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NEWS BRIEFS

Gold climbs Rs 1,400 to Rs 96,450/ 10 g

NEW DELHI: Gold prices jumped Rs 1,400 to Rs 96,450 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday due to fresh buying from jewellers and stockists, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal of 99.5 per cent purity climbed Rs 1,400 to Rs 96,000 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). Gold of 99.9 per cent and 99.5 per cent purity had closed at Rs 95,050 and Rs 94,600 per 10 grams, respectively, on Thursday.

2 Maoist camps busted in Odisha's Balangir, explosives seized

BHUBANESWAR: Two Maoist camps were busted in Odisha's Balangir district and explosives were seized, police said on Friday. Acting on a tip-off, a joint team of the police, District Voluntary Force (DVF), and Special Operations Group (SOG) raided the camps in Gandhamardan Hills in Khaprakhol police station area and Chhatrandandi forest in Tureikela police station limits on Thursday, they said. "The camps were completely destroyed. A lot of explosives and other items were recovered," IG (Northern Range) Himanshu Lal said.

Scuffle over lemons sparks communal tension in Udaipur, 6 detained

JAIPUR: A minor dispute spiralled into a communal clash in Rajasthan's Udaipur, leaving a vegetable vendor seriously injured, police said on Friday. The incident took place in the Dhanmandi area of Udaipur late on Thursday evening, they said, adding that six people have so far been detained. Police said a verbal spat between two men over buying lemons at a vegetable stall near Teej Ka Chowk soon led to a scuffle and within minutes, it turned into a communal clash. Superintendent of Police (SP) Yogesh Goyal said a group of five to seven people allegedly attacked the vegetable vendor, Satveer (50), with a sharp weapon, leaving him with severe injuries on his face. Satveer was taken to the MB Hospital, where he is undergoing treatment.

IMF must rethink assistance to Pakistan: Rajnath Singh

AGENCY
BHUUJ, MAY 16

India on Friday called on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to reconsider its USD one billion assistance to Pakistan, suggesting that Islamabad could use it for terror funding. In an address to military personnel here, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said India does not want that the funding it gives to IMF should be used directly or indirectly to create terror infrastructure in Pakistan or any other country.

"I believe that in today's time, any kind of financial assistance to Pakistan is nothing less than terror funding," he said.

"India would like that IMF reconsiders its assistance of one billion dollars to Pakistan and refrains from giving any kind of assistance in future," he said. Singh said in Operation Sindoor, India's armed forces not only dominated the enemy but also succeeded in decimating them.

Lauding the Indian Air Force for spearheaded the campaign against terrorism effectively, he said.

"Our Air Force has touched new and greater heights with its valour, courage and glory".

Singh arrived at the Bhuj Air Force station this morning to review overall



security situation.

The Air Force base here was one of the military infrastructure that Pakistan targeted during the four-day confrontation between the two militaries.

Govt to send delegations for diplomatic outreach

NEW DELHI: The government is planning to send multi-party parliamentary delegations to several countries in the coming days to explain India's stand on terrorism from Pakistan and the Congress on Friday said it will definitely be part of them. While there was no official word on the delegations from the government, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh told PTI that Union Minister Kiren Rijiju has spoken to the Congress president in this regard.

Shehbaz Sharif proposes talks with India

ISLAMABAD : Days after India targeted nine terror sites in Pakistan and inflicted damage to several of its airfields under Operation Sindoor, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed willingness to engage in talks with India for peace. However, he said that talks should be held on the Kashmir issue, The Express Tribune reported. He extended the offer to India while interacting with the Pakistan Air Force pilots and personnel during a special visit to Kamra air base on Thursday. He said Pakistan was willing to hold talks to achieve peace, but it had certain conditions. He urged India to hold talks on the Kashmir issue, The Express Tribune reported. India has maintained that the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are and will always remain an "integral and inalienable part of it." On Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated that any future discussions will be confined to terrorism and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

AAP turns Punjab drug hotspots into drug-free zones : Kejriwal

BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, MAY 16:

In a step aimed at making Punjab completely drug free, former Delhi Chief Minister and National Convener of Aam Aadmi Party Arvind Kejriwal on Friday announced to take war against drugs at village and street level with active support of people.

Addressing the gathering at Langroya (SBS Nagar) today, the former Delhi Chief Minister said that the state government has cracked the backbone of drugs and now the day is not far when it will be eliminated soon. He said that the Nasha Mukti Yatra will touch every village and town of the



state to galvanize people in this war against drugs, so that Punjab can be made completely drug free.

Cargo vessel sinks off Mangaluru, Coast Guard rescues six members

NEW DELHI: The Indian Coast Guard has rescued six crew members of a cargo vessel that sank about 60 nautical miles off Mangaluru on its way to Lakshadweep, officials said on Friday. The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) also shared on X photographs of its ship 'Vikram', which was on patrol and diverted for the search and rescue operation. "At 1215 hours on May 14, the ICG received a distress alert from MT Epic Susui, a transiting vessel, reporting the sighting of a small boat adrift with six survivors onboard.

Haryana to launch natural farming pilot project on 53 acres in Pundri

BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, MAY 16

In a significant and progressive step towards sustainable agriculture, Haryana Government has decided to utilize agricultural land owned by the Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department for promoting natural farming across the state. This initiative aligns with the government's broader vision of encouraging eco-friendly, low-cost, and chemical-free farming practices that not only improve soil health but also enhance farmer incomes.

As a pilot project, this scheme will be launched in village Jatheri, located in the Pundri constituency of Kaithal



district, where 53 acres, 4 kanal, and 19 marla of land belonging to the Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department will be brought under natural farming. This land, which is historically been leased out to tenants and lessees, will now only be utilised

for natural farming.

Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini, has approved the landmark decision to this effect today. He said that state government is committed to empowering farmers and ensuring long-term agricultural prosperity by promoting practices that are environmentally sound and economically viable.

Under this initiative, existing tenants or lessees will be eligible to participate and become beneficiaries of the scheme. They will also be encouraged and supported to transition to natural farming methods, with the government providing necessary guidance, training, and support mechanisms.

Recalibrated strategy post-Pahalgam led to killing of 6 militants: Forces

UNI
SRINAGAR, MAY 16

After Pahalgam terror attack, security forces recalibrated their counter-terrorism strategy that helped them to eliminate six local militants, including two commanders, in south Kashmir in 48 hours.

Since Tuesday, three militants each of Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad were killed in two separate encounters in south Kashmir's Shopian and Awantipora.

In a joint media briefing by the police, Army and the CRPF, the officers said the success of these two operations was due to the "seamless coordination" between the security and intelligence agencies.

Inspector General of Police, Kashmir

Vidhi Kumar Birdi said the Pahalgam terror attack prompted a comprehensive review of the existing security strategy.

"In the wake of heightened terror activities in Kashmir Valley, all the security forces deployed here reviewed their strategies. Following the review, there was an intensified focus on operations. On the basis of this intensified focus and coordination, we conducted two successful operations in the last



48 hours during which we had significant achievement. Six terrorists were neutralised in both the operations," said Birdi who was flanked by General Officer Commanding of Army's Victor Force, Major General Dhananjay Joshi and IG CRPF Mitesh Jain.

Birdi said the operations -- one in Shopian and another in Tral Awantipora -- were due to the seamless coordination among the CRPF, the Indian Army, and the Jammu and Kashmir Police. He also acknowledged the vital role played by intelligence agencies.

IGP Kashmir said all security agencies were determined here to end the terror ecosystem or any terrorist activity.

13 illegal Bangladeshi immigrants detained in Delhi

NEW DELHI: Delhi Police's Crime Branch has detained 13 Bangladeshi nationals, including five children, for allegedly residing in India without valid documentation. The individuals were apprehended from village Auchandi in the national capital. According to DCP Crime, Aditya Gautam, "The detained individuals entered India through unfenced agricultural

fields along the India-Bangladesh border and later reached Delhi via Cooch Behar railway station. They reportedly worked as casual labourers in a brick kiln in Kharkhoda, Haryana." The detained individuals include Md. Rafikul (50), Khotiza Begum (41), Md. Anowar Hussain (37), Md. Aminul Islam (28), Zorina Begum (27), Afroza Khatun (25), Md. Khakhon (20).

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Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board offers free facilities to woo pilgrims

UNI
KATRA (REASI), MAY 16

As the guns have fallen silent on the borders with ceasefire between India and Pakistan after escalated tension and normalcy has limped back, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) has offered free facilities to woo the pilgrims from across the country to the sanctum sanctorum nestled here in Trikuta Hills of Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The pilgrims have started returning to the pilgrimage and to facilitate their journey from Katra to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan, efforts are being made to provide free facilities," Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, told UNI.

"As devotees have started heading towards the base for performing the yatra gradually, witnessing an increase, the Shrine Board is providing all the facilities to them for their



smooth and hassle-free journey," the CEO said.

"To enhance the number of pilgrims, the Shrine Board is providing several facilities to the pilgrims free of cost, starting from Katra including free Aarti Darshan and accommodation," Garg expressed.

He revealed that besides that, the Shrine Board has also set up food counters at various places en route Bhawan, at Banganga and as well as at Katra Railway Station.

The Shrine Board had also announced a free accommodation facility at the Katra-based Ashirwad Com-

plex for the devotees, he said.

The CEO said, "Although numbers remain modest, with summer vacations and the tourism season ahead, we are expecting a heavy rush of pilgrims in the coming days."

Notably, on May 15, by 10 PM, as many as 5,423 devotees had left from Katra to the cave shrine, and during the period of escalated tension between India and Pakistan, 45,430 pilgrims offered prayers at the cave shrine from May 6 to 13.

On May 6, 12,917 pilgrims visited the cave shrine, and on May 7, 12,760 while on May 8, 8,670 pilgrims, on May 9, 3,962 pilgrims, on May 10, 1,352 pilgrims, on May 11, 1,303 pilgrims, on May 12, 168 pilgrims and on May 13, 2,808 pilgrims visited the shrine.

However, expressing faith in the government and the Armed Forces, the devotees at Katra, have appealed to pilgrims across the country to visit the Bhawan and seek blessings of "Maa Bhagwati".

Five students of class 10th of Dreamland Public Senior Secondary School Kotkapura included in Punjab merit list



SURINDER DAMDAMI KOTKAPURA: Five girl students of Dreamland Public Senior Secondary School Kotkapura have got their names listed in the Punjab merit list in the Class X results announced by the Punjab School Education Board. On this occasion, the chairman of the institution, Prakash Chand Sharma, while honoring the students, said that Jasdeep Kaur, daughter of Sukhmander Singh, secured 13th position in Punjab by scoring 637/650 (98 percent) marks, Ishmeet Kaur, daughter of Balkaran Singh, secured 14th position in Punjab by scoring 636/650 (97.85 percent), Khushpreet Kaur, daughter of Harjinder Singh, and Harsimran Kaur, daughter of Sukhdarshan Kaur, both secured 15th position in Punjab by scoring 635/650 (97.7 percent), Komalveer Kaur, daughter of Bohar Singh, secured 20th position in Punjab by scoring 630/650 (97 percent), bringing glory to the institution, district and her parents.

4th district karate championships held



ISHWER GARG TALWANDI SABO: The St. Xavier's school situated at Pakka Kalan, became the overall champions in tournament. Our school is the first overall trophy winning team of this area, which was conducted in Bathinda, 2025-26 session. Near about 40, students of our school participated in competition under the guidance of our karate coach, Mr. Nilesh Sir. The winners brought 9 Gold medals 4 Silver medals, and 13 Bronze medals. Medals were distributed to students by Dr. Tarsem Garg (Chief Warden of Civil Defence). And the overall first position trophy was handed over by Dr. Jagroop Singh, (MLA of Bathinda) Principal Sir, Mr. Jacob Congratulated the students along with all teachers. He also read out the message from Director Sir, Mr. Thomas saying All The Best to the participants. Coach was escorted with Mrs. Harpreet Kaur Mam and Miss Rupinder Kaur Mam. School campus incharge Mr. Jagwinder Sir, wish them Best Of Luck for forth coming competitions.

Seerat Sandhu secures second rank in Punjab, first in district in CBSE Class 10 exams



CHET RAM RATTAN NAWANSHAH: Seerat Sandhu, a student of Cambridge International School, has achieved remarkable success by securing the second position in Punjab and the top position in Nawanshahr district in the CBSE Class 10 examinations. She scored an impressive 99.6%. Daughter of Dr. J.S. Sandhu and Dr. Gurjeet Sandhu of Nawanshahr, Seerat is not only academically brilliant but also enjoys playing basketball, painting, and reading books. Inspired by her parents, she aspires to become a doctor. Seerat credits her success to the unwavering support and guidance of her teachers, parents, and grandparents. Her grandfather, Professor G.S. Sandhu, is well known in the region for his contributions to education and social service, while her grandmother is a renowned poet and author. Continuing a family tradition of excellence, her elder brother Armanjot Singh Sandhu had also topped the district three years ago with the same score of 99.6% and is currently pursuing MBBS at DMC Ludhiana.

Dr. Monika becomes first professor of law at PU Regional Centre



DALJEET AJNOHA HOSHIARPUR: Dr. Monika has achieved a remarkable milestone by becoming the first professor of the Law Department at Panjab University Regional Centre, Hoshiarpur. With an impressive academic portfolio, Dr. Monika has published 81 research papers and authored 8 books. In addition, 8 of her chapters have been published in edited volumes. Throughout her career, Dr. Monika has presented 103 research papers at various national and international conferences. She brings with her over 18 years of extensive teaching experience. Under her guidance, three students have completed their Ph.D., while seven others are currently pursuing their doctoral research. On her promotion, Department Chairperson Dr. Pooja Sood extended a warm welcome to Dr. Monika. Faculty members Dr. Manu Dogra, Dr. Ritu Salaria, Dr. Sukhbir Kaur, Vikram Chauhan, Neeru Sharma, and Ranjana also congratulated her on this significant achievement.

Promotions in PR department; Two officers promoted as Joint Directors, Six as Deputy Directors

SHASHI PAL JAIN CHANDIGARH, MAY 16

Punjab Information and Public Relations Department today promoted eight officers. Two Deputy Directors have been promoted as Joint Directors, while five Information and Public Relations Officers (IPROs) and one Art Executive have been promoted as Deputy Directors.

The appointment orders for the eight promoted officers were issued today following approval from Information and Public Relations Minister S. Harjot Singh Bains.

These promotions were made following departmental promotion committees' meetings held on May 8. As per the appointment orders issued today, Joint Director Mr. Ishwinder Singh Grewal has been posted at the head



office in Chandigarh, while Mr. Manvinder Singh has been appointed as Joint Director Press/Chief Minister with additional charge as Joint Director Border Range

Amritsar. Similarly, among the six promoted Deputy Directors, Ms. Ruchi Kalra has been posted to Bathinda, Mr. Rashim Verma to the head office with additional charge of

Sri Anandpur Sahib, Mr. Navdeep Singh Gill to the head office in Chandigarh, Mr. Prabhdeep Singh Kaulhar to the head office with additional charge of Sangrur,



Mr. Hakam Thaper to Jalandhar and Mr. Hardeep Singh to the head office. Later, the newly promoted officers joined the department and reported to Secretary, In-

formation and Public Relations Mr. Ramvir. They expressed their gratitude to the Information and Public Relations Minister and senior officials.

Fateh Collegiate School Rampura's Class XII results create history

KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA RAMPURA PHUL, MAY 15

Fateh Collegiate School Rampura has once again raised the flag of its educational excellence in the Class XII results of Punjab School Education Board (PSEB) Science Department Head Prof. Karamjit Kaur said that the results of the students were 100 percent. Mehakdeep Kaur secured the first position by securing 465 marks (93%), while Palharpreet Kaur secured the second position with 456 marks (91.2%), Sukhpreet Kaur secured the third position with 454 marks (90.8%) and Karamveer Kaur secured the fourth position with 451 marks (90.2%). Commerce Department Head Prof. Anita Garg said that the students performed well by giving 100 percent results. Navjot Kaur secured first place with 438 marks (87.6%), Navdeep Kaur secured second place with 436 marks (87.2%).

'Swachhta Pakhwada 2025' begins at NHPC



CHANDIGARH, MAY 16

NHPC, a Navratna enterprise of Govt. of India's is observing 'Swachhta Pakhwada 2025' at its Corporate Office and all its Regional Offices, Projects and Power Stations across the country from 16th May to 31st May 2025 as per guidelines issued by the Government of India. Swachhta Pakhwada 2025 commenced on May 16th, 2025, with a pledge ceremony at the Corporate Office, wherein Shri R.K. Chaudhary, CMD, NHPC administered the 'Swachhta Pledge' to

all employees. Shri Uttam Lal, Director (Personnel), Shri Sanjay Kumar Singh, Director (Projects), Shri Suprakash Adhikari, Director (Technical), Shri Santosh Kumar, CVO and other senior NHPC officers were also present on the occasion.

During the Pakhwada, NHPC will be organizing various activities as cleanliness awareness programmes, plantation, kit presentation, cleaning kit distribution, awareness programmes on hygiene, drawing and painting competitions etc.

Modern Sandeepni School Pathankot 12th annual result 100%



BUREAU PATHANKOT, MAY 16

In the Class 12th results announced by CBSE, the students of Modern Sandeepni School Pathankot performed brilliantly through hard work and achieved 100% results. Giving information in this regard, the school principal Dr. Neeraj Mohan Puri said that the school's 12th class result was 100 percent. A total of 49 students appeared in this ex-

amination and all the students brought glory to the school by performing brilliantly. He said that in the commerce stream, Lakshya and Nivedika scored 96%, Simarjeet 87%, Shreya scored 93% in arts, Paramjot scored 90% in medical, Aishi scored 88%, while in non-medical, Sobhagya scored 91% and Karan Veer scored 88%, bringing glory to their parents and the school. Giving further information in this re-

gard, he said that 2 students passed with above 95% marks, 2 with 90 to 95% marks, 11 with 80 to 90% marks and 18 with 70 to 80% marks, 25 students passed with above 75%. On this occasion, the school's Director Engineer Pawan Mahajan, School Manager Salil Mahajan and Principal Dr. Neeraj Mohan Puri congratulated the children and advised them to work hard for their bright future.

