Pradesh held a powerful protest rally in Bilaspur to condemn the brutal terrorist attack in Pahalgam that claimed the lives of innocent Hindu tourists. The



rally, marked by patriotic fervor and deep anguish, began from Gurudwara Chowk and culminated at the District Deputy Commissioner's office. Led by State President Captain Amar Nath Dhiman and Chairman Captain Sanjay Kumar, ex-servicemen paid homage to the victims by observing two minutes of silence.

NEWS BRIEF

MP and Deputy CM offer prayers at Jakhu Temple



DINESH AGARWAL

SHIMLA: Member of Parliament and State Congress Party in-charge, Rajni Patil along with Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri today visited the famous Jakhu Temple and offered prayers for the peace, prosperity and well-being of the people of Himachal Pradesh. MLAs Kuldeep Rathore and Ashish Butail were also present on the occasion.

Shutdown observed in Bangana to protest Pahalgam terror attack; Public anger erupts against Pakistan



JOGINDER DEV ARYA

BANGANA: In a strong display of public outrage against the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, which claimed the lives of 28 innocent civilians, the Bangana Market Association called for a complete shutdown on Saturday. Hundreds of traders and local residents participated in a protest rally led by Market Association President Vinod Senti, voicing their anger against terrorism and condemning Pakistan's continued support for such acts. Senior BJP leader and former Kutlehar MLA, Davinder Kumar Bhutto, was present as a special guest during the rally. Addressing the crowd, Bhutto asserted that the Indian government must adopt a stricter stance against Pakistan. "India has always given a befitting reply to Pakistan, but now is the time to uproot terrorism entirely," he said. Protesters gathered at Bangana Chowk and marched to Aashirwad Hotel, shouting slogans like "Pakistan Murdabad" and "Bharat Mata Ki Jai." A symbolic effigy of Pakistan was burnt at the Chowk to express public fury. Bhutto emphasized that the attack was not just on humanity but a direct assault on India's sovereignty and must be answered decisively.

CM congratulates SDRF for securing first position in national competitions

DINESH AGARWAL

SHIMLA, APR 26



Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has extended his felicitation to State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) for securing first position in the National level SDRF, CSRR competitions organized by NDRF at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh recently. The Chief Minister lauded the outstanding performance of the team and said that Himachal Pradesh was prone to many kinds of natural disasters and SDRF has to play an instrumental role in saving the valuable lives and carrying out rescue and rehabilitation operations. He said that the State Government was committed to strengthen the SDRF and equip it with the latest technology and modern equipments. Sukhu directed the Home department to establish a dog squad with SDRF to enhance rescue operations during natural calamities. He also instructed to commence the recruitment of 700 Home Guards immediately to bolster the manpower. ADGP Home Guards and Civil Defence department Satwant Atwal expressed her gratitude to the Chief Minister on behalf of the department for allocating Rs. 12 crore towards the procurement of modern equipments for the SDRF. She said that these latest equipments were also showcased during the competition at Ghaziabad and contributed to the team's success. The winning team comprising 18 members from Shimla, Mandi and Kangra Companies first clinched the top spot at the North Zone competitions and then bagged first position in the National event defeating seven States of the country. Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Anirudh Singh, OSD to the Chief Minister Gopal Sharma, Additional Chief Secretary Home Onkar Chand Sharma and senior officers were also present on the occasion.

CM participates in candlelight march in protest against Pahalgam Terror attack

DINESH AGARWAL

SHIMLA, APR 26



Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today joined a candlelight march organized by the Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee, held from Sher-e-Punjab to the historic Ridge Maidan in Shimla. The march was held in protest against the terror attack on the tourists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, on April 22, 2025. Congress leaders paid heartfelt tributes to the victims and expressed deep solidarity with the bereaved families. In-charge of State Congress Party Affairs and Rajya Sabha MP Rajni Patil, HPCC President Pratibha Singh, Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri, Health Minister Col (Dr.) Dhani Ram Shandil, Industries Minister Harshwardhan Chauhan, Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi, Education Minister Rohit Thakur, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Anirudh Singh, Mayor Surinder Chauhan, Chairman HPTDC R.S Bali, Vice Chairman State Planning board Bhawani Singh Pathania, Deputy Chief Whip Kewal Singh Pathania, MLAs, Senior Congress Party leaders and workers besides many others also took part in the protest.

Chief Minister said that any type of cowardly act won't be tolerated as it happened in Pahalgam. The Congress Party stands united with the Union Government in the fight against terrorism. "We wow to eliminate those external forces, who try to disturb the peace and pose threat to the security of the Nation" he said, adding that the Congress leaders including former Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajeev Gandhi laid their lives for the Unity and Integrity of the Nation. The killing of 28 tourists in Pahalgam, was yet an another brutal attack on the Integrity, security and sovereignty of India and the congress Party stands with the bereaved family members.

Over 51,000 youth receive appointment letters at 47 locations across India

DINESH AGARWAL

SHIMLA, APR 26



As part of a nationwide Rozgar Mela (employment fair), over 51,000 newly recruited individuals across 47 locations in the country were handed appointment letters today. Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually addressed the event and distributed appointment letters via video conferencing to successful candidates employed in various government departments and organizations. In Shimla, the event was held at the auditorium of the Central Potato Research Institute, Bemloe. Satish Chandra Dubey, Union Minister of State for Coal and Mines, attended the ceremony as the chief guest and personally handed out appointment letters to 25 of the 61 newly selected youth present. The remaining candidates received their appointment letters from Raja Ghosh, Joint Commissioner of Income Tax, Shimla. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Satish Chandra Dubey highlighted the scale and vision of the Rozgar Mela, stating that this was the 15th such event organized at the national level. He emphasized that the distribution of over 51,000 appointment letters across India today reaffirms the central government's strong commitment to employment generation. He added that these initiatives are being executed in "mission mode" to ensure wider outreach and efficiency. Dubey also mentioned that the central government is not only focused on public sector employment but is equally invested in creating opportunities in the private sector by supporting both small and large-scale industries. He said several schemes have been launched to promote both employment and self-employment across the country.

HPTDC to procure supplies worth Rs. 20-25 cr from Food and Supplies Corporation

DINESH AGARWAL

SHIMLA, APR 26



Chairman HPTDC R.S. Bali said that the Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (HPTDC) would now procure food items and other essential supplies directly from the Himachal Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation. He said that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to this effect was signed between HPTDC and Food Supplies Corporation here today.

R.S. Bali said that under this agreement, HPTDC would procure goods worth Rs. 20 to 25 crore annually through the Food and Supplies Corporation. At present HPTDC makes annual market purchases worth around Rs. 30 to 40 crore. As per the new arrangement, the Food and Supplies Corporation would supply A-grade material to HPTDC hotels, including ration, groceries and other essential items. He said that HPTDC would make payments to the Corporation within a period of one and a half month. Addressing a press conference in Shimla, R.S. Bali said that this agreement would benefit HPTDC by ensuring the availability of quality supplies at lower rates as compared to the open market. Quality parameters have been mutually agreed upon and shared with the Corporation to ensure the highest standards. R.S. Bali further said that HPTDC has achieved the highest-ever profit in the last two and a half years. The annual turnover of the Corporation has risen from Rs. 78 crore to Rs. 107 crore, crossing the Rs. 100 crore marks for the first time in its history, despite the challenges posed by natural disasters.

He said that during the last Board of Director's meeting in 2022, it was decided to provide gratuity to employees under the revised pay scales of 2016. A total of Rs. 41 crore has been disbursed to employees, in comparison to Rs. 26 crore distributed during the five-year tenure of previous government. He said that there was a need for renovation and maintenance of HPTDC hotels of the state and discussions have been held with the government in this regard.

Police post Tauni Devi adopts local school, launches awareness drive on drug abuse and road safety

RAJNEESH SHARMA

HAMIRPUR, APR 26



In a commendable initiative aimed at curbing the rising trends of drug abuse among youth, growing incidents of cybercrime, and negligence regarding road safety, the Tauni Devi police post has adopted the Government Senior Secondary School, Tauni Devi. This unique step seeks to protect students from the perils of addiction, spread societal awareness, and guide students toward a safer, more responsible future. Following the adoption, a special awareness camp was held on the school premises involving school staff, parents, local police officials, and students. School Principal Rajneesh Rangra expressed that such efforts are essential for the holistic development of students. He emphasized the collective responsibility to keep young minds away from drugs while instilling in them a sense of social accountability.

