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



**State emerging as leader in Green Energy: CM Sukhu**

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**'DRISHYAM 3' GETS HUGE BOOST; PEN STUDIOS TO INVEST RS 100 CRORE IN MOHANLAL STARRER FILM**

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**UP CM will hoist the flag at the Shiva Temple in Ayodhya on April 29**

UNI  
 AYODHYA: After the consecration of the idols of deities in all the temples within the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple complex, flags have been hoisted on the pinnacles of the Ram Lalla, Mata Annapurna, Suryadev, Hanuman Ji, and Ganesh temples. Preparations are now underway for the flag hoisting ceremony at the Shiva Temple. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will hoist the flag at the Shiva Temple on April 29. Champat Rai, General Secretary of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, stated here on Sunday that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will hoist the flag at the Shiva Temple on the upcoming Vaishakh Shukla Trayodashi, April 29 (Wednesday), at 5 p.m. Devotees will be able to visit the temple complex after the flag hoisting ceremony. Around 700 guests will attend the event.

**New Zealand to sign Free Trade deal with India today**

UNI  
 NEW DELHI: New Zealand's Prime Minister Christopher Luxon on Sunday said that New Zealand will sign a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India on Monday, calling it a "once in a generation agreement" that will open access to one of the world's largest markets for Kiwi exporters. In a post on social media, Luxon said, "New Zealand's Free Trade Agreement with India will be signed on Monday night," while sharing a video outlining the expected benefits of the deal. In the video message, he highlighted the scale of the opportunity, stating, "We are signing a Free Trade deal with India that opens one of the biggest markets in the world to Kiwi exporters." He underlined that the agreement would give exporters access to India's large consumer base and fast-growing economy. "It's a once-in-a-generation agreement that gives New Zealand exporters unprecedented access to 1.4 billion people, in an economy that is set to become the third largest in the world," he said. Luxon also stressed that the deal would improve New Zealand's competitive position globally.

**President Murmu on 5-day summer holiday in Shimla**

UNI  
 NEW DELHI: President Droupadi Murmu will visit Himachal Pradesh on five-day summer sojourn beginning Monday, her office said. During her visit, President Murmu will stay at the Rashtrapati Niwas, Mashobra, Shimla, it said. The President will visit Himachal Pradesh from April 27 to May 1, 2026, for the summer sojourn, the Rashtrapati Bhavan said in a statement issued on Sunday.

**Case filed against passenger for filming cabin crew on flight**

HYDERABAD: A case was registered against a 30-year-old passenger after he allegedly used his phone camera to zoom in and take photographs of female cabin crew in an 'objectionable' manner on a flight from Coimbatore to Udaipur, police said on Sunday. In a complaint filed with the RGI Airport outpost police, airline staff stated that the incident occurred on April 24. After the flight landed, the passenger, a businessman who was allegedly intoxicated, was de-boarded.

## Trump unhurt after shots fired at White House correspondents' dinner

### Game developer Cole Allen identified as suspect

UNI  
 WASHINGTON, APR 26

In an apparent assassination attempt, shots were fired at a dinner of the White House Correspondents' Association (WHCA) that was being attended by US President Donald Trump, First Lady Melania Trump, Vice President J D Vance and several other dignitaries.

The incident unfolded when a 31-year-old man allegedly stormed a security checkpoint at the entrance of the event, with suspected gunshots heard, prompting a swift response from law enforcement and Secret Service members ushering Trump out of the venue to safety. According to CNN, the 31-year-old man, identified as Cole Tomas Allen, emerged as the prime suspect behind the chaos that forced Trump to be swiftly evacuated, along with Vance and other members of his cabinet. Citing sources familiar with the investigation, CNN reported that Allen allegedly stormed a security checkpoint at the event, held at the Washington Hilton, triggering panic. According to CNN, citing public records, Allen is a resident of Torrance, a suburb of Los Angeles, and worked as a teacher and video game developer in Southern California. A LinkedIn profile matching his identity described him as a part-time teacher at C2 Education, a tutoring and test preparation firm, which named him its "teacher of the month" in December 2024, as per its social media posts.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed relief at the safety of President



Trump and the First Lady and others and extended his best wishes for their continued safety and well-being.

The Prime Minister said violence has no place in a democracy and the incident must be 'unequivocally condemned.'

'Relieved to learn that President Trump, the First Lady and Vice President are safe and unharmed following the recent security incident at a Washington DC hotel. I extend my best wishes for their continued safety and well-being. Violence has no place in a democracy and must be unequivocally condemned,' Modi said.

President Trump, his wife Melania and Vice President Vance were safely evacuated by the security. FBI Director Kash Patel was on Trump's side when he

was speaking. There were no injuries and the culprit was arrested.

Several members of Trump's Cabinet who were also attending, were safely evacuated.

The WHCA dinner will be rescheduled in 30 days.

Trump praised Secret Service and Law Enforcement for doing "a fantastic job," acting quickly and bravely and apprehending the shooter. "The shooter has been apprehended, and I have recommended that we let the show go on but will entirely be guided by Law Enforcement," Trump said in his social media platform. He said the law enforcement agencies will make a decision shortly and regardless of that decision, the evening will be much different than planned.

## AAP submits petition to RS chairman, seeks termination of MPs who quit party

AGENCY  
 NEW DELHI, APRIL 26

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has moved the Chairman and Vice President of the Rajya Sabha and Vice President of the disqualification of all seven MPs, including Raghav Chadha, who switched to the BJP after the party declared it as a betrayal of the people of Punjab. Sharing this on Sunday, AAP leader in the House and MP Sanjay Singh stated that constitutional experts believe the disqualification of these MPs is inevitable, asserting that their actions constitute not just a betrayal of the AAP, but also of Punjab's people, democracy, and the Constitution.

The AAP MP further said that the BJP has perfected the politics of defections by using central agencies like Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to intimidate opposition leaders before inducting them into its ranks. Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters on Sunday, AAP leader in Rajya Sabha and MP Sanjay Singh asserted that leading constitutional experts and senior advocates, including Kapil Sibal and P. D. T. Achary, have made it clear that the membership of all seven MPs who chose to merge with the



BJP after leaving the AAP is bound to be terminated. "Even a Supreme Court lawyer associated with an NDA constituent had stated during a media interaction on Saturday that the membership of these leaders would go in any case," he noted.

The senior AAP leader affirmed, "After consulting all experts and taking the opinion of Kapil Sibal, I have sent a petition to the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and the Vice President of the country. In this petition, a request has been made that under the provisions of the Tenth Schedule of the

Constitution, the membership of all these seven members should be completely terminated. I have demanded from the Vice President (Chairman) that this matter be heard at the earliest and that a just decision be delivered."

## Punjab withdraws protection for Harbhajan Singh

CHANDIGARH: The political fallout following the departure of seven Rajya Sabha MPs from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) escalated on Sunday as the Punjab government withdrew the Y-category security cover provided to former cricketer and Rajya Sabha MP Harbhajan Singh. Following the state's decision to recall the Punjab Police personnel previously stationed at his Jalandhar residence, the union government promptly intervened by extending CRPF protection to the MP. Personnel from the central force have since been deployed at his home to ensure his safety. This development follows a similar pattern involving fellow Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha, whose Z security cover was recently revoked by the state government, only to be replaced by equivalent protection from the Centre.

## Participation of every citizen in Census 2027 vital: PM Modi

AGENCY  
 NEW DELHI, APRIL 26

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged citizens to actively participate in the upcoming Census 2027, calling it a "shared responsibility of all", and appealed to people to make the exercise a success while highlighting its digital framework and improved accessibility during the 133rd episode of his monthly radio programme Mann Ki Baat. PM Modi's 133rd episode of his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat' to the nation saw citizens from various corners addressing their questions and suggestions to the prime minister. Describing the census as the world's largest population exercise, PM Modi highlighted its digital transformation, enhanced public participation through self-enumeration, and its crucial role in strengthening governance and policy-making. Speaking about the census, the Prime Minister said, "At present, an important campaign is going on in our country and it is important for every Indian to know about it. This is the Census campaign, the largest census exercise in the world. Those who have gone through this process before will find this time's experience different.

Census 2027 has been made digital. All information is being recorded directly through digital mediums." He further highlighted the introduction of self-enumeration, stating that the process has been simplified to encourage wider participation from citizens. "This time, your participation in the Census has also been made easier. You can also enter your information by yourself. This facility will be available to you 15 days before the staff visits your home. You can fill in your details at a time that is convenient for you. Once you complete the process, you will receive a special ID. This ID will be sent to your mobile or email. Later, when the staff member visits your home, you can show this ID to verify your details," PM Modi added. Providing an update on the ongoing process, Modi said, "In states where self-enumeration has been completed, the process of house listing by census staff has also begun. So far, the house listing work for around 12 million families has already been completed." Calling it a collective responsibility, he emphasised that the census is not merely a government exercise but a shared responsibility of every citizen.

AGENCY  
 NEW DELHI, APRIL 26

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecasted heatwave conditions over northwest and central parts of the country during next three days and abate thereafter. According to IMD, Jammu-Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi will experience heat waves conditions till tomorrow.

The weather agency has predicted Hot and humid weather conditions in isolated pockets over Odisha tomorrow and Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal till Wednesday. It also said that Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh will likely experi-



ence warm night conditions at isolated pockets.

The met department has predicted heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya tomorrow. The weather

body predicted thunderstorm activity over East India during next one week.

The department has further projected that there will be no significant change in maximum temperatures

## Haryana CM announces state social security board for organised workers

BUREAU  
 CHANDIGARH, APRIL 26

Haryana Chief Minister, Nayab Singh Saini said that the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047, as envisaged by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, can only be realised through the active participation and empowerment of the labour force. He emphasised that the strength of both the national and state economies is fundamentally anchored in the hard work and dedication of workers, whose contribution continues to propel India towards becoming a developed nation.

The Chief Minister was addressing a State-Level Labour Awareness and Felicitation Programme organised at Tau Devi Lal Stadium, Sector-38, Gurugram on Sunday. Haryana's Industries and Commerce



Minister, Rao Narbir Singh was present as the Guest of Honour.

Responding to a demand raised by the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh for the formation of a dedicated welfare mechanism for auto drivers and drivers, the Chief Minister announced that the State Government will constitute a State Social Security Board aimed at ensuring the social and economic upliftment of organised workers. He said that this Board will extend the ambit of social security benefits to auto drivers and drivers as well.

Referring to the already announced service security framework, he informed that the process of issuing appointment letters is currently underway and assured that all eligible workers will be provided appointment letters by June 15, thereby strengthening employment security.

## Health screening intensified for Char Dham pilgrims at Rishikesh transit camp

RISHIKESH: The Health Department of Uttarakhand has intensified medical screening of Char Dham Yatra pilgrims at the transit camp in Rishikesh as thousands of devotees continue their journey towards the Himalayan shrines. Authorities have also issued detailed health advisories aimed at ensuring a safe and smooth pilgrimage. Speaking to ANI, Transit Camp Officer on Special Duty (OSD) Prajapati Nautiyal said pilgrims are being encouraged to undergo mandatory health check-ups before beginning the yatra and remain cautious throughout the journey. "To ensure a safe Char Dham Yatra for all devotees, the Health Department of Uttarakhand has issued an advisory. Specifically, it recommends that before embarking on the journey, pilgrims should first undergo a proper

health checkup," he said. He further stated that pilgrims experiencing any health complications during the journey should immediately seek medical assistance. "If they experience symptoms like headache, chest pain, dizziness or vomiting, they should visit the nearest health centre for consultation," Nautiyal said. Highlighting preventive measures, he advised pilgrims to maintain proper hydration and dietary discipline during the pilgrimage. "Pilgrims are advised to drink sufficient water and carry ORS solution. They should avoid fast food and prefer liquid intake to stay comfortable," he added. Nautiyal also urged caution at higher altitudes, stating that weather and oxygen-related challenges require strict adherence to medical advice.

## New sound system installed at Sri Harmandir Sahib by UK Sikh Families



UNI  
 AMRITSAR: With an aim to enhance the spiritual experience of devotees, a state-of-the-art sound system has been installed at Sri Harmandir Sahib through the seva of UK-based Sikh families, ensuring uninterrupted and crystal-clear transmission of Gurbani kirtan across the shrine complex. The shrine now features a brand-new, advanced sound system, installed through the seva of UK-based Sikh families and formally inaugurated by SGPC President Advocate Harjinder Singh Dhani following an Ardas ceremony. More than 130 speakers have been installed across the parikrama and surrounding areas of the Darbar Sahib complex, ensuring that the voice of Gurbani kirtan reaches every

corner of one of Sikhism's holiest sites clearly and without interruption for the thousands of devotees who visit the holy place daily. The initiative was led by Gursewak Singh Shergill, also known as Tony Shergill of BritAsia TV, along with Gullinder Singh, Jatinder Singh Hair, Ranjit Singh Saggi, Pardeep Singh Nijjar, and Gurpreet Singh Sandhu — all UK-based Sikhs who coordinated closely with the SGPC. "It is a blessing for us to be part of this seva," Shergill said at the conclusion of the event. Dhani said the upgrade is part of ongoing improvements at the shrine, emphasising that as the number of visitors grows, the quality of facilities must also improve.

## Heatwave continues in North and Central India

AGENCY  
 NEW DELHI, APRIL 26

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecasted heatwave conditions over northwest and central parts of the country during next three days and abate thereafter. According to IMD, Jammu-Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi will experience heat waves conditions till tomorrow.

The weather agency has predicted Hot and humid weather conditions in isolated pockets over Odisha tomorrow and Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal till Wednesday. It also said that Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh will likely experi-



ence warm night conditions at isolated pockets.

The met department has predicted heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya tomorrow. The weather

body predicted thunderstorm activity over East India during next one week.

The department has further projected that there will be no significant change in maximum temperatures

## Distt Commandant urges citizens to embrace Civil Defence training for emergency preparedness



FEROZEPUR: In today's uncertain times, preparedness is no longer optional—it is a necessity. Whether it is natural disasters, accidents, or even the possibility of war, every citizen must be equipped with basic civil defence training.

Recently, District Commandant Gurlovedeep Singh at Ferozpur emphasized the urgent need for public awareness about blackout procedures and warning sirens. Civil defence initiatives, including air raid blackout mock drills, are designed to prepare both citizens and authorities to respond calmly and effectively during emergencies. These drills are not just formalities—they play a crucial role in saving lives and minimizing damage when real crises occur.

## Pargat Singh slams AAP: Security cover in Punjab driven by politics, not intelligence

CHANDIGARH: Senior Congress leader Pargat Singh has alleged that decisions regarding security cover in Punjab are increasingly being influenced by political considerations rather than intelligence-based assessments.

In a statement shared on X, Singh criticised the functioning of the Aam Aadmi Party government, claiming that the process of granting or withdrawing security has become arbitrary and politically driven.

He specifically referred to the 2022 reduction in security cover for several individuals, including late singer Sidhu Moosewala and even religious figures associated with the Akal Takht, questioning whether such decisions were taken without proper intelligence inputs.

Pargat Singh further stated that these actions have had serious consequences and alleged that the law and order situation in Punjab has deteriorated since then.



# MP Satnam Sandhu announces MPLAD funds for Skill Centre in Dera Bassi

DERA BASSI, APRIL 26

Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Satnam Singh Sandhu interacted with about 500 women from about 60 women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in Punjab who have achieved success under various initiatives like Lakhpati Didi and Drone Didi taken under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for improving the livelihoods of poor rural households in country.

MP Satnam Singh Sandhu along with Bharatita Jana-



ta Party (BJP) spokesperson & former Punjab Agro Industries vice-chairman Manpreet Singh Bunny Sandhu and Jagdeep Singh Aujala, Man-

dal in-charge BJP Dera Bassi, also visited product stalls set up by SHG women in Dera Bassi and Lalru and appreciated their hard work and ded-

ication. All the stalls presented Punjab specific products rooted in local traditions and artisanal skills including Phulkari, Suits, Juttis, Honey, Pickles, Squash, Vinegar, Oils, Masalas, Papad, Soaps, Candles etc. On the occasion, women of SHGs, many of whom have benefitted from Lakhpati Didi and Drone Didi initiatives, shared their experiences and success stories. Many women recounted how they once had no source of income, but after joining self-help groups and taking advantage of government schemes like Lakhpati Didi they are now empowered not

only supporting their families but also providing employment to other women.

Sharing their experiences, women said the Union government's Lakhpati Didi, Drone Didi initiatives have brought a positive transformation in their lives by not only provided economic stability but also enhanced their social standing. They said such initiative taken by the Union government have not only facilitated direct market access for SHG products but also sparked a greater movement for self-sufficiency, economic upliftment, and gender empowerment in rural com-

munities.

Members of SHGs said earlier middlemen used dupe them but now Union government has facilitated loans without guarantee to SHGs which has helped them in achieving financial independence and build sustainable livelihoods. Women said Union government's Lakhpati Didi, Drone Didi initiatives are playing a vital role in creating self-employment opportunities for women through agriculture, animal husbandry, dairy, poultry farming, mushroom cultivation, food processing, and small-scale industries.

## "They asked me to join them, I said no": Seechewal slams 7 AAP MPs' exit as 'Betrayal'

CHANDIGARH: Amid the ongoing political turmoil within the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Rajya Sabha MP Balbir Singh Seechewal on Sunday claimed that he was approached by defecting MPs to join their proposed "Azaad group," but he firmly declined.

According to Seechewal, fellow Rajya Sabha MP Vikramjit Singh Sahney, who is among the seven leaders who recently switched to the Bharatiya Janata Party, had contacted him with the proposal. However, Seechewal said he chose to stay with AAP, reiterating his commitment to the party.

Expressing strong disappointment over the development, he termed the mass exit of MPs as a "betrayal," stating that the party had sent them to the Rajya Sabha to represent Punjab's voice at the national level.

The crisis erupted after seven out of AAP's ten Rajya Sabha MPs — including Raghav Chadha, Ashok Mittal, Sandeep Pathak, Harbhajan Singh, Rajendra Gupta, Vikramjit Singh Sahney and Swati Maliwal — resigned and joined the BJP, alleging that AAP had drifted away from its core principles.



## Bikram Majithia defends Rajinder Gupta, objects 'traitor' tag, vandalism as divisive politics

CHANDIGARH: Senior Shiromani Akali Dal leader Bikram Singh Majithia on Sunday strongly condemned the alleged vandalism and "traitor" graffiti targeting industrialist Rajinder Gupta, calling the act unacceptable and politically motivated.

Majithia described Rajinder Gupta as a respected industrialist who has made significant contributions to Punjab's economy and generated employment for thousands of youth. He said branding him a "traitor" and defacing his residence reflects a dangerous trend in state politics.

Taking a swipe at the Aam Aadmi Party, Majithia pointed out what he termed as "double standards," stating that leaders joining AAP in the past were welcomed, but those leaving the party are now being targeted and abused.

He questioned whether similar actions were ever taken when leaders from other parties joined AAP, citing the example of Raj Kumar Chabbewal. "No one wrote 'Gaddar' on their homes then," he remarked.

Expressing personal solidarity, Majithia said he shares a long association with Rajinder Gupta and his family and stands firmly with them. He also criticised Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal, accusing them of fostering divisive politics.

Calling the incident "not politics but a reflection of mindset," Majithia warned that such actions only deepen divisions in Punjab and do not contribute to the state's progress.



## Sunil Jakhar urges Minister Prahlad Joshi to probe alleged gunny bags procurement scam in Punjab

CHANDIGARH: Sunil Jakhar, president of the Punjab unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), has alleged irregularities in the procurement of old gunny bags by the state government and demanded a detailed investigation into the matter.

In a letter addressed to Union Food Supply Minister Prahlad Joshi, Jakhar raised concerns that used gunny bags, reportedly available in the open market at around Rs 22 each, were allegedly procured by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led Punjab government at nearly Rs 43.89 per bag.

He said the procurement, carried out under the Decentralized Procurement Scheme (DCP) for wheat storage, raises serious questions about possible corruption and inflated pricing. Jakhar alleged that the significant price difference points toward potential commission practices and misuse of public funds.

Calling for transparency, he urged the Centre to order a thorough probe to uncover the facts and fix accountability if irregularities are found.

Jakhar also acknowledged the Centre's decision to relax wheat procurement norms in line with farmers' demands in Punjab.



## BJP's Tarun Chugh hits out at Punjab over MP's security, seeks Central forces' intervention

CHANDIGARH: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Saturday launched a sharp attack on the Punjab Police, alleging failure to ensure the safety of Members of Parliament amid reported incidents targeting their residences.

