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◆ CHANDIGARH ◆ PUNJAB ◆ HARYANA ◆ HIMACHAL PRADESH ◆ DELHI ◆ JAMMU & KASHMIR ◆ UTTARAKHAND



STATE AMENDS RULES TO ENSURE TIMELY DISBURSEMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY PENSIONS

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CM SAINI HOLDS INTERACTION WITH INDUSTRY LEADERS IN DELHI

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HAVING 3 VERY DIFFERENT FILMS COMING OUT IN SAME YEAR IS EXCITING: AYUSHMANN KHURRANA

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NEWS BRIEFS

No plan yet to raise petrol, diesel prices: Centre

NEW DELHI: The government on Thursday dismissed reports suggesting petrol and diesel prices may be hiked by Rs 25-28 a litre soon after assembly elections, saying there is no such proposal under consideration. "There are some news reports suggesting a price hike of petrol and diesel. It is hereby clarified that there is no such proposal under consideration by the government," the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said in a post on X. The clarification came after a report by Kotak Institutional Equities hinted of a steep increase in petrol and diesel prices once the polling for assembly elections in states like West Bengal ends on April 29. Kotak projected a Rs 25-28 a litre increase in price based on crude oil staying close to USD 120 per barrel.

Badrinath temple reopens for devotees

DEHRADUN: The portals of the Badrinath temple in the Garhwal Himalayan region of Uttarakhand reopened for devotees on Thursday after a six-month winter break. The first puja following the reopening was performed in the name of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The gates of the temple located in Chamoli district were opened at 6.15 am following Vedic rituals and prayers.

Warring writes to PM, seeks a ban on 'Lawrence of Punjab'

CHANDIGARH: Punjab Congress chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring on Thursday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking a ban on the airing of ZEE5 docu-series on gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, 'Lawrence of Punjab'. Warring has been opposing the web series, claiming that it would glorify gangster culture. In a letter to the prime minister, Warring said the series is based on the life of the dreaded and notorious gangster Lawrence Bishnoi.

High-level bridge approved over Sukhna Choe to boost connectivity

CHANDIGARH: Authorities have approved the proposal to construct a high-level bridge over Sukhna Choe here connecting Sector 26 and Manimajra, officials said on Thursday. The project, with an estimated cost of Rs 16.63 crore, is envisaged with dual four-lane carriageways, along with dedicated footpaths and cycle tracks, they said. The design of the bridge — to be built with advanced reinforced cement concrete and precast construction technology — incorporates efficient drainage systems and flood-resilient measures to ensure durability under all weather conditions.

NSA Doval, UK counterpart discuss strengthening defence and security cooperation

NEW DELHI: National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval hosted his British counterpart Jonathan Powell for the annual India-UK Strategic Dialogue in New Delhi on Thursday, holding discussions on advancing the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, including strengthening defence and security cooperation. "NSA hosted his counterpart from UK Mr. Jonathan Powell in New Delhi on 23 April 2026 for the annual India-UK Strategic Dialogue.

Bumper polling in Bengal, TN Violence reported in Murshidabad, Khoyrasol

AGENCY NEW DELHI, APRIL 23

Voter turnout surged to remarkable levels by 5 PM on Thursday, with West Bengal recording a massive 89.93% voter turnout rate, significantly ahead of Tamil Nadu, which also posted a strong 82.24%, according to the Election Commission. The late afternoon figures highlight an intense wave of voter participation across both states, as polling hours drew to a close. West Bengal once again emerged as the frontrunner, with several districts crossing the 90% mark. Dakshin Dinajpur led the state with an exceptional 93.12%, followed by Cooch Behar at 92.07%, Birbhum at 91.55%, Murshidabad at 91.36%, and Jalpaiguri at 91.20%. Jhargram (90.53%) and Paschim Medinipur (90.70%) also remained above the 90% threshold, while Bankura recorded 89.91% and Malda 89.56%. Darjeeling, though comparatively lower, still posted a strong 86.49%. The numbers reflect an overwhelming voter turnout across districts, reinforcing West Bengal's consistent trend of high electoral participation. Tamil Nadu also witnessed a sharp rise in turnout as the day progressed, with several districts nearing or surpassing the high-80% range. Karur led the state with 89.32%, followed by Salem at 88.02%, Erode at 87.59%, Dharmapuri at 87.28%, and Tirupur at 86.33%. Ariyalur recorded 83.09%, Tiruchirappalli 82.76%, and Chennai 81.34%, indicating strong urban and semi-urban participation. Meanwhile, Madurai (77.89%) and Thoothukudi (77.56%) reported relatively lower but still significant turnout figures. Meanwhile, in the by-elections, polling also picked up pace by 5 PM. In Gujarat, the Umreth constituency recorded a voter turnout of 54.43%. In Maharashtra, Rahuri saw 50.68% polling, while Baramati



reported a slightly higher turnout at 52.44%. Clashes, allegations of intimidation and attacks on candidates, including on two of the BJP, were reported from several constituencies, prompting the Election Commission to seek detailed reports even as it maintained that polling was "largely peaceful".

In Birbhum's Khoyrasol, tension escalated dramatically in the final hours after voters alleged that votes cast in favour of the TMC were being registered for the BJP. This

triggered protests, a temporary halt in voting and clashes between locals and security personnel.

Eyewitnesses said the situation spiralled following an argument between polling officials and voters, with locals gathering outside the booth and staging a protest. While forces intervened to disperse the crowd, stone pelting was reported later, and security personnel resorted to mild force.

BJP set for landslide victory, claims Modi

KRISHNAGAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday congratulated the people of West Bengal for their massive turnout in the ongoing first phase of assembly elections, and called the vote figures so far indicative of an "overwhelming mandate for change". Addressing a poll rally in Krishnagar in Nadia district, Modi asserted that violence during the assembly polls remained at a minimum in 50 years. "Violence was kept at a minimum in the last 50 years of poll history in Bengal. The information I have received so far makes me certain that this is going to be a mandate for a change," the PM said. He claimed the BJP has achieved decisive victories whenever people turned up to vote in overwhelming numbers.

11 killed in horrific road accident in UP's Mirzapur

UNI MIRZAPUR, APRIL 23

At least 11 people lost their lives in a devastating road accident on Wednesday night in the Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh.

The tragic incident occurred in the Drumganj police station area along the Mirzapur-Rewa National Highway.

According to police officials, a trailer carrying gravel from Madhya Pradesh lost control after its brakes reportedly failed while descending a slope.

The out-of-control vehicle first rammed into a Swift car and then collided with a truck. The car was crushed between the trailer and the truck.

Moments later, a Bolero SUV approaching from behind crashed into the trailer. The impact triggered a massive fire in the Bolero, trapping its occupants inside. Nine people, including the driver, were burned alive in the vehicle.

Superintendent of Police Aparna Rajat Kaushik stated that all the Bolero passengers were relatives from Naraina village under Jigna police station.

The family was returning from Maihar in Madhya Pradesh after a child's head-shaving (mundan) ceremony. Among the deceased were a 7-year-old child and his mother.



The victims also included the driver of the Swift car and the cleaner of the truck, who succumbed to injuries during treatment at a hospital.

The deceased trapped in Bolero have been identified as Vandana Singh (38), Shiva (7), her son, Veena Singh (47), Piyush Singh (15), Sonam (age not specified), Priyanka Singh (42), Kartikeya Singh (18), Pankaj Singh (40), Sonam (9) and Vishnu (Bolero driver, resident of Rampur).

Other victims have been identified as Jai Prakash (27), driver of the Swift car, a resi-

dent of Sonbhadra, Vikas, the truck cleaner from Madhya Pradesh, who died during treatment.

Eyewitnesses described the collision as extremely severe, with the Bolero catching fire almost instantly after impact.

Despite immediate rescue efforts by locals, no one inside the burning vehicle could be saved due to the intensity of the flames. Police and fire brigade teams rushed to the scene upon receiving information and managed to bring the fire under control.

8 die as vehicle plunges into gorge in Tehri

NEW TEHRI: Eight people were killed and two others injured on Thursday after a utility pickup vehicle fell into a deep gorge in the Chambha area of the Tehri district, officials said. The victims, residents of Thyoldhar village in the Ghansali, were returning home after performing the last rites of a villager in Haridwar when the driver lost control of the Bolero Camper, Tehri District Magistrate Nitika Khandelwal said. There were around 10 people on board the vehicle at the time of the accident. Emergency and rescue teams have recovered eight bodies and shifted the injured to a nearby hospital.

Efforts intensified to develop wedding city in Pinjore: Haryana CM

CHANDIGARH: The Chief Minister highlighted the immense potential of developing a wedding city at the historic Yadavindra Gardens in Pinjore, positioning it as a premier destination wedding hub. Puneet Makkar, representative of IHCL, informed that detailed discussions are underway with the Taj Group to give the project a world-class shape. This initiative is expected to boost tourism as well as the local economy. Additionally, detailed discussions were held with representatives from the pharmaceutical, medical devices, and e-waste sectors, and their suggestions were incorporated.

On this occasion, Industries and Commerce Department's Commissioner and Secretary, Dr. Amit Kumar Agrawal, Director Sh. Yash Garg, Additional Director (Civil Aviation), Sh. Manish Kumar Lohan, CEO & Executive Director, Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council Sh. Gurmeet Singh, Head Public Policy & Digital Infrastructure (Microsoft) Sh. Sandeep, Head Corporate Affairs India & Public Policy (TCS) Sh. Rohit Chauhan, COO (Jindal Stainless Limited) Sh. Jagmohan Sood, CMD (Precision Electronics) Sh. Ashok Kanodia, Brigadier Hiten (YSM Xerox Aviation Pvt. Ltd.), MD & CEO (Ostik Pharma Pvt. Ltd.) Dr. Vinay Saini, along with representatives of various industrial associations, were present. CM Saini also met Suzuki Motor CEO Toshihiro Suzuki on Thursday at Haryana Bhawan in New Delhi. During the meeting, CEO Toshihiro Suzuki assured the Chief Minister that Suzuki Motor will continue to expand its investments in Haryana in the future. He said that the company is committed to contributing not only to India's progress but also to the development of Haryana. Sh. Nayab Singh Saini stated that to strengthen cultural ties between Japan and Haryana, an International Gita Jayanti Mahotsav will be organized in Japan. He also invited Toshihiro Suzuki to attend the International Gita Seminar as a distinguished guest at Tokyo University on June 20.



PSEB to supply books directly to private school students from 2026-27: Bains

BUREAU CHANDIGARH, APRIL 23

In a student-centric move aimed at re-shaping school education delivery, the Punjab Government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann has introduced a major reform in textbook distribution for private schools. From the 2026-27 academic session, the Punjab School Education Board (PSEB) will directly supply books to every Class I to XII student studying in PSEB-affiliated private schools, effectively ending the long-standing monopoly of authorised agencies and bookshops.

Announcing the reform, Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains underlined that the decision is designed to improve



transparency, reduce costs for families, and ensure timely availability of textbooks without dependence on intermediaries. "Schools will strictly ensure that no

amount beyond the discounted printed bill price is charged. They will only facilitate distribution without generating any revenue. This will benefit more than 10 lakh students of private schools," stated Harjot Singh Bains, as he detailed the contours of the new system.

Reaffirming the Punjab Government's focus on accessible and cost-effective education, the Education Minister highlighted that the 15% discount, which was earlier extended to book sellers, will now directly benefit students through schools. The move is expected to significantly ease the financial burden on families while bringing greater accountability into the system.

Elaborating on the operational framework, Minister Harjot Singh Bains

informed that PSEB has developed a dedicated e-commerce portal to streamline the process. Students will be able to place textbook demands through a mobile application or the online portal, while schools will upload class-wise and subject-wise requirements digitally. "Each student will be provided with individual login credentials, enabling parents to place orders directly if required," he added. Chairman of PSEB, Dr. Amarpal Singh, stated that the portal has been integrated with a secure online payment gateway to ensure seamless, transparent, and efficient transactions. He noted that the system has been specifically designed to eliminate any scope for overcharging and to maintain complete transparency throughout the process.

CBSE releases Class 10 second-cycle datesheet; Exams from May 15 to 21

NEW DELHI: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Thursday released the datesheet for the second cycle of Class 10 board exams, with tests scheduled from May 15 to May 21, 2026.

Under the new two-exam system introduced this year, the cycle will begin with Mathematics (Standard and Basics) papers and conclude with the Social Science exam on May 21.

The second attempt is optional and allows students to improve their scores in up to three subjects. However, only those who appeared in the main examination in at least three subjects will be eligible. Students who missed three or more pa-

pers in the first exam will not be allowed to appear.

Eligible candidates include those who have passed all subjects as well as those placed in the compartment category (first or third chance). The syllabus and exam pattern will remain unchanged. The board will consider the best score from the two attempts for the final result. Details on examination centres and admit cards will be announced separately.

The board had declared the results of the first session on April 15, opening registrations for the second cycle the following day. The application window remained open for five days from April 16.

Trump orders US Navy to 'shoot and kill' mine-laying boats in Strait of Hormuz

UNI WASHINGTON, APRIL 23

US President Donald Trump on Thursday said he has ordered the United States Navy to "shoot and kill" any boats found laying mines in the strategically critical Strait of Hormuz, marking a sharp escalation in maritime tensions linked to Iran.

The statement comes after the US Department of Defense said its forces boarded a "sanctioned stateless vessel," M/T Majestic X, in the Indian Ocean overnight.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump said there should be "no hesitation" in targeting even small vessels involved in mining operations, adding that US mine-sweeping units were actively clearing the strait. The directive comes amid an in-



tensifying US naval campaign aimed at disrupting Iran-linked maritime networks.

The US Department of Defense said its forces boarded a "sanctioned stateless vessel," M/T Majestic X, in the Indian Ocean overnight, alleging it was carrying Iranian oil. The Pentagon reiterated that international waters would not serve as a "refuge for sanctioned vessels."

Earlier this week, US forces also boarded another tanker, M/T Tifani, accused of transporting Iranian oil. Officials said such interdictions are part of broader efforts to curb illicit shipments supporting Tehran.

According to the United States Central Command, the ongoing operation has involved directing 31 vessels to return to port since the

blockade began. The deployment includes around 10,000 personnel, more than 100 aircraft, and 17 warships.

The US also claimed to have intercepted the Iranian-flagged cargo ship Tauska after it allegedly failed to comply with orders to stop—an action Iran condemned as "armed piracy."

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said the administration was "satisfied" with the operation, describing it as significantly constraining Iran's economy. Meanwhile, CENTCOM denied reports that multiple Iranian-linked vessels had breached the blockade.

US forces, in recent days, have increasingly carried out interdictions in open waters, particularly in the Indian Ocean.

India welcomes Japan's defence export policy shift, calls it boost to strategic partnership

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday welcomed Japan's decision to review its long-standing framework governing the transfer of defence equipment and technology, describing it as a positive step that could further strengthen bilateral security co-operation.

Addressing the weekly media briefing, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "India welcomes Japan's review of the three principles on the transfer of defence equipment and technology. Defence and security co-operation form an important pillar of the India-Japan special strategic and global partnership."

"He emphasised that both India and Japan have consistently worked to deepen collaboration under their shared strategic vision. "As part of the Joint Declaration on security cooperation between India and Japan, both sides have committed to increasing practical cooperation in the interest of their national security and continue economic dynamism," he added. The spokesperson further highlighted that the evolving framework would support enhanced technological and industrial collaboration, including between government entities and private

sector stakeholders, particularly in sectors critical to national security and resilience. "This includes promotion and facilitation of technological and industrial collaboration between the government entities and private sector stakeholders for

resilience in sectors critical to national security," Jaiswal said.

The remarks come after Japan, on April 21, announced amendments to its "Three Principles on Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology" and the associated implementation guidelines. Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said the revised framework significantly expands the scope of permissible defence exports. In a post on X, Takaichi stated that earlier restrictions limited overseas transfers of domestically produced defence equipment to five categories, including search and rescue, transportation, surveillance and mine countermeasures.



