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NEWS BRIEFS

Isfahan and Tabas will be repeated in Persian Gulf waters if US does not end naval blockade: Iran Judiciary Chief

TEHRAN : Iran's Head of Judiciary Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Eje'i on Saturday warned the United States that incidents similar to "Isfahan and Tabas" would be repeated in the waters of the Persian Gulf if Washington does not end its naval blockade on Iran.
In a strongly worded statement on X, Mohseni-Eje'i said the US does not have the capability to impose a naval blockade on Iran and warned of a firm response if pressure continues.
"Americans should know that they also lack the capability to impose a naval blockade on Iran; Isfahan and Tabas will be repeated once again in the waters of the Persian Gulf," the post read.
Referring to historical military incidents, he added that the anniversary of the "humiliating defeat" of US forces in Tabas carries symbolic significance for Iran.
"On the fifth of Ordibehesht, the anniversary of the humiliating defeat of the American military in Tabas, today holds a different colour and scent for the people of Islamic Iran," the post added.

"I do not fear Narendra Modi": Rahul Gandhi slams BJP, says targeted him "round-the-clock"

SOUTH 24 PARGANAS : Escalating his offensive against the Centre, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Saturday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP are targeting him "round the clock".
Adressing an election rally in South 24 Parganas ahead of the second phase of West Bengal, Gandhi said that despite attempts to stifle his voice, he does not " fear" the PM.
"Narendra Modi and the BJP target me round the clock. I face 36 cases; my government house has been snatched away. My Lok Sabha membership was cancelled, and I was interrogated for 55 hours straight. But let one thing be clear, I do not fear Narendra Modi," he said.
Earlier, Gandhi also launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the handling of India's relations with the USA, alleging that the PM is being "controlled" by US President Donald Trump at an election rally in Hooghly. "Narendra Modi made a trade deal with America, in which he sold off India's agriculture sector, small and medium industry, and energy security. Along with that, he handed over all our data to America as well. No Prime Minister of the country can do such a thing without pressure," he said.

Mamata's time will end on May 4...": Amit Shah ahead of Phase 2 polls in Bengal

HOWRAH : Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that the time has come to bid farewell to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on May 4 (vote counting day), asserting that a BJP government in West Bengal would prioritise women's safety and financial empowerment.
Addressing a public rally in Shyampur in Howrah district, Shah said the support shown by people indicated political change in the state. "The love of Shyampur's people shows that the time has come to bid farewell to Didi on the 4th May," he said. Highlighting the incidents in Sandeshkhali, RG Kar Medical College, Durgapur Medical College, Shah alleged that women were unsafe during the Trinamool Congress (TMC) rule. "In the TMC rule, women in West Bengal were not safe. Mamata Didi says that after 7 PM, mothers and sisters should not step out of their homes. Mamata Banerjee, instead of scaring the goons, intimidates our sisters. There is no safety for women in Mamata's rule," he said. He further asserted that the election outcome would mark a turning point for women in the state.
"Mamata Banerjee's time will end on the 4th, and women's time will begin from the 5th," he added. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday said she is going to file a "legal case" against Union Home Minister Amit Shah over his "violent remarks".

Bill for 3-year pause on H-1B visas introduced in US Congress

AGENCY
WASHINGTON, APRI25

A group of Republican lawmakers has introduced a bill in the US Congress for a three-year pause to the H1-B visa programme, contending that it has been hijacked to replace American workers with cheap foreign labour.

Congressman Eli Crane from Arizona introduced the End H-1B Visa Abuse Act of 2026, which was co-sponsored by seven other Republican lawmakers.

The bill proposes reforms to the H-1B programme that include reducing the annual cap from 65,000 to 25,000 with a minimum wage of US$ 2,00,000 per year and disallowing H-1B visa holders from bringing dependents to the US.

Congressmen Brian Babin, Brandon Gill, Wesley Hunt, Keith Self (all from Texas), Andy Ogles (Tennessee), Paul Gosar (Arizona) and Tom McClintock (California) have signed on as original cosponsors of the bill.

The H-1B visa programme is used extensively by American technology companies to employ foreign workers. Indian professionals, including technology workers and physicians, form one of the largest groups of H-1B visa holders.



The bill seeks changes to the H-1B programme that include replacing the lottery system with a wage-based selection system; requiring employers to certify they cannot find a qualified American worker and have not conducted layoffs; barring H-1B workers from holding multiple jobs; and prohibiting third-party staffing agencies from employing them.

The bill also seeks to prohibit federal agencies from sponsoring or employing nonimmigrant workers; end Optional Practical Training (OPT); and ensure nonimmigrant visas remain temporary by prohibiting H-1B holders from adjusting status to permanent residency.

The changes suggested also require nonimmigrants to depart the United States before changing to another nonimmigrant status.

"The federal government should work for hardworking citizens, not the profit margins of massive corporations. We owe it to the American people to prevent the broken H-1B system from boxing them out of jobs they are qualified to perform," Crane said.

He said the End H-1B Visa Abuse Act of 2026 would provide greater access to employment, strengthen protocols in the visa process, and prioritise the livelihoods of Americans.

"I am proud to cosponsor Rep Eli Crane's efforts to reform and tighten our H-1B visa system, ensuring that our immigration system serves American workers first before foreigners," said Rep Brandon Gill.

Rep Paul Gosar alleged that the H-1B programme has been "hijacked to replace American workers with cheaper foreign labour - plain and simple".

The bill, he said, slams the brakes on a system that's rigged against its own people and puts American jobs first again.

"If a company can hire an American, they should. No loopholes. No excuses. We're done subsidising the outsourcing of our own workforce," Gosar said.

Rep Andy Ogles said American workers are being replaced, and cheap foreign labour is the cause.

"We will not bow down to the corporations, and we will not let Americans become strangers in their own country. End the H-1B scam," he said.

"This is the strongest H-1B bill that has ever been introduced in Congress. H-1B visas were sold to the American people as a short-term visa to fill temporary labour gaps, while Americans are trained to take those jobs," said Rosemary Jenks, Cofounder, Immigration Accountability Project.

CM Bhagwant Singh Mann orders deadline-bound flood protection works, directs all DCs; says People's Govt stands firmly with people

BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, APRIL 25



With Punjab heading towards the monsoon season, Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Saturday ordered Deputy Commissioners to complete all flood protection works within deadline, warning officials of personal accountability for lapses. Chairing a high-level review meeting, he directed urgent desilting of drains and vulnerable points, fast-tracked anti-pollution measures, and pushed pending infrastructure projects as the state moves to prevent floods and strengthen water management before the rains arrive.

CM Bhagwant Singh Mann, accompanied by Rajya Sabha MP Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal, batted for foolproof planning and execution of the master plan for carrying out flood protection works effectively across the state. He said, "The plan of drains and rivers should be prepared in sync with the engineers of the irrigation department to ensure their regular de-silting, cleaning, and strengthening of flood protection works."

He emphasised, "This will be instrumental in saving people from the wrath of floods during the monsoon season, and every officer will be personally accountable for this work. The desilting of Gidderpindi Railway Bridge and other places prone to floods should be done at the earliest to avert any flood-like situation."

On the cleaning of Buddha Nullah, the Punjab CM added, "The water of the sacred Buddha Nullah has been cleaned up to the starting point of Ludhiana city, and cleaning work beyond this point is ongoing. Cow dung waste from dairies into Buddha Nullah should be checked with a heavy hand. The Municipal Corporation must ensure proper lifting of cow dung from the dairies, and dairy owners should cooperate."

Reviewing pending infrastructure works, he said, "The CBG plant at Hebowal should be made operational at the earliest. The proposal for allotting 2.5 acre land for the proposed CBG plant at Tajpur should be finalised at the earliest by the Municipal Corporation, PSIEC and PEDA within one week. Industrial effluents must be properly treated, and necessary action shall be taken by the Pollution Board in this regard. Accountability will be fixed in case of negligence leading to polluted water entering the drains across the state."

On water flow and pollution control, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann stated, "The regulator at Simbli for releasing 200 cusecs of water into Chitti Bein should be made operational. The issue of culverts constructed on Jalandhar National Highway 44 that are obstructing water flow should be resolved at the earliest through technical correction. Likewise, 100 cusecs of water from Bist Doab Canal should be released to reduce pollution in Kala Sanghian Drain." He added, "Stone lining work has been completed."

The Punjab CM concluded by instructing, "Dairy waste into drains must be checked strictly, and strict enforcement is required for this purpose. The matter of the Dhussi Bundh Road Project (Satluj River) will be taken up with the Union Rural Development Minister. The project conceived at a cost of ₹117.75 crore will be accomplished with the help of NABARD support."

Taking to X, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann stated: "A special meeting was held today with the Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners of Jalandhar and Ludhiana, in the presence of Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal, regarding the cleaning of Ludhiana's Buddha Nallah, the Kala Sanghian Drain, and the Dhussi Bundh of the Sutlej."

"Officials were directed to strengthen the weak embankments of the Sutlej and other seasonal rivers, and to ensure the immediate completion of the STP projects for Buddha Nallah. Significant improvements will be visible in the coming days.

Amritsar traders meet CM; Boost to business expansion in Haryana



CHANDIGARH: A delegation of traders from Majitha Mandi, Amritsar, Punjab, met Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini on Saturday at his residence, Sant Kabir Kutir, Chandigarh. The meeting focused on expanding their business operations and exploring investment opportunities in Haryana.
During the discussion, the traders proposed expanding their wholesale dry fruit business to Sonipat. The Chief Minister responded positively and approved the proposal. He reiterated that the Haryana government is committed to promoting trade and industry and is ensuring all necessary support and facilities for investors.
Welcoming the traders from Amritsar to Haryana, Sh. Saini said the state is working on the principle of 'Ease of Doing Business', ensuring transparent, simple, and efficient processes. Haryana is emerging as a major industrial and logistics hub in the country, offering a conducive environment for investment, he added.
He further said that expansions of major business centers like Khari Baoli and Bhagirath Palace in Delhi have already been approved in the Rai (Sonipat) area, as part of efforts to develop it into a large commercial hub.
The Chief Minister assured that the state government will fully support and protect investors, enabling them to grow their businesses successfully.
BJP National General Secretary, Sh. Tarun Chugh and Chief Coordinator Industry, Sh. Sunil Sharma were also present on the occasion.

Iranian delegation exits Islamabad; derails Pakistan's bid to host US-Iran 2nd round of dialogue

AGENCY
ISLAMABAD, APRIL 25

The Iranian delegation, led by Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, departed Islamabad on Saturday evening after a day of high-level meetings with the Pakistan leadership, leaving Pakistan's ambitious claims of brokering a US-Iran peace deal as part of the second round of negotiations in tatters.

As reported by Al Jazeera, the delegation left the Pakistani capital after delivering an "official list of demands" to Pakistani leaders for the US and Israel in order to achieve a complete solution to the conflict in West Asia.

The departure effectively signals the end of Islamabad's hopes to facilitate the much-anticipated second round of direct dialogue, as Araghchi is now set to travel to Oman and Russia, bypassing any further engagement in the Pakistani capital.

In a frantic effort to project diplomatic weight, Pakistan's top civilian and military leadership converged at the house of the Pakistani Prime Minister for a meeting with the Iranian delegation that lasted approximately two hours prior to Araghchi's departure.

Alongside Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the meeting saw the heavy-handed presence of Pakistan's Army Chief Asim Munir, Deputy PM Ishaq Dar, and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi.

Despite the presence of Pakistan's entire security and political top brass, the engagement appeared to be little more than a 'messenger' service.

According to Kamran Khan, chairman of Pakistan-based news outlet ARY News, citing sources, the Iranian side, rather than engaging in the mediated peace talks Pakistan had promised, simply handed over a list of preconditions–specifically the lifting of the US naval blockade on Iranian ports on the Strait of Hormuz. Khan, prior to the high-level diplomatic engagement between Tehran and Islamabad, reported that the talks with the US and Iran in Islamabad were "rapidly fading", exposing the host nation's diplomatic impotence as Tehran refused to meet the travelling American delegation. Despite going to extreme lengths to orchestrate high-profile diplomatic arrangements, the Pakistani establishment has been entirely sidelined by the actual stakeholders, reducing Islamabad to a mere spectator in its own capital. According to Khan, citing informed sources, Tehran was "not ready to meet the US delegation", which includes US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff and Senior Adviser.

Govt ensures 100% domestic LPG, PNG, CNG supply amid West Asia tensions; urges no panic buying

NEW DELHI : The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on Saturday said the government has ensured "100% supply" of domestic LPG, PNG and CNG, while urging citizens to avoid panic buying amid the evolving West Asia situation.

In a detailed update on key sectors, the ministry said, "Despite the ongoing geopolitical situation, the Government has ensured that 100% supply is being made to Domestic LPG, Domestic PNG and CNG (Transport)."

It added that there are adequate stocks of petrol and diesel across the country and "regular retail prices for Petrol and Diesel are unchanged and there is no price increase at PSU OMCs Retail Outlets."

The advisory comes against the backdrop of concerns linked to the Strait of Hormuz, a key global oil transit route. The government urged citizens to remain calm, stating, "Citizens are advised to avoid panic purchase of petrol, diesel and LPG as the Govt is making all efforts to ensure availability."

On LPG supply, the ministry said domestic deliveries remain stable. "No dry-outs have been reported at LPG distributorships," it noted, adding that online bookings have surged to nearly 99 per cent. To prevent diversion, "Delivery Authentication Code (DAC) based deliveries have increased to more than 94.5%," it said.

For commercial LPG, supply has been partially restored. "Total commercial LPG allocation has been increased to about 70% of pre-crisis levels," the ministry said, with priority given to hospitals and essential sectors such as pharma, agriculture and steel.

"Raja Nahi, Kisan Ka Beta hoon, Kheti bhi Ki hai", says CM

BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, APRIL 25



Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini expressed confidence that Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will form a government in West Bengal under the leadership of the Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi. He said that the Prime Minister's pro-poor and welfare-oriented schemes have benefited crores of people, helping them rise above the poverty line.

Responding to questions during a press conference in Chandigarh, the Chief Minister said that, "Raja Nahi, Kisan Ka Beta hoon, Kheti bhi Ki hai" ("I do not consider myself a ruler but a farmer's son, who has personally worked in the fields"). He emphasised that he understands farmers' problems closely and is continuously working with commitment to resolve their issues.

Reacting to the opposition's visits to mandis, he said that Congress leaders are trying to create a false narrative as if farmers were better off during their tenure. He accused them of misleading the public, adding that the people have now decisively rejected them. Since 2014, the double-engine government has been accelerating development work in Haryana.

Responding to another question, Sh. Saini criticized the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab, stating that it had made big promises to voters, including loan waivers for farmers, employment for youth, drug eradication, and benefits for women and they havent fullfilled any promise.

He said that several schemes are being effectively implemented in Haryana for farmers, women, and youth, and assured that similar systems would be introduced in Punjab once the BJP forms a government there.

The Chief Minister further said that under the Ayushman Chirayu Yojana in Haryana, more than 27 lakh families have benefited from healthcare services. He criticised the "Mohalla Clinics" model in Punjab, remarking that people are now dissatisfied with them and seeking change.

He said that the state cabinet has approved the promotion of 18,000 Group D employees, and a one-day Vidhan Sabha session has been called for this purpose.

On law and order, Sh. Saini said strict monitoring is being carried out across the state. Strong action is being taken against those involved in drug trafficking.

Khadoor Sahib MP Amritpal Singh back in Dibrugarh jail in Ajnala police station attack case



DIBRUGARH (ASSAM): 'Waris Punjab De' chief and Punjab MP Amritpal Singh was on Saturday sent back to judicial custody in the Ajnala police station attack case and transferred once again to the Dibrugarh Central Jail here. He was produced before sub-divisional court judge Palwinder Singh in Ajnala, Punjab, via video-conferencing from Dibrugarh at the end of his two-day police remand in the case, his advocate said.
The court ordered his remand to judicial custody and directed that he be lodged in Dibrugarh Central Jail, where he had previously been detained under the National Security Act (NSA) for three years. Amritpal Singh was re-arrested by Punjab Police on April 23, hours after his NSA detention expired at midnight. The Punjab court had sent him to two days of police remand, and he was shifted from the jail to the local Dibrugarh police station for investigation into the February 2023 attack on Ajnala police station. "On Saturday, the sub-divisional court in Ajnala ordered judicial custody of Amritpal Singh through video-conferencing. He will now remain in Dibrugarh Central Jail. The next hearing in the Ajnala case will be conducted on April 30 through video-conferencing, and Amritpal will participate from the jail itself," said his lawyer Jasbir Kaur.

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BJP exposed on women's reservation issue, alleges Wazir Poonia



MAHENDER GOYAL

HISAR: Senior Congress leader Wazir Singh Poonia has alleged that the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party has been completely exposed on the issue of women's reservation, claiming that the public now understands what he termed the party's "real intentions" behind the matter. Poonia said the Indian National Congress has never opposed reservation for women and maintains a clear stance on the issue. He added that senior party leader Rahul Gandhi has already articulated the party's position, while accusing the BJP of lacking intent and attempting to link the reservation issue with delimitation. He claimed that the Congress and other opposition parties had exposed what he described as the BJP's "hidden agenda," and alleged that BJP leaders are now attempting to misrepresent Congress as anti-reservation to deflect criticism. Criticising the Haryana government, Poonia said farmers are facing significant difficulties in mandis due to restrictive conditions imposed on the sale of crops.