In his address, Police Post In-charge Rajesh Katoch detailed various types of drugs, their adverse effects, and the legal implications of drug abuse. He encouraged students to report any suspicious activity around them to the police or school authorities, stressing that guiding youth at the right time is a vital service to society. A special session on road safety was also conducted during the event. Police officials educated students on traffic rules, pedestrian safety, helmet and seatbelt use, and disciplined road behavior. To enhance practical understanding, students were taken to the nearby market area where they participated in real-time traffic management and safety demonstrations. This hands-on experience was both educational and engaging for the students. The awareness drive was strategically held on the school's monthly "Bag-Free Saturday," a day dedicated to experiential learning without traditional classroom baggage.

Manufacturing Mission to boost 'Make in India' and empower youth with global-standard skills: Satish Dubey

DINESH AGARWAL

SHIMLA, APR 26



Union Minister of State for Coal, Satish Chandra Dubey, addressed a Rozgar Mela event at CPRI Kanlog, as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's nationwide campaign to distribute over 51,000 appointment letters to candidates selected for various government jobs across 47 locations. In his address, the minister emphasized the critical role of youth in shaping a nation's success. "The youth of India are showcasing their capabilities through innovation and hard work, proving to the world the potential we hold," said Dubey. He highlighted that the government's initiatives such as Skill India, Startup India, and Digital India have opened new avenues for employment and entrepreneurship. Dubey pointed out that platforms like UPI, ONDC, and GeM are testaments to how Indian youth are leading the transformation of the digital economy. He remarked, "India now leads the world in real-time digital transactions, thanks to our tech-savvy youth." A major highlight of his speech was the recent budget announcement of a Manufacturing Mission, aimed at bolstering the Make in India initiative and giving Indian youth the opportunity to produce goods at a global standard. "This mission will not only support lakhs of MSMEs and small entrepreneurs but will also generate fresh employment opportunities across the country," he stated.

New Executive Committee formed for Hammer Ball Association Himachal; National Championship scheduled in June



JOGINDER DEV ARYA

BANGANA: The Hammer Ball Association of Himachal Pradesh has announced its newly formed executive committee, with Association President Abhay Rana declaring the appointments today. In the new structure, Aman Sharma has been named Chief Patron, while Jagdish Sahota has been appointed as Working President. Yogesh Mahindru will serve as Senior Vice President. The Vice Presidents nominated include Poorn Chand, Dr. Pankaj Rana, Vinod Kumar, and Sushil Thakur. Joginder Dev Arya has been assigned the role of General Secretary, while Ranbir, Praveen, Pawan Kumar, Gulshan Sharma, Jiyalal, Harinder Verma, and Shubham will serve as Secretaries. The committee also includes Sumit Sharma, Naresh Kumar, Vishal Bharti Sharma, and Brijesh Sharma as Members. Vinod Kumar Senti has been named Treasurer.

Memorandum submitted to Tehsildar Amb regarding terrorist attack in Pahalgam

AVINASH CHAUHAN

AMB, APR 26



The entire country is boiling due to the attack on tourists by terrorists in Pahalgam. Due to this, on Saturday, representatives of different religious Hindu organizations and Sunderkand Mandali, led by former MLA and BJP leader of Chintpurni assembly constituency Balbir Singh, submitted a memorandum to Tehsildar Amb Premlal Dhiman. District coordinator of Dharm Jagran Manch Satbir said that every time it is said that terrorists have no religion. If this is true, then the government should burn the terrorists instead of burying them. He demanded the government to take strict action against those doing anti-national activities. Balbir Singh said that this is a jihad being run against Hindu religion. In which people are being killed by asking about their religion. He demanded strict steps to curb such activities. Before this, these people took out a rally from Ambedkar Bhawan to SDM office and raised slogans against Pakistan and terrorism. On this occasion BJP leader Engineer Rampal, Kuldeep Singh Deepu, Vijay Kumar, President of Nagar Panchayat Amb Indu Dhiman, Kanchan Raijada and members of Sunderkand Mandali were present.

Kotla Kalan Welfare Youth Club organises Grand Cricket Tournament to combat drug abuse



KISHORI LAL BAINS

UNA: With the powerful message "Defeat Drugs, Save Youth," the Welfare Youth Club of Kotla Kalan has launched a grand cricket tournament aimed at promoting a drug-free lifestyle among the youth. The tournament features a total of 32 teams and will include 17 matches, attracting widespread participation and enthusiasm. The primary objective of the event is not just to foster sportsmanship, but also to steer young individuals away from the harmful effects of substance abuse by engaging them in constructive and competitive activities. Among the participating teams are Dangoli, Samur Kalan, Nangal Khurd, Saloh, Laldri, Ajnauli, Kuriala, Ghusada, Basoli, Takka, Haroli, Takhatgarh, Kotla Mini, Kalitra, Galuwa, Jalgran, Kangar, Rampur, Charola, Bahdala, Kotla Senior, Golthai, Tahliwal, Beetan, Diyara, Jwala Ji, Rakkad, and Sham Pandori — representing a wide range of local villages and towns. The tournament carries attractive cash prizes, with the winning team set to receive Rs. 31,000 and the runners-up Rs. 21,000.

Verma Jewellers hosts Akshaya Tritiya Exhibition in Shimla

DINESH AGARWAL

SHIMLA, APR 26



On the land known for its glorious history, enchanting hills, and rich culture, Verma Jewellers presents a truly special event — the Akshaya Tritiya Exhibition and Sales, which begins today at Hotel Holiday Home (HHH), Shimla, and will continue till 30th April 2025.

This grand event is being organized under the visionary leadership of Mr. Akshay Verma, Managing Director of Verma Jewellers. The creative direction has been beautifully led by Mrs. Pallavi Verma, who aims to offer every customer an unforgettable experience.

Akshaya Tritiya is a symbol of auspiciousness, prosperity, and new beginnings in Indian culture. Keeping this tradition alive, Verma Jewellers brings to you a unique collection of exquisite designs — inspired by tradition, yet infused with a modern touch.

At this event, you will not only witness exclusive collections of stunning jewellery, but also receive a pure gold coin as a complimentary gift on every purchase above Rs. 50,000 — a small gesture from us to make your festive occasion even more special. Verma Jewellers envisions building a North India-based jewellery chain that is truly customer-centric — a place where not just ornaments, but lasting relationships are crafted.

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60 women benefit from health camp organised by Chandigarh Press Club



CHANDIGARH: More than 60 women journalists and women family members of the Chandigarh Press Club members benefited from a health camp organised by the Chandigarh Press Club in association with the Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), Sector 32, at the Club premises on Saturday.

As part of the camp, 37 women underwent screening mammography for the early detection of breast malignancy, while 67 members availed themselves of bone density tests. The health camp, aimed at promoting preventive healthcare among women, was organised at the Club premises. The initiative was open to women journalists as well as women family members of the Club's members.

NEWS BRIEF

Sandhwan make surprise visit to Guru Gobind Singh Medical College and Hospital



SURINDER DAMDAMI
KOTKAPURA: The main objective of the Punjab government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann is to provide good health facilities to the people, so that the people of the state can live a healthy life. These things were expressed by the Speaker Punjab Vidhan Sabha Kultar Singh Sandhwan today while visiting the cancer ward and other wards at Guru Gobind Singh Medical College and Hospital.

On this occasion, S. Sandhwan said that the main objective of the Punjab government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann is to provide good health facilities to the people, so that the people of the state can live a healthy life.

Sher Bahadur Dhaliwal becomes President of Truck Union Rampura Phul



KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA
RAMPURA PHUL: Senior Aam Aadmi Party leader Sher Bahadur Dhaliwal has been appointed as President of Baba Inder Das Truck Union Rampura Phul and Mahinder Pal Bhola Sharma as Chairman. The newly appointed President Sher Bahadur Dhaliwal and Chairman Bhola Sarma bowed down before the statue of Baba Inder Das Ji and took blessings. Meanwhile, the truck operators and AAP workers present there welcomed the newly appointed Presidents Sher Bahadur Dhaliwal and Bhola Sarma by garlanding them with flowers.

Grand celebration of Techno Virsa-2025 at Rayat Bahra Education City



DALJEET AJNOHA
HOSHIARPUR: Rayat Bahra Education City, Hoshiarpur witnessed a grand celebration of its annual cultural festival "Techno Virsa-2025," organized with immense enthusiasm and vibrant spirit. The highlight of the evening was a spectacular musical performance by renowned Punjabi singer Gurnam Bhullar, who left the audience captivated. As soon as he took the stage, students broke into energetic dance moves on his popular tracks, transforming the venue into a lively and musical celebration. Special guests including Prem Singh Bhamra, Paramjit Kaur Bhamra (Preet Tractor Limited).

