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REGD NO. CHD/0061/2006-08 | RNI NO. 61323/95

SUNDAY
APRIL 19, 2026
CHANDIGARH
VOL. 31, NO. 81
8 PAGES, ₹2.00

SCAN QR CODE FOR EPAPER

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NEWS BRIEFS

J-K: 172 govt employees absent during surprise inspection in Poonch, salaries withheld

JAMMU: As many as 172 government employees were absent from duty during a surprise inspection in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, prompting authorities to order immediate withholding of their salaries, officials said.
In a firm step towards strengthening administrative discipline and accountability, Poonch Deputy Commissioner, Ashok Kumar Sharma, constituted dedicated teams to conduct surprise inspections across government offices in the border district.
Acting on these directions, the teams carried out surprise visits across the entire district, including the district headquarters and found 172 employees absent from duty without authorisation, the officials said.

Congress calls defeat of women's quota bill 'victory for democracy', accuses Centre of flip-flop

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Saturday accused the Centre of attempting to alter the federal structure under the guise of women's reservation, saying the defeat of the Constitution amendment bill in the Lok Sabha was a "victory for democracy" and alleging that the government has "consistently flip-flopped" on the issue.
The party reiterated its support for the immediate implementation of the Women's Reservation Act, 2023, and claimed the proposed changes were linked to delimitation for political gains.
Addressing a press conference here, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra alleged that the sole aim behind bringing the Constitution amendment bill was to remain in power permanently, adding that people could see through the government's intentions.

Mamata slams Modi ahead of address to nation, calls his speeches 'bunch of lies'

KOLKATA: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday stepped up her attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of his address to the nation, saying his speeches offered no relief to the poor and were "nothing but a pack of lies".
Speaking at a rally in Bhangar in South 24 Parganas district, Banerjee said, "I hear the prime minister will again address the nation with yet another web of falsehoods. People will not get rations by listening to his speech. His speeches are nothing but a pack of lies." Modi is scheduled to speak to the nation at 8.30 pm, a day after the BJP-led government failed to secure passage of the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill in the Lok Sabha.

Keralam: 10 CPM workers sentenced to 25 years in Thimiri bomb attack case

KANNUR : A court in Thaliparamba has sentenced 10 Communist Party of India (Marxist) workers to 25 years of rigorous imprisonment in connection with the 2011 Thimiri bomb attack case, highlighting the judiciary's firm stand against political violence.
The judgment was delivered by Additional District and Sessions Judge K.N. Prasanth in the case related to the attack that took place in Thimiri near Alakode in Kannur district, where bombs were allegedly hurled at workers of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). According to the prosecution, the attack was premeditated and part of a broader pattern of retaliatory political violence in the region. All 10 accused, including the second accused, T.V. Binu alias "Udumb Binu", were awarded 25 years of rigorous imprisonment. However, the court allowed nine of the convicts to serve their sentences concurrently, effectively reducing their prison term to 10 years. The prosecution has stated that the Thimiri bomb attack incident took place on November 27, 2011.

Iran says it has closed Strait of Hormuz again over US blockade

AGENCY
CAIRO, APRIL 18

Iran has rowed back on its decision to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, warning that it would continue to block transit through the hugely important waterway as long as the US blockade of Iranian ports remained in effect.

The announcement on Saturday came after US President Donald Trump said the blockade "will remain in full force" until Tehran reaches a deal with the US, including on its nuclear programme. Tehran had reopened the strait Friday to commercial vessels.

Roughly one-fifth of the world's oil passes through the strait and further limits would squeeze already constrained supply, driving prices higher once again. Iran's Friday announcement about the opening of the crucial body of water, through which 20 per cent of the world's oil is shipped, came as a 10-day truce between Israel and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon appeared to hold.

Despite the escalation, Pakistani officials say the United States and Iran are still moving closer to a deal ahead of the April 22 ceasefire deadline.



Indian vessels shot at, forced out of Strait of Hormuz by Iranian Navy; Delhi summons Tehran envoy

NEW DELHI: One of the vessels, identified as Sanmar Herald, an Indian-flagged Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC) transporting nearly 2 million barrels of Iraqi crude, reportedly came under direct fire. File photo
India on Saturday summoned the Ambassador of Iran after two Indian-flagged vessels were fired upon and forced out of the Strait of Hormuz, in a sharp escalation that comes alongside renewed geopolitical brinkmanship and fragile diplomatic outreach in the region. The Ministry of External Affairs called in Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Fathali for a meeting with Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, conveying "deep concern" over the incident and stressing the importance India attaches to the safety of merchant shipping and seafarers. During the demarche, New Delhi also recalled that Tehran had earlier facilitated safe passage for India-bound vessels and urged that such arrangements be restored without delay.
"The Foreign Secretary conveyed India's deep concern at the shooting incident earlier today involving two Indian-flagged ships in the Strait of Hormuz… and urged the Ambassador to convey India's views to the authorities in Iran," the MEA said in a statement. The Iranian envoy assured that the concerns would be relayed to Tehran.

CM Bhagwant Mann embarks on Netherlands visit to attract global investments, boost Punjab's industrial growth

BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, APRIL 18:



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Saturday embarked on a visit to the Netherlands to strengthen bilateral partnerships and attract investments across key sectors including Food Processing, Logistics, Alloys and Steels, Pharmaceuticals and Information Technology, as part of the Punjab Government's sustained push to accelerate industrial growth and economic development.

On this, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann stated, "This vision is simple and clear to make Punjab a preferred destination for global industry by offering stability in policy, speed in decision-making, and a governance system that respects the time and trust of investors."

The visit assumes significance as the Netherlands is among the largest Foreign Direct Investors in India, with several Dutch companies already having a presence in Punjab. Notably, the Chief Minister had earlier laid the foundation stone of the De Heus factory at Vividha Industrial Park, Rajpura in October 2023. Similarly, the Indo-Dutch Centre of Excellence for Potato crop is already functioning successfully in the state, reflecting the growing collaboration between Punjab and the Netherlands.

During the visit, the Chief Minister will pitch for strategic tie-ups in priority sectors to further boost industrial development. He will also showcase Punjab as North India's preferred investment destination by highlighting its strategic location, seamless connectivity to NCR and major ports, strong industrial clusters, uninterrupted quality power supply, skilled workforce and a progressive policy ecosystem.

The delegation led by the Chief Minister will present key governance and regulatory reforms introduced by the Punjab Government, including the FastTrack Punjab single-window system offering more than 173 G2B services, auto-deemed approvals, PAN-based business identifiers and amendments to the Punjab Right to Business Act enabling time-bound in-principle approvals.

Through a series of roadshows, one-to-one business meetings and interactions with major global corporations and institutions, the delegation aims to position Punjab as a compelling investment destination for European countries and bring new investments to the state.

CM Nayab Singh Saini reviews major infrastructure projects; directs departments to expedite work

BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, APRIL 18

Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini today chaired a high-level PRAGATI review meeting to assess the progress of major ongoing development projects costing over ₹75 crore each across the state. Emphasizing timely execution, the Chief Minister directed all departments to expedite work and resolve bottlenecks on priority.

During the review, the Chief Minister took stock of key projects in urban development, health infrastructure, tourism, archaeology, and emergency services.

Reviewing the ₹217 crore Augmentation Scheme for Master Water Supply in Faridabad, which involves the installation of 12 Ranney Wells along the Yamuna river floodplains, the Chief Minister was informed that overall physical progress has reached 67 percent. Two Ranney Wells have already been completed and work is progressing on the remaining sites in a phased manner. Sh. Nayab Singh Saini directed officials to adhere strictly to the revised timelines and ensure expeditious completion of all components of the project. He also sought detailed inputs on water quality parameters and emphasized that the project must deliver safe and clean drinking water.

Regarding road infrastructure, the Chief Minister instructed the HSVP to expedite the construction of the 120-meter wide road from Bye-Pass Road to NH-8 in Rewari, which is currently at 65% physical progress. On the proposed World-Class Shooting Range in Panchkula, the Chief Minister was informed that tender negotiations have been completed and allotment will be finalized soon. He directed officials to ensure early commencement of work. The Chief Minister also reviewed the Integrated Aqua Park Centre of Excellence in Bhiwani and was informed that the construction will begin shortly following tender approvals.

Congress 'anti-reform, selfish', pursues negative politics: PM Modi

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, APRIL 18

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched an acerbic attack on the Congress, accusing it of spreading misinformation on delimitation, adopting an "anti-reform" approach, and pursuing "negative politics" that harms national interest.

He said the Congress is following a policy of divide and rule, which he alleged it inherited from the British, and is spreading misinformation that delimitation would adversely impact certain states.

Addressing the nation a day after the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill on women's reservation failed to get clearance in the Lok Sabha, PM Modi said the issue is not limited to a single piece of legislation but part of a broader political contest against what he described as dynastic parties that are anti-reform, adding that the struggle would continue.

"The Bill was not an attempt to take credit but to give rights to half of the population," the Prime Minister said, adding that efforts to provide reservation to women have been pending for decades due to what he termed as selfish politics by parties such as the Congress.

"I am as sad as all women who are unhappy over the non-passage of the Bill. We may not have been able to garner 66 per cent vote in its support, but



100 per cent of Nari Shakti is with us," he said, vowing to overcome all hurdles in implementing women's reservation.

Launching a broadside on the Congress, DMK, Trinamool Congress, and Samajwadi Party, he said these dynastic parties do not want women who are performing well in panchayats and local bodies to compete with their leaders in Parliament and state Assemblies.

"The dynastic parties are afraid that if seats for women are increased, then the stature of common women would grow and they would overshadow these parties' leaders," he said.

The Prime Minister said the Congress has consistently opposed reforms aimed at building a 'Viksit Bharat'. He cited examples such as the GST, CAA, UCC, abrogation of Article 370, Jan Dhan Yojana, Aadhaar, digital payments, 'One Nation, One Poll', SIR, measures against LWE, and steps to counter illegal immigration as reforms opposed by the Congress.

Calling the Congress a predatory party pursuing selfish politics, he said its stand on the women's quota Bill has adversely impacted its regional allies, including the DMK, Trinamool Congress, and Samajwadi Party.

"By supporting the women's quota, the DMK and the Trinanool Congress had an opportunity to send more MPs from their states to Parliament. But they squandered the opportunity," he said.

He added that the Samajwadi Party also had a chance to address its perceived anti-women image by supporting the Bill but failed to do so.

PM Modi to inaugurate Ganga Expressway on April 29, connectivity in the state to get a major boost

Yogi government's mega project to transform Uttar Pradesh's landscape

BUREAU
LUCKNOW, APRIL 18.



The much-awaited Ganga Expressway in Uttar Pradesh will be inaugurated on April 29 in Hardoi district by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This occasion will mark a milestone in the state's infrastructure development, directly benefiting crores of people.

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, infrastructure projects in Uttar Pradesh have been advanced at a rapid pace, and the Ganga Expressway stands as a strong example of this progress. After receiving approval from the cabinet in 2020, the project was taken up on priority and has been implemented in record time. The expressway is emerging as a strong foundation for building a "Naye Uttar Pradesh".

The Ganga Expressway has a total length of 594 kilometres. It starts from Bijoli village in Meerut and ends near Judapur Dandu village in Prayagraj. This route will directly connect western Uttar Pradesh with the eastern region, strengthening the state's economic and social framework and making travel faster, safer, and more convenient.

The expressway will directly benefit 12 major districts including Meerut, Hapur, Bulandshahr, Amroha, Sambhal, Badaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, Raebareli, Pratapgarh, and Prayagraj. A total of 519 villages are connected through this project, accelerating economic activities in both rural and urban areas.

At present, Uttar Pradesh accounts for around 55 percent of the country's total expressway network. With the inauguration of the Ganga Expressway, this share will increase to nearly 60 percent, further strengthening UP's position as a leading state in expressway development.

Improved connectivity will reduce logistics costs, providing significant benefits to industries and trade. The expressway will act as a new industrial corridor, attracting investment and generating employment opportunities for the youth.

The project will prove highly beneficial for farmers, as agricultural produce will reach markets more quickly, improving quality and pricing. Strengthening the supply chain for perishable goods will also contribute to increasing farmers' income.

The Ganga Expressway will promote religious and cultural tourism. Improved connectivity to places like Prayagraj will increase tourist footfall and strengthen the local economy. Under the leadership of the Yogi government, Uttar Pradesh is rapidly emerging as an "Expressway State."

India strongly condemns deadly attack on French UN Peacekeepers in Lebanon

NEW DELHI: India on Saturday strongly condemned the attack on French UN Peacekeepers deployed at the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in southern Lebanon, urging the need to investigate and bring perpetrators to justice.

Earlier in the day, a French soldier was killed and three others wounded in the attack on UNIFIL, French President Emmanuel Macron had confirmed.

"We strongly condemn the attack that took place today on French UN Peacekeepers deployed in UNIFIL. We pay our homage to the fallen Blue Helmet and wish a speedy recovery to the three other peacekeepers who were injured," read a statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

"India had piloted UN Security Council Resolution 2589 on Accountability for Crimes against Peacekeepers. We urge the government of Lebanon to urgently investigate this attack, bring its perpetrators to justice, and ensure accountability for this crime against UN Peacekeepers," it added.

India also reiterated the importance of respecting the sanctity and inviolability of UN premises and personnel, urging all parties to ensure the safety and security of Peacekeepers who are deployed pursuant to UN Security Council mandates.

According to Macron, the French soldier served with the 17th Parachute Engineer Regiment, and the three wounded have been evacuated.

"The nation bows with respect and extends its support to the families of our soldiers and to all our military personnel committed to peace in Lebanon," Macron posted on X.

The French President stated that all indications suggest that Hezbollah is responsible for the attack and demanded that the Lebanese authorities immediately arrest the perpetrators and assume their responsibilities alongside UNIFIL.

"This morning, a UNIFIL patrol clearing explosive ordnance along a road in the village of Ghanduriyah to re-establish links with isolated UNIFIL positions came under small-arms fire from non-state-actors.

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LPG, petrol and diesel supply normal in district, says DFSC

RANVIR PARASHAR
KAITHAL: District Food and Supplies Controller Varinder Singh has said that the supply of LPG, petrol and diesel in the district remains completely normal and adequate. He urged residents to purchase fuel and gas only as per requirement to ensure smooth distribution and warned that strict legal action will be taken against hoarding and black marketing. He informed that sufficient domestic LPG cylinders are available across 20 gas agencies in the district. On April 17, a stock of 3,538 cylinders was available, 6,220 new cylinders were received during the day, and 4,887 cylinders were distributed to consumers, leaving 4,871 cylinders in reserve. Similarly, 775 commercial cylinders are in stock, with an additional 132 expected shortly. Around 11,649 PNG consumers are also receiving regular gas supply, while 1,130 new PNG connections were issued in March. A control room has been set up at the District Food and Supplies office, operating daily from 8 am to 8 pm. Residents can contact 01746-224243 for any issues related to gas supply or distribution.

NEWS BRIEF

Hry govt promotes horticulture to boost farmers' income

RANVIR PARASHAR
KAITHAL: The Haryana government has introduced special subsidy schemes to promote horticulture and enhance farmers' income. Deputy Commissioner Aparajita said incentives ranging from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 25,500 per acre are being provided for vegetable cultivation, along with higher subsidies for bamboo-based and iron staking techniques. Support is also being extended for mushroom cultivation, including financial assistance for mushroom huts and trays, as well as 40–50 per cent subsidy on horticulture machinery and equipment. Farmers adopting advanced techniques are reportedly earning up to Rs. 4 lakh per acre through bamboo staking and around Rs.2 lakh per acre from carrot cultivation. The DC urged farmers to register their crops on the 'Meri Fasal Mera Byora' portal to avail benefits under the schemes, which are being provided on a first-come, first-served basis.



CM Dhami attends Char Dham Yatra 2026 inauguration, flags off pilgrim buses in Rishikesh

AGENCY
RISHIKESH, APR 18



Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Saturday attended the inauguration ceremony of the Char Dham Yatra 2026, organised by the Joint Rotation Yatra Arrangement Committee in Rishikesh. On the occasion, he flagged off buses carrying pilgrims to the Char Dham shrines and also inspected a free medical camp set up for devotees. Welcoming pilgrims from across the country to Uttarakhand, the Chief Minister said that the Char Dham Yatra is a path that connects faith, devotion, and the soul. He noted that the journey gives strength to overcome every challenge. He reiterated the government's commitment to making the yatra smooth, safe, well-organised, and divine, adding that it provides spiritual peace and energy to millions of devotees.

The Chief Minister said that with the blessings of Mother Ganga, the yatra continues to set new records every year. He emphasised that the state government is firmly committed to ensuring a safe pilgrimage and that he is personally reviewing the preparations on a regular basis. The government's goal is to provide every pilgrim with safety, respect, and a divine experience, so that they carry back golden memories from Devbhoomi. He urged all pilgrims to maintain cleanliness at religious sites and along the travel routes, stating that every particle of Uttarakhand is sacred and preserving its purity is a collective responsibility. He added that under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the state has set targets for a Green Char Dham Yatra and a plastic-free Kedarnath Dham. Proper sanitation arrangements have been ensured along the routes, and it has been made mandatory to keep dustbins in all vehicles. He said that just as people keep their home temples clean, Devbhoomi must also be kept pure and clean. Highlighting infrastructure developments, the Chief Minister said that several historic initiatives are being undertaken under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make the journey more convenient. He mentioned the recent inauguration of the Rs 12,000 crore Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor, which has made travel faster and easier. Reconstruction work is progressing at Kedarnath and Badrinath, while facilities are being rapidly expanded at Gangotri, Yamunotri, and Hemkund Sahib. He further said that under the All-Weather Road project, pilgrimage routes have been made more accessible. Ropeway projects from Gaurikund to Kedarnath and from Govindghat to Hemkund Sahib are also progressing.