HSIIDC signs MoU with CBI for financing industrial units



PANCHKULA, MAY 16

In a significant move towards strengthening the industrial ecosystem in Haryana, the Haryana State Industrial & Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC) and Central Bank of India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate financing of industrial plots purchased by entrepreneurs and businesspersons.

The MoU was signed by Shri Sushil Sarwan, IAS,

Managing Director, HSIIDC, and Shri Arvind Kumar, Zonal Head, Central Bank of India. This collaboration aims to provide a strong foundation for the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector in Haryana by ensuring easier access to finance for HSIIDC plot allottees and expediting the establishment of their enterprises. The broader objective is to offer comprehensive financing solutions to support the setting up of manufacturing and service sector units by MSMEs.

BBMB begins Swachhta Pakhwada to promote cleanliness and green initiatives



CHANDIGARH: Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) commenced 15-day Swachhta Pakhwada from 16May to 31 May, 2025, reinforcing its commitment to a cleaner India. On Friday, Sh. Manoj Tripathi, Chairman, BBMB along with Officers/Officials of Board Secretariate & other Offices, pledged to contribute towards making India cleaner and greener, following the vision of Mahatma Gandhi.

The ceremony highlighted the importance of cleanliness and personal responsibility in achieving a cleaner nation. The Chairman reviewed the planned activities and initiatives to be undertaken during the fortnight and encouraged all officers, employees, and their families to actively participate in the drive, emphasizing the impact of collective efforts in promoting cleanliness.

Khalsa Girls Senior Secondary School, Morinda, shines in Class 12 Results



SANJEEV TEJPAL MORINDA, MAY 16

Khalsa Girls Senior Secondary School, Morinda, has once again upheld its tradition of academic excellence, with a stellar performance by its students in the Class 12 board examinations.

Sharing the details, School Principal Gurpreet Kaur informed that out of 51 students who appeared for the examination, an impressive 45 secured first division marks, reflecting the dedication of both students and faculty. In the Commerce stream, Pragati emerged as the topper

with 94.6%, followed closely by Gurnoor Kaur with 94.2%, and Sharanpreet Kaur with 93.2%. In the Arts stream, Gurleen Kaur clinched the top position with 91.4%, while Khushpreet Kaur and Eaknoor Kaur secured the second and third positions with 89.8% and 89.4%, respectively. School Manager Harbans Singh Kandhola honored the meritorious students in a special felicitation ceremony. The event was attended by staff members including Kulwinder Kaur, Baldeesh Kaur, Shweta, Bhavna, Maninder Kaur, Navpreet Kaur, Jasvir Kaur, Kamaljeet Rishi etc.

Harjinder Singh Dhami visits families of 4 Sikhs killed in Poonch attack

CHARANJIT SINGH ARORA AMRITSAR, MAY 16

Amid the ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan, Advocate Harjinder Singh Dhami, President of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), visited Poonch in Jammu and Kashmir today to meet the families of the four Sikhs killed in recent attacks in the region. During his visit, he handed over cheques of Rs 5 lakh each as financial assistance to the four bereaved families.

He visited the homes of all affected families, expressed condolences, and participated in the prayer ceremony (Antim Ardas) held for Ragi Bhai Amrik Singh. He was accompanied by SGPC members Rajinder Singh Mehta, Surjit Singh Bhitte-wad, Mahant Manjit Singh, and assistant secretary Harbajan Singh Vakta. It is noteworthy that Ranjit Singh,



Ragi Bhai Amrik Singh, ex-serviceman Amarjeet Singh, and Balwinder Kaur – all residents of Poonch area – lost their lives in the recent attacks.

While in Poonch, Advocate Dhami stated that the outcomes of war are never in favour of humanity and that its devastating impact is borne by innocent people for generations. He expressed deep sorrow over the loss suffered by these families and said that the SGPC's gesture was a humble attempt to share in their grief. He emphasized that this is not an act

of charity, but a shared responsibility of the Sikh institution, which is committed to serving all. On this occasion, the SGPC President also appealed to the Union Government of India to adopt a more inclusive approach towards the Sikh community in Jammu and Kashmir. He pointed out that Sikhs in the region were once granted minority status, but this has been revoked in recent times. He asserted that restoring this status of Sikhs and providing them reserved quotas in government jobs is the government's duty.

Nankana Sahib Public School, Rampur Chhanna showcased an outstanding results



CHANDIGARH, MAY 16

CBSE on Tuesday declared class 10th and class 12th board results. Class 10th showed an outstanding execution of hard work with laudable 100% result. Yashkirat Kaur topped the 10th class by scoring 93% marks and

Pawanjot Kaur topped the for excellent result.

Principal, Mrs. Ishita Arora and Managing committee congratulated all the students and added that this remarkable result is the collective hard work, consistency and sincerity of the teachers and students.

NBF & SAPT organise seminar 'Mission Aparna Shakti'

SUMER GARG CHANDIGARH, MAY 16

A special awareness seminar under "Mission Aparna Shakti" was organized by Navya Bharat Foundation (NBF), Bharat in collaboration with Society for the Blind Chandigarh and SAPT, India for persons with disabilities at the Institute for the Blind, Chandigarh. Advocate Rajkumar Makkar, former commissioner for persons with disabilities, government of Haryana, graced the event as the chief guest. He enlightened the participants about their rights and extended his best wishes to Team NBF for organizing the seminar.

The keynote speaker, Professor Shalini, consultant, department of obstetrics and gynecology, PGIMER Chandigarh, while addressing the students on the topic of 'Women Empowerment and Health' provided tips on adopting a healthy lifestyle and emphasized the importance of



women's health, encouraging everyone to live healthily. The program was chaired by the honorary secretary of the Institute Suparna Sachdev, who expressed gratitude to all the guests and team NBF for their presence.

On this occasion, Dr. Anirudh Uniyal, founder and national president of Navya Bharat Foundation (NBF), Bharat and SAPT India, as well as a physiotherapist at

PGIMER Chandigarh, described differently-abled individuals as the most beautiful creations of God who wear divine limbs. He urged them to contribute actively to nation-building. Besides others, Principal, Rakesh Sharma; Senior Vice President, Dinesh Kumar Kapila; Joint Secretary, Aneeta Jayara; Rishabh Mishra, Satvik, Harman and other teachers and members of NBF were present on the occasion.

Health department observes National Dengue Day in Village Kothe Khanjuran



GOGI KMAAL PURIYA RAIKOT, MAY 16

On the directions of Civil Surgeon Ludhiana Dr. Ramandeep Kaur Ahluwalia, National Dengue Day was celebrated in the nearby village Kothe Khanjuran under the leadership of SMO Dr. Varun Sagar of Health Department Hathur. Addressing the villagers on this occasion, Health Inspector Amandeep Singh Jagraon said that every year many dengue patients are found.

Therefore, there is a need to control dengue disease. The month of May is celebrated as anti-dengue month every year by the Health De-

partment. The purpose of which is to make people aware of dengue disease in schools and public places on this day and to carry out anti-dengue activities. He further said that most of the dengue diseases appear in the initial stages of rains and during this time maximum precautions are required. Dengue larvae mainly breed in clean stagnant water and July to October is the most suitable time for their growth. Dengue is spread by the bite of Aedes aegypti mosquito.

This mosquito breeds in clean stagnant water for more than a week and turns into a mosquito from an egg within a week.

"A&M Gems School's Surbhi Mahajan shines at Dance Ka Mahayudh auditions, selected for Mumbai Finals"

VERMA GURDASPUR: A&M's Gems Cambridge International School, Pathankot, continues its unwavering commitment to the holistic development of its students. In a proud moment for the institution, talented student Surbhi Mahajan showcased her exceptional dance skills and emerged victorious in the prestigious Dance Ka Mahayudh competition, held recently in Ludhiana. Surbhi impressed the judges with her powerful performance in the final audition round and secured her place as a winner, earning a spot in the upcoming semi-finals and finals scheduled to be held in Mumbai on May 31 and June 1. The event was judged by renowned Mumbai-based dancer Mr. Dhananjay Joshi (Wildrappers Karu), whose presence added further prestige to the competition.

'Ozone uses in Medicine' held by IMA Morinda

RADHE SHYAM SHARMA MORINDA: IMA Morinda, in collaboration with Alchem Company, organised a Continuing Medical Education (CME) session on the topic "Ozone Uses in Medicine" at Gilsen Hotel, Morinda. Renowned orthopaedic specialist Dr. Ravish was invited as the keynote speaker for the event. During his address, Dr. Ravish highlighted the growing relevance of ozone therapy in the medical field. "Beyond skin diseases, ozone therapy has proven effective in treating conditions such as joint pain, cancer, AIDS, and arthritis, significantly improving the quality of life for countless patients," he said. He elaborated on various medical applications of ozone, and its therapeutic advantages in clinical practice.

Swami Roop Chand Jain School achieved remarkable success by securing the top spots in the city

SUKH NAHAR JAGRAON: The students of Swami Roop Chand Jain School achieved outstanding results in all streams of 12th class as per the results announced by Punjab School Education Board. Giving detailed information about this, school principal Rajpal Kaur expressed her happiness and said that school's proud student of science stream, Komaldeep Kaur scored first position with 95.2%, Rashid sidana and Shobha beri achieved second position with 92.6% and third position achieved by Navneet kaur with 88.8%. "In Commerce stream Priya malhotra achieved first position with 92.8%, second position got by Akansha grover with 92.4%, Gurleen kaur achieved third position with 91.8%. In Arts stream Manjot kaur scored first position with 92.4%, Second position achieved by Gurkeerat kaur Minhas with 90.6%, Abhi and Simran kaur got third position with 87%", she added. Principal further said that above 40% students achieved above 90% marks from all stream and rest of the students scored above 80%.

Placement cell organizes interactive session for pharmacy students

BAHADURJEET SINGH RUPNAGAR: The Placement Cell of Amar Shaheed Baba Ajit Singh Jujhar Singh Memorial College of Pharmacy, Bela, hosted an interactive session for final-year B. Pharmacy and M. Pharmacy students. Dr. Abhishek Bhanot, AGM of Beta Drugs, delivered a lecture on industry requirements, emphasizing knowledge, attitude, hard work, and smartness. He provided valuable tips on resume building and interview preparation. Students actively participated, raising questions about industry life and various departments. Dr. Shalish Sharma, Director of the college, welcomed Dr. Bhanot, while Ms. Harmanjot Kaur thanked the guest and students for their participation. The session aimed to equip students with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in the pharmaceutical industry, offering insights into industry expectations and opportunities. It was a beneficial experience for the students, enhancing their understanding of the industry and preparing them for future careers.

Kejriwal and Bhagwant Mann administer oath to people for being warriors against drugs

LANGROYA, MAY 16

In a bid to make common man an integral part of war against drugs, the Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann and National Convener of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Arvind Kejriwal on Friday administered oath against drugs to residents of the state to be warriors against drug menace.

In a function here today, the Chief Minister while administering the oath solicited fulsome support and cooperation of people in the war against drugs. He said that the scourge of drugs was a blot on the face of the state and it took more than two years for the state government to chalk out a strategy for wiping out this curse. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that subsequently the supply line of drugs was snapped, big fishes involved in these heinous crimes were put behind the bars, rehabilitation of the drug victims was ensured and even the property of the drug smugglers was confiscated and destroyed.



The Chief Minister said that the state government has launched a war against drugs in the form of Yudd Nasheyana Virudh the aim of which is to clean the state. He solicited fulsome support and cooperation of people in this war against drugs to transform it into a mass movement. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that as the village has declared itself drug free after giving full support to the Police in the same manner it must be replicated in

other parts of the state. The Chief Minister said that if Punjabis have made firm resolve to make the state drug free then no one can stop us from this noble cause. He said that every inch of this sacred land has the footprint of great Gurus, saints, seers and martyrs, who have shown us the way to oppose tyranny, injustice and oppression. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that walking on their footsteps only the state government

has launched a crusade against drugs. The Chief Minister said that it is heartening to see that a large number of women were participating in this function, which is a good sign. He said that if the women rise in such a big way to eliminate any menace then that it will be wiped out very soon. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that the day is not far when the state will be completely drug free with the active participation of the women in the state. Meanwhile, the Chief

Minister said that the state government is making concerted efforts to empower the girls through education adding that transport facility has been provided to 10,000 girl students in government schools across the state. He said that nowadays girls have outnumbered boys in every field including those which were hitherto considered as fiefdom of the men. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that women's empowerment is imperative to carve out an egalitarian society and in the larger interest of society and state.

The Chief Minister said that Punjabis are global citizens who have carved a niche for themselves in every corner of the world. He said given a chance the hard working, innovative and energetic Punjabis are now excelling in every arena. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that with active support and cooperation people, the state government is laying thrust on carving out a Rangla Punjab and the war against drugs is a part of it.

Payments worth Rs. 28571 crore credited into farmers accounts for wheat purchase



GAURAV GOEL
CHANDIGARH, MAY 16

Living up to its promise of procuring every single grain produced so laboriously by the farmers, the Punjab Government led by the Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann has procured 100 percent wheat crop arriving in the mandis of the State. Disclosing this while interacting with the mediapersons here today at the Anaj Bhawan, the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister Mr. Lal Chand Kataruchak divulged the State Government has procured the entire 130.03 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT) of wheat arriving in the mandis till the closure of the procurement season on May

15th. The Minister congratulated the coordinated efforts of the departmental officers and other staff. Divulging more, the Minister added that the State Government has procured 119.24 LMT of Wheat while the traders have procured 10.80 LMT. Furthermore, payments to the tune of Rs. 28,571 Crore have been credited into the accounts of over 7 Lakh farmers. As regards lifting, the Minister mentioned that 104.51 LMT has been lifted and the remaining would also be lifted within a few days. In order to ensure smooth and hassle free procurement, the Government had set up a total of 2885 mandis/purchase centres out of which 1864 were regular and 1021 were temporary centres.

Government High School Basrae distributes student diaries to its pupils



VERMA GURDASPUR, MAY 16

In an innovative move to enhance student learning, Government High School Basrae distributed student diaries to its pupils. Headmaster Mr. Vijay Kumar emphasized that these diaries will serve as a tool for students to manage their homework and for parents to stay informed about their children's academic progress, fostering better communication with teachers. He acknowledged the collaborative support of the school staff, the Panchayat, and generous community members in implementing this initiative, which is now available in government schools throughout Block Kadi.

Despite the digital age, the school believes in the value of such measures to elevate educational standards and remains committed to integrating technology and science in the future. The entire school staff was present for the distribution

Lehragaga police seizes large quantity of lahan and illicit liquor



GURMAIL SINGH SANGATPURA
LEHRAGAGA MAY 16

Under the guidelines of Sardar Sartaj Singh Chahal IPS SP Sangrur, the police and the government have started a "yudd Nashian Virudh" campaign. Under this campaign, during a joint operation conducted by Lehragaga Police and Excise Department in the nearby village Jalur, the police have achieved great success. During this raid, the police have recovered 1350 liters of lahan and 43 bottles of illicit liquor. Sharing this information with the press, DSP Lehra Deepinder Pal Singh Jeji said

that the police was already very strict against drugs, but due to the accident due to spurious liquor at Majitha, it has been taken even more seriously, under which Inspector Ranbir Singh SHO Police Station Lehragaga and Excise Inspector Govardhan Lehra along with their teams raided a very infamous place which was infamous for selling liquor for a long time.

During the raid, the said quantity of Lahan and illicit liquor was recovered from this place and 3 persons including a woman were arrested and 5 persons related to this case are

absconding. He explained in detail that under the above campaign, Our police arrested Nanki wife of Kashmiri Singh and her daughter Lachha Rani during the raid and recovered 28 bottles of illicit liquor and 50 liters of lahan. During a raid on the house of Mangu Singh son of Ratna Singh, 300 liters of lahan were recovered. In addition, during a raid on the house of Guddi wife Raghveer Singh, 15 bottles of liquor and 400 liters of lahan were recovered. 400 liters of lahan were recovered from the house of Jaspal Singh son of Hazara Singh.

Health dept constitutes special teams to check spread of Malaria and dengue in Mansa city

NARESH GOYAL
MANSA, MAY 16

Under the dynamic leadership of Mansa Civil surgeon (CS) Dr. Arvindpal Singh special teams of health workers have been formed which are carrying out door-to-door campaign in the city with a view to educate people about the spread of normal diseases.

These teams are also making people aware of the precautions that how to escape from these seasonal diseases and what parameters are to be adopted in case their breakout. A team today held door to door campaign in the localities falling on Chakerian road in the city and educate the residents about spread of Malaria and Dengue. Empidemiologist Santosh Bharti stated how the

teammates apprised residents about the precautions to be adopted and not to allow accumulation of dirty water inside or around their houses. He also disclosed that on the accumulated stagnant water insecticides are being sprayed with a view to kill insects which usually converge on the stagnant water in the localities.

Deputy mass media officer Darshan Singh disclosed that the mosquitoes that cause deadly Dengue disease normally bites during day-time and it makes accumulated water its destination. Hence, we need to be utmost careful that water doesn't accumulate in the pots or air coolers for days together. Water tanks also need to be covered and shouldn't be left uncovered.

Historic Marathon at Land of Martyrs Fatehgarh Sahib



AJAY MALHOTRA
FATEHGARH SAHIB, MAY 16

Society's united stand against drug abuse, the Rotary Club Sirhind in collaboration with the District Administration Fatehgarh Sahib is organizing a grand anti-drug awareness marathon titled "Run for Life" on 18th May 2025 at 6:00 AM at Rotary Club, Sirhind. The marathon will commence from the historic grounds of Fatehgarh Sahib, a land known for the supreme sacrifices of martyrs. In a press briefing held today, President of Rotary Club Sirhind Dr. Hitender Suri, unveiled the official T-shirt of the marathon in the presence of club members and highlighted the significance of this historic event.

He stated, "This is one of the most impactful social initiatives ever organized in Fatehgarh Sahib, aimed at mobilizing the community against the growing menace of drug abuse. Over 1700 participants have already registered, reflecting the strong public support for this noble cause." The flag-off ceremony will be graced by distinguished dignitaries including Deputy Commissioner Fatehgarh Sahib Dr. Sona Thind and MLA Fatehgarh Advocate Lakhbir Singh Rai. The 5-kilometer marathon will witness active participation from all 70 departments of the district administration, all schools in Fatehgarh Sahib, 26 NGOs.