Youth should give up drugs to create a good society: Prof. Baljinder Kaur



KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA
RAMPURA PHUL: Under the campaign launched by the state government led by Chief Minister Punjab Bhagwant Mann, the youth should give up the scourge of drugs and create a good society. This information was given by Chief Whip and MLA from Talwandi Sabo Prof. Baljinder Kaur while honoring 52 students of Fateh Group of Institutions Rampura Phul who passed the Punjab Teacher Eligibility Test (PSTAT). On this occasion, Prof. Baljinder Kaur congratulated the students of the college and said that they have brought glory to the name of the institution by achieving this historic success. This is the first college in Punjab whose maximum number of students have passed this test in a single year. On this occasion, the chairman of the institution S. S. Chatha said that with this success, the institution has strengthened its identity not only in Punjab but also outside the state. This success has also proved to be inspiring for new students, who are dreaming of bringing social change by becoming teachers. On this occasion, Dean Academic Dr. Jagwinder Singh Sidhu emphasized that becoming a teacher is not just a job, but a responsibility to create society. MD. Manjit Kaur Chatha emphasized on teaching ethics and dedication to the students for the future. Assistant Director of the institution, Public Relations Officer Harpreet Sharma said, this is the result of joint hard work. We are always ready to provide quality education to the students.

Bhullar felicitates 102-year-old Champion Jagtar Singh among 22-medal triumph in National Masters Games

FEROZEPUR, APR 26

Athletes from Ferozepur district made the region proud at the National Masters Games (NMG)2025, held in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh from April 21 to 23, where around 2,000 veteran athletes from across the country participated. Competitors ranged in age from 30 to over 100 years.

To honour these achievers, Ferozepur City MLA Ranbir Singh Bhullar invited the athletes to his office, where he felicitated them and announced a cash reward of Rs 21,000 for the District Masters Athletics Association.

Among the standout participants was 102-year-old Jagtar Singh Dhanoa from Ferozepur, one of India's oldest athletes, who secured three gold medals.

A 14-member team, led by Dr. Gurinderjeet Singh Dhillon, President of the District Masters Athletics Association, and General Secretary Ishwar Sharma, represented Ferozepur in the competition. Their achievements included - Jagtar Singh (102 years): 3 Gold Medals, Satpal Sharma (80+ years): 1 Gold, 1 Silver, 1 Bronze Medal, Darshan Singh Gill (75+ years): 2 Silver, 1 Bronze Medal, Dr. Gurinderjeet Singh Dhillon (70+ years): 2



Gold, 1 Silver Medal, Dr. Surjit Singh Sidhu (65+ years): 2 Bronze Medals, Har Varinder Singh and Dalip Singh (60+ years): 2 Silver Medals each, Rakesh Kumar (55+ years): 1 Bronze Medal, Ishwar Sharma (50+ years): 2 Silver Medals (Shot Put and Javelin Throw), Harjeet Singh (45+ years): 1 Bronze Medal (Shot Put), Pargat Singh (40+ years): 1 Gold Medal with a new national record (Hammer Throw), Simranjeet Kamboj (35+ years): Competed in Javelin Throw with a strong performance and Kamlesh Rani (65+ years, Women's category): 1 Bronze Medal (100-meter race). Speaking on the occasion, MLA Bhullar praised the veteran athletes, calling them the pride of Ferozepur and Punjab.

He assured that the government would continue to support and honor such athletes.

A 14-member team, led by Dr. Gurinderjeet Singh Dhillon, President of the District Masters Athletics Association, and General Secretary Ishwar Sharma, represented Ferozepur in the competition.

Residents of Padiala village protest against NHA dumping sewage water into the ground through boreholes



SHASHI PAL JAIN
KHARAR, APR 26

Today, a large number of people gathered in Padiala village near Kurali city and raised slogans against NHAI. Speaking on the occasion, prominent sports promoter Gurpartap Singh Padiala General Secretary (Punjab Kisan Congress) said that Bharat Mala roads are being constructed by the National Highway Authority of India, which are also passing through Padiala village.

He said that water is being directly discharged into the ground by making large boreholes on the sides of these roads for water drainage. In which sewage water is also being dumped without being cleaned. He said that due to this dirty water, the underground drinking water is also getting polluted, due to which many villages in the area will have to bear the brunt of it. He said that drinking this contaminated water will cause cancer and other serious diseases.

He said that there is huge resentment among the villagers due to this wrong action of NHI.

He has also appealed to the administration to get this investigated on priority basis and get these boreholes closed. Appropriate action should be taken against those who are mixing the sewage water with the clean drinking water of the underground by getting these boreholes drilled. The villagers who gathered on this occasion have said that the water of Punjab is already being polluted on a large scale. Now they will not let the water of their village and nearby villages get polluted. If the administration does not pay attention to this, then they will be forced to fight a big fight but they will not allow the drinking water to be polluted in this way.

On this occasion, Hardev Singh Somal, Surinderpal Singh, Pal Singh, Hardev Singh, Ravi Singh, Natha Singh Pradhan, Gurjit Singh, Sonu Ratia, Mani Chahal, Santi Padiala, Jolly Padiala, Paramjit Singh Pradhan, Bila Ratia, Surmukh Singh Padiala, Jang Singh Padiala, Sounki Rana, Happy Padiala and a large number of villagers were present.

Thapar students lead urban green revolution





SHASHI PAL JAIN
PATIALA, APR 26

Second-year students of Thapar School of Liberal Arts (TSLAS), Patiala are working on ushering in urban green revolution in Patiala city by way of promoting vertical gardening and potted plant cultivation.

The team of seven students including Risham Sidhu, Ananya Chugh, Vansh, Navraj Singh, Arpan Gill, Kiranjot Kaur and Reetinder Brar have been working since August 2023. Giving information Risham said that the group has conducted hands-on training workshops of vertical gardens and held poster competitions of students from various schools. The project titled Urban Planning & Design Strategies Addressing the Diminishing Availability of Green Spaces – aims at increasing green cover by involving every household. Risham said that Patiala is already known for its green pockets like Baradari Gardens, Bir Moti Bagh Wildlife Sanctuary, PUDA Park, environment park etc. But the city needs to retain its green cover in households too for which the project was launched.

The vertical gardening also promotes reuse of plastic bottles thereby sending the message promoting reuse, recycle and reduce. It majorly addresses the lack of spaces for green cultivation. The team conducted a public survey of city people to know their demands.

The researchers simultaneously collaborated with experts from gardening and architecture fields and economic specialists for professional insights into solving the problems and developing possible solutions. Nurseries in Patiala taught them fundamental sustainable plant species knowledge and urban greening practices that completed their research through practical interaction.

The members teamed up with NGO Plus Green to lead a community plantation initiative in areas of Khalsa College Colony.

Gurpartap Singh Padiala held candlelight march in memory of innocent people killed in Pahalgam



SHASHI PAL JAIN
KHARAR, APR 26

A candlelight march was held by the residents of the area under the leadership of prominent sports promoter Gurpartap Singh Padiala, General Secretary (Punjab Kisan Congress), in memory of the innocent tourists killed by terrorists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir.

Talking to reporters on this occasion, Gurpartap Singh Padiala said that innocent tourists who went to visit Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, have been killed in a very brutal manner by terrorists. With that incident, the hearts of people who love humanity all over the world have been wounded. No amount of condemnation of this heinous and humiliating incident is enough. This candle march started from city heart market and ended at the bus stand chowk through the main market. On this occasion, Swaran Kaur (Chairperson Human Rights), Manpreet Kaur, Surinder Kaur, Swaranjit Kaur, President Mahila Congress, Balwinder Singh Patwari, Kulwinder Singh, Nirmal Singh Secretary Halalpur, Ranveer Singh Rana Desu Majra, Babbu Kharar, Ravinder Singh Bobby, Manmohan Singh, MP Jassar, Surjit Singh Lakhnoor, Satwinder Singh, Billa Jandpur, Jass Kharar, Jolly Padiala, Surinder Singh Jeevan Jyot, Mohan Singh, Amarjit Singh Sarpanch, Kulwant Singh, Harinder Singh, Pritam Singh, Moti Ram, Mani Kharar, Karamjit Singh and a large number of local residents were present.

Excise departments conducts special checking of bars in Kharar



SHASHI PAL JAIN
KHARAR, APR 26

On the directions of Ashok Chalhotra , Assistant Commissioner (Excise), Ropar Range, a special checking of bars was conducted across the entire district of Mohali in the early hours of 26 April. During the checking, a bar named Punjab Street, (Wild Sage) Kharar was found operational at around 2:40 AM, in violation of the permissible closing time of 12:00 AM.

The inspection team comprising Excise Inspector Vikas Kumar, along with Police staff, Balongi recovered the following liquor meant for sale in other states from the premises 5 bottles of Jägermeister (for sale in Chandigarh) 2 bottles of Jim Beam (for sale in Chandigarh), 2 bottles of Teacher's (for sale in Chandigarh), 17 pints of Budweiser beer (meant for sale in Haryana), 15 Hookahs.