Wheat lifting stalled in Yamunanagar mandis, INLD protest enters 18th day



RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR, APR 18

Wheat lifting in the grain markets of Jagadhri and Yamunanagar has come to a near standstill, leading to severe congestion and distress among farmers. The farmer protest led by Indian National Lok Dal has continued for the 18th consecutive day over the issue. According to party leaders, the lifting system in the mandis has collapsed, with heaps of wheat sacks blocking internal roads and disrupting movement. Farmers are reportedly struggling to even find space to bring and unload their produce. Although the Sub-Divisional Magistrate had earlier assured that lifting would be expedited, no visible improvement has been reported on the ground. Allegations of negligence have also been levelled against the private contractor appointed for the task, with leaders claiming that repeated attempts to contact the contractor have gone unanswered. The situation has forced commission agents to arrange lifting on their own, adding to their financial burden. Reports indicate that more than one lakh wheat sacks are lying in the Radaur grain market alone. With the procurement season having begun on April 1, the slow pace of lifting has affected both farmers and traders, raising concerns over potential damage to the crop lying in the open. INLD national spokesperson Ashwini Dutta said that delayed lifting will also impact timely payments to farmers. He noted that as per norms, payments should be made within 72 hours of lifting, but the current situation has disrupted the process.

"Half the population, still underrepresented": Aneeta Sharma raises concern over delay in women's quota

SARBJIT SUFI
LUDHIANA, APR 18



Highlighting the gap between population share and political power, women's rights advocate Aneeta Sharma has questioned the delay in implementing the Women's Reservation Law, stating that women in India remain significantly underrepresented in decision-making bodies.

Despite constituting nearly half of the population, women hold only about 14% of seats in the Lok Sabha and around 9–10% in State Assemblies. Globally, women's political participation stands at approximately 27%, whereas India continues to lag behind, reflecting a deeper structural imbalance. Referring to the "Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023", which promises 33% reservation for women in legislative bodies, Sharma acknowledged it as a progressive step but expressed concern over its delayed rollout. The implementation has been linked to future census and delimitation processes, which could push its execution further down the line. Aneeta Sharma, National President of Belan Brigade and head of Navkiran Women Welfare Association, questioned the intent behind such delays. She remarked that postponing rights for half the population points not only to procedural issues but also to a lack of political will. While welcoming the legislation, she stressed that delays dilute its purpose. She termed the situation as "Lobby Shakti Bandhan," suggesting that existing power structures tend to maintain control by slowing down meaningful inclusion. Sharma also pointed out that political parties continue to offer limited opportunities to women in candidate selection, indicating a gap between commitment and action. She asserted that if the intent were genuine, the 33% reservation could have been implemented without prolonged waiting. Emphasizing the essence of democracy, she said that limiting women to the role of voters while excluding them from policymaking undermines democratic values.

Haryana Congress in turmoil over cross-voting, call for resignation of in-charge and Leader of Opposition

DALBIR SINGH
KURUKSHETRA: Political tensions within the Haryana Congress have intensified following cross-voting and the activities of rebel MLAs during the recent Rajya Sabha elections. Amid the controversy, some party leaders and supporters have demanded resignations from those responsible.



Five Congress MLAs who allegedly defied the party line and engaged in cross-voting during the Rajya Sabha elections have been suspended by the party. Reacting to the development, District President of Kisan Congress, Advocate Madhusudan Baveja, termed the suspension as a positive step but held senior leadership accountable for the situation. Baveja stated that both the party in-charge and the Leader of Opposition were aware of the developments in advance but failed to inform the party high command or prevent the cross-voting. He said that on moral grounds, both leaders should immediately resign from their positions. He further added that under the leadership of Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge, MP Rahul Gandhi, and Haryana state president Narendra Singh, the party's graph has been steadily rising. According to him, Narendra Singh's leadership has strengthened the party at the state level and boosted the morale of party workers.

Senior forest official inspects Yamunanagar forests and nurseries, issues directions on protection measures

PRITI SAINI
SADAURA, APR 18



Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (APCCF), Haryana, T. P. Singh conducted an inspection of forests and nurseries in Yamunanagar forest division, with a focus on conservation, boundary demarcation and strengthening vigilance. At the Kalesar range headquarters, the officer held a review meeting with Divisional Forest Officer Prashant Sharma, Additional Conservator Rajesh Mathur and other forest and wildlife officials. During the meeting, strict directions were issued to prevent forest fires, illegal felling and unlawful mining activities in forest areas. Expressing concern over reported incidents of illegal tree cutting and mining on forest land, Singh emphasised that such activities must be curbed to maintain ecological balance. He also underlined the responsibility of protecting flora and fauna. During a field visit to the Kalesar range, he directed officials to complete boundary demarcation between Haryana and Uttar Pradesh in the Khair valley area with the assistance of the revenue department, noting that ambiguity over jurisdiction often hampers timely action in case of damage or violations. The officer also conducted a night patrol in the Kalesar and Chhachhrauli ranges to assess on-ground security arrangements, instructing staff to intensify surveillance. On the following day, inspections were carried out at nurseries in Bambepur, Pratap Nagar, Chhachhrauli, Kot and Darpur. Officials were directed to properly maintain plant stock in preparation for the upcoming plantation season.

Achievers' ceremony held at Pratap World School, Pathankot



VERMA
GURDASPUR: Pratap World School, Pathankot organized its grand Achievers' Ceremony to honor excellence in academics, sports, and scholarships. More than 350 students were felicitated for their outstanding achievements, making it a proud and inspiring moment for the entire school community. The ceremony was graced by Chief Guest Suninderjeet Kour, a distinguished officer of the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS). Her presence added prestige to the event. Students were recognized not only for academic excellence but also for achievements in sports and scholarship success, reflecting the school's commitment to holistic development. Scholarship awardees were also presented with cheques in recognition of their hard work and merit. The event was filled with enthusiasm as students proudly received their awards, while parents and teachers celebrated their success. Director Sunny Mahajan said that the school believes in nurturing talent in every field and that such recognition motivates students to achieve greater heights.

52995 metric tons of crop procured in district markets so far: DC



KARANPREET KARAN
BARNALA: Deputy Commissioner Barnala Mr. Harpreet Singh IAS said that wheat procurement is going on in all the mandis of district Barnala. He said that the procurement arrangements of wheat crop are being reviewed on a daily basis so that farmers do not face any problem in the mandis. He said that till this evening, a total of 121795 metric tons of crop have arrived in various mandis of the district so far, out of which 46825 metric tons of crop have arrived today. A total of 52995 metric tonnes of wheat has been procured so far and 31217 metric tonnes of the crop have been procured today. He said that so far 11860 metric tonnes have been procured by Markfed, 22,200 metric tonnes by Pungrain, 11380 metric tonnes by Punsup and 7555 metric tonnes by Punjab State Warehousing Corporation. He said that the payment of the purchased crop to the farmers is being made directly into their accounts within 48 hours and the lifting of the crop has also started. He said that the markets are being reviewed on a daily basis and the procurement agencies have assured that the bardana is available in sufficient quantity, due to which the problem of lifting will not be allowed to arise.

Bagless Day celebrated at Janata Public School Alahar, student council formed



NIRMAL SAINI
RADAUR: Janata Public School, Alahar observed a "bagless day" with enthusiasm, as students attended school without carrying bags and participated in a range of co-curricular activities. The programme was inaugurated with a ceremonial lamp lighting by chairman Mukesh Shastri, managing director Ruby Kamboj and principal Dr Kalpana Bajaj. Alongside the activities, the school also organised its annual investiture ceremony for the 2026–27 session. Three houses—Udham Singh, Subhash Chandra Bose and Bhagat Singh—were constituted. Prince Sharma was appointed house master of Udham Singh House, with Yuvraj as captain and Priyanshi as vice-captain. Reena headed Subhash Chandra Bose House, with Parv as captain and Megha as vice-captain. Shagun Kamboj was named house master of Bhagat Singh House, with Priyal as captain and Kanak as vice-captain. Anish of Class 10 was appointed head boy, while Dipali of Class 12 was named head girl. The newly elected student council members were administered the oath and presented with badges.

Sarthak event pays musical tribute to Asha Bhosle in Karnal



MEGH RAJ LUTHRA
KARNAL: Sarthak Sanskritik Sangh organised a musical tribute in memory of legendary playback singer Asha Bhosle at a restaurant on Railway Road, where participants of all age groups performed her iconic songs. The programme saw participation from students, women and senior citizens, who paid homage by singing a range of her popular numbers. Haryana State Information Commissioner Advocate Sanjay Madan attended as the chief guest. Prominent attendees included music enthusiasts and local dignitaries such as Krishna Arora, Vijay Singla, Suman Singla, Sanjay Singla, Rajeev Malhotra, Ranjeev Sharma, Brij Kishore Atreya, Anupama, Annu Lakhan Pal, Sushant Lakhan Pal, Ravita Luthra, Vikas Nagpal, Joginder Madan, Rajeev Kumar, Dr Sanket Sinha, Happy Dhingra, Prof Hans Raj and others. The event began with a devotional rendition of "Tora Man Darpan Kehlaye" by social worker Sham Arora. The programme was conducted by Sarthak president Sanjeev Lakhanpal. Addressing the gathering, Sanjay Madan described Asha Bhosle as one of the most versatile and celebrated playback singers in Indian cinema, with a career spanning over eight decades and more than 12,000 songs across genres including ghazals, bhajans, cabaret and contemporary styles.

Liberty AW-26 distributors meet successfully organised in Karnal



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL: Liberty Shoes organized the AW-26 (Autumn/Winter 2026) Distributors Meet today at Liberty Central House in Karnal. Distributors from various parts of the country participated enthusiastically in this important meeting.The company's young director, Ruchir Bansal, stated that the objective of such meetings is to strengthen preparations for the upcoming season and to gather valuable feedback from distributors. He added that India is a land of diversity, where even small geographical distances bring noticeable differences in people's preferences and dressing styles. Therefore, suggestions from different regions are extremely important, as they not only help distributors grow their business but also benefit the company.Distributors from different states also shared their experiences. Vimal Aggarwal from Siliguri mentioned that Liberty is a leading brand in the school segment in his region and has a strong presence in schools.

Village student Prateek honoured for scoring 94% in Class 10



NIRMAL SAINI
RADAUR: Prateek, a student from Kalesra village, was honoured by the Akhil Bharatiya Pal Gadariya Mahasabha for securing 94 per cent marks in the Class 10 CBSE examination. Coming from a modest background, Prateek's achievement was lauded as inspirational. State president Narsingh Pal, along with members of the organisation, visited his residence to felicitate him with a bouquet, memento and cash reward. He said the organisation regularly recognises meritorious students to motivate them further. District president Rakesh Pal, district general secretary Master Rameshwar Bapa, Naresh Hiranwal, Sachin Pal, sarpanch Ankit, Jaswinder Singh, Navjot, Baljeet Singh, Hansraj, Balram, Mamchand, Jagdish, Roshanlal, Lal Chand Numberdar, Malkit, Master Vikas and Ravindra were present during the felicitation ceremony.

Opposition will pay price for blocking Women's Reservation: Dr Ashok

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL: BJP District Media In-charge Dr. Ashok Kumar has criticized the opposition parties for allegedly obstructing the passage of the constitutional amendment bill related to the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, stating that they will have to face the consequences. He claimed that parties such as Congress, TMC, DMK, and the Samajwadi Party did not allow the bill, which aimed to provide 33% reservation for women, to pass. Calling the move "condemnable," Dr Ashok said that denying women their rightful representation in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies is against the interests of both women and the nation. Dr. Ashok further alleged that the Congress and its allies have repeatedly opposed measures related to women's empowerment. He stated that the opposition's stance reflects a mindset that is not supportive of women's development, representation, and respect. Targeting Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, he said that the party often opposes initiatives taken in the national interest. He added that the people of the country, especially women, will not forgive such actions. He emphasized that by depriving women of their rightful share in political representation, opposition parties have done injustice to half the population. According to him, women across the country will now stand united and respond strongly against what he termed as an anti-women alliance.



Discipline is first step to success, says Mahatma Hansraj; DAV Police Public School marks birth anniversary



SANJAY SHARMA
KAITHAL: DAV Police Public School, Kaithal, in collaboration with Arya Yuva Samaj Haryana, organised an inspirational programme to mark the birth anniversary of Mahatma Hansraj. The programme commenced with a Vedic havan conducted in the presence of principal Anju Gambhir, creating a spiritually uplifting atmosphere through collective chanting by students. Students presented a series of activities reflecting the life and teachings of Mahatma Hansraj, including speeches, skits, quizzes and devotional songs. The performances highlighted his ideals of discipline, service and dedication. Addressing the gathering, principal Anju Gambhir extended greetings on the occasion and encouraged students to imbibe the values of sacrifice and service exemplified by Mahatma Hansraj. She emphasised that students should follow the path shown by great Arya leaders to lead meaningful and purposeful lives.

Yugmarg
Haryana
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NEWS BRIEFS

DC inspects Jundla and Assandh grain markets, directs faster procurement and lifting



MAINPAL KASHYAP
INDRI : Deputy Commissioner Anand Kumar Sharma conducted a surprise inspection of Jundla and Assandh grain markets on Saturday to review wheat procurement, lifting arrangements and gate pass systems, directing officials to expedite operations and ensure smooth functioning.
During the visit, the DC assessed procurement processes as per prescribed norms and emphasised that farmers should not face any inconvenience. He instructed officials to maintain seamless arrangements and ensure timely lifting of procured grain.
Inspecting the mandi premises, he checked moisture levels in wheat stocks using measuring devices and reviewed the gate pass and biometric verification systems. He also evaluated basic amenities being provided at the markets, making it clear that negligence in arrangements would not be tolerated.
The DC reiterated that the government's priority is to ensure timely procurement, lifting and payment for farmers. He directed nodal officers and supervisors to conduct regular visits to mandis and work in coordination with farmers and commission agents to keep the procurement process efficient and uninterrupted.

Kurukshetra ranks second in state under TB-free campaign, 145 panchayats honoured

HANS RAJ YADAV
KURUKSHETRA, APRIL 18:

Deputy Commissioner Vishram Kumar Meena said that Kurukshetra has secured the second position in the state under the TB-Free India campaign, with the administration now aiming to achieve the top rank and make the district completely tuberculosis-free.

Addressing a Panchayat Samman Samaroh held at the mini secretariat auditorium, the Deputy Commissioner, along with Zila Parishad chairperson Kanwaljeet Kaur and CMO Dr Sukhbir Singh, honoured 145 gram panchayats with appreciation letter and mementos. Among them, 23 panchayats were awarded gold, 49 silver and 74 bronze categories based on their sustained TB-free status.



Meena highlighted that the campaign, aligned with the national TB-Free India initiative launched in 2023, has been implemented locally as the TB-Free Kurukshetra campaign. Using AI-based identification, 104 high-risk panchayats were targeted, and over 550 health camps were organised. Extensive screening led to sample collection at a rate of 7,520 per lakh population.

He added that 4,104 contacts of TB patients were traced, out of which 4,072 individuals were provided preventive medication. All TB patients in the district were adopted and provided with nutritional support through food baskets. A CBNAAT machine has been installed at the district TB centre, while additional diagnostic facilities have been strengthened across CHCs and hospitals.

The Deputy Commissioner stated that panchayats contributing actively to government initiatives would be honoured again on June 21. He urged village representatives to continue supporting health campaigns, including vaccination and awareness drives.

Zila Parishad chairperson Kanwaljeet Kaur said she would personally visit villages along with representatives to raise awareness about government schemes and health initiatives. She emphasised the need to eliminate misconceptions around vaccination and ensure participation from all 403 villages in making the district TB-free.

Senior health officials, including Deputy Civil Surgeon Dr Sailja, Dr Sandeep Aggarwal and Dr Anjali Vaidya, also addressed the gathering and elaborated on ongoing immunisation and health programmes.

Kiran Kumar becomes President of The Karnal Property Dealers Association

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL: A meeting of The Karnal Property Dealers Association was held at the Gymkhana Club. On this occasion, the association's elections were concluded unanimously. During the proceedings, Kiran Kumar Kamboj was elected to the post of Association President, while Sanjeev Vashisht was elected as General Secretary. Former Councilor Bir Bikram Kumar was present as a special guest on this occasion. Providing this information, the association's Media Coordinator, Tejender Ahuja, stated that various issues were discussed during the meeting. All office bearers were elected unanimously. Among the other office bearers, Vijay Batra was elected Vice President, Jatin Narang as Joint Secretary, Rajiv as Treasurer, and Gaurav Khurana as Immediate Past President (IPP). H.N. Anand was appointed Chairman, while the Advisory Committee comprises Lalit Bansal, Shailendra Katyal, Nitin Lakhanpal, Vipin Marwah, and Lokesh Duggal; Tejender Ahuja was designated as the Media Coordinator. Speaking on the occasion—having been elected President for the second time—Kiran Kumar stated that he is receiving full support from the administration, the local MLA, and the Mayor. He noted that MLA Jagmohan Anand is always ready to assist in resolving their issues. He further added that whenever he has raised concerns before the Deputy Commissioner (DC), the DC has listened attentively and taken steps to resolve them. He remarked that Karnal has emerged as one of the most preferred destinations in the country for those looking to build homes, and property prices in the region are on the rise. People are now expanding their search for properties towards Nilokheri, Indri, and beyond. The newly elected President and all other office bearers received congratulations from property dealer Rajendra Sharma, as well as from a large number of other property dealers.



Crackdown on drugs to intensify in Haryana, strict action against traffickers: ADGP Sanjay Kumar

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
PANCHKULA, APRIL 18:

Haryana NCB chief and Additional Director General of Police Sanjay Kumar has directed strict action against drug traffickers and their networks, emphasising a coordinated and aggressive approach to curb narcotics across the state.

Chairing a review meeting of the Haryana Narcotics Control Bureau at the Haryana Police Housing Corporation in Sector-6, Panchkula, the ADGP issued detailed instructions to all unit in-charges and officers to intensify enforcement under the state's "drug-free Haryana" mission. He stressed that eliminating drug abuse requires a sustained public movement alongside strict policing.

During the meeting, officials were directed to take stringent action under PIT NDPS provisions against habitual offenders, increase recoveries in NDPS cases, attach properties of drug traffickers and ensure that commercial quantity cases are pursued more aggressively. Coordination with other state agencies was also emphasised to strengthen intelligence sharing and enforcement outcomes.

Reviewing performance from January to April, the ADGP instructed units to increase the number of commercial cases, arrest absconding accused in pending cases and ensure higher conviction rates by expediting trials. He also underlined the need to closely monitor the functioning of field units and maintain operational accountability.