Govt takes major step for prison security; 24-hrs surveillance with advanced cameras



CHANDIGARH, MAY 16

Chief Minister S. Bhagwant Singh Mann-led Punjab Government has taken a significant step to install Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based ultra-modern cameras in Punjab's jails to further strengthen security systems. This initiative will enable 24x7 surveillance of various activities including illegal drug use and mobile phone usage in the state's jails. Punjab Jail Minister S. Laljit Singh Bhullar today conducted surprise inspections of the Central Jails in Rupnagar and Kapurthala. He said

that the Punjab government is taking stringent measures to prevent the illegal use of mobile phones and criminal activities in the state's prisons and is equipping Punjab jails with the latest security devices. The Jail Minister instructed officials and staff to perform their duties with complete vigilance, warning that strict action would be taken against any government employee or inmate caught using or supplying drugs in jail. While directing them to completely control drugs, mobile phones and other objectionable materials in jails.

Punjab govt transformed Udda Punjab into changing Punjab: Dev Mann



RAKESH JINDAL
NABHA, MAY 16

Nabha MLA Gurdev Singh Dev Mann said that under the leadership of Chief Minister S. Bhagwant Singh Mann, the Punjab government has taken a journey from Udda Punjab to Balda Punjab and very soon the state will be known as Rangle Punjab. He made these remarks while addressing the residents of villages Kakrala and Chhitanwala during the drug de-addiction

campaign launched by the Punjab government today. MLA Dev Mann said that the Punjab government has adopted a zero tolerance policy against drugs from the very first day, due to which major actions have also been seen against drug smugglers. He said that the Punjab government has completely shut down the supply line of drugs and now efforts are being made to treat drug addicts and include them in the mainstream of society.

Senior woman police constable Ramandeep Kaur dies in road accident

RAMPURA PHUL (KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA): A woman senior constable riding an Activa died on the spot after being hit by a speeding Bolero pickup on the Rampura-Maur road this morning. The deceased woman constable Ramandeep Kaur was posted at the DSP office Phul. As soon as the information about the accident was received, the Sahara Samaj Sewa Rampura Phul team reached the spot and shifted the body of the woman constable to the morgue of the local civil hospital for post-mortem. On the other hand, a case has been registered against the Bolero driver at the City Rampura police station on the basis of the complaint of the deceased woman constable's husband and a search has been started for him. In a complaint to the police, Gurditta Singh, a resident of village Mandi Kala, said that his wife Ramandeep Kaur was posted as a senior constable in DSP office Phul. Today, at around 5 am, she was going from Mandi Kala to Rampura on her Activa to go to duty. During this, he was following her on a motorcycle towards Rampura Phul. As soon as she reached near Gora Tiles on Rampura-Maur road, a speeding Bolero coming from Rampura hit Ramandeep Kaur's Activa while trying to overtake the truck going ahead.



Bains directs NHAI officials to accelerate Sri Kiratpur Sahib-Nangal Highway Project

GAURAV GOEL
CHANDIGARH, MAY 16

In a bid to fast-track the much awaited four-laning of the Sri Kiratpur Sahib-Nangal highway, Punjab Education Minister and MLA from Sri Anandpur Sahib, S. Harjot Singh Bains, directed the officials concerned to accelerate land acquisition for the project, while deciding to personally review the progress of the project on a weekly basis.

Presiding over a crucial meeting with senior officials from NHAI, MoRTH and PWD here at the Punjab Civil Secretariat-1, Punjab Education Minister S. Harjot Singh Bains emphasised the significance of the Sri Kiratpur Sahib-Nangal highway's four-laning project, terming it a 'dream project' that would



greatly benefit the region. Describing the highway's importance, S. Harjot Singh Bains stated that it serves as a vital link between Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, particularly given the presence of revered sites such as Sri Anandpur Sahib and Mata Naina Devi. He highlighted the pressing need for four-laning, citing the stretch's notorious reputation as a 'Killer

Road'. Notably, Punjab Education Minister S. Harjot Singh Bains' persistent efforts to expedite the Sri Kiratpur Sahib-Nangal highway project since 2022 have finally borne fruit. Following two meetings with Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Sh. Nitin Gadkari, the project received formal approval in December 2024.

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA: Newly appointed Member of the Himachal Pradesh Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Commission, Vijay Pal Singh, called on Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu here today. He expressed his gratitude to the Chief Minister for the trust and responsibility bestowed upon him through the appointment.



NEWS BRIEF

Kuldeep Kumar meets Secretary of National Commission for Safai Karamcharis



DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA: Chairman HP State Commission for Scheduled Castes, Kuldeep Kumar met Secretary of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis, Rahul Kashyap at New Delhi today. He was accompanied by members of the Commission including Advocates Vijay Dogra and Digvijay Malhotra. They discussed about various issues related to the welfare of Safai Karamcharis in Himachal Pradesh. Kuldeep Kumar briefed about various measures being undertaken by the state government for their welfare of the Safai Karamcharis and added that every effort is being made to safeguard their rights. Rahul Kashyap urged the Commission to ensure implementation of 'Namaste Scheme' effectively in the State.

50 patients examined in health check-up camp in Dhusada



AVINASH CHAUHAN
AMB: A health camp was organized by the MP's mobile health team in Dhusada village panchayat of Amb for the health and blood test of the people. Dr. Shashank Kaushal and his team conducted health check-up of 50 people and conducted blood test and uric acid test of eight patients. During the health camp, general health check-up and blood test of the elderly, women and children were done free of cost. The team provided treatment advice and also distributed medicines to the patients free of cost. The team included Neelam Staff Nurse, Varinder Lab Technician and Rahul Thakur.

Himachal leads way in empowering girls, supporting women and strengthening early education

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, MAY 16

Himachal Pradesh is taking bold strides toward gender empowerment and early childhood development under the present state government. The State has shown remarkable improvement in its child sex ratio, which has risen from 947 to 964 in last two years indicating the focused and sustained efforts of the state government in this direction. This positive change has laid the foundation for a new series of transformative initiatives started by the state government.

One of the most promising initiative was the "Indira Gandhi Sukh Suraksha Yojna" aimed to support girls born in Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. The scheme aims to deposit Rs. 25,000 for every girl

child born in a BPL family with an insurance company at time of the birth ensuring their financial security. It also includes life insurance coverage of Rs. 2 lakh each for both the parents. The insured amount would mature when the girl turns 18, or at her choice, she can keep it till she attains the age of 27. This new initiative was expected to greatly strengthen the ongoing "Beti Hai Anmol Yojana" and it would further encourage the welfare and protection of the girl child.

To support the working women, the government has decided to construct 13 new working women's hostels across various districts including Solan, Neeri, Daruhi, Palampur, Luthan, Baddi, Gagret, Nagrota Bagwan, Chanour Industrial Area and Medical Devices Park in Solan. To be built at a

CM extends best wishes to All India Professional's Congress

SHIMLA: State Vice President of the All India Professional's Congress, Dr. Shikhin Soni, called on Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu here today. He apprised the Chief Minister about the Dr. Manmohan Singh fellowship programme, recently launched by the Congress to encourage new talent in politics. He said that the initiative aims to provide internship training to the top 50 professionals who aspire to make a mark in politics mid-career. The Chief Minister appreciated the initiative and extended his best wishes. He said that such efforts inspire young professionals to



serve the nation with dedication and commitment.

cost of Rs. 132 crore these hostels will help address the growing need for safe and affordable accommodation for women in the workforce. In the education sector, a

major reform has also been introduced for young learners. All 18,925 Anganwadi Centres across the state would be transformed into

"Anganwadi Sah Preschools." These centres would offer play-based early childhood education to children aged between 3 to 6 years.

Bilaspur leads Himachal's natural farming movement as wheat procurement begins at record MSP

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY
BILASPUR, MAY 16

Ushering in a new era for sustainable agriculture, Bilaspur district commenced the procurement of naturally farmed wheat at a record-breaking minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 60 per kg. The initiative, aligned with Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's vision to promote chemical-free agriculture, was officially launched at Ghumarwin and Bilaspur procurement centers under the ATMA project with support from the Himachal Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation.

Deputy Commissioner Rahul Kumar visited the Bilaspur center to review arrangements and personally interacted with farmers. Commending their efforts, he encouraged wider adoption of natural farming and



directed officials to ensure transparency and convenience throughout the procurement process.

More than 22 quintals of wheat were procured on the first day from 17 farmers, and over 100 producers have already registered for the season. The district anticipates purchasing approximately 7.8 metric tonnes of natural wheat. Quality testing using moisture meters was

demonstrated on-site, ensuring fair price for quality produce.

Rahul Kumar highlighted that over 8,000 farmers in Bilaspur have embraced natural farming, with 4,800 already registered on the national Sitara portal. He emphasized the health, environmental, and economic benefits of this sustainable practice, noting that it reduces input costs while boosting farm income.

Newly appointed MD of HIMFED calls on Deputy Chief Minister



DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA: The newly appointed Managing Director of Himachal Pradesh State Cooperative Marketing and Consumer Federation Ltd. (HIMFED) Jagan Thakur paid a courtesy call on Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri here today.

On this occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister congratulated Jagan Thakur on taking over his new role and expressed hope that under his able leadership, HIMFED would reach new heights in the cooperative sector. He said that HIMFED plays an important role in the economy of the state and the government was committed to strengthening it further. Shri Agnihotri said that the state government was continuously working to empower the cooperative sector and HIMFED has a vital part to play in this. He expressed confidence that Sh. Thakur, with his administrative experience and efficiency would make the functioning of HIMFED more effective. During the meeting, discussions were also held on various cooperative schemes and activities related to consumer welfare.

Delegation of Gram Rojgar Sevak Sangh meets CM



DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, MAY 16

A delegation of Himachal Pradesh Gram Rojgar Sevak Sangh (GRSS) called on Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu here today and apprised him of their various demands. The delegation apprised that they were not receiving their salaries regularly as the Central government has reduced the budget allocation to half for Himachal Pradesh. They

urged the state government to take up this matter with the government of India.

The Chief Minister assured the delegation that the state government would consider their demands sympathetically and would also explore the possibilities of establishing a revolving fund to resolve their problem. He said that the state government was considerate to issues of government employees and is taking appropriate steps to address these matters.

Cyber Security Academy invites applications for govt-certified courses in Himachal

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA: The National Academy of Cyber Security has invited online applications from all over Himachal Pradesh for its Government of India Certified Cyber Security & Ethical Hacking Courses Online Training. This is a fantastic chance for people with qualifications 10+2



pass, Degree, Diploma, Engineering, and PG to boost their skills in the exciting field of cyber security. Applicants can choose from various courses, including Cyber Security Officer, Diploma in Cyber Security & Ethical Hacking, PG Diploma in Cyber Security & Ethical Hacking, and Master Program in Cyber Security & Ethical Hacking. These courses range from six months to a year, providing ample opportunity to delve deep into this fascinating subject. Upon successfully completing the course, participants will receive a Government of India Certificate, recognizing their expertise in cyber security. Graduates of these courses can anticipate a range of job prospects, including roles like Cyber Security Officer, Information Officer, and Security Analyst, among others. With opportunities available both in India and abroad, now is the perfect time for eligible candidates to kickstart their career journey in cyber security.

Rajiv Gandhi Model Day-Boarding Schools to shape confident youth through quality education

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA, MAY 16

Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's visionary initiative to revolutionize the education sector in Himachal Pradesh is taking concrete shape, as the state government moves ahead with the establishment of Rajiv Gandhi Government Model Day-Boarding Schools in every assembly constituency. These modern institutions aim to become incubators for confident, future-ready youth by delivering high-quality education.

Each of these schools will offer education from pre-primary to Class 12 and will follow the CBSE curriculum. Equipped with smart classrooms, sports grounds, indoor stadiums, swimming pools, and music rooms, the



schools are designed to foster the holistic development of students. Deputy Director of Higher Education Anil Kumar shared that all five assembly constituencies in Una — Una, Haroli, Gagret, Chintpurni, and Kutlehar — have completed the procedural groundwork, and construction work is gaining momentum. In Una constituency, the site has been identified at Jankaur Har; in Haroli, at Barheda; in Gagret, at Sanghnai; in Chintpurni, at

Ladoli; and in Kutlehar, at Bangana (Bo). Gagret's Sanghnai site has already received Rs. 2.5 crore, and construction is well underway. Barheda in Haroli has also received Rs. 1.5 crore, with other sites expected to see work begin shortly. Deputy Commissioner Jatinder Lal emphasized that these projects are being carried out with utmost diligence, in alignment with the Chief Minister's foresight.

SJVN commences Swachhta Pakhwada 2025 across all projects and offices

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, MAY 16

SJVN has marked the commencement of Swachhta Pakhwada 2025 across all its projects and offices by administering the Swachhta Pledge to its employees. The Pakhwada will be observed from 16th to 31st May 2025, with a series of cleanliness and awareness activities planned throughout the fortnight. The Swachhta Pledge was administered by Sh. Bhupender Gupta, CMD, SJVN (Addl Charge) at SJVN Office, New Delhi reaffirming the organization's unwavering commitment to a clean and green environment. On this occasion, Sh. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Director (Personnel), Sh. Pawan Varma, ED (HR) along with other senior officials, were also present to support the initiative.

Bhupender Gupta, CMD, SJVN (Addl Charge) emphasized the vital role of individual responsibility in maintaining a clean and healthy environment. He urged employees to take proactive steps in supporting cleanliness initiatives, not only at the workplace but also in surrounding communities.



At Corporate Headquarters Shimla, Swachhta Pledge was administered by Sh. Chandra Shekhar Yadav, ED/HoD (HR) to the employees while in other project locations, it was led by respective Heads of Projects and Stations. In line with the directives of the Ministry of Power, Government of India, SJVN has been organizing Swachhta Pakhwada annually since 2016. During the event, SJVN employees, in collaboration with local communities, participate in cleanliness drives, awareness programs and other related activities.

Himachal HC asks govt to vacate judge-designated bungalow

AGENCY
SHIMLA, MAY 16

Making strong remarks against the government, the Himachal Pradesh High Court has directed the state government to vacate Bungalow No. 3 at Harrington Estate, Shimla, meant exclusively for high court judges, and hand over its keys to the court within ten days.

The court was informed via affidavit that the bungalow is currently occupied by PC Gupta, additional director, Department of Environment, Science and Technology and chief engineer of the State Pollution Control Board. Orders have been issued to vacate the house.

The division bench of Chief Justice M. Sandhawalia and Justice Ranjan Sharma had earlier expressed displeasure, questioning how a residence reserved for judges was allotted to a journalist.

The bungalow, part of six units earmarked for judges at Harrington Estate, was first allotted to Gupta's wife, Rachna Gupta, a journalist and former member of the Himachal Pradesh Public Service Commission (HPPSC).

The matter has been listed for further hearing on May 28, as the court examines not just the misuse of accommodation but the systemic failures that enabled it.



Kewal Singh Pathania seeks Himalayan Regiment for hill states

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, MAY 16

Deputy Chief Whip Kewal Singh Pathania in a press statement has strongly demanded the formation of a dedicated Himalayan Regiment for the hill states, especially Himachal Pradesh. He accused the Union Government of continuously ignoring the unmatched courage and sacrifices made by soldiers from the region.

He said that Himachal Pradesh was known as Veer Bhoomi. From the first Param Vir Chakra awarded to Major Somnath Sharma to the heroic martyrdom of Captain Vikram Batra and many others, the people of



our state have displayed extraordinary valour in every war and conflict faced by the nation. Despite this, the Central Government has failed to recognise the need for a dedicated regiment representing the hill states.

Shri Pathania expressed concern over the reduction of army recruitment quotas based on population, terming

it unjust for a state like Himachal, which has historically contributed a large number of soldiers to the Indian Army. He said that Himachal was a small state in terms of population, but number one when it comes to gallantry awards. He said that the Centre must not measure bravery by population. He said that he also met Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and held a discussion and urged to take up this matter with the Union Government. He said the formation of a Himalayan Regiment would open more opportunities for the youth of the region and utilise their natural ability and readiness for mountain warfare.

State Computer Teachers Association delegation calls on CM



DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA: A deputation of the State Computer Teachers Association, led by its President Suman Thakur, called on Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu here today. The deputation apprised him of various demands of the Association and requested to redress their demands. The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing and assured to consider all their genuine demands sympathetically.

Bilaspur-Manali-Leh railway survey, Turkish company is threat to country

ASHISH SHARMA
KULLU, MAY 16

People in Kullu has opposed the Bilaspur-Manali-Leh railway survey by a Turkish company and described it as a nationan threat. The company that has conducted the survey of Leh railway line via Manali to Bilaspur in Himachal Pradesh belongs to Turkey. In such a situation, the security of the nation can be in danger anytime. The Indian government should cancel this survey and get it done again by a company of India or a friendly country.

Addressing a press conference in Kullu, Vedram Thakur, President of District



Kullu Ex- Pradhan Sangh and President of Home Stay Association District Kullu, said that Turkey had supported Pakistan during the recent war with Pakistan. In such a situation, the company that has conducted this railway survey has complete information about the border areas of India and in the coming times, it can become a threat to the

country anytime, he said. Apart from this, the survey done by this company also has no basis. He further said that according to the survey, hundreds of acres of land will be acquired in Kullu district and many people will be displaced from their houses and land. He said that Himachal Pradesh is a hilly state and there is a huge shortage of land here.

NEWS BRIEF

Chicks burnt in poultry farm fire



AVINASH CHAUHAN
AMB: On Friday at around 2.30 pm, in Gram Panchayat Behad Jaswan under Police Station Amb, a sudden fire broke out in the poultry farm shed of Arun Kumar son of Shamlal, Ward No. 4, Village Chakk, causing a loss of about 3/4 lakh rupees. The reeds placed on the roof of this poultry farm and the plastic pipes under the roof which are installed for the sprinkling system, 10 sacks of chicken feed were burnt in the fire. About 1000 chickens were also kept on the lower surface of this poultry farm and due to the heat of the fire, the chickens kept there started dying slowly and till now about 400/450 chickens have died.