The liquor recovered was found to be meant for sale in Chandigarh and Haryana, indicating interstate smuggling. Accordingly, FIR No. 94 dated 26.04.2025 under Sections 61/1/14 of the Punjab Excise Act and Sections 21, 22 of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition) Act has been registered at against Ramandeep Singh Furthermore, a challan for violation of Rule 37(9) of the Punjab Liquor License Rules (PLLR) has also been issued in addition to the FIR.

Two residents of Longowal arrested with narcotic pills

RAVI GARG
LONGOWAL, APR 26

Working under the directions of senior district police officers under the Punjab government's campaign 'War Against Drugs', the police of Police Station Longowal have arrested two persons and recovered narcotic pills.

Sharing information with the media, SHO of Police Station Longowal Sardar Balwant Singh Baling said that according to the information received, Assistant Police Station Officer Beant Singh 1997/Sang Police Station Longowal along with the police party were checking suspicious persons during patrolling on Kunnar Road. Meanwhile, Jagjit Singh alias Jag son of Naseeb Singh resident of Patti Wardiani Longowal and supplier Gurpal Singh alias Pali son of Kewal Singh resident of Patti Sunami were arrested after recovering eight sheets of narcotic pills, each sheet containing 15 pills, brand ALTRA SAFE 0.5 and ALPRAZOLAM TAB. IP 0.5, totaling 120 pills.

In this case, case number 38 dated 25.04.2025 under section 22/61/85 NDPS Act was registered at Police Station Longowal. 4 cases under NDPS Act are registered against the above accused Jagjit Singh alias Jag son of Naseeb Singh resident of Patti Wardiani and 2 cases under NDPS Act are registered against Gurpal Singh alias Pali son of Kewal Singh resident of Patti Sunami. Both the accused are being produced before the court of the Honorable Area Magistrate, Sangrur.

BFCET, Bathinda and MNIT Jaipur successfully organizes one-day National Conference 'RISEN-25'



ANANTDEEP KAUR
BATHINDA, APR 26

The Department of Mechanical Engineering, Baba Farid College of Engineering and Technology (BFCET), Bathinda in collaboration with the Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, Malviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT), Jaipur, organized a one-day National Conference 'RISEN-25' on 'Recent Innovations in Science, Engineering and Networking' on April 25, 2025. The conference served as an important platform for knowledge exchange and networking among academicians, researchers and students. In the inaugural session of this conference, BFGI Campus Director, Bathinda, Prof. (Dr.) M.P. Poonia attended as the Chief Guest while Prof. Ujjwal Kalla from NIT, Delhi and Dr. Randhir Kumar Singh from MNIT, Jaipur were present as the Special Guests. The inaugural session was inaugurated by all the guests and eminent personalities present. On this occasion, Dr. Tejinder Pal Singh Sarao, Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering, BFCET, Bathinda warmly welcomed the guests and delegates.

12 Executive Officers transferred from Kharar Municipal Council in almost two and half years

SHASHI PAL JAIN
KHARAR , APR 26

The Local Government Department of the Punjab Government is considering the post of Executive Officer of Kharar Municipal Council as a football and is transferring officers from here and after the coming to power of this Government, a dozen Executive Officers have been transferred from here.

It is surprising that as soon as any officer gets information about the situation in Kharar, he is transferred. Under the same series, Ravi Kumar, who had taken over the post of Executive Officer of Kharar on December 3, 2024, was transferred from here last evening.

In his place, Gurbakshish Singh, working in Municipal Council Lalru, has been posted in Kharar. Surprisingly, Mr. Ravi Kumar had come here and accelerated development and other works and tried to bring the work on track and many development works had also started when suddenly he was transferred from here. The population of Kharar is increasing day by day and according to an estimate, the population here is above 3 lakh and the local Municipal Council has crores of rupees in the form of funds in the banks. The mutual tension between the councilors is at its peak and due to the non-appointment of a permanent executive officer and other officers here, development works are affected and many areas have become slums.

When the current Government came to power, the then executive officer Rajesh Sharma was transferred from here on 5 July 2022 and Balvir Singh was appointed, who remained here till 10 August 2022. After that, Manvir Singh Gill came and remained here till 27 February 2023. After this, Gurdeep Singh came who stayed for 2 and a half years on 11 May 2023. After this, Ashok Patharia stayed here for only four days. After him, Gurdeep Singh came here again who stayed here till 30 June 2023. After him, Sukhdev Singh came here and was transferred on 14 December 2023. After that, Manveer Singh Gill came who was transferred from here on 2 September 2024. In his place, Ravneet Singh took charge and his transfer was done on 3 December. After that, Ravi Kumar came and he was transferred last evening. There is a lot of discussion among the people about this matter and there is a feeling of dissatisfaction over the performance of this department. People are saying that either the Punjab Government does not have any officer who is capable of Kharar Municipal Council or the Government considers Kharar city to be completely useless and keeps changing the officers at its whim.

Zirakpur police achieves major success

VICKY BHABAT
ZIRAKPUR, APR 26

Zirakpur Police solved the case of a blind murder committed in front of Gold Mark on Old Kalka Road yesterday within 12 hours and arrested the murderer. Giving information, DSP Circle Zirakpur Jaspinder Singh said that yesterday they had received information that a person had been murdered on Old Kalka Road.

When they went to the spot, they found the body of Chamkaur Singh, son of Balbir Singh, resident of village Kulara, district Patiala, who had come to Zirakpur in a truck with his companion Rahul, son of Lal Chand, resident of Bhinder Colony, Mysore Road, Baba Samana, district Patiala, to dump sugarcane. He said that



the driver of that truck, Rahul, who was present at the spot, said that he and Chamkaur Singh had eaten bread and slept at night. When they woke up in the morning, they found that Chamkaur Singh was not in the truck. When he searched, an unknown person had murdered him. The DSP said that while taking immediate action, the police station chief Gagandeep Singh, along with the police party, conducted a thorough investigation and found that his accomplice Rahul was the murderer. He said that they had a fight at night over something and Rahul hit Chamkaur Singh on the head several times with a rod, due to which he died on the spot.

We had published in the newspaper yesterday that Rahul, who is the truck driver, was raising suspicion about the murder. Even after the murder was discovered at 6 am, the police were not informed till 11 am and the body was also removed from the scene of the incident and kept in the truck, which was pointing the needle of

School cabinet appointed at manav mangal SMART WORLD



VICKY BHABAT
ZIRAKPUR, APR 26

The school's cabinet was today appointed at manav mangal SMART WORLD. A formal ceremony was held in the school Auditorium. The Head Boy, Head Girl, Sports

Captain, Sports Vice Captain, Discipline Incharge and Prefects along with the Captains and Vice Captains of four houses - Green Champions, Green Acers, Green Marvels and Green Crusaders took their oaths. The manuscript with duties of the Prefects was presented to all the cabinet members. The young leaders took a formal oath to abide by the rules of the school and perform their duties with loyalty. The oath taking ceremony was followed by speeches of the Head Girl - Ms. Saundarya Singh and the Head Boy - Mst. Gourish. They expressed their gratitude for entrusting them with the responsibility and shared their commitment to serve the students and work for the betterment of the school.

Mohali hospital launches obesity helpline no for free consultation



SUMER GARG
CHANDIGARH, APR 26

Dr. Amit Garg, senior associate director of bariatric & metabolic surgery during a press conference said today, "Park hospital, Mohali today launched an obesity helpline number 7562000000, where patients can book a free consultation for weight. The hospital is also going to start training young doctors for bariatric surgery soon". Dr Garg further said, "A recent study puts an alarming 70% of India's urban population in the obese or overweight bracket taking the country right in the middle of a fat explosion." He further shared that according to a study published in the noted journal Lancet, India is just behind the US and China in this global hazard list of top 10 countries with the highest number of obese people.

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CHANDIGARH
SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2025

YUGMARG
News

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Ardaas Club organized free eye checkup camp

SARDULGARH (KULWINDER KARWAL): Today a free eye check-up camp was organised by Ardaas Charitable Trust, a social service organisation of Sardulgarh. On this occasion, club president Manjit Singh Soni said that today was the third death anniversary of his father, late Atma Singh, so he organized a camp with the support of Ardaas charitable Club and the city residents. Dr. Balram Jalandhara from Sirsa had arrived at the camp with his team. Around 350 people underwent eye examinations in the camp, out of which 70 people will undergo eye surgeries, which will be done free of cost by the club. Free medicines were given to the people who came for check-up in today's camp. He said that apart from this, the Ardaas Club also carries out other social welfare activities such as the Roti Bank, which has been running for the last two years.