Classified

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Matrimonial

Public Notice

CHANDIGARH

Situation Vacant

Disown Notice

Court Notice

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026

I, KHUSHPREET SINGH, son of GURDEEP SINGH, resident of Village Bhupal Khurd, Teh. & Dist. Mansa, Punjab - 151504, do hereby declare that my mother's name is wrongly mentioned as "MANJIT KAUR" in my CBSE Class 12th Marksheet / Certificate (Roll No: 13693326, Year: 2025). Her correct name is "MANJIT KAUR". Both names refer to the same person. This change is being made via an affidavit dated 21-04-2026 sworn before Notary Manmohan Singh Sodhi at Mansa. 100071

I, Gurdit Singh S/o Kulwant Singh R/o Vill. Kotla Sahya, PO. Bhullar, Teh. Batala, District Gurdaspur. I have changed my name as Gurdit is my given name & Singh is my surname. Please concerned note. 10005

I, Vir Singh, S/o Harbel Singh, Resident Of Bhakhra, Ferozepur Rural, Have Changed My Name To Veer Singh. Henceforth, I Shall Be Known As Veer Singh For All Purposes. 900011

I Rupinder Kaur W/o Harwinder Singh R/o #B-106 Sirhind Road, Azad Nagar, Patiala, Govt Printing Press declare that my name is mentioned as "Simranpreet Kaur" in school records. Simranpreet Kaur and Rupinder Kaur both refer to one and the same person i.e. myself. Concern Note 98701

PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Veena Rani w/o Surender Kumar Nand colony no.2 Pehowa (Kurukshehra) am a permanent resident. My son Gaurav and his wife Neha are out of my listening. I evict them from my movable and immovable property. If anyone does any transaction with them in future, he himself will be responsible, I or my family will not have any responsibility. 989666

We, Jasvinder Singh, son of Dalvir Singh, and Davinder Kaur, wife of Jasvinder Singh, residents of Sangrur Road, near Dr. Phool Chand Hospital, Dhuri (Sangrur), hereby disown and evict our son Amandeep Singh, daughter-in-law Sukhmani, and grandsons Gurmehar Singh and Rabnoor Singh from our movable and immovable property due to their disobedient conduct. Anyone dealing with them or maintaining relations with them shall be responsible at their own risk. 98724

I, Amarjit Kaur W/o Jaswant Singh R/o Ramgarh Bhullar, Tehsil Jagraon, District Ludhiana, Punjab declare that my son Ram Singh is out of my control. So I disinherit him from all my movable and immovable properties. Myself and other family members having no relation with him. I and my family shall not be held responsible for any of their act, deed and things related to him. All concerned please note. 600022

I, Paranjit Sharma, S/o Rajinder Sharma R/o Guru Harkrishan Nagar, Khanna, Tehsil Khanna (Ludhiana), hereby declare that my son Karanvir Sharma (ਕਰਨਵੀਰ ਸ਼ਰਮਾ) was evicted from our movable and immovable property by me and my wife Sunita Sharma (ਸੁਨੀਤਾ ਸ਼ਰਮਾ) on 19th January 2019 through Pehredar and Yug Marg newspaper. At present, my wife has passed away and now my son Karanvir Sharma is under my care and takes care of me. Therefore, I am withdrawing the eviction I made, from today onwards my son Karanvir Sharma (ਕਰਨਵੀਰ ਸ਼ਰਮਾ) will be fully entitled to my entire movable and immovable property. All concerned should take note. 63372

I Amar Pal Kaur legally wedded wife of JC-354312H Sub Maj Kewal Singh presently residing at Vill - Gumti, PO - Guram, Teh & Distt - Barnala, State - Punjab PIN - 148025 declare that I have changed my name & date of birth from Amar Pal Kaur & 10 Oct 1982 to Amarpal Kaur & 01 Jan 1982 vide affidavit No-IN-PB 41432752251995Y 63372

I Jaspal Singh S/O Jag Singh R/O Village Harion Kalan, Po. Mushkabad, Tehsil Samrala (Ludhiana) Declared That other documents My Father name mentioned as Jagg Singh and some documents my father name entered Jag Singh. my father known by both names Jagg Singh and Jag Singh one and the same person. 63372

I, Jatinder Kaur widow of Hardeep Singh resident of Village Takhra, Tehsil Samrala, District Ludhiana. I have adopted a boy Harkirat Singh Ladhara son of Mandeep Singh, mother's name Sukhdeep Kaur, as per the order dated 28-08-2024 of the Honorable Court Shri Devnour Singh PCS Civil Judge (Junior Division) Samrala, District Ludhiana. From today onwards, the father's name of Harkirat Singh Ladhara shall be read as Hardeep Singh and the mother's name shall be read as Jatinder Kaur. 63372

I, Shubhkarm Jhaji d/o Navdeep Singh Jhaji R/o House No 1286, phase 3b2, Mohali, Tehsil and District SAS Nagar, Declare that Shubhkarm Jhaji and Shubhkarm Kaur Jhaji are one and the same person and from now onwards Shubhkarm Jhaji will be known as Shubhkarm Kaur Jhaji for all intents and purposes. 491263

I, Harshit Bansal S/o Gian Chand R/o Hno 142, Ward No. 8, Huda R-2 Colony, Cheeka Distt. Kaithal (Haryana) Have Changed My Name From Harshit Bansal To Harshit. Concerned Please Note. 84451

I, Aanchal (Aadahr Card No. 2111 6400 8337) wife of Shri Vishal Sharma, resident of Village Khora Kheri, Tehsil Gharunda, District Karnal, State Haryana have changed my name from Aanchal to Aanchal Sharma. 100046

I, Tejveer son of Ram Mehar, resident of Ward 9, Safidon, Distt. Jind (Haryana) declare that I have changed the name of my minor son from Vunshik to Vunshik Grewal. 98732

I Satender Singh C/o Kulwant Singh, House No 301 Ward No 8, Near Old Govt Girls School, Gharaunda P. O Gharaunda Distt Karnal Haryana 132114 Have Changed My Name Satender Singh To Satinder Singh. 900010

I. Harnek Singh S/o Gurdiyul Singh, Resident of Village Marauri, Tehsil Samana, District Patiala, I, have changed my name Harnik Singh To Harnek Singh. 50008

I, Jagroop Singh s/o Pargat Singh Village Poonian Patti District Tarn Taran have changed my name from Jagroop Singh to my Surname as Singh and my given name is Jagroop. Plz note it. 50008

I, Tarlochan Singh S/o Ranjit Singh R/o Vill: Dugri Teh-Malerkotla Distt. Malerkotla declare that my son Harmandeep Singh Deol is out of my control. So I disown with him from my moveable/immovable property. If anybody dealing with him at his/her own risk. 63372

I Ram Chand S/o Parkash Chand R/o village: Dera Saidan, Tehsil: Sultanpu Lodi, Distt: Kapurthala, Punjab declare that my daughter Gaganpreet Kaur is out of my control. So I disown with her from my moveable/immovable property. If anybody dealing with her at his/her own Risk. I, my property or my family will not have any responsibility. 63372

I, Chinder kaur am Mother of No. 19006118H Rank NK Name Malkeet Singh R/O House no.137 Ward no.1 Guruhshai Tehsil Guruhshai, District Ferozepur, pin 152022, Punjab, That I have changed my name from Shinder kaur to Chinder kaur & also Changed my date of birth from 01/01/1967 to 01/01/1973 due to wrong mentioned in the service record of my son. 900011

I, Gurkaran Singh S/o Sukhdev Singh R/o Vill: Talwandi Mange Khan Po. Sukhe Wala Teh-Zira Distt. Ferozepur have changed my name from Gurkaran Singh to Gurkaran Singh (Gurkaran as given name and Singh as surname. 63372

I Amninder Singh Mehra S/o Mohan Singh R/o Sunder Nagar, Jaipura Road, Doraha, Teh-Payal (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Amninder Singh. 63372

I, Arshdeep Singh S/o Jaswinder Singh R/o Bulapur Teh-Malerkotla Distt. Sangrur have changed my name to Arshdeep Singh. 63372

I Buta Singh alias Sardul Singh S/o Pritam Singh R/o Vill-Taprian Amar Singh Teh-Chamkaur Sahib Distt Rupnagar Have Changed My Name To Buta Singh. 63372

I, Krish S/o Vinod Bhatti R/o B-16/7 Pandora Mohalla Nawanshahr Po. Nawanshahr Distt. SBS Nagar have changed my name from Krish to Krish Bhatti. 63372

I, Mena W/o Prem Lal R/o Vill: Kang Khurd Teh-Shahkot Distt. Jalandhar have changed my name from Mena to Manjit Kaur. 63372

I, Manjeet Dhillon C/o Vishavpreet Sapra R/o H.No. 132/133/123 Maple Horizon Opp Luxmi Bai Dental College Patiala Distt. Patiala have changed my name to Manjeet Kaur. 63372

I Rustam Samuel Varash S/o Rajak R/o Basti Saun Singh Wali, Gurditi Wala Po. Mallan Wala Khas, Teh-Zira, Distt Ferozepur have changed my name Varis. Please Concerned Note. 63372

I Satwinder Singh S/o Dhram Singh R/o H.No. 2466, Gameshah Mohalla, Machhiwara, Tehsil Samrala (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Satwinder Singh Garcha. 63372

I, Narinder Singh Bhatt S/o Prem Singh R/o #379 W.No. 5 Guru Har Gobind Nagar Near Haripura Basti Sangrur have changed my name to Narinder Singh. 63372

I, Renu Bala W/O Ravinder Kumar R/O Sherpur Tehsil Dhuri District Sangrur Have Changed my Name from Renu Bala to Renu Sharma. Now Known me as my new name Renu Sharma. 63372

I, Amandeep Singh Lehra S/o Jaspal Singh R/o Vill: Rano Po. Maksudra Teh-Payal Distt. Ludhiana have changed my name from Amandeep Singh Lehra to Amandeep Singh. 63372

I, Hanif Mohammad S/o Nasar Ali R/o Village Jafrabad Tehsil & District Malerkotla have change my name to Hanif Mohd. 63372

I, Rohin S/o Jagjeevan Ram R/o Vpo. Ghuman Teh-Banga Distt. SBS Nagar have changed my name from Rothin to Rohin Jhamat. Concerned note. 63372

I, Balvir Kaur W/o Harmesh Singh Village Sajawalpur PO Karawar, Distt SBS Nagar (Nawanshahr) have changed my name from Balvir Kaur to Kaur Balvir Please Note it. 63372

I, Nancy D/o Kartar Chand W/o Amandeep Kalsi R/o Vill-Talwandi Jattan, Po Behram Teh-Banga Distt S.B.S. NAGAR-144504, Pb, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Nancy Kalsi. 63372

I Manpreet kaur Dhillon W/o Jagdeep Singh Samra R/o Falaahgarh (Moga)-142058 have Changed My Name To Manpreet Kaur. 63372

I, Kamlesh Rani W/o Amandeep Kumar Bassi R/o Main Road Gautam Colony Jahangirpur urf Jagirpur PO Basti Jodhewal Distt. Ludhiana have changed my name to Kamlesh Rani to Kamlesh Rani Bassi. 63372

I, Amandeep Kumar S/o Bhagat Bassi R/o Main Road Gautam Colony Jahangirpur urf Jagirpur PO Basti Jodhewal Distt. Ludhiana have changed my name Amandeep Kumar to Amandeep Kumar Bassi. 63372

I, Dharamvir S/o Amandeep Kumar Bassi R/o Main Road Gautam Colony Jahangirpur urf Jagirpur PO Basti Jodhewal Distt. Ludhiana have changed my name Dharamvir to Dharamvir Bassi. 63372

I, Harman Deep S/o Amandeep Kumar Bassi R/o Main Road Gautam Colony Jahangirpur urf Jagirpur PO Basti Jodhewal Distt. Ludhiana have changed my name Harman Deep to Harman Deep Bassi. 63372

I, Simaranjeet Kaur Kambo W/o Arshdeep Singh R/o MCB-Z-5-05534 St.No.10/7 Guru Gobind Singh Nagar Bathinda have changed my name to Simaranjeet Kaur. 63372

I Gagandeep Singh Bhatia S/o Ranjit Singh R/o 9, Barnala Road, Kalgidhar Colony Rampura Phul Bathinda have changed my name from Gagandeep Singh Bhatia to Gagandeep Singh. 63372

I Susila Devi Wo Ram Lubhaya R/O Village Nagra Po Dosanjh Khurd Sub Teh Aur Distt Sbs Nagar 144511 Pb Have Changed My Name From Susila Devi To Sushila Devi. 63372

I Sarbjeet Kaur Sran W/O Gurdas Singh R/O Chauke Distt Bathinda Have Changed My Name To Sarbjeet Kaur. 63372

I Gurdas Singh Sran S/O Mukhtiar Singh R/O Chauke Distt Bathinda Have Changed My Name To Gurdas Singh. 63372

I, Manjot Kaur Sidhu D/o Jagmail Singh R/o Vpo. Raqba Distt Ludhiana Have Changed My Name Manjot Kaur Sidhu to Manjot Kaur. 63372

I, Amit Kumar S/O Rajbir Singh R/O Village Dogra Jat, Distt. Mahendragarh, State Haryana, Pin Code 123021 That I Amit Kumar And Amit Kumar Dhatterwal Are One And Same Person And I Am Known By Both These Names. 63372

I Jagtar Singh Manjit Singh R/O Vii Alipur Po Rurki Khas Teh Garhshankar Distt Hoshiarpur Punjab Have Changed My Name To Singh Jagtar. All Please Note. 63372

I, Hardeep Singh S/o Jasvir R/o Vill: Ramrai Pur Po. Karimpur Teh-Nawanshahr Distt. SBS Nagar-144516 Pb, declared that my given name is Hardeep and surname is Singh. 63372

I, Gurkirpal Singh S/o Guravtar Singh R/o Vill: Sangatpura Distt. Tarn Taran have changed my name to Gurkirpal (given name) Singh (surname) 63372

I, Tarandeep Kaur W/O Gurvir Singh Kooner R/O Kot Gangu Rai (Ludhiana) Changed My Name Kaur Tarandeep. 63372

I, Manisha Satish Goel D/o Sant Ram Singla R/o R-603 Gillco Heights Gillco Valley Kharar Distt. SAS Nagar, Punjab-140301 have changed my name to Manisha Goel. 63372

I, Sandeep S/o Sarbjeet R/o Gujjarpur Colony Surinder Nagar Nawanshahr have changed my name to Sandeep Bahrowal. 63372

I Zia Quareishy W/o Nazir Hassan R/o 45, Mohalla Rose Avenue, Malerkotla Distt. Malerkotla have changed my Name Zia Hassan. 63372

I Babita Sharma W/O Tarsem Lal Vill-Rangian Po. Dehlon Distt. Ludhiana Have Change My Name To Babita Rani. 63372

I, Ramandeep Kaur Grewal W/o Gagandeep Singh Grewal Village Nurpura, Tehsil Amloh District Fatehgarh Sahib (Punjab) changed my Name Ramandeep Kaur. 63372

I, Manjot Kaur Sidhu D/o Jagmail Singh R/o Vpo. Raqba Distt Ludhiana Have Changed My Name Manjot Kaur Sidhu to Manjot Kaur. 63372

I, Jaswinder Kaur Sidhu W/o Gurpreet Singh R/o H.No. 283 Vill: Chak Ram Singh Wala Distt. Bathinda have changed my name to Jaswinder Kaur. 63372

I, Gurpreet Singh S/o Jarnail Singh R/o H.No. 283 Vill: Chak Ram Singh Wala Distt. Bathinda have changed my minor daughter name from Manjot Kaur Sidhu to Manjot Kaur. 63372

I, Gurpreet Singh Sidhu S/o Jarnail Singh R/o H.No. 283 Vill: Chak Ram Singh Wala Distt. Bathinda have changed my name to Gurpreet Singh. 63372

I, Arjun Sharda R/o Anadi Ananta, Pakhowal Road, Villa No. 01, Omaxe Royal Residency, Thakarwal, Distt Ludhiana, have changed my son name from Anant Pratap Sharda to Aadi Anant Pratap Sharda. 63372

I Manjinder Singh S/o Sarbjit Singh R/o Vpo Bharowal Kalan Tehsil Jagraon Distt Ludhiana, Have changed my name to Manjinder Singh Tatla. 63372

I Paramjit Kaur W/o Manjinder Singh Tatla R/o Vpo Bharowal Kalan Tehsil Jagraon Distt Ludhiana, have changed my name to Paramjeet Kaur. 63372

I Balvir Singh S/o Piara Singh R/o Vpo Sidhwan Bet Tehsil Jagraon, Distt Ludhiana have changed my name from Balbir Singh to Balvir Singh. 63372

I, Amarjit Kaur W/o Gurucharan Singh mangat R/o VPO Rampur, Patti Hoshiara, Tehsil payal, District Ludhiana have changed my name to Amarjit Kaur Mangat. 63372

I, Gurucharan Singh S/o Randhir Singh R/o VPO Rampur, Patti Hoshiara, Tehsil Payal, District Ludhiana have changed my name to Gurucharan Singh mangat. 63372

I, Taranjit Singh S/O Gurucharan Singh R/O VPO Rampur, Patti Hoshiara, Tehsil payal, District Ludhiana have changed my name to Taranjit Singh Mangat. 63372

I Kulwant Singh S/O Boota Singh R/O Kotha Guru Teh. Phul Distt. Bathinda Have Changed My Name From Kulwant Singh To Kulwant Singh. 63372

I, Nazira W/O Saukat Ali R/O W.No.2, Bassi Ise Khan Banur (Mohali) Have Changed My Name Nazira To Nazira Begam. 63372

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Large number of objections given regarding voter lists for upcoming Municipal Council elections

KHARAR (SHASHI PAL JAIN): The election activities for the upcoming Kharar Municipal Council elections have intensified and today is the last day for submitting claims and objections regarding the voter lists. According to the information, these claims and objections will be settled by April 30 and the final publication of the voter lists will be done on May 5. Elections in total 27 wards are to be held in Kharar. According to the information, according to the initial publication of these wards by the administration, the number of votes is around 1 lakh 12 thousand. According to the information, there are many objections among the people regarding the new voters who have been entered in the voter lists of various wards. Till date, information has been received regarding the receipt of about two and a half to three thousand claims and objections by the administration. Surprisingly, a large number of colonies have been formed within the limits of Kharar Municipal Council and the population here is generally estimated to be around 3 lakh. This clearly shows that many people have not been able to get themselves included in the voter lists.

CHANDIGARH
FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026

NEWS BRIEF

Shiromani Akali Dal appoints Navneet Gora as Ferozepur urban district President

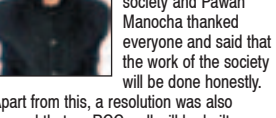


TAPINDER SINGH FEROZEPUR: Shiromani Akali Dal has made an important appointment while announcing the organizational structure within the Ferozepur Urban constituency. This information was shared by the constituency in-charge Sukhpal Singh Nannu. It is noteworthy that Shiromani Akali Dal President Sukhbir Singh Badal has appointed Navneet Kumar Gora as the district president of Ferozepur Urban, accepting Nannu's request. The special thing is that Navneet Kumar Gora has been the president of Ferozepur Urban before this and he is known as an intelligent, honest and popular leader. Today, party workers are reaching Nannu's house and congratulating him.

Pawan Manocha becomes President of Om Enclave Welfare society Kharar

SHASHI PAL JAIN KHARAR: A general meeting was held in Om Enclave Welfare Society in which former President of the society Sanjay Maurya and former Chairman Sunita Thakur, Secretary Sukhdev Singh, General Secretary Gurvinder Singh, Cashier Manju Sharma and Parmod Kumar were present. In the presence of all of them, Pawan Manocha was unanimously elected as the President of the society and Pawan Manocha thanked everyone and said that the work of the society will be done honestly. Apart from this, a resolution was also passed that an RCC wall will be built around the society soon at everyone's expense and the society will be improved soon by arranging new guards.

MLA Jimpa inaugurates road worth Rs 39.67 lakh in Ward 18



DALJEET AJNOHA HOSHIARPUR: In a boost to urban development projects by the Punjab government, a key road in Ward 18 was dedicated to the public today. MLA Bram Shankar Jimpa inaugurated the new road from Purihara Chowk to Gurdwara Sri Jhar Jhor Sahib, constructed at a cost of approximately Rs 39.67 lakh. This will provide better connectivity for local residents. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Bram Shankar Jimpa stated that the Punjab government is continuously working to strengthen basic infrastructure in every ward of the city.