Bilaspur launches voter awareness drive under SVEEP to boost democratic participation

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY
BILASPUR: In a significant step towards empowering citizens and strengthening democracy, a district-wide voter awareness campaign was launched in Bilaspur under the Systematic Voter Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program. District Election Officer and Deputy Commissioner Rahul Kumar informed that the initiative follows directives from the Election Commission of India and aims to enhance voter literacy and engagement. The campaign is focused on educating citizens about key electoral processes such as voter registration, deletion of outdated entries, and necessary corrections in the electoral rolls. It also encourages widespread participation in elections, reinforcing the pivotal role each vote plays in a thriving democracy. The first phase of the campaign will be carried out through Election Literacy Clubs in senior secondary schools, higher education, and training institutions across the district.



Former Union Minister and MP from Hamirpur, Anurag Singh Thakur, praised the Tiranga Yatra being organised by the BJP across the country as a tribute to the bravery of the Indian Army and the success of national leadership following the recent Operation Sindoor. Addressing the media, Thakur said, “The Indian Army has always been our pride. In response to the brutal killing of innocent civilians by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists in Pahalgam on April 22, Operation Sindoor has proved that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, our forces are capable of delivering a decisive counter-strike to anti-India activities.” He described Operation Sindoor as clear evidence of India’s strong leadership and military preparedness. The BJP is honouring the Army’s valour and the nation’s success under Modi through the Tiranga Yatra, which is witnessing enthusiastic public participation from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. Calling for widespread involvement in the Yatra, Thakur said, “Every Indian should join this movement and help foster a spirit of patriotism. Whether in the ruling party or the opposition, national pride must remain a shared priority for the success of democracy.” He added that the Indian Army stands ready to retaliate against any provocation from across the border and reaffirmed PM Modi’s doctrine that “terror and talks cannot go hand in hand.” “Prime Minister Modi has ensured that every aspect — from military retaliation to the Indus Waters Treaty — is handled decisively. Operation Sindoor was planned and executed in a manner that neutralised the terrorists without harming civilians,” Thakur concluded.

SC declares ISKCON-Bengaluru as lawful owner of city’s Radha Krishna temple

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, MAY 16

In a significant verdict, the Supreme Court on Friday ruled that the ISKCON temple located on Hare Krishna Hill in Bengaluru rightfully belongs to ISKCON Society Bengaluru, a society registered under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act.

A bench comprising Justice Abhay S. Oka and Justice AG Masih set aside the Karnataka High Court’s earlier judgment which had declared ISKCON-Mumbai as the rightful owner of the property. The apex court’s ruling puts to rest the long-standing ownership and management dispute between ISKCON-Bangalore and ISKCON-Mumbai.

Affirming the legal and



administrative autonomy of ISKCON-Bangalore, the court held that the society is the lawful owner of the Sri Radha Krishna Temple, and ISKCON-Mumbai cannot interfere in its affairs.

The dispute had its roots in the internal differences within the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)

following the death of its founder Srila Prabhupada. ISKCON-Bangalore, which was established in 1981, had opposed the succession of leadership by Western disciples, leading to a rift with ISKCON-Mumbai.

The matter traversed through various legal forums beginning with the trial court, then the High Court, and

Suliali School records 78% pass percentage in Class 10 Board exams

SANJEEV MAHAJAN
NURPUR: Government Excellence Senior Secondary School, Suliali, has delivered an impressive performance in the Class 10 results declared by the Himachal Pradesh Board, securing a pass percentage of 78%. Pawan Kumar, son of Balbir Singh, topped the school with an outstanding score of 96.42%. Palak,



daughter of Sanjay Kumar, stood second with 94%, while Ritika, daughter of Rakesh Singh, secured third place with

92%. Principal Kartar Chand congratulated the students, their parents, and teachers on the success and expressed satisfaction with the board exam results. He praised the collective efforts of students and staff in achieving this milestone. School topper Pawan Kumar expressed his happiness, saying, “I am thrilled to have topped my school.

DC directs accelerated execution of Smart City projects in Sultanpur Lodhi

ARVIND PATHAK,
SULTANPUR LODHI, MAY 16

Deputy Commissioner Amit Kumar Panchal on Friday issued strict directives to officials to expedite the implementation of Smart City projects in Sultanpur Lodhi, emphasizing that unnecessary delays in the development of this holy city will not be tolerated.

During a comprehensive inspection of ongoing development works in Sultanpur Lodhi today, Panchal stressed the importance of minimizing disruptions faced by residents and devotees due to the projects. He instructed senior officials to personally oversee the progress of each initiative and submit detailed weekly reports to ensure timely completion. The Deputy Commissioner reviewed key projects, including infrastructure upgrades at Shaheed Udhham Singh



Chowk, Talwandi Bridge, the Bus Stand, and the road leading to Gurdwara Sri Ber Sahib. He also assessed the construction of a new administrative complex, noting that its completion will provide residents with convenient access to all public services under one roof. To ensure public convenience, Panchal directed officials from the Municipal Council and Public Works Department to promptly repair or reconstruct roads in areas where projects are completed, minimizing

inconvenience to commuters and residents. The Deputy Commissioner announced significant progress in water and sanitation infrastructure, with approximately 3,500 new water supply connections being facilitated through the laying of 28 kilometers of pipeline. Additionally, a 1.4-kilometer sewer line has been installed, and a 1 MLD (million liters per day) capacity sewage treatment plant has successfully completed its trial run, with commissioning expected soon.

Tiranga Yatra a salute to Indian Army’s bravery and national leadership: Anurag Thakur

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, MAY 16

Former Union Minister and MP from Hamirpur, Anurag Singh Thakur, praised the Tiranga Yatra being organised by the BJP across the country as a tribute to the bravery of the Indian Army and the success of national leadership following the recent Operation Sindoor. Addressing the media, Thakur said, “The Indian Army has always been our pride. In response to the brutal killing of innocent civilians by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists in Pahalgam on April 22, Operation Sindoor has proved that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, our forces are capable of delivering a decisive counter-strike to anti-India activities.” He described Operation Sindoor as clear evidence of India’s strong leadership and military preparedness. The BJP is honouring the Army’s valour and the nation’s success under Modi through the Tiranga Yatra, which is witnessing enthusiastic public participation from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. Calling for widespread involvement in the Yatra, Thakur said, “Every Indian should join this movement and help foster a spirit of



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“Prime Minister Modi has ensured that every aspect — from military retaliation to the Indus Waters Treaty — is handled decisively. Operation Sindoor was planned and executed in a manner that neutralised the terrorists without harming civilians,” Thakur concluded.

Haryana FSL launches mobile forensic vans, boosts scientific justice system

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, MAY 16

Haryana’s Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), once regarded purely as an analytical institution, has today emerged as the backbone of the scientific justice system. Over the past eighteen months, FSL Haryana has not only acquired a wide array of advanced scientific instruments but also boosted casework and judicial throughput by recruiting additional staff - ranging from SSO specialists to cyber forensic experts - resulting in a significant reduction in pending cases.

In a landmark initiative, DGP Haryana Mr. Shatrueet Kapur formally inaugurated four state-of-the-art Mobile Forensic Vans at the FSL



Madhuban campus. During the ceremony, he inspected each van. Equipped for DNA sampling, fingerprint capture, digital documentation, camera recording, and preliminary analysis, these vans can now collect scientific evidence directly at crime scenes - eliminating traditional delays and preventing evidence degradation. This is especially

beneficial for rural and remote areas, where investigators previously waited for specialists to arrive. Immediate on-site evidence collection will improve both the speed and quality of judicial proceedings.

At the same event, DGP Kapur also unveiled advanced tamper-proof packaging and sealing materials developed by FSL.

Designed to reveal any tampering, these seals will strengthen the admissibility of evidence in court. By ensuring evidence remains intact from collection to presentation, this innovation enhances transparency and accountability in the justice system, reduces the risk of wrongful acquittals, and bolsters public confidence in judicial outcomes.

“These two initiatives demonstrate Haryana Police’s commitment to a scientific approach,” said DGP Kapur “FSL Haryana is no longer merely a reporting agency; it plays a decisive role at every stage of scientific justice. Investigations will now be faster, impartial, and so technically sound that contesting evidence in court will be extremely difficult.

DC encourages Civil Services aspirants, felicitates Class 12th govt school toppers



RAKESH JINDAL
PATIALA: In a heartwarming and motivational gesture, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Preeti Yadav today invited meritorious students from government schools-aspiring to become civil servants-to sit on her chair and experience the responsibilities of administrative leadership. These students had secured top positions in the Class XII district merit list. Congratulating the students at her office, Dr. Preeti Yadav encouraged them to pursue their dreams with determination and discipline. “If you stay focused and away from distractions, no dream is too big,” she said. She emphasized that success is not defined merely by academic excellence, money, or fame-but by being a good and compassionate human being. “Helping others and contributing to society is the true measure of success,” she added. The Deputy Commissioner honored 12 meritorious students and familiarized them with the working of the district administration. She also announced that career counseling support would be provided to them through the District Bureau of Employment and Entrepreneurship to help them plan their future paths.

KU hosts online lecture by U.S. AI industry expert

DALBIR MALIK
KURUKSHETRA, MAY 16

Institute of Integrated and Honours Studies Kurukshetra University organised a special online talk on Artificial Intelligence. The resource person of this extension lecture, a renowned industry expert from USA, Harsh Bansal said that Artificial Intelligence (AI) is playing a pivotal role in shaping a developed India, influencing sectors from education and healthcare to agriculture and defense. Bansal described AI as an advanced field of computer science that enables machines to mimic human intelligence and decision-making through sophisticated programming. “AI is no longer a futuristic concept—it is a present-day reality transforming



industries and daily life,” he said. Harsh Bansal highlighted the widespread use of AI across various domains. In customer service, chatbots are now integral to online support systems, especially in banking. In healthcare, AI is revolutionizing diagnosis and treatment, particularly in fields like oncology and radiology, by delivering faster and more accurate

results. “In education, AI is creating more personalized and accessible learning experiences. Students can now access tailored resources without relying solely on teachers,” he explained.

The agriculture sector, Bansal noted, is also undergoing a technological transformation. Through precision farming, AI helps optimize crop yields using data-driven techniques, enhancing both productivity and sustainability. Bansal further pointed out AI’s growing importance in finance and marketing—from fraud detection and credit scoring to algorithmic trading and targeted advertising. “AI not only improves operational efficiency but also enhances customer experience through intelligent systems,” he said.

Seminar on mental health awareness organised at New Happy Public School, Yamunanagar

RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR, MAY 16

A special seminar was organized at New Happy Public School, Yamunanagar, with the aim of raising awareness about mental health and drug de-addiction. This program was conducted under the Haryana Mental Health and De-Addiction Programme, initiated by the Health Department, Government of Haryana, and led by Mr. Shashi, Director of the organization “Ek Soch, Nayi Soch.” Several key officials and experts from the District Health Department, Yamunanagar, were present at the event. Ms. Lubanshi, Psychiatrist and Nursing officer, Mr. Rinku, From Health Department and Social Worker, Mr. Lalit Yadav, Badminton Coach, Sports Department, Haryana, Mr. Ayodhya and Ms. Preeti Biswas, AYUSH



Yoga Assistants, District Yamunanagar

During the session, Mr. Shashi and Ms. Lubanshi interacted with the students and discussed the importance of mental health, types of stress, ways to maintain life balance, and the growing trend of drug use among youth. They emphasized that mental health is just as crucial as physical health, and understanding and managing stress and pressure is vital for achieving success in life. The seminar was made highly interactive and

educational, offering not only awareness about mental health issues but also inspiring students to stay away from substance abuse and adopt a positive lifestyle.

On this occasion, the Principal, Dr. Bindu Sharma, stated: “In today’s fast-paced world, where the younger generation is increasingly falling prey to mental pressure and negative tendencies, such programs are extremely necessary. We aim to make our students mentally strong, confident, and aware.”

Students of 12th Class passed in Biology and Maths can brighter their future in Pharmacy: Dr. GD Gupta

JAGRAJ SINGH SANGHA
MOGA, MAY 16

ISF College of Pharmacy, Moga, Director Dr. G.D. Gupta said that students of Biology and Maths stream who have passed 12th standard can make their future bright by taking education in Pharmacy. He said that after 12th standard students have opportunity to take admission in various programs of Pharmacy such as D. Pharm. (02 years), B. Pharm (04 years) and Pharm.D (06x years). Before taking admission, parents and students must check the rules and regulations of the institutes i.e. approval from Pharmacy Council of India (PCI), recognition from Examination Authority, availability of experienced and



qualified faculties such as Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor in each stream. Available infrastructure with advanced equipment in the labs, library and other facilities are necessary for multifaceted development of the students. Students need to pay attention regarding their placements. The Government of India measures all these parameters under the NIRF ranking. It must to check the institute

ranking of NIRF and accreditation status with grade such as NAAC, NBA etc. Students of D.Pharm, B.Pharm and Pharm.D. can easily get jobs ranging from self-employment, government and private sectors, hospitals, industries, research labs, higher education, scientist, Pharmacist in army and can become an entrepreneur. There are many possibilities in Pharma sector including National and International platform. Currently Pharma is symmetrically growing along with the use of softwares, artificial intelligence, medical devices, Pharmacovigilance, handling of sophisticated instruments, animal study, clinical study, soft skills in health profession to brighten the future.

VERMA
GURDASPUR, MAY 16

In its continuous commitment to the all-round development of children, the District Child Welfare Council (DCWC) Gurdaspur held a felicitation ceremony today at Sip M Dine to honor meritorious students from Green Land Public Senior Secondary School, Dinanagar. Under the council’s annual initiative to encourage academic excellence, students who scored more than 95 percent marks in Class X and XII CBSE board examinations were recognized for their outstanding performance.

During the event, students from Green Land Public Senior Secondary School who recently topped the CBSE Class X and XII exams were



honored with certificates and tokens of appreciation. The principal of the school, Mrs. Jyoti Thakur, who is an able administrator and educationist was also specially recognized for her exemplary leadership and effective administration in guiding the institution toward academic excellence.

Speaking on the occasion, Romesh Mahajan, Honorary Secretary of the District Child Welfare Council and a

National Awardee, highlighted the various welfare programs being actively implemented by the council like a crèche center at Bal Bhawan, a children’s library, computer and beautician training centers for both boys and girls, an early education center for children from slum areas, and an open shelter for orphaned children offering free accommodation, education, and meals.

Jat Sabha will hold blood donation camp on May 18

DALBIR MALIK
KURUKSHETRA: Jat Sabha (Jat Dharamshala Kurukshetra) is always engaged in social service activities. A few days ago, elections were held for Jat Dharamshala Kurukshetra in which Dr. Krishna Shyokand was elected as the head of Jat Dharamshala Kurukshetra. As soon as he became the head of Jat Dharamshala Kurukshetra, Dr. Krishna Shyokand had pledged that with the blessings of the elders and with the support of the youth and other social service organizations, he would focus on education, health and sports. He said that he would strongly oppose the evils prevalent in the society and would make every possible effort by meeting all the Khaps and Panchayats to amend the Hindu Marriage Act. He said that a big blood donation camp was being organized on Sunday, 18 May at Jat Dharamshala Kurukshetra from 9 am to 2 pm. He said that any healthy person between the age of 18 to 60 years can donate blood. Donating blood did not cause any deficiency in the body, rather it prevented the risk of heart attack, hence participate enthusiastically in blood donation camps.



NEWS BRIEFS

Awareness organized on drug addiction and food safety

RADAUR (NIRMAL SAINI) : An awareness program on drug addiction and food safety was organized in Government ITI Nacheron. In which students were given tips on food safety, adulterated food and to avoid drug addiction. Diet and health expert Hardeep Singh was the chief guest in the program. The institute principal Satish Kumar presided over it. The main coordinators of the program were class instructor Sham Singh and DMM instructor Mahavir Singh. Hardeep Singh said that nutritious food is necessary for a healthy body. In this hectic life, man is being careless about health. Which directly affects health. At the same time, we should stay away from junk food and drug addiction. Before buying any food item from the market, check it thoroughly. Principal Satish Kumar said that such programs are organized from time to time in the institute .

Awareness activities mark National Dengue Day in Karnal

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL: On the occasion of National Dengue Day, a series of awareness activities were held across Karnal district to educate the public on dengue prevention. Deputy Civil Surgeon Dr. Annu Sharma informed that the Health Department organized painting and slogan-writing competitions in various schools, which saw enthusiastic participation from students. This year's theme for National Dengue Day is "Check / Clean / Cover: Steps to Defeat Dengue." In line with this, health teams reached out to both rural and urban areas, conducting door-to-door visits to inform residents about preventive measures and the importance of community participation. Dr. Sharma shared that similar observances were held at all sub-divisional hospitals, community health centres, and urban primary health facilities, where senior medical officers and health workers educated the public about effective strategies to prevent the spread of dengue. She urged residents to regularly empty and overturn containers like unused pots, tyres, tubes, and cans on rooftops or around homes to prevent water stagnation, which is a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Additionally, she advised puncturing discarded tyres and ensuring proper drainage around houses. In places where water cannot be removed, she recommended adding a small amount of kerosene, diesel, or black oil to stop mosquito larvae from developing. Dr. Sharma emphasized that public cooperation is vital in combating dengue and that collective efforts can significantly reduce the risk of an outbreak.



2000th free health camp from service to resolution, says Dr. Sanjay Sharma

HANS RAJ KURUKSHETRA, MAY 16

Confluence of dedication, service and health was seen today at Deep Public Senior Secondary School, Tatka, Kurukshetra, where 2000th free medical and health awareness camp was organized under guidance of Ayurveda expert Dr. Sanjay Sharma. He said that since year 1987, he has been serving society selflessly by assimilating the motto "One step towards public service - your health, our goal". "With the blessings and inspiration of Veda Mata Gayatri and Tapasvi Pt. Shriram Sharma Acharya Ji Shantikunj, Haridwar, we were able to successfully organize 2000 free health camps through various organizations in many areas including Kurukshetra, Chandigarh, Panchkula, Mohali, Ambala,



witness to this auspicious occasion today. Personalities like Dr. Sanjay Sharma are an inspiration to society, whose life is dedicated to service. Dr. Rakesh Bhardwaj M.D., Pediatrician,



during his visits or during public hearings held at Sant Kabir Kutir are uploaded to the Jan Samvad Portal. The progress of these cases is personally reviewed by the Chief Minister on a weekly basis. Following this, a serious complaint from Tikri village in Karnal district was discussed, involving the wrongful inclusion of an unknown woman's name in the Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP). Despite repeated efforts by the complainant, Sushil Kumar, the issue remained unresolved. Taking cognizance of this serious administrative lapse, directions were issued to fix responsibility, take disciplinary action

against the guilty official, and register an FIR. During the meeting, officials took note of a case where several installments under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) in urban areas were pending due to a lack of inspections by Urban Local Bodies (ULB) officials. Taking serious note of the issue, Dr. Saket Kumar directed the department to submit the list of pending beneficiaries and ensure the prompt disbursement of payments. Furthermore, orders were issued to suspend the Executive Engineer (XEN) posted at the department's headquarters after a significant number of unresolved complaints were found in the Urban Local Bodies Department. The Additional Deputy Commissioners (ADCs) of all districts have been directed to ensure the resolution of all pending cases within a week. Additionally, a formal advisory has been issued, stating that any negligence in addressing complaints related to the Jan Samvad Portal and CM Window will not be tolerated. During the meeting, while reviewing the tenders for development works, instructions were given to quickly assess the feasibility of all pending proposals and prepare rough estimates.