NEWS BRIEF

World Veterinary Day 2026: Sarita Dhiman highlights role of vets

MEGHRAJ LUTHRA

KARNAL: On the occasion of World Veterinary Day 2026, Sarita Dhiman, Manager of the Dr PC Dhiman Seva Prakalp Project, highlighted the indispensable role of veterinarians in ensuring animal health and welfare. She said that behind every healthy animal is the tireless dedication and hard work of a committed veterinary professional, and extended her heartfelt greetings and congratulations to veterinarians across the country. Observed every year on the last Saturday of April, World Veterinary Day is dedicated to recognising the invaluable contribution of veterinary professionals, who play a crucial role in animal health, food safety, and public welfare. Dhiman urged people to take proper care of their pets and livestock and actively participate in animal welfare initiatives, stating that such efforts also contribute to nation-building. She also appreciated the role of the Institute of Dairy Training and Research (IDTR) for its significant contribution to dairy training and research in Haryana and across the country.



Aman Arora launches Rs. 2.9 crore projects, hails education & health reforms in Punjab





SUMER GARG
SUNAM, APR 25

Punjab Cabinet Minister and AAP State President Aman Arora on Friday launched multiple development projects worth around Rs. 2.9 crore in villages of the Sunam Vidhan Sabha constituency, focusing on education and healthcare.

In village Namol, he laid the foundation stone of a modern library to be built at a cost of Rs. 25 lakh. He also inaugurated new classrooms, a science lab, and renovation works worth Rs. 42.54 lakh at a Government Senior Secondary School. In village Sheron, renovation works costing Rs. 31.96 lakh were completed, giving the school a revamped infrastructure. Additionally, a Health and Wellness Centre worth Rs. 55 lakh was inaugurated in village Mander Kalan to provide primary healthcare services near residents' homes. Another similar centre will be constructed on Takipur Road in Lohakhera at a cost of Rs. 55 lakh. Addressing the gathering, Arora said the government led by Bhagwant Mann is bringing revolutionary changes in the education and healthcare sectors, directly benefiting the public. He emphasized that Punjab is emerging as a leading state in education, with government schools being equipped with modern facilities and healthcare infrastructure being strengthened to ensure free and quality treatment. He urged people to take maximum advantage of government initiatives and enroll their children in government schools to become part of the education transformation.

Urban challenge fund driving structured transformation in Karnal, says mayor

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, APR 25



The Municipal Corporation Karnal has accelerated efforts to implement a comprehensive urban development roadmap under the Central government's Urban Challenge Fund, aiming to strengthen infrastructure, traffic management, green spaces, and civic amenities across the city. The civic body stated that a well-integrated and planned approach is being adopted to build a smarter urban ecosystem. Key interventions include expansion of road networks, development of parking infrastructure, and construction of new flyovers to streamline traffic flow and improve connectivity. Officials indicated that these measures are expected to bring visible and positive changes to the city's landscape in the near term. Mayor Renu Bala Gupta described the initiative as a forward-looking framework that addresses both present requirements and future urban demands. She said the projects being conceptualised under the fund are designed to make Karnal more modern, organised, and citizen-friendly, with a balanced emphasis on development pace and service quality. Focusing on traffic decongestion, the mayor highlighted long-term planning measures, including a proposed single-pillar flyover from Mahatma Gandhi Chowk to Nirmal Kutia Chowk, which is expected to significantly ease congestion and enhance intra-city connectivity. She added that targeted interventions are underway in high-traffic and sensitive zones to provide relief to commuters through systematic upgrades in road infrastructure and public facilities.

ICSSR conference at Babu Anant Ram College focuses on ethical AI governance

SANJAY SHARMA
KAITHAL, APR 25



Babu Anant Ram Janta College Kaul, Kaithal hosted an International Conference sponsored by Indian Council of Social Science Research. Prof. Madan Mohan Goel, Propounder Needonomics School of Thought and former Vice-Chancellor (thrice), delivered the inaugural address on the theme "Ethical Governance of Artificial Intelligence: A Needonomics Framework for Viksit Bharat." The programme commenced with a welcome address by Principal Prof. (Dr.) Rishipal. The Convener and HOD Economics, Dr. Amandeep Kaur, formally introduced the theme of the seminar. The inaugural function was chaired by Mr. Tejvir Singh, President College Managing Committee. In his address, Prof. Goel highlighted the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence in empowering Digital India through applications such as e-business, e-banking, e-marketing, and e-teaching. He noted that AI holds immense potential to enhance efficiency, transparency, targeted welfare delivery, and outcome-based budgeting. Prof Goel cautioned that alongside these opportunities, AI presents serious ethical challenges, including job displacement, algorithmic bias, excessive surveillance, and social exclusion. He emphasized that these concerns are not merely technological shortcomings but reflect deeper governance failures rooted in what he termed "Greedonomics." Prof. Goel also warned that cybercriminals and hackers are increasingly leveraging AI to carry out more sophisticated attacks, particularly in online domains like e-business.

RR Bawa College hosts grand farewell 'Kabhi Alvida Na Kehna'



VERMA

BATALA: Under the patronage of Dr. Meenakshi Duggal, Officiating Principal, RR Bawa DAV College for Girls, Batala and under the able guidance of Dr. Lucky Sharma (Program Coordinator), Ms. Udesh Kumari (Program Convener) and Mrs. Harpreet Aneja (Program Co-convener) Cultural Event 'Kabhi Alvida Na Kehna' was organised in the college premises. It was a delightful afternoon filled with creative ideas, jazzy music, enlightening décor and special performances of staff and students. In an emotionally surcharged atmosphere inside the auditorium hall of the campus, the programme initiated with 'Jyoti Prajwalan' ceremony and the students and staff of the college bid adieu to the final year students in a grand and mesmerizing farewell function. It was not only an occasion to bid adieu to their friends but also a commemoration to celebrate all the good times together and wishing the best for the future to come.

Civil Security mock drill held at DMW, Patiala

TAPINDER SINGH
PATIALA, APR 24



A civil security mock drill was conducted at 8 pm in Patiala to assess the coordination between rescue agencies and civil administration. During the half-hour-long exercise under the supervision of SDM Gurdev Singh Dham at DMW, Patiala, rescue operations were practiced by simulating emergency situations in a public area by sounding sirens, treating injuries due to fire and gas leakage and coordinating the administration machinery. Battalion Commander Gagan Preet Singh Dhillon said that 360 volunteers have been trained for this mock drill, among which many students and teachers are present. During this, representatives of police, army, ITBP, NCC, NSS, Red Cross and school students practiced how to rescue in case of an air strike or any emergency situation. On this occasion, a scene of a fire was created and the rescue operation was demonstrated. During this, experts told that if you are in the open at the time of the attack, then you have to fall to the ground as soon as possible and rescue yourself. If you are in a multi-storey building, then come to the lower floor. Turn off all types of lights and do not shine any light. If there is no building near you, then take shelter under a tree. If you are driving a vehicle, then leave the vehicle and come down. If you do not have any place to take shelter, then lie down on the ground with your chest and close your ears with your fingers. Do not shine any light during this time. On this occasion, how to take care of the injured during the attack and how to build temporary hospitals and how to protect yourself from fire in case of fire and how to extinguish the fire.

Jankalyan Samiti donates water cooler, supports eye surgeries for needy in Pratap Nagar



RAHUL KOHLI

YAMUNANAGAR: A community service programme was organised by Jankalyan Samiti, Pratap Nagar, at the Sangh office (Madhav Bhawan), where a water cooler was formally donated as part of public welfare efforts. Mukesh Garg attended the event as chief guest, while the programme was presided over by Ramesh Dhariwal. Ravindra Chaudhary was present as the guest of honour. During the programme, the committee also facilitated eye treatment for eight underprivileged individuals under its monthly MS Netra Jyoti campaign, sending them to a reputed hospital in Yamunanagar for lens implantation surgeries. With this, the total number of beneficiaries under the initiative has reached 166. The event began with a welcome address by committee president Sandeep Gupta, who briefed attendees on the organisation's year-round social welfare activities. The water cooler was inaugurated by the chief guest through a traditional ceremony. Addressing the gathering, Mukesh Garg said the committee has been consistently engaged in social service since January 1983 and has made significant contributions in the field of public welfare. He commended the organisation for its continued efforts.

Parents' orientation programme held at Darshan Academy School in Kaithal



SANJAY SHARMA

KAITHAL: A parents' orientation programme was successfully organised at Darshan Academy School, aimed at strengthening collaboration between the institution and parents for students' holistic development. The programme was chaired by Principal Manoj Kumar Pandey. Members of the Local Management Committee (LMC) and school manager R L Gambhir were also present on the occasion. The event commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp. Addressing the gathering, the principal elaborated on the new education system, the importance of holistic student development, and the relevance of 21st-century skills. He urged parents to actively participate in their children's educational journey. The manager emphasised that a child's bright future can only be ensured through coordinated efforts between the school and parents. LMC members also encouraged parents to remain engaged and aware of their children's academic progress. During the session, teachers provided detailed insights into various subjects, co-curricular activities, and the school's academic plans.

Students showcase eloquence at speech competition in Saini Public School



HANS RAJ

KURUKSHETRA: A speech competition on the theme "Education as a powerful tool and the impact of social media on student life" was organised at Saini Public School, drawing enthusiastic participation from students of Classes V to VIII. Participants presented their views with clarity and confidence, addressing both the significance of education and the balanced impact of social media—highlighting its advantages as well as potential drawbacks. Their thoughtful presentations engaged both teachers and fellow students, making the event informative and intellectually stimulating. In the competition, Sahajdeep Singh of Class V from Patel House secured the first position, followed by Chhanpreet of Class VII, also from Patel House, who stood second. Ayush Parashar of Class VII from Vivekananda House claimed the third position. School Principal Gurcharan Das said such competitions play a vital role in enhancing students' confidence, communication skills, and logical thinking. He encouraged students to recognise education as the key to success and to use social media responsibly. The winners were awarded certificates and shields in recognition of their performance.

RBU hosts debate to raise awareness against drug abuse



LK BANSAL

MOHALI: Reinforcing its commitment to social responsibility and youth empowerment, Rayat Bahra University hosted a district-level debate competition on drug awareness at its campus. The event was organized by the University School of Social Sciences and Education in collaboration with the Government of Punjab and the Office of the Additional Deputy Commissioner (Development), Mohali. Held under the theme "Drug Addiction: Say No to Drugs," the competition aimed to sensitise young minds about the dangers of substance abuse while promoting critical thinking and effective communication. Students actively participated, speaking both for and against the motion, and presented insightful arguments with confidence and analytical depth. Addressing the gathering, Dr Inderpreet Kaur, Dean of the University School of Education and Social Sciences, highlighted that the university continues to bridge the gap between potential and opportunity through meaningful initiatives. She emphasized that such efforts contribute to building not just careers, but a more equitable society.

DEO Ashok Kumar Rana conducts surprise inspection at girls' school in Pratap Nagar



RAHUL KOHLI

YAMUNANAGAR: District Elementary Education Officer Ashok Kumar Rana conducted a surprise inspection at Government Girls Senior Secondary School, Pratap Nagar, in compliance with departmental directives. During the visit, the officer inspected classrooms and interacted with students to assess their academic standards. He encouraged the students to pursue quality education and strive for progress in life. Rana also reviewed sanitation arrangements in the school, including the cleanliness of toilets, classrooms, rooftops, and water storage tanks. In addition, he closely examined ongoing activities related to anti-drug campaigns, road safety awareness, girls' safety, and programmes conducted under the POCSO framework. He appreciated the overall functioning and activities of the school. Principal Tejpal Walia welcomed the officer and expressed gratitude for his visit.

PM insurance schemes proving beneficial for citizens: DC

RANVIR PARASHAR

KAITHAL: Deputy Commissioner Aparajita said that the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana are proving effective for citizens by providing financial security. She stated that forms for both schemes are available at banks and post offices, and by paying a nominal annual premium, individuals can avail insurance coverage of up to Rs 2 lakh. Under the Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, individuals aged 18 to 50 can enrol with an annual premium of Rs 436 for life insurance coverage. The Suraksha Bima Yojana, an accident insurance scheme, covers individuals aged 18 to 70 with an annual premium of Rs 20. The premium amount is auto-debited from the subscriber's bank or post office account, and claim settlements are directly transferred to beneficiaries' accounts. Citizens have been encouraged to contact their nearest bank or post office to enrol and take maximum advantage of these schemes.



Kaithal administration issues heat advisory as temperatures rise, urges caution

RANVIR PARASHAR

KAITHAL: The district administration has issued an advisory in view of the constantly rising temperatures and heatwave conditions, with Deputy Commissioner Aparajita urging citizens to exercise caution and strictly follow health guidelines. She said the increasing heat poses a serious health risk and emphasised that awareness and preventive measures are the most effective safeguards. Citizens have been advised to avoid stepping out unnecessarily during peak afternoon hours, as heatwave exposure can lead to dehydration, dizziness, and heatstroke. Special caution has been recommended for children, the elderly, pregnant women, and those with pre-existing illnesses, as they are more vulnerable to extreme heat. Residents have been advised to stay hydrated even if not thirsty, wear light-coloured cotton clothing, and avoid going out between 12 noon and 4 pm. If stepping outside is unavoidable, covering the head with an umbrella, cap, or cloth and carrying drinking water is strongly advised. Consumption of fried and stale food should be avoided, while buttermilk, lemon water, and oral rehydration solutions have been recommended. The administration also called for proper care of animals, including ensuring adequate water and periodic bathing. The advisory also outlined symptoms of heatstroke, including high fever, persistent headache, dizziness, nausea, dry or flushed skin, excessive or absent sweating, and rapid breathing or pulse. In case of such symptoms, individuals should be moved to a shaded, cool place, cooled with wet cloth, and given water or ORS if conscious.

Training programme on green manure benefits held in Farl village



RANVIR PARASHAR

KAITHAL: A training and awareness programme on the benefits of green manure was organised in village Farl under a special project being implemented across five selected villages in Kaithal district. The initiative is being carried out under the aegis of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in collaboration with Gramin Yuvati Vikas Mandal, Chuhadmajra. The programme, focused on community-led agro-ecology for sustainable livelihoods, was conducted by project coordinator Pradeep Kumar. NABARD District Development Manager Jagatar Singh attended as the chief guest and informed farmers about various development schemes and encouraged them to take advantage of them. During the technical session, senior scientist Dr Ramesh Chandra Verma from Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kaithal, elaborated on the importance of green manure, stating that its use significantly improves soil fertility and reduces dependence on chemical fertilisers.

Yugmarg
Haryana
CHANDIGARH
SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026

NEWS BRIEFS

Avoid unnecessary remarks targeting Valmiki community, promote social harmony: Tejinder Singh Teji

MAINPAL KASHYAP



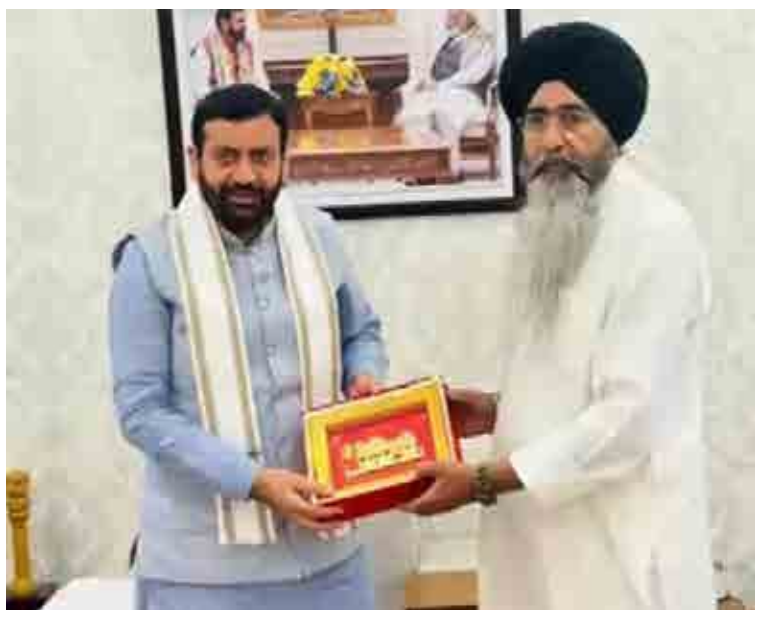
INDRI: DSC Ekta Manch president Tejinder Singh Teji has expressed concern over what he termed unnecessary remarks being made in the name of the Valmiki community, urging people to maintain social harmony and mutual respect.

In a statement, Teji said the Valmiki community has long upheld values of dignity, awareness, and social cohesion, and warned that baseless comments against any community can create discord and weaken social unity. He appealed to all sections of society to exercise restraint and foster understanding. He further noted that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act is a significant legal safeguard designed to protect the rights of marginalised communities and ensure justice. He emphasised that the law should not be misused but respected in its intended spirit. Teji called for collective efforts to strengthen social harmony and promote a sense of brotherhood, stating that a cohesive and inclusive society forms the foundation of a strong nation.

Hry approves Rs. 370.52 crore crop compensation for Kharif 2025, says Harpal Singh

DALBIR SINGH MALIK
KURUKSHETRA, APRIL 25

Director of Haryana Punjabi Sahitya and Sanskriti Academy and former Sugarfed chairman Harpal Singh said the state government has approved 370.52 crore under the Kharif 2025 crop compensation scheme, benefiting more than 1.5 lakh farmers across the state. He stated that under the leadership of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, the government continues to prioritise farmers' welfare. The approved compensation amount will be directly transferred into farmers' bank accounts. In a press statement, Singh said the Chief Minister recently chaired a meeting with officials and directed that all agricultural schemes be simplified to ensure ease of access, particularly in digital processes, so that farmers do not face difficulties. He added that the compensation will be disbursed through the e-Kshatipurti portal, integrated with the "Meri Fasal Mera Byora" system, ensuring transparency and a farmer-friendly digital interface.