Taking aim at the state's law enforcement, Chugh said that if the Punjab Police is unable to protect constitutional functionaries, the responsibility should be handed over to central security agencies. He urged immediate intervention to safeguard elected representatives.

He further alleged that the Aam Aadmi Party has weakened in Punjab, claiming that several senior leaders have exited the party due to what he described as "immoral and corrupt practices."

Referring to the recent developments involving Punjab's Rajya Sabha MPs, Chugh said the situation has exposed the party's governance failures and inability to deliver on its promises. He also criticised the law and order situation in the state, alleging that Punjab is witnessing a rise in criminal elements, including mafias and gangsters, under the current regime.



# Classified

I Ripudaman Singh S/o Tarlok Singh R/o Dreamland Colony, Umarpura, Batala Distt. Gurdaspur Have Declare That Ripudaman Is My Given Name And Singh Is Surname. Concerned Note.. 10005

I, Mandeep Kaur W/o Ankur Narula R/o Chungi No. 08, Faridkot Road, Partap Nagar (satye Wala), Ferozpur Have Changed My Name From Mandeep Kaur To Mandeep Kaur Narula Concerned Note. 900011

I Satpal Singh S/o Balwinder Singh R/o Village Sukhlahdi Post Office Bangi Rughu Tehsil Talwandi Sabo Distt Bathinda Have Changed My Minor Son Kulveer Singh Name Kulveer Singh To Kulveer Singh Maan. Please Note. 60018

I, Gurminder Singh son of Rasal Singh R/o Village Kandiala Tehsil Patti District Tarn Taran have changed my name from Gurminder Singh to Surname as Singh and my given name is Gurminder. Plz note it. 50008

I Parvinder Kaur W/o Sukhwinder Singh R/o Village Mehma Sawai Have Changed My Name To Parvinder Kaur 50008

I hitherto known as MANPREET KAUR wife of SUKHDEEP SINGH, residing at Ghanian Road, VPO Malla, Distt. Faridkot, Punjab, India-151205, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BEANT KAUR 63372

I, Akashdeep Kaur D/o Gurdip Singh R/o Village Phulewala, Teh. Nihal Singh Wala (Moga) have changed my name to Kaur Akashdeep. 63372

I, Gurdial Singh alias Dayal Singh S/o Babu Singh R/o Gujjarwal, Distt Ludhiana, both these names are mine, I am known by both names. 63372

### PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Jai Narayan, son of Shri Punu Ram, residing at House No. 349, Patti Afghan, Kathal, hereby inform the general public that my son, Ravi Mehra, is no longer under my control or authority. I hereby disinherit him from all my movable and immovable property. Neither I nor any member of my family has any connection or association with him. Anyone engaging in financial or other dealings with him shall be solely responsible for their actions. 40001

I, Anshul, S/o Yashwant Singh, holder of Indian Passport No. S0176484, issued at Delhi on 05/03/2018, permanent resident of H.No-193/21, Ladhout Road, Near Hafed Sukhpura, Rohtak, Haryana - 124001, India, presently residing at: 213-20 Blue Jays Way, Toronto, ON, M5V 3W6, Canada, do hereby change my name from Anshul to Anshul Hooda with immediate effect. 63372

I, Gurmeet Singh S/o Bhag Singh R/o Jarkhelan Kheri Bassi Distt Fatehgarh Sahib, Punjab hereby state that I have changed my name from Gurmeet Singh Dhindsa to Gurmeet Singh. 4478596

I, Asha Rani W/o Mr. Vinod Kumar R/o H.No 110, Street no. 4 Jawahar Nagar, Goniana Mandi, Bathinda. In my Son Sanjay Garg and daughter Suruchi Garg Documents my name mentions as Asha Garg. Asha Rani and Asha Garg both names are of same person. 50008

I, hitherto known as NEELAM RANI W/o P A W A N K U M A R SHARMA residing at House No. 100, Street No. 2, New Dashmesh Nagar, Near Suvidha Center Ladowall Road, Jalandhar, Punjab-144001 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NEELAM RANI SHARMA. 600022

I, Baljeet Kaur W/O Karnail Singh R/O Vill. Dhurkot Charat Singh Wala, Distt. Moga (Pb), I Have Changed My Name From Baljit Kaur To Baljeet Kaur. 63372

I, Pankej Mehan S/o Hari Mehan R/o Main Bazar, Vpo. Talwan, Tehsil Phillaur, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab, India, Pin-144039 have changed my name spellings and shall hereafter be known as Pankaj Mehan. 63372

I, Piare Lal S/o Khushia Ram R/o Vpo Mutton Teh Balachaur Distt Sbs Nagar Punjab Have Changed My Name To Lal Piare. Lal Is My Surname. All Please Note. 63372

I, Anshul, S/o Yashwant Singh, holder of Indian Passport No. S0176484, issued at Delhi on 05/03/2018, permanent resident of H.No-193/21, Ladhout Road, Near Hafed Sukhpura, Rohtak, Haryana - 124001, India, presently residing at: 213-20 Blue Jays Way, Toronto, ON, M5V 3W6, Canada, do hereby change my name from Anshul to Anshul Hooda with immediate effect. 63372

We Bawa Ram S/o Bally and Prem Kaur W/O Bawa Ram both resident of R/o House No. 1628, Sector 45, Burail, Chandigarh declare that my grandson Rajvinder Singh is out of our control so we Disown him from my all movable & immovable property. If anybody deal with him in future he/she/they/them himself responsible for the same 60017

I Sant Ram S/o vishw nath L- 257 Mangolpur delhi pincodet110083 India have changed father name from Vishwa Nath Pal which is mention in my pnbmetlife policy to Vishw nath. 60013

I Vinod Kumar H/o Mrs. Asha Rani R/o H.No 110, Street no. 4 Jawahar Nagar, Goniana Mandi, Bathinda. In my Son Sanjay Garg and daughter Suruchi Garg Documents my name mentions as Vinod Garg. Vinod Kumar and Vinod Garg both names are of same person. 50008

I, hitherto known as PAWAN KUMAR S/O SUKHDEV SHARMA residing at H.No. 446 A, Guru Nanak Pura East, Jalandhar, Punjab-144009, India have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PAWAN KUMAR SHARMA. 600022

I, Ajay Kumar S/O Avtar Singh R/O VPO Kitna Tehsil Garhshankar, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab, India, have changed my name from Ajay Kumar to Kumar Ajay. 63372

I, Jaskaran S/O Rakesh Kumar R/O Village Chandpur Rurki Khurd, PO Chandpur Rurki Tehsil Balachaur Distt. S B S Nagar, have changed my name from Jaskaran to Singh Jaskaran. 63372

I, Vidya Devi W/o Piare Lal R/o Vpo Mutton Teh Balachaur Distt Sbs Nagar Punjab Have Changed My Name To Devi Vidya. Devi Is My Surname. All Please Note 63372

I, Anshul, S/o Yashwant Singh, holder of Indian Passport No. S0176484, issued at Delhi on 05/03/2018, permanent resident of H.No-193/21, Ladhout Road, Near Hafed Sukhpura, Rohtak, Haryana - 124001, India, presently residing at: 213-20 Blue Jays Way, Toronto, ON, M5V 3W6, Canada, do hereby change my name from Anshul to Anshul Hooda with immediate effect. 63372

I, Aarti, D/o Mohan Lal and wife of Anshul, holder of Indian Passport No. Z3730542, issued at Jalandhar on 18/07/2017, permanent resident of: H.No. 193/21, Ladhout Road, Near Hafed, Sukhpura, Rohtak, Haryana - 124001, India, presently residing at: 213-20 Blue Jays Way, Toronto, ON, M5V 3W6, Canada, do hereby change my name from Aarti to Aarti Hooda with immediate effect. 63372

I, Arun Kumar S/o Roshan Lal R/o H.No. B-34/2668 St.No. 4 Rajesh Nagar Ludhiana declare that my wife actual name is Ekta Nahar. But my wife known by both names Ekta Nahar and Ekta is one and the same person. 63372

I, Rakesh Girdhar S/o Sudesh Girdhar R/o House No.33, Sector - 14, Kamal, Haryana have changed my name from Rakesh Kumar S/o Sudesh Kumar Girdhar to Rakesh Girdhar S/o Sudesh Girdhar. In the future, I should be known by the name Rakesh Girdhar S/o Sudesh Girdhar. 989666

I, Rakesh Girdhar S/o Sudesh Girdhar R/o House No.33, Sector - 14, Kamal, Haryana have changed my name from Rakesh Kumar S/o Sudesh Kumar Girdhar to Rakesh Girdhar S/o Sudesh Girdhar. In the future, I should be known by the name Rakesh Girdhar S/o Sudesh Girdhar. 989666

I, hitherto known as Arun Kumar S/o Ashwani Kumar R/o H.No.55, Balaji Colony, Ganganagar Road, Abohar, Distt. Fazilka (Punjab) have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Arun Bishnoi. 63372

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

I, Vidya Devi W/o Piare Lal R/o Vpo Mutton Teh Balachaur Distt Sbs Nagar Punjab Have Changed My Name To Devi Vidya. Devi Is My Surname. All Please Note 63372

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**NEWS BRIEF**

**Research paper presented at national seminar held at directorate of education**

**AMRISH ANAND DORAHA:** A one-day national seminar on the theme "Sarkar-e-Khalsa: A Reappraisal" was organized on April 24 at the Directorate of Education, Bahadurgarh (Patiala), under the directions of (SGPC) President S. Harjinder Singh Dhaliwal and the leadership of Education Secretary S. Sukhinder Singh. During the seminar, Dr. Satinder Singh of Mata Ganga Khalsa College presented a research paper on the topic "Punjab in the Writings of John Griffiths and William Franklin." He stated that the works of both European writers contain several historical inaccuracies, which were later corrected by Dr. Ganda Singh in his writings. He also highlighted references made by these authors to the conduct, compassion, and martial preparedness of the Sikh community. On the occasion, Principal Dr. Gagandeep Singh remarked that the role of Maharaja Ranjit Singh was inclusive and people-centric, and there is a need to draw inspiration from it in the present times.

**Hoshiarpur storms into U-16 inter-district cricket semifinals after thrashing Pathankot**



**DALJEET AJNOHA HOSHIARPUR:** In the Punjab Cricket Association's inter-district Under-16 cricket tournament, Hoshiarpur secured a spot in the semifinals by defeating Pathankot on the basis of a first-innings lead in a two-day quarterfinal match. Hoshiarpur District Cricket Association (HDCA) secretary Dr. Raman Ghai said Pathankot won the toss and elected to bowl first. Batting first, Hoshiarpur were bowled out for 229 in 73.1 overs, with Yug Grover top-scoring on 71, captain Yuvraj Thakur making 43, Mankaran Singh 23 and Amarpreet Singh 19.

Pathankot folded for just 103 in their first innings against Hoshiarpur's sharp bowling attack. Balraj and Rudra scored 24 each for the losers, while Abhinav Pratap claimed 4-7. Sankalp Sharma and Ishaan took 3 each. Anshu Mahajan grabbed 2 and Manan Narayan 1. Enforcing a follow-on with a 126-run lead, Hoshiarpur reached 358 for 4 when stumps were drawn. Lakshdeep Sandhu remained unbeaten on 101, captain Yuvraj hammered 71, Mankaran 64, Amanpreet Singh 45 and Yug Grover 43. HDCA president Dr. Daljeet Khela, joint secretary Vivek Sahni, Thakur Yojraj, Dr. Pankaj Singh and other officials congratulated the team. District coach Daljeet Singh, team coach Praveen Kapoor, assistant coaches Daljeet Dhiman, Pankaj Pinnka, Ashok Sharma, Dinesh Sharma, trainer.

**Prof. Jitendra Kumar Sahu appointed as National Chairperson of academy of pediatric neurology, India**

SHASHI PAL JAIN  
CHANDIGARH, APRIL 26

The Pediatric Neurology Unit of PGIMER, Chandigarh, in collaboration with the Academy of Pediatric Neurology (AOPN), India, hosted a landmark Pediatric Epilepsy Research Symposium commemorating 25 years of pioneering research in infantile spasms at PGIMER.

A central highlight of the event was the installation of the new AOPN board members. Prof. Jitendra Kumar Sahu, Pediatric Neurology Unit, PGIMER, was formally installed as the National Chairperson. In his address, Prof. Sahu articulated the association's vision, "Every Child's Brain Matters, Everywhere," reaffirming AOPN's mission to advance equitable neurological care for children across India and globally. The ceremony was graced by Prof.



Vivek Lal, Director PGIMER, as Chief Guest, and Prof. Pratibha Singhi, President of the International Child Neurology Association, as Guest of Honor.

Distinguished dignitaries including Dr. Anoop Verma (National Coordinator, AOPN), Dr. Vinit Wankhede (Secretary General, AOPN), Prof. Naveen Sankhyan (Organizing Chair), Dr. Priyanka Madaan (Organizing secretary) and several board members across country lent their presence to the occasion.

The Pediatric Epilepsy Research Symposium, first of its kind brought together over 130 participants, creating a vibrant platform for knowledge exchange and innovation in the field of childhood epilepsy. The event featured diverse research presentations/participation from undergraduate, postgraduate students, facul-

**Retail investors don't always make rational decisions: Punjabi University study**

**PATIALA (TAPINDER SINGH):** A recent study conducted at the Department of Commerce, Punjabi University, has extensively analyzed the behavior and investment decision-making process of individual retail investors in the stock market. The research was conducted by scholar Dr. Himanshi Bansal under the supervision of Prof. Anand Bansal from the Department of Business Studies, Punjabi University Guru Kashi Campus, Talwandi Sabo. Prof. Anand Bansal said that data was collected and analyzed from individual investors across the Ludhiana, Amritsar, Patiala, and Jalandhar districts of Punjab. The research results clearly indicate that, contrary to traditional financial theories, retail investors do not always make rational decisions. Many investors operate under the influence of overconfidence, leading to frequent buying and selling in the market. This often results in poor decision-making and subsequent financial losses. The study investigated where this overconfidence stems from. It was found that retail investors primarily gather stock-related information from Television programs, Newspapers and magazines, Informal discussions with friends, relatives, and colleagues. Investors make decisions based on this limited information, which is often insufficient for consistently

**Khanna police holds crime meeting, stresses action plan to curb crime**

AMRISH ANAND  
DORAHA, APRIL 26

Under the directions of Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Khanna, Dr Darpan Ahluwalia, IPS, a crime meeting was chaired by SP (Headquarters) Harpinder Kaur Gill with gazetted officers (GOs), SHOs and in-charges of various units of the district.

The primary objective of the meeting was to further strengthen the law and order situation and curb criminal activities in the district. During the meeting, a detailed review of various criminal incidents reported across the district was undertaken.

Officers presented reports regarding the crime situation in their respective areas, on the basis of which the overall performance was assessed. Emphasis was laid on the early disposal of pending cases, intensifying the ongoing campaign against drugs, and maintaining strict vigil



on gangster activities. Detailed discussions were also held on the action plan prepared to effectively control crime.

SP Harpinder Kaur Gill issued directions to further strengthen patrolling, enhance surveillance on suspicious elements, and maintain close coordination with the public to ensure effective

policing. She also directed that investigations in all cases be conducted in a professional manner and that strict legal action be ensured against offenders.

At the conclusion of the meeting, officers were urged to perform their duties with dedication and alertness to maintain peace and law and order in the district.

**Patiala's top police officers meet Panches, Sarpanches and general public**

TAPINDER SINGH  
PATIALA, APRIL 26

Under the flagship program "Sampark 2026" being run by the Punjab Government under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Bhagwant Singh Mann as part of the "War Against Drugs," an important meeting was held today in Patiala.

The meeting was attended by SSP Shri Varun Sharma, SP Shri Vaibhav Chaudhary, other senior police officials, village panches and sarpanches, volunteers, and members of the public. SSP Varun Sharma stated that the main objective of the meeting was to further strengthen the ongoing campaign against drugs and to establish direct contact with the public to obtain their suggestions and feedback.

During the meeting, an open interaction was held between the police administration and the public, emphasizing the need for collective ef-



orts to fight the drug menace at a war footing. SSP Shri Varun Sharma stated that more than 1600 FIRs have been registered by Patiala Police over the past year, which reflects strict action against drug trafficking and related crimes.

He said this success would not have been possible without public support and that the role of the people will remain very important in the future as well. He further said that the police are not only relying on traditional methods but are also adopting new

strategies to break the network of drug trafficking. Even after breaking the supply chain, continuous surveillance is maintained on the concerned criminals to prevent them from re-engaging in illegal activities.

During the meeting, panches and sarpanches from villages were specially invited to obtain direct information about the ground-level situation of drug abuse. Police officials took area-wise feedback and issued directions to the concerned DSPs and SHOs for immediate action.

**Just as rats leap from a sinking ship, AAP's leaders are now jumping ship from their sinking boat to save themselves: Lali Bajwa**



DALJEET AJNOHA  
HOSHIARPUR, APRIL 26

Shromani Akali Dal's district urban president and senior vice-president Jatinder Singh Lali Bajwa was specially honoured by Jagtar Singh, circle president, and Iqbal Singh Gopi. Party leaders and workers attended in large numbers.

Addressing the gathering, Lali Bajwa said the Akali Dal, under party president Sukhbir Singh Badal's leadership, is advancing strongly and is the only force capable of resolving Punjab's problems. He added that the party will raise people's issues even more forcefully in the coming

times. Bajwa remarked that the party Punjabis elected in 2022 for change is now on the verge of collapse. "Just as rats leap from a sinking ship, AAP's leaders are now jumping ship from their sinking boat to save themselves," he said. He alleged that when it was time to send representatives from Punjab to the Rajya Sabha, Arvind Kejriwal's coterie had sold seats through deals, which now stands proven.

Those present included Harjit Singh, Colonel Singh, Dilbag Singh, Jasvir Singh, Gurmukh Singh, Japinderpal Singh Atwal, Ravindarpal Singh Mintu, and Davinder Singh.

**Punjab's biggest premier league kicks off at Nangal with 2,500 players: Bains**

KULWINDER BHATIA  
NANGAL, APRIL 26

Star-Studded Opening Ceremony at Nangal as Premier League Begins with Massive Participation

Nangal Gurjeet Kaur : Punjab's largest-ever premier cricket league commenced today at Nangal with an overwhelming participation of around 2,500 players representing 161 teams, announced Cabinet Minister for Education, Harjot Singh Bains. The Anandpur Sahib Premier League, beginning on the evening of 27 April at the NFL Ground, aims to provide a platform for budding cricketers while fostering a spirit of sportsmanship and unity among youth across the region. Highlighting the uniqueness of the league, the Education Minister stated that 161 specially designed jerseys have been created, each reflecting the distinct identity and name of the participating teams. He added that cricket kits will also be distributed to all teams to



encourage players and ensure they have access to proper sporting equipment. This initiative underscores the Punjab Government's commitment to nurturing grassroots sports talent. The grand opening ceremony witnessed the presence of eight prominent youth icons, including Member of Parliament Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer, Punjab Cricket Association Secretary, Bunty Bains and Raveeneet renowned singer, actress Diljot, social worker Anmol Kwatra, actress Sonia Mann, and social influencers Gurdeep Manalia and Tara Pal. These personalities will be associated with 20 teams, motivating players and enhancing the enthusiasm surrounding the league.

**Two-day educational workshop empowers CKD teachers at Sri Guru Harkrishan Public School, Majitha road bypass**



**AMRITSAR (CHARANJIT SINGH ARORA):** Under the aegis of the Chief Khalsa Diwan, a comprehensive two-day workshop titled "Educating the Leaders of Tomorrow" concluded successfully at Sri Guru Harkrishan Senior Secondary Public School (SGHPS), Majitha Road Bypass held at the Bhai Veer Singh Ji Auditorium, the event brought together prominent educationists and administrators to refine pedagogical strategies for the modern era.

The seminar commenced with a formal invocation of divine blessings, followed by a warm welcome from school Member In-charges S. Rajmohinder Singh Majitha, S. Manmohan Singh, Er. Jaspal Singh, and S. Adarshpinder Singh, alongside Principal Ms. Ripudaman Kaur Malhotra. The inaugural ceremony was attended by distinguished leadership from the Chief Khalsa Diwan, including President Dr. Inderbir Singh Ji Nijjar, Honorary Secretary S. Rameek Singh Ji, Director Dr. A.P. Singh Chawla, and Deputy Director Mrs. Urminder Kaur, as well as several other CKD principals.