The meeting was held in continuation of a recent state-level NCORD review, with a focus on dismantling organised drug networks and ensuring that enforcement actions translate into tangible deterrence on the ground.



Community feasts organised regularly with support of Shri Vaishya Aggarwal Panchayat

HANS RAJ YADAV
KURUKSHETRA, APRIL 18:



Under the aegis of Shri Vaishya Aggarwal Panchayat, the Shri Aggarsen Youth Association has been organising regular community feasts (bhandaras) for devotees, travellers and the needy at Aggarwal Dharamshala. The initiative is being carried out under the guidance of the Panchayat to promote service and social harmony.

Social workers Praveen Goyal, Rakesh Goyal and Rajesh International extended special support in organising the bhandaras. Former MP Gurdayal Singh Saini was also present on the occasion. A large number of devotees and visitors partook in the prasad during the events, which commenced with traditional rituals and prayers.

Panchayat president Vishal Singla stated that people from all sections of society participated enthusiastically and contributed to the service activities. He said the primary objective of the initiative is to foster brotherhood, unity and a spirit of service in society.

Naresh Mittal, Abhay Mittal (joint secretary), Jitender Aggarwal, Kulwant Garg, Naveen Bansal, Sumit Mittal, Brij Mohan Garg, Gaurav Garg Shanky, Himanshu Bansal, Atul Kansal, Sachin Aggarwal, Sumit Singla, Pramod Bansal and Kapil Mittal, among others, were present. Organisers expressed gratitude to all contributors and attendees for their support.

APRO office to be opened in Chhachhrauli, divisional commissioner directs proposal preparation

PRITI SAINI
CHHACHHRAULI (YAMUNANAGAR); : During his visit to Chhachhrauli sub-division, Ambala Divisional Commissioner Sanjeev Verma directed officials to prepare a proposal for opening an Assistant Public Relations Officer (APRO) office in the area, following a demand raised by the Press Club Chhachhrauli.



Taking cognisance of the demand, the commissioner instructed the District Public Relations Officer (DPRO) to immediately draft and forward the proposal to higher authorities. The DPRO assured that the proposal would be sent at the earliest. He also stated that the APRO office would initially be set up in an existing government building on a temporary basis. A dedicated office space will be allocated once the new SDM office building is completed.

SDM Rohit Kumar also assured that the APRO office would soon be established, enabling effective dissemination of government schemes and achievements among the public. Press Club president Nawab Khan expressed gratitude to the divisional commissioner for accepting the demand. Ravindra Chauhan, Kaushik Khan, Ramkishan Kashyap and Parvez Khan were present on the occasion.

Students sensitised against dowry at Government High School, Mandhar

NIRMAL SAINI
RADAUR: Students of Government High School, Mandhar were sensitised about the social evils of dowry during a morning assembly organised under the aegis of the State Council of Educational Research and Training.



The programme was chaired by principal Rohit Arora. Staff member Uma Kamboj addressed the students, explaining the harmful impact of the dowry system in detail and urging them to reject the practice.

Students were administered a pledge to neither give nor accept dowry and were encouraged to spread awareness within society.

Principal Rohit Arora emphasised that collective awareness is essential to eradicate this social evil. Staff members Rajesh, Sushil and Preeti were also present on the occasion.

New borewell work begins in Ward 13 to improve drinking water supply

YAGYADATT SHASTRI
PEHOWA: Work on a new tube well has commenced in Ward 13 to address the drinking water shortage and ensure improved supply to households.

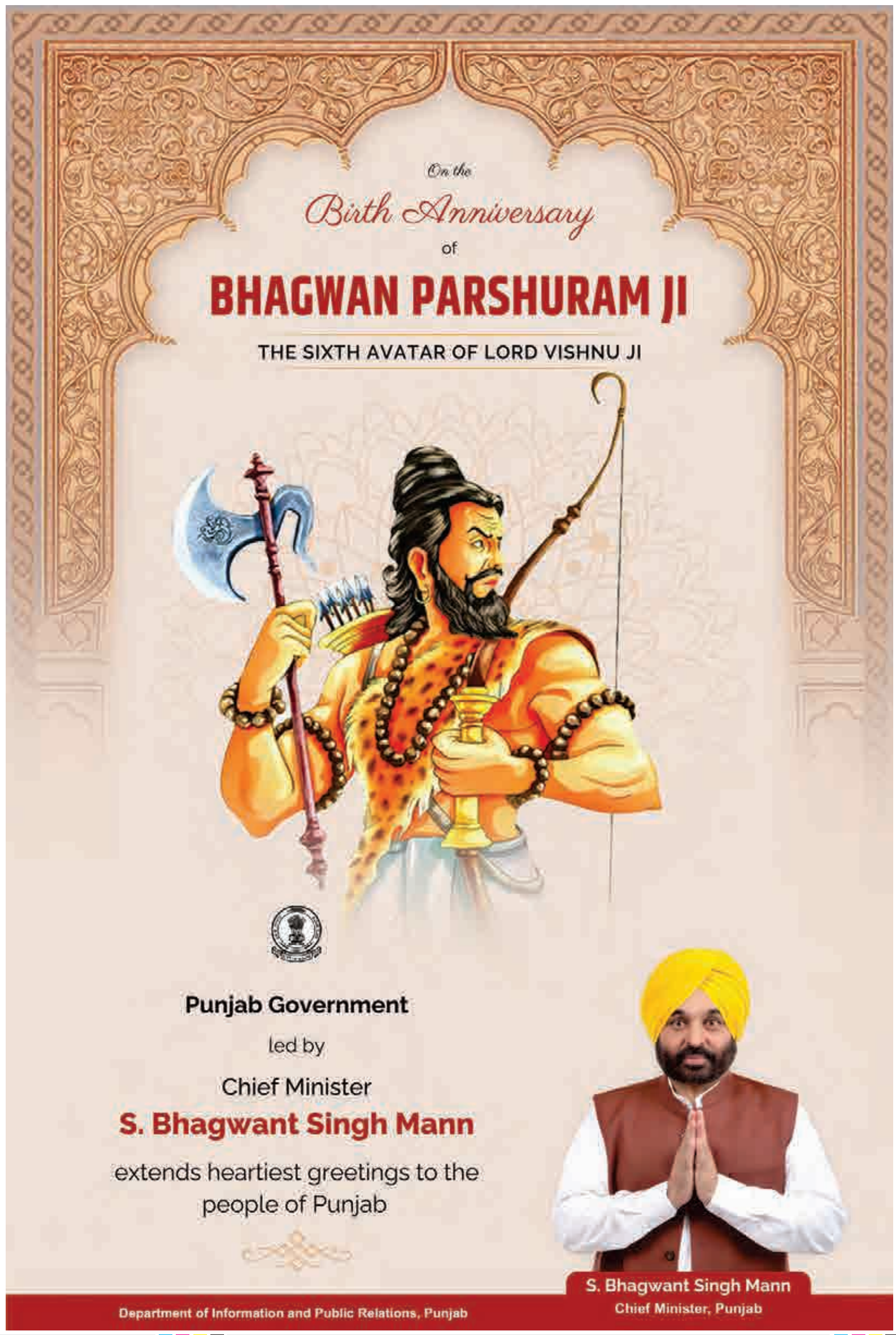


BJP leader Jai Bhagwan Sharma DD inaugurated the work and said the state government under Nayab Singh Saini is focusing on key public issues such as drinking water, roads, education and healthcare. He added that problems at the ward and village level are being resolved through continuous development initiatives.

Ward councillor Mahant Deepak Prakash said that due to the presence of only one existing tube well, several areas—particularly elevated parts of the Old Bazaar—were facing water shortages.

Senior forest official inspects Yamunanagar forests and nurseries

YAMUNANAGAR (PRITI SAINI): Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (APCCF), Haryana, T. P. Singh conducted an inspection of forests and nurseries in Yamunanagar forest division, with a focus on conservation, boundary demarcation and strengthening vigilance. At the Kalesar range headquarters, the officer held a review meeting with Divisional Forest Officer Prashant Sharma, Additional Conservator Rajesh Mathur and other forest and wildlife officials. During the meeting, strict directions were issued to prevent forest fires, illegal felling and unlawful mining activities in forest areas. Expressing concern over reported incidents of illegal tree cutting and mining on forest land, Singh emphasised that such activities must be curbed to maintain ecological balance. He also underlined the responsibility of protecting flora and fauna. During a field visit to the Kalesar range, he directed officials to complete boundary demarcation between Haryana and Uttar Pradesh in the Khair valley area .



YUGMARG

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Opinion

Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.

Marie Curie

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EDITORIAL

Bihar politics at an inflection point

A new era has begun in Bihar politics with Nitish Kumar, a 10-time Chief Minister who strode the State's political landscape like a colossus and guided its development narrative for over two decades, handing over the baton to the alliance partner BJP and moving to the Rajya Sabha. After remaining under his towering shadow and preferring to play second fiddle to the JD (U) for years, the saffron party has now occupied the driving seat for the first time. This marks the beginning of the BJP's dominance in a State whose political identity was largely shaped by two icons — Lalu Prasad Yadav and Nitish Kumar; the former as the champion of Mandal politics and the latter as a reformer and architect of good governance.

The Bihar template provides a peek into the BJP's strategy of power politics in States where it has a formidable regional party as its alliance partner. So far, it has adopted two approaches in such settings: First, weaken the alliance partner by engineering an internal split and then appropriating its support base, as it did in Maharashtra. Second, work meticulously to strengthen its organisational structure and expand the social reach to emerge as a dominant player over time. In Bihar, the party has expanded its footprint and become a formidable player. In fact, it emerged as the single largest party in the last Assembly elections. In the 243-member Assembly, the NDA commands a formidable majority, with the BJP holding 89 seats and the JD(U) 85.

By choosing Samrat Choudhary, who belongs to the prominent OBC group — Kushwaha — for the Chief Minister's post, the BJP has signalled a smart game plan in a State where caste remains the fulcrum around which the politics revolve. He was part of RJD and JD(U) before joining the BJP in 2017. Since then, his rise has been swift as he soon assumed the leadership of the party's Bihar unit, then became Deputy Chief Minister. Choudhary's appointment as CM is not just a routine change of guard but a signal of Bihar's evolving political identity. It's a chance for the BJP to assert its brand of politics on the back of a solid foundation laid by Nitish Kumar, who successfully blended social engineering with welfarism and governance reforms.

Bihar is the only Hindi heartland State where the BJP has not had a Chief Minister of its own so far. On the one hand, Choudhary's elevation signals a generational shift and the possibility of a more assertive governance model. It could bring greater policy alignment with the Centre, potentially accelerating infrastructure, investment, and welfare initiatives. On the other hand, it places the burden of delivery on a leader who must now move beyond political mobilisation to administrative effectiveness. But the challenges are equally daunting. Bihar remains an underdeveloped State with issues of unemployment, industrial stagnation, and gaps in education and healthcare.

"Shameful, 180-degree reversal": US Senate Democrats slam Trump administration for extending waiver on Russian oil



Senior Democratic lawmakers in the US Senate on Friday (local time) sharply criticised the Trump administration for extending a waiver that allows the continued sale of sanctioned Russian oil, calling the move a "shameful" policy reversal.

In a joint statement, Democratic leaders Jeanne Shaheen, Chuck Schumer, and Elizabeth Warren of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee condemned the decision to renew Russia General License 134, which removes sanctions risk for entities purchasing Russian oil loaded on vessels as of March 12.

The lawmakers further slammed the US Treasury Secretary, Scott Bessent, noting that the decision comes days after he said that Washington will not renew the general licence that allowed limited transactions involving Russian and Iranian oil.

"We will not be renewing the general licence on Russian oil and Iranian oil. That was oil that was on the water prior to March 11th. All that has been used," Bessent said during a White House press briefing on Wednesday.

The senators further criticised the move in the context of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, alleging that Russian President Vladimir Putin had recently launched one of the largest aerial attacks of the year.

"This decision is shameful and a 180-degree reversal from Secretary Bessent, just two days after he pledged not to extend sanctions relief for Russia," the senators said in the statement.

"This week, Putin launched the largest aerial attack of the year so far on Ukraine, killing 18 and the Administration's response is to relax sanctions on the Kremlin yet again. What kind of message does this move send?" the statement added, warning that easing sanctions could embolden Moscow at a time of escalating hostilities.

The senators also argued that Russia has benefited economically from shifting geopolitical dynamics, including tensions involving Iran, claiming that Russian oil revenues surged significantly in March, due to which the conflict in Iran was at its peak.

Calling for a tougher stance, the lawmakers urged President Trump to impose additional sanctions on Russia, warning that failure to increase pressure could prolong the war and lead to further loss of life.

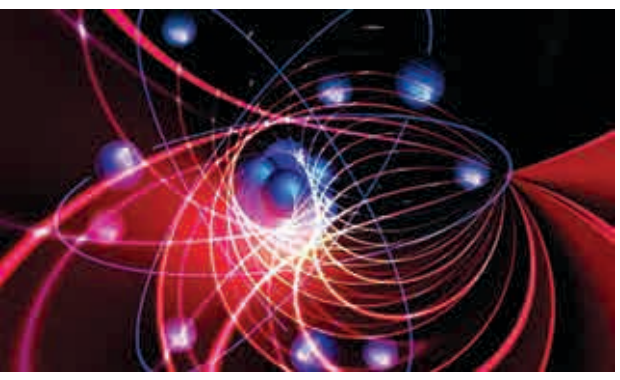
"President Trump needs to stop letting Putin play him for a fool and impose additional sanctions on Putin, who is clearly not feeling sufficient pressure from this President. If President Trump does not change course, the war in Ukraine will continue and more innocent people will die," the statement added.

This comes moments after the US Treasury Department issued a fresh temporary waiver permitting the sale and transport of sanctioned Russian oil stranded at sea, in a move aimed at stabilising global energy markets shaken by the ongoing West Asia conflict.

The licence, issued on Friday (local time), allows countries to purchase Russian crude and petroleum products loaded onto vessels as of April 17, with authorisation valid through May 16.

A quantum jump for India

In the present digitised world, the threat of cyberattacks is a major concern for governments across the world. Insulating sensitive national security-related data from such attacks is a big challenge. Quantum communication is the emerging area of technology that makes encryption unbreakable and has wide applications in securing data in strategic sectors such as



defence, finance, and telecommunications.

The recent successful demonstration of a 1,000-kilometre quantum communication network using indigenous technology reflects a major leap for India in harnessing the benefits of this innovative field. As part of the National Quantum Mission (NQM), the landmark feat was achieved in less than two years. Developed using indigenous technology from QNu Labs, a start-up nurtured by the mission, this deployment ranks among the longest quantum key distribution (QKD) systems worldwide, strengthening India's quantum-safe security infrastructure. The achievement surpasses early-stage expectations and puts India on track to achieve its target of a 2,000-km quantum communication network. The development is expected to strengthen India's secure communication capabilities across defence, financial systems and critical infrastructure. Additionally, the technology is designed to work across challenging terrains, including underwater and underground networks, expanding its potential civilian and strategic applications. Buoyed by the success, the government has expanded startup support under the mission, adding nine new ventures, taking the total number of supported startups to 17. The newly supported startups are working on areas ranging from quantum biosensors for disease detection to quantum positioning systems and precision electronic systems.

The latest development comes against the backdrop of scientists from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully demonstrating quantum entanglement-based free-space secure communication over a distance of more than one kilometre via an optical link in June last year. This marked a new quantum era in the country.

In April 2023, the Centre launched the Rs 6,000-crore National Quantum Mission with the development of homegrown quantum computers being one of its major objectives. Quantum communication takes advantage of the laws of quantum physics to protect data. These laws allow particles—typically photons of light for transmitting data along optical cables—to take on a state of superposition, which means they can represent multiple combinations of 1 and 0 simultaneously.

Waiting at the Window: How Modern Life Turned Parents into an Afterthought and Love into a Scheduled Duty



Dr Tanu Jain

There was a time when the bond between parents and children was not measured, not negotiated, and certainly not postponed. It flowed naturally—like breath, like seasons, like the quiet certainty of sunrise. Parents were not responsibilities; they were roots. And children were not visitors; they were extensions of love itself. Today, something has shifted. Somewhere between ambition and achievement, between schedules and screens, we have begun to ask a question that should have never existed—"Should I go see them?"

What has changed so deeply within us that even illness does not stir urgency anymore? When a parent lies unwell, waiting—not just for medicine, but for presence—the hesitation of a child becomes more painful than the disease itself. It is not that love has vanished; it is that it has been buried under layers of busyness, priorities, and a strange emotional fatigue. We have become efficient in everything except what truly matters.

We live in an age of hyper-connectivity, yet emotional disconnection has never been so stark. Messages are sent, calls are scheduled, updates are exchanged—but where is the warmth? Where is the touch of a hand that reassures? Where is the silence that speaks, the presence that heals? A parent does not need solutions; they need to feel that they are not alone. And yet, we have reduced care to convenience.

There is a quiet tragedy unfolding in homes across the world. Elderly parents sit by windows, not just watching the world pass by, but waiting—for footsteps, for a familiar voice, for a moment that tells them they still matter. Their bodies may weaken, but their hearts remain full—full of memories, of sacrifices, of a lifetime spent giving without counting. And now, when they need a fraction of that love back, they find themselves waiting… and waiting.

What makes us so insensitive? Is it truly lack of time, or is it a shift in values? We chase success, build empires, manage



endless responsibilities—but somewhere, we have lost the simplicity of showing up. We have normalized absence. We have justified distance. And in doing so, we have unknowingly created a new kind of poverty—the poverty of emotional presence.

Children have grown into adults, but in the process, have left behind the essence of being human. The same hands that once held their parents tightly now hesitate to reach out. The same hearts that once found comfort in their presence now calculate visits. "Koi fayda nahin hai"—this thought alone reflects a deep erosion of emotional connection. Since when did love become transactional? Since when did care require justification?

Perhaps the question is not where society is heading, but what we are becoming individually. A society is nothing but a reflection of its people. If we continue to detach, to delay, to deprioritize the very relationships that gave us life, then we are not progressing—we are regressing, silently, painfully.