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Discussion held on works proposed by Shri Maharaja Agrasen Vaishya Samaj Sabha: Shripal

JAIBEER RANA THAMBER BARARA, MAY 16

A meeting was organised by the newly constituted committee of Shri Maharaja Agrasen Vaishya Samaj Sabha in Jain Bhawan, in which the proposed works were discussed. On this occasion, all the executive members of the committee were present. Media in-charge Shripal Jain informed that the main objective of the meeting was to give responsibilities to the authorized members and executive members of the committee's account and to formulate a work style regarding the committee's works, to honor the meritorious girl students who performed well in the 10th and 12th examinations, to thank the society and to start the membership campaign was discussed in detail. Shripal Jain said that in the meeting unanimously, the head, secretary and treasurer



among the members of the newly constituted committee were given the right to transact from the bank to the committee account and all the executive members of the committee were also assigned responsibilities. The responsibility of starting the income collection and membership campaign for the expenses by

the committee was given to the secretary Pravesh Singla and to get the members of the committee who have not yet taken membership. The meritorious students of our society from Mullana who have scored well in 10th and 12th class will be honored by the committee by presenting them with mementoes. Shripal Jain

Man nabbed with illegal country-made pistol

RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR, MAY 16

Police spokesperson while giving information said that under the guidance of Superintendent of Police Surendra Singh Bhauria, district police is continuously taking strict action against persons possessing illegal weapons. Working in this series, Crime Branch-1 team has arrested a youth with illegal weapon. A case was registered against the accused under Arms Act. The accused was produced in the court and sent to judicial custody. Police is investigating the matter thoroughly.

Incharge Virendra Walia said that his team received secret



information that a youth is roaming near Trikon Mode Sadhaura with illegal weapon. Based on this information, a team of ASI Umesh

Kumar, Head Constable Vipin, Dharamveer, Jagir was formed. The team went to the spot and arrested the youth roaming there. When he was searched, an illegal country-made pistol was recovered from him. He was identified as Jashnpreet Singh, son of Jinder Singh, resident of Lahadpur village. A case was registered against the accused under the Arms Act. The accused was produced in court and sent to judicial custody. The in-charge said that a case of fighting has already been registered against the accused Jashnpreet, which is pending in the court.

S.D. Senior Secondary, Jagadhari Basketball Team win

RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR, MAY 16

Two-day school district level inter-school basketball tournament was organized at Saraswati Shikshan Sanshan, Jagadhari. Which was inaugurated by Chief Guest Mayor Suman Bahamani. Teams from about 19 schools participated in this competition. Final match was played between Hindu Senior Secondary School Sadhaura and S.D. Senior Secondary School, Jagadhari. Basketball team of S.D. Senior Secondary School won the final match by scoring 23-19



points and registered the overall trophy in its name. On returning to the school, the Principal of the school, Satish Kumar Garg also congratulated the children for their excellent performance in basketball and also wished them for their bright future.

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Sedition case should be filed against Minister who called Army Colonel sister of terrorists: Mukesh

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL: After India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri was trolled on ceasefire, Karnal Youth Congress President Mukesh Chaudhary has targeted BJP and RSS. Mukesh Chaudhary said that when Misri gave information about the ceasefire, BJP's patriots and people associated with RSS started trolling him. Whereas he had held the conference on the orders of the government. Not only this, such people also used abusive words against his daughters. Mukesh alleged that he does not know what kind of training RSS gives, what kind of culture it is that they were trolling Himanshi Narwal. Whereas BJP's Madhya Pradesh minister Vijay Shah addresses Army Colonel Sofia Qureshi as the sister of terrorists and he is still a minister. Whereas a sedition case should be filed against him and he should be put in jail. The BJP has started a new trend, whoever speaks more wrong and spreads hatred, will be promoted. While raising questions on BJP's Tiranga Yatra, Mukesh said which war has been won and that this yatra had to be taken out by ceasefire. Prime Minister Modi has humiliated India in the whole world by getting Trump to do a ceasefire. India had a status in the whole world since Indira Gandhi's time. Which Modi ji has ended today. He said that at such a time, one should not get confused by the people of BJP.



INLD starts series of meetings to strengthen organisation

JAIBEER RANA THAMBER BARARA: As per the directions of INLD National President Abhay Singh Chautala, a series of meetings is going on to strengthen the party's organization. Under which, a meeting of the Mullana constituency was organized in Dosarka (Sir-sagarh) on Friday under the leadership of National General Secretary Prakash Bharti. District President Jagmal Singh Rollo, constituency head Jangveer Rana, women district president Rita Kesari and other newly appointed officials were welcomed with garlands in the meeting. In the meeting, strengthening the organization to form all the cells was also discussed. Prakash Bharti said that today the people of the entire state are looking towards Abhay Singh Chautala with hope because Abhay Singh Chautala is the only leader who raises the voice of the people of the country and the state very strongly. Rita Kesari said that the people of the state are with INLD and are expressing faith in INLD. People are joining the INLD party as they are bored with the Bharatiya Janata Party. In the coming days, the INLD will emerge very strongly and will fight for the protection of the rights of the people of the country and the state. On this occasion, Krishna Rana, Subhash Rana, Brijbhushan Pundir, Iqbal Bajwa, Rajneesh, Rubal Chhapra and other workers were present.



Mayor lays foundation stones for development projects worth Rs. 60.57 lakh in Ward 7

RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR, MAY 16

Mayor Suman Bahamani laid the foundation stones for two major development projects in Ward Number 7 on Friday, marking a significant step towards strengthening urban infrastructure. The first project involves the installation of a storm water drainage line in Sector 17, costing 43.45 lakh, aimed at resolving the long-standing issue of water-logging in the area. The second project pertains to the renovation and maintenance of the community center in Sector 18, for which 17.12 lakh will be spent. The mayor, accompanied by BJP Yuva Morcha District President Nischal Chaudhary and Ward Councillor Priyank Sharma, performed the ceremonial rituals to officially inaugurate the projects.



She emphasized that both works would be completed soon, bringing direct benefits to local residents. Speaking at the event, Mayor Bahamani said, "Water-logging has been a persistent problem in Sector 17. With the commencement of this 43.45 lakh drainage project, we are addressing a crucial civic issue. This will not only improve drainage but also help preserve road infrastructure."

Regarding the Sector 18 community center, she noted, "Its renovation will provide citizens with a modern, well-equipped venue for public gatherings, meetings, and cultural programs." The mayor reaffirmed the Municipal Corporation's commitment to delivering clean, safe, and well-maintained civic amenities in every ward. She highlighted that infrastructure development is being carried out with

utmost priority and transparency, in close coordination with local representatives. Ward Councillor Priyank Sharma expressed gratitude to the mayor, officials, and citizens, calling the initiative a long-awaited step. BJP Yuva Morcha District President Nischal Chaudhary said that the BJP-led government and local bodies are working hand-in-hand to ensure grassroots development with a focus on transparency and quality. The event witnessed the presence of several prominent residents and officials including Deepak Sharma, Piyush Gogri, Kunal Sharma, Poonam Aggarwal, Ranjoo Walia, Pawan Sharma, Sudesh Kamboj, JN Kashyap, Jatin Sharma, Sunita Sharma, Captain Dinesh Sharma, Shiv Darshan, Sudhir Verma, Dharamveer Kamboj, Kamna Rana, Girish Shastri, Shrikant Sharma, Sushil, and Pawan Kamboj.

MANMOHAN SHARMA HANSI, MAY 16

Students of class XII of SD Modern Public School went on a historical educational tour of Punyodaya Tirtha area, Hansi. In this, history teacher Suman Jhamb gave information about the idols recovered from Hansi Fort of 24th Tirthankar Mahavir Swami Parshvanath related to the history lesson 'Thought, Faith and Buildings'. After keeping the Jain idols stored in the museum for 10 years, a total of 57 idols were recovered from Hansi Fort and handed over to the Jain community. Out of which five idols are installed in Punyodaya Tirtha area and the rest in Panchayat Digambar Jain temple. Such tours prove to be very helpful for studies. Seeing things leaves an indelible impression on the minds of children. This helped the children to know about the ancient Jain idols and



Jain customs of history. Managing Committee head Sajjan Agarwal, Manager Nakul Agarwal, Cashier Chandrabhan Garg and Secretary Rajat Agarwal appreciated this educational tour and wished the children a bright future. History teacher Suman Jhamb gave information about the statues of 24th Tirthankar Mahavir Swami Parshvanath found from Hansi

Fort related to the history lesson 'Thinkers, Faith and Buildings'. Jain statues stored in the museum for 10 years, a total of 57 statues were found from Hansi Fort and handed over to the Jain community. Out of which five statues are installed in Punyodaya Tirtha Kshetra and the rest in Panchayat Digambar Jain Temple. Such tours prove to be very helpful for study. Seeing

things leaves an indelible impression on the minds of children. Through this, children got information about ancient Jain statues and Jain customs of history. Managing Committee head Sajjan Agarwal, Manager Nakul Agarwal, Cashier Chandrabhan Garg and Secretary Rajat Agarwal appreciated this educational tour and wished for a bright future for the children.

Editorial

A beginning

Russia and Ukraine are holding their first direct talks to end their war since 2022, signalling the growing pressure on both — especially from the United States of America under President Donald Trump — to reach a ceasefire. Delegations from Moscow and Kyiv have gathered in Istanbul for the talks, which saw multiple plot twists even before the negotiations began. The Russian president, Vladimir Putin, who proposed the talks last Sunday, is not attending the meeting even though the Ukrainian president, Volodymyr Zelensky, is in Turkey and has challenged his Kremlin counterpart to join the negotiations. Still, by late Thursday, there were enough indications that while the talks might not yield a definitive breakthrough, they could serve as a major turning point in determining the direction of the conflict. The Russian side is being led by a former culture minister who is a close aide of Mr Putin and who chaired Moscow's delegation in previous, ultimately unsuccessful, rounds of negotiations in 2022. Ukraine, Mr Zelensky has announced, will be led by its defence minister. Yet, which way the diplomatic game that is underway tilts could ultimately be decided by Mr Trump who is also in the Middle East on a three-day trip that has seen him visit Saudi Arabia, Qatar and now the United Arab Emirates.

Indeed, Mr Trump briefly dangled the possibility that he might also visit Istanbul for the talks. He is now no longer expected to join the mediation efforts himself, with Mr Putin not in attendance. But the US president has in recent weeks shown growing frustration with the failure of Russia and Ukraine to meaningfully proceed towards a ceasefire — a breakthrough that he had promised to the American people during his campaign for the presidential election. He has threatened to walk the US out of efforts to broker peace between Russia and Ukraine, a situation that could hurt the interests of both warring nations. Meanwhile, Ukraine's partners have threatened Russia with fresh sanctions. At the heart of the present diplomatic standoff is the question of what a 30-day ceasefire, which Mr Zelensky has proposed, might look like. Russia is worried that Ukraine could use a brief truce to rearm itself and mobilise more soldiers. But the evidence of recent weeks also suggests that neither Moscow nor Kyiv wants to upset Mr Trump. In that, their time appears to be running out.

India is competitive hub for smartphone manufacturing

After US President Donald Trump on Thursday suggested that he had asked Apple boss Tim Cook to not manufacture in India, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said that companies will consider competitive advantages when shaping their manufacturing strategies, and India has emerged as a strong and competitive hub for smartphone production. "Companies will see competitive advantage while deciding their manufacturing strategy. India has emerged as a competitive hub for smart phone manufacturing," he said. "We don't comment on what the President (of another country) says," he added. Recently, Apple took some steps to expand its iPhone production in India, setting up assembly plants operating in the country. Two of these plants are located in Tamil Nadu, and one is in Karnataka. For these plants Apple has signed contracts with manufacturers, such as Foxconn and Tata Group, to set up production units. Responding to reports stating US President Donald Trump had said that India had offered the US a trade deal with zero tariffs, the Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said, "Any statement which is coming from the head of a government elsewhere, I think it has been appropriately replied to at the level of the External Affairs Minister. So, I would not like to comment any further."

He however said that the talks with the US on the trade negotiations were going very well. "The talks are progressing very well, and a team is set to go to the US to conduct further discussions with them," the Commerce Secretary said. Earlier, responding to claims of President Trump on a zero-tariff deal with India EAM Jaishankar said that the trade is going on between India and the US. He said



these are complicated negotiations and no final agreement has been reached yet. His remark came after the US President claimed in Doha that India has made a trade deal with zero tariffs. On April 23, US President JD Vance said that India and the US finalised terms of reference for the ongoing negotiations for completing a bilateral trade agreement between the two countries. "Both governments are working on a trade agreement built on shared priorities, including creating new jobs, building

durable supply chains, and achieving prosperity for workers," he said.

India's overall exports, including merchandise and services, witnessed a rise sharply to USD 73.80 billion in April 2025, marking a 12.7 per cent increase from USD 65.48 billion in the same month last year, according to data released by the Commerce Ministry. The data shows that the imports surged at an even faster pace, with overall imports climbed to USD 82.45 billion in April 2025, a 15.7 per cent jump from USD 71.25 billion in April 2024. Talking about the trade data, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said, "We have reached an USD 825 bn exports figure in 2024-25, which is the largest ever export.

That shows that Indian exports and exporters have now achieved that resiliency in their business. Our exports are more resilient. "Due to the difference in the export and import, India's overall trade deficit widened to USD 8.65 billion in the current year, as per the data of the Commerce Ministry. This is a significant 50 per cent increase from USD 5.77 billion a year earlier.

As per the monthly data, India's merchandise exports saw a rise of 9.03 per cent to USD 38.39 billion in April as against USD 35.3 billion in the same month last year.

As per the data, imports saw a rise of 19.12 per cent to USD 64.91 billion in April as against USD 54.49 billion in the same month last year. India's trade deficit had increased sharply in March 2025 to USD 3.63 billion, as against USD 1.92 billion in the same month of 2024. The widening gap highlights growing import demand, potentially driven by stronger domestic consumption.

Literature & Health

Zelenskyy names delegation for Russia-Ukraine talks at Istanbul

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Thursday announced that a Ukrainian delegation will participate in talks with Russia in Istanbul, with the primary goal of achieving a ceasefire. The Istanbul delegation will be led by Defence Minister Rustem Umerov and will include military and intelligence officials.

Talks between Ukrainian and Russian diplomats are scheduled to take place in Istanbul today, according to a Turkish Foreign Ministry source quoted by the German news agency dpa, as reported by DW News. In a post on X, Zelenskyy wrote, "I want to sincerely thank President @RTErdogan, his team, and the people of Türkiye



for their support of Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty. President Erdogan reaffirmed during our meeting today that he supports Ukraine and recognises Crimea as part of Ukraine. We demonstrated the strength and seriousness of our delegation, which includes: the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Head of the Office of the President,

the Minister of Defence, the Chief of the General Staff, the Head of the Security Service of Ukraine, and representatives of all our intelligence agencies."

"I want to emphasise that Türkiye has welcomed us with a delegation of equal standing -- at the highest level. Unfortunately, after learning the composition of the Russian delegation, it became clear that they are not approaching real talks seriously," the post added.

Despite expressing doubts about Russia's commitment to negotiations, Zelenskyy emphasised that Ukraine is proceeding with the talks out of respect for Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and US President Donald Trump.

UN forecasts global economic growth to drop to 2.4% in 2025

The global economy is under growing pressure, with growth expected to slow to 2.4 per cent in 2025, down from 2.9 per cent in 2024, according to the UN's World Economic Situation and Prospects report. The report also highlights slowdowns in major economies, including China, where the economy is projected to grow at 4.6 per cent, hit by weak consumer demand and continued property sector challenges. India's growth forecast for 2025 has been revised downward to 6.3 per cent, but it still remains one of the fastest-growing large economies. In a press release issued on Thursday, the United Nations stated, "The global economy is at a precarious juncture, marked by



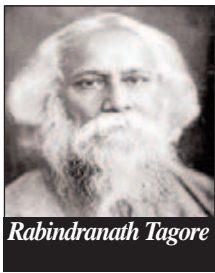
heightened trade tensions and elevated policy uncertainty, according to the World Economic Situation and Prospects as of mid-2025. The recent surge in tariffs-driving the effective US tariff rate up steeply--threatens to raise production costs, disrupt global supply chains and amplify financial turbulence. Global

GDP growth is now forecast at just 2.4 per cent in 2025, down from 2.9 per cent in 2024 and 0.4 percentage points below the January 2025 projection. The release added, "China's growth is expected to slow to 4.6 per cent this year, reflecting subdued consumer sentiment, disruptions in export-oriented manufacturing.

POEM

Vocation

When the gong sounds ten in the morning and I walk to school by our lane. Every day I meet the hawker crying, "Bangles, crystal bangles!" There is nothing to hurry him on, there is no road he must take, no place he must go to, no time when he must come



home. I wish I were a hawker, spending my day in the road, crying, "Bangles, crystal bangles!" When at four in the afternoon I come back from the school, I can see through the gate of that house the gardener digging the ground. He does what he likes with his spade, he soils his clothes with dust, nobody takes him to task if he gets baked in the sun or gets wet. I wish I were a gardener digging away at the garden with nobody to stop me from digging.