**Dhuri holds thanks giving ceremonies to mark rollout of stringent anti-sacrilege law**



**DHURI:** Thanksgiving ceremonies were held in Ward No. 21 of Dhuri and village Babanpur to mark the enforcement of a stringent law against the sacrilege of Sri Guru Granth Sahib by the Punjab Government under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann.

The events followed the recitation of Sri Sukhmani Sahib and witnessed enthusiastic participation from the local sangat. On the occasion, Chairman of Punjab Small Industries & Export Corporation Dalvir Singh Dhillon, Chairman of Punjab Traders Commission (Dhuri) Pushpinder Sharma, Zila Parishad Member Harjinder Singh Kanjhla, and Education Coordinator Darshan Singh Pathak were honoured with shroba by the sangat. After paying obeisance at the Gurdwara Sahib, Dalvir Singh Dhillon described the move as a historic and decisive intervention to curb sacrilege. He said the new law provides for life imprisonment along with a fine of up to Rs 25 lakh, making it among the toughest legal provisions in the country on the issue.

**Mega free health check-up camp organised by Bhindar Hospital**



**PATHANKOT (SHARANJEET):** A mega free health check-up camp organised by Bhindar Hospital, Mission Road, Pathankot, concluded successfully today, with around 200 patients and their family members availing medical consultations and check-ups. The hospital management credited the success of the camp to the trust of patients and increased health awareness, adding that such initiatives help in early detection and prevention of diseases. A team of specialists, including Dr JS Bhindar (Orthopaedics and Joint Replacement), Dr Pritinder Pal Singh (Spine Surgeon), Dr Raman Deep Kaur (Neuropsychiatrist), Dr Manjit Pal Singh Goraya (Nephrologist), Dr Manjot Kaur (Oncosurgeon), Dr Uttamjot Kaur (Pathologist) and Dr Anushal Gupta, examined patients and provided free medicines. Patients with kidney ailments, cancer, bone and spine issues, children's growth concerns, joint pain and mental health problems attended the camp. Dr Manjit Pal Singh said the aim was not only treatment but also spreading awareness about early diagnosis and prevention. He added that Bhindar Hospital would continue such initiatives in future. Those present included Hardeep Singh Kaler, Balwinder Singh Randhawa, Jasbir Singh, Bhupinder Singh, Rakesh Kumar, Bhupinder Kumar, Sonia, Sunita, Urvasi, Rekha, Sweetie, Pinky and other staff members.

**AAP leaders, volunteers stage protest in Dhuri; burn effigy of Raghav Chadha**



**DHURI:** Leaders and volunteers of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) staged a protest in Dhuri on Sunday, burning the effigy of Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha. The demonstration saw participation from a large number of party workers and local residents, who raised slogans to express their dissent.

Addressing the gathering, Chairman of Punjab Small Industries & Export Corporation Dalvir Singh Dhillon alleged that seven Rajya Sabha members had acted against the interests of Punjab. He said such actions were unacceptable and would not be forgotten by the people of the state, who would respond through democratic means. He said that those perceived to be compromising Punjab's interests would not be accepted by the public. Emphasising democratic accountability, he noted that people ultimately deliver their verdict at the appropriate time. Chairman of Market Committee, Dhuri, Rajwant Singh Ghullu said the protest was a reflection of public sentiment. He added that the people of Punjab remain strongly connected to their land and rights, and any attempt to undermine them would be firmly opposed.

**Angel Public Smart School Chairman Dr. Devinder Singh Arora honoured with 'AcadElite Award 2026'**



**CHANDIGARH:** Dr. Davinder Singh Arora, Chairman of Angel Public Smart School, Behlana, Chandigarh, was felicitated at the prestigious AcadElite Awards 2026 organized by the Global School Leaders Consortium (GSLC) for his vision, leadership, and impactful contribution to the field of education.

During the ceremony, Dr. Arora was presented with a trophy and citation. The award recognizes his efforts in promoting innovation in education, quality learning, and the holistic development of students. On this achievement, the school's Director, Principal, teachers, parents, and students expressed their joy and congratulated Dr. Arora. The school management said that this honour is a proud moment for the entire Angel Public Smart School family.

**MPs who left party, joined opposition are killers of democracy : Sandhwan**



**KOTKAPURA (SURINDER DAMDAMI):** Punjabis have always given a befitting reply to those who have an evil eye on Punjab. If BJP thinks that it will capture Punjab by buying those who betrayed Punjab for a seat, then this is a big delusion of BJP. This was expressed by Punjab Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan. He said that due to the betrayal of trust shown to Punjab by the Rajya Sabha members elected from the land of Punjab, an effigy of the Rajya Sabha members was burnt in Kotkapura to protest. He said that the Aam Aadmi Party MPs who have left the party and joined the opposition are the killers of democracy. Apart from this, Aam Aadmi Party workers under the leadership of MLA Gurdit Singh Sekhon also demonstrated by burning effigies at Ghanta Ghar Chowk, Faridkot. He said that the people of Punjab had elected Aam Aadmi Party with great faith and these representatives elected by the Aam Aadmi Party MLAs were sent to the Rajya Sabha to represent Punjab but they have joined the opposition party which has harmed the interests of the people of Punjab. He said that they have betrayed not only the Aam Aadmi Party but also the people of Punjab. Chairman Planning Board Gurtej Singh Khosa said that the people of Punjab had brought them to this position by giving them votes and respect, but they have not thought about the interests of the people and have thought about their own interests, therefore they are traitors of Punjab.

**Charanjit Singh Dhaliwal appointed President of cycling association of Punjab**



**PATIALA (TAPINDER SINGH):** A General Body Meeting of the Cycling Association of Punjab (Ad-hoc Committee) was convened under the guidance of the Cycling Federation of India at Heritage Resort, Aam Khas Bagh, Sri Fatehgarh Sahib. During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on various agenda items, and a consensus was reached regarding the future direction of the association. Under the leadership of Ad-hoc Committee Chairman Shailendra Pathak, names for the new office bearers of the Cycling Association of Punjab were proposed by the election observer. The proposals were unanimously approved by the members present. During the election process, noted social worker and prominent industrialist Charanjit Singh Dhaliwal was appointed as the President of the Cycling Association of Punjab. Upon assuming office, Mr. Dhaliwal expressed his gratitude and stated that his foremost priority would be to promote cycling across Punjab at the grassroots level. He emphasized that the new talent would be nurtured by organizing competitions at schools and colleges across different levels. He further stated that special training camps would be organized to provide athletes with advanced coaching and modern facilities, enabling them to excel at national.

**Day 96 of Gangstran Te Vaar: Punjab police conducts 557 raids; 291 held**

**CHANDIGARH:** As the decisive 'Gangstran Te Vaar' campaign launched under the directions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann enters its 96th day, Punjab Police on Sunday conducted 557 raids at the identified and mapped locations linked to associates of gangsters across the state.

As per the information, the "Gangstran Te Vaar"—a decisive war to make Punjab a gangster-free state was launched by the Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav on January 20, 2026. Police teams from all the districts in coordination with Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) Punjab has been conducting special operations across the state.

On Day 96, Police teams arrested 291 individuals held with five weapons, taking the total arrests to 24,280 since the launch of the campaign.

Apart from this, preventive action has been taken against 93 persons, whereas, 76 persons were verified and released after questioning. Police teams have also arrested eight proclaimed offenders (POs) during the operation.

People can anonymously report information related to wanted criminals and gangsters, and also share tips on crime and criminal activity, through the Anti Gangster Helpline number 93946-93946.

Meanwhile, Police teams have continued its drive against drugs "Yudh Nashian Virudh" for 421st day with 95 drug smugglers arrested on Sunday and recovered 6.8 kg heroin and 306 intoxicant tablets/capsules from their possession. With this, the number of total drug smugglers arrested has reached to 60,898 in just 421 days. As part of De-addiction, the Punjab Police has convicted 29 persons to undergo de-addiction and rehabilitation treatment today.

## NEWS BRIEF

## Woman arrested with 180 liters of lahan



**ARVIND PATHAK SULTANPUR LODHI:** As part of a campaign launched under the direction of SSP Kapurthala Gaurav Tura to curb anti-social elements involved in drug trafficking in Kapurthala district the Talwandi Chaudharian police led by Sultanpur Lodhi ASP Dheerendra Verma and DSP (Narcotics) Sukhpal Singh arrested a woman with lahan. Giving information in this regard Inspector Sonandeep Kaur SHO of Talwandi Chaudharian police station stated that during patrol duty ASI Balbir Singh along with his colleague Excise Inspector Manjit Kaur raided the home of accused Pritam Kaur wife of Gurmeet Singh resident of Hussainpur Dulowal, Talwandi Chaudharian police station (Sultanpur Lodhi) Distt: Kapurthala. During the raid 180 liters of lahan was recovered from Pritam Kaur. The accused was arrested and a case was registered against her under Sections 61-1-14 of the Excise Act at Talwandi Chaudharian police station.

## First PTM at Alliance International School, Jaito successfully held



**RAGHU NANDAN PRASHAR JAITO:** The first Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM) of the new academic session was organized with great enthusiasm at Alliance International School, Jaito. On this occasion, a large number of parents participated and engaged in detailed discussions with the teachers regarding their children's academic progress, behavior, and activities. During the meeting, teachers provided updates on the students' performance, discipline, and participation in co-curricular activities. Additionally, parents were advised to ensure that their children engage in regular practice at home and to maintain a positive environment conducive to learning. The school Principal, Mrs. Gur Sevak Kaur Mann, expressed her appreciation for the parents' cooperation, stating that such meetings foster better coordination between teachers and parents, which is instrumental in the holistic development of the children. Finally, a vote of thanks was extended to all the parents, and they were requested to continue extending similar cooperation in the future.

## Baba Augarh College, Jajion successfully hosts cancer screening and awareness camp



**DALJEET AJNOHA HOSHIARPUR:** A cancer screening and awareness camp was successfully organized at Baba Augarh Shri Fateh Nath Girls College, Jajion, under the leadership of former MP Avinash Rai Khanna and with the significant support of Vardhman Yarns and Threads. The camp aimed to promote awareness about cancer prevention and provide free medical assistance to the public. Avinash Khanna, who is also the college chairman, said the initiative was held to help prevent cancer and educate people about the disease. He said nearly 500 patients who visited the camp received free check-ups and were made aware of the importance of early detection and prevention. Khanna added that the contribution of Vardhman Yarns and Threads was substantial, while Dr. Panjki and his team from Jaipur, along with Dr. Dhillion from World Cancer Care, conducted tests related to nearly 150 other illnesses. Free medicines were distributed to patients, and spectacles were also provided. Present on the occasion were Pradeep Dardmal and Ashi Marwaha from Vardhman Yarns and Threads, members of the Baba Augarh Shri Fateh Nath Charitable Trust, the college principal, and other staff members.

## Gurpreet Kaur holds special meeting with Anganwadi workers under mother-daughter honour scheme



**KOTKAPURA (SURINDER DAMDAM):** Madam Gurpreet Kaur, wife of Speaker Punjab Vidhan Sabha Kultar Singh Sandhwan, and OSD Sadhu Ram Kusla held a special meeting with Sakhis and Anganwadi workers regarding schemes related to the respect and welfare of mothers and daughters. Madam Gurpreet Kaur said that the Punjab Government is committed to the respect, protection and social empowerment of mothers and daughters. She said that Anganwadi workers and Sakhis are an important link between the government and the people at the ground level, whose role is very important in making social welfare schemes successful. He said that this scheme will make a significant contribution to the progress of women by making them independent and empowered. This scheme will strengthen women financially, which will enable them to save and invest and it will enable women to fulfill their desires for their home and family.

# State govt withdraws protection for Harbhajan Singh, Centre deploys CRPF

CHANDIGARH, APR 26 (UNI)

The political fallout following the departure of seven Rajya Sabha MPs from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) escalated on Sunday as the Punjab government withdrew the Y-category security cover provided to former cricketer and Rajya Sabha MP Harbhajan Singh.

Following the state's decision to recall the Punjab Police personnel previously stationed at his Jalandhar residence, the union government promptly intervened by extending CRPF protection to the MP. Personnel from the central force have since been deployed at his home to ensure his safety.

This development follows a similar pattern involving fellow Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha, whose Z security cover was recently revoked by the state government, only to be replaced by equivalent protection from the Centre.

While Harbhajan Singh has maintained silence regarding his formal exit from



AAP or any potential alignment with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), his inclusion in the group of defectors was explicitly asserted by Raghav Chadha.

In the midst of the ongoing unrest, another Rajya Sabha MP, Vikramjit Sahni, revealed that AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal had demanded his resignation from the party. Sahni stated that while he had initially considered stepping down, he was ad-

vised by his associates to refrain from doing so. Expressing deep concern over the state's current administrative and economic health, Sahni remarked that Punjab is currently in an "ICU" and requires robust support and co-operation from the Central government to ensure its recovery.

Meanwhile, Rajya Sabha MP Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal confirmed that he had been approached by

## Fit biker club organises 5th blood donation camp, collects 40 units

DALJEET AJNOHA HOSHIARPUR, APRIL 26

In yet another significant step towards social service, the Fit Biker Club successfully organised its 5th blood donation camp at the head office of Sachdeva Stocks in Bulawari. The camp was inaugurated by Tarun Chawla, Finance Director of Vardhman Textiles, with his wife Priya Chawla present on the occasion.

Fit Biker Club president Paramjit Singh Sachdeva stated that blood donation is the greatest humanitarian service, capable of saving numerous lives.

He emphasised that the club regularly holds such camps to raise awareness, encouraging every individual to recognise their responsibility towards society and step forward to help those in need. Members of the Shivalik Hiking and Trekking Club also made a special contribution to the event.



Tarun Chawla remarked that such initiatives for societal welfare are essential, praising the Fit Biker Club's efforts. He urged the youth to actively participate in such activities.

A total of 40 units of blood were collected during the camp, which will prove invaluable for patients in need. The IMA Blood Bank team played a key role in making the camp a success by facilitating the collection.

Prominent attendees in-

cluded Uttam Singh Sabi, Munir Nazar, Amarinder Saini, Keshav Kumar, Gurm?? Singh, Tarlokchan Singh, Daulat Singh, Harkishan Kalia, Sanjeev Sohal, Okar Singh, Rohit Bassi, Sagar Saini, Ajit Yadav, along with several other members and donors.

In conclusion, Paramjit Sachdeva thanked all blood donors and supporters, assuring that the club would continue such social initiatives in the future.

## Akali Dal gains strength in Pathankot under Kanwar's leadership

**PATHANKOT (SHARANJEET):** The Shiromani Akali Dal (Badal) received a major boost in Pathankot as noted social worker C.J. Bagga joined the party along with his supporters under the leadership of district president and constituency in-charge Surinder Singh Kanwar (Minta). A large number of youth also joined the party, expressing faith in its policies and principles. Those who joined include Tarnjeet Bagga, Karan Bhatia, Mohit (Maninderpal Singh), Lal Singh, Gagan-deep Singh, Aditya, Ashu, Nitish, Vishal, Rajesh, Anshu, Salil, Akash Hogg, Lavi, Gurdit, Rohit Bhatia, Ullas, Sanidhya Sarna, Amit Sarna, Major and Geetansh. Addressing the gathering, Kanwar said the party remains committed to public welfare, panthic values and Punjab's interests. He welcomed the new members and assured them of due respect in the party. Among those present were Gurpreet Singh Guru District President Youth Akali Dal, Harpreet Singh (Raja) Circle President, Balwinder Singh Core Committee Member, Gurnam Singh General Secretary and Advocate Baldev Singh Leaders said the joining would further strengthen the party in the region.



## Under Bhagwant Mann govt's Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana, doctors' fear turns to hope as infant recovers after critical birth

ANIL VERMA BATHINDA, APRIL 26

The first cry should bring relief. But sometimes, it brings silence instead. At Aggarwal Hospital in Rampura Phul, District Bathinda, a newborn had already arrived; but the fight for life had just begun.

Born at just 33 weeks, the baby of Resham Singh and Gurmial Kaur entered the world too early, too fragile. Weighing only 1.926 kg, far below the normal full-term weight of around 2.5 to 4 kg, the newborn struggled from the very first breath. Severe respiratory distress meant that breathing was not possible without medical support. Inside the hospital, there was no time to lose.

Dr. Surender Aggarwal (MD Pediatric), with 24 years of experience, and his team acted immediately. The baby was shifted to the NICU, where machines supported what the underdeveloped lungs could not yet perform. Monitors tracked every heartbeat and every breath, each moment uncertain, each moment critical. What followed were 17 days of continuous care, patience, and pre-



cision. The newborn required CPAP support for 10 days, followed by oxygen support for another four days. During this period, neonatal jaundice developed and was treated with phototherapy. Feeding was carefully supported through limited Kangaroo Mother Care, ensuring warmth and stability without disturbing the baby's fragile condition.

"In the NICU, progress does not come in leaps," Dr. Aggarwal explains. "It comes quietly, one stable reading at a time." Slowly, signs of improvement began to appear.

Breathing steadied. Responses improved. The fragile body that once struggled began to gain strength day by day. For Dr. Aggarwal, such moments reflect both medicine and meaning. "There are

times when saving a child depends not just on treatment, but on timing," he says. "Even a small delay can change everything."

In this case, there was no delay. Supported under the Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana, the family received cashless treatment, allowing doctors to focus entirely on care without financial hesitation.

After 17 days of intensive treatment, the baby was discharged in stable condition. Now weighing 2.106 kg, still delicate but significantly stronger, the newborn left the hospital in her parents' arms: alive, stable, and recovering. In another case, Maninder Singh of Hoshiarpur shared his experience. His daughter, Gurkeerat Kaur, born on April 14 this year, also required neonatal care after birth. "She was treated well at the hospital, and the cost was covered under the Mukh Mantri Sehat Card," he said. The registration was completed the same day, and the family now has health coverage of up to ?10 lakh annually. Maninder Singh added with gratitude, "That is why the Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana scheme matters."

## Thieves break locks of house, steal cash and jewelry worth lakhs



GURMAIL SINGH SANGATPURA LEHRAGAGA, APRIL 26

A serious incident of theft has come to light in the nearby village of Changali-wala.

According to information, Baldeep Singh son of Gurmial Singh Sangatpura had locked his house with his wife at around 12:15 pm on Saturday and went out for some personal work.

When he returned home around 7:30 pm, he saw that unknown thieves had climbed the wall of the house and entered inside and broke the main locks of the rooms. The thieves opened two cupboards and three box beds inside the

house and ransacked the goods and stole about 8-9 tolas of gold, silver jewelry, about two lakh rupees in cash and some important documents from the house and escaped.

As soon as the incident was reported, the police and forensic team of Lehragaga police station reached the spot and took fingerprints from the spot and assessed the incident.

Victim Baldeep Singh has demanded from the police administration that the thieves should be identified and arrested as soon as possible and the stolen goods should be recovered. On the other hand, the police is investigating the matter.

## RBIS introduces plus program with focus on innovation & startups



**MOHALI:** Highlighting new academic initiatives alongside entrepreneurial learning, Vice-President of Rayat Bahra University, Jessika Duggal Bahra, introduced the Plus Program during a seminar titled "From Idea to Income" organized at Rayat Bahra International School for students of Classes IX to XII. The seminar aimed to expose students to start-up culture and guide them on transforming ideas into viable income-generating ventures. The programme began with a ceremonial lamp lighting, followed by a green initiative where planters were presented to dignitaries.

Resource person Simmi Prakash conducted an engaging session, explaining key stages of entrepreneurship, including ideation, market research, planning, and execution. An interactive questionnaire round further encouraged student participation.

Adding a practical perspective, student entrepreneur Bhat Fayiq Mushtaq showcased his product Gig Bridge and shared his journey of developing a tech-based solution, inspiring the audience.

## Retail investors don't always make rational decisions: Punjabi University study

**PATIALA (TAPINDER SINGH):** A recent study conducted at the Department of Commerce, Punjabi University, has extensively analyzed the behavior and investment decision-making process of individual retail investors in the stock market. The research was conducted by scholar Dr. Himanshi Bansal under the supervision of Prof. Anand Bansal from the Department of Business Studies, Punjabi University Guru Kashi Campus, Talwandi Sabo. Prof. Anand Bansal said that data was collected and analyzed from individual investors across the Ludhiana, Amritsar, Patiala, and Jalandhar districts of Punjab.