NEWS BRIEF

1 arrested for stealing fuel from petrol pump

SUKH NAHAR

JAGRAON : Under its campaign against bad elements being carried out under the guidance of SSP Dr. Ankur Gupta, District Ludhiana Rural police has arrested one person for stealing fuel from petrol pump. Giving detailed information about this, Sub-Division Dakha DSP Varinder Singh Khosa said that police had received complaint from the owner of petrol pump in which he mentioned that some unidentified persons got their car filled with fuel of rupees 2590 and ran away without paying money. "Police had filed FIR 50 under section 316(2), 125, 281 of BNS and arrested one of the two accused, namely Sukhdeep Singh son of Jaswinder Singh alongwith the said vehicle," he added. DSP khosa further said that in further interrogation the accused cofnessed that he was accompanied by his brother Arshdeep in the incident so, he too has been nominated in the FIR. Police shall obtain remand of the accused as more revelations are highly probable.

Bumper wheat production – 124 lakh metric tonnes procurement target to be easily achieved: Kataruchakk



ASHISHPURI

KAPURTHALA: Punjab's Food and Civil Supplies Minister, Shri Lal Chand Kataruchakk, stated that due to the hard work of farmers during the current season, there has been a bumper wheat production, and the government's procurement target of 124 lakh metric tonnes will be achieved with ease. The Cabinet Minister visited the grain market in Kapurthala today to review the wheat procurement process. He said that under the leadership of Punjab Chief Minister Shri Bhagwant Singh Mann, the state government has ensured smooth procurement through effective arrangements related to cash credit limits, mandis (grain markets), gunny bags, and lifting. He informed that so far, around 90 lakh metric tonnes of wheat have arrived in the mandis, out of which 82 lakh metric tonnes have been procured by state agencies such as PUNSUP, Punjab State Warehousing Corporation, MARKFED, and PUNGRAIN.

Inder Sen unanimously elected as President of Taxation Bar for second time

SHARMA

LUDHIANA: An important meeting of Taxation Bar Association (TBA) was held at Income Tax Bhawan in Rishi Nagar, in which a large number of tax practitioners and tax expert lawyers participated. On this occasion, the executive committee of TBA was elected unanimously for two years 2025-27. In which Advocate Inder Sen Sharma was elected as President for the second consecutive time, Advocate Surinder Sehgal as General Secretary, Advocate Aman Tandon as Finance Secretary, Advocate Gaurav Sharma as General Secretary. Advocate Gagan Kalra, Advocate Vivek Maini, Advocate Sham Sundar, Advocate Narinder Goyal Judge, Advocate Narkanwal Singh Sethi were elected as executive members. On this occasion, expressing happiness on Inder Sen Sharma being unanimously elected as President for the second consecutive time, Vivek Sharma and other member lawyers welcomed him. While thanking everyone, President Indrasen Sharma said that in upcoming times, a better atmosphere will be maintained between the bar and the bench and work will be done to provide relief to the taxpayers.

Govt will soon recruit 2000 PTI teachers to nurture sports talent in schools: Bains

SUMER GARG
CHANDIGARH, APR 26

In a significant push to further strengthen the state's education system and nurture sports talent at school level amidst the ongoing "Sikhya Kranti" program, Punjab Government will recruit 2000 Physical Training Instructor (PTI) teachers for primary schools across the state, announced Harjot Singh Bains, minister of school education, Punjab.

He said that the requisition has been forwarded to the Recruitment Board of the School Education department to fill these posts, emphasising that the recruitment process will be merit-based and in a transparent manner. While highlighting the Chief Minister, Bhagwant Singh Mann led Punjab Government's efforts, Harjot Singh Bains said that the government has already filled over 13000 school teachers vacancies in the past three years, including 4006 Master Cadre teachers and 7351 ETT teachers. The government has also prioritised promotions across various cadres, including 2600 Master Cadre teachers promoted as Lecturers, 425 ETT teachers promoted as Master Cadre teachers, 350 PTIs promoted as DPEs, 57 Principals promoted as DEOs, 75 non-teaching staff promoted as



Master Cadre teachers, and 450 Master Cadre teachers promoted as Headmaster.

The recruitment of PTI teachers would supplement the Punjab Government's drive to establish playgrounds in all schools, ensuring students have access to proper sports infrastructure. These PTI teachers will play a pivotal role in training students, promoting physical fitness, and channelizing their energy into constructive activities, fostering discipline, teamwork, and overall well-being of the students, the Education Minister added.

He further said that the Chief Minister, Bhagwant Singh Mann led Punjab Government has been pulling all stops to ensure a robust and accessible education system that empowers students to reach their full potential and nurture academic excellence to transform Punjab's educational landscape. The school education secretary, Ms. Anindita Mitra informed that the details regarding application process and eligibility criteria would be available on the official website educationrecruitmentboard.com within seven days.

While divulging the qualification details for the PTI teachers, she said that an applicant must have passed 10th class with Punjabi and he/she should have passed 10+2 with at least two years diploma or certificate in Physical Education as Diploma in Physical Education or certificate in Physical Education (D.P.Ed/C.P.Ed) or have done this course with any other nomenclature. The eligible candidates will be shortlisted based on their qualifications and performance in a written exam and physical fitness test.

Roadmap to boost sustainable farming unveiled



SUMER GARG
CHANDIGARH, APR 26

A roadmap to empower farmers holistically through science based innovative use of biological was unveiled by Syngenta India. Mr Susheel Kumar, the company's MD said,"Farming is faced with multifaceted challenges. Therefore, we need to adopt a multipronged strategy to make sure that crops are cultivated in a viable and sustainable way. Biologicals are the core of our best practices aimed at enhancing soil health, boosting crop resilience and providing a holistic solution to the Indian farmers Susheel, while stressing the need for innovation said that farmers are faced with several challenges in guaranteeing food security globally. He said that the food chain and public pressure for better residue management in food, further limits farming options. "Reduced solution efficacy due to resistance and pest shifts demands new modes of action," he said.

While stressing the need for a policy drive for sustainable agriculture, Mr Susheel highlighted, "We need different tools to realize a modern form of agriculture. Meeting the challenge requires a significant effort and biologicals and seed treatment is at the forefront of this shift. By boldly innovating, we can transform the future of food security for us all." Talking about biologicals, Susheel said that natural microbial, seaweed and plant extracts help in nutrient cycling, pest and disease management, and improving plant growth. "Three main types of biologicals, including, biostimulants, nutrient use efficiency products and bio control, provide farmers with more choices to manage resistance, improve soil health, reduce residue in foods.

Alumni reunite with fond memories at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Government College, Jagdishpura



SANJAY SHARMA
KAITHAL, APR 26

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Government College, Jagdishpura, witnessed a nostalgic and celebratory gathering as it hosted its third Convocation Ceremony, Annual Prize Distribution, and Alumni Meet titled "Retrive-2025". The occasion brought together dignitaries, staff, students, and alumni for a day of reflection, recognition, and rekindled bonds.

The event commenced with a traditional academic procession. Chief Guest Prof. Sudesh Chhikara, Vice-Chancellor of Bhagat Phool Singh University, Khanpur, and Special Guest Dr. Sanjay Goyal, Registrar of Maharshi Valmiki Sanskrit University, were warmly welcomed by Principal Dr. Manoj Bhambhu and the faculty.

In his address, Dr. Bhambhu presented the college's annual report highlighting its achievements and facilities. Prof. Chhikara officially inaugurated the convocation, where approximately 140 graduates received their undergraduate and postgraduate degrees. Addressing the audience, she emphasized the responsibility graduates hold in nation-building and reiterated the timeless significance of the teacher-student relationship, especially in the age of AI.

The event continued with the Annual Prize Distribution, led by Prof. Renu Gupta, recognizing 70 students for excellence in academics, sports, cultural activities, and social service. Certificates and cash awards were presented to the meritorious students.

The celebration culminated in the Retrive-2025 alumni meet. Former students from across the country returned to their alma mater, reliving college memories and sharing their life journeys.

Naveen Jindal foundation conducts free health camp in Satoda and Jhivredi villages



YAGYADATT SHASTRI
PEHOWA, APR 26

With the objective of delivering free healthcare services to rural communities, a medical van initiated by MP Naveen Jindal reached the villages of Jhivredi and Satoda on Saturday. Led by Dr. Puranmal, the health camp offered checkups and distributed free medicines to residents.

In Satoda, 32 individuals received medications and 9 underwent lab tests, while in Jhivredi, 24 OPD consultations were recorded along with 2 lab tests. In total, 67 people benefited from the free medical services.

Dharmveer Singh, in charge of the MP's office, stated that while Prime Minister Narendra Modi has envisioned a developed India by 2047, MP Naveen Jindal has taken up the mission to achieve this goal for the Kurukshetra parliamentary constituency by 2035.