MP Malvinder Singh Kang bats for resumption of trade through Wagah Border to boost North India's economy

SHASHI PAL JAIN KHARAR, APRIL 23

Member of Parliament from Anandpur Sahib, Malvinder Singh Kang, has strongly advocated for the resumption of cross-border trade through the Wagah Border to give a significant boost to the economy of northern states including Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.

Referring to the ongoing transnational trade on the Mumbai-Karachi route, the MP said he has already raised the issue in Parliament and emphasized that traders and producers are eagerly awaiting restoration of trade through Wagah Border, which would provide a major economic fillip. He was interacting with media persons after the inauguration of various development works executed under



the Member of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) funds, amounting to Rs 28.93 lakh, across villages in Kharar on Thursday. The projects inaugurated include Construction of a new classroom at Government Model Smart School, Jandpur (Rs 5 lakh), Installation of an open gym at Abheypur (Rs 3 lakh), Installation of 25 solar lights in Milk village at Rs 2.93 lakh, Construction of a shed near a dargah at Manakpur Sharif (Rs 5 lakh), Installation of 28 floodlights at the stadium in Lubangarh (Rs 5 lakh), Construction of an indoor gym at Sialba (Rs 3 lakh), Development of public parking near Gurdwara Sahib in Barauli village (Rs 2 lakh), Construction of a community centre in Machhipur village (Rs 3 lakh). Responding to a media query, Kang said that the current MPLAD allocation of Rs 5 crore per MP is insufficient to meet the developmental needs of over 1600 villages in the Anandpur Sahib constituency. He added that he, along with other Members of Parliament, has already raised the matter with the Lok Sabha Speaker, seeking an increase in the grant.

Kharar Chemists Association welcomes new Kharar DSP Ishan Singla



SHASHI PAL JAIN KHARAR, APRIL 23

On behalf of the Kharar Chemists Association President Puneet Mandkan and Anil Anand Finance Secretary had the privilege of meeting newly appointed Kharar DSP Ishan Singla.

As per information in a warm and cordial atmosphere, DSP engaged in a meaningful discussion on the current scenario of Chemists profession. He expressed satisfaction in noting that the chemist fraternity of Kharar strictly adheres to ethical practices, par-

ticularly in the dispensing of NRx drugs, while consistently prioritizing patient safety and regulatory compliance. They assured their full cooperation in all circumstances, and he, in turn, assured them of continued support and enhanced coordination in the future.

Samrala police arrest five accused for demanding ransom

GURMINDER SINGH GREWAL KHANNA, APRIL 23

Samrala police claimed to have arrested 5 members of a gang which were involved in demanding 50 lakh as ransom from a local BJP leader with threatening calls. The five arrested includes a woman also along with four male members of the gang.

Stating about it in a press conference DSP Samrala Piratpal Singh gave information that Baljit Singh a Dist level office bearer of BJP informed the police about threats and demanding 50 lakh as ransom.

After information the police officers brought the matter into the notice of SSP Khanna. Dr Darpan AhluWalia and she immediately ordered to form special teams and the teams led by senior officers including SP D Khanna.

DSP D Khanna and DSP Samrala along with SHO Samrala arrested two persons



including a woman named Nirmal Singh and Rani both residents of village Surtapur falling in Chamkaur Sahib police station. As per DSP on the questioning of the above said two persons. Three more members of the Gang including Kaku a resident of Meharwan, Sharif Ali of village Bandewal and Hardeep Singh of village Manjalja. DSP also revealed that these persons were also involved in a firing incident at Payal on April 14. A case under relevant sections was registered in Samrala police station in this regard and the arrested will be presented in a court for further investigation into this matter. SHO Samrala Harwinder Singh was also present at the time of press conference.

Satya Pal Jain completes self-enumeration for Census 2027



CHANDIGARH, APRIL 23

In a significant step towards promoting digital participation in Census 2027, Shri Satya Pal Jain, former Member of Parliament and Additional Solicitor General of India, successfully completed his self-enumeration through the online Census portal today. The process was facilitated by Ms. Akriti Pandey, Deputy Director & Head of Office and Shri Sonam Chhering, Assistant Director (T), Directorate of Cen-

sus Operations, UT Chandigarh. By undertaking self-enumeration, Shri Jain highlighted the ease, convenience and importance of this citizen-centric digital initiative. His participation sets an encouraging example for citizens to actively engage in the Census process. The self-enumeration facility enables individuals to submit their details online, ensuring improved accuracy, transparency and efficiency in data collection for better policy planning.

Major crackdown on drug trafficking by Sardulgarh police: 255 grams heroin seized



KULWINDER KARWAL SARDULGARH, APR 23

In a significant breakthrough under the Punjab Government's ongoing anti-drug campaign "War Against Drugs," the Punjab Police in Sardulgarh, district Mansa, has arrested four individuals in separate operations and seized a substantial quantity of narcotics. Addressing a press conference, DSP Manjit Singh stated that during routine checking on the Jorkian-Surtiya road, a police team from Jorkian police station intercepted a luxury Mercedes-Benz car bearing a Uttar Pradesh registration number. Two oc-

cupants, identified as Lovdeep Singh alias Deepak (resident of Attari) and Shamsher Singh alias Shera (resident of Narayangarh, Chheharta), were apprehended with 255 grams of heroin. A case has been registered against both accused under the NDPS Act, and further investigation is underway. Police officials revealed that both individuals have prior involvement in drug trafficking cases. In a separate operation, Sardulgarh police arrested Pappu Singh (resident of Ward No. 8, Sardulgarh) near the Ghaggar River area during patrolling and recovered 20 intoxicant tablets of Tramadol from his possession.

KVK, Kheri organises vocational training course on 'Poultry farming'



SANGRUR (SUSHIL GOYAL): The Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Kheri (Sangrur), under the aegis of Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana, organised a seven-day vocational training course on 'Poultry farming' from April 15 to April 21 in its premises at Kheri. In this programme, 32 farmers, farm women and rural youth of different villages of Sangrur, Malerkotla and Patiala districts took part. Dr Mandeep Singh, in charge (Training), KVK, Kheri (Sangrur), interacted with the trainees and enlightened them about the importance of poultry farming as a subsidiary occupation in agriculture. He encouraged the participants to adopt poultry farming as an allied business on the scientific lines for generating more farm income and employment. Dr. Ajay Singh, Assistant Professor (Animal Science), acted as coordinator of the training course and provided information on various aspects of the poultry farming, including the breeds of poultry, selection of hatchery and chicks, care and management of day-old chicks, broiler and layer birds, selection of site, housing management, water management, feed preparation and record keeping etc.

MRSPTU civil engineering students gain practical exposure during field visit to Central University of Punjab site



BATHINDA (ANANTDEEP KAUR): The Department of Civil Engineering at Giani Zail Singh Campus College of Engineering & Technology, Maharaja Ranjit Singh Punjab Technical University (MRSPTU), Bathinda, successfully organized an educational field visit for 4th semester students (Batch 2024), reinforcing its commitment to experiential learning. The visit was conducted at the construction site of the Central University of Punjab, located at Village Ghudda, District Bathinda, with the objective of providing students hands-on exposure to real-world construction practices, site management, and modern engineering techniques. A large number of students participated under the guidance and supervision of faculty members Dr. Manjit Bansal (Professor), Dr. Bal Krishan (Professor), Er. Jaspreet Singh (Assistant Professor), and Er. Harpartap Singh (Assistant Professor). During the visit, students closely observed key aspects of construction, including structural work and execution techniques, site safety measures and protocols, the use of modern construction equipment.

Earth Day celebration at Angel Public Smart School, Behlana, Chandigarh



CHANDIGARH: Earth Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Angel Public Smart School, Behlana, focusing on environmental conservation and awareness. The program began with an address by the School Chairman, Mr. Devinder Singh Arora, who spoke to the students about the importance of the Earth and the need to protect the environment. He emphasized that the Earth is like our mother and it is our collective responsibility to keep it clean and safe. To mark the occasion, students took part in tree plantation, poster making, and slogan writing competitions. Through slogans like "Save Trees, Save Earth" and "Plastic-Free Earth," students spread the message of environmental protection. Students also planted saplings within the school premises, pledging to contribute to a greener future. Teachers educated the students on practical aspects of water conservation, energy saving, waste management, and reducing plastic usage. They highlighted that small daily habits can make a big difference in keeping the Earth healthy and green. The Principal extended Earth Day greetings to all students and said that a sense of environmental responsibility should be developed from childhood itself.

High Court seeks responses on regularisation of MGNREGA employees

CHANDIGARH: The issue of regularisation of MGNREGA employees came up for hearing before the Punjab and Haryana High Court in the matter titled Baljeet Singh & Others vs State of Haryana & Others (CWP-38079-2025 and connected cases). The case was heard by the bench of Justice Sandeep Moudgil. The petition pertains to employees across Haryana who have been working on a contractual basis for more than 10 years.

A group of advocates representing the petitioners placed arguments concerning service conditions and long-term contractual engagement before the court. During the proceedings, it was argued that if employees meet the prescribed qualifications and due process requirements, their service rights merit consideration. References were also made to various judgments of the Supreme Court of India in support of the submissions. On behalf of the state government, the Additional Advocate General informed the court that compliance with the earlier order dated March 17, 2026 had been completed, including deposit of the cost amount, and a receipt to this effect was taken on record. The court also took note of an affidavit filed by the concerned department. The Additional Solicitor General, representing the central government, sought time to obtain instructions, which was granted by the court. The matter has now been listed for the next hearing on May 15, 2026. The case remains under consideration, and further proceedings will depend on responses and records submitted by all parties concerned.

Sri Guru Granth Sahib World University marks World Book day with release of two English literature books



FATEHGARH SAHIB (AJAY MALHOTRA): Sri Guru Granth Sahib World University celebrated World Book and Copyright Day with the release of two scholarly books by its Department of English, reaffirming its commitment to literary research and academic excellence. The day, designated by UNESCO, promotes reading and publishing while commemorating literary icons like William Shakespeare and Miguel de Cervantes. The books—"Shakespearean Souls, Twittering Tongues," edited by Dr. Ankdeep Kaur Attwal and Dr. Baljeet Kaur, and "Beyond Boundaries: Interdisciplinary Dialogue in Literary Studies," co-edited by Dr. Ankdeep Kaur Attwal, Dr. Baljeet Kaur and Jaspreet Kaur—were released by Vice-Chancellor Prit Pal Singh Dhillon. While the first explores Shakespearean studies in the digital age, the second presents interdisciplinary perspectives in literary scholarship. The event was attended by senior academicians including Prof. (Dr.) Sukhwinder Singh Billing, Dr. Sikander Singh and Dr. Hardev Singh, who appreciated the editors' contributions and emphasized research-driven learning.

ADG NCC, confers LoA to senior secretariat assistant, Mamta Rani



CHANDIGARH (SUMER GARG): Major General Bharat Mahani, Additional Director General (ADG), National Cadet Corps (NCC), today felicitated Senior Secretariat Assistant Smt. Mamta Rani with a Letter of Appreciation (LoA) for her distinguished services at a ceremony held at NCC headquarters. Mamta Rani was honoured for her exceptional dedication, diligence, and outstanding contribution to the organization. She has set a high benchmark of discipline, leadership, and service throughout her tenure. Her significant role in various administrative functions and events has been invaluable in furthering NCC's objectives. On the occasion, Maj Gen Mahani also felicitated the winners of the Hindi Competition. Mr. Kishan Dhakal, Shri Sandeep Kumar, Mr. Kamal Kumar, Mr. Dinesh Singh, Mr. Hari Sharma, Ms. Veena Rani, Mr. Mohit Rohaj, Mr. Gora, Ms. Monika Kondal, Mr. Lovepreet Singh, Mr. Balwinder Singh, Shri Neeraj Hooda and Havaladar Bablu were awarded cash incentives.

Sunny Malik expresses concern over shortage of jute bags in grain mandis



LUDHIANA (SARBJIT SUFI): BJP Kisan Morcha Punjab Secretary Sunny Malik visited the grain markets and took stock of the situation. He expressed concern over the serious irregularities being found in many markets, including the one located behind Arora Palace on Gill Road, and the difficulties being faced by the farmers. Sunny Malik said that in the market located behind Arora Palace on Gill Road, where farmers and brokers do their daily work, trucks loaded with cement are parked, which is spoiling the atmosphere of the market and causing major disruption in traffic. He termed it as a major negligence of the market management and said that this issue should be resolved immediately. Farmers are facing huge problems due to shortage of jute bags in mandis and in other markets of the district.

Retail Karyana Merchants Association to support candidates who protect interests of traders in upcoming MC and council poll

KHARAR (SHASHI PAL JAIN): Several former councilors of Kharar Municipal Council and candidates aspiring to contest the upcoming elections met a delegation of Retail Karyana Merchants Association Kharar and requested for the association's support. During this meeting, the association officials clearly said that so far only false and empty promises have been made in the name of protecting the interests of traders. They said that till date no councilor or public representative has shown seriousness on small but important issues related to traders - like parking, occupancy, lighting, beautification and security. They said that no councilor or public representative has stood firmly with any trader. The association also clarified that this time support will be given only to those candidates who present concrete action plans on the issues of traders and demonstrate commitment to implement them at the ground level.

HPV vaccine essential for girls aged 14-15 to prevent cervical cancer: Deputy Commissioner

HOSHIARPUR (DALJEET AJNOHA): Deputy Commissioner Ashika Jain emphasised that it is crucial for girls aged 14-15 to receive the HPV vaccine, as it serves as an effective shield against serious diseases like cervical cancer. She informed that the vaccine is available free of cost at all government hospitals in the district, urging parents to ensure timely vaccination for their daughters. The Deputy Commissioner stated that cervical cancer is a major disease among women, primarily caused by human papillomavirus (HPV) infection. Administering the HPV vaccine at the age of 14-15 can significantly reduce the risk of this disease in the future.

GGs Public School celebrates its 58th annual day

SANGRUR (SUSHIL GOYAL): General Gurnam Singh (GGs) Public School, Sangrur, today celebrated its 58th annual day in its premises here. An alumni of the school Dr Hitinder Kaur Sohal, Director, Health and Family Welfare, Punjab, was the chief guest on the occasion.



The chief guest was accorded a melodious welcome with a sitar recital which set a graceful tone for the programme. The school orchestra also enthralled the gathering with a harmonious performance.

On the occasion, prizes were distributed among meritorious students for their excellent performance in academics, sports and co-curricular activities. The cultural segment began with a classical dance performance, followed by a soulful interlude – a Hindi song. The audience was then treated to a thought-provoking Hindi play highlighting the drug addiction problem. The English play 'The Dear Departed' was enacted. Bhangra was also performed.

GAURAV GOEL
CHANDIGARH, APRIL 23

In a significant move to support the Punjab's essential grassroots healthcare workforce, Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, operating in his capacity as the Chairman of the Cabinet Sub-Committee constituted to resolve employee issues, on Thursday directed the Health and Family Welfare Department to officially write to the Union Government advocating for a necessary increase in the incentives provided to Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers and facilitators.

The Finance Minister emphasised that the Union Government must be urged to enhance these payments under the existing scheme, which functions on a 60:40 financial ratio between the Centre and the State.

Chairing the meetings with delegations from various employee organisations, including the ASHA Workers Facilitators Sanjha Morcha, the Powercom And Transco Theka Mulazam Union, and the Punjab Police Corona



Warriors, the Finance Minister Cheema also directed the Punjab State Power Corporation Ltd (PSPCL) and the Punjab State Transmission Corporation Limited (PSTCL) to frame a concrete policy to resolve demands of the Powercom And Transco Theka Mulazam Union.

Expanding on the financial relief sought for the ASHA Workers Facilitators Sanjha Morcha, Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema prioritised the immediate social security of these workers. Issuing directions, he said, "The Health and Family Welfare Department has been instructed to

establish an agreement with a banking institution to ensure life insurance coverage for all ASHA workers and facilitators."

He further said, "Any legitimate demands raised by the union that can be resolved directly at the departmental level must be addressed without delay through prompt administrative meetings and decisive action."

Addressing the concerns of the state's power sector workforce, Minister Harpal Singh Cheema held an in-depth meeting with the Powercom and Transco Theka Mulazam Union.

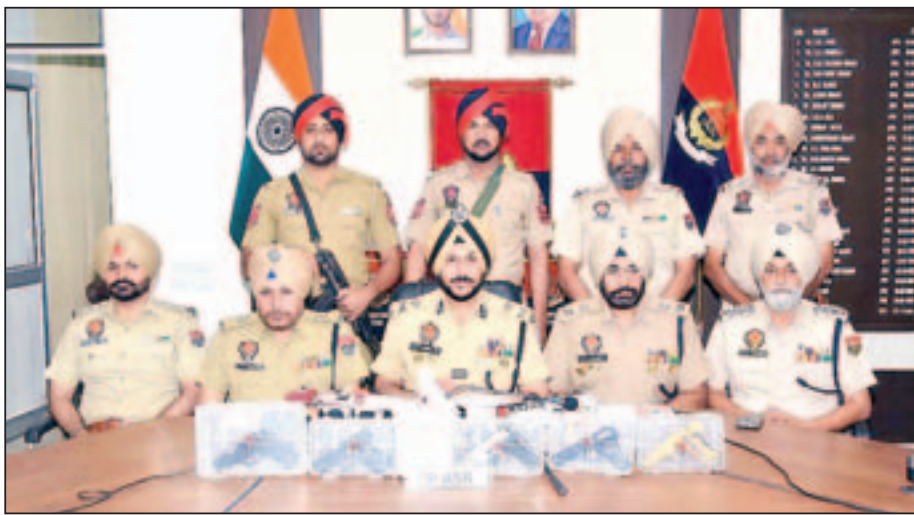
Smuggling module busted in Amritsar; three held with 900gms ice, 5 pistols

CHARANJIT SINGH ARORA
AMRITSAR, APRIL 23

In a major breakthrough amidst the ongoing drive to make Punjab a safe and secure state as per directions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, Amritsar Commissionerate Police has busted a cross-border drug and arms smuggling module with the arrest of three accused, and recovered 915 grams ICE (Methamphetamine), five sophisticated pistols from their possession, said Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav here on Thursday.

Those arrested have been identified as Sukhwinder Singh alias Sukha (21), Sola Singh alias Sonu (29) and Karan Singh (22), all residents of village Sahanke in Ferozepur. The recovered pistols include two 9MM Glock and three .30 bore pistols along with two live cartridges.