The research results clearly indicate that, contrary to traditional financial theories, retail investors do not always make rational decisions. Many investors operate under the influence of overconfidence, leading to frequent buying and selling in the market. This often results in poor decision-making and subsequent financial losses. The study investigated where this overconfidence stems from. It was found that retail investors primarily gather stock-related information from television programs, Newspapers and magazines, Informal discussions with friends, relatives, and colleagues. Investors make decisions based on this limited information, which is often insufficient for consistently generating profits in the stock market.



## Desh Bhagat University signs MoU with NISD to advance national social initiatives

AJAY MALHOTRA FATEHGARH SAHIB, APR 26

In a significant step towards strengthening national social development efforts, Desh Bhagat University (DBU), Punjab, has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.

This strategic collaboration underscores a shared commitment to advancing inclusive growth, social empowerment, and community-driven development initiatives across the country. The MoU was formally signed by Dr. Sandeep Singh, Hon'ble President, Desh Bhagat University and Gaurav Rajawat, Director Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India at Chintin Shivir held in Chandigarh. The occasion was



graced by the esteemed presence of Gulab Chand Kataria, Governor of Punjab and Administrator, Union Territory Chandigarh; Virendra Kumar, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment; and B. L. Verma, Minister of State, along with other distinguished dignitaries from across the country.

The partnership aims to foster collaborative programs, research, training, and outreach initiatives aligned with key national missions and social priorities. Focus areas of the MoU include promotion of education-driven empowerment under "Shikshat Bharat," economic upliftment through "Samridh Bharat."

## Keeping Punjab's rivers and streams pollution-free is the main goal: Sant Seechewal

MEHARJOT SINGH SHAHKOT, APRIL 26

Rajya Sabha Member and environmentalist Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal said that keeping Punjab's rivers and streams free from pollution is his primary objective. He stated that public participation is the most crucial factor in making Punjab's rivers pollution-free.

While taking part in ongoing service activities at Nirmal Kutia, Sultanpur Lodhi, Sant Seechewal said that he considers serving the house of Guru Nanak Dev Ji as the most noble and great task. This is why he finds joy in cleaning rivers and streams, as human life is deeply connected with water. Therefore, no river or stream in Punjab—the land of five rivers—should be polluted. Sharing his 25 years of expe-



rience in the voluntary service (kar seva) of the holy Kali Bein, Sant Seechewal said that instead of criticizing others, one should work on resolving the issues that lead to criticism. That is why he prioritizes providing alternatives rather than engaging in criticism. It is noteworthy that the kar seva of the holy Kali Bein, which began in 2000 under Sant Seechewal's leadership, has created a remarkable example. Through 25 years of tireless service,

the community has cleaned the 165-kilometer-long river to such an extent that its water has become fit for drinking. To make the Chitti Bein pollution-free, Sant Seechewal spent Rs 1.19 crore from his discretionary fund to construct a regulator near village Simbli on the Bist Doab Canal. Through this regulator, 200 cusecs of water will be released. Work has already been completed on placing stones in the Kala Sanghian Drain.

## Homeopathic cheap and effective treatment system: Principal Dr. Pramod Kumar



**JALANDHAR (PARAMJIT SINGH):** Doaba Homeopathy Study Circle, Jalandhar celebrated a special function on the occasion of the 271st birth anniversary of Dr. Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of homeopathy, at Hotel President, New Court, Civil Lines in a reverent manner. The function was attended by the Chief Guest, Principal Lord Mahavira Homeopathic Medical College and Hospital Ludhiana. The program was inaugurated by Principal Dr. Pramod Kumar by lighting a lamp in front of the picture of Dr. Samuel Hahnemann.

After this, Hahnemannian Awardee Dr. Neelam Avtar Singh, Arthur Homeopathy and Mind Marvelous Sphere Veteran Homeopath Awardee Dr. J.K. Wigg, Prof. Dr. Mukhtinder Singh, Dr. Charanjit Lal, Dr. Shakti Mahindru and Dr. Subhash Chandra Nistander from Solan Homeopathic Medical College and Hospital also lit a lamp in front of the picture of Dr. Samuel Hahnemann and offered floral tributes.

## HNBS & UF distribute sewing machines to needy families

**CHANDIGARH (SUMER GARG):** On the occasion of the birth anniversary of the nation's hero, freedom fighter, and former political leader Late Shri Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Ji, Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Smriti Samiti (HNBS) Punjab in collaboration with Ujhania Foundation (UF) organized a noble social service initiative by distributing sewing machines to needy families to support their self-employment and livelihood.

It is noteworthy that both organizations continue to undertake meaningful welfare activities for society on a regular basis and remain committed to public service. During a press interaction, Punjab State President of HBSS, Mr. Vinod Goyal, stated that the organization would continue carrying out such noble initiatives in the coming days as well. He encouraged everyone to participate actively in social service and contribute toward the welfare of the underprivileged. A special contribution toward this initiative was made by KBD Group Managing Director, Mr. Ramesh Goyal appreciated the social welfare work being undertaken by the organizations and expressed confidence that KBD Group will continue supporting such humanitarian efforts in the future. On this occasion, Founder of Ujhania Foundation, Mr. Parav Goyal, extended heartfelt gratitude to KBD Group and media representatives for their support.

## The Poshan Mah Pakhwada celebrated by NSS department of Sanghera College left unforgettable memories



**BARNALA (BALWINDER AZAD):** Under the guidance of the NSS Department of Punjabi University Patiala, under the able leadership of the President of the organization, Mr. Bhola Singh Virk ji, under the able leadership of Principal Dr. Sarabjit Singh Kular, under the supervision of NSS Program Officers Prof. Mandeep Kaur, Prof. Mithu Pathak, Prof. Manpreet Kaur, Dr. Nirpal Singh, continuous activities were carried out under this program from 9-4-2026 to 23-4-26, under which all the NSS volunteers visited the Civil Hospital Barnala and got complete information from Dr. Ankush Garg ji, visited the maternal and child ward and got information about the nutrition of newborn children, etc. They visited the hospital for two consecutive days. After that, we visited about 14 Anganwadi centers in Sanghera village and then one day, we held a meeting of all the centers to get information about the number of children coming to the centers, the ration given.

**UNI NAHAN:** A 26-year-old man was killed after being hit by a speeding car at Dhaula Kuan on the Dehradun-Chandigarh National Highway last evening. Police have registered a case against the female driver. According to police, the victim was returning home on foot with his cousin when the car struck him from behind. SP Sirmour NS Negi stated that the complainant, Pushpendra, son of Vikram Pal Singh, resident of village Jatowala, Post Office Koler, Tehsil

Paonta Sahib, age 26, stated that on April 25th, at around 6:15 pm, he was returning home from Dhaula Kuan with his cousin Vansh. At that time, a car, number HP17H-8343, was coming at high speed from the direction of Paonta Sahib and hit the two men. The car was being driven by a woman. The SP stated that the family took Pushpendra to Nahana Hospital and Vansh to Civil Paonta Sahib for treatment. Vansh was referred from Paonta Sahib to a larger hospital, but died on the way to Dehradun.

### NEWS BRIEF

**Rajesh Dharmani meets his student life partner Rajan Sharma**



**AVINASH CHAUHAN**  
**AMB:** Rajesh Dharmani, Cabinet Minister for Technical Education in Himachal Government, met his colleague Rajan Sharma in Gondpur Banehra on his request who was in his organization during his student days. Rajan Sharma said that Rajesh Dharmani is a friendly person since his student days, helping everyone and having a far-sighted and exemplary thinking. He said that he is happy that he met his old friend today and it is a matter of joy for him. Rajan Sharma said that despite being in such a high position, even today the same old simplicity and closeness is reflected in his nature which is very exemplary and praiseworthy in itself.

## State emerging as leader in Green Energy: CM Sukhu

**DINESH AGARWAL**  
**SHIMLA, APR 26**

Himachal Pradesh has immense potential for electricity generation in the hydropower and solar energy sectors. By harnessing this potential, the state could meet more of its own energy requirements and also benefit other states, becoming an example of energy self-reliance, sustainable development and environment conservator.

The state's annual energy consumption is approximately 13,000 million units. Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has set a target to meet more than 90 percent of this demand from renewable sources. To achieve this, under the visionary leadership of the Chief Minister, the state government is actively promoting the development of small hydropower projects, solar energy projects and non-conventional energy sources.

In line with Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's directions, the state



government has accelerated the development of small hydropower projects - up to five MW capacity - in recent years. Over the past three years, seven small hydropower projects with a total capacity of 17.25 MW have been started, 12 projects with a of 23.80 MW have been completed and 18 projects with a capacity of 47.90 MW have been sent for approval.

Additionally, five projects of 12.65 MW have received technical approval, supplementary

implementation agreements for capacity enhancement and other related approvals have been signed for seven projects of 25.7 MW. Another, 76 new applications for allocation of projects totaling 75 MW are being processed.

The Chief Minister has envisioned Himachal Pradesh as a green energy state. To achieve this, effective policies have been initiated and successfully implemented and as a result various solar energy projects have been developed over the past three years. The state government has decided to establish five solar parks with a total capacity of 501 MW and various solar energy projects of 212 MW. A 200 MW solar power plant would also be set up on barren land in Damtal of Kangra district. During the present government's tenure, several solar energy projects have been initiated and completed in record time, including the Pekhabela, Bhanjal and Aghlor. A total of 728.4 MW solar projects have been allotted to

Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited. Of these, 120 ground-mounted solar projects with a capacity of 150.13 MW have already been initiated. To ensure transparency, the state government has adopted a "First Come, First Serve" policy for allocating solar projects ranging from 250 KW to five MW. The electricity generated from these projects will be purchased by the Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board. So far, 547 investors have been allotted 595.97 MW of ground-mounted solar projects and power purchase agreements for 403.09 MW have already been signed.

The state government has launched the Green Panchayat Programme, under which 500 KW ground-mounted solar projects are being installed in all of the panchayats across the state. The 20 percent of the revenue generated from these projects will be used to provide assistance to orphans and widows in the respective Gram Panchayats.

## Natural farming is the future of the State, University's role crucial: CM



**DINESH AGARWAL**  
**SHIMLA, APR 26**

Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu virtually inaugurated and laid foundation stones of development projects worth Rs. 34.31 crore from Shimla today at Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry. He inaugurated a hostel with a capacity of 107 students at the College of Horticulture and Forestry, Neri (Hamirpur), constructed at a cost of Rs. 3.63 crore. Additionally, he inaugurated the administrative building of the Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Tabo in

Lahaul & Spiti, built at a cost of Rs. 1.48 crore. The Chief Minister also laid the foundation stones for working women's hostels with a capacity of 50 each at the College of Horticulture and Forestry, Neri and at the College of Horticulture and Forestry, Khagga, to be built at a cost of Rs. 8.57 crore and Rs. 8.68 crore respectively in Hamirpur district. Furthermore, he laid the foundation stone for a working women's hostel with a capacity of 100 at the main campus of Dr. Y.S. Parmar University at Nauni, Solan, to be constructed at a cost of Rs. 11.95 crore.

## Congress allegations on women's reservation baseless, claims Nanda



**DINESH AGARWAL**  
**SHIMLA:** Reacting to the ongoing political debate over women's reservation, Karna Nanda accused the Indian National Congress of indulging in political rhetoric, alleging that the party was never serious about women's empowerment. He said the Bharatiya Janata Party is taking concrete steps to strengthen women's participation in governance, and alleged that the opposition is attempting to mislead the public through unfounded claims. Nanda argued that the proposed implementation of the reservation framework after delimitation would strengthen democratic representation by increasing seats in legislatures. He also criticised what he described as Congress's reaction to growing participation of women in BJP events. On a viral social media video, he alleged that the content was fabricated and suggested forensic examination to establish facts. Referring to upcoming civic body polls and the 2027 assembly elections, Nanda said the BJP is organisationally prepared and asserted that voters would respond decisively to what he termed the opposition's "misinformation and failures."

## Chaitanya Sharma listens to 133rd episode of 'Mann Ki Baat' at Bhanjaal Booth



**AVINASH CHAUHAN**  
**AMB:** The 133rd episode of the Prime Minister's popular program "Mann Ki Baat" was listened to collectively on Sunday at Bhanjaal booth number 40 in the Gagret area. Former MLA Chaitanya Sharma was specially present and listened attentively with the workers. During this, Chaitanya Sharma said that "Mann Ki Baat" is an inspiring program that works to bring positive change to society and promote public participation. He called on the workers to spread the Prime Minister's messages to the people and work for the welfare of society. Village Shakti Kendra head Captain Yudhveer Singh, booth president Suresh Kumar, booth president Narendra, Mann Ki Baat coordinator Rajiv Jaswal (Raju), Ajay Dadhwal, Rakesh Kumar, and all BJP workers were present at the event. All pledged to embrace the program's messages and play an active role in the area's development.

## Himachal seeks Rs. 1350 crore central share under Urban Challenge Fund

**DINESH AGARWAL**  
**SHIMLA, APR 26**

PWD and Urban Development Minister Vikramaditya Singh participated in a meeting held under the chairmanship of Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar at New Delhi last evening. Detailed discussions were held on Urban Challenge Fund during the meeting.

Vikramaditya Singh said that the State Government has proposed projects amounting to approximately Rs. 5,400 crore under the Urban Challenge Fund to create robust infrastructure and vibrant economic hubs in urban areas of the State. He requested the earmarking of Rs. 1,350 crore to Himachal Pradesh as the Central Government share, keeping in



view the small size and limited revenue base of Urban Local Bodies. He added that private sector participation in re-development projects remains limited due to terrain-related constraints and lower commercial viability. He also demanded specific relaxations for hill and special category states like Himachal Pradesh under the Urban Challenge Fund keeping in view these challenges. He stressed upon suitable relaxation in the

population criteria prescribed for coverage, and modification of the funding pattern by reducing the mandatory requirement of mobilizing 50 percent of the project cost through bonds, bank loans and PPPs. He urged for considering higher proportion of Central assistance or viability gap support while finalizing the modalities, keeping in view the limited financial capacity of Urban Local Bodies and low private sector participation in

hill regions. Vikramaditya Singh also sought the support of the Government of India in facilitating resource mobilization for the State under the Urban Challenge Fund, including enabling access to institutional finance and innovative funding mechanisms. Further, support in attracting private investment and credible developers through appropriate policy backing and handholding would be invaluable for successful project implementation, he added.

He said that the Urban Challenge Fund is of critical importance for a hill State like Himachal Pradesh where nearly 90 percent of the area is mountainous and about 67 percent is under forest cover, leaving limited land for development.

## Bridal make-up training empowers youth at PNB RSETI Una



**AVINASH CHAUHAN**  
**AMB:** Under the Entrepreneurship Development Programme being run at PNB RSETI Una, during the Junior Beauty Practitioner Training Programme, the participants are getting information related to various types of beauty parlors. Under this, the participants were also taught many nuances about bridal make-up. During this, the bridal was also prepared by Master Trainer Ranjit Kaur and Anjali assisted in this work and all the participants together prepared the bridal and how to work in the beauty parlor in future is also being taught to the participants. Giving this information, Program Director and Faculty Member of PNB RT Una, Akash Bhardwaj told that unemployed youth between the age of 18 to 50 years are provided free training by Punjab National Bank RSETI Unna so that they can become self-reliant. On this occasion, 24 participants including Faculty Assistant Meenakshi, Neelam, Kamini Anjana, Rajni from PNB RSETI Una were present.

## High Court's resounding slap in face to Sukhu govt's mindset: Bikram Thakur

**SANJAY AGGARWAL**  
**DHARAMSHALA, APR 26**

Senior BJP leader and former Industries Minister Bikram Thakur, while welcoming the Himachal Pradesh High Court's decision to quash the Recruitment and Service Conditions Act, stated that this verdict exposes the true nature of the Sukhu government's unconstitutional, arbitrary, and anti-employee policies. He remarked that, right from the outset, the Congress government attempted to toy with the rights of employees through this legislation; however, the Court intervened in the nick of time to put an end to this injustice. Bikram Thakur asserted that the government had introduced this law solely to arbitrarily alter the service conditions of employees, thereby curtailing



their seniority, increments, and other benefits. Specifically, under the section pertaining to the extension of service benefits (Para-6), it was explicitly stipulated that only regular employees would be entitled to full benefits, while employees working on a contractual basis would be completely deprived of these rights. Furthermore, the legislation even included a provision to retroactively withdraw

previously granted to contractual employees—a measure that was entirely unjust and inhumane. He noted that it was in protest against this very discriminatory provision that thousands of contractual employees across the state approached the Court for redressal. By quashing this law, the High Court has made it abundantly clear that the government's objective was not to deliver justice to employees, but rather to strip them of their rights. This verdict marks a victory for the employees' struggle and a defeat for the government's policies. The former Minister alleged that, for the past two years, the Sukhu government has been suppressing the rights of employees and evading its obligation to grant them their statutory entitlements.

## Prof. Sikander Kumar energises Cadre, plans strategy for Panchayat Polls

**DINESH AGARWAL**  
**SHIMLA, APR 26**

Sikander Kumar, Member of Parliament, addressed a key meeting with office bearers of Rohru and Chuhara mandals, infusing enthusiasm among party workers and outlining a strategy for the upcoming municipal and Panchayati Raj elections. He asserted that the Congress would face a major setback in these polls. During his visit, he also held a meeting at Sakra booth, where he interacted directly with grassroots workers and gathered feedback regarding election preparedness.

While addressing the gathering, Prof. Kumar raised sharp questions over the functioning of the state government, alleging that it



has failed on multiple fronts and neglected public welfare. He urged workers to take these issues to the masses and expose the government's shortcomings.

Highlighting the achievements of the Central Government under the leadership of Narendra Modi, he said that several welfare schemes have benefited people across the country and reached even the last person in society. The meeting mainly

focused on the upcoming Panchayati Raj elections. Detailed discussions were held with party functionaries and workers to formulate a robust strategy to ensure decisive victories for party candidates. Workers at the Sakra booth were instructed to conduct door-to-door outreach and promote central government policies.

The meeting concluded with a decision to intensify public outreach efforts in the coming days.

## BJP Mahila Morcha slams Congress over women's reservation remarks, defends centre's record on women empowerment

**KISHORI LAL BAINS**  
**UNA, APR 26**

Seema Chaudhary, District President of BJP Mahila Morcha (Organizational District Palampur), has strongly criticized the statement made by Himachal Pradesh Mahila Congress President Zainab Chandel on the Women's Reservation Bill, calling it "unfortunate, baseless, and politically motivated."

Chaudhary asserted that under the leadership of Narendra Modi, the Central Government has taken historic steps toward women's empowerment. She described the Women's Reservation Bill as a landmark initiative, emphasizing that while Congress had long used the issue as an election plank, it



failed to implement it during its years in power.

Highlighting the significance of the legislation, she said the Bill ensures proper representation of women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. She questioned Congress leaders on their inability to deliver such reforms despite multiple opportunities while in government.

Chaudhary further urged Zainab Chandel to address issues within her own party's governance in Himachal Pradesh, including concerns over women's safety, unemployment, inflation, corruption, and the slow pace of development. She claimed that women in the state are struggling with rising prices and lack of opportunities, while Congress remains silent on these pressing matters. She also pointed to several flagship initiatives of the Central Government—such as Ujjwala Yojana, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Jan Dhan Yojana, and maternity benefit schemes—stating that these programs have significantly contributed to women's economic independence and empowerment across the country.

## 'Idea to Impact': AIIMS Bilaspur ignites innovation culture with transformative workshop

**AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY**  
**BILASPUR, APR 26**

In a compelling push toward next-generation healthcare solutions, AIIMS Bilaspur hosted an inspiring sensitisation workshop titled "Idea to Impact," designed to convert raw medical ideas into real-world, patient-ready innovations. Organised by the Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship Cell (IIEC) in collaboration with the Research Section, the event brought together bright minds from academia and medicine under one visionary platform.

Executive Director Lt Gen Daljit Singh set the tone with a thought-provoking address, urging participants to identify meaningful problems and transform them into impactful innovations. Dean (Research) Anupam Parashar mapped the journey



from concept to product, while insights from Arnab Ghosh highlighted real-world innovation experiences from the COVID-19 era. Adding a strategic edge, Dipankar Deb emphasized early intellectual property protection as a critical step in innovation.

The spotlight shone brightly on six MBBS students who presented forward-thinking proposals aimed at enhancing patient care and medical education,

earning valuable feedback from an expert panel. A special moment of pride came as young innovator Darsh Verma was honoured for his contribution to patient-centric solutions.