Rabindranath Tagore

Doorstep Aadhaar enrolment: A game changer for inclusive governance

In recent years, India's ambitious drive towards digital governance has transformed how citizens interact with essential public services. From accessing government welfare schemes to opening bank accounts and receiving healthcare benefits, a single document—the Aadhaar card—has become the backbone of this transformation. Yet, for millions of Indians, particularly the most vulnerable among us, obtaining or updating this vital identification document remains a challenge.

In this context, the introduction of doorstep Aadhaar enrolment and update services is nothing short of a game changer. This initiative is a reflection of a government that is not only committed to digital empowerment but also deeply mindful of social inclusion.

Consider for a moment the elderly living alone in remote villages, bedridden patients confined to their homes, or children from marginalized communities. For them, visiting an Aadhaar enrolment center is often an impossible task. Physical limitations,

lack of transportation, and even simple unawareness act as barriers, excluding them from fully participating in the country's digital and economic mainstream. This is where the concept of bringing governance directly to people's doorsteps becomes revolutionary.

The doorstep Aadhaar enrolment initiative goes beyond technology; it restores dignity and accessibility to those who have been left out. Specially trained officials visit homes equipped with portable devices to capture biometric data, update demographic information, and complete enrolment processes on the spot. For individuals who have struggled for years to access government schemes due to lack of proper identification, this simple visit can be life-changing. But the benefits do not end with the issuance of an Aadhaar card. In many ways, it marks the beginning of a new chapter in the lives of these individuals. With Aadhaar in hand, a citizen who was previously invisible to the formal system now becomes eligible for a wide range of government welfare

schemes—ranging from subsidized food grains under the Public Distribution System (PDS) to pensions, healthcare subsidies, LPG connections, scholarships for children, and housing benefits. This single document opens doors to critical social safety nets designed to uplift those most in need.

Moreover, Aadhaar acts as the key to financial inclusion. With it, individuals can open bank accounts under schemes like Jan Dhan Yojana, link their accounts for direct benefit transfers, and access insurance programs such as the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana. Aadhaar also facilitates faster and hassle-free authentication for services ranging from mobile connections to digital wallets and loan applications.

In essence, the doorstep delivery of Aadhaar is not just about providing an ID card—it is about turning marginalized citizens into empowered participants of India's digital economy. It enables them to become digital champions—people who can now actively engage with various platforms and

opportunities that were previously out of reach. A bedridden senior citizen who receives Aadhaar at home can now receive old age pension directly into a bank account. A mother in a rural village can access maternity benefit schemes or nutrition subsidies for her children. A young student can apply for scholarships and identity-linked education services. This program's impact is particularly significant in states like Punjab, where a considerable portion of the population resides in rural and semi-urban areas. Traditional enrolment centers are often located in district headquarters or large towns, far from where the need is most acute. By extending services directly to homes in districts such as Amritsar, Fazilka, Firozpur, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar, and Kapurthala, the government is ensuring that no citizen is left behind simply because of their geographical location.

This approach highlights a fundamental shift in governance—from expecting citizens to navigate complex bureaucratic sys-

tems to taking services directly to them. It embodies the spirit of Antyodaya—uplifting the last person in the line—and reflects a more empathetic and responsive government that understands the lived realities of its people.

As India moves steadily towards achieving universal Aadhaar coverage, such inclusive strategies will be key to ensuring that the country's digital revolution does not widen social divides but instead bridges them.

Doorstep Aadhaar enrolment is not merely a policy initiative; it is a statement that every Indian matters, that governance must be compassionate, and that inclusion is the true measure of progress. In the years ahead, as more such citizen-centric models emerge, India will not just be the world's largest democracy by numbers—it will be a democracy that delivers on its promises to every individual, right at their doorstep.

By Shikhar Agarwal, Chairman & Managing Director

NEWS BRIEF

PoK should be taken back, this should be our goal: Athawale



DALBIR MALIK
KURUKSHETRA: Republican Party of India (Athawale) state media in-charge Ashwini Kumar Walla said that his party chief Union Minister Ramdas Athawale has made it clear that Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) should be taken back. This should be our goal. Ashwini Kumar Walla said that a campaign is being run under the leadership of state president Ravi Kundli to spread the ideology of Ramdas Athawale to every corner of Haryana. He said that the Union Minister has made it clear that India's Operation Sindoor is being appreciated. The Indian Army has taught Pakistan a lesson. India has proposed that Pakistan should hand over PoK (to India) and stop terrorist activities.

Tiranga Yatra taken out in Karnal, people attend in large numbers

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, MAY 16

Tiranga Yatra was taken out in Karnal city on Friday. The Yatra, which started from Raghunath Temple reached Ramlila Ground with full enthusiasm. Many public representatives and social organisations including Haryana Assembly Speaker Harvinder Kalyan, Karnal MLA Jagmohan Anand, Nilokheri MLA Bhagwandas Kabirpanthi, Indri MLA Ramkumar Kashyap, Assandh MLA Yogendra Rana and Mayor Renu Bala Gupta took part in this Yatra. Union Minister Manohar Lal was also supposed to attend this programme, but he could not reach. People had tricolor flags in their hands and slogans of Bharat Mata were echoing all around. The whole city resounded with Bharat Mata Ki Jai. Haryana Assembly Speaker Harvinder



Kalyan and Karnal MLA Jagmohan Anand said that this Tiranga Yatra has been taken out to pay tribute to Lieutenant Vinay Narwal and other 26 soldiers who were martyred in the Pahalgam terror attack. He said that the Tiranga Yatras are being taken out all over the country at this time. Whatever happened in Pahalgam, our brave army has given a befitting reply to it. He said that the strong leadership of the country and the strength of the army have

ensured that our borders are completely safe today. The valour of the army cannot be praised enough. On this occasion, Nilokheri MLA Bhagwandas Kabirpanthi and Assandh MLA Yogendra Rana also addressed. He said that India is the land of heroes. The incident that happened in Pahalgam was highly condemnable, but Pakistan has got its answer. Our army has targeted the hideouts of terrorists. Karnal Mayor Renubala Gupta said

that if Pakistan dares to do anything like this again, then it should consider it an act of war and it will get a reply in the same language. This Tiranga Yatra of Karnal was not just an event, but came out as a tribute to the martyrs and a message of unity for the country. From leaders to common people, everyone said that the whole country stands with the soldiers engaged in the security of the country. Many BJP leaders including former MP Sanjay Bhatia, BJP District President Praveen Lathar, Media Incharge Dr. Ashok Kumar were present. A large number of people of the city participated in the Tiranga Yatra. Children, youth, women and the elderly expressed their faith in the country by holding the tricolor in their hands. The atmosphere was completely filled with patriotism with the slogans of Ji Hind, Vande Mataram and Bharat Mata Ki Jai.

BJP will celebrates 300th birth anniversary of Rani Ahilyabai Holkar from May 21

RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR, MAY 16

Former Mayor and Executive State President of OBC Morcha Haryana Madan Chauhan participated in the state workshop organized at the Karnal District Office (Karn Kamal) of the Bharatiya Janata Party. In this special workshop, information was given about organizing a Smriti Abhiyan by the party to commemorate the 300th birth anniversary of Punyashlok Rani Ahilyabai Holkar. This campaign will be conducted in entire Haryana from May 21 to May 31, 2025. Madan Chauhan told that under this campaign, the great life of Rani Ahilyabai Holkar, her ideals and works of social reform will be conveyed to the people across the state. BJP will celebrate this occasion in a very grand and dignified manner so that the new generation can also get acquainted with the inspirational contribution of Holkar. The Bharatiya Janata



Party believed that the contribution of the great men and women in the history of the country who have worked for the upliftment of the deprived, backward and exploited sections of the society should reach the general public.

This is the basic objective of this Smriti Abhiyan. Under the campaign, programs such as seminars, Nari Shakti Sammelan, photo exhibition, social harmony rallies and inspirational dialogues in educational institutions will be organized across the state. On this occasion Dr. Sudha Yadav ji, former MP, Mrs. Dipti Rawat ji, National

General Secretary, Mahila Morcha BJP, Mr. Phanindranath Sharma ji, Organization Minister, Mr. Vedpal , senior leader, Mrs. Renu Bala ji, Mayor of Karnal, Mrs. Avneet Kaur ji, former Mayor of Panipat and Mrs. Usha Priyadarshini, President of Mahila Morcha Haryana were present.

All the guests shed light on the life and works of Rani Ahilyabai Holkar and said that this campaign was very important for the society. BJP OBC Morcha considers this campaign a meaningful initiative towards social awareness and nation building.

Ahana Bansal of Divine Academy scores 99 out of 100 marks in Maths



KAMAL SHARMA
TARAORI: In the examination results declared by CBSE, Ahana Bansal of Divine Academy brought laurels to the city by scoring 99 out of 100 marks in Maths. On reaching Divine Academy, Director Bhavnish Wadhwa and Kritika Wadhwa congratulated all the meritorious students by feeding them sweets. He said that it is a proud moment for Divine Academy Taraori, because Ahana Bansal scored 99 marks in Maths, while Anandita scored 96 marks in Science subject. With this, Divine Academy has achieved a high position in Taraori. In Maths subject, Gagan and Anshika scored 98 marks, Itika, Gulshan scored 97, Krishna scored 96, Ansh scored 94, Bhavya scored 93, Shubh, Vansh, Manas scored 92, Jaya, Yuvpreet scored 91, while Mayank, Akshara, Navya scored 89, Kunal scored 88, Anandita scored 87, Harneet, Aashvi scored 86, Mannat scored 85 marks and made Divine Academy proud.

Cabinet Minister Bhullar inaugurates Guru Nanak Dev Ji sports stadium at Central Jail Kapurthala



ASHISH PURI
KAPURTHALA: In a major reformatory initiative aimed at reintegrating inmates into mainstream society, Jails Minister Laljit Singh Bhullar on Friday inaugurated Guru Nanak Dev Ji Sports Stadium, constructed over 4 acres at Central Jail, Kapurthala. In his address, Bhullar stated that a former garbage dump within the jail premises has been transformed into a stadium, now suitable for sports like athletics and football." He emphasized that such facilities will positively impact inmates' behavior. The Minister also announced that the installation of jammers in 13 jails across Punjab is progressing rapidly to prevent mobile phone usage. Additionally, a Rs. 100-crore high-security jail is under construction in Gorsian Bakhsh village, Ludhiana, to segregate high-risk inmates.

Meeting held under Navbharat Literacy Programme



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL: Under the Navbharat Literacy Programme, a meeting of CRC Mukhiya and Ullas Surveyor of Block Karnal was organized under the chairmanship of Block Education Officer Seema Madan in the local school Government Girls High School Urban Estate Sector 13 Karnal in which the Block Education Officer directed all the CRC Mukhiyas that by May 30, each school should identify as many learners as possible and ensure their registration on the Ullas app. For this, a five-member Ullas Committee should also be formed at the block level. District Ullas Coordinator Anil Saini said that each school has been given the target of identifying at least 30 learners. District Karnal has been given the target of educating 31,000 learners by the month of September. Provision will be made to hold classes for the learners who will get registered by May 31 in the month of June.

Action taken against two illegal colonies by district city planner

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

KARNAL: District city planner Satish Kumar said that action was taken against two illegal colonies in the town Karnal. He said that an illegal colony was flourishing in about three acres behind the new Anand Vihar Colony. In this colony, action was taken against all kucha roads and 12 DPC, three Chardwari and two under construction houses.



Similarly, the other illegal colony was flourishing about 3.5 acres on Ghogharipur Road. In which action was taken against all kucha roads, manhole and sewer network. During the action, District Municipal Planner and Office team, Duty Magistrate and Police Force of Police Station Sadar were present. The district city planner appealed to the people that no person should do any construction in an illegal colony otherwise the office will be force to take action. He said that there will be no misconduct against illegal colonies and illegal constructions and the action of demolition will continue and cases will be filed against the culprits.

Chiranjeev Garg urges tree plantation to preserve ecological balance



YAGYADUTT SHASTRI
KURUKSHETRA: In a bid to raise awareness about environmental protection, a tree plantation drive was organised by the Dr B.R. Ambedkar Yuva Sabha in Ward No. 1, Sant Nagar Colony. Former Mandal President and spouse of the Municipal Council Chairperson, Chiranjeev Garg, attended the event as chief guest. Speaking on the occasion, Garg stressed the urgent need to plant more trees in the wake of increasing deforestation due to modernization. "The decreasing number of trees is disturbing the ecological balance, putting human life on Earth at risk," he said. Garg encouraged citizens to actively participate in plantation drives to maintain environmental stability and safeguard the future.

Samadhan camp is powerful medium to resolve complaints of common people: DC



RANVIR PARASHAR
KAITHAL: DC Preeti said that as per the government's orders, many types of services were being provided on priority basis. Samadhan Camp, and CM Window were such mediums through which the complaints related to the general public were being redressed. Therefore, the officers should take the complaints coming through these mediums seriously and talked to the complainant. Understand their complaint and worked towards the solution instead of procrastinating by sending the complaint to another department. Even if a meeting has to be held with the officers of another department for this, the officer should take the initiative himself and get the problem resolved. Also, all the department heads should be present in the review meeting of Samadhan Camp. If any subordinate employee or officer was sent in the camp then that officer should come with the reply of his department with full preparation. Otherwise, not only will a show cause notice be issued, but disciplinary action will also be recommended. Instructions were also issued to issue show cause notices to District Food and Supply Officer, Public Health Department, Electricity Corporation Guhla, HSVP, XEN PWD Division-2 for not reaching the meeting.

Students of SMS Memorial Public School given responsibilities in decoration ceremony



KAMAL SHARMA
TARAORI: Decoration ceremony was organised in SMS Memorial Public School Taraori in which all the students of the cabinet were made aware of their duties towards their houses, sports and cultural programmes and were administered oaths. The programme was inaugurated by the school manager Gursharan Grewal and Principal Dr. Vibha Kaushik by lighting a lamp in front of Maa Saraswati. Akshay was given the responsibility of school head boy and Jasmine was given the responsibility of school head girl and they were honoured by wearing the designation insignia and band. School manager Gursharan Grewal congratulated all the selected student council and said that the student council has been formed for the development of discipline, devotion to duty, sense of responsibility, respect for others, unparalleled respect for the country and the constitution.

43 students from PM Shri Govt Sr Sec School, Jhansa, secure merit rankings



YAGYADUTT SHASTRI
KURUKSHETRA: The PM Shri Government Senior Secondary School in Jhansa honoured its high-performing Class 12 students in a felicitation ceremony after the announcement of board results. A total of 43 students achieved merit positions across all streams, while 42 students passed with first division. In the Science stream, Nikhil topped with 438 marks, followed by Dipanshu with 435 marks and Simran with 413. In the Arts stream, Muskan secured the top position with 436 marks. Sarbjit stood second with 428 marks, and Amrit Singh took the third spot with 426 marks. Principal Raj Kapoor credited the school's 100% result to the combined efforts of both teachers and students. Teachers Dinesh, Sunil, Naresh, Sachin, Rameshwar, Mahendra, Supriya, Sushma, Jitender, Jaipal, and others were present to celebrate the students' achievements.

INLD District President Anil Tanwar Kyodak announces District Executive



SANJAY SHARMA
KAITHAL: INLD District President Anil Tanwar Kyodak declared the District Executive on Friday. Addressing a press conference at his office in Pehowa Chowk, Anil Tanwar said that a new executive has been formed to strengthen the party's organization in Kaithal district. Anil Tanwar said that Gulab Chhot has been appointed as Senior Vice President, Radha Krishna, Gyani Ram, Dinesh, Suresh, Dharampal, Jasmad, Rajkumar, Tejveer have been appointed as Principal General Secretary, Bhan Singh, Randhir, Satpal Sharma, Hoshiyaar Singh, Rajendra Sarpanch, Harbhajan, Satpal, Bhoop Singh and Rajpal have been appointed as General Secretary. Hoshiyaar Singh has been appointed as Organization Secretary, Rambhaji, Hariya Ram, Neelam, Gurmeet, Malkhan Singh, Kashmira, Krishna, Subhash, Rajkumar, Surjeet and Akal Singh have been appointed as Secretary. Tekchand has been appointed as Treasurer. Surendra and Sukhbir Rana have been appointed as publicity secretaries and Rammehar Khurana as office secretary.

Blocked drainage eye sore for residents of Barara

JAIBEER RANA THAMBER

BARARA: The drains constructed for the drainage of rainwater and dirty water have been blocked by some miscreants by putting mud in these due to which the drainage of water is blocked and water is accumulating in people's houses, streets and drains. Due to which the common people are facing problems. Sahib Singh son of Ramjan, Amrav Singh son of Kadam Singh and Rajkumar son of Satpal, residents of Preet Nagar, Barara, said that the dirty water of their houses was being drained through the underground drains built by the government, but for the last few days some miscreants have blocked the drains by putting mud due to which all the water has accumulated in their houses and in the drains of the streets. They alleged that there was a person who was misusing his position. That due to the accumulation of dirty water, there was a danger of an epidemic spreading due to the breeding of flies and mosquitoes. They told that the nursery of Amrav Singh was built next to their residences, which was filled with water due to stagnation and all the plants have been drying up and all the water was filled in the houses. Due to the blockage of the drain, the entire locality was filled with dirty water. He said that he went to the Nagarpalika many times regarding the above issue and also requested them but no action was taken.



Two sheds will soon be constructed in Shri Krishna Gopal Gaushala: Pradhan Subhash Singla

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

KARNAL: Pradhan Subhash Singla and the Gaushala Committee started the work of construction of two sheds for the cows in Shri Krishna Gopal Gaushala for the cows who used to wander on the streets by performing Puja with the help of Gau bhakts. Chairman Romi Singla's father Premchand Singla started the construction work by performing Bhoomi



Pujan. Pradhan ji told that the remaining work will be completed soon with the cooperation of cow devotees and these two sheds will also be prepared as soon as possible and the cow shelter keeps on getting full support from the government. Pradhan ji said that if mother cow is seen roaming anywhere, then please reach the cow shelter. Today, in the Bhoomi Pujan, Pradhan Subhash Singla, Premchand Singla, Councillor Satish Goyal, Mahendra Garg, Karmaveer Jangra, Dr. Radheshyam, Sandeep Jangra, Ramesh Singla, Naresh Goyal, Nandlal, Premchand, Roshan Lal, Sonu, Surendra Garg, Karamchand Manager, Ashok Jindal, Rajiv Sharma, Master Suresh Sharma, Mahavir Chorkarsa, Priest Deepak Tiwari, and many eminent cow devotees were present on the spot.