DGP Gaurav Yadav said that preliminary investigation has revealed that the arrested accused were in contact with Pakistan-based smugglers through social media platforms and were receiving con-



trabands through drones from across the border. Accused were acting as local handlers for the distribution of drugs and illegal arms, he said. The DGP said that further investigation is underway to trace forward and backward linkages in this case to dismantle the entire network. Sharing operational details, Commissioner of Police (CP) Amritsar Gurpreet Singh Bhullar said that in a targeted operation

based on secret information, police teams arrested suspects Sukhwinder Singh alias Sukha, Sola Singh alias Sonu and Karan Singh.

During the operation, one .30 bore pistol was initially recovered, he said, while adding that on their disclosure, 915 grams of ICE and four additional pistols were recovered from their possession. The CP said that probe has revealed that consignment of drugs and

weapons were dropped in densely forested areas of the Ferozepur sector. The accused used to retrieve these consignments from such locations and further supply them to different areas, he added. In this regard, a case FIR no. 105 dated 15-04-2026 under section 22-C of the NDPS Act and sections 25 (6, 7(iii) and 8) of the Arms Act has been registered at Police Station Gate Hakima in Amritsar.

Cheema directs health department to approach union govt for increasing incentives of ASHA workers

GAURAV GOEL
CHANDIGARH, APRIL 23

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Government releases Rs.35.50 crore for dependent children

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 23

Reaffirming the Punjab Government's commitment to the welfare and holistic development of dependent and vulnerable children, Minister for Social Security, Women and Child Development, Dr. Baljit Kaur, announced the release of Rs.35.50 crore as financial assistance for the month of March during the financial year 2026-27. The assistance will directly benefit over 2.36 lakh children across the State.

Highlighting the Government's sustained focus on child welfare, the Minister informed that a budget provision of Rs.432.78 crore has been earmarked for the financial year 2026-27 to ensure uninterrupted financial support to eligible beneficiaries. Providing further details, Dr. Baljit Kaur stated that a large number of dependent children are currently benefiting under the scheme. She emphasized that the objective of this assistance



is to support children's education, healthcare and overall development, ensuring that no child is deprived of a secure future due to financial hardship.

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, the Punjab Government continues to implement people-centric and compassionate welfare initiatives. The Minister said that extending financial support to de-

pendent children is not merely a welfare measure, but a sensitive and significant step towards securing their future. She further elaborated that the scheme covers children below 21 years of age whose parents have passed away, are missing, or are unable to support the family due to physical or mental incapacity. The financial assistance enables such children to continue their education and improve their standard of living. Reiterating the Government's commitment, Dr. Baljit Kaur said that continuous efforts are being made to strengthen social security schemes and ensure the care, protection and holistic development of every child belonging to vulnerable sections of society.

She added that the Government's objective is to build a safe, inclusive and progressive Punjab, where every child gets equal opportunities to grow and shape a better future.

No laxity will be tolerated in welfare of ex-servicemen: Mohinder Bhagat



CHANDIGARH, APRIL 23

Punjab Defence Services Welfare Minister Mr. Mohinder Bhagat today directed the officials of the Defence Services Welfare Department to prepare a detailed and comprehensive list of all pending cases related to ex-servicemen and their families.

Issuing strict directions to the officers, the Minister stated that no laxity in welfare-related works pertaining to ex-servicemen and their families will be tolerated.

Mr. Bhagat emphasized that the status of each case must be clearly and accurately recorded in the list to ensure faster, more efficient and

fully transparent disposal of pending matters. He said that the Punjab Government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, is fully committed to the welfare of ex-servicemen and their families and is taking all necessary steps in this direction.

The Minister added that recruitment against departmental vacancies and budget-related matters are being expedited on a priority basis. He further said that the Punjab Government holds deep respect and gratitude for ex-servicemen and the brave soldiers who have served and sacrificed their lives for the nation.

Special honor to Sandhwan for implementing anti-sacrilege law



CHANDIGARH: Head Sewadar of Nihang Singh, Baba Kulwant Singh Chanakya of Gurdwara Sahib Patshahi Dasvin Kotkapura today honoured Speaker Punjab Vidhan Sabha S. Kular Singh Sandhwan at Kotkapura and said that due to the sincere efforts of Bhagwant Singh Mann, Chief Minister of Punjab and Speaker Punjab Vidhan Sabha S. Kular Singh Sandhwan, The Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Bill 2026 came into force thereby Sangat across the globe are rejoicing.

After recitation of Sukhmani Sahib, Nitem Banis, Ardas and the holy Hukamnama, Baba Kulwant Singh Chanakya said that Speaker Sandhwan's clean image and humble nature impress everyone.

Speaker Sandhwan thanked the entire Sangat including Jathedar Baba Kulwant Singh Chanakya and said that all this has been accomplished only with the cooperation of the Sangat and the blessings of Guru Ji.

He claimed that this work could not be done by the leaders of various traditional parties and representatives of influential organisations despite being in power. Now they are trying to create confusion among the society with baseless and unnecessary statements.

Government's support will continue to eradicate drugs: Gagandeep Singh



SULTANPUR LODHI (ARVIND PATHAK): Anti-Drug Club Chairman Dr. Gagandeep Singh met Punjab Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kular Singh Sandhwan on the occasion of Anti-Drug Club Chairman Dr. Gagandeep Singh. On this occasion, Kular Singh Sandhwan and Dr. Gagandeep Singh discussed the law passed by the Punjab government in the Vidhan Sabha against the sacrilege of Sahib Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji.

During this, Chairman Dr. Gagandeep Singh said that drugs have become a very serious problem in Punjab and the young generation was rapidly falling into the clutches of this serious threat. In the war against drugs being waged by the Punjab government, the Anti-Drug Club is making special efforts to pull the young generation out of this quagmire and will continue to do so. He said that the problem of drugs is not limited to Punjab alone but has become a big challenge for the entire country. We all have to unite and fight against drugs and save our young generation.

English Language Day celebrated at Shivalik Kids School, Jaito



RAGHU NANDAN PRASHAR
JAITO, APRIL 23

Shivalik Kids School, Jaito celebrated English Language Day with great enthusiasm and educational spirit. The day also marked the birth and death anniversary of the father of English literature, William Shakespeare, and a special assembly was organized to honor his immense contribution to literature. The highlight of the program was a wonderful stage performance by the students of Class 8th, who pre-

sented Shakespeare's famous concept of the "Seven Stages of Life" in a dramatic and expressive manner. Their performance was appreciated by everyone present. Adding to the charm of the celebration, Pihu, a student of Class 5th, sang a beautiful English song which captivated the audience. The program was conducted under the guidance of English teacher Ms. Navjot Bansal, who also delivered an insightful speech highlighting the importance of English Language Day.

Sangrur gears up for civil defence Air raid & blackout mock drill today

SUMER GARG
SANGRUR, APRIL 23

Deputy Commissioner Sangrur, Rahul Chaba, today convened a comprehensive meeting with officials from the Army, Police, Home Guards, Health Department, PSPCL, and other concerned departments in view of the first Civil Defence Air Raid and Blackout Mock Exercise scheduled to be conducted on April 24, 2026, from 8:00 PM onwards in Sangrur city.

Chairing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner clarified that the exercise is purely a mock drill aimed at assessing preparedness and response mechanisms in case of any emergency situation. He urged residents not to panic and to refrain from spreading or believing in rumours. Rahul Chaba directed all departments to re-



main fully prepared and ensure effective coordination during the drill, particularly for scenarios involving air raids and blackout situations. He informed that the electricity supply in Sangrur city will be switched off at 8:00 PM only for 15 minutes, while the main mock exercise activities will be conducted in the local Army area. Highlighting the importance of such initiatives, the Deputy Commissioner stated that, as per the guidelines of

the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, such mock drills will be conducted twice a year. This will be the first drill involving coordinated participation from multiple departments including Police, Army, Fire Services, Health, Power, and Civil Defence agencies. The Deputy Commissioner appealed to the public to strictly adhere to all advisories issued during the blackout to ensure safety and maintain public order.

NEWS BRIEF

Punjab govt takes Rs 2,800 crore loan in 20 days

VERMA
GURDASPUR: The Punjab government is continuously seen struggling under a heavy debt burden, as it keeps raising fresh loans at regular intervals. In the latest development, the state government initiated the process of raising a new loan of Rs 1,300 crore from the market on April 21. Earlier, on April 2, the government had already taken a loan of Rs 1,500 crore. In this way, the government has borrowed a total of Rs 2,800 crore within just 20 days. Expressing strong concern over the issue, former District Congress President Sanjeev Bains stated that this loan is being raised through government bonds in the open market via banks. The tenure of this loan will be 12 years, and the interest rate will be determined based on prevailing market conditions.

Doaba Public school student Yanvi tops class 10 CBSE exams with 99%



DALJEET AJNOHA
HOSHARPUR: Yanvi, a student of Doaba Public School, Parawal, has brought glory to the region by securing 99% marks in the CBSE Class 10 results declared recently. Residents of her native village Dallival gathered at Yanvi's home to congratulate her on the outstanding achievement. Yanvi's father, Sanjeev Kumar, and mother, Savita Rani, expressed their joy, stating that Yanvi has always been diligent in her studies and consistently topped her class with excellent scores. Villagers Pankaj Jaswal, Sanjeev Kochhar, and Jyoti Wala extended their congratulations to the entire family and wished Yanvi a bright future.

Earth Day celebrated with enthusiasm at DPS Khanna



AMRISH ANAND
DORAH: Earth Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the primary wing of Delhi Public School, Khanna. The young students participated in a variety of engaging and meaningful activities aimed at helping them understand the importance of caring for the Earth and protecting the environment. The children explored nature using their activity kits and collected pebbles, leaves, and feathers, fostering a closer connection with their surroundings. They also showcased their creativity through paper tearing and leaf painting activities. As part of the celebration, students planted saplings in the school garden and pledged to take care of them. Nursery students spread awareness by taking out a rally with slogans such as "Save Trees, Plant More Trees," while prep students enjoyed making seed bombs and participated in planting activities. The students proudly took their planted saplings home and also engaged in Earth Day-themed craft work. In addition, a special assembly was conducted by students of Classes VI to XII to mark the occasion. The programme included a prayer, poem, song, speech, and a role play, all focusing on the importance of protecting the Earth and adopting eco-friendly practices. The assembly concluded with a pledge and the national anthem, inspiring everyone to contribute towards a greener future. The event reflected the school's commitment to promoting environmental awareness and responsible citizenship.

Seminar on topic of narrative of women empowerment by Center for women studies



PATIALA (TAPINDER SINGH): A special seminar on the topic of narrative of women empowerment was organized by the Center for Women Studies of Punjabi University. During the seminar, various women speakers shared their life stories of struggle and success. The seminar was chaired by Vice-Chancellor Dr. Jagdeep Singh. In his presidential address, he said that the society needs to change its perspective towards persons with special needs. Instead of pitying them, we should be sensitive to their feelings and needs. He said that the life stories of such speakers teach us that human will is greater than any physical or social obstacle. He assured that the university is committed to creating such an environment where women of all classes and persons with special needs can make their mark with dignity and respect. During the seminar, State Awardee and Padma Shri Nominee Dr. Anupama Gupta and Professor of Entrepreneurship, TEDx Speaker and Expert Founder 'Drive on My Own' Dr. Anita Sharma shared their experiences.

Police bust international drug network drug smuggler arrested with over half kilogram of heroin: SSP

JAITO (RAGHU NANDAN PRASHAR): Under the 'War on Drugs' campaign launched to make Punjab a drug-free state, and under the leadership of Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab, Shri Gaurav Yadav, the Faridkot Police have achieved another major breakthrough against drug smuggling networks. They have busted a major drug network with international links and have arrested one accused individual, seizing 512 grams of heroin in the process.

This information was provided by the SSP of Faridkot, Dr. Pragna Jain. The arrested accused has been identified as Gurmeet Singh alias Mitu, son of Joginder Singh, a resident of village Kamale Wala in the Ferozepur district. During this operation, the police team also seized a Venue car along with the heroin. SSP Dr. Pragna Jain stated that preliminary investigations have revealed that the arrested accused was in direct contact with a kingpin based abroad, acting as a local handler for him and supplying drug consignments within the area. She added that the Faridkot Police are conducting a comprehensive investigation into the accused's network, accomplices, and supply links to ensure the complete dismantling of this drug gang.



8th "Question Fortnight" in aganwadi centers of Faridkot district concludes



JAITU (JAGDEEP SINGH GILL): As per the guidelines of the Social Security and Women and Child Development Department, Punjab, the concluding ceremony of "8th Pashan Pakhwada" was celebrated with great enthusiasm and joy in all the Anganwadi centers of the district under the leadership of Mrs. Ratandeep Sandhu, District Program Officer, in Faridkot district. During this ceremony, community participation and active involvement of Panchayats were specially encouraged. Various awareness activities were organized with the aim of further strengthening the services being provided through Anganwadi centers. Cultural performances like Bhangra and Gidha added to the excitement and engaged the audience with messages related to pregnancy and health. Apart from this, Anganwadi workers went door to door (home visit) to impart information about pregnancy to mothers and families of children and special initiatives were also taken to promote toys, learning materials and infrastructure for children in Anganwadi centres, so that the all-round development of children could be ensured.

Earth Day celebrated at Tandon International School



BARNALA (BALWINDER AZAD): 'Earth Day' was celebrated with great enthusiasm today at Tandon International School, a famous educational institution of the area. On this occasion, a poster making activity was organized for the students in the school, in which the children prepared beautiful and creative posters related to environment protection. The children gave messages like "Save Earth", "Plant Trees", "Water Save" and "Save Plastic" through their posters. This activity increased the students' creativity and made them more aware of the environment. On the occasion of Earth Day, the children were also taken to the plant nursery, where they were given information about different types of plants. The tour provided a unique opportunity for the children to connect with nature. The teachers told the students about the importance of 'Earth Day' and inspired them to take small steps to protect the environment in their daily life. An awareness rally was also taken out by the students of the school on this occasion.

SHANTI GAUTAM BADDI: District Magistrate of Solan, Manmohan Sharma, has imposed an immediate ban on all mining-related activities during night hours in the Baddi-Barotiwala-Nalagarh (BBN) region of Himachal Pradesh. The order applies to areas under Police Stations Barotiwala, Baddi, Manpura, and Nalagarh, and has been issued under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023. As per the

directive, all activities including excavation, transportation of mining materials, and movement of vehicles involved in mining operations are strictly prohibited between 7:00 PM and 7:00 AM. The restriction will remain in force only during these night hours. The order will be effective for a period of two months from the date of issuance, or until further review, modification, or earlier withdrawal depending on the situation.

CHANDIGARH
FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026

NEWS BRIEF

State level fencing competition to be held on May 3

AVINASH CHAUHAN
AMB: The Under-17 (Cadet) State-Level Fencing Competition will be held on May 3, 2026, in the courtyard of the Shani Dev Temple located in Sunhet, Tehsil Dehra, District Kangra. Players from various districts of Himachal Pradesh—Shimla, Kullu, Mandi, Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kangra, Una, Solan, etc.—will participate in this competition. The players who perform well in the competition will represent Himachal Pradesh in the National Fencing Competition to be held in Rudrapur, Uttarakhand from 23 May 2026. While giving information, President of Himachal Pradesh Fencing Association, Shadial Goswami said that the association is continuously making efforts to promote the sport of fencing in the state and is also organizing training camps in various districts. Association General Secretary Atul Thakur stated that all preparations for the competition have been completed. He requested all district units to submit their team entries by 5 pm on May 1, 2026, after which no entries will be accepted.

State amends rules to ensure timely disbursement of Social Security Pensions

DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA, APR 23

The present state government has sanctioned 99,799 new social security pension cases over the past three years, taking the total number of beneficiaries in the state to 8,41,917. These beneficiaries include senior citizens, widows, single women and Divyaangians covered under various categories.

Out of the total beneficiaries, 1,04,740 are receiving the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension, 5,04,253 the State Old Age Pension, 25,414 the Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension, 1,26,808 the widow, destitute and single woman pension, 1,340 the Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension and 78,291 the



Disability Relief Allowance.

Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu stated today that 41,799 new cases of social security pension were approved during the financial year 2023-24, 41,012 in 2024-25 and 16,988 new cases in 2025-26. He further said that the state government has recently approved amendments to the social security pension rules to ensure timely disbursement of

pensions. Reiterating the government's commitment to the welfare of vulnerable sections of society, he said that a monthly pension of Rs. 1,500 is being provided to 2,67,040 women up to the age of 69 years under the scheme. He said that the State currently has 5,04,253 old-age pensioners, 1,26,808 widows, destitute and single women beneficiaries, 78,291 recipients under the disability relief allowance, 1,021 beneficiaries receiving rehabilitation allowance for leprosy and 50 transgender pensioners. Sukhu further said that the state government has decided to enhance the social security pension for persons with 100 percent disability from Rs. 1,700 to Rs. 3,000 per month, benefiting around 7,000 individuals. He said that

one of the most significant reforms undertaken by the state government have been the removal of the income ceiling and the requirement of gram sabha approval for widowed, deserted and single women, as well as for persons with 40-69 percent disability seeking social security pensions. This measure has significantly simplified access to pensions and reduced procedural hurdles, particularly for women and persons with disabilities who often face challenges in navigating administrative processes. The Chief Minister said, 'Good governance requires a good government. The present state government is ensuring that the weakest sections of society receive their rightful share of the state's resources.'

Dy CM lays foundation stone for PHC in Baliwal

KISHORI LAL BAINS UNA, APR 23

Himachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri laid the foundation stone for a Primary Health Centre (PHC) at Baliwal in the Haroli Assembly Constituency, to be constructed at a cost of Rs. 1.34 crore. The project aims to strengthen healthcare infrastructure in rural areas and provide accessible medical services to thousands of residents in nearby villages. Addressing the gathering, Agnihotri said the state government is committed to improving healthcare facilities, especially in rural regions, so that people can receive timely treatment without traveling long distances. He added that Haroli, once lacking basic health services, has now emerged as a model for healthcare development.