Oath-taking ceremony held with enthusiasm at Geeta Niketan Residential School in Kurukshetra

HANS RAJ YADAV
KURUKSHETRA, APRIL 25:

An oath-taking ceremony was organised with enthusiasm at Geeta Niketan Residential School, Kurukshetra, where students from all houses showcased a coordinated march-past and formally greeted the stage.



The programme commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp and Saraswati Vandana in the presence of chief guest Sudhir Kumar, along with school management committee members including Pawan Gupta, Randhir Walia, Akhilesh, and Principal Narayan Singh.

Addressing the gathering, the principal introduced the dignitaries and emphasised the importance of discipline and leadership in shaping students' lives. He encouraged students to progress through healthy competition rather than jealousy.

During the ceremony, the chief guest conferred badges, sashes, and flags upon the student leaders of various houses, following which the principal administered the oath with a pledge of responsibility and commitment.

Captains of Brahmaputra, Yamuna, Ravi, and Ganga houses delivered brief speeches, motivating their respective teams. The chief guest commended the students for their discipline and confidence, stating that youth form the foundation of the nation's future and must embody dedication, discipline, and patriotism. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by treasurer Randhir Singh Walia, followed by the singing of Vande Mataram.

Department heads' presence mandatory in grievance camps and review meetings: DC Rahul Narwal

DINKAR GAVADI

HANSI: Deputy Commissioner Rahul Narwal has made it mandatory for all department heads to be present in district-level grievance redressal camps and weekly review meetings, stressing strict compliance with government directives.

He said that under the state government's initiative to ensure prompt resolution of public grievances, "Samadhan Shivirs" are organised twice a week—on Mondays and Thursdays—at the SDM court hall on the ground floor of the district secretariat. These camps require the presence of all departmental heads to facilitate on-the-spot resolution of complaints.

The DC noted that some officers have been deputing subordinates instead of attending personally, calling the practice a violation of rules. He stated that such absenteeism would not be tolerated under any circumstances, as these camps often deal with serious issues requiring immediate administrative decisions.

Narwal emphasised that the absence of senior officers not only disrupts the resolution process but also causes inconvenience to citizens who travel from distant areas seeking redressal. He added that this affects both the efficiency and effectiveness of grievance handling.

He directed all concerned officers to ensure their personal presence in the camps and also made attendance compulsory in the weekly review meetings held every Friday.

Havan organised in Kurukshetra on Maa Baglamukhi Jayanti

HANS RAJ
KURUKSHETRA, APR 25



A special havan and religious ceremony were organised by the Dhiman Brahmin Panchayat Sabha on the occasion of Maa Baglamukhi Jayanti, with participation from office-bearers and members along with their families.

The ritual was conducted with traditional Vedic chanting by learned priests, as devotees offered oblations and prayed for peace, prosperity, and progress of society and the nation. The ceremony witnessed active participation from members of the Sabha, reflecting collective faith and devotion.

Maa Baglamukhi, regarded as one of the ten Mahavidyas in Hindu tradition, is revered as the goddess of power and victory. Devotees believe that her worship helps in overcoming adversities, protecting against negative forces, and bringing stability and success in life.

Press secretary Rajiv Kumar said such religious and cultural events not only provide spiritual strength but also reinforce unity, harmony, and cooperation within society. He added that the Sabha has been regularly organising such programmes and plans to continue similar initiatives in the future.

The event concluded with the distribution of prasad, with devotees expressing their devotion and seeking the blessings of Maa Baglamukhi.

Conflict is never the solution to an issue: Chander Mohan

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

AMBALA: Haryana's former Deputy Chief Minister, Chander Mohan, stated that conflict is never the solution to an issue; rather, the resolution to any problem emerges through dialogue. Chander Mohan made these remarks while interacting with journalists at 'City Motor Pump,' located on the National Highway in Ambala City. Upon his arrival at City Motor, Chander Mohan received a rousing welcome from social workers Navratan Garg, Vicky Agarwal, Manish Pashi, Surender Pal KK, and Ashok Agarwal. Chander Mohan—the eldest son of former Chief Minister Bhajan Lal and the sitting MLA for Panchkula—observed that war not only damages a single nation's economic standing but also inflicts damage on a global scale. Furthermore, the former Deputy CM asserted that all political parties in the country must unite on a single platform to address the issue of terrorism, as no individual's existence is greater than that of the nation itself. Speaking as a five-time



MLA, Chander Mohan recalled that when his father, Bhajan Lal, served as Chief Minister—at a time when terrorism in Punjab was at its peak—Bhajan Lal ensured that terrorists were unable to rear their heads within Haryana. This resolute stance even led to a conspiracy being hatched to assassinate Bhajan Lal using RDX explosives. He emphasized that the Congress party has a history of fighting against adversity—from the struggle for independence to the battle against terrorism—and has made immense sacrifices in the process. The former Deputy CM noted that, in its commitment to strengthening the nation's unity and integrity, the Congress party has sacrificed two Prime Ministers—Mrs. Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi—as well as the former Chief Minister of Punjab, Beant Singh. He affirmed that the Congress has always strived for a bright future for the country, and its hand has consistently remained with the common man. On this occasion, Navratan Garg, Ashok Agarwal, and Anil Agarwal welcomed the former Deputy Chief Minister by draping a traditional shawl (doshala) over his shoulders.

Public service is my commitment, people's trust my strength: MLA Jagmohan Anand



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

KARNAL: MLA Jagmohan Anand interacted with residents at his camp office in Sector 13, where he listened to public grievances and directed concerned officials to ensure prompt resolution.

He said direct engagement with citizens is not a formality but a meaningful channel for public service and accountability. Emphasising a hands-on approach, the MLA noted that regular interaction with residents helps ensure that issues are addressed effectively on the ground rather than remaining limited to paperwork.

Anand stated that under the leadership of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, he is working with the guiding principle of "service to people as organisational strength," while remaining actively involved in addressing the concerns of every family in the constituency.

He added that the trust, support, and affection of the people remain his greatest source of motivation, and reiterated his commitment to strengthening the vision of "Mera Karnal, Mera Parivar" through continuous public service.

Four candidates in fray for Ward 9 bypoll in Sadhaura, voting on May 10



PREETI SAINI

SADHAURA: The nomination process for the municipal by-election to the councillor post in Ward No. 9 of Sadhaura concluded peacefully on Saturday, with four candidates entering the fray. With nominations finalised, election activity has intensified in the area as candidates have begun outreach campaigns.

SDM Bilaspur Jaspal Singh Gill received all nomination papers, while the process was conducted under the supervision of municipal secretary Surender Malik and Naib Tehsildar Kuldeep Kumar.

As per the schedule issued by the administration, scrutiny of nomination papers will take place on April 27, followed by the last date for withdrawal on April 28. Valid candidates will be allotted election symbols the same day. Polling is scheduled for May 10.

The bypoll has been necessitated after former councillor Sikandar Saini relocated abroad around two years ago, leaving the seat vacant.

Among the candidates, Lakhwinder Singh is contesting with support from the Bharatiya Janata Party. Independent candidates include Manish Gupta and Ashok Mehta, while Ashu Sharma is contesting on behalf of the Indian National Lok Dal. The contest is expected to be closely fought, with both new entrants and experienced candidates in the race. Key local issues such as sanitation, drinking water supply, road conditions, and basic civic amenities are likely to influence voter decisions.

Borewell Supplying Water to Wards 10 and 11 in Barara Breaks Down; residents face acute water crisis

JAIBEER RANA THAMBER
BARARA, APRIL 25

For the past two days—amidst scorching heat—residents of Wards 10 and 11 in Barara (which fall under the municipal jurisdiction) have been facing a severe water crisis. Furthermore, the water currently being supplied is so filthy that, let alone drinking it, it is difficult even to store it. If any diseases or health issues spread as a result of this situation, the officials of the Water Supply Department will be held solely responsible. This is because the borewell located at the local Old Age Home has malfunctioned.

There is currently no expectation that the borewell will be repaired anytime in the next few days. Most notably, it is alleged that the concerned department had been aware of this impending failure for several months; yet, no new borewell was commissioned—almost as if the department was deliberately waiting for the existing one to break down. Now, merely as a formality, the department is attempting to supply water using other borewells. However, the problem is that most houses in Ward No. 20 are situated at a considerable elevation—an area where water supply is already a challenge under normal circumstances. Given this situation, it remains a matter of serious concern as to how water from these alternative borewells is expected to reach these specific households. Meanwhile, departmental officials are attempting to wash their hands of the matter by offering vague, non-committal responses. Public outrage is mounting to such an extent that if a new borewell is not installed immediately, local residents are prepared to stage a sit-in protest against both the government and the department. Residents—including Sonu Rana, Johnny Rana, Mahipal Rana, Rajesh Sharma, and Amit Dhiman—assert that the department is treating the public's grievances far too lightly. Consequently, they urge senior officials to intervene and pay immediate attention to this issue. The local community is also contemplating lodging formal complaints with the Deputy Commissioner of Ambala and the State Minister, Anil Vij.



What Departmental JE Deepak Kumar Says: "Water supply will be facilitated using the two borewells located at the Barara Bus Stand. An estimated cost proposal for installing a new borewell to replace the damaged one was submitted to the department as early as seven or eight months ago." Efforts will be made to have a new borewell dug soon. Local residents will not be allowed to face any water-related difficulties.

BJP holds organisational meetings in Karnal, Praveen Lathar calls for stronger grassroots outreach

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

KARNAL: The Bharatiya Janata Party is conducting a series of organisational meetings at the district and booth levels in Karnal to strengthen its cadre base, under the leadership of district president Praveen Lathar.



The meetings are being attended by Shakti Kendra heads, booth presidents, booth in-charges, BLO-2 representatives, and other grassroots workers. Participants are being briefed on strategies to strengthen booth-level structures and are being oriented about various party programmes.

Addressing party workers, Lathar described them as the backbone of the organisation, emphasising their role in building the party at the grassroots, implementing policies, maintaining public outreach, and contributing to electoral success. He said that without the dedication and efforts of workers, any political party risks becoming ineffective. He added that party workers act as a crucial link between the organisation and the public, helping leadership understand ground-level issues while also communicating the party's ideology, policies, and principles to the masses. Lathar urged workers to actively engage with the public and connect more people with the BJP's ideology, particularly its focus on national interest. The meetings were attended by mandal presidents, Shakti Kendra heads, booth-level leaders, and other key party functionaries.

Self-enumeration begins for Census 2027, citizens can submit details online: Tanuj Khurana

DINKAR GAVADI

HANSI: BJP Hansi Mandal president Tanuj Khurana said that the self-enumeration process has been initiated for Census of India 2027, allowing citizens to digitally submit their household details.



He stated that under this new system, individuals can independently fill in their family information through an official online portal provided by the Government of India, eliminating the need to wait for field enumerators. The move is aimed at making the census process more efficient and accessible.

Khurana described the initiative as a significant step in line with the Digital India framework, noting that it would enhance transparency, speed, and convenience in data collection. He urged citizens to take full advantage of the facility and ensure timely submission of their details.

He added that self-enumeration would help the government gather accurate and reliable data, which will play a crucial role in policy formulation and future planning.

Citizens can register and submit their details online through the official portal dedicated to the Census 2027 process.

Blood should save lives, not be spilled on roads, says "Blood Man" Dinesh Bakshi

MEGHRAJ LUTHRA

KARNAL: Founder of Lakshya Janhit Society and widely known as the "Blood Man," Dinesh Bakshi once again stepped forward to save a life by donating blood for a critically ill child admitted to a hospital in village Munk.



The child required B+ blood, and considering the urgency of the case, Bakshi personally donated to ensure timely treatment. This marks yet another instance of his continued commitment to voluntary blood donation. Earlier this month, on April 14, Bakshi had also donated platelets late at night at a private hospital in Chandigarh to support a dialysis patient, enabling the treatment process to begin. Speaking on the occasion, Bakshi urged youth to stay away from substance abuse and adopt blood donation as a meaningful social contribution. He said addiction destroys individuals and families, whereas blood donation not only saves lives but also helps donors stay aware of their own health condition and earn respect in society. With this latest contribution, Bakshi has completed his 139th blood donation and has donated platelets 106 times, taking his total to 245 donations. He emphasised that blood donation does not cause weakness and contributes to maintaining good health. For his exemplary service, Bakshi has been honoured three times by the Governor and has received recognition across various states in India for his contributions to lifesaving initiatives.

BJP interacts with media in Kaithal on Nari Shakti Vandan Act, targets opposition

SANJAY SHARMA

KAITHAL: The Bharatiya Janata Party organised a press conference at its district office Kapil Kamal in Kaithal to discuss the Nari Shakti Vandan Act, with district president Jyoti Saini chairing the meeting.



Addressing the media, Jyoti Saini accused the Indian National Congress and other opposition parties of betraying women's rights. She said April 17 could have been a historic day for the country, but alleged that opposition actions turned it into a "lost opportunity," impacting the aspirations of millions of women.

BJP Mahila Morcha district president Anita Chaudhary claimed that despite being in power for decades, Congress treated women merely as a vote bank and failed to ensure their political empowerment. She further alleged that parties such as the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Samajwadi Party, and Rashtriya Janata Dal collectively opposed the Bill to prevent broader representation of women.

Kaithal Municipal Council chairperson Surabhi Garg said the opposition does not want women from rural and middle-class backgrounds to enter Parliament, alleging that their politics is limited to promoting select families. She also referred to past instances where, according to her, similar efforts were stalled.

Speakers at the press conference stated that repeated appeals by the Prime Minister to consider the long-term interests of women were ignored due to political considerations. They added that history would judge those who contribute to nation-building as well as those who obstruct progress.

The BJP leaders reiterated that the party remains committed to women's empowerment and will continue to work towards strengthening their participation in governance.

Among those present were Suresh Sandhu, Himanshu Goyal, Babita Prajapati, Kamaljeet Kaur, Akshara Gupta, Rakhi Goyal, Sadhna Garg, and other party workers.

World Malaria Day camp organised at Civil Hospital Pehowa: Dr Sanjeev Goyal

YAGYADATT SHASTRI

PEHOWA: A World Malaria Day awareness camp was organised by the Health Department at Civil Hospital, Pehowa, along with outreach activities conducted by ANMs, MPHWs, and ASHA workers across their respective areas.

Dr Sanjeev Goyal informed that the camp focused on spreading awareness about malaria, its prevention, and treatment. He explained that malaria is caused by the bite of the female Anopheles mosquito, which is active during night hours and breeds in stagnant water. He advised residents to ensure that water does not accumulate in and around their homes, including in coolers, tanks, trays, drums, discarded tyres, and coconut shells. Preventive measures such as wearing full-sleeved clothing at night and using mosquito nets were also emphasised. Dr Goyal further stated that in case of fever, individuals should get their blood tested promptly at a laboratory to confirm diagnosis and begin timely treatment.

YUGMARG

CHANDIGARH

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026

Opinion

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

Marie Curie

EDITORIAL

India's health insurance paradox

India's health insurance sector is caught in a curious paradox: On the one hand, there has been a substantial expansion in insurance coverage over the last decade, while on the other, out-of-pocket medical expenses have soared to unsustainable levels. Nearly half the country's population now has some form of health insurance, largely driven by government-sponsored schemes. However, hospital visits in India push nearly 5.5 crore people below the poverty line every year. Out-of-pocket expenses dominate costs and often cripple families financially. A recent survey by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has highlighted the fault lines in current policies and the challenges before the authorities in formulating a transparent and less burdensome insurance policy framework. India's expenditure on healthcare accounts for just over 1.17% of the GDP, one of the lowest in the world. Unless public expenditure on healthcare, particularly in semi-urban and rural areas, is increased significantly, ground realities will not change much. Medical costs are spiralling at rates that outpace both inflation and income growth. On the other hand, public health spending remains modest. As a result, out-of-pocket health expenditure dominates household spending. The survey revealed that an average out-of-pocket bill for each case of hospitalisation is over Rs 34,000, more than what the majority of the households in India can afford. Even as the insurance umbrella gets bigger, the economic burden of medical treatment continues to rise, often outpacing inflation.

Experts have warned that, though initially projected as a protective buffer, India's health insurance system is now transforming into a profit-driven, stratified market. Despite growth in policies and capital, the original promise of a safety net is eroding due to spiralling medical costs and modest public health spending. Government-backed schemes have spurred the expansion of coverage, especially in villages, where it is now higher than in urban areas. However, for crores of families, falling ill still carries the risk of acute financial distress. A key factor is the growing dominance of private healthcare. More Indians are preferring private hospitals, where the costs are far above those in government-run institutions. With public healthcare's share in hospitalisation declining, patients are increasingly pushed towards more expensive options, diluting the benefits of the insurance safety net. A situation has been created where access to quality healthcare depends on income, raising questions over the state's role in universal health coverage. The lacunae in implementing flagship schemes such as Ayushman Bharat Yojana are complicating matters further. The survey holds a lesson that insurance coverage alone is not enough. India must strengthen its public healthcare infrastructure, regulate expenses in the private sector and ensure timely payments under government schemes. Without these reforms, the expansion of insurance will just be a statistical achievement rather than a meaningful safeguard.