Concluding with recognition and renewed momentum, the workshop marked a dynamic beginning for AIIMS Bilaspur's innovation journey—setting the stage for future breakthroughs in healthcare and research.

## Ex-MLA Chaitanya Sharma sends tankers to ease water crisis



**AVINASH CHAUHAN**

**AMB:** For the past three days, villagers in the Gram Panchayats of Ambota and Chatehar have been facing severe water shortages. The situation has reached such a level that people are desperate for every drop of water, and households have run out of water for even daily needs. Upon learning of the problem, former MLA Chaitanya Sharma immediately took cognizance and took necessary steps without delay. He personally arranged for water tankers to be delivered to the villages, providing relief to the people. As water tankers arrived in the villages today, satisfaction and relief were evident on the villagers' faces. Residents of Ambota and Chatehar expressed their gratitude to Chaitanya Sharma for this prompt action. Villagers say that receiving immediate help in such circumstances is a great relief. This initiative demonstrates that whether a public representative holds office or not, standing with the public in their joys and sorrows is true public service.

**JAGRAJ SINGH SANGHA MOGA:** Sardar Gurinder Singh Sandhu, who has a very warm personality and is humble and competent among the youth, has been appointed as the General Secretary of the Youth Congress Wing of Australia by the Indian National Congress. During the



conversation, Gurinder Singh Sandhu thanked the senior leadership of the All India Congress and said that he will live up to the hopes and expectations of the party and work day and night for the Congress party and connect the youth with the Congress party as much as possible. Talking

about Punjab, he further said that at present there is no such thing as a government in Punjab. The Aam Aadmi Party of Punjab has not lived up to the hopes and expectations of the people and the anger among the people against the Aam Aadmi Party is increasing day by day.

**NEWS BRIEF**

**40 Anganwadi centres in Barnala get major facelift at Rs 2.80 cr: Meet Hayer**



**KULDEEP SOOD BARNALA:** In a significant step towards strengthening early childhood care and grassroots infrastructure, the Punjab Government has given a major facelift to 40 Anganwadi Centres in Barnala district at a total cost of Rs 2.80 crore. Member of Parliament (Sangrur) Sh. Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer, highlighted that new Anganwadi buildings have been constructed in 25 villages at a cost of Rs 2.5 crore, with each new centre built at an approximate cost of Rs 10 lakh. Additionally, upgradation work has been carried out in 15 villages at a cost of Rs. 30.87 lakh. New furniture and utensils worth Rs. 67 lakh have also been provided across all Anganwadi centres in the district for the comfort of children.

## MHA calls fresh Ladakh talks on May 22

AGENCY SRINAGAR, APR 26

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has decided to convene a fresh meeting of the sub-committee on political dialogue for Ladakh on May 22, in a renewed push to address the long-pending demands. Announcing the development on X, Ladakh's Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena said the meeting would "carry forward the process of constructive democratic dialogue with key stakeholders" and help pave the way for a lasting solution aligned with the aspirations of the people of Ladakh. "I am pleased to announce that the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt of India, has taken a decision to convene a meeting of the sub-committee for political dialogue on 22nd May. This will carry forward the process of constructive democratic dialogue with key stakeholders of Ladakh and pave the way for an enduring solution to meet the aspirations of the people of Ladakh," LG said while tagging union Home Minister Amit Shah. The move comes against the



backdrop of heightened political and civil society activity in the union Territory in recent months. Noted climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, who had been detained under the National Security Act (NSA) on charges of inciting protests, was released last month after the MHA revoked his detention. After his release he had urged union government to resume talks with Ladakh leadership. The upcoming talks will mark the third round of formal engagement between the Centre and Ladakhi representatives. The first round of talks was held in New

Delhi on October 22 last year, shortly after the government ordered a judicial inquiry into firing incident that left four protesters dead. A second round of discussions took place on February 4 but remained inconclusive, prompting renewed calls from stakeholders for further dialogue. The Ladakh leaders said that the May 22 meeting is expected to revisit key demands, including constitutional safeguards, statehood, and protection of land and jobs, which have been at the core of the protests in the union Territory. Meanwhile, union Home

Minister Amit Shah will arrive in two day visit to Leh on April 30. The Home Minister will participate in key events during his stay, including paying respects to the Holy Relics of Gautama Buddha on the occasion of Buddha Purnima on May 1. "It gives me great pleasure in sharing that Hon'ble union Home Minister, Shri @AmitShah ji will be arriving in Leh on 30th April for a two day visit. On 1st May, he will pay his respects to the Holy Relics of Lord Buddha on the occasion of Buddha Purnima and share his thoughts on the spiritual significance of the sacred exposition being held in Ladakh from 1-14 May. His visit underscores the commitment of Government of India for the development of Ladakh," the Ladakh LG said in a separate post on X. Ladakh is preparing for the arrival of Lord Buddha's sacred relics in Leh next week, with region-wide celebrations underway. According to the Ladakh Buddhist Association, this will be only the third public exposition of the relics in the region's history.

## Governor Devvrat urges students to choose discipline over impulse



HANS RAJ KURUKSHETRA, APR 26

Adolescence is most crucial period of life, as foundation for your future rests on it. Changing hormones during this age cause numerous changes in body. Most students make decisions based on their hearts, which prove to be detrimental to their future. At this age, decisions should be made with their minds, not their hearts, only after consulting with their parents. This will be in your best interest. These words were spoken by Governor of Gujarat, Acharya Devvrat while addressing students at a special event at Gurukul today. He stated that parents and teachers are only individuals in this world

who always want to see their children progress. Principal Rajkumar Garg, Director Brigadier Dr Praveen Kumar Sharma, Administrator Ramniwas Arya, Chief Patron Sanjeev Arya and all teachers and guardians were present. Upon his arrival at event, Governor was greeted with a grand welcome by young brahmacharis of Gurukul with flower buds. Educating students on fundamentals of success in life, he said that only through values, discipline and hard work can one reach pinnacle of success. Students should work hard, following disciplined routine and upholding ethical values so that honor and respect of their family and gurus remains high in society.

## Confluence of cleanliness, beautification, city is being beautified with colors: Suman Bahmani

RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR, APR 26

Under Swachh Survekshan-2025, Municipal Corporation is commissioning attractive wall paintings at major intersections, markets, public spaces and walls to ensure a clean, beautiful and aware city. These paintings convey message of cleanliness, environmental protection and public participation. Mayor Suman Bahmani along with Chief Minister's Good Governance Associate Abhishruti and Assistant Engineer Surendra Dahiya inspected ongoing wall painting work in city, took stock of arrangements and directed officials to make work more effective. During inspection, Mayor, along with Municipal officials and the Swachh Bharat Mission team, visited various sites and evaluated quality of paintings and usefulness of



messages being created. She stated that wall painting is not just means of beautification, but a powerful campaign for public awareness. Inspiring people towards cleanliness through colors and messages is an important step towards achieving better performance in the Swachh Survekshan. Mayor directed officials to identify dilapidated and dilapidated walls along city's main roads and roadsides to paint attractive and

message-oriented paintings on them, both to enhance city's beauty and to instill a sense of responsibility towards cleanliness among citizens. She stated that wall paintings can help spread message of cleanliness campaign to every corner of city. Mayor stated that Municipal Corporation is continuously striving for a better ranking in Swachh Survekshan 2025 and that citizen participation is crucial.

## Apply by April 30 for free pilgrimage to Sri Hazur Sahib: Vivek Arya

HANS RAJ KURUKSHETRA, APR 26

Additional Deputy Commissioner Vivek Arya stated that, under the Haryana government's public welfare initiative—'Mukhyamantri Teerth Yatra Yojana'—elderly pilgrims will be taken on a pilgrimage to holy shrine of Takht Sachkhand Sri Hazur Sahib in Nanded (Maharashtra). A special train is scheduled to depart from Kurukshetra on May 5, which will be flagged off by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini. He further stated that, under this scheme, pilgrimage will be entirely free of cost and eligible pilgrims will be provided with all necessary amenities, including accommodation and meals. Interested pilgrims may register themselves on Saral Haryana portal by April 30. Selection process will operate on a "first-come, first-served" basis; therefore, eligible beneficiaries are advised to submit their applications in a timely manner. Entire cost of this pilgrimage will be borne by government. He noted that certain rules have been established to avail benefits of this scheme. To be eligible, an applicant must be 60 years of age or older. Additionally, applicant's family's annual income must be less than Rs. 1.80 lakh. According to scheme's regulations, an individual may avail of this facility only once within a three-year period. Additional Deputy Commissioner Vivek Arya clarified that it is mandatory for all registered beneficiaries to report their details to office of District Information and Public Relations Officer (DIPRO)—located at Mini Secretariat—before April 30, so that all arrangements related to pilgrimage can be finalized in a timely manner.



## Maharishi Kashyap's birth anniversary celebration at national level in Ludhiana on May 3

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, APR 26

The birth anniversary of Maharishi Kashyap will be celebrated at the national level by the All India Kashyap Rajput (Pan.) Welfare Sabha on May 3rd at the Shahanshah Palace in Ludhiana district of Punjab. Members of the Kashyap community from across the country are expected to attend this event. For the first time, this celebration is being organized on a grand scale at the national level. This information was shared by Anoop Bhardwaj, the National President of the All India Kashyap Rajput (Pan.) Welfare Sabha. He announced that the Chief Guest for this program will be the Chief Minister of Haryana, Nayab Singh Saini. Also present on this occasion will be the Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Dr. Raja Bhushan Chaudhary, and Rajya Sabha member Babu Ram Nishad. Additionally, Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assemblies, and ministers from various state governments are expected to attend the event. He appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to organize an official government program at the national level to mark Maharishi Kashyap's birth anniversary and to issue a commemorative postal stamp in his honor. He stated that the BJP is actively paying tribute to the great personalities of every community. This initiative was pioneered in Haryana by former Chief Minister Manohar Lal, who began celebrating the birth anniversaries of such figures at the official government level.



## Fourth alumni meet organised at Shaheed Udhm Singh Govt College, Matak Majri

MAINPAL KASHYAP INDRI, APR 26

The fourth alumni meet was organized with great enthusiasm and dignity at Shaheed Udhm Singh Government College, Matak Majri. This program was completed under the guidance of Principal Dr. Mahendra Singh Bagi and Vice Principal Dr. Surendra Singh. The coordinator of the program was Dr. Anil Kumari, while the organizing committee included Dr. Ranbir Singh, Dr. Meera Kashyap, Dr. Pradeep Vats, Dr. Gulab Singh, Dr. Anita, Dr. Meenakshi Devi, Dr. Mamta Rani, Prof. Dimple, Dr. Savita Rani and Dr. S. B. Bhardwaj, Dr. Geeta Devi, Professor Naresh, Dr. Bohi played an active role in the program. Nearly 100 alumni participated in this alumni meet and made the



program memorable, including Chief Zilla Parishad Kuldeep, Zilla Parishad Sachin Budhanpur, Pankaj Kamboj (Media Reporter), Rajkumar, Sohan Lal, Prof. Sandeep, Dr. Suman Devi, Vinod Kumar, Rajesh Kumar, Jaswinder Singh, Manish Kumar, Sunil Mann, Naveen, Sahil, Milan, Harsh Sharma, and Mrs. Shivani. The program was presided over by Secretary and Joint Secretary Sohan Singh and Sunil

Kumar among the office bearers. The program started with the welcome address by Dr. Anila Dhillon, in which she heartily congratulated all the alumni. Dr. Dimple conducted the stage, and the program proceeded in an organized manner. Mukesh addressed all the alumni in the alumni meet. During the alumni meet, former students shared their experiences and revived their association with the college.

## Every Sikh family must invariably affix 'Singh' or 'Kaur' to their children's names

CHAMAN LAL KARNAL, APR 26

Every Sikh family must invariably affix 'Singh' or 'Kaur' to their children's names and ensure they impart knowledge of their mother tongue—Punjabi—to them. This message was delivered today to the entire Sikh world from the soil of Karnal by the Jathedar of Sri Akal Takht Sahib, Singh Sahib Giani Kuldeep Singh Gargaj. He was speaking at a Gurmat Samagam (religious congregation) organised to mark the completion of one year since the establishment of 'Ik Onkar Media.' Speaking at this event—which was dedicated to the Prakash Purab (birth anniversary) of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji and Khalsa Sajna Divas (the Day of the Creation of the Khalsa), and held under the guidance of



Baba Sukha Singh of Dera Kar Seva, Karnal—he delivered a message of unity to the Sikh community, which is currently grappling with various challenges. He stated that, due to internal strife within the Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (HSGMC)—which was formed after separating from the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC)—there is currently government interference in the management of Gurdwaras;

consequently, its President, Jagdish Singh Jhinda, is compelled to lament that they lack even the funds to sustain the Langar (community kitchen). This situation has arisen because internal discord among Sikhs has paved the way for government intervention in the administration of their Gurdwaras. He reminded every Sikh that they are, in essence, residents of Sri Anandpur Sahib and emphasised the paramount importance of mutual unity.

## Farmers yet to receive wheat payment, says BKU leader Bahadur Mehla

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, APR 26

Bharatiya Kisan Union Sir Chhotu Ram spokesperson Bahadur Mehla has alleged that wheat procurement payments have not been released even 15-20 days after purchase, leading to growing concern among farmers. He said that April is a critical month for farm households, as expenses such as school admissions, fees, and household needs are largely dependent on income from wheat sales. Delay in payments, he added, is placing families under financial strain. Mehla urged the Haryana government to direct officials to expedite the disbursement process. He warned that if payments are not released soon, the union may be compelled to launch protests along with affected farmers. He further stated that farmers rely on proceeds from the wheat crop to prepare for the next sowing season, including expenditure on seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, diesel, electricity bills, and labour wages. Any delay in payment, he said, could disrupt preparations for the upcoming crop cycle. Referring to broader concerns, Mehla said that despite earlier promises of increasing farmers' income, current conditions are worsening. He cautioned that failure to take farmer-centric measures could lead to renewed large-scale agitation.



## Daduwal urges Centre for nationwide law on religious respect

SARBJIT SUFFI LUDHIANA, APR 26

Baljit Singh Daduwal, prominent Sikh preacher and Ambassador for Peace, met Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar in New Delhi and submitted a memorandum seeking a nationwide law to ensure respect for religious scriptures. According to Bhai Jagmeet Singh Brar, the meeting focused on the "Jagat Jyot Satkar Law" recently passed by the Punjab Government to safeguard the sanctity of Guru Granth Sahib and penalize acts of sacrilege. Daduwal emphasized the need for a similar strict law at the national level so that such protection can be enforced across the country. In his memorandum, Daduwal highlighted that while the Punjab law—approved by the Governor—marks a significant step, its scope is limited to the state. He urged the Government of India to enact comprehensive legislation ensuring strict punishment for those found guilty of sacrilege anywhere in the country. He also noted initiatives taken by Narendra Modi for the Sikh community, including the opening of the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor and commemorations of Sikh Gurus. He added that Khattar, during his tenure as Haryana Chief Minister, also supported celebrations of Sikh Gurus' anniversaries. Daduwal further stressed that respect should extend to all religions and their sacred texts, calling for a central law that promotes harmony and prevents incidents of desecration.



## NDRI scientists interact with farmers in Taraori, promote sustainable farming and dairy practices

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA TARAORI, APR 26

Scientists from the National Dairy Research Institute visited Taraori and interacted with local farmers at the fields of progressive farmer Vikas Chaudhary, focusing on improving productivity while reducing input costs. Around 20 farmers participated in the interaction, where discussions centred on optimising fertiliser use for upcoming crops and utilising fallow fields for sowing moong and dhaincha to enhance soil fertility. The scientists shared insights on modern agricultural practices, dairy management, and animal health, while also explaining strategies to increase yield with lower input expenditure. Farmers raised concerns related to crop challenges, livestock care, and



market access. The visiting experts addressed these issues and emphasised balanced nutrient management and scientific approaches to farming. Under the guidance of Director Dheer Singh, another team of NDRI scientists visited village Padhana as part of the "Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav" initiative. During interactions with members of a local farmer producer company, the scientists stressed the importance of balanced fertiliser use, while

farmers highlighted the benefits of green manure and crop residue management in reducing urea consumption and conserving water. The scientists advised regular soil testing and encouraged the use of organic inputs. Progressive farmer Vikas Chaudhary shared his experiences on maintaining soil health during summer, while dairy farmer Ram Singh demonstrated bio-composting using cow dung and agricultural waste.

## Devotional fervour marks Shrimad Bhagwat Katha in Taraori

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA TARAORI, APR 26

A spiritually vibrant atmosphere prevailed during the ongoing Shrimad Bhagwat Katha being organised by Saraswati Rice Industries, Taraori, at Baba Bansi Wale Annapurna Ashram in Haridwar, where a large number of devotees gathered to listen to the divine leelas of Lord Krishna. The discourse was delivered by Acharya Mithlesh Nandan Kaushik, who narrated episodes from Lord Krishna's life, including his birth, childhood leelas, Govardhan lifting, Raas Leela, and references from the Mahabharata. The narration, accompanied by devotional bhajans and kirtans, immersed devotees in a deeply spiritual experience. On the occasion,



Roshan Lal Gupta, owner of RL Food, sought blessings from the kathavachak. The venue was decorated with flowers, enhancing the devotional ambience. Women, children, and elderly devotees participated in large numbers and engaged actively in the proceedings. Arrangements for prasad and community meals were made by the organisers, with hundreds of devotees partaking in the offerings. The organising committee stated that such

religious events help promote positive values and cultural traditions in society. The programme concluded with aarti, as devotees prayed for peace, prosperity, and well-being. Prominent attendees included social worker Sheeshpal Gupta, Anita, Roshan Lal Gupta, Pradeep Garg, Sandeep Gupta, Sanju Bansal, Saurabh Gupta, Ankush Jindal, Vijay Singla, Ravindra Singla, Manoj Gupta, Pradeep Rana, Rajinder Rana, and several others.

## NEWS BRIEFS

## Wheat procurement and lifting progressing smoothly in mandis, over 33,500 MT purchased

**JITENDRA KAUSHIK BARWALA/RAIPUR RANI:** Wheat procurement and lifting operations under the Rabi marketing season 2026-27 are progressing smoothly across mandis in the district, with authorities reporting steady arrivals and efficient handling.

According to the District Food and Supplies Controller's office, a total of 33,557 metric tonnes of wheat has been procured so far, while 18,610 metric tonnes has been lifted from mandis. Procurement is being carried out by Haryana State Cooperative Supply and Marketing Federation (HAFED) and the Haryana Warehousing Corporation at grain markets in Raipur Rani, Barwala, and Panchkula.

In Raipur Rani mandi, HAFED has procured 4,368 metric tonnes of wheat, while the Haryana Warehousing Corporation has purchased 11,661 metric tonnes. Similarly, in Barwala mandi, HAFED has procured 7,743 metric tonnes and the warehousing corporation has purchased 8,385 metric tonnes. Lifting operations are also underway at a brisk pace. From Raipur Rani mandi, HAFED has lifted 2,047 metric tonnes, while the warehousing corporation has lifted 5,263 metric tonnes. In Barwala mandi, HAFED has lifted 5,669 metric tonnes and the warehousing corporation has lifted 5,206 metric tonnes.

## e-Shram Portal enabling transparency and wider coverage: CM Nayab Saini

**BUREAU CHANDIGARH, APRIL 26**

The Chief Minister stated that the government has leveraged technology to ensure transparent and efficient delivery of welfare benefits to workers. Under the guidance of the Prime Minister, the Centre has launched the e-Shram Portal for the registration of workers in the unorganised sector.

He informed that over 54.32 lakh workers in Haryana have been registered on the portal, while in the organised sector, 33.58 lakh workers are registered across 4.5 lakh establishments. He further stated that an incentive amount of Rs.1,100 is being provided to workers upon registration and urged all stakeholders to encourage maximum enrolment through Antyodaya Saral Kendras, Antyodaya Bhawans, and Common Service Centres.

The Chief Minister stated that the Employees' State Insurance Scheme has been implemented across the state since July 1, 2017, and continues to play a pivotal role in providing health security to workers.

He further informed that under new budgetary provisions, a 'Safe

Worker Health System' is being introduced, which will ensure annual free health check-ups for industrial workers, while registered construction workers will be provided comprehen-



sive healthcare services including OPD, IPD, medicines, and diagnostic facilities free of cost.