Love does not demand grand gestures. It asks for presence, for time, for a willingness to pause and prioritize what is irreplaceable. No achievement, no success, no milestone can ever compensate for the regret of not being there when it truly mattered. Because one day, the waiting will end. The window will remain, but the eyes that looked through it will be gone.

And then, the question will not be "Should I go?"

It will be, "Why didn't I?"

In the words of Osho,

"Love is not something that you do; love is something that you are. When you are loving, you cannot neglect."

Perhaps it is time we free ourselves—from excuses, from indifference, from the illusion of endless time.Because love should never need permission.

Ceo Bareilly Ministry of defence

Beyond The Conventional Persuasion



ANUJ TYAGI

"Yeh duniya maano jism hai aur Dilli uski jaan" (The world is like a human body and Delhi is its soul), wrote Mirza Ghalib. The contrast today is difficult to ignore. Delhi is also among the most polluted cities in the world, a reality reflected repeatedly in news reports.

Delhi remains a true crossroads of cuisines and cultures, and an architectural blend of antiquity and modernity. It is home to three UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and few cities can match its historical and cultural depth. October, once known for the onset of Gulabi Thand, now brings with it the recurring presence of smog across the National Capital Region. There may be differing estimates of the scale of health risks, but there is no disagreement on the seriousness of its impact, especially on children, the elderly, and those with existing medical conditions. Efforts to address the issue are ongoing. Policies such as the odd-even vehicle scheme, removal of older vehicles, restrictions on diesel commercial transport, limits on construction activity, expansion of electric buses, and attempts to control stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana have all been implemented. The Supreme Court of India has also intervened on several occasions, sometimes suo-motu, highlighting the urgency of the situation. Yet, visible and sustained improvement remains limited. While the exact causes continue to be debated, key contributors include seasonal weather conditions that trap pollutants, vehicular emissions, construction activity, and stubble burning. The scale of the problem calls for thinking beyond conventional solutions. Planning must extend over long-time horizons. Delhi's topography, combined with intense human activity from one of the largest population clusters in the world, keeps air quality in the unhealthy to hazardous range for a significant part of the year. In its current form, this trajectory does not appear sustainable.

The draft Delhi Government Electric Vehicle Policy 2026, released on April 11, is a step in the right direction. It proposes banning the registration of new petrol two-wheelers from April 2028 and new CNG three-wheelers from January 2027, with a shift towards fully electric alternatives. These segments form a large share of the city's vehicle base and have high daily usage, making them major contributors to pollution. This policy not only regulate but incentivise usage of electric vehicles; making it notable.

Over the past two and a half decades, the Delhi Metro has emerged as a strong public transport system. However, the objective of effective last-mile connectivity and a meaningful shift away from private vehicles, particularly for commuters from satellite towns such as Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurugram, and Sonipat, is yet to be achieved. Faster services with fewer stops, similar to Mumbai's fast local trains, can be considered. Expanding parallel corridors as a long-term goal could help bring travel time within thirty minutes between these towns and central Delhi, making public transport a more practical choice.

Targeted interventions can also deliver meaningful results. AIbased dynamic traffic management systems can help regulate peak-hour congestion by responding to predictable traffic patterns. Directional lane adjustments during high-flow

periods could ease bottlenecks. Critical congestion points must be identified and addressed. For instance, the exit at New Delhi Railway Station towards the Paharganj side requires immediate attention. There are likely many such

spots where focused action can reduce emissionssignificantly. Decongestion of the National Capital Region is equally important. Incentivising the relocation of selected nonstrategic government departments and educational institutions to tier-II and tier-III cities can help distribute population pressure. At the same time, there is a need to plan new self-sustained cities with a long-term vision. Other metropolitan regions in India are already facing similar

challenges due to unplanned growth. Future cities must minimise travel needs, rely more on non-conventional energy sources, and incorporate sustainable waste management systems.

Global examples show that change is possible. Highly polluted rivers in Switzerland have been restored, and air quality in cities across Mexico and China has improved significantly. Such outcomes require not only government intervention but also sustained public participation. Similarly, water bodies must be treated as lifelines, free from contamination and encroachment. The actions of a few often affect the many. Society must be willing to accept small inconveniences for a larger collective benefit.

Strategic planning, consistent implementation, and public participation are essential to restore Delhi's environmental balance. The effort must begin when conditions are manageable, not when they become critical.

(Anuj Tyagi works in Food Corporation of India; views expressed are personal)

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Mahajan urges restoration of Kangra Valley Rail Service



DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA: BJP Rajya Sabha MP Harsh Mahajan has written to Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, urging the early restoration of the Kangra Valley Railway service and a reconsideration of the proposal to shift Pathankot Railway Station to Mamoon Cantonment. Mahajan stated that the Kangra Valley rail service is not just a mode of transport but a lifeline for thousands of people, including students, patients, tourists, and defense personnel. He highlighted that services on this historic route have remained suspended for nearly four years, causing significant inconvenience to the public. He further pointed out that the prolonged suspension has adversely affected the local economy, tourism, and daily life in the region.

NEWS BRIEF

Ground test for recruitment of animal friends in Amb, 46 candidates participated



AVINASH CHAUHAN
AMB: A ground test was held at the sports ground in the Amb subdivision as part of the animal friend recruitment process, in which a total of 46 candidates participated. The test was conducted under the supervision of the concerned department and in accordance with established standards. The physical ability and work efficiency of the candidates were evaluated during the ground test. Officials stated that the objective of this recruitment process is to select qualified and capable candidates to better manage animal husbandry operations. Special attention was paid to transparency and fairness during the testing. There was considerable enthusiasm among the youth at the local level regarding this recruitment. Now, all candidates are awaiting the results, based on which the further selection process will be completed.

BJP misleading nation on Women's reservation, says Jagat Singh Negi; assures probe into eco-tourism allegations

AGENCY
SHIMLA, APR 18



The Revenue Minister of the Himachal Pradesh government, Jagat Singh Negi, on Saturday accused the BJP of misleading the country on the issue of women's reservation, alleging that while the law has already been passed, it is not being implemented in the right spirit. Speaking to ANI in Shimla, Negi said, "No political party in Parliament opposed the Women's Reservation Bill. It has already been passed and become law, but the BJP is not implementing it. Instead, it is using delimitation as an excuse for political gains."

He alleged that the ruling party was attempting to manipulate seat allocation through delimitation to benefit certain regions. "If seats are increased based on the current formula, it will favour already overpopulated states, while smaller states like Himachal Pradesh will be sidelined. This goes against the spirit of federalism," he said. Negi further said that equitable representation of all states is essential in law-making. "If larger states dominate due to higher numbers, smaller states will have little say. That is not healthy for a federal structure," he added.

Responding to concerns raised by senior Congress leader Viplove Thakur over the absence of women leaders in 71 block units, Negi said the issue should be addressed within the party framework. "There should be discipline in the party, but women are being given representation at various levels. More opportunities will continue to be ensured," he said. On remarks by veteran leader Kaul Singh Thakur regarding the lack of coordination between the government and organisation, Negi said such concerns should be raised on the appropriate platform within the party. "These matters are better discussed internally and resolved through proper channels," he said. Reacting to opposition criticism over a recent murder case in Mandi, Negi said it was a "tragic incident" but should not be linked to law and order issues. "The accused has been apprehended, and legal action is underway. It is not an organised crime case, and linking it to law and order is incorrect," he said.

On allegations of corruption in eco-tourism activities in the Forest Department, including claims that an officer facing complaints was made the inquiry officer, Negi termed the issue serious. "If such a thing has happened, it is against the principles of natural justice. I will look into the matter and ensure appropriate action," he said.

He added that complaints related to police inaction can be escalated through proper channels, including senior officials and legal remedies.

Reiterating his criticism of the BJP, Negi said the party's approach to women's issues and governance raises serious concerns, while the Congress remains committed to inclusive development and equal representation.

HC quashes eco-sensitive zone notification around Col. Sherjung National Park

AGENCY
SHIMLA, APR 18



The Himachal Pradesh High Court has quashed the Centre's 2022 notification declaring an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) around Col. Sherjung National Park, citing failure to follow mandatory procedures and guidelines. A Division Bench comprising Justice Vivek Singh Thakur and Justice Ranjan Sharma passed the order on April 16, 2026, while allowing a petition filed by Gram Panchayats Bhatanwali, Patalia, and Behral. The petitioners had challenged the notification dated January 13, 2022, issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, arguing that several villages were included in the ESZ without adherence to due process and without valid recommendations from competent authorities.

The court observed that the prescribed procedure under the 2011 guidelines for declaring Eco-Sensitive Zones--such as conducting surveys, preparing an inventory of land use, and constituting a committee involving local authorities, ecologists, and revenue officials--was not followed.

It noted that while an earlier process initiated in 2012 and a draft notification issued in 2015 had lapsed, a fresh proposal submitted later did not comply with mandatory procedural requirements. The court further pointed out that no stakeholder consultations or involvement of public representatives took place after the lapse of the earlier draft. The bench also highlighted inconsistencies in the inclusion and exclusion of villages across different draft notifications, stating that there was no record explaining these changes.

Referring to legal precedents, including the Supreme Court's ruling in the T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad vs. Union of India case, the court reiterated that statutory procedures must be strictly followed, especially in matters affecting local populations.

Emphasizing the potential impact of ESZ declarations on residents, the court held that adherence to due process is mandatory to prevent hardship and ensure transparency.

Ruchi Sharma elected SMC president at Government High School, Karer



ANIL KUMAR
HAMIRPUR: Elections for the School Management Committee (SMC) were conducted at Government High School, Karer under the chairmanship of acting headmaster Rakesh Kumar, with Ruchi Sharma elected as the president unanimously. Other members of the executive body were also selected during the process. The election was held following the completion of the previous SMC's tenure, leading to the creation of a new committee for the current academic session. Rakesh Kumar congratulated the newly formed committee and expressed confidence that it will play a significant role in the development of the school and the welfare of students. School staff members including Kuldeep Kumar, Vikram Chand, Rajni Devi, Pushpa Rani, Poonam Sharma and Amita Sharma were present on the occasion.

HP State Electricity Board Technical Employees' Union tours various units

SANJAY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA, APR 18



Ranvir Singh Thakur, State President, and Chaman Lal Sharma, General Secretary of the Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Technical Employees' Union, undertook an extensive tour of various units in District Kangra on April 16 and 17, 2026. During this visit, they listened to the pressing issues faced by technical employees and vowed to champion their resolution. On the first day of their tour, the leadership held meetings at the Lambagaon, Palampur, and Baijnath units. At Lambagaon, Unit President Hansraj; at Palampur, Akshay Kumar; and at Baijnath, Unit Secretary Praveen Kumar prominently presented the local grievances of the employees before the top leadership. During a meeting held on April 17 at the Baner Power House, employees highlighted that despite providing 24x7 services, there is a severe lack of basic amenities at the facility. The employees raised issues regarding the dilapidated condition of the residential colony, the unavailability of drinking water, and a shortage of furniture at the workplace. Furthermore, significant discontent was observed among the employees regarding pay scale anomalies affecting Fitters and Electricians, as well as the failure to receive a higher pay scale after two years of service, as mandated under Order No. 14. Employees across two substations and the Generation Wing expressed dissatisfaction over the non-payment of overtime wages for the past two years.

Public Washroom inaugurated at Nauni Varsity under UCO Bank CSR Initiative

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, APR 18



A public washroom constructed under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of UCO Bank was inaugurated today at Dr. YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni. The facility, built at a cost of Rs. 8.5 lakh, was inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Rajeshwar Singh Chandel, along with Ajaya Panigrahi, AGM Solan. The UCO Bank delegation also included Nauni branch Manager Sandeep Sehroy and Senior Manager Ramesh Thakur. Located near the university's shopping complex-an area frequently visited by students and the general public—the facility has been designed to cater to a wide range of users. The bank contributed Rs. 8.5 lakh towards the project. The washrooms include separate sections for men and women. The design and construction of the facility were carried out by the university's Estate Organization. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Chandel expressed his gratitude to UCO Bank for supporting the development of essential public infrastructure. He appreciated the bank's continued collaboration with the university and its commitment to community welfare. He also acknowledged the bank's role in providing financial services to the university. Ajaya Panigrahi highlighted the bank's ongoing CSR initiatives and reiterated its commitment to supporting meaningful social projects. He also expressed interest in strengthening future collaborations with the university for the benefit of the wider community.

Creative talent shines at Vashisht Public School Una

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA, APR 18



Vashisht Public School, Una organized an "Solo Dance Competition" for students of Classes I to IV and a "Best Out of Waste" activity for Classes V to X to enhance students' creative skills. The events witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across all classes. In the solo dance competition, young students mesmerized the audience with vibrant performances on traditional, folk, and film songs. Their confidence, energy, and enthusiasm were truly commendable. From the Strawberry Group (Class I), Arshita secured first place, while Sara and Ananya Thakur stood second, and Vedika Sharma and Shivanshi Sharma secured third place. In Class II, Abhidha Rawal and Lavdeep Singh secured first position, Mannat and Gurleen Kaur stood second, while Manroop Kaur secured third place. From the Apple Group (Class III), Vidhi Chaudhary secured first position, Niharika second, and Japnoor Saini and Saanvi Garg third. In Class IV, Nairiti Sharma stood first, Preesha Sharma second, while Shivansh Bhardwaj and Akshita secured third place. The "Best Out of Waste" activity aimed to encourage creativity and imagination among students by transforming waste materials into useful items. It also promoted awareness about recycling, reuse, and environmental conservation.

101 donate blood at 35th camp organised on Amit Singla's birth anniversary

SHANTI GAUTAM
BADDI, APR 18



A total of 101 donors participated in the 35th blood donation camp organised at the Curetech premises to mark the birth anniversary of Amit Singla. The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from both young men and women, reflecting growing awareness about voluntary blood donation. The programme began with a tribute to Amit Singla, followed by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp. Among those present were youth leader and social worker Ajitesh, Balwinder, Dr Srikant, former chairman Surjit Chand, Balbir Thakur, Neeraj, Rajesh, Sant Ram Singla, Munish, Sanjay Sharma, Rajiv, Gurvinder Singh, Puneet, Vineet, Sumi, Prince and Vijay. Speakers on the occasion emphasised that there is no greater humanitarian act than donating blood, as it directly contributes to saving lives. They also highlighted that organising 35 such camps over two decades by Curetech Group managing director Sumit Singla is a matter of pride for Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh. Sumit Singla, who donated blood for the 49th time, said that donating blood and planting trees are among the most meaningful ways to pay tribute to loved ones. His son Pranay Singla also donated blood for the second time during the camp. He added that even after two decades, he continues to feel his brother's presence guiding him, and he remains committed to carrying forward his legacy through social service. He thanked all donors and attendees for their participation.

Baldev Jaswal re-elected unopposed as Bhoranj Bar Association president

ANIL KUMAR
BHORANJ: Advocate Baldev Jaswal has been elected unopposed as the president of the Sub-Divisional Bar Association (SDBA), Bhoranj, for the second consecutive term. The annual elections were conducted in a cordial atmosphere under the supervision of chief election officer Advocate Sanjeev Thakur. With overwhelming support in favour of Baldev Jaswal, no other nomination was filed for the post, leading to his unanimous election. During the General House meeting held on the occasion, Advocate Sanjeev Thakur formally handed over the certificate of election to Jaswal. Members of the bar welcomed the decision with applause and extended their congratulations. Expressing gratitude, Baldev Jaswal said he would work towards strengthening coordination between the bar and the bench and focus on the welfare of advocates. He added that the remaining executive body of the association will be constituted soon. Several senior and young advocates of the Bhoranj bar were present during the proceedings.



Labour unrest signals larger struggle ahead, says INTUC leader Jagat Ram Sharma

KISHORI LAL BAINS



UNA: Jagat Ram Sharma, national secretary of Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) and state general secretary, has said that the ongoing labour unrest in Noida is only the beginning of a larger movement. In a press statement issued on Saturday, Sharma attributed the situation to what he described as mismanagement of economic policies by the Central government. He said similar labour movements have already been witnessed in cities such as Ahmedabad, Coimbatore, Chennai and Gurugram. He alleged that workers are facing severe hardships amid rising living costs, particularly in urban centres like Noida. According to him, labourers are being made to work up to 12 hours instead of the standard eight-hour shift, without adequate overtime compensation. He also raised concerns over the lack of basic benefits such as bonuses, ESI coverage, paid leave and medical facilities, along with non-compliance of safety norms in industries. Sharma further criticised the consolidation of multiple labour laws into four labour codes, claiming that the process did not adequately consider the views of trade unions and favoured corporate interests. He stated that various trade unions, including INTUC and allied federations, are coordinating efforts to raise these issues at the national level.

Opposition criticized for blocking Women's Reservation Bill

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA, APR 18



BJP Mahila Morcha District President Seema Chaudhary strongly criticized Congress and other opposition parties over the failure to pass the Women's Reservation Bill in the House, calling it a missed historic opportunity and an injustice to women.

She said the bill was not merely legislation, but a significant step toward ensuring the rights, dignity, and political participation of millions of women. According to her, despite the government's efforts to introduce the bill for women's empowerment, the opposition prioritized political interests over national progress.

Chaudhary emphasized that women across the country have long demanded adequate representation in politics, and the bill aimed to ensure greater participation in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. However, due to opposition resistance, this goal remains unfulfilled for now.

She further alleged that the opposition politicized a sensitive issue instead of supporting it, terming their stance as unfortunate and unjust to women. Highlighting the awareness among modern women, she said they understand who truly supports their progress.

Reaffirming BJP's commitment, Chaudhary stated that the party will continue to work toward women's empowerment, dignity, and equal opportunities, and urged women to unite and strengthen their voice for their rights.

Annual inter-house athletic meet held at St. Edward's School

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, APR 18



St. Edward's School witnessed three electrifying days of speed, strength and spirited competition at its Annual Inter-House Athletic Meet. The event opened on 16 April with the hoisting of the School Flag by the school Principal, Rev. Fr. Anil Sequeira, followed by a rousing march past, oath-taking and torch lighting, setting the track ablaze. The heats in 100m, 200m and 400m races kept adrenaline high, alongside a gripping softball final. Day two raised the stakes with semi-finals, long jump, shot put and a nail-biting 100m final, culminating in a proud prize distribution. The grand finale on 18 April saw soaring high jumps, intense sprint finals and thrilling 4x100m and 4x400m relays that had spectators on edge. With medals won, records chased and house pride at stake, the meet proved one thing very clearly- at St. Edward's, the finish line is just the beginning of greatness.