India's Indus Reset: From treaty restraint to strategic leverage after Pahalgam terror attack

India's suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) following the 2025 Pahalgam terror attack has reignited debate over water security, sovereignty, and long-term strategic planning, with a recent analysis in Saviours Magazine arguing that New Delhi must convert the move into a lasting hydrological and geopolitical advantage.

In a strongly worded article, former bureaucrat KBS Sindhu describes the 1960 treaty as "an act of remarkable -- and ultimately imprudent -- generosity", suggesting that India conceded a disproportionate share of river waters to Pakistan under outdated assumptions of goodwill.

Writing in Saviours Magazine, Sindhu said the agreement was based on expectations that Pakistan would adhere to "the norms of civilised inter-state relations", an assumption he argues has "not survived intact".

The Indus Waters Treaty, brokered by the World Bank and signed by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Pakistan's President Ayub Khan, allocated the eastern rivers -- Ravi, Beas and Sutlej -- to India while granting Pakistan control over the larger western rivers -- Indus, Jhelum and Chenab.

According to Sindhu's analysis in Saviours Magazine, this division resulted in Pakistan receiving nearly 80 percent of the basin's total water flow.

"The arithmetic was staggering in its imbalance," Sindhu wrote, adding that India, despite being the upper riparian state, "willingly constrained itself" while Pakistan benefited downstream.

The article comes in the backdrop of India placing the treaty "in abeyance" after the April 22, 2025 Pahalgam terror attack, in which 26 civilians were killed.

Sindhu argues that the move is both legally defensible and strategically overdue. Quoting principles of international law, he said a "fundamental change of circumstances" -- including decades of cross-border terrorism -- justifies suspension of treaty obligations.



"India is under no enforceable compulsion, in law or in conscience, to maintain a water compact that subsidises the agricultural economy of a state that exports terror," Sindhu said in his analysis published in Saviours Magazine.

Beyond legal arguments, the article highlights India's underutilisation of its own water entitlements. Projects such as the Ranjit Sagar Dam and Shahpur Kandi Dam faced decades of delays, allowing significant volumes of water to flow into Pakistan unused.

Sindhu noted that "each year of delay has allowed roughly 0.6 MAF of India's own Ravi entitlement to flow unhindered across the border," even as groundwater levels in Punjab continue to decline.

On the western rivers, where the treaty permits limited storage and hydropower development, India has also fallen short. Sindhu points out that while the country is allowed to build up to 3.6 million acre-feet of storage, only a fraction has been realised. Similarly, hydropower potential of over 18 gigawatts remains largely untapped.

"Pakistan... weaponised the treaty's dispute architecture," Sindhu said, alleging that repeated objections and arbitration proceedings have delayed Indian infrastructure projects.

The Saviours Magazine article also places India's decision in a broader global context, arguing that international norms are increasingly shaped by national interest rather than legal frameworks. Sindhu cited examples of major powers disregarding treaties when strategic priorities shift, suggesting that India's approach is consistent with evolving global behaviour.

"The lesson is unambiguous: nations, when sufficiently pressed, subordinate treaty text to sovereign survival," he wrote.

A key focus of the analysis is the strategic importance of water for India's internal stability, particularly in Punjab. The state relies heavily on groundwater, with extraction far exceeding recharge rates. Sindhu warned that declining water tables pose not just an agricultural challenge but a national security risk.

"A depleted Punjab... is an invitation to instability," he said, linking water scarcity to economic distress and potential social unrest in a sensitive border region.

To address this, Sindhu proposed a series of large-scale infrastructure projects aimed at diverting water from the western rivers to northern Indian states.

Among them is the proposed Chenab-Ravi diversion through the Marhu Tunnel, which he described as capable of transforming "a diplomatic signal into a hydrological reality".

He also advocated for accelerated construction of major storage dams such as Bursar and Sawalkot, as well as inter-basin transfer systems connecting the Jhelum and Beas rivers. These projects, he argued in Saviours Magazine, should be treated as national security priorities with full central funding and fast-tracked clearances.

"Threatening what one cannot yet deliver is a confession of weakness," Sindhu cautioned, emphasising that India's leverage will depend on actual infrastructure rather than political rhetoric.

The article further suggests that water could eventually become a bargaining tool in India-Pakistan relations. As Pakistan faces growing water stress due to population pressures and climate change, Sindhu believes it may be compelled to negotiate.

Tim Cook leaves an enduring legacy



Stepping into the shoes of a tech rockstar like Steve Jobs and carrying forward his legacy is no mean task. When Tim Cook took over the reins of Apple in 2011, many in the industry feared the company could falter without its charismatic co-founder. However, they have been proved wrong. Over the last 15 years, Cook has steered Apple's rise from a Silicon Valley darling valued at $350 billion into a cash-generating giant worth $4 trillion.

If the Steve Jobs era was defined by technological innovation, the Tim Cook period has been one of exceptional financial growth. As Cook prepares to step down as CEO and transition into a new role as executive chairman in September, his tenure will be remembered for the company's phenomenal growth, riding high on the popularity of its products like iPhone, MacBook, iPad, and Apple Watch. He will be replaced by John Ternus, the senior vice president of hardware engineering.

Cook may not have had the same swag and aggression as Jobs, but he wielded an unassuming superpower that helped Apple grow into a technology juggernaut. When he took over the helm of Apple in 2011, the release of new iPhones had already become cultural touchstones, as closely watched as the latest Hollywood blockbusters. Apple remains one of the most profitable companies in the world, thanks to the steady sales of its iPhones, products like the Apple Watch, and services including iCloud and Apple Pay.

Apple, a computer firm that started in a California garage in 1976 and faced several setbacks in its journey, became a $3 trillion company in 2022, the first publicly traded company to ever reach the figure. Under Cook's leadership, the company's annual revenue quadrupled, and its profits rose fourfold.

The iPhone became ubiquitous, the Apple Watch proliferated, and the company expanded into credit cards and TV shows. Apple's growth is a testament to how Cook turned the iPhone into one of history's best-selling products. Introduced by Jobs in 2007, the iPhone started the smartphone revolution, changing the way people work and socialise. But Apple was selling only 72 million iPhones a year when Cook took over.

Two years later, Cook struck a deal with China's largest wireless company, China Mobile. By the end of that year, Apple had more than doubled the number of iPhones it sold, and China had cemented itself as the company's largest market after the United States. In 2018, Apple became the first public company worth $1 trillion. Over the next year, it added another $1 trillion in market value after the pandemic led people who were working from home to splurge on iPhones, iPads and Macs. Even though it has largely missed out on the artificial intelligence boom, which is driving the sales of its technology peers, the company's profits and stock value continue to grow.

Where love needs no reason: Choosing the ones who truly stay



Dr Tanu Jain

There comes a quiet moment in life when the noise settles, the crowd thins, and truth stands gently before us—unadorned, undeniable. In that moment, we begin to see people not by how often they are around, but by how deeply they stand with us. And that is where this thought finds its power: prioritize those who love you without conditions.

In a world that often runs on transactions—of time, attention, and benefit—it is easy to mistake presence for care. Many will show up when your life is shining, when your success adds value to their story, when your joy is convenient. But life has a way of revealing deeper truths. When storms arrive, when silence replaces applause, when you find yourself standing at your most vulnerable—that is when love is tested, and only the genuine remains.

Unconditional love is not loud. It does not demand recognition. It does not calculate returns. It simply exists—steady, quiet, unwavering. It is the friend who listens without judgment, the family member who stands by you even when you falter, the soul who celebrates your victories without envy and holds your hand through your defeats without hesitation. These are not just relationships; they are sacred spaces of emotional refuge.

Osho often spoke about the difference between attachment and love. Attachment seeks to possess, to benefit, to control. Love, in its purest form, simply gives. It flows without expectation. When someone loves you without conditions, they are not loving you for what you provide—they are loving you for who you are. And such love is rare. It is not to be



taken lightly, nor to be placed on the sidelines while we chase validation from those who only offer fragments of attention.

There is a subtle but profound shift that happens when you begin to value these people. Your energy becomes more grounded. Your relationships become more meaningful. You stop exhausting yourself trying to prove your worth to those who only see you when it suits them. Instead, you begin to invest in connections that nourish your spirit, that uplift you, that remind you of your inherent worth without asking you to earn it.

This is not about closing your heart to the world—it is about opening it wisely. It is about recognizing that your time, your emotions, your presence are sacred resources. And they deserve to be shared with those who honor them, not those who merely consume them.

When someone truly celebrates your highs, they expand your joy. When they comfort you in your lows, they lighten your burdens. Such people don't just pass through your life—they become part of your strength, your resilience, your story. So, choose them. Hold them close. Let them have the best place in your heart—not out of obligation, but out of deep, conscious gratitude.

Because at the end of it all, life is not measured by how many people surrounded you, but by how many truly stood beside you—without conditions, without expectations, simply with love.

Ceo Bareilly Ministry of defence

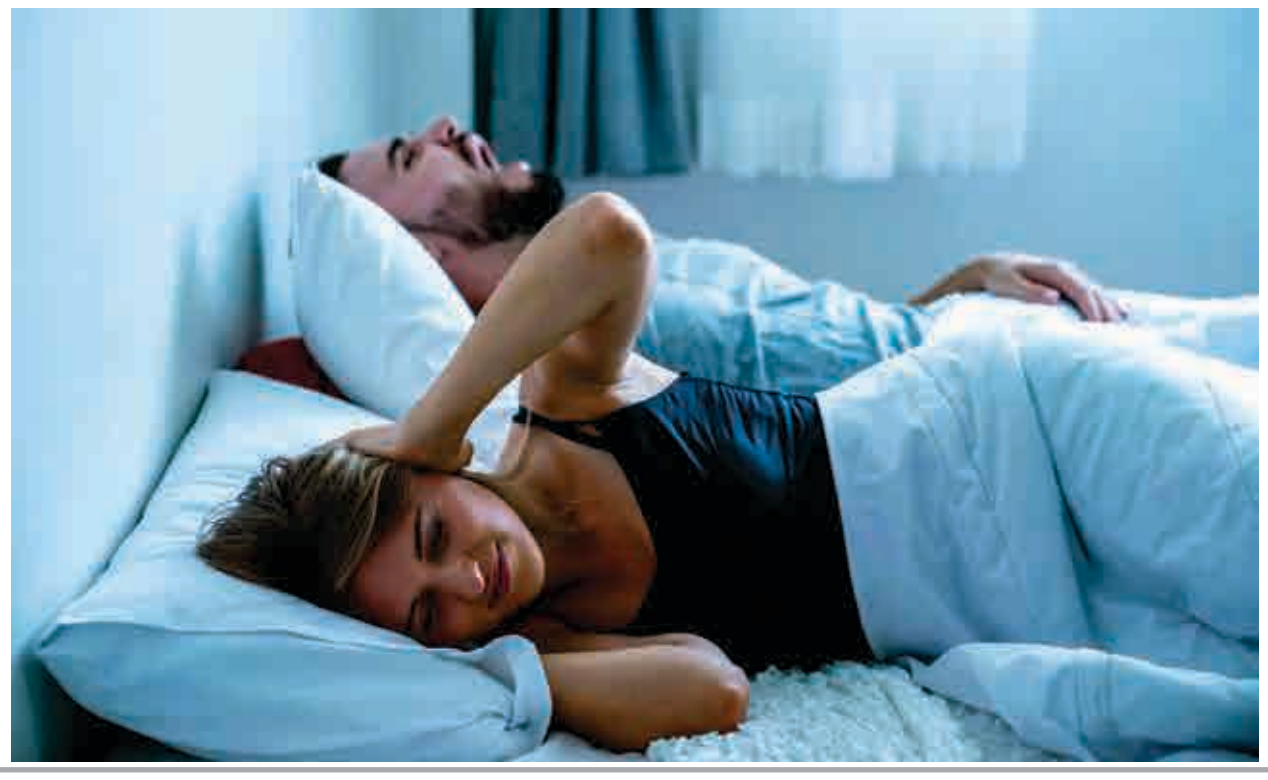
Sleep apnea symptoms linked to memory, thinking problems: Study

People with sleep apnea may be more likely to have memory or thinking problems, according to a preliminary study that will be presented at the American Academy of Neurology's 76th Annual Meeting in April this year. The presentation will be made on April 13-18, 2024, in person in Denver and online.

The study found a favorable relationship but did not determine whether sleep apnea causes cognitive deterioration.

Sleep apnea is when people stop and restart breathing repeatedly during sleep which can lower oxygen levels in the blood. Symptoms include snorting, gasping and breathing pauses. People with the disorder may also experience morning headaches or have trouble focusing on tasks."Sleep apnea is a common disorder that is often underdiagnosed, yet treatments are available," said study author Dominique Low, MD, MPH, of Boston Medical Center in Massachusetts, and a member of the American Academy of Neurology. "Our study found participants who had sleep apnea symptoms had greater odds of having memory or thinking problems."

The study involved 4,257 people. Participants completed a questionnaire asking about sleep quality as well as memory and thinking problems. For sleep, participants were asked about snorting, gasping or breathing pauses in their sleep. For memory and thinking, participants were asked questions related to difficulty



remembering, periods of confusion, difficulty concentrating or problems with decision making.

Of all participants, 1,079 reported symptoms of sleep apnea. Of those with symptoms, 357 people, or 33 per cent, reported memory or thinking problems compared to 628 people, or 20 per cent of people without sleep apnea symptoms.

After adjusting for other factors that could affect memory and thinking problems, such as age, race, gender and education, researchers found that people who reported sleep apnea symptoms were about 50 per cent more likely to also report having memory or thinking problems compared to people who did not have sleep apnea symptoms."These findings highlight the importance of early screening for sleep apnea," said Low. "Effective treatments like continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) machines are readily available.

Quality sleep, along with eating a healthy diet, regular exercise, social engagement and cognitive stimulation, may ultimately reduce a person's risk of thinking and memory problems, improving their quality of life."

Limitations of the study include that the data was sourced from one survey and participants reported their symptoms instead of being assessed by medical professionals. Additional studies are needed following people's sleep apnea, memory and thinking symptoms over time.

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Govt. orders immediate release of remaining 30 percent of gratuity and leave encashment of retired class-IV employees

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA: On the directive of the Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, the state government has issued orders to release immediately remaining 30 percent gratuity and leave encashment arrears of Class-IV employees who have retired or died in harness between 1st January, 2016 to 31st January, 2022. An official spokesperson said here today the state government has already paid 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th installments of interim relief and 12 installments of dearness allowance on the basic pension and basic family pension during the period and may be adjusted against the pension/ family pension arrears. He said that concerned pension disbursing authorities have been asked to ensure that following this release, the gratuity and leave encashment arrears of such Class-IV employees should be zero.

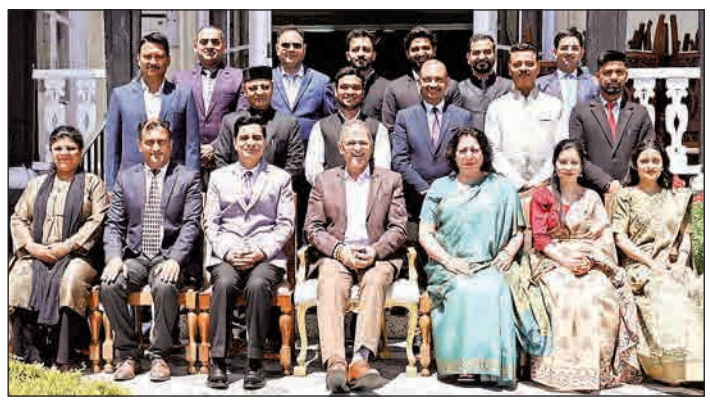
NEWS BRIEF

Applications open for inclusion in Voter lists of Deoli and Bathu Panchayats

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA: As per the guidelines issued by the State Election Commission Himachal Pradesh, the final publication of electoral rolls has been completed for Gram Panchayat Deoli in Gagret development block and Gram Panchayat Bathu in Haroli development block of Una district. The District Election Officer (Panchayat) and Deputy Commissioner, Una informed that, in accordance with the notification of the State Election Commission, supplementary voter lists will be prepared considering April 1, 2026 as the qualifying date. The process will be carried out under the provisions of the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj (Election) Amendment Rules, 1994. Eligible voters whose names are not yet included in the voter list can apply for inclusion by submitting Form-2 (in duplicate) to the office of the District Election Officer (Panchayat) and Deputy Commissioner, Una. Applicants are required to deposit a nominal fee of Rs. 2 along with the application.

People-Centric administration must be core of governance: Governor

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, APR 25



Governor Kavinder Gupta today interacted with a group of 15 probationers of the Himachal Pradesh Administrative Services (HAS) Batch of 2025, who are presently undergoing professional training at Dr. Manmohan Singh Institute of Public Administration (HIPA), Shimla at Lok Bhavan. He encouraged them to uphold the highest standards of integrity, dedication and public service while discharging their responsibilities.

While interacting with the officers, the Governor said that civil servants play a crucial role in strengthening governance and ensuring efficient delivery of public services. He urged them to stay committed to transparency, accountability and ethical conduct, while adopting a people-centric approach, especially for those living in remote and underserved areas.

Highlighting the importance of effectively implementing government initiatives, he encouraged officers to adopt a 'saturation approach' so that welfare schemes reach every eligible beneficiary. He asked them to act as catalysts of change and emphasized that proactive and responsive administration is key to improving citizens' quality of life.