He highlighted that the 100-bed Civil Hospital in Haroli is equipped with specialist services including pediatrics, gynecology, orthopedics, medicine, anaesthesia, dermatology, surgery, and microbiology, along with modern facilities such as ultrasound and X-ray. The Deputy CM also mentioned that a Community Health Centre (CHC) at Beetan, built at a cost of Rs. 3.69 crore, has recently been inaugurated, while a PHC at

Kutharbeet, constructed at Rs. 1.02 crore, has already been dedicated to the public. He further informed that construction of another PHC at Saloh, costing Rs. 1.17 crore, is underway and will further strengthen healthcare services in the region. Agnihotri reiterated the government's focus on overall development, including health, education, roads, and drinking water, with the goal of ensuring better facilities at people's doorsteps.

Civic Polls: Polling stations officially notified across all wards

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY BILASPUR:

In a key step toward ensuring smooth and transparent civic elections, polling stations for the 2026 General Elections of Nagar Parishad Bilaspur have been officially notified under the directives of the State Election Commission Himachal Pradesh. As per the notification issued by the Returning Officer and SDM Bilaspur Sadar Dr Rajdeep Singh Khera, a comprehensive network of polling stations has been strategically designated across all wards to facilitate convenient and orderly voting. Prominent institutions including Government Senior Secondary Schools (Girls and Boys), Government Primary Schools in Raura, Diara, and Lakhampur, along with key public establishments such as Kisan Bhawan, Degree College, and M.C. Rest House, will serve as polling venues for their respective wards. The arrangement reflects a well-planned approach aimed at maximizing accessibility for voters while maintaining administrative efficiency. Each ward has been assigned a clearly identified polling location, ensuring streamlined electoral participation for residents across the town. Further strengthening the election framework, the Community Hall within the Nagar Parishad Office has been designated as the official counting centre, while Room No. 1 of the Rain Basera (Night Shelter) has been earmarked as the secure strong room for safeguarding election materials.



Delegation of taxi and truck operators calls on CM



DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA, APR 23

A delegation of taxi and truck operator's unions from Kangra district met Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today at Kangra Airport and apprised him about various demands. The Chief Minister listened carefully to the issues and demands raised by the union representatives and assured them to consider their genuine demands sympathetically. The delegation requested that the manual fitness testing facilities for commercial vehicles should also be made available in Kangra district through the RTO and MVI for the time being. On this occasion, Deputy Chief Whip Kewal Singh Pathania said that, keeping in view the difficulties of hilly states, the matter has also been raised with the Central Government. Office bearers from various operator's unions were also present on the occasion.

BJP Mahila Morcha's 'Jan Aakrosh Padyatra' in Shimla targets Congress over women's reservation

DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA, APR 23

The BJP Mahila Morcha organized a "Jan Aakrosh Mahila Padyatra" at Chaura Maidan in Shimla, drawing a large number of women from across Himachal Pradesh. The rally was positioned as a demonstration in support of women's rights, dignity, and greater participation in governance.

The event was led by State President Daisy Thakur and attended by BJP State President Dr. Rajeev Bindal, Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur, State In-charge Shrikant Sharma, and Co-Incharge Sanjay Tandon. Addressing the gathering, BJP leaders strongly criticized the Congress over the Women's Reservation Bill. State General Secretary



Payal Vaidya alleged that the proposed legislation, aimed at providing 33% reservation for women, was obstructed for political reasons. She also questioned Congress' commitment to women's empowerment, referring to past campaign slogans. Daisy Thakur described the failure of the Bill as a

setback for women's political representation and accused the Congress of treating women as vote banks rather than ensuring meaningful empowerment. State Vice President Rashmi Dhar Sood said that opposition parties, including Congress, Samajwadi Party, and Trinamool Congress,

had undermined women's aspirations for equitable participation in governance. MLA Reena Kashyap alleged administrative hurdles during the rally, claiming that buses carrying women participants were delayed or stopped. She termed it an attempt to limit participation, though the large turnout reflected continued support.

Dr. Rajeev Bindal stated that blocking the Bill was a "betrayal" of women and added that promises made by the state government, including financial assistance to women, remain unfulfilled. Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur said the rally reflects growing political awareness among women and signals a shift in public sentiment.

46 NSS volunteers awarded certificates at Dehlan School in Una



KISHORI LAL BAINS UNA:

Certificates were distributed to 46 volunteers of the National Service Scheme (NSS) at Government Senior Secondary School, Dehlan, during a special event was organized on the school campus. The event was graced by Principal Rakesh Jaswal, who attended as the chief guest. NSS Programme Officer Vijay Bhardwaj appreciated the dedication and efforts of the volunteers, stating that NSS plays a vital role in developing a spirit of social service, discipline, and leadership among students. He encouraged the volunteers to continue contributing actively to community service in the future. Addressing the gathering, Principal Rakesh Jaswal highlighted the importance of NSS in shaping responsible citizens and congratulated all the students who received certificates. He also extended his best wishes for their bright future. Members of the school staff, including Aarti Sharma, Amit Kumar, Jamaal Singh, and Nishant Mannan, were also present on the occasion. The program concluded with a vote of thanks.

BJP intensifies attack on Congress— statewide agitation to be escalated

DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA, APR 23

A crucial meeting of the BJP Himachal Pradesh Core Group and State Office Bearers was held at Deepkamal, Chakkar, Shimla, under the leadership of State President Dr. Rajeev Bindal. The meeting was attended by State In-charge Shrikant Sharma, Co-Incharge Sanjay Tandon, Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur, Member of Parliament Suresh Kashyap, and senior leaders including Dr. Sikander Kumar, Sanjeev Katwal and Payal Vaidya. The meeting undertook a detailed review of the current political situation in the state and finalised an aggressive strategy against the Congress-led government. It



was decided that BJP will intensify its agitation across Himachal Pradesh and take the failures of the state government directly to the people. Addressing the meeting, State In-charge Shrikant Sharma launched a sharp attack on the Congress government, stating that it has completely lost public trust and is surviving on false promises and political illusions. He asserted that the

people of Himachal Pradesh have made up their mind to oust the Congress government. "Our cadre is experienced, committed and battle-ready. Congress is heading towards a crushing defeat in the upcoming Municipal and Panchayati Raj elections," he said, while emphasising the party's core strategy: "Win the booth, win the election—every booth will be turned into a BJP stronghold."

HPNLU hosts distinguished guest lecture by Justice JR Midha

DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA, APR 23

Himachal Pradesh National Law University (HPNLU), Shimla, under the esteemed leadership of Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Priti Saxena, successfully organised a guest lecture on the theme "How to Attain Perfection in the Legal Profession" delivered by Justice J. R. Midha, former Judge of the Delhi High Court and Professor of Practice at National Law University Delhi. The lecture, hosted by the Placement Assistance Cell, witnessed active participation from final-year students, LL.M. scholars, and members of the academic community. Justice J. R. Midha, in his address, emphasised the significance of logical reasoning, clarity of thought,



persuasive advocacy, and command over language as essential attributes for achieving excellence in the legal profession. His Lordship elaborated on the critical skills required for legal professionals across diverse domains, including litigation, judiciary, and corporate practice. He highlighted the importance of continuous learning, precision in legal argumentation, and the art of persuasion as cornerstones of professional success. Drawing from his extensive judicial

experience, he provided practical guidance on courtroom dynamics and the disciplined approach necessary to achieve perfection in the legal field. The session was marked by vibrant interaction, with students engaging in thoughtful discussions and posing pertinent questions. Justice Midha addressed these queries with clarity and depth, offering realistic perspectives on the challenges and expectations of the legal profession.

AIIMS Bilaspur leads lifelong immunization movement with high-impact CME on vaccination across all ages

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY BILASPUR, APR 23

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bilaspur reaffirmed its leadership in public health awareness by hosting a landmark Continuing Medical Education (CME) program titled "A Lifetime Protection: Vaccination Across the Life Course", aligning with the global observance of World Immunization Week.

Delivering the inaugural address, Lt Gen Dr Daljit Singh articulated a progressive vision for comprehensive immunization, emphasizing vaccines as a lifelong shield against disease—from infancy to old age. Reinforcing this perspective, Prof Dr Ashok Bhardwaj highlighted vaccination as one of the most cost-effective public



health interventions, credited with saving over 150 million lives globally in the past five decades. The CME, led by Prof Dr Anupam Parashar, echoed this year's theme, "For every generation, vaccines work," while drawing attention to emerging priorities such as adult immunization, maternal vaccination, and protection for vulnerable populations. Expert insights from PGIMER Chandigarh, including Prof Madhu Gupta, underscored the

importance of booster doses and timely interventions. A dynamic panel discussion tackled vaccine hesitancy, addressing myths and promoting trust through evidence-based communication. With participation from leading institutions across Himachal Pradesh, the event drew over 200 healthcare professionals, marking a significant step toward strengthening immunization awareness and building a healthier, more resilient society.

Failed CM and paralyzed administration have tarnished Himachal's reputation: Bikram Thakur

SANJAY AGGARWAL DHARAMSHALA, APR 23

Launching a scathing attack on the Congress government, former Industries Minister Bikram Thakur stated that the standard of governance in the state has deteriorated to such an extent that the government itself is eroding the credibility of its own decisions. He remarked that the Congress government is operating on a policy of "decide first, U-turn later," a strategy that has turned the administrative system into a complete farce. He pointed out that, over the past few months, the government has taken numerous decisions that had to be immediately withdrawn following public outcry. Whether it was the move to abolish electricity subsidies, the decision to increase taxes on vehicles from other states, rulings



regarding employees' salaries and posts, or massive hikes in the rent of government properties—on every issue, the government first imposes a burden on the public and then, under pressure, is forced to backtrack. This situation demonstrates that the government possesses neither a clear policy nor any foresight. Bikram Thakur asserted that the Chief Minister's leadership has proven to be utterly weak. He alleged that the Chief Minister and his ministers

make decisions without any concrete planning or supporting data, thereby fostering an atmosphere of instability within the state. Even administrative officials are left in a state of confusion, unsure of which decisions are permanent and which are liable to be reversed within a matter of days. This not only impedes the pace of governance but also leads to a steady erosion of public trust. Bikram Thakur remarked that the Congress government has turned Himachal into a "laboratory," where new experiments are being conducted on a daily basis. Decisions concerning employees one moment, changes in taxes and levies the next, followed by departmental reshuffles—all these actions combined have damaged the state's image.

ADC directs pre-monsoon cleaning of Swan river and drains in Una



KISHORI LAL BAINS UNA:

Additional Deputy Commissioner Mahendra Pal Gurjar has directed concerned departments to ensure desilting and cleaning of the Swan River, seasonal rivulets and drains in the Municipal Corporation area before the onset of the monsoon to prevent waterlogging. Chairing a meeting under the District Disaster Management Authority, the ADC reviewed preparedness measures for the municipal area and emphasised that accumulation of silt obstructs water flow, leading to flooding of roads, fields and residential areas during heavy rains. He instructed that cleaning of all drains, khaddis and the Swan river be completed on priority. For areas falling under forest land, prior permission from the Forest Department should be obtained, while in cases involving private land, coordination with local residents must be ensured. The ADC stressed the need for inter-departmental coordination and timely completion of all formalities so that the work is executed before the monsoon season begins. The meeting was attended by Sub-Divisional Magistrate (Civil) Abhishek Mittal, Divisional Forest Officer Vikalp Yadav, Joint Commissioner Municipal Corporation Manoj Kumar, along with officials from various departments.

NEWS BRIEF

Training of enumerators and supervisors under first phase of Census 2027 from today: DC

KULDEEP SOOD BARNALA: Deputy Commissioner along with Principal Census Officer Harpreet Singh IAS informed that the training of enumerators and supervisors under the first phase of Census 2027 has started from 24 April.

Giving more information, he said that this will be the first digital census of the country, in which the facility of self-enumeration (self-filling of information) will also be available from 30 April to 14 May 2026. Apart from this, house listing (HLO) will start from 15 May to 13 June 2026. He said that the training of enumerators and supervisors on this process will be held from April 24 to May 6. He said that this time there is a facility to fill in the information yourself under the census. He appealed that maximum district residents should do self-enumeration (fill in the information themselves).

Anganwadi Union demands immediate distribution of new mobile phones, warns of protest

KARANPREET KARAN BARNALA: Anganwadi Workers Union Punjab (CITU) has demanded that the mobile phones purchased for Anganwadi workers be given in boxed condition immediately and has also warned the district administration that if the phones purchased for Anganwadi workers are given to other employees and used for other schemes, then the workers will wage a fierce struggle. Giving information in this regard, the district president of the organization Balraj Kaur and general secretary Rupinder Bawa said that a memorandum has been given to the Deputy Commissioner Barnala in this matter.

LG Saxena approves tourism reforms in Ladakh to boost hospitality industry

AGENCY LEH, APR 23

In a major step towards promoting ease of doing business and boosting the tourism sector in Ladakh, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has approved some landmark reforms that would deregulate the tourism industry and enhance the overall experience of the tourists visiting Ladakh. The reforms have been undertaken with the objective of reducing compliance burden on stakeholders and creating a unified, streamlined, and citizen-friendly registration mechanism for tourism units in the Union Territory, according to a release. The initiative follows a series of meetings held by the Lieutenant Governor with tourism stakeholders and delegations representing various tourism associations. It is also aligned with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dictum of "Minimum Government, Maximum



Governance." The new framework provides for a unified registration system for all tourism units, rationalises and significantly reduces documentary requirements, eliminates redundant classifications, simplifies procedures for registration, renewal and transfer, promotes digital and time-bound approvals, enhances transparency and accountability, aligns with national deregulation initiatives, encourages local entrepreneurship, and strengthens the overall tourism ecosystem in Ladakh through ease of compliance. "It is a transformative step for the tourism sector in Ladakh by making the processes simpler, transparent, and investor-friendly. Reducing compliance burden and ensuring ease of doing business would empower local stakeholders, attract investment, and significantly enhance Ladakh's standing as a premier tourist destination. I am confident that these reforms would

help position Ladakh among the top tourism destinations not only in India but globally," LG VK Saxena said. To begin with, the registration validity of tour operators has been increased from one year to 5 years, thereby eliminating the need for renewal every year, according to the release. Similarly, tour and travel operators engaged in adventure and mountaineering activities were earlier required to register separately as "Adventure Tour Operator" and "Mountaineering Tour Operator" at an additional registration fee of Rs 3000 each. This requirement too, has been done away with. A unified category under the nomenclature "Travel Agent," has been introduced, which will authorise the registered entity to undertake all activities permitted under the Registration of Tourist Act. The number of documents required for registration of tour operators has been reduced significantly from 7 documents to 4 documents.

DC Preeti conducts surprise inspection of SDO (Civil), Jagadhri



RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR, APR 23

Deputy Commissioner Preeti conducted a surprise inspection of the Sub-Divisional (Civil) Office in Jagadhri. During the inspection, she instructed SDM Jagadhri Vishwanath to maintain cleanliness in the office premises, maintain records in an organized manner and check the employee attendance register. The Deputy Commissioner instructed SDM Jagadhri Vishwanath and other office staff to maintain cleanliness in the office. She emphasized that government offices should maintain high standards of

cleanliness to provide a better and respectful environment for the general public. She directed the concerned officials to ensure regular cleaning of the premises and proper waste management. She also urged all employees to take responsibility for keeping their workspaces clean. She emphasized that any office could be inspected at any time. Therefore, all department heads and staff should keep their offices and workspaces neat and clean. SDM Radaur Narendra Kumar, DPRO Dr. Manoj Kumar, and Assistant Superintendent of Revenue Anup Kumar were also present on the occasion.

New executive committee for Baba Bansiwala Old Age Home formed

KARAMBIR LADWA, APR 23

A new executive committee has been formed for Baba Bansiwala Old Age Home and Annakshetra in Ladwa. This information was given to the journalists by the Ashram's head Vikas Singhal on Thursday at the Ashram. He told that in the new executive committee, Sanjay Singla has been made the vice-president, Anuj Goyal the general secretary, Suresh Kansal the treasurer and KunwarSinghal the joint secretary. He told that the tenure of the new executive committee will be two years. While talking about the Ashram, Pradhan Vikas Singhal said that 45 elderly men and women were living in the old age home and all the facilities were being



provided free of cost by the Ashram, where children from the surrounding rural areas of Ladwa come and prepare for their college exams and competitive exams. He said that the new executive will be engaged in the services of the elderly with the cooperation of all the members. Library was also run in the Ashram, where children from the surrounding rural areas of Ladwa come and prepare for their college exams and competitive exams. He said that the new executive will be engaged in the services of the elderly with the cooperation of all the members.

Hry Rights panel probes student deaths at NIT Kurukshetra

RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR: The Haryana Human Rights Commission has taken suo motu cognizance of reported student suicides and attempts at National Institute of Technology Kurukshetra and initiated a detailed inquiry into the matter. The action follows a news report highlighting concerns over student safety and hostel conditions. According to preliminary information, multiple incidents—including suicides and attempts—have occurred within a short span, raising serious questions about mental health support and institutional response. The Commission, led by Chairperson Justice Lalit Batra along with members Kuldip Jain and Deep Bhatia, observed that measures taken so far, including faculty transfers, appear insufficient. A recent suicide attempt by a first-year student and earlier deaths of multiple students have intensified concerns over recurring incidents. Highlighting the responsibility of educational institutions, the Commission stated that ensuring students' physical and mental well-being is as important as academic instruction. It noted that repeated incidents may indicate gaps in counselling services, monitoring systems, and crisis intervention mechanisms, potentially impacting rights guaranteed under the Constitution. Taking the matter seriously, the Commission has sought detailed reports from key authorities, including the Director of NIT Kurukshetra, the Deputy Commissioner, and the Superintendent of Police, Kurukshetra. The reports will cover circumstances of the incidents, availability of mental health support, safety measures in hostels, and steps taken to prevent recurrence.

Ladwa police appeal all the two-wheeler drivers to follow traffic rules



KARAMBIR LADWA: To stop the increasing crime, Ladwa police was seen in action mode on Thursday. Ladwa station in-charge Inspector Gurnam Singh not only got the police checkpoints closed but also himself checked the vehicles by setting up a police checkpoint near Ban Mor on Ladwa-Rohtak road. The two-wheeler drivers coming to the city without number plates and with their faces covered were stopped and their face covers were confiscated and they were also let off with a warning. Most of the two-wheeler drivers with their faces covered were women. All of them were let off with a warning for the first time. Station House Officer Gurnam Singh said that the increasing number of crimes was a matter of concern, but public cooperation was very important to stop crimes. If the people of the area cooperate and inform the police about any kind of crime happening anywhere, then the police can catch the culprits in time.