YUGMARG
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NEWS BRIEF

SLIET Longowal organised certificate & diploma award ceremony



RAVI GARG

LONGOWAL: SIIET Institute hosted its "Certificate & Diploma Award Ceremony". The event was graced by Prof. Padmakumar Nair, Vice Chancellor, Thapar Institute of Engineering & Technology, Patiala, as the "Chief Guest", and Er. Chandan Roy, Associate General Manager, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd., Gurugram, as the "Guest of Honour". The young pass-out students were addressed and emphasized on the role that the youth of the country will play in determining the country's progress. The dignitaries admired the Institute's multi entry-exit policy that is in accordance with the National Education Policy 2020 and also encouraged all the pass-out students to face all the impending obstacles and challenges in their life with persistence, patience.
, and perseverance.

Admissions begin for deaf and mute children at Mahant Gurbanta Dass School, DC

ANIL VERMA



BATHINDA: The District Red Cross Society Bathinda has started admissions for children with special needs (deaf and mute) at Mahant Gurbanta Dass School for Deaf and Dumb, Bathinda. Sharing this information, the Chairman Red Cross Society Bathinda-cum-Deputy Commissioner Mr. Rajesh Dhiman said that the school is providing high-quality education to these children. The main objective of the school is not only to educate these special children but also to make them self-reliant.
The school provides free education from pre-primary to Class 10. It offers modern facilities such as a clean and supportive environment, a dedicated and experienced team of teachers and all necessary learning materials. In addition, the school promotes sports and other activities for the overall development of children. Students are also given skill-based training such as computer education, stitching.

Cabinet Minister starts wheat procurement at new grain market, interact with farmers

JALANDHAR, APRIL 18



Punjab Horticulture and Defence Services Welfare Minister Mohinder Bhagat on Saturday kick-started procurement of wheat at new Grain Market Jalandhar wherein he directed the officials to ensure smooth conduct of entire procurement operations with an aim to facilitate farmers bringing their produce in Mandis.

Accompained by Senior AAP Leaders Nitin Kohli, Dinesh Dhall, Rajwinder Kaur Thiara, the Minister said that this year as many as 5.27 lakh metric tonne wheat was expected to arrive across all 79 purchase centres in the districts and elaborate arrangements have already been put in place to procure every single grain.

He reiterated the Government commitment of ensuring a smooth and hassle-free procurement operation in Jalandhar with prime focus on facilitating farmers bringing their produce in grain markets. He further mentioned that the district has witness arrival of over 2844 MT wheat in the Mandis of which a total of 24721 MTs have been procured by the procurement agencies.

The payment worth Rs. 28 crore have already been made to farmers against their procured wheat crop, he said adding the Government was ensuring payment to farmers within 24 hours of procurement.

He further added that arrangements like availability of potable water, cleanliness, shades, tarpaulins, bardana besides others were already made by the officials.

Stressing on lifting and payment to farmers, he directed the officials that no stone be left unturned to make timely payments to farmers as per Government's guidelines. "There was no dearth of Bardana in Mandis which would lead towards a hassle-free season for farmers", he added. The Minister said that the entire procurement operation would be accomplished smoothly as any kind of negligence would be dealt with strictly.

Educational heritage trip organized on World Heritage Day

RAGHU NANDAN PRASHAR
JAITO, APRIL 18



To mark the significance of World Heritage Day, Shivalik Kids School Jaito organized an enriching and educational excursion for the students of Classes 5th to 8th to the historic Quila Mubarak, Bathinda, one of Punjab's most prominent heritage sites.The trip was thoughtfully planned to provide students with experiential learning beyond the classroom.

The students were accompanied by dedicated teachers Ms. Anju, Ms.Neelam, Mr. Amit, Ms.Navjot,Ms. Sania, who ensured discipline, safety, and active engagement throughout the journey.At the fort, the SST teacher Ms.Anju provided a detailed and insightful explanation of the historical importance, architectural uniqueness, and cultural legacy of Quila Mubarak. Her interactive narration helped students connect with history in a meaningful way, transforming textbook knowledge into real-life understanding.

Students were seen keenly observing the structure, asking questions, and noting important facts in their diaries.

The educational excursion was further extended to Bir Talab Zoo, where students witnessed a variety of animals and birds in their natural-like habitats. This visit added an element of joy and curiosity, allowing students to appreciate wildlife and environmental conservation.

The combination of historical learning and recreational exploration made the day both informative and enjoyable.

Overall, the trip proved to be a perfect blend of education, awareness, and entertainment, leaving students with lasting memories and enhanced knowledge.

Wheat procurement work continues in district mandis: DC

TAPINDER SINGH
FEROZEPUR, APRIL 18

Deputy Commissioner of border district Ferozepur Deepshikha Sharma said that the work of wheat procurement is continuing in the district mandis. She said that till last evening, a total of 137570 metric tonnes of wheat had arrived in the district mandis and 85789 metric tonnes of wheat has been procured by various government procurement agencies. The Deputy Commissioner said that according to the procurement data till yesterday evening, various agencies including PUNGRAIN have procured 27260 metric tonnes, MARKFED 27069 metric tonnes, PUNSUP 18300 metric tonnes and Punjab State Godown Corporation 13160 metric tonnes of wheat and the lifting of the procured crop will be done soon. The Deputy Commissioner said that the procurement of wheat is going on in all the mandis of the district. The procurement arrangements of wheat crop are being reviewed on a daily basis so that the farmers do not face any problem in the mandis.

He said that the payment of the procured crop to the farmers will be made directly into their accounts within 48 hours.

DAV Jagraon achieves 100% result in CBSE Class X exams 2025-26



JAGRAON (SUKH NAHAR): DAV Centenary Public School, Jagraon has once again etched a glorious milestone in the annals of academic excellence by securing 100% percent result in the CBSE Class X Examination for the session 2025-26 Demonstrating unwavering commitment and scholastic brilliance, all 127 students who appeared for the examination successfully passed, bringing immense pride to the institution. School principal Dr. Ved Vrat Plaha expressed his happiness on the result and said that it reflects an impressive academic standard, with 18 students achieving 95% and above, 23 students scoring between 90%-95%, and 40 students securing 80%-90%.

"The school recorded a commendable QPI of 81.22, underscoring consistent performance across all subjects. Leading the cohort with exceptional distinction, Puru Singla emerged as the school topper with 98.6%, followed by Yojit Verma (98%), Suhani Singla (97.6%), Sehajpreet Singh (97.4%), Sukhmani Sharon (97.2%) whose accomplishments exemplify perseverance and dedication," he stated. Plaha further added that the subject-wise performance was equally exemplary, with students attaining perfect scores of 100 in English, Mathematics, Punjabi, and Information Technology, along with outstanding 99 marks in Science, Social Science, and Hindi.

Brahmin Sabha Rampura Phul to celebrate Bhagwan Parshuram Jayanti

RAMPURA PHUL (KULJIT SINGH DHINGRA): The birth anniversary of Bhagwan Parshuram Ji, the sixth incarnation of Lord Vishnu Ji, the bearer of weapons and scriptures, is being celebrated with full devotion and enthusiasm on April 19. Giving information in this regard, Brahmin Sabha (Regd.) Rampura Phul President Gurtej Sharma said that this time the Sabha has planned special events in connection with the Jayanti. President Gurtej Sharma said that the main event of the Jayanti will be held at the temple located near the bus stand of Rampura Phul. On this occasion, worship and worship of Bhagwan Parshuram Ji will be performed from the morning itself according to religious rituals and customs. Explaining the speciality of the event, he said that with the cooperation of the Sangat, an open Bhandara has been arranged on this auspicious day. Prasad and langar will be served continuously for every congregation attending the event. In his statement, Sharma Ji said that Bhagwan Parshuram Ji always raised his voice against injustice and established justice in the society.



Special smiles for healthy athletes: Dental check-up camp held at Saint Francis special school



GURDASPUR (VERMA): A "Special Smiles – Healthy Athletes" dental check-up camp was organized today at Saint Francis Special School (ID) Pathankot, for intellectually challenged students. About 60 students underwent dental check-ups conducted by Dr. Manmohit and his dental team. The camp aimed to promote oral health and hygiene among the special athletes of the school.

Fr. Joseph Puthenpura, Secretary-cum-Coordinator of Saint Francis Home Regd. Society, Pathankot, said the initiative supports the overall well-being of the students. Principal Sr. Valsa Koikara and the staff of Saint Francis Special School (ID) extended full support and actively participated to make the event successful.

The camp concluded with dental health awareness tips for students and staff.

Yudh Nashian Virudh: Cyclothon calls upon every section of society to unite against drug abuse



JALANDHAR (PARAMJIT SINGH): Under the anti-drug campaign 'Yudh Nashian Virudh' being run by the Punjab Government, the district administration, in collaboration with APJ School, organized "Cyclothon 4.0" today to spread awareness against drug abuse. Around 2,000 participants took part in the cyclothon, giving a call to every section of society to unite against drugs. Deputy Commissioner Varjeet Walia flagged off the cyclothon from APJ School. The Deputy Commissioner, along with officials, also participated in the cyclothon and urged people to build a strong mass movement against drugs. Addressing the gathering, he said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, the Punjab Government has waged a war against drugs, with support coming from all sections of society.

PSEB pushes 'creators, not consumers' agenda as 2-day AI conference concludes

CHANDIGARH (SUMER GARG): Marking a decisive step towards embedding AI into Punjab's education ecosystem, the two-day National-Level Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AI), organised by the Punjab School Education Board (PSEB) here at CII Northern Region Headquarters, concluded today with hands-on workshops by Google and Intel. Bringing together policymakers, educators, and technology leaders, the conference served as a collaborative platform to chart a responsible roadmap for AI in classrooms-focused on enhancing learning quality, expanding access, and preparing students as creators, not just consumers, of technology.



Chairman PSEB Dr. Amarpal Singh, IAS (Retd.), emphasised the ethical use of AI, stating that it can be leveraged to enhance learners' creativity and problem-solving skills. In today's digital age, where AI-enabled devices have become constant companions, students were urged to make thoughtful, ethical choices about the tools they adopt much like choosing good friends as companions. He encouraged students to use AI responsibly and within a clear legal and ethical framework, ensuring that technology enhances learning without compromising core values.

DIRECTORATE OF SMALL SAVINGS, BANKING AND LOTTERIES, PUNJAB

Draw Time: 05:00 PM ONWARDS — DATE: 18/04/2026

RESULT OF PUNJAB STATE DEAR 50 JACKAL SATURDAY WEEKLY LOTTERY

MRP Rs 50/- Per Ticket

1st Prize Amount (1) Rs. 15 Lakhs (On 5 digits with series)
(Seller Prize Amount Rs. 1 Lakh + Sub Stockist Prize Amount Rs. 25 Thousand, Total Prize Amount Rs. 16.25 Lakhs)
E 51974

2nd Prize Amount (25) Rs. 9,000/- (On 5 digits)
(Seller Prize Amount Rs. 900/-, Sub Stockist Prize Amount Rs. 100/-, Total Prize Amount Rs.10,000/- Each)
50504 57970 62277 69997 89909

3rd Prize Amount (50) Rs. 4,000/- (On Last 4 digits)
(Seller Prize Amount Rs. 500/-, Sub Stockist Prize Amount Rs. 100/-, Total Prize Amount Rs. 4,600/- Each)
6702 8964

4th Prize Amount (125) Rs. 2,000/- (On last 4 digits)
(Seller Prize Amount Rs. 200/-, Sub Stockist Prize Amount Rs.50/-, Total Prize Amount Rs. 2,250/- Each)
2070 2621 2630 5226 8485

5th Prize Amount (125) Rs. 1000/- (On last 4 digits)
(Seller Prize Amount Rs. 100/-, Sub Stockist Prize Amount Rs. 50/-, Total Prize Amount Rs. 1,150/- Each)
0427 2726 2762 5529 8690

6th Prize Amount (125) Rs. 500/- (On last 4 digits)
(Seller Prize Amount Rs. 50/-, Sub Stockist Prize Amount Rs. 20/-, Total Prize Amount Rs.570/- Each)
1744 5173 5272 5611 8820

7th Prize Amount (17,500) Rs. 100/- (On last 4 digits)
(Seller Prize Amount Rs. 10/-, Sub Stockist Prize Amount Rs. 5/-, Total Prize Amount Rs.115/- Each)

0024	0032	0035	0054	0095	0110	0120	0151	0176	0184
0202	0229	0233	0243	0251	0255	0261	0269	0286	0297
0299	0310	0321	0324	0330	0337	0339	0351	0354	0375
0422	0439	0442	0450	0454	0462	0472	0502	0503	0517
0602	0607	0618	0620	0631	0633	0672	0673	0680	0685
0714	0722	0747	0748	0757	0768	0804	0838	0881	0928
0936	0940	0943	0978	0980	0983	0986	0992	1002	1016
1018	1025	1030	1032	1054	1058	1065	1069	1074	1100
1121	1127	1137	1138	1156	1163	1168	1175	1213	1253
1255	1271	1298	1316	1321	1322	1324	1350	1369	1375
1384	1388	1408	1432	1433	1436	1455	1458	1484	1502
1505	1507	1525	1531	1533	1538	1550	1551	1561	1572
1577	1579	1580	1597	1599	1612	1627	1631	1632	1669
1683	1684	1690	1691	1702	1717	1740	1752	1761	1787
1792	1794	1848	1871	1875	1918	1930	1939	1941	1973
1987	2016	2026	2039	2060	2063	2086	2088	2089	2100
2101	2116	2117	2167	2175	2179	2189	2191	2214	2222
2227	2237	2263	2274	2301	2313	2322	2344	2345	2349
2351	2368	2409	2434	2445	2479	2505	2513	2519	2530
2545	2565	2596	2599	2620	2638	2639	2656	2697	2710
2740	2751	2771	2778	2787	2804	2810	2826	2827	2839
2845	2893	2898	2901	2902	2916	2932	2945	2975	2981
2982	2986	3000	3010	3014	3035	3046	3058	3108	3137
3139	3161	3193	3197	3199	3213	3219	3226	3231	3242
3243	3277	3283	3285	3291	3303	3307	3414	3432	3462
3464	3466	3499	3507	3553	3562	3576	3577	3582	3608
3616	3621	3686	3727	3747	3761	3815	3835	3839	3845
3846	3852	3858	3876	3895	3896	3922	3932	3968	3979
3980	4001	4002	4035	4049	4058	4062	4070	4071	4081
4082	4101	4116	4118	4128	4160	4166	4177	4201	4253
4276	4281	4289	4292	4305	4311	4340	4352	4386	4403
4408	4413	4449	4466	4471	4484	4489	4493	4497	4511
4536	4560	4561	4577	4578	4579	4596	4610	4622	4679
4692	4702	4716	4717	4730	4748	4751	4779	4780	4781
4784	4806	4809	4826	4835	4868	4871	4883	4900	4909
4915	4940	4944	4963	4985	5011	5020	5045	5079	5087
5098	5118	5136	5137	5166	5203	5217	5223	5248	5255
5258	5292	5307	5308	5310	5323	5334	5348	5351	5370
5373	5386	5388	5401	5402	5417	5421	5438	5441	5442
5443	5450	5475	5491	5502	5525	5532	5535	5538	5544
5547	5553	5563	5583	5623	5638	5640	5648	5656	5659
5668	5681	5683	5697	5711	5722	5737	5739	5755	5770
5771	5824	5827	5832	5847	5860	5863	5891	5894	5917
5937	5938	5962	5963	5981	6015	6034	6067	6099	6102
6115	6136	6140	6153	6172	6182	6195	6199	6238	6247
6274	6300	6342	6345	6350	6354	6366	6371	6382	6387
6417	6421	6423	6427	6433	6456	6467	6481	6486	6525
6529	6562	6579	6597	6599	6618	6651	6659	6670	6681
6707	6724	6731	6733	6747	6757	6781	6782	6806	6828
6833	6845	6852	6876	6882	6945	6957	6968	6990	7000
7015	7061	7082	7107	7132	7154	7163	7172	7194	7231
7246	7251	7299	7308	7311	7326	7350	7351	7391	7413
7465	7494	7499	7501	7512	7537	7544	7550	7560	7574
7599	7605	7633	7641	7645	7659	7661	7710	7729	7766
7794	7799	7807	7824	7831	7836	7844	7865	7925	7968
8003	8025	8034	8040	8044	8047	8063	8068	8076	8077
8090	8098	8103	8117	8125	8134	8152	8156	8164	8168
8179	8232	8242	8243	8254	8274	8284	8288	8299	8304
8354	8366	8373	8384	8385	8402	8413	8415	8427	8428
8429	8439	8444	8464	8478	8489	8516	8560	8570	8581
8589	8604	8629	8663	8669	8680	8685	8695	8698	8703
8714	8728	8741	8746	8749	8758	8762	8782	8796	8806
8808	8814	8824	8859	8862	8873	8886	8908	8918	8937
8942	8958	8984	9000	9002	9013	9039	9043	9066	9079
9140	9154	9160	9174	9175	9185	9196	9199	9211	9239
9248	9255	9279	9294	9298	9308	9310	9335	9363	9367
9410	9411	9412	9430	9442	9444	9464	9470	9494	9577
9601	9610	9619	9632	9647	9659	9667	9677	9718	9726
9735	9784	9785	9811	9816	9838	9853	9878	9912	9937
9940	9942	9952	9958	9968	9972	9975	9979	9991	9992

Issued by DIRECTORATE OF SMALL SAVINGS, BANKING AND LOTTERIES, PUNJAB
Kindly check the final result with Official Gazette Notification

DPR-PB-PR-Advt. No :- 3924/11/2025-26/10263

AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED
(A SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANK)
Regd. Office: 19-A, Dhuleshwar Garden, Ajmer Road, Jaipur - 302001 (CIN:L36911RJ1996PLC011381)