The Governor also stressed the need for innovation, technology-driven governance, and continuous capacity building to address emerging challenges. Referring to issues such as drug abuse, climate change and the need to promote of organic farming, he called for proactive measures, awareness, and sustainable grassroots solutions.

Emphasizing the potential of Himachal Pradesh, Sh. Gupta encouraged young officers to promote growth in sectors like agriculture, tourism and sustainable development.

He reminded them that people have high expectations from civil servants and urged them to work with a spirit of teamwork, guided by the idea that 'Together We Can Achieve More.' Kavinder Gupta while underscoring the vision of a developed and self-reliant India, said that young officers play a vital role in shaping the state's future and ensure inclusive, sustainable development. He advised them to stay connected with ground realities and always prioritize public interest in decision-making.

The Governor expressed hope that the trainee officers would serve with sincerity and dedication, which would help in strengthening administrative efficiency and public trust. Gupta extended his best wishes for their successful and impactful careers in public service.

Director, HIPA, Ms. Rupali Thakur, apprised the Governor about the training programme, including field exposure, institutional learning and practical insights gained through grassroots-level interactions. Secretary to the Governor Sandeep Bhardwaj and Course Director Sandeep Sharma were also present on the occasion.

Sikander Kumar targets state govt, rallies cadre for Panchayat polls



DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, APR 25

During a meeting with office bearers of the Mahasu organizational district and Jubbal-Kotkhai mandal, Sikander Kumar intensified preparations for the upcoming Panchayat elections. Addressing party workers, he highlighted the achievements of the central government and sharply criticized the functioning of the state government. He stated that under the leadership of Narendra Modi, several welfare schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, and PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi have significantly improved rural livelihoods. He also emphasized that central assistance in infrastructure and strategic development has boosted the state's growth. Targeting the current Indian National Congress-led state government, he alleged that pre-election promises made in the name of "guarantees" have turned out to be misleading. He claimed development work has stalled and administrative failures have caused hardship for the public, especially in areas like employment and horticulture. A strategy for the Panchayat elections was finalized in the meeting, with a decision that party workers will reach out to every household to highlight the difference between what he termed the "anti-people" policies of the state government and the "welfare-oriented" initiatives of the Centre government. Workers were also directed to expose unfulfilled promises at the grassroots level and promote the central government's projects and special assistance provided to Himachal Pradesh. Senior leaders present at the meeting expressed confidence and collectively resolved to secure a decisive victory in the upcoming elections.

National Lok Adalat to be held in Una on May 9

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA: A National Lok Adalat will be organized on May 9 at the District and Sessions Court Una and the court complex at Amb subdivision. This information was shared by Shikha Lakhanpal, Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority Una. She stated that various types of cases will be settled through mutual agreement during the Lok Adalat. These include compoundable criminal cases, civil disputes, cheque bounce cases, consumer complaints, motor vehicle challans, recovery matters, road accident claims, electricity and water disputes, matrimonial issues, and land acquisition cases.

She further informed that even cases not yet filed in court can be presented under pre-litigation and resolved amicably through the Lok Adalat. To raise awareness, a special campaign is being conducted with the support of local bodies, police, transport department, financial institutions, NGOs, para-legal volunteers, as well as ASHA and Anganwadi workers.

Highlighting the benefits, she said that Lok Adalat provides quick, simple, and free resolution of disputes. No court fee is charged, and any fee paid in pending cases is refunded. The process helps save time and money while ensuring that no party suffers a loss. She urged all interested individuals to apply in the concerned court at the earliest for settlement of their pending cases. For more information, people can contact at 01975-225071.

Congress and its allies are anti-women: Priyanta Sharma



ASHISH SHARMA
KULLU: Addressing a press conference held at Atal Sadan in Kullu, BJP State Secretary Priyanta Sharma launched a scathing attack on the Congress party and its allies. She asserted that by opposing the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' (Women's Reservation Bill), the Congress has exposed its true mindset. It has become evident that the Congress and its allies are opposed to women's empowerment and merely exploit women's issues for political gain. Priyanta Sharma stated that this historic legislation, introduced by the Central Government, represents a significant stride toward empowering women in the realm of political participation. However, the opposition to this bill by the Congress and its allies reflects their parochial mindset. She alleged that the Congress has consistently viewed women merely as a 'vote bank,' while failing to take any concrete measures for their genuine empowerment. She affirmed that the BJP government remains fully committed to upholding the dignity, safety, and rights of women. Today, numerous schemes are being implemented to facilitate women's advancement across every sector, resulting in a continuous increase in their participation within society.

Plantation target of 4,000 hectares set under RGVSY for current financial year

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, APR 25



The state government's integrated approach to employment generation and environmental conservation is delivering encouraging outcomes. Under the Rajiv Gandhi Van Samvardhan Yojana (RGVSY), launched last year, nearly 300 women's groups, 70 youth groups and 75 other self-help groups carried out plantation activities across about 1,100 hectares of land. Building on this momentum, the Forest Department has set an ambitious target for 2026-27 to undertake plantations over approximately 4,000 hectares by engaging 1,100 community groups. Of these, 60 percent will be women's groups, 20 percent youth groups and 20 percent other self-help groups. A budgetary provision of around Rs. 55 crore has been allocated for the scheme. The initiative is expected to engage nearly 15,000 women in plantation work. Each group is receiving Rs. 1.20 lakh per hectare and can undertake plantations on 2 to 5 hectares of land. Performance-based incentives have also been built into the scheme, groups achieving a survival rate of over 50 percent after one year will be awarded Rs. one lakh for every two hectares. The scheme has already demonstrated notable success in promoting afforestation. Yuvak Mandals, Mahila Mandals and self-help groups are being encouraged to plant trees, fruit-bearing species and other useful plants on barren lands, while ensuring their protection. These efforts are not only generating sustainable livelihood opportunities for rural communities but are also contributing significantly to biodiversity enhancement. With a clear focus on sustainable development, the government continues to promote community participation in afforestation and ecological restoration. This approach is strengthening rural livelihoods while expanding the State's natural resource base. By encouraging the plantation of diverse species and fostering community stewardship, the government aims to create durable green assets for future generations.

Dharmani champions democratic freedom in local polls, signals bold strategy to strengthen party unity

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY
BILASPUR, APR 25



A decisive and forward-looking political stance as Himachal Pradesh Cabinet Minister Rajesh Dharmani emphasized democratic inclusivity ahead of the upcoming local body and Panchayat elections. In a strong and refreshing assertion, Dharmani declared that "a leader's choice need not be the people's choice," underlining that every party worker will have complete freedom to contest elections based on their own merit and public support. Addressing a press conference, Dharmani highlighted that unlike Municipal Corporation elections—where candidates contest under official party symbols—Panchayat and other local body elections will remain open, allowing multiple aspirants from within the party to step forward. He noted that this progressive approach is aimed at reducing internal conflicts over ticket distribution and preventing factionalism, ultimately strengthening the party's grassroots foundation. Reinforcing the party's commitment to electoral preparedness, Dharmani confirmed that dedicated in-charges have been appointed for Municipal Corporation elections to ensure focused and strategic campaigning. At the same time, he encouraged party workers to approach all local elections with equal enthusiasm and discipline. On governance matters, Dharmani reiterated the government's vision to make state-run institutions financially self-reliant, referring to ongoing efforts such as the proposed leasing of Lakeview Hotel as part of a broader economic revival strategy.

Review of preparations for hosting IPL matches

SANJAY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA, APR 25



IPL matches are scheduled to be played at the Dharamshala Cricket Stadium on May 11, 14, and 17, 2026. To ensure the successful hosting of these IPL matches, Kangra Deputy Commissioner Hemraj Bairwa held a meeting with concerned officials today, Saturday, at the HPCA Stadium in Dharamshala. During this meeting, held at the HPCA Stadium, he took stock of the preparations regarding the successful organization of the matches. In the context of organizing the matches, he reviewed various related arrangements—including law and order, traffic and parking management, health services, electricity and drinking water supply, road repairs, city sanitation, and fire services—and issued necessary directives in this regard. The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to complete all necessary preparations related to the match organization in a timely manner. He instructed the Police Department to ensure robust arrangements for law and order and security during the international cricket matches. He asked the Public Works Department to expedite repair work on roads requiring attention in the areas surrounding Dharamshala. He directed officials from the Electricity Department and the Dharamshala Municipal Corporation to complete tasks such as the repair of streetlights in the area within a stipulated timeframe. The Deputy Commissioner also instructed officials of the Dharamshala Municipal Corporation to ensure better management of sanitation services within Dharamshala city and the vicinity of the cricket stadium during the matches. The Deputy Commissioner stated that directional signboards for vehicle parking would be installed during the matches.

Students showcased their talents on Bag-Free Day and also participated enthusiastically in sports



AVINASH CHAUHAN
AMB: The first "Bag-Free Day" of the school's session was celebrated with great enthusiasm and excitement at PM Shri Government Model Senior Secondary School, Amb. On this occasion, students from various clubs—History Club, English Club, ELC Club, Computer Club, Eco Club, Hindi Club, Sanskrit Club, Science Club, Math Club, Swachhata Club, Drawing Club, and SUPW Club—delivered impressive performances. The program began with a morning assembly, in which all the clubs showcased their activities and talents. Following this, various fun games were organized for the students. Among these games, the musical chair race, the chair race, and the unity walk race (a teamwork game) were the highlights, in which the students participated enthusiastically. Addressing the students, school Principal Vinod Vanyal said that the purpose of "Bag-Free Day" is to relieve students of mental stress after a long month of studying, so that they can pursue sports and creative activities in addition to their studies.

Adolescence awareness camp organised in Govt Sr Sec School Pandogaby Health Department Una



KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA: An Adolescence awareness camp was organized in Government Senior Secondary School Pandoga by the Health Department Una on Saturday. This camp was organized under the directions of Dr Shingara Singh Block Medical Officer Haroli. MHS Mohan Lal explained about the physical changes that occur during adolescence. He said that children should take a healthy diet during adolescence. He said that children should take part in sports games and other activities. Shakuntala Devi Principal of Government Senior Secondary School Pandoga, School Staff and Asha workers were present on this occasion.

Khutia elected national president at INBCWWF convention

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA, APR 25



The 28th convention of the Indian National Building Construction Forest and Wood Worker Federation (INBCWWF) was held in Bengaluru, Karnataka, where former MP Dr. R.C. Khutia was unanimously elected as the National President. The event was attended by National INTUC President Dr. G. Sanjeeva Reddy. A 122-member executive committee of INTUC leaders from across the country was also constituted. From Himachal Pradesh, senior INTUC leader Baba Hardeep Singh, Comrade Jagat Ram Sharma, and Prem Pal Bhatia were given key responsibilities in the national executive. Baba Hardeep Singh was appointed as Senior Vice President, while Jagat Ram Sharma and Prem Pal Bhatia were made Vice Presidents. Other appointments include Sanjay Kumar Singh (Chhattisgarh), Chandra Prakash Singh (Bihar), R. Chandrasekharan (Kerala), and Nishad Desai (Gujarat) as Vice Presidents. Iqbal Singh from Punjab was appointed General Secretary, and Amjad Hasan from Delhi as Joint Secretary. Comrade Jagat Ram Sharma, who is also the National Secretary of INTUC and recently appointed National Vice President of INBCWWF, stated that the organization follows the ideology of the Congress and is committed to carrying forward the missions of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru. He expressed gratitude to Dr. G. Sanjeeva Reddy and Dr. R.C. Khutia for entrusting him with the responsibility and assured dedication towards strengthening the organization and serving workers across the country.

Student Puranjay selected for state-level competition after stellar performance at district INSPIRE awards exhibition

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA, APR 25



SSRVM Una has achieved a significant milestone as its student Puranjay secured a place among the winners at the 13th District-Level INSPIRE Awards–MANAK Exhibition and Project Competition, earning selection for the state-level round. The competition was held on April 23, 2026, at Government Senior Secondary School, Auhar, in Bilaspur district. A total of 97 students from various schools across Una and Bilaspur districts participated in the event. Following a rigorous evaluation process, 10 students, including Puranjay, were selected based on innovation, presentation, and overall excellence. Two students from SSRVM Una, Vaibhav and Puranjay, participated in the competition. While Vaibhav delivered a commendable performance, Puranjay stood out as a winner and secured advancement to the state-level competition. The event aimed to foster scientific thinking, creativity, and problem-solving abilities among students. Puranjay's project impressed the jury with its originality, practical relevance, and impactful presentation. Managing Director Sumeesh Kumar Sharma congratulated Puranjay, stating that the achievement reflects the student's hard work, innovative mindset, and the institution's guidance. He described the state-level selection as a matter of great pride for the school. Principal Brij Bala Sharma expressed her Joy over the accomplishment, noting that Puranjay demonstrated exceptional talent and confidence, and that his success would inspire other students.

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Fire at garbage dump near railway underbridge; fire tender tyre burst hampers operation

MORINDA (SANJEEV TEJPAL): A major fire broke out at a garbage dump set up by the Municipal Council near the railway underbridge in Morinda on Friday, triggering panic in the surrounding area and sending thick plumes of smoke into the air. A fire tender dispatched to control the blaze encountered serious obstruction on the way due to alleged illegal encroachments by shopkeepers. Boards and other materials placed along the roadside led to the bursting of one of the vehicle's tyres, forcing it to halt before reaching the site and delaying the firefighting operation. Despite the setback, fire brigade personnel, including driver Lakhvir Singh and fireman Rajbir Singh, continued efforts to manage the situation.



NEWS BRIEF

VB catches JAITO police constable red-handed accepting Rs 5,000 bribe

RAGHU NANDAN PRASHAR

JAITO : As part of the ongoing campaign against corruption in the state, the Punjab Vigilance Bureau has caught Senior Constable Vikram Sharma—posted at the Jaito Police Station, District Faridkot—red-handed while accepting a bribe of ?5,000. Providing details regarding this incident, an official spokesperson for the State Vigilance Bureau stated today that the aforementioned accused has been arrested based on a complaint filed by a resident of Tehsil Jaito, District Faridkot. The spokesperson explained that a complaint regarding an altercation had been received against the complainant, pursuant to which the accused Senior Constable had brought the complainant—along with his Alto car—to the Jaito Police Station, District Faridkot. Subsequently, a compromise was reached between the two parties involved. In this context, the complainant alleged that the accused Senior Constable detained his Alto car at the police station and demanded a bribe of Rs 5,000 in exchange for its release.

Khudian urges farmers to purchase certified seeds with valid bills to avail subsidy

SUMER GARG
CHANDIGARH, APR 25



"Our farmers have shown remarkable trust in this subsidy model. Last Kharif season, the area under cotton cultivation surged by 19% – from 1 lakh hectares in kharif 2024 to 1.19 lakh hectares in kharif 2025.

In a major push to boost crop diversification and further expand cotton acreage in the State, Chief Minister, Bhagwant Singh Mann led Punjab Government will provide a 33% subsidy on certified BT cotton hybrids and Desi cotton (Kapas) seed varieties recommended by Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana.

Sharing the details, Punjab Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister, Gurmeet Singh Khudian said that the state government will bear nearly one-third of the seed cost for growers opting for any of the 87 approved BT cotton hybrids and four Desi cotton varieties – LD1019, LD949, FDK124 and PBD88.

"Our farmers have shown remarkable trust in this subsidy model. Last Kharif season, the area under cotton cultivation surged by 19% – from 1 lakh hectares in kharif 2024 to 1.19 lakh hectares in kharif 2025. We have set a target of 1.25 lakh hectares for Kharif 2026," stated, Khudian.

Calling the cotton "white gold", the Agriculture Minister urged farmers to shift from water-guzzling paddy. He informed that the online application portal for availing the subsidy has been live since April 20. He urged farmers to purchase certified seeds only from registered dealers and upload a valid bill at the time of submitting an application. The 33% subsidy will be credited directly to the beneficiary bank accounts after verification.

This initiative goes beyond financial relief. It will encourage farmers to shift towards scientifically recommended, high-yield cotton varieties. The combination of Desi cotton options plus PAU-approved BT hybrid cotton seeds will help Punjab to reclaim its traditional cotton belt, he added. The subsidy scheme, which saw strong uptake last season, is expected to significantly lower input costs and drive area expansion, particularly in the cotton-growing Malwa region. Gurmeet Singh Khudian directed all Chief Agriculture Officers to run intensive awareness campaign and ensure seamless access to the online portal for every eligible farmer, so that no grower is left out due to lack of information or digital access.

With robust quality seed support, Punjab is set to increase both productivity and profitability, said khudian, while urging every cotton grower to apply early on the portal and avail full benefit of this scheme.

Sri Guru Granth Sahib World University conducts workshop on advanced spectrophotometric techniques

AJAY MALHOTRA
FATEHGARH SAHIB, APRIL 25



A five-day workshop titled "Hands-on Training on Spectrophotometers 2026" was successfully conducted at Sri Guru Granth Sahib World University, Fatehgarh Sahib bringing together students, researchers, and faculty members from diverse science disciplines. Organized by the Centre for Scientific Research and Innovation (CSRI), the workshop was held from April 20 to April 24, 2026, at the university's Central Instrumentation Facility (CIF).

The workshop aimed to strengthen participants' understanding of spectrophotometric techniques and their wide-ranging applications in chemical and biological analysis.