Singh added that Jindal aims to make the region a leader in education, healthcare, development, and employment through various people-centric initiatives.

Lecture on quantum computing marks World Quantum Day at Matak Majri College



MAINPAL KASHYAP
INDRI, APR 26

Shaheed Udham Singh Government College, Matak Majri, observed World Quantum Day with an inspiring extension lecture aimed at spreading awareness about the rapidly evolving field of quantum science and technology. The event, organized under the guidance of Principal Dr. Mahender Singh Baghi, featured a special online session by Dr. Pradeep Kumar, Professor, Department of Computer Science and Applications, Kurukshetra University.

Delivering a lecture on "Introduction to Quantum Computing and its Future Prospects", Dr. Kumar elucidated how quantum theory could revolutionize computing, cryptography, and problem-solving methods in the coming era.

He provided a clear and engaging explanation of foundational quantum concepts such as quantum bits (qubits), entanglement, and superposition. He also highlighted the global advancements in quantum technology and emphasized India's growing role in the field.

More than 40 students attended the session, which proved highly educational and thought-provoking. Principal Dr. Baghi praised the organizing committee and stated, "Introducing students to emerging technologies like quantum computing is a crucial step toward shaping a future-ready generation."

Vaishya Aggarwal Panchayat boosts tourism and social welfare in Kurukshetra

HANS RAJ
KURUKSHETRA, APR 26

The historic Shri Vaishya Aggarwal Panchayat of Kurukshetra continues to play a vital role in promoting tourism, social welfare, and development projects across the city. In addition to its ongoing contributions in the fields of social service, education, religion, and healthcare, the Panchayat is currently undertaking the construction of Maharaja Agrasen Bhavan in Sector-8, which is progressing rapidly. Providing details, Panchayat President Satya Prakash Gupta and Treasurer Kapil Mittal informed that the basement and first-floor slab of the building have been completed, while the second floor is under construction.



The upcoming structure will house two multipurpose halls and 12 air-conditioned rooms. Plans also include a physiotherapy centre and a charitable para-lab facility. The leaders also highlighted the nearing completion of 16 air-conditioned rooms at the Aggarwal Dharamshala near the railway station, which will soon be made available for visiting pilgrims and tourists. In addition, newly constructed rooms at the Aggarwal Dharamshala in Moti Chowk have also been completed, further enhancing facilities for visitors.

Gupta emphasised that for years, the Panchayat has significantly contributed to the hospitality of domestic and international tourists visiting this sacred city. He further noted that the foundation stone for the new Maharaja Agrasen Bhavan was laid a few months ago by Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini.

The current executive committee had pledged to complete the building within a year, and the project is well on track toward fulfilling that commitment.

Veer Ras Poetry Recitation held at Arya Senior Secondary School, Thanesar to foster national unity

KURUKSHETRA (HANS RAJ): Arya Senior Secondary School, Thanesar, organised a Veer Ras (heroic verse) poetry recitation event in its auditorium today to inspire patriotism and national unity among students. The event saw wholehearted participation from students of all classes, who presented stirring poems echoing courage and love for the motherland. The programme was held in the context of the recent gruesome terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir, where innocent Hindus were brutally murdered. Expressing deep national outrage over the incident, the school sensitised students about the attack and used poetry to spread a message of collective strength and harmony among children, teachers, and society.



Delegation of numberdars meets Governor Punjab to support war against drugs



CHANDIGARH (RN KHERA): A delegation of the Numberdar Association Ghalib today called on the Governor of Punjab, Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, and assured him that the Numberdar community would not stand surety for bail to individuals involved in drug trafficking. The move is aimed at extending full support to the Punjab Government's ongoing war against drugs. During the meeting, the delegation informed the Governor that efforts are underway to sensitize all Numberdars across the State—around 35,000 in number—to strictly refrain from supporting drug dealers in any manner, including standing as bail sureties.

The delegation also placed several demands before the Governor, including an increase in their honorarium, exemption from toll taxes on National and State Highways, free bus travel facilities, health insurance, and the provision of separate rooms for Numberdars in Tehsil and District Administrative Complexes.

The Governor appreciated the Association's resolve to support the anti-drug campaign and assured the delegation that their demands would be considered sympathetically and taken up with the concerned authorities. The delegation was led by Mr. Parminder Singh Galib, State President of Numberdars Union.

Himachal Pradesh
Public Works Department
E-Procurement Notice
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1. The Executive Engineer HPPWD Arki Distt. Solan H.P on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system in 2 cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD Department.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of tender	Eligible class of contract	Time
1	Construction of link road to village Bohi Km. 0/0 to 4/970(SH:- Formation cutting, Passing places i/c retaining walls,Slab Culvert, C.D. works, GSB, WBM, Grade-II&III, Tarring works, V shape drain, Parapets, Sign Board etc.in km. 0/0 to 4/970)Under NABARD RIDF-XXX i/c five years maintenance.	6,66,30,331/-	13,32,700/-	5000/-	Class A	18 Months
2	Annual Maintenance of Shalaghat to Dadhogi road km. 0/0 to 5/0(SH:-Providing renewal 25mm thick Bitumenious concrete in km 0/0 to 5/0)including five years maintenance.	92,54,022/-	1,85,100	2000/-	Class A, B, C	2 Months

2. **Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission:** The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website http://hptenders.gov.in
Bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: http://hptenders.gov.in Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

Key Dates

1.	Date of Online Publication	30.04.2025 10.00 HRS
2.	Documents Download Start and End date	06.05.2025 10.30 HRS upto 15.05.2025 18 HRS
3.	Bid Submission Start and End Date	06.05.2025 10.30 HRS upto 15.05.2025 18 HRS
4.	Date of Technical Bid opening ,Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid	16.05.2025 11.30 HRS

1. **BID OPENING DETAILS:** The bids shall be opened on 16.05.2025 at 11.00HRS in the office of Executive Engineer, HP,PWD, Arki divn /Superintending Engineer, 3rd Circle, HP,PWD, Solan HP by the authorized officer. In their interest the tenderer are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
2. The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website **www.hptenders.gov.in**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
HPPWD Division Arki
Distt. Solan H.P
on behalf ofGovernor of Himachal Pradesh

DPR-HP-0351/2025-2026

DIRECTORATE OF PUNJAB STATE LOTTERIES
DRAW TIME: 06:00 PM ONWARDS DRAW DATE:26/04/2025
RESULT OF PUNJAB STATE DEAR 10 MERCURY SATURDAY WEEKLY LOTTERY
MRP Rs 10/- Per Ticket

1st Prize Amount (10)Rs.10,000/-,Common to all series (On last 4 digits)
(Seller Prize Amount Rs.500/-, Total Prize Amount Rs.10500/- each)
8547

2nd Prize Amount (10)Rs.2000/-, Common to all series (On last 4 digits)
(Seller Prize Amount Rs.200/-, Total Prize Amount Rs.2200/- each)
6229

3rd Prize Amount (100)Rs.500/-, Common to all series (On last 4 digits)
(Seller Prize Amount Rs.50/-, Total Prize Amount Rs.550/- each)
0302 0907 1475 1663 4080 4547 4883 5377 6593 7663

4th Prize Amount (100)Rs.200/-, Common to all series (On last 4 digits)
(Seller Prize Amount Rs.20/-, Total Prize Amount Rs.220/- each)
0981 1089 2630 2845 5303 5878 6556 6724 7834 7843

5th Prize Amount (2000)Rs.100/-, Common to all series (On last 4 digits)
(Seller Prize Amount Rs.10/-, Total Prize Amount Rs.110/- each)
0024 0078 0179 0196 0261 0331 0332 0530 0644 0673
0675 0676 0686 0761 0889 0930 1036 1102 1113 1117
1158 1183 1195 1228 1274 1275 1282 1337 1382 1436
1488 1558 1583 1654 1686 1703 1727 1818 1862 1910
1922 1955 1976 1983 2206 2249 2287 2405 2450 2451
2470 2525 2526 2662 2705 2707 2760 2815 2885 3015
3093 3105 3148 3231 3287 3288 3557 3615 3787 3793
3803 3982 3989 4106 4140 4240 4304 4366 4388 4450
4471 4504 4517 4545 4556 4606 4615 4637 4638 4705
4892 4896 4912 4933 5100 5127 5131 5180 5181 5239
5259 5427 5453 5507 5615 5638 5650 5696 5735 5817
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6703 6707 6763 6836 6851 6900 6959 6975 6996 7134
7161 7185 7245 7309 7450 7464 7529 7704 7732 7767
7870 7885 8006 8060 8169 8203 8240 8265 8273 8293
8296 8351 8383 8471 8538 8542 8565 8579 8580 8769
8829 8883 8908 8993 9013 9045 9054 9094 9138 9166
9218 9267 9304 9331 9371 9437 9529 9601 9626 9627
9702 9709 9844 9848 9859 9871 9885 9934 9937 9944

Issued by DIRECTORATE OF PUNJAB STATE LOTTERIES
Kindly Check The Final Result With Official Gazette Notification

DPR PB-PR-Advt. No :- 26/11/187/2023/43623

TV stars honour the rhythm of dance on International Dance Day



CHANDIGARH: International Dance Day, observed on 29th April, celebrates the stories that dance tells without a single word. More than just an art form, dance is emotion in motion—a powerful expression of culture, spirit, and connection. From classical performances to carefree twirls around a room, dance has the power to uplift, inspire, and heal. It builds relationships and forges bonds through shared rhythm. Marking this day, Zee TV actors – Kishori Shahane from Kaise Mujhe Tum Mil Gaye, Priya Thakur from Vasudha, Munira Kudrati from Bhagya Lakshmi, Simaran Kaur from Jamai No. 1 and Rachana Mistry from Jagriti-Ek Nayi Subah honour the beauty of this universal language and share cherished memories of how dance has touched their lives.