APPENDIX IV [SEE RULE 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) under the "Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Act, 2002 (54 of 2002)) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice on the date as mentioned below calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice as per the details given in below table:

Name of Borrower/Co-Borrower/ Mortgagor/Guarantor / Loan A/c No.	13(2) Notice Date & Amount	Description of Mortgaged Property	Date of Possession Taken
(A/c No.) L9001060140248732 **Mool Chand (Borrower),** Smt.Veena (Co-Borrower)	12-Nov-25 Rs. 601184/- Rs. Six Lakh One Thousand One Hundred Eighty-Four Only 10-Nov-25	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At- Municipal No Ex/61/8-A, Kumar Street Vill- Bharat Nagar Tehsil & Distt- Ferozepur, Punjab **Admeasuring 62.61 Sqyd,** East : H/O AKBAR, West : H/O SATPAL, North : H/O SOHAN LAL , South : GALI	15-Apr-26
(A/c No.) L9001070126037412 **Love Preet (Borrower),** Smt.Rina (Co-Borrower), Kishore Kumar (Co-Borrower), Abhishek Sharma (Co-Borrower)	16-Dec-25 Rs. 1373611/- Rs. Thirteen Lakh Seventy-Three Thousand Six Hundred Eleven Only 11-Dec-25	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At Khewat No-440/432, Khatoni No-590/577, Khasra No-178//9/1/3-11, Basti Bhattian, Teh & Distt - Ferozepur, Punjab **Admeasuring 5 Marla,** East : NAVEEN KUMAR, West : PRITAM DASS, North : ROSHAN LAL HOUSE, South : STREET	16-Apr-26
(A/c No.) L9001070133598220 & L9001070539604716 **Smt.Mandeep Kaur (Co-Borrower & Legal Heir Of Late Gurpreet Singh - Borrower),**	5-Dec-25 Rs. 473299/- Rs. Four Lakh Seventy-Three Thousand Two Hundred Ninety-Nine Only & Rs. 238783/- Rs. Two Lakh Thirty-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-Three Only 4-Dec-25	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At -Khewat No 81 New 79 Khatauni No 178New 177 R No 347 Killa No 3/2 6 12, H # No 54, Village Muktsar 2, Tehsil- Sri Muktsar Sahib District - Muktsar, Punjab Bounded As East- Street , West- Vacant Plot , North- H/O Ispal , South- H/O Tehal Singh **Admeasuring 71.38 Square Yard**	16-Apr-26
(A/c No.) L9001070243279908 **Smt.Anu (Co-Borrower & Legal Heir Of Late Shri Parveen Kumar - Borrower)**	20-Dec-25 Rs. 1231521/- Rs.Twelve Lakh Thirty-One Thousand Five Hundred Twenty-One Only 19-Dec-25	All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At- Khewat No 933 Khatauni No 1302 Rect No 34 Killa No 25 7-15 Rect No 49 Killa No 5/1/1 2-2 Khewat No. 931 Khatauni No. 1300 Khasra No 490/32(0-2),Khewat No 937 , Khewat No 930, Village Chuhariwala Dhanna, Tehsil- Abohar, Distt- Fazilka, Punjab,Bounded As East- Street, West- Property Of Manipal, North- Property Of Atma Ram, South- Property Of Bhagirath **Admeasuring 10 Marla**	18-Apr-26
(A/c No.) L9001060735616648 **Bhupinder Singh (Borrower),** Smt.Reshma (Co-Borrower)	16-Dec-25 Rs. 1979588/- Rs. Nineteen Lakh Seventy-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-Eight Only 11-Dec-25	(1) All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At- Khasra No 552/2,552/1, Deed No 3874, Village- Khawaspur, Tehsil And Distt- Hoshiarpur, Punjab **Admeasuring 136 Sqyds.** East : H/O SURJIT KAUR, West : GURUDHWARA SAHIB, North : DIGAR MALAK, South : STREET (2) All that part and parcel of residential/commercial property Land/ Building/ Structure and fixtures Property Situated At- Khasra No 552/2,552/1, Deed No 4809, Village- Khawaspur, Tehsil And Distt- Hoshiarpur, Punjab **Admeasuring 45.37 Sqyds.** East : H/O SURJIT KAUR, West : GURUDHWARA SAHIB, North : DIGAR MALAK, South : STREET	16-Apr-26

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, therefore notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein above mentioned table in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said (Act-2002) read with Rule 8 of the said rule on the date mentioned in the above table. "The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act **read with rule 8 (6), in respect of time available, i.e., 30 days from this intimation,** to redeem the secured assets." The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the AU Small Finance Bank Limited (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) for the amount and interest thereon mentioned in the above table. -sd-

Place: Punjab **Date: 18-April-2026** **Authorised Officer AU Small Finance Bank Limited**

RNI NO. 61323/95 | Postal Code No. G/CHD/0186/2016-2018
Chief Editor, Dr. Chander Trikha, Managing Editor, Shashi Pal Jain, Printed and Published by Gaurav Goel for Yugmarg Prakashan from 28/1, Industrial Area Phase-II, Chandigarh and printed at Yugmarg Publications, Kurali Road, Khanpur, Kharar Distt. Mohali (PB), Ph.:(off) 0172-5002721, 2972414. E-mail: yugmarg@gmail.com

YUGMARG
News
CHANDIGARH
SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026
PAGE 7

Distributed copies to students of both village schools, Baba Makhhan Singh and Baba Balbir Singh Shastri

HOSHIARPUR (DALJEET AJNOHA): Baba Makhhan Singh and Baba Balbir Singh Shastri of Kutia 108 Sant Baba Dalel Singh Ji at Tuto Mazara village in Hoshiarpur district distributed copies to students of both village schools. On this occasion, Baba Makhhan Singh and Baba Balbir Singh Shastri jointly stated that the kutia regularly undertakes public welfare activities and assists the needy as needed. In line with this, copies were distributed to students of both schools this year, just as every year. Recently, Baba Ji also arranged special buses to take the sangat to various gurdwaras across Punjab for darshan at Guru Ghars.



NEWS BRIEF

Hoshiarpur police solves Dr. B R Ambedkar statue vandalism case



DALJEET AJNOHA
HOSHIARPUR: Sandeep Malik, Senior Superintendent of Police, Hoshiarpur, addressed a press conference and disclosed significant developments in the case of vandalism of the statue of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar.
He stated that on the night of March 30 and 31, unidentified miscreants damaged the statue of Dr. Ambedkar at Nurpur Jattan village under Police Station Mahilpur. Acting swiftly, the police registered a case and constituted multiple teams to investigate the incident. The investigation teams were led by Manpreet Kaur and included Daljit Singh Khakh, Parmeet Singh, Gurpreet Singh, Amandeep Kaur, and technical in-charge Surjit. Based on technical inputs and investigation, the police identified the main conspirator as Gurkirat Singh, along with his associates Pawandeep Singh and Sahilpreet Singh. They had allegedly planned and executed the act of vandalism.SSP Sandeep Malik further revealed that the main accused, Gurkirat Singh, had been deported from the United States in 2023 and has links with Sikhs for Justice. He reportedly received ?50,000 for carrying out the act and recorded a video of the incident, which was later uploaded on social media.

NCC activity on energy conservation held at DAV School



KULWINDER KARWAL
SARDULGARH: An awareness programme on the theme of "Energy Conservation" was organised at DAV Public School, Khaira Khurd under the monthly activities of NCC cadets. The programme was conducted under the guidance of Captain Ishraj Singh, Commanding Officer of 3 PB Naval NCC Unit, Bathinda, and under the supervision of ANO Sandeep.
On the occasion, NCC cadets highlighted the importance of energy conservation by preparing attractive slogans and posters. Through their messages, the cadets motivated the general public to use electricity and other energy resources judiciously and responsibly.

Green field Convent School dangarh's class 10th result excellent



BALWINDER AZAD
BARNALA: In the Class 10th Result announced by C. B. S. E. Board Delhi, the result of Green Field Convent School Dangarh was excellent. In this result, all the students of the school have made the school, their own and their parents' name bright by getting good marks. During this, students Ramandeep Kaur, Chahatpreet Kaur, Komalpreet Kaur, Sanjana, Harjot Kaur, Avneet Sharma were the toppers of the school by getting the highest marks. Encouraging them, Chairman S. Sukhminder Singh Gill.

Sanyukt Karamchari Morcha, U.T. & M.C., Chandigarh will celebrate International Labour Day on 1st May 2026

SHASHI PAL JAIN
CHANDIGARH, APRIL 18



A meeting of various federations under the banner of Sanyukt Karamchari Morcha,UT and MC was held today.It was decided anonymously to celebrate International Labour Day with a grand workers' gathering and programme in Sector 23, Ground Chandigarh opposite the Cricket Stadium and intimation was also given to administration.

This celebration aims to pay tribute to martyrs and honour the contributions of labourers, regular, daily wagers contractual, and outsourced employees working under the Chandigarh Administration and Municipal Corporation. It will also serve as a platform to highlight and press for the long-pending demands of employees, including job security, one time regularisation of daily wage -contractual workers in the absence of any Central Policy, Similar Wage to Similar Work, protection against arbitrary terminations, and an end to the exploitation and discrimination of Outsourcing Workers in GeM portal by engaging the Outsourcing Workers through Government Centralized Agency. The event will feature addresses by leaders of various affiliated unions and federations under the Morcha,and resolutions reaffirming the unity and resolve of the workforce. All employees, workers, and supporters are cordially invited to participate in large numbers and make the programme a grand success.The meeting was attended prominent leaders of Federation of UT and MC employees, Joint Action committee of UT and MC employees,Joint Employees Welfare Association,UT SS Federation, Chandigarh and All Contractual Karamchari Sangh Bharat, Chandigarh.

Punjab & Sind Bank settles Rs 40 lakh death claim, reinforces commitment to customer welfare

SHARMA
LUDHIANA, APRIL 18



Punjab & Sind Bank has successfully settled a death claim worth Rs40 lakh, demonstrating Punjab & Sind Bank's continued commitment to customer welfare and financial security, by providing timely support to the nominee of the late Ramandeep Singh, a conductor with the Punjab Roadways Transport Corporation (PRTC).

The cheque was formally handed over by Field General Manager of Punjab & Sind Bank, Mr. Chaman Lal Shimmar, in the presence of Punjab Finance Minister Mr. Harpal Singh Cheema; Chairman of PRTC, Mr. Harpal Juneja; Managing Director, PRTC, Mr. Bikramjit Singh Shergill IAS; Deputy General Manager Punjab & Sind Bank Mr. Karamjit Singh; and Zonal Manager Mr. Kuldeep Singh, along with other distinguished dignitaries. This swift and seamless claim settlement highlights Punjab & Sind Bank's strong focus on customer-centric services and Punjab & Sind Bank's dedication to ensuring financial protection for account holders and their families.

The initiative also strengthens Punjab & Sind Bank's ongoing salary account partnership with the Punjab Roadways Transport Corporation, under which employees benefit from reliable banking services and enhanced financial security.Punjab & Sind Bank continues to reinforce its commitment to customer-centric innovation by offering products that address evolving financial needs with simplicity and efficiency. For more details, customers can visit nearest PSB branch or log on to https://punjabandsind.bank.in/ , or contact the toll-free helpline 1800 419 8300.About Punjab & Sind Bank:Punjab & Sind Bank is a public sector bank in India, headquartered in New Delhi. It was established in 1908 with the aim of serving the people of the then Sind and Punjab regions of colonial India. Punjab & Sind Bank has a wide network of branches across India. The principle mission of its foundation involves economic aid to the weaker section of the society. Punjab & Sind Bank prides its customers and serves them wholeheartedly for 'Sarva Jana Hitai, Sarva Jana Sukhai'.

Jaito police busted drug racket being run by mother and son, recovered drug pills

RAGHU NANDAN PRASHAR
JAITO, APRIL 18



Dr. Pragya Jain S.S.P. Faridkot Continuous action is being taken against drug smuggling under the anti-drug campaign 'Yuddh Darpano Against Drugs' going on in Faridkot district under the direction of Faridkot.

In this series, under the leadership of Mr. Jogeshwar Singh Goraya SP (Investigation) Faridkot and the guidance of Mr. Iqbal Singh DSP (Sub-Division) Jaitho, another big success has been achieved by Jaitho police station, exposing the drug smuggling racket being run by a mother and son together and 60 drugs have been arrested along with pills. The arrested alleged accused have been identified as Lakhveer Singh alias Lucky and his mother Jasveer Kaur Vajo, who are residents of Tibbi Sahib Road, Jait.

The Swift car and 02 mobile phones present at the spot along with the drug pills belonging to the accused have also been seized by the police party. According to the details of the action, under the supervision of Inspector Navpreet Singh, Chief Officer of Police Station Jaito, on 17th April, Assistant SHO Harpal Singh along with the police party had blocked Dabarikhana Link Road, Bridge Drain Jaito in connection with patrolling and checking, then a Swift vehicle was seen from Dabarikhana side. Audi was seen, in which Lakhveer Singh alias Lucky and Jasveer Kaur were passengers. After stopping Jihna without suspicion and searching, 60 drug pills were recovered from the car.

Zirakpur police busts gang involved in online fraud of people living abroad in name of low interest loans



ZIRAKPUR (VICKY BHABAT): Zirakpur Police, under the leadership of ASP, Zirakpur Police Sub Division, Ghazalpreet Kaur, has made a significant achievement by busting a gang involved in online fraud of people living abroad in the name of low interest loans.

Giving information, SSP Harmandeep Singh Hans said that during this special operation conducted under the supervision of SP (Rural) Manpreet Singh, 10 members of this gang were arrested and 09 laptops and 10 mobile phones were recovered from them.

He said that the members of the gang who were committing online fraud by giving low interest loans to people living abroad through cyber crime were caught red-handed. A case number 185 dated 18-04-2026 / under section 318 (4) BNS and 66 IT Act has been registered against them in connection with the online fraud.

Prize distribution ceremony conducted at Science College Jagraon



JAGRAON (SUKH NAHAR): Sanmati Government College of Science Education and Research, Jagraon organized a Prize Distribution Function to encourage and felicitate the achievements of its students. The event was held under the able guidance of the College Director, Dr. Sumeet Brar Randhawa. Mrs. Suman Lata, Principal of GCG Ludhiana, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, along with Prof. Tarunpreet Singh Thind. The program commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, symbolizing the beginning of the auspicious event.

Sri Guru Granth Sahib World University celebrates enduring legacy of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar through academic and creative engagement



FATEHGARH SAHIB (AJAY MALHOTRA): Sri Guru Granth Sahib World University organized a series of academic and co-curricular activities under the SC/ST Cell in collaboration with the SED Cell to commemorate the visionary contributions of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. The initiative aimed to deepen student engagement with Ambedkar's ideals of social justice, equality, and constitutional values.

The programme was graced by S. Satnam Singh Kaler, Chairman of the Sikh Judicial Commission, who attended as the Chief Guest. He emphasized the significance of upholding justice, equality, and human dignity in today's society and appreciated the university's efforts to sensitize youth toward Ambedkar's transformative vision.

Adv. Ravinder Singh Sampla, Advocate at the Punjab and Haryana High Court, served as the Resource Person. In his insightful address, he highlighted Dr. Ambedkar's contributions to legal thought, social reform, and democratic principles, urging students to internalize constitutional morality and work for an inclusive society. Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Prit Pal Singh underscored the continued relevance of Ambedkar's teachings in shaping an equitable and progressive nation.

DAV school organises menstrual health & hygiene awareness session

SUMER GARG
SUNAM, APR 18



An informative awareness session on menstrual health and hygiene was organised at DAV Senior Secondary School, Sunam, with the aim of educating adolescent girls about menstruation, hygiene practices, and promoting a healthy, stigma-free understanding of the subject.

The session was conducted by Dr. Porshia Rishi Vashisht and Dr. Radha Vashisht, who explained the basics of menstruation in simple and easy-to-understand language.

They addressed common myths and misconceptions prevalent among young girls and emphasised the importance of awareness and accurate information.

Special focus was laid on maintaining proper menstrual hygiene, the safe use and disposal of sanitary products, and the significance of balanced nutrition and self-care during menstruation.

The session also aimed to normalise conversations around menstruation and encourage students to approach the topic with confidence and openness. Students actively participated, asked questions, and engaged in discussions, making the session interactive and impactful.

School authorities appreciated the initiative and expressed gratitude to the speakers for their valuable contribution towards adolescent health education. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks.