Over the course of five days, participants received intensive hands-on training on sophisticated analytical instruments, including FTIR, UV-Visible spectrophotometers, Zeta Particle Sizer, Photoluminescence (PL) Spectrophotometers, and a Thermogravimetric Analyzer. Dr. Rahul Badru, Incharge CIF, highlighted that more than 60 students from disciplines such as Chemistry, Food Processing Technology, Biotechnology, and Zoology benefitted from the workshop. The programme effectively blended expert lectures with practical training sessions. During the forenoon sessions, experts demonstrated key principles of spectrophotometry, including calibration techniques, sample preparation, and data interpretation. The post-lunch sessions were dedicated to hands-on training, allowing participants to gain practical exposure to modern analytical instruments. The workshop featured insightful sessions by eminent academicians, including Prof. Tejbir Singh, Chairman CSRI; Dr. Rupinder Pal Singh from the Department of Food Processing Technology; Dr. Monika Airi from the Department of Zoology; Dr. Khushboo Verma from the Department of Chemistry; along with Dr. Rahul Badru.

Shankaracharya strengthens Sanatan Dharma traditions, fosters unity and devotion in nation and society: Sushil Thakur



DALJEET AJNOHA
HOSHIARPUR: Anant Shri Vibhushit Purvamnaya Shri Govardhan Math Puri Peethadheeshwar Shankaracharya Swami Nischalanand Saraswati Ji Maharaj arrived today at Vimalamba Shakti Sansthanam in Hoshiarpur. A massive convoy of devotees escorted Maharaj Shri with full honours from Jalandhar to Hoshiarpur. Upon entering the ashram, Shankaracharya Ji first paid obeisance to Bhagwati Vimalamba Devi and prayed for the welfare of the world. Accompanying him were Swami Nirvikalpanand Ji Maharaj, Prabhull Ji Maharaj, and Brahmachari Rishikesh Ji, lending even greater dignity to the atmosphere.

Bagla Mukhi College students top Punjabi University with 97% marks

RAGHU NANDAN PRASHAR
JAITO, APRIL 25



Punjabi University, Patiala, has declared the results for the B.Ed. second year examinations, wherein Baglamukhi College of Education, Balluana (Bathinda) a renowned educational institution in this region—achieved a 100 percent pass rate.

Sharing this information today, College Chairman Naresh Agarwal stated that Tarnvir Sharma, Davinder Kaur, and Bipasha Mehta of Baglamukhi College of Education, Balluana, secured the first position by obtaining 97 percent marks, while Ripjit Kaur and Kiran Kumari secured the second position with 96.66 percent marks.

Meanwhile, Navjot Kaur, Navdeep Kaur, Sarabjit Kaur, Puranjit Kaur, Rupinder Kaur, Simran, Jingnem Vepri, Veerpal Kaur, Preeti Kumari, Bhumika, and Navneet secured the third position by obtaining 96.33 percent marks. Chairman Naresh Agarwal further informed that 18 students secured 96 percent marks, 13 students secured 95.66 percent, 23 students secured 95.33 percent, 11 students secured 95 percent, 11 students secured 94.66 percent, and 6 students secured 94.33 percent marks. Congratulating the students on this remarkable achievement, the college's MD Kasis Agarwal, Director Sarabjit Kaur, Principal Dr. Prabhjot Kaur, along with Professors Kamaljit Kaur, Mandeep Kaur, Veerpal Kaur, Yadwinder Singh, Savita Rani, Kiranjeet Kaur, Poonam Sharma, Harjeet Kaur, Arsanur Mahomad, and the entire staff remarked that the students have not only brought glory to the college by securing excellent marks but have also brought honor to their villages and parents. Wishing the students a bright future, they urged them to become successful teachers in life and to dedicate themselves to shaping the lives of children.

Deepinder Arora honored by Pathankot electrical dealers association

SHARANJEET
PATHANKOT, APRIL 25



A special delegation of Pathankot Electrical Dealers Welfare Association (Regd.) led by President Atul Mahajan met with President of Vapaar mandal Pathankot Deepinder Arora. On this occasion, Punjab Secretary of Punjab Pradesh Chamber of Commerce (Regd.) Sunil Mahajan was also specially present. First of all, PEDA President Atul Mahajan thanked Deepinder Arora, President of Vapaar mandal, for attending the installation ceremony organized by PEDA along with his team. After this, the PEDA team honored him by presenting him with a memento.

On this occasion, Sunil Mahajan, who is also the Lifetime Chairman of PEDA, praised the work being done by Deepinder Arora in the interest of traders and society and said that he places the problems of traders before the administration in a very effective manner, which is commendable. PEDA President Atul Mahajan and Chairman Vijay Rana said that they have high expectations from Deepinder Arora in the business sector as he is an educated and intelligent person.

They expressed hope that under his leadership, Vapaar mandal Pathankot will establish new dimensions. Deepinder Arora also discussed in detail the work being done in the interest of trade and future plans.

The new team of Lions Club Kotkapura unanimously elected





SURINDER DAMDAMI
KOTKAPURA, APRIL 25

A meeting of Lions Club Kotkapura was held under the chairmanship of President Amarnath Goyal, during which the new team of Lions Club Kotkapura for the year 2026-27 was elected. Meanwhile, for the election of the new team of Lions Club for the year 2026-27, the nomination committee consisting of Raj Agarwal Chairman, Past District Governor Ravi Goyal, Vijay Arora, Ravinder Garg and R.S. Rana proposed the name of Lion Naresh Agarwal for the president, Vipin Gupta for the secretary, Narinder Agarwal for the cashier and Advocate Vinod Bansal for the PRO, which was unanimously approved by all the members present in the house.

On this occasion, apart from Swatantra Goyal Secretary, Dinesh Mittal Cashier, Rohit Mittal, Vishal Goyal, Ashok Goyal, H.S. Makkar, Satish Singla, Lalit Goyal and Navneet Agarwal etc. were also present.

Education commencement ceremony organized at Baba Gandha Singh Public School Barnala



BARNALA (BALWINDER AZAD): The Education Commencement Ceremony was organized on 24-04-2026 at Baba Gandha Singh Public School Barnala, a renowned educational institution of the area.

On this occasion, the parents of the newly admitted nursery students were invited to the school, who participated in this program with full enthusiasm. Addressing the school principal, Dr. Sandeep Kumar Lath ji, he informed the children and parents about the importance of the Education Commencement Ceremony and said that this is a great initiative of the school in which the parents of the nursery children held the hands of their children and made them write the first letter of their lives.

Every parent should be a part of the Education Commencement Ceremony so that the minds of the children move towards education and knowledge.

On this occasion, the school MD Sardar Ranpreet Singh Rai ji said that the contribution of parents is very important for the education of their children. In life, a person has to go through many rituals from the beginning of life. Every ritual in life has its own importance.

Gurpreet Singh Lucky Pakho appointed as the state chairman of Punjab Pradesh Congress SC department



BARNALA (KARANPREET KARAN): Gurpreet Singh Lucky Pakho, grandson of late former MLA Sardar Bachan Singh Pakho and former president of District Congress, from the ancestral Taksali Congress family of Barnala district, has been appointed as the chairman of Punjab Pradesh Congress SC department by the high command of All India Congress Committee, which has created a wave of happiness among Congress leaders and workers across the district. Various leaders have thanked the Congress high command for this decision. On this occasion, the newly appointed Chairman Gurpreet Singh Lucky Pakho expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the President of the Indian National Congress, Mr. Mallikarjun Kharge, Mr. Rahul Gandhi, K.C. Venugopal, Mr. K. Raju, Mr. Rajinder Pal Gautam, former MP, Mr. Vijay Inder Singla, President of the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee, Mr. Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Pratap Singh Bajwa, former Chief Minister, Shacharanjit Singh Channi, Congress MLA from Barnala, Kuldeep Singh Kala Dhillon, Sudhir Chaudhary, for the responsibility entrusted to him, which I will fulfill responsibly with the support of the entire Congress! On this appointment, former chairman of Nagar Sudhar Trust Barnala Makhan Sharma Jagjit Singh Dhaula, former Congressman Mahinder Pal Pakhon, District President of Congress Women's Wing Manvinder Kaur Pakhon, District Chairman Jasmel Derry Wala Advocate Kanwar Pal Pakhon, Block Congress President Mahesh Kumar Lota, Gurmel Singh Maur etc.

Worshiping Maa Baglamukhi brings positive energy and freedom from enemies and legal obstacles: Mahant Praveen Chaudhary

SARABJIT SUFI
LUDHIANA, APRIL 25



A magnificent sight at Maa Baglamukhi Dham, painted in the yellow color dear to Maa Baglamukhi. Chants of Maa Baglamukhi echoed everywhere. Thousands of devotees dressed in yellow formed kilometer-long queues to have darshan of Maa Pitambara. Thousands of devotees offered oblations in a special havan (fire sacrifice).

The auspicious occasion was the Maa Baglamukhi Jayanti festival, organized at Maa Baglamukhi Dham, under the guidance of Mahant Praveen Chaudhary, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the mother of the universe, Maa Baglamukhi. First, Maa Baglamukhi was given a Rudrabhishek and divine decoration. The devotees chanted mantras with a garland of turmeric and offered turmeric, yellow flowers and yellow offerings to Maa Baglamukhi and prayed for their wishes and thanked Maa Baglamukhi on their wishes being fulfilled. Hundreds of devotees received Maa Baglamukhi's blessings by worshipping girls. The same evening, a divine Maha Aarti of Maa Baglamukhi was performed which was witnessed by thousands of devotees. After this, thousands of devotees offered oblations in a special havan yagya and prayed for the removal of all troubles, victory over enemies and growth in business.

"Successful launch of wordsmith carnival 2026 at Excelsior Public School (Senior Secondary)"



NOIDA: Excelsior Public School (Senior Secondary) proudly hosted the first phase of its English literary competition, "Wordsmith Carnival 2026 – A platform for Emerging Voices," under the esteemed leadership of Principal Monika Kapoor. The event commenced with great enthusiasm, vibrancy, and dignity, reflecting the school's commitment to nurturing holistic development among students. The primary objective of the competition was to enhance students' linguistic skills, confidence, expression, and general awareness.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across all classes, ranging from young learners to senior students, each showcasing remarkable confidence and zeal.

DIRECTORATE OF SMALL SAVINGS, BANKING AND LOTTERIES, PUNJAB

Draw Time: 05:00 PM ONWARDS — DATE: 25/04/2026

RESULT OF PUNJAB STATE DEAR 50 JACKAL SATURDAY WEEKLY LOTTERY

MRP Rs 50/- Per Ticket

1st Prize Amount (1) Rs. 15 Lakhs (On 5 digits with series)
(Seller Prize Amount Rs. 1 Lakh + Sub Stockist Prize Amount Rs. 25 Thousand, Total Prize Amount Rs. 16.25 Lakhs)
₹ 56229

2nd Prize Amount (25) Rs. 9,000/- (On 5 digits)
(Seller Prize Amount Rs. 900/-, Sub Stockist Prize Amount Rs. 100/-, Total Prize Amount Rs.10,000/- Each)
52218 72312 85887 89871 93961

3rd Prize Amount (50) Rs. 4,000/- (On Last 4 digits)
(Seller Prize Amount Rs. 500/-, Sub Stockist Prize Amount Rs. 100/-, Total Prize Amount Rs. 4,600/- Each)
3180 6874

4th Prize Amount (125) Rs. 2,000/- (On last 4 digits)
(Seller Prize Amount Rs. 200/-, Sub Stockist Prize Amount Rs.50/-, Total Prize Amount Rs. 2,250/- Each)
1893 2987 3541 4408 8720

5th Prize Amount (125) Rs. 1000/- (On last 4 digits)
(Seller Prize Amount Rs. 100/-, Sub Stockist Prize Amount Rs. 50/-, Total Prize Amount Rs. 1,150/- Each)
0150 0573 7943 8090 8858

6th Prize Amount (125) Rs. 500/- (On last 4 digits)
(Seller Prize Amount Rs. 50/-, Sub Stockist Prize Amount Rs. 20/-, Total Prize Amount Rs.570/- Each)
5103 6605 8091 8386 8917

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

0000	0005	0021	0029	0048	0056	0057	0060	0065	0072
0080	0092	0098	0100	0103	0111	0124	0125	0131	0137
0143	0148	0167	0169	0175	0202	0242	0244	0265	0276
0284	0291	0312	0330	0344	0361	0363	0366	0390	0392
0394	0407	0434	0471	0490	0505	0527	0533	0562	0581
0600	0617	0638	0641	0647	0734	0745	0746	0770	0776
0794	0845	0851	0873	0890	0899	0909	0912	0914	0970
0975	0978	0993	1015	1021	1035	1043	1046	1077	1122
1149	1157	1177	1202	1209	1213	1217	1229	1231	1246
1287	1310	1313	1318	1336	1361	1362	1391	1406	1416
1433	1442	1446	1448	1460	1464	1477	1521	1525	1549
1561	1632	1641	1659	1664	1665	1667	1671	1693	1724
1728	1785	1792	1793	1803	1821	1853	1867	1877	1923
1924	1935	1942	1944	1965	1981	1985	1988	2005	2032
2036	2092	2102	2157	2165	2180	2188	2193	2201	2212
2220	2221	2237	2249	2252	2259	2260	2275	2298	2335
2336	2339	2348	2355	2363	2364	2366	2389	2406	2427
2466	2485	2489	2504	2533	2543	2554	2561	2582	2597
2603	2610	2614	2631	2663	2674	2697	2715	2727	2734
2735	2752	2818	2874	2889	2906	2908	2935	2940	2949
2955	2971	2983	2995	3006	3008	3016	3021	3063	3073
3097	3111	3125	3133	3142	3160	3164	3185	3186	3219
3229	3233	3262	3271	3293	3300	3325	3329	3335	3340
3343	3350	3363	3368	3398	3435	3445	3462	3498	3516
3519	3540	3567	3597	3602	3605	3607	3659	3660	3663
3679	3687	3695	3713	3714	3739	3741	3742	3747	3779
3792	3818	3833	3840	3849	3857	3871	3874	3892	3908
3915	3932	3966	3983	3987	3997	4001	4046	4064	4069
4095	4108	4111	4179	4186	4201	4237	4240	4256	4259
4270	4279	4304	4348	4360	4361	4362	4382	4402	4421
4455	4485	4503	4513	4525	4532	4552	4557	4570	4576
4584	4593	4640	4644	4652	4667	4685	4688	4701	4704
4712	4749	4761	4766	4770	4837	4839	4843	4867	4869
4874	4894	4896	4926	4940	4953	4973	5010	5025	5030
5056	5060	5075	5100	5121	5137	5138	5145	5156	5171
5212	5215	5219	5224	5258	5264	5277	5287	5317	5332
5338	5355	5368	5380	5403	5411	5442	5447	5463	5478
5491	5495	5500	5503	5504	5508	5511	5513	5529	5535
5539	5543	5558	5561	5566	5590	5602	5609	5670	5687
5691	5711	5723	5737	5788	5819	5823	5827	5829	5866
5882	5893	5912	5923	5930	5932	5960	5966	5968	6009
6034	6048	6061	6074	6077	6094	6104	6105	6111	6119
6132	6149	6155	6168	6169	6174	6176	6181	6187	6221
6238	6253	6254	6279	6306	6319	6329	6352	6360	6365
6374	6383	6402	6408	6409	6410	6412	6434	6446	6449
6451	6463	6502	6504	6552	6570	6588	6589	6619	6634
6646	6659	6668	6692	6700	6710	6218	6721	6762	6783
6793	6808	6823	6837	6880	6903	6906	6909	6926	6932
6937	6953	6956	6960	6994	6998	6999	7031	7056	7057
7065	7081	7088	7091	7109	7111	7123	7128	7135	7150
7187	7199	7217	7276	7330	7389	7405	7451	7473	7479
7482	7486	7492	7495	7525	7530	7539	7542	7557	7562
7575	7599	7601	7614	7615	7626	7655	7661	7682	7709
7711	7762	7765	7767	7769	7773	7856	7871	7874	7875
7879	7887	7889	7915	7919	7942	7978	7984	7985	7992
8060	8078	8129	8132	8136	8140	8155	8161	8163	8185
8188	8198	8205	8206	8211	8217	8223	8224	8231	8244
8265	8278	8305	8311	8313	8321	8325	8336	8341	8346
8347	8349	8393	8431	8455	8459	8460	8467	8492	8497
8503	8517	8538	8541	8544	8551	8568	8603	8605	8636
8644	8649	8652	8673	8705	8706	8711	8737	8745	8751
8764	8772	8785	8812	8816	8825	8827	8834	8865	8867
8875	8884	8889	8890	8897	8902	8934	8942	8950	8952
8969	9001	9007	9023	9059	9061	9080	9093	9119	9127
9148	9155	9157	9163	9166	9199	9218	9246	9247	9284
9285	9287	9291	9299	9301	9336	9362	9392	9401	9405
9414	9441	9484	9513	9514	9528	9531	9532	9548	9554
9575	9612	9614	9620	9623	9634	9641	9675	9684	9695
9710	9712	9746	9753	9765	9768	9779	9785	9823	9828
9865	9926	9953	9957	9964	9965	9972	9977	9982	9987

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Daily power cuts leave residents distressed; "Power Surplus" claims questioned

SARDULGARH (KULWINDER KARWAL): With the onset of summer, frequent and prolonged power cuts in the region have made life increasingly difficult for residents. While the Punjab government continues to project the state as "power surplus," the persistent outages are raising serious questions about these claims. According to reports, Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) has been enforcing power cuts exceeding two-and-a-half hours every night. This has triggered widespread resentment among the public, as most people, after a long day of work, expect uninterrupted electricity during night hours for rest. Instead, the outages during these crucial hours have caused significant inconvenience. Local residents allege that the cuts are being imposed deliberately during peak rest hours, intensifying their frustration. However, officials from the power department maintain that such outages are carried out under directives received from the head office, leaving them with little choice but to comply.