'Kakkarwal Chowk' of CM's constituency has become accident prone

RAJESHWAR PINTU

DHURI: The Kakkarwal Chowk, located on the Hissar-Sangrur-Ludhiana National Highway passing through the Dhuri city cum constituency of Punjab Chief Minister S. Bhagwant Mann has become a danger to the lives of the people. The heavy flow of traffic, especially during the peak hours, often causes long traffic jams in this chowk, thereby causing problems for the people. Even during the non-peak hours, it is almost impossible to cross the road, sometimes even proving to be fatal for pedestrians while crossing the road. Although traffic lights have been installed in this intersection to control traffic, these are proving to be a 'white elephant' and have become a mere 'showpiece' for the city residents. Since schools start in the morning and are closed in the afternoon, several kilometres-long traffic jams occur at this intersection, due to which children are not able to reach their homes on time. Although the work of 'dividers' constructed on this road to control traffic, the traffic problem remains the same.. The city residents are demanding the construction of a new overbridge from Ram Bagh to Sangrur Bypass over this intersection, which has become a life-threatening place. The octogenarians are suggesting that the administration must talk with the private schools to find a solution in this regard. Only time will decide the fate of the residents living in the Dhuri constituency, especially in the city that whether their long pending demand will be met on an urgent basis or not, as this constituency is regarded as the most powerful segment in the Punjab politics, being a home constituency of the Chief Minister of Punjab.



CHANDIGARH: Glam it up with Gold. Join us for a Gold Foil Workshop at Sector 7 SOCIAL where you'll make some dazzling designs that shimmer and shine! Ready to make your art sparkle. Sunday, 18th May, 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Sector 7 SOCIAL. Get ready to dance to your own beat as the Salsa Socials take over Sector 7 SOCIAL. Grab your partner and dance your blues away every other Tuesday night. It's going to be an amazing evening so we'll see you at SOCIAL. Every Tuesday, Sector 7 SOCIAL.

Smarter Wearables: Google Gemini Is Coming to Samsung Galaxy Watch and Buds

CHANDIGARH: Your Galaxy wearables are about to get even smarter in the coming months. Google Gemini is set to debut on Samsung Galaxy Watches, making its first integration into the Galaxy wearable lineup. Moreover, activating Gemini will be smoother than ever when paired with the Galaxy Buds3 series. This update will extend AI functionalities across the entire Galaxy ecosystem, creating a more cohesive and intelligent user experience. With Gemini on your Galaxy Watch, you can get hands-free assistance using natural voice commands to stay productive on the move.

Samsung 'Galaxy Empowered' launches Immersive Programme for Bhutan's Teaching Community

CHANDIGARH: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, is welcoming passionate educators from remote corners of Bhutan into its growing community. 'Galaxy empowered', a one-of-a-kind community-led programme designed to transform education by empowering teachers, principals, and administrators in the education sector.

Hero MotoCorp Reports Highest Ever Revenue and PAT for the Fiscal 2025

CHANDIGARH/LUDHIANA: Hero MotoCorp, the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters, today announced its financial results for the fiscal year 2025 and fourth quarter (January 2025– March 2025). At the outset of the Board of Directors meeting, Dr. Pawan Munjal, Executive Chairman of Hero MotoCorp, stated: "The Pahalgan attack and the recent developments along our borders serve as a powerful reminder of the ongoing threats our nation faces.

Smarter Wearables: Google Gemini Is Coming to Samsung Galaxy Watch and Buds

CHANDIGARH: Your Galaxy wearables are about to get even smarter in the coming months. Google Gemini is set to debut on Samsung Galaxy Watches, making its first integration into the Galaxy wearable lineup. Moreover, activating Gemini will be smoother than ever when paired with the Galaxy Buds3 series. This update will extend AI functionalities across the entire Galaxy ecosystem, creating a more cohesive and intelligent user experience. With Gemini on your Galaxy Watch, you can get hands-free assistance using natural voice commands to stay productive on the move.

BLSE-Services Limited reports Q4 & FY25 Financial & Operational Performance

Chandigarh: BLSE-Services Limited (BLSE), a technology-enabled digital service provider, announced its audited consolidated financial results for the quarter and full year period ended 31st March 2025. Speaking about the performance and recent updates, Mr. Shikhar Aggarwal, Chairman, BLSE-Services Ltd. said: "We are delighted to report a remarkable performance in FY25, as we achieved several milestones during the fiscal year. FY25 marked our highest-ever financial performance, as we surpassed Rs. 500 Crores milestone in Total Income during the year, which was reported at Rs. 545 Crores, a notable YoY growth of 76%. The successful completion and consolidation of Aadidifits Solutions Pvt Ltd (ASPL) is another milestone we achieved, which also aided to our topline growth. EBITDA and PAT too witnessed a robust growth of 72.5% and 75.4% respectively, in FY25. As we move forward, our strategic focus is on enhancing digital infrastructure to improve accessibility and penetrate new market segments. We foresee a significant opportunity with the government increasingly outsourcing G2C services to third parties, amidst the growing need for scalability, cost-efficiency and last-mile connectivity. The Indian Government is focussed on expanding financial inclusion through schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jan DhanYojana, Direct Benefit Transfer, and others.

"We Stand with India's Integrity": LPU Ends Ties with Türkiye and Azerbaijan



Jalandhar(J S SODHI): Lovely Professional University (LPU) has taken a decisive stand by terminating all Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with institutions in Türkiye and Azerbaijan, becoming the first private university in India to do so. The move follows the two nations' recent pro-Pakistan stance, which LPU considers against India's national interest. Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) and Founder Chancellor of LPU, said, "LPU's mission has always been aligned with the growth and integrity of India, and we will never associate with any institution that undermines India's sovereignty." The university has ended six academic partnerships, ceasing student exchanges, joint research, and dual-degree programs. Dr. Mittal emphasized that academic institutions share a moral responsibility in upholding national values, saying, "National security must be defended in every classroom and collaboration—not just at the borders."

CHANDIGARH - Haryana has once again demonstrated its prowess on the national sports stage, reaffirming its position not just as a state, but as the sports engine of India. The recent national competitions have seen Haryana's players shine brightly, showcasing the state's deep-rooted sports culture and unyielding talent. Here, sports are not merely a pastime but a way of life where every village is a breeding ground for champions, and athletes from every corner of the state are making the nation proud. Government's Vision for Sports: A Systematic and Strategic Approach A spokesperson from the Haryana government attributed the state's success to its forward-thinking sports policy, being implemented under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Sh Nayab Singh Saini. With improved facilities, world-class training, and ample opportunities for athletes, the state's sports ecosystem is flourishing. Notably, the state



government recently increased its sports budget by approximately 40% and introduced a host of new initiatives. Among these are the Mission Olympics 2036 programme, sports nurseries, enhanced training centers in both urban and rural areas, as well as robust insurance and cash reward schemes for athletes. These efforts are fast translating into visible results on the field. Haryana's Sports Policy – A Model for Success The spokesperson also highlighted the role of Khelo India, the initiative launched by Prime Minister Sh Narendra Modi, in giving a nationwide boost to youth

sports. The state's athletes delivered exceptional performances in the recently concluded Khelo India Youth Games 2025, winning 117 medals, including 39 golds, securing Haryana's position as the second-best state in the overall medal tally. These accomplishments are a demonstration to the state's excellent sports policy and the hard work invested in nurturing athletes at every level. From Village Grounds to National Glory: Haryana's Sporting Journey From athletics to wrestling, hockey, boxing, and kabaddi, Haryana's athletes continue to bring

home glory, not only in national events but also on the international stage, including the Olympics and Asian Games. The state's commitment to hard work, discipline, and determination is engraved in its sporting culture. Through its unwavering support, the Haryana government is ensuring that every athlete has access to the resources they need to fulfill their dreams. Looking Ahead: Haryana's Vision for Future Sports Excellence Under the leadership of Chief Minister Sh Nayab Singh Saini, Haryana is determined to solidify its position as the leading sports hub of India. The state government aims to not only increase the number of athletes but also enhance the quality of sports training and performance. The vision is clear: to make sports an integral part of every child's life in Haryana, and to continue producing world-class athletes who will raise the state and the country's sporting prestige on the global stage.

LEAD Students Outperform National Average by 1.5X in 2025 CBSE Class 10 Boards

SHIMLA: In a resounding testament to its mission of delivering excellent education to every child, LEAD Group today announced stellar student performance in the 2025 CBSE Class 10 Boards, with its students from Tier 2 and Tier 3 towns outperforming the national average by 1.5X. This year, 125 LEAD students scored above 90% — a figure that is 1.5 times the national average, while 32 students achieved above 95%, performing at 2X the national average. Further highlighting academic distinction, 23 students scored a perfect 100 in at least one subject: a remarkable achievement for small town students showcasing depth in conceptual understanding across subjects such as Maths, English, Social Science and Hindi.

Sumeet Mehta, CEO and Co-Founder, LEAD Group, said, "Our students' spectacular 2025 CBSE Class 10 results are a powerful reminder that high quality learning outcomes can be achieved anywhere, irrespective of location or background. Our students' results reflect not just academic success, but the transformation that LEAD is driving across India's underserved schools and towns." LEAD CBSE Class 10 toppers from Roots Country School, Baghi, include Ashish Saini (94%) and Hari Shanmukh Yellayi (90%). The boarding cum day school is a shining example of impeccable implementation of the LEAD Learning System and attracts students from all over India! Kriti Rotha, Principal and Owner, Roots Country School, Baghi, said, "We are highly proud of all our students for their exceptional performance in the 2025 CBSE Class 10 boards. Their impressive results reflect their dedication and hard work.

Ministry of Textiles to Organise 'EKTA' Exhibition-Cum-Knowledge Sharing Event in Shimla from May 19

SHIMLA: The Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, is set to host EKTA (Exhibition-cum-Knowledge Sharing for Textile Advantage) from May 19 to 26, 2025 at the Padam Dev Complex, The Ridge, Shimla. The inaugural ceremony will take place on May 19 at the Multipurpose Hall, Gaiety Theatre, in the presence of senior officials from the Government of India and the Himachal Pradesh administration. The event aims to provide a unified platform for artisans, weavers, and handicraft entrepreneurs to not only showcase and sell their handcrafted products but also to gain valuable insights into modern design trends, market access, and government schemes that can help strengthen their businesses. One of the key highlights of EKTA will be a series of knowledge-sharing sessions and workshops from May 19 to 21 at Gaiety Theatre. These sessions are specifically curated to equip self-help groups (SHGs), young artisans, and craft entrepreneurs with the necessary skills and information to thrive in today's competitive marketplace. On May 19, discussions will revolve around major schemes of the Ministry of Textiles, including the PM MITRA initiative, with a special focus on the opportunities and challenges faced by artisans in Himachal Pradesh. May 20 will be dedicated to the Samarth Scheme, with sessions led by the Samarth Division of the Ministry. The agenda will include training in jute-based product making, skill development, marketing strategies, and exploring export opportunities. The sessions on May 21 will focus on promoting locally recognized products, enhancing their visibility on digital platforms, and improving their domestic and international market reach. The day will also address the empowerment of self-help groups, government support schemes, and the promotion of Himachal wool and silk products.

Narayan Seva Sansthan to provide free artificial limbs to over 300 disabled persons in city

CHANDIGARH: Udaipur-based Narayan Seva Sansthan known for its humanitarian work is organising a free Narayan Limb and Calipers Fitting Camp on May 18 at the Community Center, Sector 49. The camp will run from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm and benefit over 300 pre-selected differently-abled individuals.



Providing details, Media and PR Director Bhagwan Prasad Gaur shared that the camp is part of the institute's 40-year-long mission to serve the disabled close to their hometowns. Earlier, a measurement camp was held on March 2 wherein over 500 people registered and 302 were selected for artificial limb fittings due to loss of limbs from accidents or other mishaps. These beneficiaries will now be fitted with Narayan Limbs based on German technology, enabling them to lead independent lives. "Our goal is to empower every citizen, especially the disabled, to contribute to a stronger and more inclusive society," Gaur said. A 40-member expert team will manage fittings and provide post-fitting mobility training. The camp's poster was unveiled by Director Gaur, Camp Incharge Ramesh Sharma, and Ashram Incharge Jitendra Singh Bhati. Narayan Seva Sansthan has served over 40,000 people with free artificial limbs and conducts camps across India and in countries like Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Nepal. Founded in 1985 by Padma Shri awardee Kailash Manav, the institute, under President Prashant Aggarwal, also provides education, skill development, and sports opportunities for the differently-abled.

Godrej refrigerators lean on AI and design to elevate consumer experience

CHNADIGARH : Home appliances are no longer just about functionality; they are now an extension of style and smart living. Consumer preferences are also shifting towards more premium products, with higher capacities, that offer technology-driven features for added convenience. Aligning with this, the Appliances business of Godrej & Boyce, part of the Godrej Enterprises Group has launched AI-powered Con Velvet Side-by-Side Refrigerators that offers a seamless blend of aesthetics and technology. Powered by AI, this 600L large capacity refrigerator automatically optimizes cooling and energy consumption by sensing food load and usage like door openings, ensuring food stays fresher for longer. Additionally, with intelligent modes like Eco mode for automatic temperature regulation, Holiday mode for energy conservation when you are away, and Super Freeze mode for quick cooling, the made in India refrigerator provides unparalleled convenience by adapting to the ever-changing storage needs of consumers. It also features a Smart Convertible zone with temperature ranging from -3°C to 5°C enabling it to be used as a freezer, chiller or pantry section. With advanced inverter compressor to adjust its operations intelligently for greater efficiency, durability, and silent operation.

108 Ambulance Trains Students in Life-Saving Skills at First Responder Program

PATHANKOT: The 108 Ambulance service strengthened its commitment to community health and emergency preparedness by organizing a First Responder Program (FRP) at Civil Hospital, Pathankot. A total of 42 plus staff participated in the workshop, which was designed to impart crucial life-saving skills and emergency response techniques. Led by FRP Trainer Jaswinder Singh and supported by Cluster Manager Joginder



Singh, the workshop offered practical training sessions and live demonstrations, equipping participants with the knowledge and confidence to act decisively in critical situations. The session also highlighted the significance of timely intervention, empowering participants to become dependable first responders in their communities. SMO, Dr Sunil Kumar and Dr Madhur Mattu contributed their expertise, further enriching the training experience. Manish Batra, Project Head of 108 Ambulance, praised the initiative, saying, "Our mission is not just to provide emergency services but also to educate and empower communities. Programs like the First Responder Program are vital in building a network of trained individuals ready to step up and save lives when every second counts." The 108 Ambulance service continues to go beyond emergency transportation by organizing educational initiatives like the FRP, fostering a community of skilled and confident first responders ready to make a difference in times of crisis.

MLA Bhagwan Das Kabirpanthi conducts thanksgiving tour of Nilokheri villages, hears public grievances

Nilokheri (Pardeep Mehta): Nilokheri MLA Bhagwan Das Kabirpanthi visited villages in the Nigdu Mandal area as part of his thanksgiving tour on Friday.

During the visit, he met residents of Dabarathla and Kamalpur villages, extended gratitude to party workers at



their homes, and attentively listened to their concerns. Addressing the public, the MLA highlighted the ongoing development efforts under the leadership of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, stating that the government is working relentlessly on the principle of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas,

Sabka Vishwas." He added that rural areas are now being equipped with urban-level facilities, fulfilling the vision of balanced regional development.

Kabirpanthi also emphasized the benefits of the "triple-engine government" at the Centre and state levels, which he said is delivering fast-paced and transparent development. He stated that merit-based government jobs are being provided to youth without the need for recommendations or financial influence. Referring to the ideologies of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, the MLA reiterated the government's commitment to the welfare of the underprivileged and to achieving Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of transforming India into a developed nation by 2047.

Residents warmly welcomed the MLA and expressed appreciation for the development initiatives. Prominent among those present were Nigdu Mandal President Rajpal Haibatpur, Sarpanch Suresh, Rocky, Malkhan, Chamel Singh, Balbir Sikri, and other local workers.

Adah Bedi Secures All India Rank 4 in CBSE Class X with 99.4%

CHANDIGARH: Adah Bedi, a student of Carmel Convent School, has achieved an exceptional feat by securing 497 out of 500 marks (99.4%) in the CBSE Class X board examinations, earning her the All India Rank 4. She scored a perfect 100 in English, French, and Information Technology. A consistent academic achiever since childhood, Adah is the daughter of Dr. Rajeev Bedi, Medical Oncologist at Fortis Hospital, Mohali, and Dr. Neetu Bedi, a doctor and entrepreneur. She attributes her remarkable performance to a focused and consistent approach to her studies. "It's not about how long you study, but how attentively you study that makes the real difference," she shared. In addition to her academic dedication, Adah finds balance through her love of reading fiction, listening to music, singing, and playing the keyboard. These hobbies help her relax and recharge outside of her rigorous study schedule. She consistently earned medals in Olympiads throughout her school years, in every grade. Adah credits her success to the unwavering support of her parents, the guidance and encouragement of her teachers, and the inspiration of her elder sister, Aanya Bedi. Aanya, a former tricity topper in Class XII, is currently pursuing her final year of MBBS.



Cardiologists at Fortis Escorts Hospital, Amritsar Raise Alarm Over Rising Hypertension Cases in the Youth

AMRITSAR: As World Hypertension Day is observed worldwide on May 17th, Fortis Escorts Hospital, Amritsar has been raising awareness about the rising incidents of hypertension cases in young adults. Cardiologists at Fortis urged them to get their blood pressure monitored regularly as it often leads to heart disease, stroke and premature death if remains unchecked for a long time. Hypertension, or high blood pressure, is a growing concern amongst the youth in India, with studies showing a concerning prevalence in young adults. Risk factors like smoking; mental stress and obesity are emerging as key contributors to this trend. Effective management often involves lifestyle modifications, including healthy diets and regular physical activity.