Criminal Courts, Amritsar
IN THE COURT OF Amandeep Singh Ghuman
Judicial Magistrate First Class, Amritsar
CNR No. PPBA03-001726-2024
Next Date, Purpose of case, Orders and Judgements as well as other case information is available on http://ecourts.gov.in
PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
NACT/251/2024
M/s SARVE SHREE TEXTILE Vs MR GULAM MOHD DAR
POLICE STATION/FIR NO. DIVISION D/0/0
NEXT DATE : 22-04-2026
of
Detail of offence:-
PUBLICATION ISSUED TO:
1) MR GULAM MOHD DAR
PROP. GULAM MOHD. DAR C/O FANCY CLOTH HOUSE, MAIN CHOWK, PULWAMA (KASHMIR)
2)M/S G.M. DAR (ANANTNAG) THROUGH ITS SOLE PROPRIETOR MR. GULAM MNOHD. DAR C/O FANCY CLOTH HOUSE NO MAIN CHOWK, PULWAMA (KASHMIR)
WHEREAS complaint/case has been made before me that R/O has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence punishable under section of and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said has absconded (or is concealing himself/herself to avoid the service of the said warrant); Proclamation is hereby made that the said is required to appear before this Court (or before me) on 16-04-2026 to answer the said complaint/case
Judicial Magistrate First Class
Amritsar
Dated, this day of 27-01-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is notified for information of General Public and all concerned that Sale Deed No. 18281 Dated 14.02.2011 pertaining to 1(4)-0054 Retd/Sold as below:
Land measuring 07Kanal-00Marla-08Sarsai comprised in Khewat No. 189min/178, Khatauni No. 226, Khasra No. 3/10/16/5-7) 17 (5-4), 18/1 (2-4), 22/17-18) 25 (7-4), 24 (7-2), 25 (7-2), 34/2 (8-0), 44/12/3 (0-18), Kitte 8, being 200/1551 share of land measuring 33Kanal-17Marla i.e. 01Kanal-00Marla-08Sarsai.
Land measuring 01Kanal-14Marla-07Sarsai comprised in Khewat No. 189min/178, Khatauni No. 226, Khasra No. 27/21 (5-8), 34/1 (8-0) Kitte 2, being 200/1551 share of land measuring 13Kanal-05Marla i.e. 01Kanal-14Marla-07Sarsai.
Land measuring 01Kanal-04Marla-05Sarsai comprised in Khewat No. 189min/178, Khatauni No. 239, Khasra No. 33/12 (8-0), 3/1 (1-8) Kitte 2, being 200/1331 share of land measuring 09Kanal-05Marla i.e. 01Kanal-04Marla-05Sarsai.
Land measuring 01Kanal-15Marla-09Sarsai comprised in Khewat No. 10min/18, Khatauni No. 27, Khasra No. 26/22 (7-19), 27 (1-16), 33/28 (3-0) Kitte 3, being 5/37 share of land measuring 13Kanal-05Marla i.e. 01Kanal-15Marla-09Sarsai.
Land measuring 01Kanal-04Marla-03Sarsai comprised in Khewat No. 10min/18, Khatauni No. 28, Khasra No. 26/22/1 (1-16), 28/3 (3-10), 35/1/3 (0-12), 3/3 (2-12) Kitte 4, being 5/37 share of land measuring 09Kanal-18Marla i.e. 01Kanal-04Marla-03Sarsai.
Land measuring 02Kanal-14Marla-02Sarsai comprised in Khewat No. 402/min/372, Khatauni No. 469, Khasra No. 28/3/1 (2-0), 8/2 (3-10), 11 (2-7), 12 (8-4), 13/1 (3-19), 13/2 (3-0), 16 (6-16), 18 (6-0), 20 (6-0), 21 (5-7), 23 (4-18), 33/2/1 (2-1), Kitte 12, being 5/99 share of land measuring 23Kanal-13Marla i.e. 02Kanal-14Marla-02Sarsai.
Land measuring 05Marla-07Sarsai comprised in Khewat No. 402/min/373, Khatauni No. 470, Khasra No. 28/23/2 (2-11), 24/1 (3-4), 4/Pa (2-1), being 5/99 share of land measuring 05Kanal-13Marla i.e. 05Marla-07Sarsai.
Sold by Smt. Mamta Rani W/o Sh. Anil Kumar to Smt. Rani W/o Sh. Ramesh has been out Daily Diary Report No. 132213002600469 dated 17.04.2026 has been registered with Police Station Mullana.
Punjab National Bank, MCC Parwanoo has intended to sanction a Loan to M/s Kava's Developers C/o Khasra No. 352, VPO Mullana, Tangali Road, District Ambala, Haryana-133203 and put the above property under Equitable Mortgage.
Hence public at large is hereby given notice that any person having any interest in the on the property or otherwise having any objection may make a representation to the undersigned within 7 days of this notice.
Asstt. General Manager
Punjab National Bank, MCC Parwanoo
Sec-1, Bank Square, Parwanoo-173220

HIMACHAL PRADESH
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
e-mail ee-roh-hp@nic.in
e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
INVITING FOR BIDS (IFB)
The Executive Engineer HPPWD Rohru Distt Shimla H.P on behalf of Governor of H.P invites item rate, bids, in electronic tendering system, in 2 cover system for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/firms registered with HPPWD Department.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs.)	Starting date for down-loading Bid	Earnest money	Deadline for submission bid
1	C/o High School Sen at tesil Tikkar (SH - C/o R/wall in Behind the School) Deposit Work	1930097	20-4-26	39000	25-4-2026
2	R/R Damage to mehandli tikkar road km 0/00 to 28/500(SH - C/o R/wall at Rd 13/309 to 13/317 & 13/301 to 13/309) Under PDNA	977720	20-4-26	19900	25-4-2026
3	A/R and M/O Rest House Tikkar Distt Shimla (Sh - Sanitary installation fitting P/L flush doors and windows) Deposit work	499266	20-4-26	10000	25-4-2026
4	R/R Damage on Tuttupani Khagler Khasra road o/00 to 19/820(SH - C/o R/wall in PCC at Rd 3/330 to 3/343 & 3/278 to 3/291Deposit work	955426	20-4-26	19500	25-4-2026
5	C/o Jagothi Nallah Tilan Gondhar Dohar road km 0/0-2/400 (SH - F/C 5/7 mtr wide road at RD 0/0-2/120)	3002052	20-4-26	61000	25-4-2026
6	R/R Damage to Jagothi Nallah Tilan road km 0/00 to 2/500 (SH - C/o 900mm HPC at Rd 0/610,1/715 and B/wall at Rd 0/155 to 0/175,0/520 to 0/540 R/wall at Rd 0/492 to 0/508,0/811 to 0/820 and earth filling)	2592436	20-4-26	51000	25-4-2026
7	R/R Damage to narkanda Sungan Rohru Km 0/00 to 67/000 (SH - C/o B/wall at Rd 59/390 to 59/420 and 50/830 to 50/870)	2011541	20-4-26	41000	25-4-2026

The Bidders are advised to note other details for tenders and letter No PWD(B) A(3) 1/2020 dated 12.01.2023 issed by secretary PW) to the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in, and any corrigendum will be uploaded on the website only.
Executive Engineer
HPPWD Division Rohru
Distt Shimla HP
DPR-HP- 0439/2026-2027

Superintending Engineer 4th Circle, HPPWD Shimla
(Name of Authority inviting Bids)
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
The Superintending Engineer, 4th Circle, HPPWD , Shimla on behalf of Government invites the percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system, for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for each of the following works including their maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved contractors registered with registered with HPPWD/CPWD/MES/ Railways/other state govts /Central Govt. agencies. Non-registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

Sr. No.	District	Package no	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (Rs. Lakh) without GST		Total Cost (Rs. Lakh)	Starting date for down-loading bid	Form Cost	Deadline for sub -mission of bid	Period	Bid Security (Rs in Lakh)
				Construc-tion	Routine Maintenance						
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)				(8)	(9)
1	Shimla	HP-09 -805	C/O road from Tewa to tachog km 0/00 to 6/700 (SH - ROFD, Protection work, x-drainage works, M/T road side drain, crash barrier, road furniture and dumping structure in Km 0/00 to 6/700 i/c five years routine maintenance) under PMGSY-IV	62260649	4997981	67161630	20-04-2026	10000	12-05-2026	Eighteen Months For Construction Part + 60 Months For Routine Maintenance	17.43
2	Shimla	HP-09 -806	C/O road from Mashoon to Potnari km 0/0 to 3/800 (SH: ROFD, Protection work, X-drainage works, M/T road side drain, crash barrier, road furniture & dumping structure in km 0/00 to 3/800 i/c five years routine maintenance under PMGSY-IV	43256907	2644800	45904707	20-04-2026	7000	12-05-2026	Twelve months For Construction Part + 60 Months For Routine Maintenance	9.18
3	Shimla	HP-09 -782	Construction of Basadhar to Gyanket road km 0/00 to 7/675 in district Shimla HP (SH: Formation cutting, C/o passing place, Side Drain, Parapets, Cross Drainage, Metaling & Tarring work and five year maintenance in km 0/00 to 3/800 under PMGSY-IV Package No HP-09-782	966.79	56.10	1012.89	20-04-2026	20000	12-05-2026	Eighteen Months For Construction Part + 60 Months For Routine Maintenance	20.25

The bidders are advised to not other details of tenders from the departmental website www.hptender.gov.in. The Superintending Engineer reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/application or all tenders without assigning any reason.
Superintending Engineer,
4th Circle, H.P.P.W.D., Shimla-3
E-mail: hp-shi3@nic.in
DPR-HP-0448/2026-2027

AXIS BANK LTD.
Retail Asset Centre: AXIS Bank Ltd, 2nd Floor, Property # 7-E, Municipal 3903/1142/16, Malhar Road, Sarabha Nagar, Ludhiana -141001
Corporate Office: 'Axis House', Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025, Registered Office: 'Trishul', 3rd floor, opposite Samartheswar Temple, Law garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmadabad-380006
Publication of Notice regarding possession of property u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI Act 2002
Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, a demand notice was issued on the dates mentioned against each account and stated hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice.
The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said Act on the dates mentioned against each account.
The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Axis Bank Ltd. for an amount and interest thereon.
The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Sr. No.	Name Of Borrower/ Co-Borrower	1. NPA Date 2. Date Of Demand Notice 3. Date Of Possession 4. Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)
1	1. Mr. Suraj Chawla S/o Kimti Lal (Borrower/Mortgagor) and 2. Mrs. Ranjit Kaur W/o Suraj Chawla (Co Borrower/Mortgagor)	1. 09th-Dec-2025 2. 16-Dec-2025 3. 16th-April-2026 4. Rs. 13,98,260/- (Rupees Thirteen Lacs Ninety Eight Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Only)
	Description Of Mortgaged Property:-All That Part And Parcel Of The Residential Property / House, Private No. 297 Min, Measuring Length 30 Ft, Breadth 30 Ft, Total Area 100 Sq. Yds., Comprised In Khasra No. 18/12, 18/13 Min, Khata Khatoni No. 173/273, 174/274, As Per Jamabandi For The Year 2012-2013, Hadbast No. 282, Village Rakba Rakhshikargah Abadi Moon Avenue, Tehsil Amritsar 2, District Amritsar, Registered In The Name Of Mr. Suraj Chawla S/o Kimti Lal And Mrs. Ranjit Kaur W/o Suraj Chawla Vide Sale Deed No. 2019-20/93/1/11282 Dt. 18-11-2019. Boundaries (As Per Sale Deed): East – Street 20 Ft Wide; West – House No. 296 Min; North – Remaining Part Of Plot No. 297 Min; South – Plot No. 298	
2	1. Mr. Rajesh Kumar S/o Shanker Pal (Borrower) and 2. Mrs. Anushka W/o Rajesh Kumar (Co-Borrower/Mortgagor)	1. 28-Nov-2025 2. 09th-Dec-2025 3. 16th-April-2026 4. Rs. 22,44,401/- (Rupees Twenty-Two Lacs Forty Four Thousand Four Hundred One Only)
	Description Of Mortgaged Property:-All That Part And Parcel Of The Residential Property / House Built Upon Plot Having Private No. 164 (C-252), Measuring 91 Sq. Yds., Comprised In Khasra No. 2292 Min, Khata Khatauni No. 1646/2581, As Per Jamabandi For The Year 2015-2016, Situated At Rakba, Sultanwind, Sub-Urban Taraf-Bahniwal, Abadi New Partap Nagar, Tehsil & District Amritsar, Registered In The Name Of Smt. Anushka W/o Rajesh Kumar Vide Sale Deed Having Document No. 2021-22/99/1/1884 Dated 11-June-2021. Boundaries (As Per Sale Deed): East – Plot No. 163, Presently Having No. 251 & UID No. G-4/9225; West – Plot No. 165, Presently Having No. 253 & UID No. G-4/9223; North – Property Of Others; South – Road 20' Wide	
3	1. Mr. Sonu S/o Sh. Vasdev (Borrower/Mortgagor) and 2. Mrs. Madhuri W/o Sonu (Co-Borrower)	1. 09th-Dec-2025 2. 12th-Dec-2025 3. 16th-April-2026 4. Rs. 13,52,505/- (Rupees Thirteen Lacs Fifty Two Thousand Five Hundred Five Only)
	Description Of Mortgaged Property:-All That Part And Parcel Of The Residential Property / House Built Upon Plot Having Private No. 109/110 Min, Measuring 65 Sq. Yds. (Length 39 * Breadth 15), Comprised In Khasra No. 1762 Min, Khata Khatoni No. 700/1218, As Per Jamabandi For The Year 2012-2013, Situated At Tungpat – Sub Urban, Abadi Mohindra Colony, Street No. 1, Tehsil & District Amritsar, Registered In The Name Of Mr. Sonu S/o Sh. Vasdev Vide Sale Deed Having Vasika No. 9703 Dated 02.11.2017. Boundaries (As Per Documents): East – Plot No. 118-1119; West – Passage 23' Wide; North – Remaining Part Of House; South – Remaining Part Of House	

Date: 19.04.2026, Place: Ludhiana
Sd/-, Authorized Officer, Axis Bank Ltd.

Obesity & Liver Damage: Why Cases Are Rising in the 30s & 40s

PATIALA: Liver disease is no longer confined to older adults. Increasingly, people in their 30s and 40s are being diagnosed with obesity-related liver conditions, particularly non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD). Excess body fat, especially abdominal fat, leads to insulin resistance, which causes the liver to store more fat. Over time, this progresses to inflammation, fibrosis, or even cirrhosis. Dr. Gurbakhshish Singh Sidhu, Senior Consultant – Medical Gastroenterology, Manipal Hospitals, Patiala, says that recognising the signs early and making simple lifestyle changes can help prevent further liver damage.Prevention Tips: Maintain a healthy weight through a balanced diet and regular exercise. Limit intake of processed foods, sugar, and saturated fats. Stay physically active with at least 30 minutes of daily movement.Avoid excessive alcohol consumption.Manage underlying conditions like diabetes and high cholesterol. Get regular health check-ups and liver function tests.Early-stage liver damage can often be reversed with lifestyle changes, early intervention, and medication. In advanced cases where liver damage progresses to severe scarring or cirrhosis, more intensive interventions may be required. Bariatric surgery may be considered in individuals with obesity to support sustained weight loss and reduce liver fat. In cases of end-stage liver disease, liver transplantation remains a definitive treatment option to restore liver function and improve survival. If you notice symptoms such as persistent fatigue, abdominal discomfort, or unexplained weight changes, it is important to consult a doctor at the earliest.

Flipkart partners with Uber to offer SuperCoins on everyday rides

CHANDIGARH : Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, today announced a partnership with Uber, one of India's leading mobility platforms, that allows users to earn SuperCoins on every eligible Uber ride. This initiative advances SuperCoins into a lifestyle loyalty program, allowing users to earn on their daily commute while furthering Flipkart's vision of building a rewards program akin to India's loyalty ecosystem; for Uber it adds incremental value to everyday mobility.By linking their Flipkart and Uber accounts, users can earn 4% of their fare as SuperCoins on every eligible ride, up to 150 coins per trip, with no cap on total earnings. These SuperCoins are credited directly to the user's Flipkart account and can be redeemed across the Flipkart ecosystem, including Flipkart Minutes, Cleartrip and partner offerings.



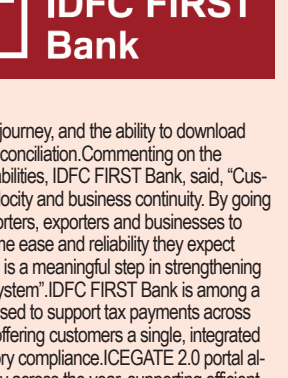
This collaboration features limited-time incentives wherein new Uber users, or those who haven't utilized the app in the last 84 days, can earn 150 bonus SuperCoins by completing their first ride within 28 days of linking accounts. Additionally, users who link their Flipkart and Uber accounts between April 15 and April 30, 2026, and complete their first ride within 28 days, can earn an additional 50 bonus SuperCoins. Commenting on the partnership, Gaurav Arora, Vice President, Payments and SuperCoins at Flipkart, said, "SuperCoins is evolving into a broader rewards layer across everyday use cases. Mobility is a natural extension, and this partnership with Uber allows us to integrate more seamlessly into how customers transact daily. Over time, we will continue expanding SuperCoins across categories to drive deeper engagement across the ecosystem."Arnab Kumar, Director Business Development, Uber India and South Asia, said, "At Uber, we are focused on making everyday mobility more seamless and valuable for our users. This integration with Flipkart allows us to extend additional benefits to riders in a simple and intuitive way, while building on how users engage with everyday services across platforms."

Volkswagen India launches the new Taigun, introduces a new 75 % Assured Buyback Program



JALLANDHAR : Volkswagen India today launched the new Taigun at a starting price of INR 10 99 900 (ex-showroom). The new Taigun offers customers up to 40 new updates with 9 colour options and a new 8-Speed Automatic Transmission with the 1.0 L TSI petrol engine.Volkswagen also launched an industry leading assured buyback program offering residual value of 75% of the ex-showroom price, on the new Taigun, for usage up to 3 Years and 30,000 Kms (T&C apply). With this new program, customers will benefit rom an enhanced ownership package that caters to their peace of mind. The customer benefits include, assured residual value, confidence in ownership, exchange bonus, easy upgrade opportunity. This new assured buyback program will be applicable for new Taigun bookings received till 31st May 2026. Commenting on the launch, Mr. Nitin Kohli, Brand Director, Volkswagen Passenger Cars India, said, "The Taigun has been a cornerstone of our India SUVW story. Today, with the introduction of the new Taigun, we aim to offer customers the right combination of features, performance, design and safety. Historically, the higher trimlinesof this SUV have been more preferred and constitute to nearly 60 % of the model's sales, even for the new Taigun, we have packaged the variants to ensure our customers avail of the best value at an attractive price proposition."Talking about the Assured Buyback program, Mr. Kohli, said, "The assured buyback program is another industry leading package that we have created for customers, bolstering their confidence in ownership and offering a unique impetus to choose the new Taigun."

Xiaomi introduces the much awaited Xiaomi TV S Mini LED Series in India, the most advanced TV Tech from the House of Xiaomi



CHANDIGARH : Xiaomi India today announced the launch of the Xiaomi TV S Mini LED Series, its first Mini LED television lineup in India, marking a decisive step into a more refined, experience-led era of home entertainment.Built on advanced Mini LED technology, the series brings a heightened color depth and clarity to the screen, with richer contrast, balanced brightness, and more detailed visuals. Colours appear vivid and true to life, supported by intelligent colour temperature tuning that adapts seamlessly to different lighting conditions, ensuring a consistently refined viewing experience across environments.Commenting on the launch, Anuj Sharma, Chief Marketing Officer, Xiaomi India, said, "As screens get larger and access to high-quality content continues to grow, expectations from picture quality also increase. It is no longer enough to scale size alone, the underlying display technology needs to keep pace. With the Xiaomi Mini LED TVs, the focus is on advancing how the display performs at a fundamental level. Our implementation enables more precise control over backlighting, with better management of brightness and contrast across the panel. This results in deeper blacks, brighter highlights, and more consistent picture quality, especially on larger screens where uniformity becomes critical."Xiaomi's Most Advanced Display Innovation Yet-At the core of the experience is QD Mini-LED technology, an advanced display architecture that combines Quantum Dot colour with precise Mini LED backlighting.