NEWS BRIEF

Demand to give status of National mother to Gau Mata—appeal to gather at Ramlila Ground on April 27



SHARANJEET PATHANKOT: An important appeal has been made to the city residents and the countrymen by the Gau Seva Sangathan, Gaushala Cattle Pond Dehriwal, an organization related to Gau Seva. The president of the organization, Manmahesh Billa, said that a big gathering will be held at Ramlila Ground, Pathankot at 9:30 am on April 27 under the "Gau Samman Abhiyan". He said that on this occasion, the city's cow devotees and social workers will come together and submit a memorandum to the SDM Pathankot to convey their voice to the government.

Renowned Bhagwat Katha Viyas Pandit Dr. Sunil Kumar Sharma pays homage at key religious sites



DALJEET AJNOHA HOSHIARPUR: Prominent Sri Mad Bhagwat Katha Viyas Pandit Dr. Sunil Kumar Sharma paid obeisance at major religious sites in the Mehalpur area, seeking blessings from revered saints. At Darbar Baba Ji Do Guttan Wale, Dr. Sharma bowed in reverence and received blessings from the mahapurushs. On this occasion, he was honoured by the darbar's sevadar Baba Madan Ji. Similarly, at the ancient Shri Siddheshwar Shiv Mandir in Bassi Gulam Hussain, he paid homage and obtained blessings from Mahant Uday Giri Ji Maharaj. Ravi Bagga, Pandit Rakesh Kumar, and others accompanied him.

Police booked three persons for attack on bus conductor

SHARMA LUDHIANA: Police of Division No. 5 has lodged case against three accused in connection with the assault of a bus conductor over ticket money. Sikandar Singh, a resident of village Badundi, Raikot Sadar police station, stated in his complaint to the police that he works as a conductor for a private company. On 22 April, when he arrived at Jodhan bus stand from Pakhowal, a passenger named Jagtar Singh boarded the bus for Ludhiana. When the victim asked for the fare of Rs.25, the accused offered 20 rupees and began arguing. He then called two of his friends, Sukhwinder Singh and Jaspreet Singh, at bus stand Ludhiana.

TSPL conducts mock drill to strengthen safety preparedness



KULWINDER KARWAL SARDULGARH: Reinforcing its commitment to workplace safety and emergency preparedness, Talwandi Sabo Power Limited (TSPL) on Friday conducted a comprehensive mock drill in line with the directives issued by the Government of Punjab. Highlighting the importance of proactive safety measures, TSPL emphasized that safety is not merely a protocol but a core responsibility upheld daily across its operations. The mock drill was aimed at enhancing preparedness, promoting awareness, and ensuring a swift and effective response to potential emergency situations.

Pensioners' Union seeks release of arrears and DA as per High Court orders

AMRISH ANAND DORAHA: The Punjab Government Pensioners' Union, Tehsil Payal, has urged the state government to release arrears and dearness allowance (DA) to pensioners in compliance with the High Court's directives.



Tehsil president and retired principal S.Major Singh Maksudra stated that following the quashing of the Punjab Finance Department's letter No.03/01/2021-1FP 1/12 dated February 18, 2025, the government is now bound to clear the revised pension and family pension arrears along with DA.He said that arrears for the period from January 1, 2016, to June 30, 2021, along with DA, should be paid to all pensioners.

Balbir Singh Sidhu slams 'Jhadu Party', says own leaders being sidelined

SHASHI PAL JAIN MOHALI, APRIL 25



Senior Congress leader and former Health Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu, while inaugurating his new office in Phase-10, launched a scathing attack on the Aam Aadmi Party during a press conference, stating that the party is now deeply fractured from within and is systematically sidelining its own leaders and workers.

Sidhu said that a party which once championed honesty has today begun ignoring its most dedicated and hardworking cadre. He remarked that party workers feel abandoned, while leaders are increasingly being pushed to quit, reflecting a serious internal breakdown.

Alleging widespread malpractice, Sidhu said the 'Jhadu Party' has vitiated Punjab's political environment by selling tickets. He claimed that decisions were driven by money power, while those who devoted years of service to the party were overlooked, leading to widespread resentment within its ranks.

Targeting the government on the power front, Sidhu said that the same party which made tall promises of "free electricity" before coming to power has failed to deliver any meaningful relief. Instead, people are grappling with frequent power outages and rising electricity bills—clear evidence, he said, of the government reneging on its commitments. He further added that the government has completely failed in managing the power sector. Despite its tall claims, persistent outages and inflated bills continue to burden the public, exposing what he termed as anti-people policies.

Sidhu asserted that the true face of the Aam Aadmi Party now stands exposed before the people. According to him, the government is driven by propaganda and hollow promises, while failing to perform on the ground.

In conclusion, Sidhu said that the people of Punjab are now fully aware and will deliver a decisive response to this underperforming government in the times ahead.

Major action by Khanna police under "War against gangsters" campaign; 5 more arrested, weapons recovered



AMRISH ANAND DORAHA, APRIL 25

Under the ongoing "War Against Gangsters" campaign, Khanna Police has carried out a major operation and arrested five more members of a gang involved in extortion, issuing threats, and firing incidents. The police recovered 2 pistols (.32 bore Zigana), 1 pistol Glock 9 mm along with 2 cartridges, 1 country-made pistol (.30 bore) with 10 cartridges, and 1 country-made pistol (.32 bore) with 3 cartridges from the accused.In this regard, FIR No. 67 dated 25.03.2026 has been registered at Police Station Payal under sections 308(4), 351(2), 3(5), 109 BNS and 25-54-59 of the Arms Act.Acting under the directions of senior police officials, the operation was conducted under the guidance of SSP Dr. Darpan Ahluwalia, along with SP (D) Khanna Pawanjeet, DSP (D) Khanna Mohit Kumar Singla, DSP Payal Harmanpreet Singh, and ACP Ludhiana Harshnavir Singh. The teams included Inspector Jashandeep Singh (In-charge CIA Staff Khanna), Inspector Avtar Singh (In-charge CIA Staff Ludhiana), Akash Dutt (SHO Doraha), and Tarvinder Kumar (SHO Payal).

According to information, on April 14, 2026, unidentified persons had opened fire at a trader's shop in the Grain Market at Payal. Acting swiftly, police formed multiple teams and had already arrested five members of the gang earlier.

During investigation, it was revealed that the weapons used in the firing were supplied by another accused, who was later nominated and arrested. Further raids based on technical and human intelligence led to the arrest of three more individuals accused of sheltering the main accused.

Nabha administration organizes massive public hearing camp at village Bhode

RAKESH JINDAL NABHA, APRIL 25



A massive public hearing camp was organized by the Nabha administration at village Bhode in the reserve constituency, during which more than one and a half dozen government departments were present. During the camp, the Police Department, Health Department, CDPO, BDPO, PWD, Employment, Labor, DFSO, Water Supplies and Sanitation, Labor, Agriculture, Horticulture, Soil Conservation Department, BPEU, Land Bank, Fisheries, Industrial, Post Master, Electricity Board and Sewa Kendra Incharge or their present staff listened to the problems of the common people and gave necessary instructions. Hundreds of residents of village Bhode and nearby villages benefited from the above camp by getting information about the government services being provided to the common people by the Punjab Government. Confirming this, SDM Nabha Arvinderpal Singh Somal said that on the special instructions of the Punjab Government, the district administration is reaching out to the villages of different constituencies and listening to the problems of the common people and special instructions are being given with immediate effect. Appreciating such initiatives to make the common people aware about availing government services and their usage, he said that during the public hearing camp, a large number of residents of village Bhode and nearby villages sought information about the services of the Punjab government and filled forms to avail these government services.

Poetry competition organized at Unique Holy Heart School



SUJANPUR (VERMA): A motivational poetry competition was organized today at Unique Holy Heart School located in Shiv Nagar Pathankot. The program was conducted under the leadership of school principal Anita Mahajan. Students from Class One to Class Three participated enthusiastically and showcased their creative talent with confidence and expression. The main objective of the event was to provide a platform for young students to develop self confidence and improve their expression skills.

Principal Anita Mahajan shared that such activities play a vital role in the overall development of children. During the program students recited poems on different themes which impressed the teachers and parents present at the event. The children performed on stage with great confidence which further boosted their morale and enthusiasm. At the end of the competition the students who performed exceptionally well were honored with certificates. In Class One Harshita secured the first position while Abhinandan stood second and Alisha secured the third position.

World Mother Earth Day celebrated at Miri Piri Khalsa College Bhadaur



BHADAUR (BALWINDER AZAD): Mirii Piri Khalsa College Gador, the leading institution of Malwa region, which is working under the management of Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee Sri Amritsar Sahib, celebrated Mother Earth Day at the institution. Red Ribbon Club Program Coordinator Dr. Vandana Sukhija and NSS Unit Prof. Jaspreet Singh informed that Mother Earth Day was celebrated at the institution by planting trees. Prof. Jaspreet Singh informed the students about sustainability during this time. He motivated the students to reduce the use of plastic and plant more and more trees to save the ecosystem of the earth. Prof. Bhinderjit Kaur said that this time Mother Earth Day was celebrated under the theme "Our Power, Our Home". On this occasion, Principal Malvinder Singh, Dr. Vandana Sukhija, Prof. Bhinderjit Kaur, Prof. Sukhpal Singh and the students gave the message of saving Mother Earth by planting trees.

Earth Day declamation finale successfully held at APJ School Kharar



SHASHI PAL JAIN KHARAR, APRIL 25

APJ School successfully organized the Final Round of the Earth Day Declamation Competition in the school auditorium. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students who shared their insightful thoughts, creative ideas, and strong messages about protecting our planet through powerful speeches. The competition aimed to spread awareness about environmental conservation and inspire students to take responsibility for a greener future. The respected Principal graced the occasion and encouraged the young speakers for their confidence and awareness. He appreciated the efforts of the participants and highlighted the importance of caring for nature in our daily lives. In his address, he beautifully compared parents to the Earth, stating that just like the Earth fulfills all our needs, parents also fulfill the demands and dreams of their children with love and care.

The event concluded on an inspiring note, promoting environmental responsibility among all.

Bhajan writer and singer Brij Bihari's 'Shana Prabhu Ram Dia' song released



SHASHI PAL JAIN KHARAR, APRIL 25

The recording of the Bhajan 'Shana Prabhu Ram Diya' written and sung by a Bhajan writer and singer Brij Bihari was released at Shree Ram Mandir last evening.

Many office bearers of Shree Ram Mandir Ajj Sarovar Vikas Samiti were present on the occasion. Besides Vijay Gupta, Anuj, Anand Bansal and Ashok Sharma, other devotees graced the occasion.

PRTC Chairman Advocate Harpal Juneja conducts surprise check of bus stand

PATIALA (TAPINDER SINGH): Pepsu Road Transport Corporation Chairman Advocate Harpal Juneja today conducted a surprise check of the local bus stand. During this, he got detailed information about the overall performance from the depot employees, including the start of new routes, daily income and KMPL. Kilometer per liter situation. On this occasion, he also ordered the administrative officers and other staff to bring further improvements.



The chairman also had direct talks with the passengers, conductors and drivers. During the checking, he reviewed the cleanliness arrangements, condition of washrooms and condition of buses at the Sangrur bus stand. Chairman Harpal Juneja said that providing convenient, safe and timely services to the passengers is the main priority of PRTC. He said that the concerned staff members have been strongly advised to pay special attention to the repair of buses, time restrictions and cleanliness arrangements. Apart from this, the staff has also been instructed to immediately resolve the written or verbal complaints received from the public. The Chairman also met the representatives of various unions and listened to their demands and problems carefully. He assured that such surprise checks will continue in future also for continuous improvement in the performance of PRTC. During this, General Manager Patiala Jatinderpal Grewal and General Manager Sangrur Maninderpal Sidhu and other staff members were also present.

Anti-rabies vaccine camp organized on the occasion of World Veterinary Day



JALANDHAR (PARAMJIT SINGH): Animal Husbandry Department Jalandhar-2 today celebrated World Veterinary Day at Veterinary Polyclinic Jalandhar under the leadership of Senior Veterinary Officer Dr. Ram Murthy.

On this occasion, Dr. Ram Murthy said that World Veterinary Day is celebrated every year on the last Saturday of April. He also shed light on the qualifications required to become a veterinary doctor on this occasion.

On this occasion, a special anti-rabies vaccine camp was also organized by the Veterinary Polyclinic, in which dogs were vaccinated free of cost to prevent rabies.

Veterinary Officer Dr. Kulwinder Singh, Dr. Shivani, Dr. Alka, District Veterinary Inspector Surinder Kumar, Senior Veterinary Inspector Ashok Kumar besides Varun Kumar, Rahul Gill and Veena were also present in the camp. A private company also set up a stall in the camp and distributed free medicines.

Awareness campaigns held across locations on World Malaria Day



DALJEET AJNOHA HOSHIARPUR, APRIL 25

Under the directions of Civil Surgeon Hoshiarpur Dr. Mandeep Kamal and Senior Medical Officer Dr. Manpreet Singh Bains, the Health Department launched a special awareness campaign today, April 25, on World Malaria Day to educate people about malaria. During this, health teams organized awareness programs in various villages and schools, informing people that malaria's main symptoms include fever, chills, headache, and vomiting. If such symptoms appear, one should immediately visit the nearest health centre for testing. Providing more details, Senior Medical Officer Dr. Manpreet Singh said that as temperatures rise, the risk of mosquito proliferation also increases. He noted that mosquitoes can cause several serious diseases, with malaria being a major one. He explained that malaria is a severe type of fever spread by the bite of female Anopheles mosquitoes, which breed in clean stagnant water (such as in drains, ponds, pits, broken pots on rooftops, tyres, flower pots, etc.).

Path Finder 3.0: Desh Bhagat University hosts mega tech fest with Rs.10 lakh funding pledge and Rs.70,000 cash prizes

AJAY MALHOTRA FATEHGARH SAHIB, APR 25



Desh Bhagat University successfully organized its flagship two-day tech fest, "Path Finder 3.0 – Exploring Innovation, Creativity and Competition."

The event was jointly hosted by the Faculty of Engineering Technology and Computing (FOETC) and the Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences, attracting participation from over 30 teams representing universities and colleges across Punjab, Delhi, and nearby regions. The fest provided a dynamic platform to promote innovation, technical excellence, entrepreneurship, and holistic development, featuring activities such as hackathons, ideathons, technical quizzes, poster-making competitions, startup pitches, gaming events, and a DJ night. The inaugural session began with an inspiring address by Prof. (Dr.) Harsh Sadawarti, Vice Chancellor, who emphasized the importance of innovation, research, and bridging the gap between academia and real-world applications. Dr. Khushboo Bansal, Deputy Director FOETC, outlined the vision of the event, highlighting the importance of interdisciplinary learning and strong industry-academia collaboration.

Puneet Verma, President of TiE Chandigarh, shared valuable entrepreneurial insights and encouraged students to explore startup opportunities.

UltraTech surpasses 200 Million Tonnes Per Annum Capacity in India



CHANDIGARH: UltraTech Cement Limited, the cement flagship of the Aditya Birla Group, announced that it has surpassed 200+ million tonnes per annum (MTPA) of installed cement manufacturing capacity in India, with the Company commissioning three new cement grinding units today, with a cumulative capacity of 8.7 MTPA. With this, UltraTech has become the world's largest cement company by sales volume and capacity, excluding China. The speed of UltraTech's growth is as significant as its scale. It took 36 years to reach 100+ MTPA, a milestone achieved in 2019. The next 100 MTPA took less than seven years. A pace that speaks to both the Company's execution capability and the depth of India's infrastructure ambition.

Royal Green Realty's 'Sonipat County' Witnesses Strong Sell-Out Momentum



SONIPAT: Royal Green Realty has announced a near-complete sell-out of its recently launched gated township project, Sonipat County, marking a significant milestone and reaffirming strong buyer confidence in the rapidly developing Kundli-Sonipat Corridor.
Spread across 13.75 acres, Sonipat County has been thoughtfully designed to offer 208 premium residential plots ranging from 148 to 179 square yards. The project witnessed an overwhelming response from both homebuyers and investors, leading to swift inventory absorption shortly after launch.
Further enhancing the offering, the company is now set to introduce exclusive villas on select plots , catering to buyers seeking a more premium, ready-to-move lifestyle within the same gated ecosystem.
The township features nearly 2 acres of central greens, along with three landscaped parks, dedicated children's play areas, and a serene, community-centric environment - elements that have significantly contributed to its strong market appeal.
Commenting on the achievement, Yashank Wason, Managing Director, Royal Green Realty, said that the strong response reflects the growing demand for well-planned, secure, and future-ready residential communities in the region. He highlighted that Sonipat County's strategic location, modern infrastructure, and lifestyle-driven amenities have resonated strongly with today's discerning buyers.