Let us nurture the Earth today, so it can nurture us tomorrow

BUREAU MORINDA, APR 23

Cambridge marked Earth Day with immense enthusiasm and a deep sense of responsibility, curating a wide range of meaningful and engaging activities across all grade levels. The celebration beautifully reflected the school's commitment to nurturing environmentally conscious citizens and inspiring students to take active steps towards a sustainable future. Our youngest learners from the Nursery wing set a delightful tone for the day by dressing up as elements of nature—trees, flowers, rivers, and animals—capturing the essence of our environment and the importance of preserving it. Their innocent expressions carried a powerful message about caring for Mother Earth from an early age. Students of the Primary Wing participated enthusiastically in creative activities that seamlessly blended learning with awareness. A key highlight was the "Trash to Treasure" exhibition presented by students of Grade IV, Grade VII, and Grade VIII. Through innovative models and crafts made from waste materials, they showcased how discarded items can be



transformed into useful and artistic creations, promoting recycling and sustainability. Adding glamour with a purpose, Grade V students presented a Fashion Show using recycled materials. Their imaginative outfits, crafted from newspapers, cardboard, and other reusable items, conveyed a strong message about reducing waste and reimagining resources. The celebration also featured a powerful One Act Play by Grade VI students, highlighting the consequences of environmental neglect and the urgent need for collective action. The performance left a lasting impression, inspiring reflection and responsibility among the audience.

Holy Shrine: Dowry-free, simple wedding at Triyuginarayan Temple sends positive message to society

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, APR 23

A simple and dowry-free wedding, solemnized at the renowned Triyuginarayan Temple in Uttarakhand, has become a topic of widespread discussion these days. This unique event has not only revived traditional values but has also delivered a strong and positive message to society. Priyanka Verma is serving as a Judge in the Haryana Judicial Service (Faridabad)—has set a new, inspiring precedent by tying the knot with Prashant through the traditional "seven vows" (Saat Pheras), completely devoid of dowry or any ostentation. The wedding was conducted entirely in accordance with Vedic rituals, characterized by utmost simplicity and dignity. The presence of a



limited number of family members and close relatives made the occasion even more special. Priyanka Verma's father, Dr. Ashok Kumar Verma, serves as a Sub-Inspector in the Haryana Police, while her mother, Sushma Verma, serves as a Special Police Officer in Kurukshetra. This family has long adhered to a simple lifestyle and upheld high social values. Dr. Verma has been a staunch opponent of the dowry system for years; he firmly believes that social evils like dowry act as impediments to the progress of society. He has always instilled lessons of simplicity, honesty, and self-reliance in his children, placing particular emphasis on educating his daughters and empowering them to be self-reliant.

Siddhivinayak Temple Foundation Day celebrated with devotion and awareness rally



RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR: The Foundation Day of Lord Siddhivinayak Temple at Shree Siddhivinayak educational complex, Shahpur Road, Vyaspur, was celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm. The event included Sankirtan, Aarti, Bhandara, and Prasad distribution, creating a spiritual atmosphere across the campus. Dr. M. K. Sehgal, Chairperson, Dr. Rajni Sehgal, along with Naman Sehgal and Harshita Sehgal, offered prayers and floral tributes to Lord Ganesha. Bhajans and kirtans deeply engaged students and staff in devotion. Dr. M. K. Sehgal shared that the Trust was established in 2007 and the temple in 2008, highlighting the significance of Lord Ganesha as the remover of obstacles and symbol of wisdom. Dr. Rajni Sehgal prayed for the well-being and blessings of all. An awareness rally was also organized in Shahpur village, flagged off by Sarpanch Mr. Jamail Singh.

Havan Yajna marks Hans Raj Jayanti, new session begins at RR Bawa DAV School



VERMA BATALA: RR Bawa DAV Collegiate Girls Senior Secondary School, Batala, marked the birth anniversary of Mahatma Hans Raj along with the commencement of the new academic session with a devotional Havan Yajna on campus. The ceremony was held under the patronage of Officiating Principal Dr. Meenakshi Duggal and guided by Mrs. Ekta Bhandari (Incharge, School Section) and Dr. Lucky Sharma (Dean Student Welfare). Students and staff participated enthusiastically, offering ahuatis and seeking blessings for a successful academic year. The campus echoed with Vedic chants as learned priests conducted the ritual. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Duggal highlighted the life and values of Mahatma Hans Raj, emphasizing his dedication to education, simplicity, and selfless service. She encouraged students to follow his ideals and uphold moral and ethical values. The ceremony concluded with Shanti Path and distribution of prasad.

D.R. Jain Hospital completes 3 successful years of service, dedication and trust

HANS RAJ KURUKSHETRA, APR 23

D. R. Jain Hospital family celebrated its 3rd anniversary with enthusiasm, pride and spirit of public service. Hospital Director Dr Himanshu Jain and Dr Ruchi Jain extended their heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to all doctors, nursing staff, pharmacists, technical staff and dedicated employees. They stated that team's dedication, discipline, sensitivity and excellent service have made hospital a strong center of public trust. Dr Himanshu Jain stated that serving patients is our highest duty and in future, we will continue to serve society with modern medical facilities, excellent treatment and human values. Dr Ruchi Jain



stated that true strength of any institution lies in its dedicated team, positive thinking and spirit of service. This unity and trust will continue to propel hospital to new heights. Dr Sanjay Sharma said that as a result of Dr Himanshu Jain's visionary leadership, inspiring guidance and commitment to public service, over 170 free general medical and health awareness camps have been successfully organized, benefiting thousands of needy people. He stated that D.R. Jain Hospital is not just a medical institution, but has become a living example of service, compassion and social responsibility. In future, series of free medical camps for public will continue to be expanded and hospital family's hard work, compassion, excellent medical services, and commitment to public welfare will continue to set new records of success.

Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram holds cultural program and welcome ceremony

MAHENDER GOYAL HISAR, APR 23

Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram organized a cultural program and welcome ceremony with great pomp at Goenka Sadan of Devi Bhawan in Hisar. Students receiving free education and training at a hostel in Agra were given a grand welcome upon their arrival in Hisar. These students captivated audience with stunning performances based on tribal culture. Social worker Rajendra Gupta was chief guest during program while National President of Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram Satendra Singh was keynote speaker. Dr BR Kamboj, Vice Chancellor of Haryana Agricultural University occasion.



Department Sanghchalak Pawan Jindal, National Executive Member Sunil Agarwal, Dr. Rambabu Singal, Regional Urban Affairs Chief Jai Bhagwan, State Secretary Ranniwias Agarwal CA and State Vice President of Seva Bharti Kamal Saraf were also present as special guests. Dr Lalit Mohan Bansal, Dr Amit Mahata, Dr Sunil Agarwal, Dr Mahendrapal Mittal, Dr Ajay Gupta, CA Sanjay Verma, Vedprakash Goyal, Naresh Poonia, Mahavir Poonia and Gurmindra Bisla were present as special guests.

NEWS BRIEFS

New Police Post Building to be Constructed in Sector 5, Hansi: SDM Rajesh Khoth

DINKAR GAWRI

HANSI: The administration has taken another concrete step towards further strengthening the security infrastructure in the district. A new police post building will soon be constructed in Sector 5 of Hansi city. A plot of 990 square yards has been demarcated and handed over to the Police Department for the construction of this police post. SDM Rajesh Khoth shared this information on Thursday while listening to the grievances and complaints of citizens at a 'Samadhan Shivir' (Grievance Redressal Camp) held within the District Secretariat complex. He stated that 990 square yards of land have been demarcated and handed over to the Police Department for the construction of the police post building. He added that the establishment of this police post would further bolster the security arrangements in the area.

Citizens from the village of Kutubpur presented a grievance, stating that their village's electricity supply line had been connected to the Urban Sub-Division feeder. Consequently, the villagers face significant difficulties in accessing electricity. They requested that their village's power line be reconnected to the Hansi Sub-Urban Division feeder. Taking the matter seriously, SDM Rajesh Khoth directed officials from the Electricity Department to ensure that appropriate action is taken in accordance with the villagers' demand.

CM Saini holds interaction with industry leaders in Delhi

BUREAU CHANDIGARH, APRIL 23

The Nayab Singh Saini-led Haryana Government is moving rapidly towards establishing the state as a global hub for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM), IT, Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics sectors. The government is formulating an industrial policy that will not only be highly attractive for investors in these emerging sectors but will also accelerate large-scale employment generation, innovation, and cutting-edge technological development.

Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini, while interacting with industry leaders in New Delhi on Thursday regarding the upcoming Industrial Policy, said that the IT, Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and ESDM sectors are emerging as key pillars of the national economy. Haryana, with its robust infrastructure, strong connectivity, and industry-friendly environment, holds immense potential to attract global investments in these sectors. Industries and Commerce Minister Rao Narbir Singh was also present during the meeting.

He stated that the government aims to position Haryana as a preferred destination for global companies, where leading domestic and international firms can invest. The new Industrial Policy will offer special incentives to ESDM companies, including capital subsidies, tax benefits, skill development support, and ease of doing business provisions to ensure smooth establishment and expansion of industries.



Industry representatives suggested identifying futuristic products and select companies to support them in becoming global players, which would also benefit associated MSMEs. They further emphasized promoting research and development for startups and establishing Centres of Excellence to boost innovation. To address export-related challenges,

representatives recommended setting up global warehouses abroad to facilitate product storage for companies. Several firms also expressed interest in adopting ITIs to ensure availability of a skilled workforce tailored to industry needs. Sandeep Arora from Microsoft discussed promoting Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based education in schools, ITIs, and other educational institutions to equip youth with future-ready skills. Under this initiative, students will be trained in AI, machine learning, and data analytics from an early stage, enabling them to compete globally. The state government will also provide policy support and incentives to promote research and development activities and foster innovation. The state government is also working on a dedicated policy for the Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics (AVGC-XR) sector to provide a structured growth platform for this emerging creative and technology-driven industry. During the meeting, Chairman of FICCI AVGC-XR Forum Sh. Ashish Kulkarni, Director (Public Policy), E-Gaming Federation, Devbhuti Bakshi, and CEO of Media and Entertainment Skills Council, Mohit Soni, suggested strengthening the e-sports ecosystem to create new opportunities for youth and enhance the state's competitive edge.

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Municipal Corporation cracks down on encroachments on government land in Karnal



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, APRIL 23

The Municipal Corporation, Karnal, has intensified its drive to remove encroachments from government land, with Joint Commissioner Daljit Singh conducting field inspections at Dayanand Colony, Uchana village and Zarif Viran village along with officials from the land branch.

During the inspection, several instances of illegal occupation on municipal land were identified. Taking a strict stance, the Joint Commissioner directed revenue officials, including the Naib Tehsildar and Kanungo, to prepare detailed and fact-based reports for initiating action as per rules.

Officials informed that in Dayanand Colony, approximately three bighas of Municipal Corporation land have been identified near Grace Hotel, out of which nearly two bighas are under illegal occupation, while the remaining one bigha is under litigation. The Joint Commissioner instructed that the pending court case be pursued actively

and steps be taken to reclaim the encroached land. In Uchana village, around 10 marlas of land were found encroached, where fencing had been installed by occupants. Directions were issued to immediately initiate removal proceedings and take legal action against those responsible.

Similarly, in Zarif Viran village, about 7 kanal 7 marlas of land had been illegally converted into a pond for fish farming. Terming the matter serious, Daljit Singh ordered the removal of the pond and restoration of the land to its original condition under municipal control.

He further directed that once the land is freed, preventive measures such as installation of boundary pillars, fencing and warning boards should be implemented to avoid re-encroachment.

The Joint Commissioner stated that the corporation is formulating a structured strategy to identify and clear all encroachments in a phased manner across the city. He also appealed to the public to refrain from illegal on government land and to report such activities to the authorities.

BJP releases mayoral candidates list for Haryana civic polls 2026



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA PANCHKULA, APRIL 23

The Bharatiya Janata Party has announced its candidates for the upcoming Haryana municipal elections 2026, naming nominees for key mayoral posts across major MC areas.

According to the party's official communication, Shyamal Bansal has been fielded



as the mayoral candidate from Panchkula Municipal Corporation. From Ambala Municipal Corporation, Akhita Saini has been nominated, while Rajiv Jain will contest again from Sonapat Municipal Corporation. Jain is the incumbent mayor and is also associated with former cabinet minister Kavita Jain. The announcement was



made by Haryana BJP state president Mohan Lal Badoli after consultations with the party's national leadership.

Party sources indicated that the selections have been made keeping in view organisational experience and local support base, with an emphasis on strengthening the party's electoral prospects in the urban local bodies elections.

Seminar on insurance education for sustainable industry growth held in Karnal

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, APRIL 23:

A local seminar on "Importance of Insurance Education for Sustainable Industry Growth" was organised by the Insurance Institute of India under the aegis of the Karnal Insurance Institute at Government Girls Model Sanskriti Senior Secondary School, Railway Road.

The programme was attended by over 100 students of Class XII, with the objective of creating awareness about insurance, explaining its role in industry, and introducing career opportunities in the sector.

Key speakers included Rahul Verma, Senior Divisional Manager at National Insurance Company Limited, Parveen Kumar, Secretary of Karnal Insurance Institute and retired LIC manager, Amit



Kundu, In-charge Claim Hub, Shubham Bhatia, Administrative Officer, Vijay Kumar, AO (Marketing), and Arun Sharma, Business Associate.

Representing the school administration, Mohinder Singh (HES-I) and Pankaj Vashisht (Science Lecturer) were present and contributed to the successful organisation of the event.

The speakers elaborated on the importance of insurance education, risk manage-

ment, financial security, and the role of insurance in society. Students were also briefed about diverse employment avenues in the insurance sector.

The session witnessed active participation from students, who showed keen interest in understanding various aspects of insurance. The seminar concluded with a call to students to become informed citizens and consider contributing to the insurance industry in the future.

Senior advocate Karmbir Singh Nalwa appointed SPP in Pahalgam terror case

Senior advocate Karmbir Singh Nalwa has been appointed as Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) to represent the National Investigation Agency in the Pahalgam terror attack case.

According to the notification issued on April 22, Nalwa will handle proceedings related to NIA Case No. RC-02/2025/NIA/JMU. He will represent the agency before the NIA Special Court in Jammu as well as the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court.

Nalwa has an extensive legal practice before the Supreme Court of India and the Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh, along with other judicial forums. His appointment is being seen as recognition of his professional competence, integrity and long-standing contribution to the legal field.

The development holds particular significance for Karnal, given Nalwa's familial and cultural association with the city. The emotional weight of the case is further underscored by the connection of martyr Vinay Narwal, who hailed from Karnal and lost his life in the terror attack.

The appointment has been described as a matter of pride for the region as well as the legal fraternity, reflecting trust in Nalwa's ability to effectively conduct prosecution in a case of national importance.



If we do not become aware of pollution today, future generations will suffocate: Energy Minister Anil Vij

CHANDIGARH: Haryana's Energy, Transport and Labour Minister, Anil Vij said that "if we do not become alert about pollution today and do not work on it, future generations will suffocate because they will not get enough oxygen to survive."

Sh. Vij said that the special campaign run by Brahma Kumaris' Eco Care and Disaster Management wing to spread awareness about environmental protection and disaster management is commendable. Today, the campaign coordinator Brahma Kumari Bharat Bhushan, along with other members, met him and presented him with a memento.

On this occasion, Energy Minister Anil Vij said that significant efforts and work are required to reduce pollution. People should plant more and more trees on Earth so that oxygen continues to be available, and governments are also taking steps to control pollution. Harmful substances are being banned, and improvements in technology are also taking place. Good work is being done on issues of public interest. During this, Minister Anil Vij said that the campaign running from Panipat to Srinagar is a good initiative. He added that it is a very positive step to raise awareness of the environment and organize such journeys across the country. One such journey is going from Panipat to Kashmir. As explained, during the journey, people will be informed and educated at various places, which is the need of the hour. Notably, the campaign that started from Panipat has reached Ambala today and will further proceed to Kashmir. Coordinator Bharat Bhushan said that the initiative is working towards environmental protection and disaster management while creating awareness. Today, they came to seek the blessings of Minister Anil Vij, who also extended his best wishes for the campaign.



Harvinder Kalyan visits gaushalas; Distributes cheques worth 40 Lakhs

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, APRIL 23:

Haryana Assembly Speaker Harvinder Kalyan visited various cow shelters (Gaushalas) in the region on Thursday. During the visit, the Speaker inspected the maintenance, facilities, and ongoing construction works related to the cows housed there. The objective of this visit was to further improve the arrangements for cow care and to encourage the respective cow shelter committees. The Speaker distributed grant cheques amounting to 2,794,500 to the Gaushala in Gharaura, 189,980 to the Gaushala in Kalron, 295,320 to the Madhuban Gaushala, and 71,160 to the Gagsina Gaushala. During this tour, the Speaker inspected the Pakka Pul Dham Madhuban Gaushala, Gaushala Kalron, Gaushala Gharaura, and Gaushala Gagsina. On this occasion, he received a grand welcome from the local management committees and citizens, who greeted him with garlands and bouquets.

Taking the opportunity to serve the cows personally by feeding them fodder, the Speaker underscored the significance of "Gau Seva" (service to cows). He stated that cow shelters are not merely symbols



of our cultural heritage but also serve to strengthen the spirit of service, conservation, and compassion within society. He placed special emphasis on ensuring better management, hygiene, nutrition, and the strengthening of basic infrastructure within the cow shelters. He appealed to those present to actively participate in cow welfare activities and to work collectively for the protection of vulnerable and helpless animals in society. While commending the efforts of the cow shelter management committees, he assured

them that every possible assistance would be extended by the government. Speaking on the occasion, Haryana Assembly Speaker Harvinder Kalyan remarked that technology and digital platforms constitute the most effective means of eradicating corruption. He noted that developmental projects progress rapidly only when they receive the cooperation of the entire village community. He emphasised that everyone must move forward with a unified mindset for the betterment of society.