IDFC FIRST Bank Goes Live on ICEGATE 2.0 Portal for Customs Duty Payments

CHANDIGARH : IDFC First Bank today announces the launch of special services for its individual and business customers, enabling seamless digital payment of Customs Duty, Central Excise and Service Tax through integration with ICEGATE 2.0.With this integration, customers can initiate tax payments seamlessly through the ICEGATE portal and complete transactions using IDFC FIRST Bank's Retail and Corporate Internet Banking platforms, ensuring a secure, efficient and fully digital experience. The platform provides customers with real-time transaction confirmation, an intuitive online journey, and the ability to download challans instantly for record-keeping and reconciliation.Commenting on the launch, Mr. Ashish Singh, Head – Retail Liabilities, IDFC FIRST Bank, said, "Customs Duty payments are critical to trade velocity and business continuity. By going live on ICEGATE 2.0, we are enabling importers, exporters and businesses to meet these obligations digitally with the same ease and reliability they expect across Direct Tax and GST payments. This is a meaningful step in strengthening our role in India's digital tax and trade ecosystem".IDFC FIRST Bank is among a select group of private sector banks authorised to support tax payments across Direct Taxes (CBDT), GST and Customs, offering customers a single, integrated banking destination for financial and statutory compliance.ICEGATE 2.0 portal allow customers now make payments digitally across the year, supporting efficient cash-flow planning for businesses and timely compliance for all taxpayers.

IDFC FIRST Bank

Zee TV's Tumm Se Tumm Tak aims to break common myths around heart attacks with a powerful new storyline



CHANDIGARH : As a market leader in core prime time, Zee TV has consistently led the way in bringing meaningful and progressive narratives to Indian television. Over the years, its characters have gone beyond storytelling to become strong influencers in their own right, shaping everyday perceptions through stories audiences deeply connect with. Taking this commitment forward, the channel uses its popular fiction show Tumm Se Tumm Tak to address a deeply rooted yet often ignored reality, the many misconceptions surrounding heart attacks.In the upcoming track, Aryavardhan (Sharad Kelkar) suffers a heart attack, marking a major turning point in the storyline. While such moments are often portrayed with fear and finality, the show presents a perspective that mirrors how such situations are often perceived and discussed in everyday life. From assumptions that a person can no longer lead a normal life, to fears around longevity and strength, heart attacks are often surrounded by myths that create unnecessary panic and stigma.With this storyline, Tumm Se Tumm Tak brings these commonly held beliefs into focus, encouraging viewers to rethink and question them. The narrative reinforces a simple yet important message: a heart attack is not the end, but an alarm. With the right awareness, care, and lifestyle changes, individuals can continue to live fulfilling and active lives. By portraying this journey with sensitivity, Zee TV encourages viewers to move away from fear-driven thinking and adopt a more informed and balanced perspective.Speaking about the thought behind the track, Mangesh Kulkarni, Chief Channel Officer at Zee TV said, "At Zee TV, we believe stories have the power to influence everyday thinking. The biggest influencers are our iconic characters, whom our viewers interact with, relate to, and follow closely on a daily basis. With this track in Tumm Se Tumm Tak, we wanted to address the many myths people associate with heart attacks. There is often a sense of fear and finality attached to it, which is not always the reality. Through this narrative, we want to communicate that a heart attack is a wake-up call — an opportunity to become more aware and take better care of one's health, rather than something that defines or limits life. For us, the best way to convey this is through the lives of characters that viewers love and follow deeply and emotionally."Adding to this, Raghavendra Hunsur, Chief Content Officer at ZEEL, said, "At Zee, we have always believed that storytelling goes beyond entertainment; it can shape conversations and influence mindsets at scale. With this track in Tumm Se Tumm Tak, the intent was to address a widely held perception around heart attacks and reframe it with a more informed and reassuring perspective. There is often an immediate sense of fear attached to such situations, but it is important to understand that awareness, timely action, and the right care can make a significant difference. Through narratives like these, we aim to bring a sense of balance, where audiences not only engage with the story but also take away something meaningful for their everyday lives."

Sharad Kelkar, who essays the role of Aryavardhan, shared, "What I found most meaningful about this track is how relatable it is. We've all grown up hearing certain things about heart attacks that create fear instantly. While shooting these scenes, it made me realise how important it is to look at it with more understanding. It's a serious moment, but it's not the end. I hope viewers connect with this and take away a more positive and aware perspective towards their health."

By bringing such relevant themes to the forefront, Zee TV continues to strengthen its identity as a channel that not only entertains but also sparks meaningful conversations. With Tumm Se Tumm Tak, the channel once again demonstrates how storytelling can challenge long-held beliefs and encourage a more aware and informed society.

Usha Expands Air Cooler Portfolio with New AIR KING Range and Refreshed MAXX AIR ULTRA Series

CHANDIGARH : Usha International, one of India's leading consumer durables brands, has expanded its Air Cooler portfolio with the launch of new air coolers. The range includes three variants - Air King 100L, Air King 120L (3-side Honeycomb), and Air King Plus 120/150L, designed to deliver powerful cooling, airflow, and reliable everyday performance across larger indoor and semi-outdoor spaces. The company has also introduced a refreshed version of the MAXX AIR ULTRA series, in 70L, 95L, and 120L variants, strengthening its portfolio of cooling solutions for Indian households. With rising summer temperatures across the country, the new range offers efficient and durable cooling performance. Both the AIR KING range and the refreshed MAXX AIR ULTRA models, feature eco-cool honeycomb cooling pads for improved cooling efficiency, ball bearing fan motors with auto-resettable thermal overload protection, and ultra-durable concealed pumps designed to operate effectively even with hard or impure water. Built with high-grade robust bodies, the coolers ensure durability and stability for prolonged use. For convenience, the range also includes three-speed airflow control, water level indicators, and castor wheels for easy mobility and adjustable cooling.Within the range, the Air King 100L delivers efficient airflow with a power consumption of 280W. Features include airflow capacity of up to 3200 CMH, a rust-free aluminium exhaust fan with an air throw of up to 22 metres, a 4-way air deflection system to enable faster cooling and wider coverage, an adjustable water flow system, allowing users to regulate water supply to the cooling pads and maintaining better humidity balance for high-humidity environments. Additionally, it comes with an auto-drain function for easy water removal and a direct water inlet for hassle-free tank filling.

How bank branches are evolving from service points to experience centers

CHANDIGARH: Indian banking has changed significantly over the past decade. A branch at a leading private bank today, with biometric onboarding, digital kiosks, and tablet-enabled staff, feels very different from what customers experienced in the early 1990s. Public sector banks have also improved their physical spaces and customer experience.

However, a gap still remains. It is not a gap between good and bad branches. It is the gap between what branches do today and what they could do if technology is treated as core infrastructure rather than an add-on.

Digital adoption has accelerated this shift. UPI now handles over 17 billion transactions every month. A customer in a tier-two city can begin a loan application on their phone even before visiting a branch. Many fintech platforms are built on the idea that customers may not need to visit a branch at all. In this environment, a branch that looks modern is very different from one that actually works in a new way.

This raises an important question. What changes when a branch is designed not just as a service point, but as a space that helps complete tasks efficiently?

One part of the answer lies in how displays are used. Traditionally, screens in banks have been passive. They display information but do not actively support customer interaction. Today, new display technologies are changing this role.

For example, spatial signage can present products such as home loans in a 3D format without requiring any special devices. Content platforms allow central teams to update information across all branches in real time, and in the appropriate language for each region. Secure mobile devices enable staff to complete KYC or process applications at a customer's location while maintaining compliance.

These are not just new features. They represent a new way of operating a branch. The physical space becomes more responsive, more targeted, and more aligned with digital systems.

Banks adopting these changes are seeing clear benefits. Digital signage can increase the time customers spend in branches and influence their decisions. Centralised content systems help reduce the cost and effort of running campaigns across locations. Secure mobile tools allow staff to serve more customers without increasing team size.

Samsung's Business Experience Studio demonstrates how this approach works in practice. It brings together spatial signage, the VXT content platform, AI Studio, and Knox-secured mobility into a single system. This is not a concept. It is a practical setup that can be applied across branch networks. The bank branch is not disappearing. It is being redesigned. This shift begins with how information is presented and used. Banks that adopt this approach early will not only have better-looking branches, but also more effective ones. The gap between banks that adopt this model and those that continue with basic setups such as token queues and standard display screens will continue to grow.

Jindal Stainless launches 'Jindal Infinity' stainless steel rebars in Punjab, takes product to retail

AMRITSAR: Jindal Stainless announced the retail debut of its stainless steel rebars, 'Jindal Infinity', with a launch in Punjab, marking a strategic step towards bringing advanced construction solutions closer to end consumers. The product was unveiled in Amritsar through a two-day event hosted by Jindal Stainless, bringing together contractors, architects, and structural engineers, key stakeholders who play a critical role in material selection at the ground level. The interactions focused on driving material awareness, enhancing product understanding, and showcasing end-use applications. The product rollout is supported by an initial retail and distribution network of approximately 20 partners across Punjab.



Commenting on the development, Managing Director, Jindal Stainless, Mr Abhyuday Jindal, said that as India continues to build at scale, the focus must shift beyond speed and upfront cost towards materials that deliver long-term performance, safety, and lifecycle value. Our entry into the retail segment with Jindal Infinity marks a strategic extension of our capabilities into the construction value chain. Stainless steel rebars have proven their relevance globally in demanding environments, and through this endeavour, we aim to bring these advanced solutions closer to Indian consumer. This is aligned with our larger vision of supporting a quality-first, safer, and more resilient environment."

Jindal Infinity' stainless steel rebars have proven their mettle in critical infrastructure applications such as coastal developments, metros, and real estate. Compared to conventional rebars, stainless steel rebars offer significantly higher resistance to corrosion, including a higher critical chloride threshold, which enhances durability in aggressive environments. They are engineered to deliver high load-bearing capacity, improved tensile strength, and superior seismic performance due to a higher tension-to-yield strength ratio, enabling better energy absorption under stress. Additionally, their inherent fire resistance at elevated temperatures and reduced concrete cover requirements contribute to enhanced structural safety and design efficiency. With a service life that can exceed twice that of conventional rebars, stainless steel reinforcement supports lower maintenance needs and improved lifecycle value, making it a viable solution for long-term infrastructure resilience. Commenting on the launch, Head of Sales, Jindal Stainless, Mr Rajeev Garg, said that this effort is focused on building a robust last-mile ecosystem, anchored in retail availability and direct engagement with key stakeholders like consumers, architects, engineers and contractors. With a growing distributor and dealer network, we are creating the foundation for scale. The initial response underscores the need for high-performance, differentiated materials, particularly in applications where long-term durability and reliability are critical." 'Jindal Infinity' stainless steel rebars are manufactured from billets casted at Jindal Stainless' Hisar plant in Haryana and further processed into rebars at the company's Ghaziabad facility. They form part of the company's long product portfolio and are used across applications ranging from infrastructure and railways to bridges, highways, and real estate.

Get ready for the World Television Premiere of 'Rahu Ketu' on Zee Cinema

MUMBAI: Get ready for a laughter packed sunday as 'Rahu Ketu' makes its World Television Premiere on Sunday,19th April at 8:00 PM only on Zee Cinema. The film follows two clueless yet endearing characters, Rahu and Ketu, who quite literally come to life from a writer's magical notebook.



Blending humour with heart, the film stands out for its quirky storytelling and the chemistry between its lead characters, played by Pulkit Samrat and Varun Sharma. With its mix of madness, emotion and adventure, Rahu Ketu promises an entertaining watch for the whole family. Pulkit Samrat said, "Rahu Ketu is one of those films where you just let go and have fun. Playing Ketu was pure madness in the best way possible. His character is innocent and always landing in the most chaotic situations and that's what makes him so entertaining to watch. Even in all the chaos, there's a simplicity and honesty to Ketu that i really connected with. Working with Varun was a blast and I'm excited that more people will now get to enjoy Ketu's journey on TV with their families."

Varun Sharma said, "Rahu Ketu is one of those films where you just switch off your brain and enjoy the madness. Playing Rahu was honestly a rollercoaster, he's quirky, emotional and constantly trying to make sense of everything happening around him. He doesn't always have the answers, and that's what makes him relatable. What i loved about Rahu is that even in all that unpredictability, there's a lot of heart. Working with Pulkit made it even more fun because our energy just matched on set. I really hope families come together, laugh and enjoy Rahu's crazy journey from the comfort of their homes."

Let Children Soar Through Mission Buniyad: DEO Rohtash Verma

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

KARNAL: Under the aegis of the Haryana School Education Department (Karnal), and guided by District Education Officer (DEO) Rohtash Verma—with the support of the Vikalp Foundation—a successful district-level Buniyad orientation program and Level 3 examination were organized at the Mangal Sen Auditorium. The program's Nodal Officer and District Science Specialist, Deepak Verma, stated that 326 students—all of whom had successfully cleared the Level 2 examination—participated in the Buniyad Level 3 examination and orientation program. DEO Rohtash Verma attended the event as the Chief Guest, while Vikalp Foundation Director Pradeep Sansanwal and DEEO Neelam Kundu graced the occasion as Special Guests. The program commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by DEO Rohtash Verma, DEEO Neelam Kundu, Mission Buniyad Director Pradeep Sansanwal, and Deepak Verma, who also extended a warm welcome to the guests. Addressing the students, parents, and teachers present at the event, District Education Officer Rohtash Verma remarked that this is a highly significant government initiative, currently being implemented in collaboration with the Vikalp Foundation. He emphasized that Mission Buniyad serves as a vital medium for helping students reach the zenith of their careers. Under the Buniyad 2026-28 session program, the Education Department provides specialized coaching to students—starting as early as the 9th and 10th grades—to prepare them for competitive examinations such as the JEE and NEET. To date, through Haryana's 'Buniyad' and 'Super 100' initiatives, a total of 198 students from government schools—101 for the IITs and 97 for NEET—have been selected. Pradeep Sansanwal, Director of the Vikalp Foundation, stated that subjects such as Mathematics and Arts foster a sense of stability in students; once this stability is established, children are able to progress further in science subjects as well. He added that 'Mission Buniyad' was launched specifically to accelerate the educational development of these children. Such schemes serve to bring to the forefront the immense, hidden talents residing within the students. During the Mission Buniyad orientation program, various students also presented a vibrant cultural program. State Manager Kapil Bhargava mentioned that five 'Buniyad' centers are currently operational at the block level within the Karnal district. He urged the children to use Mission Buniyad as a springboard to soar to new heights. Through Mission Buniyad, students hailing from government schools and underprivileged families are able to secure admission into prestigious institutions like the IITs and NEET, thereby building successful careers for themselves. Distinguished guests present on this occasion included DEO Rohtash Verma, DEEO Neelam Kundu, Vikalp Foundation President Naveen Mishra, Director Pradeep Sansanwal, State Community Manager Kapil Bhargava, Karnal District Coordinator and Program Nodal Officer Shravan Deepak Verma, District Mathematics Specialist Sumit Maan, Media Coordinator Dalip Singh, Chirag Verma, BEOs Sanjeev, Baljit, Veena, Vinita, and Dharmvir Singh.



TDI Infrastructure partners K.R. Mangalam School

SONEPAT: Realty developer TDI Infrastructure has partnered with K.R. Mangalam School to set up a senior secondary school within its township project, TDI City in Kundli. The proposed school will be developed as an integrated educational facility within the township and is aimed at providing access to quality schooling for residents and nearby catchment areas. The development aligns with the broader strategy of building self-sustained urban ecosystems, where residential projects are complemented by social infrastructure such as education and healthcare.

"The built environment today is closely linked to the strength of social infrastructure, particularly education. This association reflects our long-term approach to creating integrated communities that support holistic development," said Akshay Taneja, CEO, TDI Infrastructure.

Inder Dev Gupta, Chairman, K.R. Mangalam, said the institution will focus on experiential and application-based learning. "The objective is to build an academic environment that encourages critical thinking and prepares students for evolving real-world challenges," he added. The move comes amid a broader trend of real estate developers integrating educational institutions within township projects to enhance livability and reduce reliance on external infrastructure.

TDI City, Kundli is being positioned as a planned urban development focusing on connectivity, access to civic amenities, and long-term sustainability.

RG Hospitals, Ludhiana conquers massive 9x5 cm staghorn kidney stone

LUDHIANA- In a groundbreaking display of precision urology, RG Hospitals, Ludhiana has successfully treated a 35 year old female battling a massive 9 × 5 cm staghorn kidney stone on the right side, one of the largest and most complex cases managed locally. Severe hydronephrosis had swollen the kidney, threatening function, but the hospital's expert team lead by Dr. Vaibhav Sood delivered complete stone clearance in one sitting using cutting-edge minimally invasive techniques.

The patient presented to the hospital with severe pain on the right side of the back (right flank pain). A non-contrast CT scan (NCCT KUB) revealed a large, branch-like kidney stone (staghorn calculus) occupying the kidney's central area (renal pelvis) and extending into multiple calyces. This resulted in significant obstruction and swelling of the kidney. A DTPA scan showed that the affected kidney had 23% function. The patient was admitted immediately, as prompt intervention was required to preserve kidney function.

"This victory showcases our blend of experience, innovation, and unwavering patient-first care at RG Hospital," said Dr. Vaibhav Sood, Consultant Urology. "Massive staghorn stones like this one truly test the limits of even the most skilled teams. But our advanced laser Percutaneous Nephrolithotomy (PCNL) with dual-tract access changes the game. It allows us to navigate the kidney's complex anatomy, fragment and remove the entire stone in a single 90-minute session, and preserve vital kidney function with minimal invasion and scarring. What was once a high-risk ordeal requiring multiple surgeries is now a streamlined success story, with rapid recovery and improved creatinine levels as proof."

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