Kishori Shahane who essays the role of Babita in Zee TV's Kaise Mujhe Tum Mil Gaye said, "For me, dance is discipline and expression. It has been a part of my routine since I started working in the entertainment industry, and it is one of my favourite parts of the job. Dance has been a stress buster for me for the longest time, and even on the sets of Kaise Mujhe Tum Mil Gaye, in between takes, we get together and create dance routines. This definitely adds some unscripted fun moments to our shoot days. Another core memory associated with dance for me is working on some choreography with my son. We choose our favourite trending songs and work on some dance routines, and this time together has definitely strengthened our bond. Dance has always been my passion, and social media has truly motivated me to keep pursuing my dance skills, including performing on stage. This International Dance Day, I hope everyone grooves a little to their favourite songs and has a fabulous time!"

Priya Thakur, who essays the role of Vasudha in Zee TV's Vasudha said, "Dance has always held a special place in my heart. Playing some Hindi songs and dancing along to them is a therapeutic experience for me, and it helps me feel grounded whenever I feel stressed or overwhelmed. I still remember my performances during the Zee Rishtey Awards this year, and I was very nervous before they started, especially the one with my co-star Abhishek. However, once the music started flowing, and with his support, it turned out to be one of my favourite memories. Dance, for me, has always been about connection—whether it's with family, friends, or even my co-stars on set. I definitely associate dance with happiness."

Munira Kudrati, who essays the role of Shalu in Zee TV's Bhagya Lakshmi said, "Dance has been my first love and I think my forever love. I still remember being a little girl, tying a dupatta around my waist and performing in front of the mirror for hours, completely unaware of time, lost in joy. Whether it's rehearsals, workshops, or simply dancing in my room after a long day, dance has been my constant, my therapy, my celebration. In fact, I truly enjoy shooting dance videos as well. About a year ago, I filmed a music video with Punit sir (Punit Pathak), and it was a completely different experience. I genuinely believe there's no end to learning in dance. Every style, every teacher, every class opens something new inside me. I've taken workshops across styles—from classical to contemporary to street—and each has taught me something not just about technique, but about myself. It humbles me and excites me all at once. On this International Dance Day, I celebrate every dancer out there—whether seasoned or just starting, shy or bold—because if you dance with your heart, you're already home."





Simaran Kaur, who essays the role of Riddhi in Zee TV's Jamai No. 1 said, "For me, dance isn't just an art form—it's where I find my truest self. Since childhood, I've felt most alive when I'm dancing—whether on stage, in class, or barefoot in my bedroom with music turned all the way up. One of my most cherished memories is performing in front of my parents every weekend. It became a little tradition at home, I would pick a new song, rehearse all week, and then put on a show just for them. Their smiles and their encouragement felt like they were gently nudging me toward my dreams. As I've grown, so has my relationship with dance. Today, I still seek out workshops, explore new styles, and constantly challenge myself to keep learning. Dance has taught me discipline, surrender, grace, and most importantly, to be fully present.

"Make India Read More" on World Book Day 2025

CHANDIGARH : This World Book Day, Amazon India is advancing its "Make India Read More" mission - a comprehensive effort to nurture India's reading culture through democratized access, innovative discovery and community engagement. This commitment builds on Amazon's ongoing work in expanding book accessibility to readers across the country. Recent trends for Amazon India have demonstrated a growing appetite for books nationwide, with double-digit growth in both new customers and category sales. Tier 2 cities are notably driving this expansion, bringing new book customers at twice the growth rate seen in metros. To support this demand, the company has significantly expanded its same-day delivery capabilities, now reaching twice as many customers in top 20 cities compared to last year.

"Books are at the heart of Amazon's identity, and our commitment to India's readers is deeper than ever," said Rajarshi Guin, Director, Books & Toys, Amazon India. "From curating literature that reflects India's cultural and educational diversity, to investing in fast delivery and discovery, our focus is to make reading more rewarding, and more accessible. Whether it's a young reader in a metro or a student in a Tier-3 town, we want to bring the right book to every doorstep."

With a catalog of over 20 million titles across 14+ Indian languages, Amazon delivers books to 100% of India's serviceable pin codes.

Godrej Professional Upskills 200+ Hairstylists in Ludhiana

LUDHIANA: Godrej Professional, a professional hair brand with products in hair care, colour, styling, and treatments from Godrej Consumer Products Limited (GCPL), has unveiled its latest hair colour collection, The Surreal Collection, and Strait Smooth, a modern straightening technique, now available across leading salons in Ludhiana, Chandigarh and other parts of Punjab.

To mark this, Godrej Professional hosted a day-long event that brought together over 200 salonists and stylists from across Ludhiana and Punjab. The event featured immersive training sessions designed to upskill salon professionals in advanced colouring techniques, culminating in a spectacular hair show that showcased the Surreal Collection in all its glory. Adding a touch of glamour to the evening, actress Jasmine Bhasin walked the ramp, sporting one of the collection's signature looks.

Abhinav Grandhi, Business Head, Godrej Professional, shared, "For decades, Godrej has been a trailblazer in India's hair colour market, establishing itself as a dominant force in the retail sector and revolutionizing the industry. Building on this expertise, we ventured into professional hair care with Godrej Professional a few years ago, with a clear vision to empower hairstylists and transform salons into hubs of innovation and creativity."



"WhereFam Wins Global Pears Hackathon with Privacy-First Location Sharing App"

What was the winning project of the Global Pears Hackathon, and what problem does it address?

The winning project of the Global Pears Hackathon was WhereFam, a private, peer-to-peer location sharing app. WhereFam addresses a growing demand for privacy-first alternatives to mainstream location services, allowing users to share real-time location data exclusively with trusted contacts—without relying on centralized servers or exposing data to large corporations. Built using Pear Runtime, WhereFam enables users to communicate directly, ensuring total ownership of their data and peace of mind around personal privacy.

How did the Pears Hackathon evaluate participants' projects, and who were the key judges involved?

Projects were evaluated based on creativity, usability, and integration of Pear Runtime's peer-to-peer technology. The judging panel included key figures in the peer-to-peer and open-source ecosystems, such as David Mark Clements, Principal Architect of Pear Platform; Guy Swann, decentralization advocate and podcast host; and collaborators from Geek Room and JetBrains. Together, they brought both technical depth and user-first thinking to the evaluation process.



What role did Pear Runtime's open-source peer-to-peer technology play in the Hackathon projects?

Pear Runtime was at the heart of every submission. As a requirement for participation, all Hackathon projects were built using Pear Runtime's open-source P2P infrastructure. It empowered a global community to build apps that are scalable, secure, and inherently private—without the burden of backend complexity.

What are some key advantages of peer-to-peer technology, as highlighted by the Hackathon judges?

Hackathon judges emphasized that peer-to-peer technology offers privacy, sovereignty, and performance—all without sacrificing usability. Guy Swann noted that traditional centralized platforms often compromise user data in exchange for convenience, but apps built on the Pear Stack showed it's possible to maintain both user experience and data sovereignty. Judges highlighted how Pear Runtime enables direct communication between users, which not only eliminates server costs but also prevents data harvesting and censorship.

How does WhereFam demonstrate the benefits of peer-to-peer technology in terms of privacy and security?

WhereFam exemplifies peer-to-peer technology's potential to protect user privacy by allowing individuals to share location data only with trusted contacts—completely bypassing third-party servers like those operated by Google or Apple. As David Mark Clements stated, "Nothing is more important to users than the privacy of their family," and WhereFam's serverless architecture ensures that no external party can access or monetize user data. It's a real-world demonstration of how peer-to-peer tools can provide safer, smarter alternatives to today's centralized services.