In addition, the ESI Hospital at Manesar is being upgraded from 100 to 200 beds and will be developed into a medical college. New ESIC dispensaries will also be established in Harsaru, Kadipur, Wazirabad, Shahabad Markanda, and Fatehabad. To support the educational needs of workers' families,

Atal Residential Schools will be set up for children studying from Classes 6 to 12.

Highlighting targeted welfare initiatives, the Chief Minister stated that a dedicated rehabilitation policy for workers affected by silicosis is being effectively implemented, under which financial assistance amounting to Rs. 41.74 crore has already been disbursed to 673 beneficiaries.

He further stated that the State Government is extending holistic support to workers and their families through a range of welfare measures, including annual financial assistance ranging from Rs. 8,000 to Rs. 20,000 for children's education, maternity benefits for women workers, and financial assistance for the marriage of daughters. In addition, a provision has been made to provide compensation of up to Rs. 5.15 lakh in cases of death or severe disability, thereby ensuring comprehensive social and economic protection for labour households.

Industries and Commerce Minister Rao Narbir Singh stated that across the world, nations that have achieved significant economic progress have done so on the strength of their workforce.

## Following the ideals of Parshuram key to building a strong society: Mayor Renu Bala



**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, APRIL 26**

A large gathering marked the celebration of Parshuram Jayanti at Sector 8, where Saraswat Brahmin Sabha organised a programme aimed at promoting social harmony and cultural values. Karnal Mayor Renu Bala Gupta attended as the chief guest and addressed the gathering.

Speaking on the occasion, she highlighted the life and teachings of Parshuram, revered as the sixth incarnation of Vishnu. She said his life exemplifies commitment to dharma, resistance against injustice and unwavering adherence to truth. She emphasised that these principles remain highly relevant in the present social context and can strengthen values such as discipline, morality and social cohesion. The Mayor stated that adopting such ideals can contribute to building a more balanced

and just society. She added that social, cultural and religious initiatives should be encouraged to foster unity and positive engagement within communities.

The programme saw participation from MLA Jagmohan Anand, district president Praveen Lathar and several office bearers of the organising body, including president Rajesh Sharma and general secretary Balwinder Sharma, along with other prominent citizens.

Participants paid floral tribute to the deity and engaged in discussions on social issues, youth guidance and preservation of cultural heritage. Speakers noted that such gatherings help connect younger generations with traditional values and historical figures.

The event concluded with a collective pledge to uphold the ideals of truth, justice, harmony and brotherhood, followed by a prayer for peace and prosperity.

## Aditya Surjewala Inaugurates paver block street constructed at a cost of 25 Lakh in village Jagdishpura

**SANJAY SHARMA KAITHAL, APRIL 26**

Despite being in the opposition, Congress MLA from the Kaithal Assembly constituency, Aditya Surjewala, continues to actively advance development works in the villages of his region. On Sunday, he inaugurated a newly constructed paver block street—built at a cost of 25 lakh—in Jagdishpura, a village within his constituency. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, MLA Aditya Surjewala stated that a long-pending demand of the villagers of Jagdishpura has finally been fulfilled. He noted that the village of Jagdishpura has always held a deep affection for and extended unwavering support to the Surjewala family. "I will never allow any slackness in the development works of this constituency and its villages," he affirmed. "Even while serv-

ing in the opposition, all pending development projects in the villages will be completed very soon." Sarpanch Sunita Devi and Sarpanch Representative



Harjinder Singh expressed their gratitude to MLA Aditya Surjewala on behalf of all the villagers. Appreciating this development initiative, they remarked that the MLA is highly sensitive to the issues and concerns of the public.

While serving in the opposi-

tion, Congress MLA Aditya Surjewala has already inaugurated various development projects carried out in the villages of Jaswanti, Balwanti, Khurana, Franswala, Sangan, and Dundhrehdi, as well as in Wards 21, 11, 13, 5, and 3 within Kaithal city. Present on this occasion were Sarpanch Sunita Devi, Sarpanch Representative Harjinder Singh, Sardar Satnam Singh, Kuldeep Singh, Subedar Ravel Singh, Sukhwinder Singh 'Pauji', Parveen Kumar Valmiki, Satbir Gurjar, Maniya Saini, Kala Saini, Krishna Kumar Valmiki, Gurmeet Panch, Phuman Singh, Pritam Das Khatri, and Vinod Valmiki, along with numerous other villagers and party workers. The villagers welcomed this initiative by the MLA and expressed their hope for similar development projects in the future.

## HCS Preliminary Examination concludes in the district: DC Dr. Anand Kumar Sharma

**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, APRIL 26**

The preliminary examination for the Haryana Civil Services (HCS), organized by the Haryana Public Service Commission, concluded peacefully and without any instances of cheating across all 48 centers in the district on Sunday. Deputy Commissioner Dr. Anand Kumar Sharma visited various examination centers to inspect the proceedings. He was accompanied by ADC Dr. Rahul Raiya during these visits. The HCS examination was conducted in two shifts; in the morning session, 56.04 percent of the registered candidates appeared for the exam. The Deputy Commissioner visited several examination centers, including SBS Senior Secondary School, SD Model Senior Secondary School, Government

Girls Senior Secondary School (Prem Nagar), PM Shri Senior Secondary School (Prem Nagar), Government College for Women, Dyal Singh College,



Shri Krishna Pranami School, and DPS. No irregularities were found at any of these locations. On the spot, the DC took stock of the arrangements regarding the control room, CCTV cameras,

security measures, jammers, and other facilities. Arrangements had been made for 14,616 candidates in the morning session; however, only 8,191 candidates actually appeared for the exam, while 6,425 candidates remained absent.

Similarly, arrangements were made for 14,616 candidates in the evening session as well; of these, only 8,104 candidates appeared for the exam, while 6,512 candidates remained absent. In the evening session, 55.44 percent of the candidates appeared for the examination. The Deputy Commissioner stated that 48 centers were established in Karnal for this examination. The exams were conducted at these centers in two shifts: from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM and from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

## Nari Shakti Vandan event will be historic and successful through everyone's joint efforts: Kanwaljit Kaur

**HANS RAJ KURUKSHETRA:** District Council Chairperson Kanwaljit Kaur announced that an important program dedicated to Nari Shakti Vandan will be held on April 27 at 9 am in Panchayat Bhawan auditorium. Suman Saini, Vice President of Haryana State Child Welfare Council will be chief guest at this event. Furthermore, District Council Chairperson stated that Nari Shakti Vandan program will be historic and successful through everyone's joint efforts. Zilla Parishad Chairperson Kanwaljit Kaur stated that Suman Saini, Vice President of Haryana State Child Welfare Council will be chief guest at Nari Shakti Vandan program in the Panchayat Bhawan auditorium on April 27th and will address hundreds of women. Regarding this program, duties have been assigned to officers and employees to make program successful and manage it. All concerned departments have completed all the preparations related to their respective departments. Hundreds of women from Kurukshetra will participate in this program. He said that all BDPOs, officers related to self-help groups will ensure maximum participation of women. Participation of women from BJP organization will also be ensured in this program. In this program, achievements of women and schemes launched by government to make women self-reliant and independent will also be highlighted.



## Candidates appear for HCS preliminary exam conducted by HPSC

**RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR:** The Haryana Civil Services (HCS) and Allied Services Preliminary Examination-2025, organized by the Haryana Public Service Commission on Sunday, April 26, was conducted peacefully and successfully across both sessions at 23 designated examination centres in District Yamunanagar. Ensuring a fair and peaceful conduct of the HCS Preliminary Examination-2025 held on Sunday, DC Preeti and SP Kamaldeep Goyal inspected all the examination centers and took stock of the arrangements and facilities made for the examinees. The DC stated that the examination was conducted in a peaceful atmosphere with complete transparency during both sessions. DC Preeti informed that candidates from various locations arrived at the 23 examination centers across District Yamunanagar to appear for the HCS and Allied Services Preliminary Written Examination-2025. In the first session held on Sunday, out of 5,520 registered candidates, 3,026 were present, while 2,494 remained absent. She noted that 54.81 percent of the candidates appeared for the examination in the first session. She further stated that in the second session held in the afternoon, out of 5,520 registered candidates, 2,994 were present—with 2,526 remaining absent—resulting in 54.23 percent of the candidates appearing for the examination in the second session.

She reported that, on April 26, a total of 6,020 candidates appeared for the examination across both sessions at the 23 examination centers established within the city. Approximately 55 percent of the candidates appeared for the examination across both sessions. She added that Duty Magistrates, Supervisors, Paper Distributors, Center Superintendents, and Invigilators remained vigilant and alert at their posts across the examination centers, ensuring the successful completion of the examination. The candidates expressed their appreciation for the excellent arrangements made by the district administration. After inspecting the examination centers, SP Kamaldeep Goyal stated that the police administration worked with full diligence, ensuring a fair and transparent environment while prioritizing the welfare of the general public during the conduct of the HCS Preliminary Examination-2025. Adequate police forces were deployed to prevent the entry of anti-social elements into the examination centers in any form, and to ensure that no traffic congestion arose on the district's roads. He further noted that the police maintained a vigilant watch over every examinee, and in any instance of suspicion, the police teams implemented a thorough verification process.

## Govt needs to take steps to promote trade and industry developing Agroha: Bajrang Garg

**MAHENDER GOYAL HISAR, APRIL 26**

A meeting of representatives of Vaishya community was held under chairmanship of Bajrang Garg, National Executive President of Agroha Dham Vaishya Samaj. Representatives from Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Pune, Delhi, and Uttar Pradesh specially attended meeting. Bajrang Garg, National Executive President of Agroha Dham Vaishya Samaj, said that Agroha Dham units are being expanded across country and state. Agroha Dham is working to spread principles of Maharaja Agrasen to masses. He promoted socialism in his kingdom, uplifting needy and helping poor. Garg said that Agrawal community following ideals of Maharaja Agrasen Ji, is engaged day and night in public service. Vaishya community has contributed to India's global reputation in industrial world. Members of Vaishya community have distin-



guished themselves in business and industry sectors, both domestically and internationally. Members of Vaishya community are playing a vital role in social and religious activities. Members of the Vaishya community are engaged in service by establishing medical colleges, hospitals, schools, dharamshalas, temples, cow shelters and other institutions across country and state. Garg stated that the government should establish a textile hub and industrial zone in Agroha for development of Haryana. If govern-

ment establishes a textile hub and industrial zone in Agroha, Vaishya community traders from across country are ready to invest crores and billions of rupees in Agroha. Government needs to take immediate steps to promote trade and industry, focusing on Agroha's development. Representatives like Ravindra Goyal, Shanni Agarwal, Vipul Gupta, Vinod Agarwal, Sheetal Agarwal, Rakesh Gupta, Sunil Agarwal, Pawan Mittal, Sandeep Agarwal, Rajesh Jain, Rajiv Modi,

Gulab Rai Hyderabad, Dr Praveen Kansal, Akhilesh Garg, Atul Gupta, Mahesh Agarwal Uttar Pradesh, Sunil Gupta, Kartavya Gupta, Kanesh Agarwal Delhi, Chetan Singhal, Moolchand Agarwal Jaipur, Sudhir Kumar Gupta, Subhash Chandra Agarwal Dehradun, Mangat Garg Ludhiana, Sanjay Singla Mandi Adampur, Rajkishore Bhattu, Churian Ram Goyal Tohana, Anant Agarwal Barwala, Pawan Garg, Rishi Raj Garg, Satyapal Agarwal and Sitaram Singal Hisar expressed their views.

## 'Mann Ki Baat' offers renewed energy, holistic message from science to culture: Mayor

**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, APRIL 26**

Karnal Mayor Renu Bala Gupta on Sunday watched the 133rd episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly radio programme Mann Ki Baat along with eminent citizens at her residence, describing it as a source of "renewed energy" and a comprehensive reflection of nation-building themes.

The session was attended by social worker Brij Gupta, councillor representative Subhash Koch and other prominent residents. A detailed discussion followed the broadcast, focusing on key ideas shared during the programme.

The Mayor said the latest episode covered a wide spectrum of subjects including science, energy, culture, environment and technology, presenting an integrated vision for na-

tional progress. Referring to the discussion on India's civil nuclear programme, she noted that the country has consistently linked scientific advancement with developmental priorities, benefitting sectors such as industry, healthcare, agriculture and



innovation. She added that India's wind energy capacity crossing 56 gigawatts reflects significant progress in the renewable energy domain.

Highlighting the cultural dimension, she said the Prime Minister's reference to Gautama Buddha underscored the endur-

ing relevance of peace, self-discipline and compassion in today's global environment. She also termed initiatives promoting Buddhist thought internationally, including efforts in Chile and guidance from Ladakh-based spiritual leaders, as noteworthy.

The Mayor further observed that national events like Republic Day celebrations and the Beating Retreat ceremony reflect a blend of India's cultural heritage and military traditions, with increasing incorporation of Indian musical elements enhancing their appeal. On the technological front, she welcomed the digitisation of archival records by the National Archives of India, noting that making over 200 million historical documents accessible in digital form is a landmark initiative. She also referred to discussions on wildlife conservation, policy reforms related to bamboo in the Northeast.

## Officials of Shri Vaishya Agarwal Panchayat, SAYA provided service despite scorching heat



**HANS RAJ YADAV KURUKSHETRA:** Despite scorching heat, officials and members of Shri Vaishya Agarwal Panchayat and SAYA along with Agarwal Dharamshala, continued their service work. On Sunday, a massive feast was organized for the Shri Vaishya Agarwal Panchayat and SAYA by social worker Dr Deepak Agarwal. Large number of travelers, needy people and members of the community took part in prasad and appreciated the event. Prominent figures present at event included Dr. Anish Singla, Himanshu Kaushik, Himanshu Bansal, Suresh Goyal, Kapil Mittal, Gaurav Mittal, Sumit Mittal, Brijmohan and Naresh Mittal. Vishal Singla, President of Shri Vaishya Agarwal Panchayat, stated that such religious and social events promote mutual love, brotherhood and unity in society. All guests and attendees expressed their gratitude to Dr Deepak Agarwal and his team for success of the event. In end, everyone together wished for progress and prosperity of society.

## Mayor blesses emerging talent: 14-Year-Old Shivam presents beautiful canvas sketch

**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL:** In a series of initiatives aimed at encouraging the city's emerging artistic talents, an inspiring scene unfolded on Sunday when 14-year-old child artist Shivam visited

the residence of Karnal Mayor Renu Bala Gupta and presented her with a captivating canvas sketch created by his own hands. Appreciating Shivam's talent, the Mayor stated that it is essential to encourage such promising individuals in the field of art and culture so that they may pursue and achieve their goals with boundless energy and enthusiasm. Notably, Shivam—a Class 6 student at SD Model School in Karnal—has been consistently gaining popularity for his exceptional artistic skills. On Sunday, Shivam, accompanied by his mother Sushma, arrived at Mayor Renu Bala Gupta's residence. There, Shivam presented her with the canvas sketch he had prepared himself. Through a masterful blend of

colors and imaginative artistry, this special canvas sketch beautifully portrays the strong and dynamic personality of Mayor Renu Bala Gupta. The painting vividly conveys the sentiment of how, under her able guidance, she



is continuously striving to transform Karnal into a city that is clean, beautiful, well-organized, and truly developed in every sense. On this occasion, Mayor Renu Bala Gupta placed her hand upon Shivam's head to bless him and wished him a bright future. As a gesture of

encouragement, she also presented Shivam with a memento. The Mayor remarked that talented child artists like Shivam are invaluable assets to society. She noted that, despite limited resources, his dedication, hard

work, and creativity are truly inspiring. She affirmed her commitment to providing every possible support to help such emerging artists advance and achieve their aspirations. "We take pride in the fact that such talents are emerging from the very soil of Karnal," the Mayor stated. She further added that she would continue to discharge her responsibilities toward the residents of Karnal with complete sincerity and dedication, and would persist in making every possible effort to nurture and promote budding talents. Shivam's mother, Sushma, was also present on this occasion.

## EDITORIAL

## Hormuz disruption, \$100 oil pose risks to India's inflation, rupee

The ongoing West Asia conflict and disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz are emerging as a major risk for the Indian economy, with elevated crude oil prices likely to pressure inflation, the rupee, and the current account, according to a report by Union Bank of India. The report titled "From Hormuz to the Rupee: War, Oil and the Global Repricing of Risk" said that with the Strait of Hormuz "still functionally shut and Brent trading above \$100/bbl, the backdrop does not bode well for global or domestic macros and markets." It added that "higher oil keeps inflation risk alive, delays central-bank easing, pressures current accounts, tightens financial conditions, and weighs on risk assets, especially in energy-importing economies," underlining the vulnerability of countries like India. For India, which imports nearly 85 per cent of its crude oil, the impact is already visible. The report noted that the disruption in Hormuz flows has pushed oil prices above USD 100 per barrel, translating into a visible "energy tax" on the economy. "As the escalation of the Iran-Israel conflict disrupted flows through the Strait of Hormuz, pushing Brent crude oil above \$100/bbl... this translated into a visible 'energy tax,' with the rupee sliding to record lows near 95 and equities correcting on CAD and imported inflation concerns," the report said. The Indian rupee has remained under pressure amid these global headwinds. The report highlighted that the currency "exhibited a modest depreciation bias... as strong global dollar momentum, intermittent capital outflows, and elevated geopolitical uncertainties outweighed otherwise resilient domestic fundamentals." Amid the pressure, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has stepped in to stabilise markets. The report noted that the central bank has taken multiple measures, including tighter forex exposure caps and liquidity support, while maintaining its policy stance. "The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)... maintained the policy repo rate unchanged at 5.25%, while reiterating the neutral stance," it said, adding that the central bank remains ready to act in case of excessive volatility. On the external front, India's trade balance has shown some resilience. The report said the merchandise trade deficit narrowed to \$20.7 billion in March 2026, supported by lower bullion and energy imports. However, risks remain elevated. The report warned that if disruptions persist, "Brent is likely to hold in the \$100-110 range, risking fuel price pass-through and CPI drifting above 4%." It also highlighted the sensitivity of India's macro indicators to oil prices, noting that "every \$10/bbl move in oil price" can significantly widen the current account deficit and push inflation higher. Looking ahead, the rupee is expected to remain range-bound but with a weakening bias. "The INR is likely to trade with a mild depreciation bias... as elevated Brent crude oil prices, evolving geopolitical risks, and a firm United States dollar offset relatively stable domestic fundamentals," the report said. The report concluded that the outlook for India will largely depend on how the West Asia conflict evolves, with oil prices and global financial conditions remaining the key triggers for the domestic economy.

## Defections ahead of Punjab polls

Coming ahead of the Punjab Assembly elections early next year, the political apocalypse in the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP on Thursday poses a major challenge to the ruling party in the state, giving rise to questions on its political beneficiary.

Will these seven Rajya Sabha MPs—the majority being from Punjab—help the BJP, a relatively minor force in the state? Will this defection help the Congress—the primary challenger of AAP? Will it benefit Akali Dal—an important force in the state? Or will Arvind Kejriwal gain sympathy from voters due to this "betrayal by traitors" as AAP leaders are describing it?

Notably, six of the seven MPs who joined the BJP on Thursday are from Punjab, with Swati Maliwal being the only one from Delhi. Addressing media persons on Friday, AAP MP Sanjay Singh accused the BJP leadership, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, of orchestrating "Operation Lotus" to destabilise the Mann government.

Sources say the development opens opportunities for the BJP in a state where the party has traditionally struggled to establish a strong foothold independently. By inducting leaders with established local networks—someone like Raghav Chadha, who was seen as a de facto CM in the Bhagwant Mann government in Punjab before things went awry—it is a smart, calculated expansion strategy ahead of the polls.

For AAP, which swept to power in Punjab, the defections



create a perception of internal instability at a critical juncture. Such optics could erode voter confidence, particularly if the opposition successfully frames the narrative as one of leadership issues. But can it gain from a sympathy factor in Punjab's distinct political dynamics, shaped by regional identity, agrarian concerns, and lingering distrust following the farm law protests?

Observers say while the BJP strengthens its organisational presence and uses the networks

of the new inductees, converting that into votes is a complex task. Besides, people in Punjab are seen as voting to defeat a party rather than making a party win. This is where the Congress could emerge as a key beneficiary.

Despite recent electoral setbacks, the party retains a legacy base across rural and semi-urban Punjab. Any erosion in AAP's support may benefit Congress, especially among voters reluctant to back the BJP. If the party manages internal

cohesion and presents a credible leadership face, it could reclaim lost ground, sources say. The evolving scenario also leaves room for the Shiromani Akali Dal to regain relevance by appealing to sections disillusioned with both AAP and Congress. And if the BJP and the Akali Dal come together, the scenario may be completely different.