Dr. H.P. Singh, Director, Non-Invasive Cardiology, Fortis Escorts Hospital, Amritsar, said: "Hypertension rarely shows warning signs in its early stages. That's what makes it so dangerous. People feel fine and skip regular check-ups, only to be diagnosed after a serious cardiac event. Regular blood pressure monitoring is not optional—it's a necessity. The earlier it's detected, the easier it is to manage with simple lifestyle changes." Dr. Arun Kumar Chopra, Director, Cardiology, Fortis Escorts Hospital, Amritsar, said: "The rise in hypertension among young adults is alarming.



Balanced Diet, Physical Activity & Stress Management can help control blood pressure, Suggest Doctors at Fortis Mohali

MOHALI: Hypertension, also known as the silent killer, is one of the commonest health ailments that affects several people across the world. It is one of the main risk factors for cardiovascular diseases and can cause stroke, heart failure, atrial fibrillation, peripheral arterial disease etc. Dr Sudhanshu Budakoty, Senior Consultant, Department of Cardiology, Fortis Hospital Mohali, has shared an advisory to shed light on the need for regular blood pressure monitoring to manage hypertension. What is hypertension? Hypertension is elevation of the blood pressure. blood pressure above 140/90 is referred to as hypoertension. Blood pressure that rises above 180/120 can be labelled as hypertensive crisis. Hypertension can cause heart issues like irregular heartbeat, heart valve problems, heart attack, heart failure and stroke. Discussing myths around the condition, Dr Budakoty, said, "It is a common belief that as one's age increases, it is normal to have an increased blood pressure of 150-160 systolic. People ignore this fact and end up having complications of prolonged high BP which can affect the kidney, heart disease and brain stroke. Further, sometimes people also feel that taking medicines will cause a fall in blood pressure. There is no such thing as low BP causing heart problems. The general public should be aware that it is important to maintain a good lifestyle and consume a balanced diet, besides regularly monitor the blood pressure.

Shapoorji Pallonji Real Estate, KREEVA, and ASK Property Fund launch over 1,400 Crluxury project in Gurugram

NEW DELHI : Shapoorji Pallonji Real Estate (SPRE), in partnership with KREEVA (Kanodia Real Estate Venture Arm), and ASK Property Fund, has announced the launch of 'The Dualis'—an iconic luxury residential development in Sector 46, Gurugram. The project is poised to generate projected top-line revenues of over ₹1,400 crore over the next five years.

Towering approximately 150 meters, The Dualis will be among the tallest residential towers in the area, offering uninterrupted views of Gurugram's skyline. The project features 2 towers with 198 luxurious 3- and 4-BHK residences with saleable areas ranging from 2,850 to 3,600 square feet. Each apartment is designed with



proximity toMedantaMedicity, and the upcoming IKEA (one of India's largest IKEA)—further enhancing its location advantage.Situated in Sector 46, one of Gurugram's most well-developed and infrastructure-rich neighbourhoods, the project benefits from a robust social and physical ecosystem. The micro-market is increasingly being recognised for its strong capital appreciation potential, making it a compelling choice for both end-users and institutional investors. Commenting on the launch, Mr Sirram Mahadevan, CEO of Shapoorji Pallonji Real Estate (SPRE) & Managing Director of Joyville Shapoorji Housing, said, "With 'The Dualis', we are entering a high-potential micro-market with a product that combines location,

wraparound decks and expansive layouts for seamless indoor-outdoor living experiences. Strategically located with direct access from the 60-metre-wide Netaji Subhash Marg, The Dualis offers excellent connectivity to key arterial routes including Sohna Road, NH8, Golf Course Road, and Golf Course Extension Road. It is in close

Anshi Arora from Ambala Finds Financial Independence with PBPartners

AMBALA: PBPartners, Policybazaar's PoSP arm, believes in empowering individuals with the tools, technology, and support they need to build fulfilling careers as insurance agent partners. Across the country, lakhs of agent partners are unlocking new possibilities with PBPartners, driven by independence, innovation, and impact. One such inspiring journey is that of Anshi Arora, a dedicated motor insurance advisor from Ambala,



Haryana.For Anshi, joining PBPartners four years ago marked a turning point in her career, both personally and professionally. Over the years, her income has seen a substantial rise, but more importantly, it has brought her a sense of pride and independence. Anshi shared, "Today, I can truly say I am financially independent, and this feeling means everything to me." Anshi further praises the PBPartners platform for its seamless features, especially the on-demand payout system, which gives her control and flexibility over her earnings. She added that, "All features are great, but the on-demand payout is a game-changer." Her journey has been smooth, thanks to a supportive Relationship Manager who, she says, has never let her down. At PBPartners, Relationship Managers play a vital role beyond routine support, they assist with claim processing, product selection, and client servicing. For Anshi, this steady, hands-on guidance has been key to staying focused and delivering exceptional customer service. With expert help always within reach, she's been able to handle challenges with clarity and confidence.Anshi Arora's journey with PBPartners highlights how the right platform and support system can unlock real, lasting progress. From gaining financial independence to building a confident, fulfilling career, Anshi stands as an example of how digital platforms like PBPartners are transforming the way insurance professionals grow, both financially and personally.

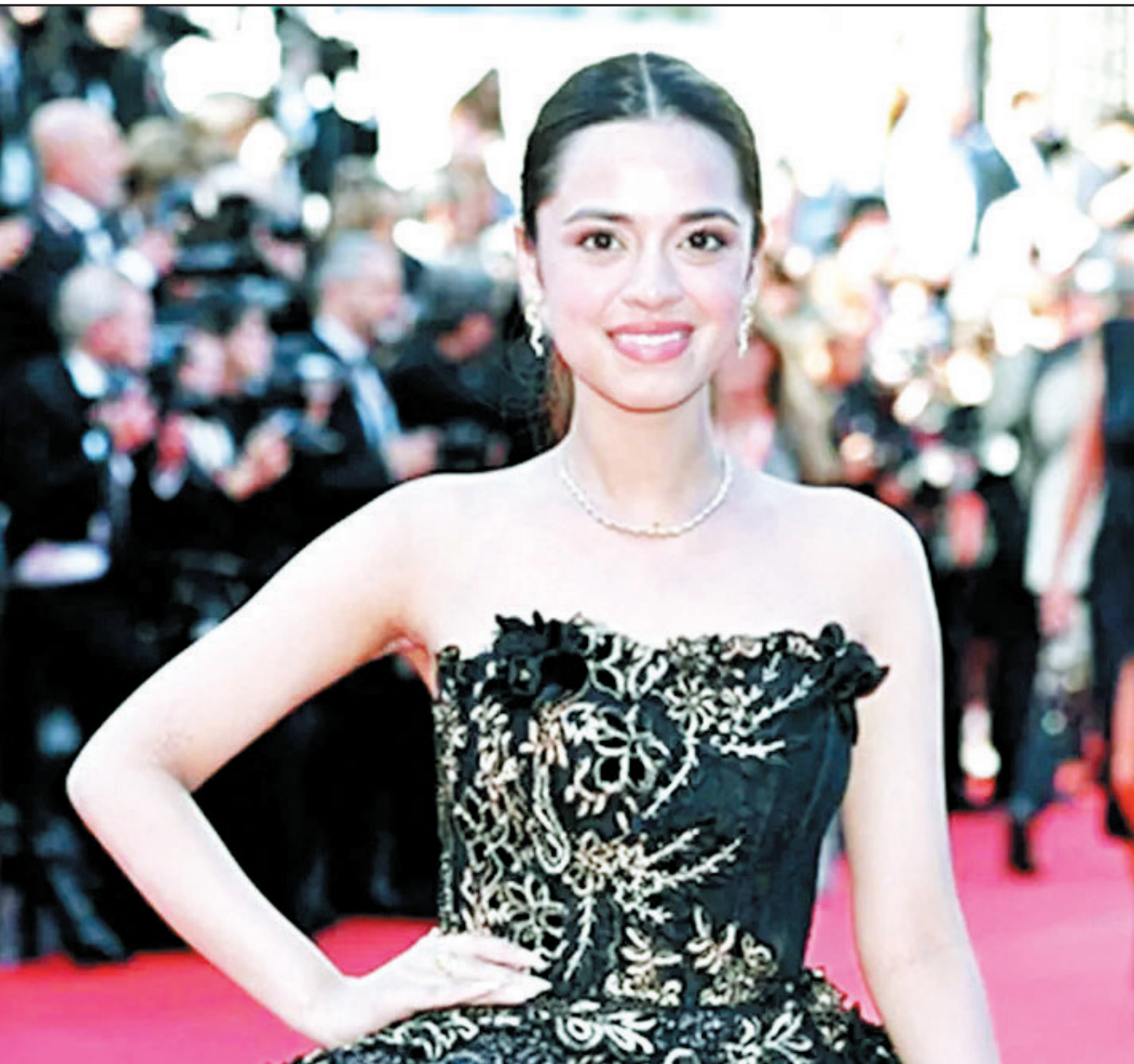
Jaypore Accelerates Retail Expansion, Launches New Store at Worldmark, Gurugram

GURUGRAM : In a significant step towards its strategic retail growth, Jaypore, the celebrated artisanal lifestyle brand from Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Ltd. (ABFRL), has unveiled its newest store at Worldmark, Gurugram, further strengthening its presence in India's cultural and retail landscape. With this launch, Jaypore now operates 32 stores across the country, reaffirming its commitment to bringing India's rich artisanal traditions to a wider audience through thoughtfully designed retail



spaces. Sprawled across 2,000sq. ft., the new Jaypore store is more than just a retail space — it is an immersive journey into the heart of India's craft culture. The design language is rooted in earthy elegance, with handcrafted nuances, tactile textures, and traditional materials seamlessly woven into the visual storytelling within the space. Every corner echoes the cultural richness for which Jaypore is celebrated, inspiring consumers to reclaim their Indian roots.Speaking on the launch, Manu Gupta, Vice President & Brand Head, Jaypore said, "At Jaypore, our vision has always been to reimagine Indian craft for today's discerning consumer. Our rapid expansion reflects a strong and growing appetite for authentic, design-led artisanal products. With every new store, we are not just expanding our footprintbut also deepening our narrative — one that celebrates the extraordinary talent of Indian artisans. The Gurugram store embodies this ethos — rooted in tradition yet tailored for the modern aesthete."

Nitanshi Goel marks her Cannes 2025 debut



Making an unforgettable first impression at the 2025 Cannes Film Festival, actress Nitanshi Goel made her red carpet debut with a powerful homage to the golden age of Indian cinema. The 17-year-old actress, known for her breakout role in the Oscar-shortlisted ‘Laapataa Ladies’, stepped into the global spotlight on Thursday with elegance and poise. Dressed in a custom ivory saree by Jade by Monica and Karishma, Nitanshi’s ensemble served as a heartfelt tribute to the women who shaped the legacy of Hindi cinema. Adorned with hairpins bearing the

faces of screen legends like Madhubala, Nargis, Meena Kumari, Nutan, Waheeda Rehman, Asha Parekh, Vyjayanthimala, Hema Malini, Rekha, and Sridevi, the young actress carried with her a lineage of cinematic brilliance onto one of the world’s most prestigious stages. Shrey and Urja styled Nitanshi’s first look, which was complemented by an intricately beaded blouse crafted with pearls and delicate embroidery, echoing the aesthetic of heirloom Indian fashion. Accessories were kept minimal. Later that evening, Nitanshi made a second appearance on the red carpet in a strik-

ing black gown adorned with gold embroidery by Jade by Monica and Karishma. Nitanshi was present at Cannes for the screening of ‘Dossier 137’. Her Cannes debut comes alongside a wave of Indian talent at this year’s festival, including ‘All We Imagine As Light’ director Payal Kapadia, Chhaya Kadam. Actor Anupam Kher is in France for the 2025 Cannes Film Festival, where his film ‘Tanvi The Great’ is set to be screened on May 17. Apart from this, Karan Johar’s ‘Homebound’ and legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray’s ‘Aranyer Din Ratri’ are also set to be screened at Cannes.

Blake Lively’s lawyer denies she threatened Taylor Swift

Blake Lively’s legal team has unequivocally denied the claim made by Justin Baldoni’s lawyer about the actress’s friendship with Taylor Swift. In a letter to the judge, Bryan Freedman, an attorney for Baldoni, explained why they believe their subpoena to Venable, the law firm representing Swift, is relevant in the case. Freedman claimed that a “source who is highly likely to have reliable information” alleged to them that there is evidence of Lively’s lawyers pressuring Swift’s lawyers to “release a statement of support” for the actress amid the Baldoni legal saga. If they refused, according to Freedman’s claim, Lively was willing to leak their text messages in what he called “extortionate threats,” reported People. There is currently no evidence to support the claims, but Freedman stated that their subpoena seeks these communications to utilise in their case against Lively. However, Mike Gottlieb, an attorney for Lively, said in a May 14 statement, “This is categorically false,” reported People. “We unequivocally deny all of these so-called allegations, which are cowardly sourced to supposed anonymous sources, and completely untethered from reality,” added Gottlieb.



Vijay Raaz acquitted in sexual harassment case by Gondia Court

Actor Vijay Raaz known for his roles in ‘Stree’, ‘Delhi Belly’ and others, has been acquitted of sexual harassment and stalking charges filed by a colleague on the sets of the film ‘Sherni’ also starring Vidya Balan. The Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate’s Court in Gondia acquitted actor Vijay Razz of all charges in a sexual harassment case filed against him in 2020 during the shooting of a film in Gondia and Balaghat. The Court found him innocent after completing the trial, and he was acquitted of all charges against him. The judgment, pronounced by Judge Mahendra Keshao Sorte, cleared the 51-year-old actor of allegations under Indian Penal Code Sections 354-A (sexual harassment) and 354-D (stalking), citing lack of evidence and failure of the prosecution to establish guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. The case dated back to October 25-29, 2020, when a female crew member accused Razz of inappropriate behaviour, including unwelcome physical contact and suggestive re-

marks, during a film shoot at Hotel Gateway in Gondia and later at Jatashankar College in Balaghat. His advocate and noted celebrity lawyer Saveena Bedi Sachar, stated that the actor who was shooting near Nagpur for ‘Sherni’ had to not only leave the film shoot midway but also lost work thereafter. However, he has now been declared innocent and she hopes that this case serves as an example for people who declare every accused as guilty as soon as allegations are levied against him. According to the FIR filed on 3 November 2020, the actor allegedly tried to touch the complainant, adjusted her mask without consent, and made comments about her physical appearance. The woman later reported the incident to her seniors and filed a complaint at Ramnagar Police Station. The incident dates back to November 4, 2020, when Raaz was arrested in Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh, over allegations of molesting a crew member at a hotel where the film crew was staying.



Agent Veera Warns Mannat — Can She Stay Safe?



In the previous episode of the show, Muskan tries to embarrass Mannat in front of her colleagues. However, Mannat stays calm and manages the situation smartly. Meanwhile, Agent Veera warns Mannat about Monty’s dangerous plan. She reveals that Monty is planning to plant a bomb at Mannat’s house to take revenge. In today’s episode, the tension rises as Mannat successfully finds the bomb and throws it out of the house just in time, preventing a major disaster. Her quick thinking saves everyone and shows her courage and determination. Will Monty give up on his revenge now? How will Mannat deal with the ongoing threats? Can Agent Veera protect Mannat and her loved ones from more danger? Don’t miss the gripping twists in “Nava Mod” every Mon- Sat at 8:00 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.

Ashutosh Rana narrates India’s legendary warrior king’s journey as his friend Chand Bardai in Chakravarti Samrat PrithviRaj Chauhan



CHANDIGARH : Sony Entertainment Television proudly presents its upcoming historical drama, Chakravarti Samrat Prithviraj Chauhan, a powerful tale tracing the incredible journey of a young prince who rose to become one of India’s most celebrated and brave kings. This epic narrative dives deep into his early life, showcasing the challenges he faced and the strength, courage, wisdom, and bravery with which he overcame them. From his formative years to the defining battles of his reign, the show brings to life the inspiring story of a truly brave king whose legacy continues to echo through history. Adding depth to this grand saga is renowned actor Ashutosh Rana, who will lend his iconic voice as Prithviraj Chauhan’s friend Chand Bardai. Known for his powerful screen presence and commanding voice as Prithviraj Chauhan’s closest friend, Rana will take viewers through this historic journey, helping them connect emotionally with the characters and the era. His narration promises to bring gravitas, authenticity, and a sense of timeless pride to the storytelling. Sharing his thoughts on being part of the show, Ashutosh Rana shares, “It is a matter of immense pride and joy for me to lend my voice as the narrator for this magnificent historical saga. As a child, I grew up listening to stories about Prithviraj Chauhan tales of his unmatched bravery, wisdom, and spirit. Those stories left a deep impact on me, and to now be part of bringing that legend to life is truly special.” As an actor, I’ve always believed that voice holds great power. Through this narration, I aim to bring depth, dignity, and intensity to the story. The emotions I carry rooted in strength, passion, and respect, resonate closely with the spirit of this show.” – Watch Chakravarti Samrat Prithviraj Chauhan starting 4th June, every Monday to Friday at 7:30 PM, only on Sony Entertainment Television and Sony LIV~

Sham Kaushal shares heartfelt birthday note for son Vicky Kaushal

As Bollywood actor Vicky Kaushal turns a year older today, he received a heartwarming birthday note from his father, veteran action director Sham Kaushal. Sham Kaushal shared a heartwarming video on Instagram beautifully capturing the father-son bond, drawing warm responses from fans and fellow celebrities. In the video, Vicky and his father are seen walking side by side on a beach, smiling and synchronising their steps. “Father is the happiest person in the world to see his son moving ahead of him in life... Love u Puttar. Wish u a very Happy Birthday. Feeling proud and blessed to have u as my son. Rab di meher bani rahe. Jor di jhappi,” Sham Kaushal captioned the post. https://www.instagram.com/p/DJsquf_yUmj/



Fans chimed in the comments section and wished the ‘Chhaava’ star on his special day. “Happy Birthday Vicky bhai and stay blessed,” one fan wrote. “Truly, you’re a blessed soul to have a son like Vicky ji -- such a humble, grounded, and family-oriented person,” another fan wrote. Vicky, who turned 37 today, was last seen in ‘Chhaava’, which gained momentum at the box office. Looking ahead, Vicky is set to appear in Sanjay Leela Bhansali’s upcoming film ‘Love and War’ alongside Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor.

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