Math puzzle booklet, International math olympiad booklet prepared, 21 teachers honoured

RANVIR PARASHAR KAITHAL, APRIL 23

Kaithal Education Department and District Administration have taken a commendable initiative to make mathematics, a subject often considered difficult, interesting and simple for students. A Math Puzzle Booklet, prepared through collective efforts of government school teachers, has been prepared and an International Math Olympiad Booklet is being prepared. On Thursday, Education Department officials presented these books to Deputy Commissioner Aparajita, and the 21 teachers who contributed to preparation of both books were honored with certificates of appreciation. DC Aparajita commended teachers' efforts, saying that this booklet will remove the fear of mathematics from students and motivate them to

wards the subject. This initiative will also play a significant role in improving educational level of district. These two books will prove to be an important step towards innovation in field of education. District Mathemat-



ics Specialist Chhatrapal provided detailed information about both books. He explained that Math Puzzle booklet presents mathematical principles from grades 1 to 12 through an engaging game like Sudoku. This method will allow students to not only understand mathematics in a playful way, but also create and

solve their own problems. Special thing is that all of this material has been prepared free of charge by teachers, which reflects their dedication and innovation.

Similarly, he provided information about International Math Olympiad book, stating that it will contain 15 chapters, covering syllabus from grades 1 to Masters. Questions from International Math Olympiad will be available in book. Additionally, book will cover all competitive exams involving mathematics. The book will be available in the market soon.

He informed that coaching for International Math Olympiad is being conducted at every block headquarters in Kaithal district. ADC Sushil Kumar, District Education Officer Subhash Kumar, Chief Minister Good Governance Associate Divyata Mehr and other concerned officers were present.

Prof. Devender Singh Dhull, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of NIILM University, Kaithal, Assumes Additional Charge as Vice-Chancellor

SANJAY SHARMA

KAITHAL: To ensure the smooth functioning of administrative operations at NIILM University, Kaithal, the university's Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Devender Singh Dhull, has assumed the additional charge of the office of the Vice-Chancellor.

According to an order issued by the university administration, this arrangement has been put in place following the retirement of the incumbent Vice-Chancellor. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor will now oversee the university's academic, administrative, and research-related functions.

After assuming charge, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Prof. Devender Singh Dhull stated that he is committed to elevating the university's academic quality, student welfare, and research activities to new heights. He expressed his gratitude to the University Chairman, Sandeep Chahal, and the management for entrusting him with this new responsibility, and called upon all Heads of Departments, faculty members, and staff to work together with a spirit of teamwork.

The University Registrar, Prof. R.K. Gupta; Dr. Rekha Gupta; Dr. Gautam; the University Controller of Examinations, Dr. Manjeet Jakhar; the University Public Relations Officer, Dr. Manoj Kumar; along with all Faculty Deans and senior officials, extended their congratulations and best wishes to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor on his new responsibility.



Awareness Campaign conducted at D.A.V. College, Sadhaura



PRITI SAINI SADHAURA, APRIL 23

An awareness campaign was organised by the Legal Literacy Club at the local D.A.V. College, Sadhaura, on the occasion of World Earth Day. Dr. Chhatrapal Singh, Convener of the Legal Literacy Club, stated that as part of this campaign, competitions in painting, slogan writing, debate, and essay writing were

held within the college. On this occasion, students expressed their concerns regarding rising global temperatures and the changing environment. In the painting competition, Anchal, Payal, and Anjali—all first-year B.A. students—secured the first, second, and third positions, respectively. In the slogan writing competition, Nidhi (B.Com. Final Year) secured the first position; Muskan (B.Com. Second Year)

secured the second; and Sohini (B.Com. First Year) secured the third. In the debate competition, Payal and Sonia (B.Com. First Year) secured the first position, while Ritesh and Veer Pratap (B.Com. Second Year) secured the second position. College Principal Dr. Tejveer Singh, along with Dr. Rajendra Kumar, Ms. Neha, Dr. Sahil Kumar, and Johnny Kumar, were present on this occasion.

EDITORIAL

India records 9.28 million new Telecom Subscribers in March

India's telecommunications sector expanded by 9.28 million subscribers in March 2026, bringing the total number of telephone users in the country to 1,330.58 million. According to the latest data released by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), the industry maintained a monthly growth rate of 0.70 per cent. The wireless segment remained the primary engine of this growth, contributing 9.02 million new connections, while wireline services added 0.25 million subscribers during the same period. The broadband sector reached a significant milestone, with the total subscriber base climbing to 1,065.88 million. This segment, which includes both wired and wireless connections, saw an addition of 6.83 million users over the previous month. Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd. continued to lead the broadband market with 523.44 million subscribers, followed by Bharti Airtel Ltd. with 368.84 million and Vodafone Idea Ltd. with 128.91 million. As per the information received from 1520 operators for the month of March 2026, the total number of broadband subscribers increased from 1059.05 million at the end of February 2026 to 1065.88 million at the end of March 2026 with a monthly growth rate of 0.65%, the TRAI report stated.

Geographical data showed that urban areas accounted for 778.79 million of the total telephone subscribers, while rural areas reached 551.79 million. In the wireless segment specifically, rural growth slightly outpaced urban expansion on a percentage basis. Rural wireless subscriptions grew at a rate of 0.74 per cent, adding 4.04 million users, whereas urban wireless subscriptions increased by 0.68 per cent with 4.98 million additions. The number of wireless (mobile + Fixed Wireless Access) subscribers increased from 1273.31 million at the end of February 2026 to 1282.33 million at the end of March 2026, thereby registering a monthly growth rate of 0.71%, the report noted regarding the wireless sector's performance. The market remained highly concentrated among the top five broadband service providers, who collectively held a 98.60 per cent market share. Beyond the top three private players, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) held 27.37 million broadband subscribers, while Atria Convergence Technologies Ltd. recorded 2.40 million. In terms of overall wireless mobile subscriptions, the dominance of the private sector remained clear. At the end of March 2026, the private access service providers held 92.64% of the market share in terms of wireless (mobile) subscribers, whereas PSU access service providers viz. BSNL and MTNL together held a market share of 7.36%, the TRAI reported. The overall tele-density in the country rose to 93.26 per cent by the end of March. Urban tele-density stood at 151.47 per cent, reflecting a high concentration of devices per individual in cities, while rural tele-density was recorded at 60.46 per cent. Without including M2M cellular mobile connections, the national tele-density was adjusted to 84.57 per cent.

Himachal Bhawans turned into political arenas
Needy travelers at the mercy of GADDr. Rachna Gupta
Associate Editor

Had Himachal Pradesh's first Chief Minister, Yashwant Singh Parmar, not established a presence on Curzon Road in Delhi 55 years ago, the state might not have evolved into what is today the 18th state of India. This reference is important because the development trajectory of a small hill state has always been closely linked with Delhi. It was with this very objective that every state established its own Bhawans and Sadan facilities in Delhi and other cities.

However, in Himachal Pradesh, controversy surrounding these Bhawans in Delhi and Chandigarh has deepened. The Congress government, already grappling with financial stress, first increased the room tariffs by 300 percent, and has now issued orders to further raise these already hiked rates by another 300 percent, triggering widespread outrage. Not just this, even rest houses in remote parts of the state have seen similar hikes. The debate so far has revolved only around pricing, while the core issues remain ignored by the General Administration Department (GAD).

In reality, these Bhawans and Sadans have increasingly turned into political hubs during successive governments, eroding their dignity and quality. Instead of merely increasing tariffs, the government should



have addressed these fundamental problems.

Facilities under GAD are indirectly controlled by the ruling political party. Decisions on who gets accommodation and who does not are made through an internal administrative mechanism operating under the GAD Secretary. Without approval from this authority, no one can gain entry.

The process works like this- applications are invited through an online portal, but around 4 PM, an authorised government official filters the list. This system has existed under both BJP and Congress governments. As a result, travelers whether officials, women, or students who arrive after long journeys often find doors closed until 6 PM, when the final approved list arrives. If their name is not on the list, they are simply turned away, with no alternative arrangement provided. In essence, there is no real system in place.

This is followed by the "benami room" practice. The 6 PM list often contains names of MLAs, leaders, and officers, but in reality, the occupants are frequently their associates

or workers. Tourism staff are informally instructed over the phone to accommodate such individuals. This effectively places control in the hands of tourism staff, who decide often subjectively how travelers are treated. Reports suggest that except for politicians, bookings are often handled with bias or even retaliation.

The bureaucracy also plays a significant role. Senior officers such as Secretaries and Joint Secretaries not only enjoy premium facilities but often extend long-term bookings to their relatives as well.

The issue does not end here. During political meetings, these premises often witness late-night noise and even alcohol consumption. Luxury vehicles are also stationed at these Bhawans for use by politicians and officers, and when needed, luxury taxis are arranged all under the supervision of the Resident Commissioner.

Against this backdrop, increasing tariffs from ₹150 to ₹1200 and then to ₹4000 in the name of revenue is a direct blow to the original purpose of these institutions. Cities

like Delhi and Chandigarh host major newspaper offices and examination centers, where journalists and students from Himachal frequently travel. Yet, their needs and safety are largely ignored.

It is noteworthy that GAD manages around 100 rooms in Delhi, 25-30 in Chandigarh, and similar facilities in Shimla. These are not hotels, nor do they offer hotel-like amenities. Opening their restaurants to the general public also raises security concerns.

There have even been past allegations of bugging and spying during previous governments, highlighting the high-profile and politically sensitive nature of these premises. Over time, these Bhawans have become convenient hubs for influential individuals, while GAD appears to have turned a blind eye.

Recently, GAD withdrew the latest notification of increased tariffs, claiming the decision was taken without the knowledge of Chief Minister Sukhu. However, this explanation has raised more questions than

answers—can such a major decision really be taken without the Chief Minister's approval?

If reforms are truly intended, these Bhawans must be freed from political interference. They must be protected from becoming venues for protests, party

meetings, and power circles. Only then can their dignity and original purpose be restored and this is something the Chief Minister must recognise.

GAD DEFENDS BOOKING POLICY
According to GAD officials, the provision of ₹4000 per room for advance booking was introduced to allow anyone whether from within the state or outside to secure accommodation by paying in advance. They maintain that there was no flaw in this system.

On condition of anonymity, officials also claim that the government has taken steps to ensure transparency and prevent benami bookings in others' names, including mandatory identity verification.

However, they argue that due to protocol requirements, advance booking cannot always be guaranteed. Sudden visits by Raj Bhavan officials, High Court authorities, ministers, or the Chief Minister can occur at any time. In such cases, it is neither practical nor appropriate to vacate already allotted rooms. Therefore, a fully advance booking-based system is not feasible for GAD.

India's energy wake-up call amid West Asia turmoil



cylinders distributed under the PM-UJJWALA Yojana await, but how long will it last? Besides, the refilling cost is also not affordable for many. We have already seen restaurants and roadside food joints shutting down and cylinders being sold at three to five times the official rate in the black market.

The Indian government has been pushing for a shift towards electric-based cooking for the past few years through the Go Electric campaign or the National Efficient Cooking Programme (NECP). However, the uptake has been low, with only 5 per cent of households opting for e-cooking. Now is the opportune moment to endorse and champion the shift towards electric-based cooking, which is cleaner, safer, and a more affordable framework laid for it. We just need to synchronise our efforts for the desired results and create a robust ecosystem for its market penetration and wider adoption.

The PM Surya Ghar scheme, initiated in February 2024, aims to install rooftop solar in 1 crore households. It provides subsidies covering up to 40 per cent of the cost of solar panels, enabling households to generate their own electricity for e-cooking needs. Currently, the scheme has high inter-state disparities and high registration rates, and therefore lower conversion figures.

Geopolitical upheaval costs nations, leading to prolonged uncertainty and human suffering, which is compounded by food and energy crises. The fragility of West Asia's economy is attributed to the devastating US-Israel-Iran war, which has caught humanity in an overt manifestation of a sociopolitical crisis and asymmetric power dynamics.

Truly, the "world is at war". The implications of this geopolitical crisis are far-reaching. Can Indian society insulate itself? In fact, ordinary citizens have already started experiencing the downside of this

chaotic phase.

The raging war is marked by uncertainty and mistrust. Multiple ceasefire declarations have been made and violated. The combined LPG and LNG import bill has increased by about 50 per cent over the last six years, constituting around 3 per cent of India's total import bill in FY 2025.

India imports about 60 per cent of its LPG consumption, and out of these imports, about 90 per cent come through the Strait of Hormuz, which has been impacted due to the current geopolitical situation and disruptions in supply chains. While the government is trying to increase

its domestic production by 25 per cent, it appears a tall order, and this will take time.

The sight of bus and railway stations of India tells a story that we have all witnessed before. Labourers and domestic workers are thronging these places to head back 'home' - akin to the Covid days - albeit this time it is the ongoing energy crisis that is driving them there. The sense of belonging to their homeland beckons them as it gives a strong sense of safety.

They feel fellow villagers will help them out with food, and there is no dearth of alternative fuel-fireswood in abundance. For many, the free

Iran accuses Pakistan of double game

The cracks in Pakistan's peace broker image are now impossible to ignore.

Iranian state media this week launched a sharp, public attack on Pakistan's Army Chief, General Asim Munir, accusing Islamabad of playing a "double game" in the US-Iran nuclear talks, tilting toward Washington while maintaining private access to Iranian leadership. The broadcast, aired during a televised debate on the Student News Network, has exposed a serious breakdown in trust between the two neighbors at the worst possible time for Pakistan, which has staked considerable diplomatic capital on positioning itself as the indispensable middleman in one of the world's most dangerous standoffs.

The criticism marks a significant and public breakdown in diplomatic trust between the two Muslim-majority neighbours.

Pakistan's carefully cultivated image as an indispensable peace broker between Washington and Tehran appears to be fading, as Iran accuses it of being partisan and playing a "double game," alleging that Islamabad is leaning toward the US side.

Iran's core grievance is straightforward: it says its proposals are being ignored. Tehran claims General Munir visited Iran, collected a formal 10-point negotiation framework to deliver to the Americans, and then nothing. No response, no acknowledgment, no commitment.

Making matters worse, Iranian analysts

allege that Pakistan has deliberately abandoned Iran's 10-point framework proposal and is now putting pressure on Tehran by pushing 15 to 16 new demands on behalf of Washington.

An SNN analyst put it bluntly: "According to the plan we had, Asim Munir came to Tehran, received our message, and this message was



supposed to be delivered to the American side, which he must have done. But as far as I know, and as we have discussed at high levels, we have not yet received a response as to whether this message was accepted or not. I would even say that even if we do receive a response, he will return to Islamabad and the other party will say,

"Well, I don't accept this at all."

Tehran stated that General Munir visited Iran, collected a 10-point proposal intended for the American side, and delivered it — but Iran has received no response whatsoever.

Iranian analysts further alleged that Pakistan has since buried Tehran's framework entirely and is now pushing 15 to 16 new demands on Washington's behalf, a posture they say reveals where Islamabad's loyalties truly lie.

The accusations land at a particularly awkward moment for Pakistan. Just as the previous ceasefire deadline was about to expire, Trump announced an extension on Truth Social, explicitly citing a "request" from both General Munir and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The reversal was stark; hours earlier, Trump had earlier asserted that bombing was imminent if no deal was reached.

Sharif moved quickly to take credit, thanking Trump for granting more time for "ongoing diplomatic efforts" and confirming that a second round of talks is scheduled to be held in Pakistan, though he stopped short of providing any date.

Iranian media were unmoved, dismissing the announcement as a Pakistani public relations exercise, a manufactured appearance of progress designed to satisfy Washington and Riyadh while the actual process remains firmly stalled.

Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train project sees progress

Track installation work on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train project is progressing steadily, with the adoption of the advanced J-Slab ballastless track system based on the Japanese Shinkansen technology, which is being used for the first time in India, according to an official statement by the National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL).

The NHSRCL stated that the J-Slab track system comprises four key components—RC Track Bed, Cement Asphalt Mortar (CAM), Pre-cast Track Slab, and rails with fasteners—designed to support high-speed train operations. To

support the production of track slabs, two state-of-the-art Track Slab Manufacturing Facilities (TSMF) have been set up at Kim near Surat and Anand in Gujarat. These facilities are producing high-grade concrete slabs with precise dimensions to ensure a consistent supply for the project.

The slabs are stored at the factory and transported via trailers to Track Construction Bases (TCBs), which act as operational hubs for handling materials, machinery, and equipment both on the ground and at the viaduct. At present, ten TCBs are operational—four between Surat, Bilimora and Vapi, and six between Vadodara,



Anand and Ahmedabad. National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) is a government-owned entity, specifically a "Special Purpose Vehicle" (SPV). It is a joint venture company involving the Central Government through the Ministry of Railways (50% equity) and the state governments of Gujarat (25%) and Maharashtra (25%). According to the statement, significant progress has been made in track construction. A total of 185 route km of RC Track Bed has been laid, while 188 route km of track slabs have been manufactured. Additionally, track slabs have been laid and CAM injected across 70 route

km. The company also added that the track installation process is fully mechanised and uses specialised machinery designed as per Japanese construction practices, with most equipment manufactured in India.

Among the key machines being used is the Flash Butt Welding Machine (FBWM), which welds 25 m long 60 kg rails into 200 m long panels at the TCB. These welded rails undergo strict approval processes to ensure they are fit for high-speed operations at 320 kmph. Training and certification for rail welding and inspection have been conducted by the Japanese company JARTS. The Track Slab

Laying Car (SLC) is used to lift and place precast slabs onto the viaduct, with the capacity to handle five slabs at a time. Meanwhile, the Rail Feeder Car (RFC) is used to transport and lay 200 m long rail panels over the track bed.

After slab placement, the Cement Asphalt Mortar Injection Car (CAM Car) is deployed to inject the CAM mixture beneath the slabs, ensuring proper alignment and levelling of the track. The adoption of advanced technology and mechanised processes is expected to enhance the efficiency and precision of track installation for India's first high-speed rail corridor.

Anuj's 97 Lights Up Day 7 of Gully Cricket Tournament

CHANDIGARH: Day seven of the Gully Cricket Tournament, organised by the UT Cricket Association in collaboration with Chandigarh Police, began on an emotional and inspiring note with a special match featuring specially-abled children at GMSS-23.

Punjab's partnership with Finland's University of Turku brings global teaching practices into classrooms: Mann



CHANDIGARH: A collaboration between the Punjab Government, under the leadership of CM Bhagwant Singh Mann, and Finland's University of Turku is beginning to translate into visible changes in classrooms.