So can the fragmentation of AAP have multiple effects? AAP leaders have reacted sharply, calling the move a

"gaddari" (betrayal) that the people of Punjab who sent them to the Rajya Sabha will never forget. In a post on X, Kejriwal said, "BJP ne phir kiya Punjabiyon ke saath dhakka." "People of Punjab will never forgive this betrayal," Mann said on Friday, describing the seven MPs as "traitors" who would gain nothing in the BJP. Whether voters in Punjab will also buy this argument remains to be seen

## Indian Moms, For No Reason!



Gitika Goel

kam kar diya hai." This is usually said with deep concern, as if something has drastically changed overnight. Of course, this is met with rolled eyes and logical explanations — which a "mom brain" (otherwise perfectly scientific) refuses to accept. This is immediately followed by, "Acha, thoda aur kha le," as if all solutions lie in food. (Vaise, they do.) With moms, hunger is not a condition, it's a possibility. You may have just finished eating, but "thoda aur" is always pending. And for grandmoms, you are permanently undernourished. Food is closely followed by the classic — "nazar." Our children are always under its radar. Either it has already affected them, or it is about to. This has made even compliments risky. Every praise is quickly followed by "touch wood" or "thuthu," because nazar

management is a serious business. Especially if a particular aunty is spotted nearby. Indian moms also have a very special relationship with time. "Jaldi kar le" echoes through the house, especially in the mornings. But time, for moms, is flexible — entirely controlled by them. The moment you are in a rush, "jaldi kar" magically becomes "itni bhi kya jaldi hai?" Instructions, too, come in rapid succession. "Padh le... kha le... so ja... uth ja..." and repeat. You may not follow everything, but acknowledging is compulsory. And if by any chance, you question it; its immediately followed "mujhe kya, mai tu tere liye keh rahi thi." And then, suddenly, comes the softness. "Aaj yahin mere paas so ja." "Acha, chal kuch le le." Usually appearing out of nowhere — often after a day of full-volume instructions. The same

person who was asking you to grow up five minutes ago now wants you close. None of it follows logic. None of it needs a reason. And yet, all of it is woven with love. Care that doesn't announce itself. Love that doesn't pause to explain, but shows up in extra food, unnecessary warnings, repeated instructions and unexpected moments of warmth. We grow up questioning it, laughing at it, even imitating it sometimes. But somewhere along the way, we realise — these "for no reason" things are always doing something. Let's be grateful for all that they do — without waiting for Mother's Day. They've been expressing theirs every day, in their own loud, repetitive way. Now, it's our turn.

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## Quetta protests escalate as Pakistani authorities face heat over missing student case

A protest at Bolan Medical College in Quetta entered its third consecutive day, as students continued a sit-in demanding answers over the disappearance of a fellow student, Khadija Baloch. Demonstrators alleged intimidation and harassment by authorities during the ongoing protest, as reported by The Balochistan Post.

According to The Balochistan Post, Khadija Baloch, a seventh-semester BS Nursing student from the Kech district, was reportedly taken from the college's girls' hostel by personnel linked to the Counter Terrorism Department and other security agencies. Since then, her whereabouts have not been publicly disclosed, prompting growing concern among students and her family.

Protesters have remained camped outside the college premises, calling for her immediate appearance before a court and transparency regarding her detention. Family members stated that no First Information Report (FIR) or formal charges had been shared with them, despite official claims that she had been arrested through legal procedures. In contrast, a government official asserted via social media that evidence existed linking the detained student to militant facilitation. He maintained that the action followed due legal process and that she had been moved to an internment facility under government orders. He also claimed that her family had been notified, urging the public to refrain from circulating



unverified claims.

However, speaking at a press briefing near the protest site, Khadija's parents rejected these claims. They said authorities had neither disclosed her location nor provided reasons for her detention. They further alleged that attempts were being made to coerce her into giving a false confession under duress, insisting such statements would lack legal validity, as highlighted by The Balochistan Post.

The Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) also condemned the situation, stating that the sit-in had yielded no progress while participants faced surveillance and profiling. The group warned that any harm to protesters would be the responsibility of local police, describing their conduct as unlawful. It also called on the public and international bodies to raise concerns over what it termed systemic repression, as reported by The Balochistan Post.

## Digital defence in the age of Mythos, why Indian banks are on high alert

As the global financial sector grapples with the implications of Anthropic's AI model 'Mythos', which they claim to be the most powerful yet, the conversation has shifted from theoretical innovation to urgent national security. With a recently high level meeting chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, along with Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw convening with banking leaders to address potential threats, the stakes for the digital economy have never been higher.

In an exclusive interview with ANI, Atul Arya, Founder and CEO of Blackstraw, demystified the technology behind Mythos, its risks to the banking sector, and how India can leverage its unique position to become a global AI execution hub. At the heart of the current cybersecurity anxiety is Mythos's unique ability to bridge the gap between output and reasoning. "Anthropic Mythos goes

the extra mile to provide information on why it produced a specific answer," explains Arya.

Unlike traditional models that simply provide results, Mythos is designed with a core focus on explainability and reasoning. By granting exclusive, controlled access to approximately 15-20 major global technology and security providers (such as Microsoft, AWS, and CrowdStrike), they are using Anthropic's AI model as a diagnostic tool to identify critical software vulnerabilities. However, the same reasoning capabilities that make it a powerful defensive asset also make it a potent weapon. "Banks are the most vulnerable ecosystem," Arya asserts, emphasising that the financial sector remains the primary target for malicious actors. "When a model is this powerful, it is not just available to bankers to protect their systems—it is also available to hackers who intend to abuse it." Arya suggests that the recent government mandate for banks to adopt pre-



emptive security measures is a necessary response to a rapidly shifting threat landscape. The challenge for institutions is twofold. Harnessing the model's defensive potential while erecting robust firewalls against those who would exploit its capabilities. Despite the global concerns, Arya remains bullish on India's role in the global AI architecture. He identifies two critical areas where India can cement its position as a strategic hub. "We have by far the most trained workforce, and the volume of talent needed to deploy these models into business use cases is immense," Arya notes. India's ability to turn AI capabilities into tangible Return on Investment (ROI) makes it an indispensable player in the global application ecosystem.

Beyond code, the physical infrastructure of AI is labour-intensive. Arya highlights that the demand for skilled labour—from electricians to systems engineers—in data centre construction and management is an area where

India's scale provides a decisive cost and efficiency advantage over developed economies. Discussing the maturity of enterprise AI, Arya pointed to a stark reality.

Currently, only 3% of pilot projects successfully move into production. He attributes this to an institutional fear of integrating AI into "core" business processes. "Enterprises are choosing smaller, non-risky use cases. But the ROI is low because they aren't working on their main processes," Arya explains. He predicts a shift over the next three to five years toward "Agentic AI" systems capable of taking actions on behalf of a user without needing constant supervision. As enterprises move from simply viewing AI dashboards to trusting agents with core operations, the transition will require a new level of governance. For Arya, the future of AI is not just about smarter recommendations; it is about autonomous execution grounded in human-understandable reasoning.

**UNI NEW DELHI:** India's wheat production outlook for the 2025-26 crop year remains "mixed but resilient", with weather-related disruptions likely to be offset by higher acreage, early sowing, and improved crop practices, according to an official clarification issued in response to recent media reports. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, in a statement, said the

wheat crop, which was sown on an estimated area of 33.4 million hectares, had witnessed no incidence of insect pests and diseases during the season. Early and timely sowing of wheat in the country, had led to an increase in area over the last year. Late during the season, unusually high temperatures in the month of February exposed the crop to heat stress, reducing grain filling duration and yield. Further, untimely rainfall and hailstorms at

maturity in a few areas have likely caused localised damage to grain quality and yield, it added. There has been no report of yield losses due to any disease or insect-pest in wheat crop. Also, the infestation of weeds was low during the crop growth stages. There has been a significant increase in early/timely sowing, which enables the crop to escape terminal heat during grain filling, the ministry said.

### NEWS BRIEF

**Community support strengthens morale, says Jaipal Kashyap during minister's visit**

**MAINPAL KASHYAP**

**INDRE:** Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Backward Class Welfare and Divyangjan Empowerment in the Uttar Pradesh government, Narendra Kashyap, visited the residence of senior advocate Jaipal Kashyap, where members of the Kashyap community gathered to extend their support. Expressing gratitude, Jaipal Kashyap said the strong turnout of community members in response to

a simple invitation had significantly boosted his morale. He described the unity and

affection of the community as a source of inspiration and strength. He emphasised that unity within a community is its greatest asset and enables individuals to work effectively towards collective social welfare. He added that he remains committed to working for the interests of society and expressed hope for continued support from the community in the future. Those present on the occasion welcomed Minister Narendra Kashyap and reiterated their harmony and work collectively for the progress of the community.

## PM 'Mann Ki Baat' is powerful medium of communication between him and general public: Suman Saini

**KARAMBIR LADWA, APR 26**

Suman Saini, Vice President of the Haryana State Child Welfare Council, said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mann Ki Baat inspired citizens to participate in the public, promote service, innovate and build the nation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's inspiring thoughts, his vision for the nation's welfare and his positive messages for society continue to inspire us all. Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini is carrying forward Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies in the state.

She was listening to the 133rd edition of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mann Ki Baat program in Badarpur village of the Ladwa Assembly constituency on Sunday. Upon arriving at the program, she was welcomed by Mandal President Shiv Gupta with a bouquet of flowers. After the program, Vice President Suman Saini listened to the villagers' problems and instructed officials on the spot to resolve them.



Suman Saini said that this program discussed issues of social, economic and cultural importance. Disseminating government policies to citizens and eliciting their feedback is also an important aspect of this program. Mann Ki Baat is a powerful medium of communication between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the general public. This program highlights positive efforts, social innovations and inspiring stories of public participation across the country, which infuse positive

energy into society and promote a spirit of harmony. She said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi often shared inspiring stories of individuals and communities who have brought positive change to society. An important feature of this program is that Prime Minister Narendra Modi often shares ideas, suggestions and experiences submitted by citizens. An online portal, MyGov, has been created for this purpose, where citizens can submit their ideas and suggestions. Selected messages are also included

in the program. Mann Ki Baat has had a profound impact on the country. She further said that this program provided a unique platform for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to connect directly with the citizens of the country. Due to radio's wide reach, it reaches even the remotest areas of the country. The program also repeatedly highlights the achievements of the people of Haryana. She added that the primary objective of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mann Ki Baat program is to establish dialogue. The program aims to convey the Prime Minister's thoughts to the common people of India. She said that speaking with Prime Minister Narendra Modi not only made her feel proud, but also inspired others to strive like him. This program, featuring Prime Minister Narendra Modi, especially inspires youth to innovate, achieve self-reliance, and build the nation. Mann Ki Baat not only inspires thought but also inspires citizens to move forward with a spirit of development, service, and responsibility.

## Ashwani Sharma announces BJP will contest all 117 seats in 2027

**MUKESH CHAUHAN ZIRAKPUR, APR 26**

The 133rd episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly radio programme Mann Ki Baat was collectively heard by BJP workers today at the party office here. On the occasion, BJP's working president Ashwani Sharma was present as the chief guest. He was welcomed by Dera Bassi BJP leader and state secretary Sanjeev Khanna, along with Gurdarshan Singh Saini and Harjit Singh Minta.

During the event, Ashwani Sharma announced that the BJP will contest all 117 seats in the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections on its own. He added that the party will also contest the upcoming municipal corporation and municipal council elections on its 'lotus' symbol.

In his address, Prime Minister Modi spoke about the significance of Guru Purnima and highlighted new and unique initiatives taking place across the country. He also shared his views on the civil nuclear programme in the energy sector. PM Modi described the teachings of Gautam Buddha as



highly relevant in today's times, stating that peace begins within us and that self-mastery is the greatest victory. On this occasion, Sanjeev Khanna said that Mann Ki Baat showcases unique initiatives from different parts of the country, inspiring people to contribute innovatively towards national interest.

He noted that the Prime Minister's mention of Indian girls' achievements in the Math Olympiad held in France would boost the morale of the nation's daughters. Sanjeev Khanna added that spreading awareness about innovative efforts by various sections of society, government organisations, and self-help groups is not only engaging but also highly inspiring.

## Panipat DTP action sparks row; DC calls for dialogue over force



**RAKESH BHAYANA**

**PANIPAT:** A demolition drive carried out in the TDI area of Panipat by District Town Planner Sumit Malik has come under scrutiny, with allegations of removing greenery and small structures outside homes without prior notice, triggering strong resentment among residents. The action, reportedly executed using JCB machines, drew criticism from locals who claimed their self-developed green spaces and sitting areas were destroyed. Resident Rakesh Chugh alleged that the action appeared selective and insensitive, adding that repeated calls by Resident Welfare Association members failed to halt the drive. Several residents termed the move unjustified, especially in light of ongoing government campaigns promoting greenery. Reacting strongly, Panipat Deputy Commissioner Virender Dahiya emphasized that administrative actions must be carried out with sensitivity and proper coordination. He questioned the lack of prior communication and said that such drives should only proceed after taking residents into confidence. "Districts run on dialogue, not force," the DC remarked, expressing displeasure over the manner in which the action was executed. He noted that meetings with RWAs and adequate notice—at least 5-7 days—should precede any such drive, allowing residents time to comply voluntarily.

## Congress holds state meet in Chandigarh to mark Panchayati Raj Day



**AJAY MALHOTRA**

**FATEHGARH SAHIB:** The Rajiv Gandhi Panchayati Raj Sangathan, in collaboration with the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee, celebrated National Panchayati Raj Day with an impressive and high-powered state-level conference at the Congress Bhawan, Chandigarh. The event brought together elected representatives from across Punjab, reaffirming the party's commitment to strengthening grassroots democracy. Sharing details of the event, Dr. Amandeep Kaur Dholewal, State Co-Convenor of the Sangathan, stated that the conference was held under the leadership of State Chairman Advocate Jaspreet Singh Kalalmajra. She added that representatives from various districts participated in large numbers and collectively pledged to fortify democratic institutions at the village level. The historic gathering paid tribute to the visionary leadership of former Prime Minister Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, whose landmark 73rd Constitutional Amendment granted constitutional status to Panchayati Raj institutions. This transformational reform empowered rural governance and laid the foundation for a stronger, more inclusive India. Senior leadership of the Indian National Congress and the Rajiv Gandhi Panchayati Raj Sangathan graced the conference, making it a highly impactful occasion. Prominent attendees included, President, Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee S. Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, National Chairman, Rajiv Gandhi Panchayati Raj Sangathan Dr. Sunil Panwar, Former Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab.

## MLA Jagmohan Anand listens public problems on tea program



**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA**

**KARNAL:** In his scheduled proposed program, MLA Jagmohan Anand discussed various issues with the general public on tea at the local Nehru Place on Sunday morning and had an intimate conversation with the local citizens. On this occasion, various issues related to the development of the city were discussed in detail. The colleagues present shared their experiences, suggestions and ideas, making the discussion very effective and productive. During the discussion on tea it became clear to MLA Jagmohan Anand that discussion on tea is not just a medium of communication but is also a powerful platform for understanding people's problems and taking concrete steps towards their solutions and it is continuously becoming an effective program. He said that this initiative inspired by the spirit of public participation and cooperation was playing an important role in giving new impetus to the all-round development of Karnal. Through such dialogue programs, the direct connection between citizens and public representatives is being strengthened, which is a positive sign towards a developed and empowered Karnal.

## Don't wait, vaccinate: Cervical cancer is preventable, says SDM Devendra Sharma



**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA**

**KARNAL:** SDM Devendra Sharma said that HPV vaccination was mandatory for girls in the age group of 14 and 15 years to prevent cervical cancer. When girls of this age group get this vaccine, they will be safe from this deadly disease. This is in the public interest and the interest of the country. The SDM said this while he was speaking in a review meeting with officials related to sub-division Karnal regarding the HPV vaccination campaign in the auditorium of the Mini Secretariat on Saturday. He said that the Government of India was running an HPV vaccination campaign to prevent girls aged 14 and 15 years from cervical cancer. The pace of this campaign should be accelerated and 100 percent targeted girls should be achieved. He instructed the officials of the Education Department to prepare micro plans and organize special awareness camps to promote ICE activities in schools. Include local public representatives in these camps. In the meeting, he instructed BDPO to create awareness in rural areas through Sarpanches and Panches. When vaccination starts, announcements should be made in the villages so that no eligible girl is left out. He instructed the officials of the Women and Child Development Department to make women aware at the grassroots level through Anganwadicentres.

## Anil Vij launches sharp attack on Mamata Banerjee, says Bengal's political scenario will change after May 4

**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA AMBALA, APR 26**

Haryana's Energy, Transport and Labour Minister, Anil Vij, today took a swipe at West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, stating that she has already left two election rallies midway and that after the results on May 4, she may have to leave West Bengal altogether.

Vij was speaking to the media persons after listening to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popular program 'Mann Ki Baat' at a gathering held at the residence of Shalinder Khanna (Shaili) at 105, Mall Road, Ambala



Cantonment. He said that the first phase of elections in West Bengal witnessed a very high voter turnout, which, according to him, reflects the impact of the "Modi wave." He claimed that the voting percentage reaching around 92-93 percent is significant

and indicative of strong public participation. Targeting Mamata Banerjee, he reiterated that not only has she left election rallies midway, but the results on May 4 will further change the political situation in the state. Taking a dig at Rahul

Gandhi, Sh. Vij said that there is a significant difference between Rahul Gandhi's understanding of religion and culture and that of his party. He stated that the Bharatiya Janata Party follows the ideology of cultural nationalism rooted in Indian traditions, which, he claimed, often causes discomfort to the opposition. He also alleged that the opposition tends to view India's issues from an external perspective and does not adequately recognize the valor of the country's heroes, highlighting what he described as a stark difference between Rahul Gandhi and the RSS.

## 'Martyrs of 1857 to be honored; inauguration of Ambala's Azadi ki Pehli Ladai ka Shahid Smarak expected soon'

**SHIV KUMAR SHARMA AMBALA, APR 26**

Haryana's Energy, Transport and Labour Minister, Sh. Anil Vij expressed hope that the grand Shaheed Memorial being constructed in Ambala Cantonment in memory of the First War of Independence of 1857 will soon be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said that once opened, people from across the country will be able to visit the memorial, learn about the stories of unsung heroes, and pay their tributes. Vij was speaking to the media person after listening to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popular program 'Mann Ki



Baat' at a gathering held at the residence of Shalinder Khanna (Shaili) at 105, Mall Road, Ambala Cantonment. He said that the Prime Minister's mention of the 1857 uprising in today's 'Mann Ki Baat' was highly significant. To commemorate this historic movement, a grand memorial is being constructed in Ambala

Cantonment at a cost of around ₹700 crore. The memorial vividly depicts the First War of Independence that began on May 10, 1857, along with the struggles and sacrifices made across the country. It showcases key locations such as Ambala, Meerut, Jhansi, and Kashmiri Gate, as well as the contributions of great warriors

like Rani Lakshmbai and Taty Tope. He further said that many heroes of 1857 did not receive due recognition and tribute in history. Keeping this in mind, a special 'tribute zone' has been created within the memorial, where visitors will be able to pay homage to those martyrs who were long overlooked. Vij said that during 'Mann Ki Baat', the Prime Minister noted that the month of May reminds the nation of the First War of Independence of 1857. He paid tribute to the brave sons and daughters of Mother India and urged the youth, especially school children, to make productive use of their vacations and strive to learn something new.

## PGIMER experts advocate for healthy lifestyles to combat rising burden of musculoskeletal diseases



**BUREAU CHANDIGARH:** To conclude Rheumatological Diseases Awareness Month, the Department of Internal Medicine at PGIMER organized a public awareness walk from PGIMER to Sukhna Lake. The event aimed to highlight the critical role of lifestyle modifications in managing and preventing musculoskeletal disorders. Addressing a gathering at Sukhna Lake, Prof Vivek Lal Director PGIMER, Chandigarh spoke about the importance of healthy lifestyle, exercise and healthy diet to fight the menace of Musculoskeletal diseases. He said that such awareness initiatives are very important to increase public awareness about these diseases which impact a large part of population, and suggested that the awareness activities should begin right during childhood and school going age. He also talked about prevalence of osteoporosis, and advised everyone to quit smoking and alcohol.