Paytm App, UPI, QR, Soundbox and Other Services Remain Fully Operational



CHANDIGARH: Paytm said the regulatory action on Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) has no financial, business and operational impact on the company, with all its services working without any interruptions.
Paytm app and all its services including Paytm UPI, Paytm Gold, all other services offered by its subsidiaries and associated companies including Paytm QR, Paytm Soundbox, Paytm Card Machines, Paytm Payment Gateway and all other offerings continue to work as usual.
The payments company added that it does not have any material business arrangements or exposure with Paytm Payments Bank, and none of its services are linked to it.
"As informed earlier, Paytm and its services, which have been operating without interruption, will continue to operate uninterrupted. These include the Paytm app, Paytm UPI, Paytm Gold and all other services offered by its subsidiaries and associated companies such as Paytm QR, Paytm Soundbox, Paytm Card Machines, Paytm Travel Paytm Payment Gateway and Paytm Money among others," said Paytm.

SOCIAL Launches 'Voices from the Hood'



CHANDIGARH- SOCIAL launched "Voices from the Hood," a first-of-its-kind cultural report capturing the attitudes, lifestyles, and aspirations shaping young India today. Based on insights gathered from over 10,000 respondents across multiple Indian cities, the report offers a data-backed look at how young Indians are navigating social life, digital culture, entertainment, travel, relationships, and career aspirations in a rapidly evolving cultural landscape. The findings point to a generation that is experience-driven, digitally connected, and culturally fluid balancing ambition with lifestyle, tradition with modernity, and online identity with real-world community. The report highlights how shared experiences, social spaces, and digital platforms continue to shape the everyday lives of young Indians. For over a decade, SOCIAL has functioned as a melting pot for communities, creators, students, professionals, and entrepreneurs, offering a front-row seat to the evolving behaviours and conversations shaping urban youth culture. With Voices from the Hood, the brand extends this role by documenting the voices, aspirations, and habits of India's next generation. "At SOCIAL, we've always believed that culture is shaped in the spaces where people come together to connect, collaborate and celebrate," said Riyaaz Amlani, Founder & Managing Director, Impresario Entertainment & Hospitality Pvt. Ltd.

Amazon India brings farm fresh mangoes to your doorstep

CHANDIGARH: Some of the most vivid summer memories are tied to mangoes — the scent, the ritual, the first bite of the season. At Amazon.in, we ensure to keep that tradition alive. Every summer, we bring together India's finest mango varieties — Alphonso, Raspuri, Sindhuri, Safeda, Kesar and more — sourced fresh from farms and delivered to your door. And this doesn't stop at fresh fruit. From mango ice creams, to Aamras, pickles and beverages, we bring the full flavour of the season together in one place. Our carefully curated selection ensures the best of mango season is always within reach and at a value that make every variety worth trying. The 'Aam-azing' storefront on Amazon Now brings the full flavour of the season together — farm-fresh mangoes alongside Kulfi, Shrikhand, Aamras, beverages, pickles, sweets and more, all at up to 70% off. For those seeking the finest of the harvest, exclusive selections from Superplum and Pluckk are available too — all delivered within minutes in select pin codes across Delhi-NCR, Mumbai and Bengaluru. And on Amazon Fresh, The King of Fruits is Here – a specially curated storefront brings together fresh mangoes, desserts, yoghurts, ready-to-eat mango varieties and more, all at up to 30% off and delivered to your door within 2 hours.

Hope for Haryana's Kidney Cancer Patients as Medanta Highlights Advanced Surgeries to Preserve Organ Function

HISAR :Kidney cancers or renal cell carcinomas (RCC) are among the top ten cancers prevalent in India. They usually originates in the small tubules present in the kidney and are typically very resistant to radiation therapy, which is why the main treatment for this type of cancer is surgery – either radical nephrectomy (complete removal of the affected kidney) or partial nephrectomy (removal of only the tumor, while leaving the rest of the kidney behind).Showcasing medical progress in nephrectomy while carrying a message of hope to Hisar, specialists from Medanta- The Medicity, named the Best Hospital in India by Newsweek in 2026, stated that with advances in robotic surgery, surgeonstry to save as much of the kidney as possible, depending on size and location of the tumor, along with the patient's health.Dr. Gagan Gautam, Chairman – Uro Oncology & Robotic Surgery, Kidney & Urology Institute at Medanta-TheMedicity, Gurugramsaid, "Radical nephrectomy is the mainstay of treatment for cancers where the tumor is greater than 7cm in diameter, or when the location is of the tumor is close to major blood vessels and selective removal of the kidney isn't feasible. However, partial nephrectomy is a significant advancement in the treatment of small kidney cancers as it leaves the remaining, unaffected part of the organ intact, thus enabling the preservation of maximum kidney function."He was speaking in Hisarat a panel discussion organized by Medanta in association with the Surgeon's Club,Hisaron the topic "Surgical Nuance in Renal Cancer: When, Where, and How Much to Cut".Dr. Gagandeep Talwar, Consultant, Uro Oncology & Robotic Surgery, Kidney & Urology Institute at MedantaGurugram shared his insights on robotic surgery during the discussion.

COLORS' Mahadev & Sons', Narmada falls into a deadly trap, forcing Dheeraj and Rajji to reunite



CHANDIGARH: An unexpected turn of events shakes things up on COLORS' Mahadev & Sons' as Narmada (played by Neha Rana) lands in grave danger. What begins as a simple attempt to help Mogra quickly turns into a nightmare when Sikandar's men abduct her. In the meantime, her sister-in-law Rajji (played by Garvita Sadhwani), who witnesses the incident, tries to take control of the situation and reaches out to her husband Dheeraj (played by Aasim Khan), only to face his blame and frustration. The tension between them rises, but with Narmada's life at stake, they put aside their differences and come together with one mission - to bring her back safely. Meanwhile, Mahadev (played by Shakti Anand) creates further distance by separating them from their family, making the situation even more intense.

Even before the kidnapping, Narmada had started connecting the dots, tracing everything back to Lajwanti's house, unaware that she was stepping into a dangerous trap. Now caught in Sikandar's ruthless plan, her life hangs by a thread as the clock ticks. With relationships strained and danger closing in, if anything happens to Narmada, nothing will remain the same. But with so much at risk, will Dheeraj and Rajji save Narmada in time, or is this a turning point they won't be able to come back from?

Watch 'Mahadev and Sons' every Monday to Friday at 9:30 PM only on COLORS.

Shoolini University Ranks #4 in India and Among Asia's Top 160 in THE Asia University Rankings 2026



SHIMLA : Shoolini University has been ranked #4 in India and #158 in Asia in the Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2026, which evaluated 929 universities across 36 countries and territories. Among 128 Indian institutions ranked, Shoolini is #1 private university in North India and one of the very few private universities nationally to feature at this level alongside institutions such as the Indian Institute of Science and IIT Indore.The result represents a step forward in India rank, from #5 in 2025 to #4 this year, and reflects consistent strength across three areas that define research-intensive universities: research quality, international outlook, and teaching outcomes. Shoolini's performance in Research Quality — ranked #4 in India and among Asia's top institutions in this parameter — is the product of a deliberate, long-term investment in high-impact output. Faculty and students have collectively filed over 1,900 IP portfolio, and the university holds the #1 position in Asia for Citations per Paper- a metric that reflects the depth and relevance of its published research, not just its volume.Published by Times Higher Education (THE), the Asia University Rankings are widely regarded as a global benchmark for research-intensive universities. The rankings assess institutions across their core missions, including teaching, research environment, research quality, industry income, and international outlook, using 18 detailed performance indicators.

"This milestone marks a significant step forward from our position last year, at #5. It is particularly encouraging to see Shoolini placed among leading institutions in India, alongside premier names such as the Indian Institute of Science and IIT Indore, and among very few private universities at this level," said Prof. P. K. Khosla, Chancellor, Shoolini University.Vishal Anand, Pro Chancellor, Shoolini University, added, "Our strategy is to build Shoolini into a top global campus for research and innovation by 2030. This milestone reinforces our belief that we are on the right path."

Montra Electric Expands its Electric Small Truck Range with Two New Variants – EVIATOR 350 and EVIATOR 350L+



CHANDIGARH : Montra Electric, the clean mobility brand of the diversified Murugappa Group, today announced a strategic expansion of its eSCV portfolio with the introduction of two new EVIATOR variants, EVIATOR 350 (32kWh) and EVIATOR 350L+ (50kWh).This expansion is rooted in real-world intelligence, with Montra Electric's fleet of over 600+ vehicles clocking more than 65 lakh kilometers, enabling the company to decode distinct duty cycles and redefine how electric commercial vehicles are deployed across applications.While the current 40kWh EVIATOR remains a core pillar of the lineup, the new 32kWh variant is engineered as the Last Mile Champion for high efficiency runs up to 140 km, providing a more accessible price point without compromising on the brand's signature 99% uptime. Conversely, the EVIATOR 350 L+ (50kWh) variant is positioned as the Marathon Runner, offering a category-leading certified range of 300+ km and a real-world range of 200+ km to eliminate anxiety for inter-city logistics and power-hungry specialised applications like reefer and municipal services.This strategic expansion follows the success of EVIATOR 350L launched in Jan '25, which has captured over 30% market share in the 3.5-ton segment within just 11 months of its debut. Montra Electric's eSCV is driven by its unmatched range and a customer-first approach. With this expansion, Montra Electric is moving beyond a one-size-fits-all approach to electric mobility and introducing a duty-cycle and use case led vehicle strategy.

Category-leader in dog food, PEDIGREE® brand, finds a champion in Indian cricketer Jemimah Rodrigues to drive gravy range with pet parents



LUDHIANA : Mars Incorporated today announced the launch of a new digital-first campaign for the PEDIGREE® brand in India, in collaboration with Indian cricketer and pet parent Jemimah Rodrigues. The campaign is based on the changing reality of modern pet-parenting, which encourages a shift towards more informed, nutrition-led feeding without compromising on what their pets love: taste. Equivalent to the protein of 8 chicken livers¹, combined with 100% complete and balanced nutrition, when fed as recommended, PEDIGREE® Gravy is a delicious and nourishing choice for pets. As a devoted pet parent and one of India's prominent young sports personalities, Jemimah is known for her discipline, energy and performance-driven mindset. She lends her strong voice to the campaign, not only as a cricketer but also as a pet parent who understands the importance of making the right feeding choices for pets.PEDIGREE® Gravy is positioned as an everyday feeding solution, supported by the Waltham Petcare Science Institute. This reflects Mars Pet Nutrition's leadership in the wet food category in India. By integrating decades of global nutritional research with formats that align with local feeding habits, the brand has significantly helped make balanced nutrition more intuitive and a complement to home-cooked meals. The campaign brings this to life through cricket-themed films featuring Jemimah Rodrigues, capturing everyday moments between pets and their parents, and highlighting how PEDIGREE® Gravy can turn routine feeding into moments of joy and connection.Ayesha Huda, Chief Marketing Officer, Mars Pet Nutrition India, said, "As the pioneers, Mars Pet Nutrition has contributed significantly towards creating the gravy category in India.

Zee TV's Lakshmi Niwas hits century mark, cast thanks viewers for all the love



CHANDIGARH: Zee TV's family drama Lakshmi Niwas, produced by Rashmi Sharma Telefilms, has successfully completed 100 episodes, marking a significant milestone in its journey. Since its premiere on 12 January 2026, the show has connected deeply with viewers through its emotionally rich narrative and relatable depiction of a middle-class Indian family navigating dreams, responsibilities, and relationships.

Centred around Lakshmi and Srinivas, the story follows a couple who have spent decades prioritising their family over their own aspirations, only to finally pursue their dream of building a home after retirement. Their journey reflects the everyday struggles, sacrifices, and emotional complexities faced by countless families across India, making the show both heartfelt and relatable.

Featuring a talented cast including Manasi Joshi Roy and Rajendra Chawla in lead roles, the show has struck an emotional chord with viewers, thanks to its grounded narrative and strong performances. On completing 100 episodes, the actors expressed their gratitude and reflected on the journey so far.

Rajendra Chawla, who essays the role of Sriniwas, shares, "Reaching 100 episodes of Lakshmi Niwas is truly special. The love and connection the audience has shown towards our story means everything to us. Playing Sriniwas has been an emotional journey, and I'm grateful to be part of a show that reflects real-life struggles and aspirations. We hope to continue touching hearts as the journey moves forward."

Manasi Joshi Roy, who plays Lakshmi, says, "Lakshmi's strength doesn't announce itself as it lives in her silences, in the choices she makes every single day, and in the dignity with which she holds her world together.

She is, in many ways, the quintessential Indian woman. For me, the joy of playing Lakshmi lies in discovering those layers. And her monologues have been especially fulfilling as they feel like windows into her soul, where every word carries weight, truth, and lived experience. As an actor it's deeply fulfilling for me to play this title role."

Over the course of its run so far, the show has steadily built a loyal audience base, with viewers appreciating its simple yet powerful narrative that highlights values, resilience, and the importance of family bonds.

Watch Lakshmi Niwas every day at 7:30 PM only on Zee TV.

OnePlus Nord CE6 Series Launching May 7 with All-Rounder Performance and Extreme Durability



CHANDIGARH : Global technology brand OnePlus today announced the upcoming launch of the OnePlus Nord CE6 Series in India, set to debut on May 7. The lineup comprises the OnePlus Nord CE6 and marks the return of the community-favorite OnePlus Nord CE6 Lite after two years, building on OnePlus' legacy of delivering fast and smooth experiences while bringing together powerful performance, dependable endurance, and refined design for everyday users. The OnePlus Nord CE6 will be available in three distinctive colourways: Fresh Blue, Lunar Pearl, and Pitch Black, offering a blend of premium aesthetics and functional durability, reinforcing that toughness doesn't have to come at the cost of design. The OnePlus Nord CE6 Lite, succeeding the OnePlus Nord CE4 Lite, which was the highest-selling smartphone on sale go-live day on Amazon*, will be offered in two striking finishes, Vivid Mint and Hyper Black, catering to users who prefer bold yet minimal styling.Designed as an all-rounder performer, the OnePlus Nord CE6 brings together a carefully engineered combination of power, efficiency, and responsiveness. At its core is a Snapdragon® 7s Gen 4 mobile platform, paired with a dedicated Touch Reflex chip to deliver a powerful dual-chip architecture that ensures consistently smooth performance across daily tasks and high-intensity gaming scenarios. This advanced setup enables ultra-smooth gameplay at up to 144 FPS*, alongside enhanced touch precision with an instant, highly responsive sampling rate of 3200Hz - delivering a segment-leading experience. The OnePlus Nord CE6 further sets a benchmark in battery endurance within its segment, featuring a massive 8000mAh battery with 80W SUPERVOOC fast charging for minimal downtime. A single charge delivers more than 2.5 days of usage, ensuring uninterrupted performance across everyday tasks. Advanced features such as All-Scenario Bypass Charging help reduce heat during intensive use, while 27W wired reverse charging adds on-the-go convenience.

The originals return: Yezdi and BSA launch two stunning new scrambler motorcycles



CHANDIGARH : Yezdi and BSA come together for the first time to launch two distinct scramblers for India's modern rider — one who seeks a motorcycle that feels at home in the city, is confident on trails, and comfortable on the highway. The two brands with original scrambler lineage are strengthening the format at both ends of the premium motorcycling market. The Yezdi Scrambler 350 and the BSA Scrambler 650 feature purpose-built powertrains and rugged, authentic design. India's lightest 350cc scrambler, the brand-new, restless Yezdi Scrambler is tuned and built for city streets and the weekend escapes of the young-at-heart rider. The new liquid-cooled engine, named Katar (pronounced 'ka-taar') is the functional and structural core of the motorcycle. With a strong torque-to-weight advantage, the scrambler delivers a quick, decisive response right off the line, bringing Yezdi's instinctive character to life: Direct, flickable, and always ready to move. It starts at an introductory price of Rs 1,99,950. Powered by India's only 650cc single-cylinder engine in the segment, the BSA Scrambler carries forward a way of riding built purely on instinct. Synonymous with British engineering excellence and an enduring spirit of exploration, the Scrambler 650 draws its bespoke design from icons such as the Gold Star Catalina, A10 Spitfire, and A65 Firebird, blending authentic proportions with a premium, modern finish. The BSA Scrambler 650 carries an introductory price of Rs 3,24,950. Anupam Thareja, Co-founder, Classic Legends, said, "I have always believed that scramblers will redefine Indian riding culture the way SUVs redefined passenger four-wheelers. They are the SUVs of motorcycling. Scramblers are built for confident city-riding. But they are also agile and rugged enough to inspire you to explore terrain beyond roads on the weekends. Cap it all with the drop-dead gorgeous and bold design signatures of Yezdi and BSA, and we are ready '2 cause a scene' in the segment we created. Between the Yezdi 350 and the BSA 650, we have just defined what the Indian scrambler can be. The new Yezdi is designed to be your first crush with its unmistakable presence. A real scrambler designed around a tight core, this Yezdi is a taut, restless storm in stance and performance."

Amazon releases first Trustworthy Shopping Experience Report

CHANDIGARH: Amazon today released its first Trustworthy Shopping Experience Report, a comprehensive account of how it protects customers, selling partners, and brands across its global store. The report brings together, for the first time, Amazon's work across anti-counterfeiting, product safety, scam prevention, trustworthy reviews, and organized retail crime—offering a broader view of the systems, technology, and partnerships it uses to help keep its store safe and trustworthy. Rohan Oommen, Vice President of Worldwide Customer and Partner Trust, said, "Our goal is to protect the store for customers, brands, and sellers alike. But we understand policies designed to protect customers can sometimes create friction for sellers trying to grow their business. That's why we've invested in tools such as Amazon's Account Health Dashboard, which gives sellers transparency and control into their adherence to policies, performance targets, and more. Ensuring that legitimate selling partners can thrive on Amazon is central to our mission, and this report reflects that commitment."

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