Axis Bank's ASLI KYC Campaign Reimagines Customer Connect with Five Story-Led Films

CHANDIGARH --: Axis Bank, one of the largest private sector banks in India, is setting a new benchmark in brand storytelling with its latest campaign, 'Dil Se Open - ASLI KYC'.

IndiGo Continues Strengthening Network in Gujarat; Commences Daily Direct Flights Between Mumbai and Jamnagar

CHANDIGARH / LUDHIANA: IndiGo, India's preferred airline, further strengthened its network in Gujarat with the commencement of daily, direct flights between Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport and Jamnagar today.



AU Small Finance Bank raises rates on Savings Accounts, FDs and Rds

CHANDIGARH: AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB), India's largest Small Finance Bank, today announced an upward revision in interest rates across Savings Accounts, Fixed Deposits (FDs) and Recurring Deposits (RDs).

Table showing interest rates for various deposit products like Savings Bank Accounts, Fixed Deposits, and Recurring Deposits.

IIM Amritsar Opens Admissions for Sixth Batch of Executive MBA Programme

Amritsar: Indian Institute of Management Amritsar has announced the commencement of admissions for the sixth cohort of its flagship two-year Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA) programme.



Renault Group unveils FutuREady India to power its next phase of international growth

CHANDIGARH/LUDHIANA: At the end of a one week visit in India, François Provost, CEO of Renault Group, presented FutuREady India, an Indian rollout of the FutuREady strategic plan.



Trident Group marks Earth Day 2026 with specially abled students

CHANDIGARH / PUNJAB: Reaffirming its commitment to sustainability and inclusive community engagement, Trident Group marked Earth Day 2026 with specially abled students from Pawan Sewa Samiti School in Barnala.

Consumer First. Brand Strong. Future Ready

CHANDIGARH: The Board of Directors of Nestlé India today approved the financial results (standalone and consolidated) for the fourth quarter and financial year ended 31st March 2026.

Amazon India to Invest ₹2800 Crore in Safety, Wellbeing & Operations Expansion

CHANDIGARH: Amazon India has announced an investment of over ₹2800 crore (USD 300 million) to enhance associate safety, health, and financial wellbeing.

BitDelta India Launches Institutional-Grade Virtual Digital Asset (VDA) Infrastructure for the World's Largest Crypto Market

Chandigarh: BitDelta India, a security-first and user-centric virtual digital asset trading platform, today announced its official launch in India.

Courtline to Host IPT Grand Slam 10.0 – India's Premier Padel Tournament

CHANDIGARH: IPT Grand Slam 10.0, a prestigious event on the national padel calendar, is set to take place from April 24 (Friday) at Courtline, Kansal, near Chandigarh.

Public notice regarding RERA accounts for Crown-5 project, including contact details for the promoter and bank account information.

NORTHERN RAILWAY e-TENDERING OPEN TENDER NOTICE No. NIT-04/UMB-2026-27 DATED 22.04.2026. Table listing various construction works, their approximate costs, bid security, and completion dates.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-AUCTION NOTICE. Table listing auction lots for development and operation of a gaming zone, and commercial advertisement space.

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG APPOINTMENT NOTICE. Detailed notice regarding the recruitment of Para Pump Operator and Para Fitter, including eligibility criteria and application procedures.

SUKH NAHAR
JAGRAON: The renowned religious and social service organization of the Jagraon, Shri Gauri Shankar Seva Mandal, has commenced preparations for the annual bhandara (community meal service) organized at Ramban (Jammu & Kashmir) on the route of the Shri Amarnath Yatra. In this regard, an important meeting was held under the



leadership of the Mandal's President, Vivek Gupta. On this occasion, President Gupta informed that this year the Shri Amarnath Yatra will commence on 3rd

July and continue till 28th August. The pilgrimage will last for a total of 57 days and will conclude on the day of Raksha Bandhan. He stated that every year the Mandal organizes a bhandara for the pilgrims, ensuring all possible facilities for them. Gupta further mentioned that this bhandara is organized with the support of the Mandal members as well as generous donors from the area.

NEWS BRIEF

Workers of shops, commercial establishments will receive paid holiday on May 10

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL: Deputy Commissioner and District Election Officer Dr Anand Kumar Sharma stated that in view of elections and by-elections to municipal bodies and Panchayati Raj Institutions to be held on May 10, state government has announced a paid holiday for employees of various shops and commercial establishments located in respective areas who are registered voters, so that they can exercise their franchise. A notification in this regard has been issued by Haryana Labour Department. According to notification, under Section 28 of Punjab Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1958 (Punjab Act 15 of 1958), Sunday, May 10 has been declared a paid holiday for all shops and commercial establishments within jurisdiction of the State of Haryana. This is applicable only to those registered as voters in aforementioned jurisdictions so that they can cast their votes.

DC appeals to all stakeholders to make HPV vaccination campaign success

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, APR 23

DC Dr. Anand Kumar Sharma said that HPV vaccination was like insurance for girls in the age group of 9 to 14 years to prevent cervical cancer. When girls of this age group get this vaccination, they will be safe from this deadly disease. By doing this we are securing the future of the country. This is in the public interest and the interest of the country. For successful organization of this campaign in the district, officials of Education, Health, Women and Child Development Department and Panchayat Department should work in mission mode by establishing coordination and play an important role in getting HPV vaccination of about twelve and a half thousand targeted girls.

DC expressed happiness that Karnal remains the leading district of the state in HPV vaccination but 100 per cent target is yet to be achieved which should be accomplished on priority basis by May 15. There will be a weekly review meeting of the progress of



this campaign, officers and employees doing good work will be honored and action will be taken against those who are negligent. The DC was addressing the officials of the concerned departments in the review meeting of the HPV vaccination campaign in the auditorium of the Mini Secretariat on Thursday. He said that the Government of India is running HPV vaccination campaign to prevent girls aged between 9 to 14 years from cervical cancer. The pace of this campaign should be accelerated in the district and 100 percent targeted girls should be vaccinated. He instructed the officials of the Education Department to prepare micro plans

and organize special awareness camps to promote ICE activities in schools. Include local public representatives and concerned SDMs in these camps. He said that during PTM in all government and private schools, the health department team, Red Cross Society, Rotary Club, representatives of social and religious organizations should give detailed information to the parents about the benefits of this vaccine.

He said that BEOs, SMOs and BDPOs, in coordination, should contact the targeted girls and their parents and motivate them to get the HPV vaccine. Take the cooperation of Gram Panchayats in this work and the concerned BDPO and

Village Secretary should make more and more people aware about this campaign, it is in public interest and necessary for the future of the country. He instructed SDMs to hold meetings with BEOs, SMOs and BDPOs of their respective areas and ensure participation in the activities organized by them. Get the report of each day's activities shared in the group. In the meeting, the DC instructed the DDPO to aware the public in rural areas through Sarpanches and Panches. When vaccination starts, announcements should be made in the villages so that no eligible girl is left out. He instructed the officials of the Women and Child Development Department to make women aware at the grassroots level through Anganwadicentres. He instructed Gurmeet, District Program Manager of NRLM and HSRLM, to make women associated with self-help groups aware about HPV vaccination and they themselves should motivate their daughters and other girls of the above age group and their parents to get vaccinated.

There is no legal obstacle in regularizing contractual employees; govt lacks intent: Subhash Lamba



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
PANCHKULA, APR 23

Subhash Lamba, National President of the All India State Government Employees Federation, visited the protest site of the striking fire department employees in Panchkula/ Chandigarh on Wednesday and strongly supported their strike and demands. Leaders including Charanjit Singh Sidhu from the Punjab Subordinate Services Federation (Scientific), Vijay Pal (District President of Sarv Karamchari Sangh), and Joginder Singh (District President of Municipal Employees Union) also reached the protest site and expressed their support. At the protest,

district president of the Fire Department Employees Union Anand Kumar, along with Roshan Lal, Daljeet, Satyapan, Mohit Malik, Anil Kumar, and other office bearers were present. Addressing the employees, National President Subhash Lamba strongly criticized the government's highly indifferent attitude toward the strike. He said that since April 8, nearly 100% of fire department employees across the state have been on strike with very legitimate demands, including granting martyr status to two personnel who died in fire incidents, providing jobs to their dependents, financial assistance of Rs. 1 crore each, and regularization of contractual employees.

Pragya tops M.Com results at IGMVV Kaithal with 9.38 SGPA



SANJAY SHARMA
KAITHAL: Students of Indira Gandhi P.G. Mahila Mahavidyalaya delivered an excellent performance in the M.Com Final Year (Third Semester) results declared by Kurukshetra University on April 16, 2026. Sharing the results, Principal Dr. Arti Garg said that four students secured SGPA of 9.00 and above. Pragya topped the college with an outstanding 9.38 SGPA, followed by Divya in second position with 9.08 SGPA. Preeti and Sohania jointly secured third position with 9.00 SGPA each. Members of the college governing body, including Jagdish Bahadur Khurania, Rajiv Latka, Naresh Kumar, Narendra Miglani, and Shri Ram Bahadur Khurania, congratulated the students and appreciated their hard work and dedication. Evening Principal In-Charge Shweta Tanwar and faculty members of the Commerce Department, including Prof. Priyanka Bindlish, Prof. Nandita, Prof. Shweta Agrawal, and Prof. Shweta Gupta, also extended their best wishes to the students for their future endeavors. The college management attributed the success to the students' discipline and the consistent guidance provided by the faculty, reaffirming its commitment to quality education.

Crackdown on illegal colonies likely, issue raised in Cabinet: Dhandha



RAKESH BHAYANA
PANIPAT: Haryana Education Minister Mahipal Dhandha held a Janata Darbar in Panipat, where he listened to public grievances. A large number of people attended the session to present their complaints and demands. During the event, representatives of the Municipal Employees Union, Haryana submitted a memorandum addressed to the Chief Minister. They demanded that the families of firefighters who lost their lives in the Faridabad fire tragedy be given adequate compensation and that the deceased be accorded the status of martyrs. Speaking to the media after the Janata Darbar, Mahipal Dhandha said that most of the issues being brought forward are personal in nature. He stated: "There have been hardly any complaints related to development, as development works are progressing at a fast pace. Projects that were pending earlier are now being completed under strict monitoring." Regarding the memorandum submitted by residents of Israna, the minister said that he would forward it to the Chief Minister and ensure that all possible assistance is provided.

YS Public School honours Class 10 CBSE toppers for academic excellence



KARANPREET KARAN
BARNALA: Recognised among the Top 50 Schools of India, YS Public School proudly celebrated the outstanding achievement of its Class 10 students in the CBSE Board Examination. Aditya Sood secured an exceptional 97%, while Bhumi scored 96.6%, bringing pride and honour to the school. To recognise their remarkable success, the school authorities felicitated the meritorious students in Tapa and presented them with Certificates of Appreciation in the presence of their parents. School Principal Mohit Jindal, along with the Vice Principal and Coordinator, personally congratulated the achievers and appreciated their hard work, dedication and consistent efforts. Speaking on the occasion, Principal Mohit Jindal said, "The excellent performance of our students reflects their commitment, perseverance and the strong academic foundation provided at YS Public School. Aditya and Bhumi have made the entire school family proud and have set an inspiring benchmark for others. We remain committed to nurturing talent and promoting excellence in education." The felicitation was a proud moment for students, parents and the school community alike, reaffirming the institution's tradition of recognising merit and celebrating success. Once again, YS Public School has reinforced its reputation as a centre of academic excellence.

Panipat Textile visit to shape new policy, says Aarti Kanwar



RAKESH BHAYANA
PANIPAT: A high-level delegation from the Ministry of Textiles India, led by Additional Secretary Aarti Kanwar, visited key textile units in Panipat—Asia's largest recycled textile hub—describing the experience as "eye-opening" and crucial for shaping the upcoming textile policy. The team reviewed sustainability initiatives and assessed industry challenges and opportunities on the ground. Officials and knowledge partners accompanying the delegation gathered inputs to ensure the new policy reflects real industry needs. Director (Sustainability) Gopal said the visit provided long-awaited insights into recycling units, the Weaving Service Center, and other facilities. He added that the ministry is working to align upcoming schemes with ground realities highlighted during the visit. Industry representatives, including Lalit Goyal, President of the Panipat Exporters Association, showcased key facilities such as Atal Kendra, spinning mills, CETP plants, and Heritage Overseas units. The recycling process converting textile waste into cotton and yarn at Atal Kendra drew particular appreciation.

Goyal launches 44.83 crore canal irrigation project at Oind, boost for farmers



SANJEEV TEJPAL
MORINDA: In a major push to strengthen irrigation infrastructure and support the farming community, Punjab Cabinet Minister Barinder Kumar Goyal on Wednesday inaugurated a canal-based lift irrigation project at village Oind near Morinda. On this occasion, constituency MLA Dr. Charanjit Singh was also present. The project, developed at a cost of 44.83 crore, is set to significantly improve water availability for agricultural fields across several villages in the region. Addressing the gathering, Goyal said that despite the presence of major canals such as the Sirhind Canal and the Bhakra Main Line Canal in the area, many villages had remained deprived of canal water for years. This had forced small and marginal farmers, especially those without tubewell connections, to depend on others for irrigation.

NSS Sanghera marks Poshan Mah with competitions and awareness rally



BALWINDER AZAD
BARNALA: The NSS Department of Guru Gobind Singh College Sanghera, under the guidance of the NSS Department of Punjab University Patiala, under the guidance of the President of the institution, Mr. Bholu Singh Virk, under the leadership of Principal Dr. Sarabjit Singh Kular, under the supervision of NSS Program Officer Prof. Mandeep Kaur, Prof. Mithu Pathak, Prof. Manpreet Kaur, Dr. Nirpal Singh, is celebrating Poshan Mah fortnight from 9-4-2026 to 23-4-2026 in a systematic manner and activities are being organized sequentially, under which, extending the fortnight from 21-4-2026 to 22-4-2026. Poshan Mah chart competitions were organized for volunteers at the college campus, out of which volunteer Lachman Singh BA Part I secured the first place and Bhupinder Singh BA Part Third secured second place Lovepreet Singh BCA Part II secured third place.

High-level bridge over Sukhna Choe approved to ease traffic woes



BUREAU
CHANDIGARH: In a major step toward improving road connectivity, the UT Chandigarh administration has approved the construction of a high-level bridge over Sukhna Choe, linking Manimajra with Sector-26. The decision was taken during a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary H. Rajesh Prasad. Currently, commuters face frequent congestion and inconvenience at the existing narrow vented causeway, which serves as a vital link between Chandigarh and Panchkula. The situation worsens during the monsoon season, when overflow from Sukhna Choe often disrupts traffic, raising safety concerns and causing delays. The new bridge aims to provide seamless, all-weather connectivity, easing traffic flow and reducing travel time. It will also enhance safety and support the growing traffic demand in the city. The route is crucial for access to key locations such as Sukhna Lake, Sector-17, PGI, Punjab University, and the High Court.

Abandoned bike found on Trikoni Chowk handed over to police



PRITI SAINI
SADHAURA: Near Trikoni Chowk on the Sadhaura-Kala Amb road, an abandoned motorcycle—which had been parked for the past two or three days adjacent to the embankment of a farmer's field—was handed over to the police by the landowner after he summoned the Dial 112 response team. The Dial 112 team subsequently took the vehicle into custody and transported it to the Sadhaura Police Station. Providing details regarding the incident, farmer Rohit Kumar stated that he owns agricultural land near Trikoni Chowk on the Sadhaura-Kala Amb road, where he visits daily to collect fodder for his livestock. Rohit explained that an abandoned motorcycle—a Hero brand bike bearing the registration number HP 18-6183—had been parked near his field for the last two or three days.

Ankita Saini of Saini Public School excels in JEE Mains exam

HANS RAJ
KURUKSHETRA: Ankita Saini, a student of Saini Public School, has excelled in JEE Mains exam, achieving a 98.08 percentile. Her achievement has brought pride to her family and school. This is the result of Ankita's hard work, dedication and persistent efforts. School Principal Dr. Gurcharan Das said that Ankita Saini's achievement is result of hard work, discipline and commitment. He added that Ankita has set an inspiring example for other students and wished her continued success in future. Saini Education Committee of school also expressed deep happiness over this achievement, stating that Ankita Saini's success is a matter of pride for entire school family. Committee members stated that such achievements inspire other students to move forward and achieve their goals.



Avika of Navyug Sr Sec School of Mohan Nagar gets consolation prize in poster making



HANS RAJ
KURUKSHETRA: Avika, a Class 10 student of Navyug Senior Secondary School, Mohan Nagar, Kurukshetra, received consolation prize for her outstanding performance in poster-making competition held at Kurukshetra Panorama and Science Center on Earth Day, with theme Our Planet, Our Strength. To promote environmental protection and sustainable development, Panorama and Science Center successfully organized various science competitions and awareness programs on Earth Day. Ten students from Navyug School participated in poster-making, model exhibitions, science quizzes and Best Out of Waste competition.

SP Vinod Kumar holds meeting with e-rickshaw and truck union representatives to strengthen road safety norms



DINKAR GAWRI
HANSI: In order to ensure a smooth, safe, and organized traffic system in Hansi, Superintendent of Police Vinod Kumar, IPS, held an important meeting with e-rickshaw representatives and truck union representatives in his office. The main objectives of the meeting were to control the increasing traffic pressure in the city, strengthen road safety and ensure complete records of all drivers. During the meeting, Superintendent of Police, Hansi, issued clear instructions that all e-rickshaw, auto and other commercial vehicle drivers must display valid number plates and designated token numbers on their vehicles. Police verification has also been made mandatory for every driver. Drivers who have not yet been verified were instructed to complete the process quickly.

Regularly monitor agency operations on solid waste management portal: Dr. Vaishali Sharma



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL: District Municipal Commissioner Dr. Vaishali Sharma held a meeting on Thursday with officials from the Corporation's Sanitation Wing and Secretaries of the Municipal Councils to review the work undertaken for the 'Swachh Survekshan'. During this session, she also reviewed the work executed by the Municipal Corporation, the Municipal Councils, and the designated sanitation agency on the Solid Waste Management Portal. She directed the Municipal Council Secretaries to continuously monitor the work performed by the agency on the Solid Waste Management Portal and to ensure that any discrepancies or gaps observed are promptly rectified.

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