By - Mathias Buus Madsen, Chief Executive Officer of Holepunch

Drama and Comedy Collide on &TV This Week!

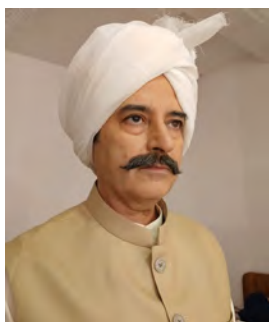
CHANDIGARH: This week on &TV, gear up for intense drama and laugh-out-loud chaos! In Bheema, a staged ritual leads to emotional turmoil and a shocking disappearance. Happu Ki Ultan Paltan takes a wild turn as a secret chamber prank goes hilariously wrong. Meanwhile, Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai brings spooky fun as Vibhuti's plan backfires with the arrival of a mysterious woman. Don't miss the action, comedy, and surprises!Bheema:In the upcoming episodes of Bheema, viewers will witness a gripping turn in Bheema's journey. Kalika (Tripurari Yadav) cunningly stages a situation by sending a distressed couple to Bheema (Tejaswini Singh), urging her to perform a ritual to rid the man of a supposed spirit. Battling inner conflict and immense pressure from her family and society, Bheema hesitantly agrees to perform the ritual. However, things spiral when Kailasha Bua (Neeta Mohindra) threatens her with escalating brutality if she doesn't leave the village. The situation worsens when Bheema learns that her father was slapped by the MLA, leaving her emotionally shattered. With her family reeling



under intense societal pressure to abandon their home, Bheema finds strength in the powerful teachings of Babasaheb Ambedkar. Meanwhile, Kailasha Bua and Kalika devise a scheme to humiliate Bheema publicly during a school event. But when they reach the kutiya, Bheema is nowhere to be found, sparking panic and speculation across the village.Happu Ki Ultan Paltan:In the upcoming episodes of Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, tensions rise when Awdheshiya (Urmila Sharma) keeps making sly, insulting remarks about Katori Amma (Himani Shivpuri), leaving her deeply hurt.

13 years later, Rajesh Jais returns to television in Zee TV's Vasudha

CHANDIGARH : Zee TV's Vasudha continues to strike a chord with viewers through its emotional narrative and strong characters. Recently, we saw how Avinash (Ishankk Salluja) and Divya (Shubhanshi Raghuwanshi) were planning to get married. However, after past emotions and unresolved issues resurfaced, in the upcoming episodes, Chandrika (Nausheen Ali Sardar) will prepare to get her son - Avinash's married off to Karishma (Pratiksha Rai). Devansh (Abhishek Sharma), on the other hand, will try to uncover Karishma's true intentions. And amidst all this drama, the latest addition to the ensemble cast is the experienced actor Rajesh Jais, known for his compelling screen presence and nuanced performances.



Rajesh Jais essays the role of Surya Singh Rathod, a character that brings further emotional weight to the story. Surya is an upright, morally disciplined man in the village, and his world revolves around his daughter - Divya. Years ago, he shared a deep bond with Chandrika and Prabhat, but life took a bitter turn when they moved to Udaipur, leaving Surya on an unpleasant note. Hence, when Vasudha (Priya Thakur) tries to convince Surya to accept the marriage of Divya and Avinash, she finds it extremely challenging. Surya is a really strong and principled character that will definitely spark a new and intense twist in Vasudha. And for Rajesh Jais, it's characters like Surya that make acting a fulfilling and creatively satisfying journey!

Nava Mod: A Storm Brews Between Ridhi and Angad in Tonight's Episode



In the previous episode of the gripping family drama, viewers witnessed Ridhi grappling with her rising emotions for Angad. Meanwhile, Deepa expressed a desire to meet Anshuman, but Angad advised her to proceed with caution. The tension escalated when goons attacked Ridhi and Deepa, only to be saved heroically by Anshuman, leaving everyone stunned and thankful.

Tonight's episode, "Nava Mod," brings a new turn that will test relationships and challenge decisions. A heated argument erupts between Ridhi and Angad when she learns of his decision to pursue a divorce between Deepa and Anshuman. Ridhi, who is still sorting her own emotional chaos, confronts Angad about interfering in someone else's relationship.

Is Angad truly thinking about Deepa's well-being — or is there more behind his decision? Will Ridhi stand by Deepa, or will this conflict pull them further apart? Don't miss the gripping twists in "Nava Mod" every Mon- Sat at 7:00 pm, only on Zee Punjabi! Zee Punjabi is available on all MSOs and DTH platforms like Fastway, Airtel DTH, Tata Play DTH, Dish TV, d2H and others.

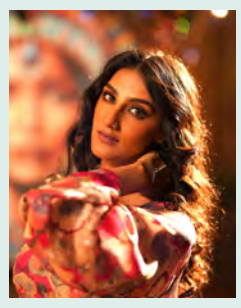
Dholak is the soul of Indian music - Harmanveer Singh



Dholak is such an instrument without which every musical gathering is considered incomplete. Everyone is forced to dance on the beats of Dholak. Dholak is the soul and identity of Indian music, this is the belief of Punjab's young dholak player Harmanveer Singh who has been active in the field of music for the last many years. In an interview, this emerging young artist Harmanveer Singh told that he is a resident of village Jajja Kalan of Tehsil Phillaur of District Jalandhar in Punjab. He was inclined towards music since childhood. He used to start dancing on hearing the beats of Dholak.

Born in Punjab in October 2002, Harmanveer Singh passed his Plus Two examination from the local government college. After that, with the support and encouragement of parents and friends, he entered the world of music. He became a top skilled Dholak player by gaining knowledge of music from famous Dholak maestros in Punjab. Soon he started getting offers to perform in music programs. According to this sweet natured dholak player Harmanveer Singh, he has shown his talent in more than one hundred music programs so far. According to Harmanveer Singh, he has accompanied famous singers of Punjab like Balraj, Manpreet Shergill, Chamkaur Khatra, Parminder Paras etc.

Shahat Gill's New Track 'BAMB' Released



Punjabi music's unstoppable diva, Shahat Gill, storms back onto the pop scene with 'Bamb', a fiery, explosive track set to dominate playlists and ignite dance floors across the globe. Produced by the powerhouse duo Rony & Gill, 'Bamb' celebrates self-love, individuality, and unshakeable confidence, all wrapped in electrifying beats and an irresistibly bold hook.

With notable releases like 'Hulaare', and 'Everyday', Shahat Gill is already making a wave in the Punjabi music scene. 'Bamb' is a bold, flirty track that captures the electric pull of someone with an undeniable presence. Shahat's voice doesn't just speak—it dances, filled with a spirited, colourful energy that enlivens the moment and invites you into her world."

Discussing her creative journey, Shahat shared, "There has always been an emotional and energetic element to Punjabi music, and I wanted to capture that passion through the perspective of power and femininity. 'Bamb' is a track for every woman who is confident and personified and can make an unforgettable impact. It's for my girls, who don't need to make excuses for who they truly are. I hope the track motivates everyone to be the best 'Bamb' version of themselves."

Carrier Midea India Signs Pan-India Star Rashmika Mandanna as MIDEA HVAC Brand Ambassador



Carrier Midea India, a leading name in the Indian air conditioning industry, has announced the onboarding of actress Rashmika Mandanna as the brand ambassador for its Midea brand in the HVAC category. This strategic partnership aims to strengthen Midea HVAC's positioning in the competitive Indian air conditioning market, expand its consumer outreach, and drive engagement through a comprehensive marketing approach.

The collaboration comes at a time when the Indian air conditioning segment is witnessing significant growth, driven by rising urbanization, increased disposable income, and a heightened focus on energy-efficient cooling solutions. The sector is projected to grow at a healthy CAGR over the next five years, intensifying competition among both global and domestic players. Midea HVAC, known for its advanced technology and superior cooling performance, is poised to capture a larger market share. The association with Rashmika Mandanna is expected to serve as a key differentiator, helping the brand connect more deeply with a diverse consumer base.

Speaking on the collaboration, Mr. Sanjay Mahajan, Chairman and Managing Director, Carrier Midea India, stated, "The Indian air conditioning industry is evolving rapidly, and consumers are seeking brands that offer not only superior products but also an emotional connection. Rashmika Mandanna's association with Midea air conditioners will amplify our presence and strengthen our commitment to providing smart, sustainable, and high-performance air conditioning solutions. With this partnership, we aim to significantly increase our market share over the next few years."

Rashmika Mandanna, celebrated for her charm, relatability, and wide appeal, aligns seamlessly with Midea HVAC's brand values of innovation, high performance, and modern living. As the face of Midea air conditioners, she will headline a nationwide multimedia campaign spanning television, digital platforms, print media, and retail touchpoints.

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