## International conference on Smart Healthcare & AI in infection control concludes at Aryans Group of Colleges

**SHASHI PAL JAIN MOHALI, APR 26**

The Aryans Institute of Nursing, Rajpura Near Chandigarh organized an International Conference on "Smart Healthcare Integrating AI in Infection Control for Nursing & Paramedical Professionals" under the guidance of Chief Patron Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group of Colleges. Hundreds of Aryans Healthcare students including Nursing, Paramedical, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy attended the Conference. The conference featured eminent speakers from leading healthcare institutions, including Dr. Supreet Kaur (Clinical Manager - Primary Care Network, Canada), Dr. Navneet Arora (Paras Hospital, Panchkula; Ex



Senior Resident, PGIMER Chandigarh), Dr. Sushma Kumari Saini (National Institute of Nursing Education, PGIMER Chandigarh), Manju Sharma (Neelam Hospital), Dr. Narinder Kaur Walia (AIIMS Bathinda), Dr. Arun Kumar Jindal (Principal, Nursing Institution), Prof. Jaspreet Kaur Sodhi (Government College of Nursing, Patiala), Ms. Sneha Varghese (Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital & Research Centre, New Chandigarh), and Dr. Rashmi (Advanced Eye

Centre, Sohana Hospital), who shared their expertise and practical insights with the participants. The conference was convened by Dr. Garima Thakur, Deputy Director, with Mrs. Nidhi Chopra, Principal, as Co-ordinator and Dr. Guramrit Gill, Vice-Principal, as Co-coordinator. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Anshu Kataria stated that such academic initiatives play a vital role in bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application.

## Effigy burning protest in Doraha against Rajya Sabha MPs who joined BJP

**AMRISH ANAND DORAHA, APR 26**

A protest was held in Doraha town of Payal constituency on Saturday, where leaders and workers of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), along with local residents, staged a strong demonstration against certain Rajya Sabha Members of Parliament who recently left the party and joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The protest was led by Payal MLA Manwinder Singh Giaspura and party president Sudarshan Sharma. A large number of AAP supporters participated in the demonstration, raising slogans against Rajya Sabha MPs Raghav Chadha, Harbhajan Singh, and Ashok Mittal. The protesters also burned effigies of the leaders to express their anger. Addressing



the gathering, MLA Manwinder Singh Giaspura alleged that these leaders had acted against the interests of Punjab and failed to live up to the expectations of the people. He said that the people of Punjab are vigilant about their rights and will not forgive those who betray the state. Sudarshan Sharma said the protest reflected public resentment and asserted that the struggle to safeguard Punjab's interests would continue. He added that the

Aam Aadmi Party remains committed to protecting the rights of the people of the state. Among those present on the occasion were city president Rana Kooner, Butta Singh Rano, Mandi Board Chairman Sukhwinder Singh Nona, Kawaljit Bittu, Manga German, Sukhbir Talwara, and Pamma Sekha, along with several other party leaders and workers. Police personnel were deployed at the site to maintain law and order, and the protest concluded peacefully.

**CHANDIGARH:** AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB), India's largest Small Finance Bank and the first organisation in over a decade to receive an in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India to transition into a Universal Bank, today announced that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has accorded its approval for the appointment of Vivek Tripathi as Whole-Time Director (Executive Director) of the Bank for a term of three years. Commenting on the appointment, Sanjay Agarwal, Founder, MD & CEO, AU Small Finance Bank, said, "Vivek has been an integral part of AU's leadership journey for over a decade, with meaningful contributions across business, credit and institutional governance. His deep understanding of risk, portfolio stewardship and execution discipline has strengthened AU's balance-sheet resilience."



**NEWS BRIEF**

**Amazon India to Invest ₹2,800 Cr in Safety, Wellbeing & Network Expansion**  
**SHIMLA:** Amazon India today announced an investment of over ₹2,800 crore (≈USD 300 million) to strengthen associate safety, health, and financial wellbeing, while expanding its pan-India operations network. The investment forms part of the company's broader plan to invest more than \$35 billion in India by 2030, focusing on AI-driven digitization, export growth, and job creation. Amazon India will continue to scale both its core and quick commerce footprint to deliver to customers across the country within minutes, hours, and days. This builds on the company's ₹2,000 crore investment in 2025, which enabled the launch of 17 new fulfillment centers, six sortation centers, and 75 last-mile delivery stations nationwide. In the same year, Amazon introduced its quick commerce service, Amazon Now, which has since expanded to over 300 micro-fulfillment centers across key cities, enabling faster and safer deliveries.

**It's lemon. It's lime. Now, it's got mint. Sprite Adds a Minty Twist to Summer with Its First-Ever Flavour - Sprite Lemon Mint**

**CHANDIGARH/LUDHIANA:** When summer hits, India knows exactly how to cool down. Crushed into chilled drinks, stirred into summer coolers, or simply muddled with lemon and something fizzy, mint is India's homegrown cool-down ritual. Sprite Lemon Mint is a great example of how Sprite is turning real consumer behavior into meaningful innovation. The combination of citrus and mint is both culturally familiar and heightens refreshment. In its first-ever flavor innovation in India, the brand combines its signature sharp lemon with bold, cooling mint notes to take the taste people already love to a whole new level of refreshment. Sumel Chatterjee, Category Head, Sparkling Flavours, Coca-Cola India and South West Asia said, "Sprite Lemon Mint is inspired by how consumers are already experimenting with mint leaves and Sprite, bringing together a culturally familiar combination."

**Instant working capital loans are changing how corporates handle short-term needs, says Kotak**  
**CHANDIGARH:** After disbursing more than Rs. 9,000 crore through a pilot phase, Kotak Mahindra Bank has expanded its instant Working Capital Demand Loans for corporate customers, indicating that faster access to short-term loans is beginning to influence how companies handle routine funding needs. The facility allows eligible corporates to access working capital loans within seconds through a digital process, removing manual steps and banking cut-off times that traditionally delayed access even when limits were already sanctioned. "Customers are now accessing working capital when the requirement arises, rather than planning around banking timelines," said Anu Aggarwal, President and Head of Corporate & Transaction Banking at

**Major Gaurav Arya Picks His Winner From The West Asia Conflict - And It's Not Iran, America, or Israel**

**CHANDIGARH:** The real winner of the West Asia conflict is China, Major Gaurav Arya said at Kotak Private Banking's Take and Counter Take (TACT), arguing that Beijing is extracting strategic gains without firing a shot. Speaking at the invitation-only forum curated by Kotak Private, Arya told the audience that while attention remains fixed on Israel, Iran and the United States, China is accruing advantage quietly and methodically. "Everyone is looking at Israel, Iran and the United States," he said, "but the country that actually benefits is China." The conflict, he added, fits into a longer, colder struggle in which China exploits instability to weaken rivals, tighten its grip over energy routes, and stretch Western focus across too many theatres at once.

**India Must Expect Geopolitical Disruptions Every 1-2 Years, Good Time To Take Hard Decisions: Neelkanth Mishra**

**CHANDIGARH:** India should brace for geopolitical disruptions every one to two years and use the current pause in tensions to push through long-pending structural reforms, Axis Bank chief economist Neelkanth Mishra said at Kotak Private Banking's Take and Counter Take (TACT). Speaking at the invitation-only forum curated by Kotak Private, Mishra argued that while immediate fears of escalation have receded following calls for a two-week ceasefire between Iran and the United States, the broader cycle of shocks is unlikely to end. "This is part of a grand war between America and China," Mishra said at the session, moderated by Kotak Asset Management managing director Nilesh Shah. "Until those equations settle, we should expect disruptions every one to two years."

**Geopolitical Disruptions Likely Every 1-2 Years, but India Better Prepared Than Ever: Experts at Kotak Private Forum**

**CHANDIGARH:** Global geopolitical disruptions are likely to recur every one to two years as part of an ongoing contest between major powers, even as India today is better prepared than at any point in its history to withstand such shocks, experts said at the second edition of Kotak Private Banking's Take and Counter Take. The discussion brought together economist Neelkanth Mishra and strategic affairs expert Major Gaurav Arya (Retd.) to examine the theme "Is India's Growth Story Resilient to Geopolitical Shocks?" The session was moderated by Nilesh Shah, Managing Director, Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company. Setting the context, Oisharya Das, CEO, Kotak Private Banking, said geopolitical volatility has become a structural feature for investors rather than a one-off risk. "Disruptions are no longer episodic."

**SOCIAL Launches 'Voices from the Hood', A Cultural Report Decoding the Pulse of Urban Youth**

**HYDERABAD -** SOCIAL, one of India's most influential youth culture hubs, has 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.

# Punjab's politics hasn't been affected by these people leaving, but rather their real face have come before people: Goyal



**CHANDIGARH:** The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Sunday unleashed a wave of massive, coordinated protests across every district of Punjab against the Rajya Sabha MPs who defected to the BJP, with streets echoing slogans of "Punjab de Gaddar" and walls marked with "Gaddar" written in public anger against an unforgivable betrayal of the Punjab's mandate. From district headquarters to industrial hubs, including a pointed protest outside the Trident Group against Rajinder Gupta, AAP leaders and karyakartas, joined by large numbers of citizens, staged fierce demonstrations, burnt tyres, and openly condemned those who, they said, had trampled upon the trust of Punjabis for political gain. Calling the defections a grave betrayal of Punjab's soil and self-respect, AAP demanded immediate cancellation of the MPs' Rajya Sabha membership, asserting that those who have sided with the BJP under pressure and opportunism will neither be forgiven nor accepted by the people of Punjab. Punjab Cabinet Minister Harbhajan Singh ETO strongly condemned the defectors and said, "The Rajya Sabha meant to represent the voice of the state in Parliament. These members

party in the back. BJP's continuous attempts to destabilize opposition governments through such tactics are well known." During the protest in Lehra Gaga Cabinet Minister Barinder Goyal stated, "Wheeling and dealing politics has been BJP's history. Punjab's politics has not been affected by these people leaving, but rather their faces have come before the people. Whoever went to BJP later regretted it. We stand with the Aam Aadmi Party's ideology like a rock."

MLA Balkar Singh Sidhu said, "The names of these leaders will be written in history as traitors. AAP gave them recognition and positions of power, but they failed to uphold the trust placed in them. The people of Punjab will never forgive this betrayal. Such leaders will face political isolation." MLA Maninder Singh Gaspura said, "These MPs were not directly elected by the public but were nominated through the mandate given to AAP. They have misused the trust of the people and betrayed Punjab. We demand that their Rajya Sabha membership be immediately cancelled."

were sent to raise Punjab's issues, but instead of fulfilling their responsibility, they aligned with the BJP. This is a shameful act and a betrayal of three crore Punjabis." He added, "The BJP used intimidation tactics, including threats of ED and CBI action, to coerce leaders into joining the party under Operation Lotus." Minister Lal Chand Kataruchakk also criticised the move and said, "These MPs were elected with the support of AAP MLAs to represent Punjab's interests. Instead of raising Punjab's voice, they have stabbed the state and the

## Campaign seeks accountability for cow welfare

**CHANDIGARH:** The Gau Samman Aahvan Abhiyan called for a more structured and accountable system to ensure effective cow welfare and protection across the country. Addressing a press conference at Chandigarh Press Chandigarh, campaign representatives Vipin Kansal, Jagdish Chander Batta, Avinash Kumar Nabha and Rajesh Dhingra highlighted serious gaps in coordination, monitoring, and on-ground implementation, which continue to leave stray and unproductive cattle neglected and vulnerable. The campaign emphasized that cow welfare is not just about financial resources but requires strong administrative accountability, a clear framework, and active public

participation. Despite significant funds collected through cow cess, speakers expressed concern over the lack of visible impact at the grassroots level.



Key demands include establishing dedicated administrative structures at district, state, and national levels, with accountable officials responsible for regular inspection of gaushalas and

proper implementation of welfare schemes. The campaign also called for modern cattle shelters, better infrastructure, and the use of unused government land to accommodate stray cattle. Further, a nationwide survey and tagging system was proposed to create a reliable database for tracking and preventing abandonment. Strengthening legal enforcement, supporting farmers with subsidies and veterinary care, and promoting community participation were also highlighted as essential

steps. The initiative remains non-political and encourages citizens to join and contribute towards a sustainable solution for cow welfare.

## Over 55,000 women from 6 districts become successful entrepreneurs

**LUCKNOW:** Under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the landscape of women's empowerment in Uttar Pradesh is rapidly transforming. Through the Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission, more than 55,000 women milk producers across six districts in the Terai region have become successful entrepreneurs. Dairy-based activities have accelerated the rural economy, with women emerging as strong symbols of self-reliance. Women in districts like Bareilly, Lakhimpur Kheri, Pilibhit, Shahjahanpur, Sitapur and Rampur are building strong prospects in the dairy sector.

With women taking leadership in rural areas, the dairy industry is growing rapidly. Organized efforts have created a strong system for milk production, collection, and marketing, leading to a steady increase in women's incomes. The story of Ranguni from a small village Sirai Cha in Lakhimpur Kheri stands as a powerful example of this transformation. Earlier earning just ₹2-3 thousand per month, she is now earning up to ₹60,000 monthly after joining a milk producer organization and benefiting from government schemes. Through the Srijani Milk Producer Organization, women have not only been

connected to markets but also provided training, management skills, and support for organized production. This has transformed dairy from a small activity into a structured business. Access to veterinary services in rural areas has improved significantly, leading to better animal health and a continuous rise in milk production. The Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission has played a crucial role in economically empowering rural women. Through self-help groups, women have gained not only employment but also leadership skills and confidence.

## Paras Health Opens Its First-Ever Paras MedCentre in Mohali: A New Chapter in Accessible Healthcare for the Region



**MOHALI:** In a step towards expanding access to outpatient care, Paras Health has inaugurated its first Paras MedCentre in Mohali. The facility was inaugurated in the presence of Mr. Vineet Aggarwal, Group COO, Paras Health; Dr. Pankaj Mittal, Facility Director, Paras Health Panchkula; and senior consultants from the organisation. The centre will provide consultations, diagnostics, and follow-up care, supported by visiting doctors from Paras Health Panchkula. The inauguration ceremony was attended by senior dignitaries and healthcare professionals, along with representatives from corporates, PSUs, Resident Welfare Associations, and members of the local medical community in Mohali, as well as the Principal of Paragon Senior Secondary School. The centre will also see consultations by experienced specialists, bringing advanced medical care closer to the community. For residents of Mohali and the surrounding suburban areas around Panchkula, the facility reduces the need to travel long distances or depend on hospital visits for routine care. It is expected to improve access to timely and more affordable consultations, particularly for patients requiring regular follow-ups or ongoing treatment. Speaking at the inauguration, Mr. Vineet Aggarwal, Group COO, Paras Health, said, "The launch of our first Paras MedCentre in Mohali marks an important step in Paras Health's journey towards decentralised and patient-first healthcare delivery. Our focus is on bringing specialist consultations closer to where patients live, making care more accessible, convenient, and continuous. This model will help us strengthen our presence in high-growth regions like the Tricity while addressing evolving healthcare needs at the community level."

## Sanjay Tandon: "All Help Will Be Provided to Federations for Organising Asian Roller Skating Championship"



**CHANDIGARH:** Sanjay Tandon who is the Chairman of Chandigarh Administration's Standing Committee of Administrator's Advisory Council on Sports Management has said that all necessary assistance would be extended to the Roller Skating Federation of India and the Chandigarh Roller Skating Federation for hosting the upcoming 21st Asian Roller Skating Championship in the Tricity. Tandon said, "All help will be provided to federations for organising the Asian Roller Skating Championship". He further informed that discussions have already been held with the Hon'ble Governor of Punjab and Administrator of Chandigarh in this regard. Tandon made these remarks while addressing a gathering after inaugurating the 3rd India Skate Games along with Mahender Singh, Joint Director Sports. Notably, the 21st Asian Roller Skating Championship is slated to take place in Chandigarh in 2027. Highlighting the Administration's commitment, Tandon noted that any required infrastructure upgrades or new facilities for roller skating would be undertaken to ensure the successful conduct of the Asian Championship. The Governor of Punjab has also conveyed strong interest and support for hosting the prestigious event, reinforcing Chandigarh's emergence as a growing hub for roller sports in India, Tandon added. Meanwhile, the 3rd India Skate Games has drawn nearly 600 skaters from across the country. The multi-discipline event features competitions in rink hockey (roller hockey), inline hockey, roller derby, alpine skating and downhill skating.

## JCB India Welcomes PMGSY-III Extension, Backs Stronger Rural Connectivity

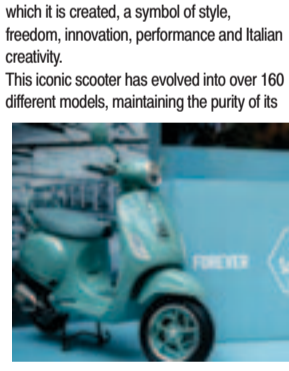
**CHANDIGARH:** JCB India welcomes and appreciates the Government of India's decision to extend Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY-III) till March 2028, a move that reinforces the nation's commitment to strengthening rural connectivity. By enhancing vital road links that connect villages with services and growth centres, the extension will help improve everyday access, support local economies, and bring communities closer to opportunities that enable progress and a better quality of life. At its core, this initiative is about people. Better roads mean quicker access to hospitals and specialised medical care, smoother movement of agricultural produce, and easier access to education and employment hubs. For farmers, it reduces delays and losses; for families, it can mean timely medical help and uninterrupted education. JCB believes that such focused investment in rural infrastructure will have a lasting social and economic

impact, empowering villages, and strengthening supply chains, while laying the foundation for more balanced and inclusive growth across the country. Commenting on the development, Mr. Deepak Shetty, CEO and Managing Director, JCB India, said, "Rural roads shape daily outcomes. They decide how quickly help arrives in an emergency and how livelihoods take root. Programmes like PMGSY have a tangible impact on everyday life in rural India. Better road infrastructure also helps connect rural populations more effectively with urban facilities, services, and opportunities. Strengthening these connections helps reduce on-ground inefficiencies, including losses in perishable goods, while creating more stable economic opportunities for underserved regions. As India advances towards its Viksit Bharat vision, JCB welcomes the extension of PMGSY-III and stands firmly with the Government in strengthening last-mile connectivity to drive inclusive and sustainable growth."

## AGI to Boost Basketball in Punjab with International-Level Infrastructure

**BUNNY SODHI JALANDHAR:** AGI Infra Limited, through its subsidiary Agi Sports Institute of India, has announced a major initiative to promote basketball in the region, aiming to channelise youth energy towards sports and away from social evils like drug abuse. In a joint statement, Managing Director Sardar Sukhdev Singh, along with Varinder Singh, Director AGI Infrastructure Pvt Ltd, and Abhijit Singh, Managing Director AGI Majestic Pvt Ltd, said that world-class basketball infrastructure will be developed for young players across the region. Providing details, Surinder Bhambr, Managing Director of Agi Sports Institute of India and an international-level sports organiser, said that construction of an international-standard synthetic basketball court is underway at Jalandhar Heights-1, 66 Feet Road, Jalandhar, and is expected to be completed within a fortnight. He added that similar courts will be developed in other AGI residential complexes, where official basketball championships will also be organised in collaboration with respective basketball associations.

## Eighty years ago, A dream on two Wheels was born: The Vespa



**CHANDIGARH:** Over the years, the Vespa has come to interpret and express the era in which it is created, a symbol of style, freedom, innovation, performance and Italian creativity. This iconic scooter has evolved into over 160 different models, maintaining the purity of its

imitable style, blending timeless elegance with the best technologies from the current Vespa range. The Vespa Tech 80th in India is an exclusive model destined to go down in the history of the world's most famous and beloved scooter: a universal symbol of style, joie de vivre and freedom that will be celebrated in Rome from 25th to 28th June 2026, in an event that is set to be the biggest Vespa party ever. The exclusive colour scheme of the Vespa 80th series features a special Verde Pastello green that evokes the spring of 1946, and the arrival of a two-wheeled vehicle that was about to take over Italy and Europe, riding the

tumultuous, creative wave of a continent's rebirth after war. The shade of green selected is inspired by the colour code of the very first single-colour Vespa models, retrieved from the historical archives, harking back to the 1940s and one of the first iconic Vespa colours, later joined by many others, building its colourful universe over the decades.

element lines and becoming synonymous with Italian style and elegance over time. Now, as it prepares to celebrate its eightieth anniversary (the patent was filed on 23rd April 1946), the Vespa looks back at its origins with a special commemorative series, the Vespa Tech 80th: the Vespa revisits elements of the original bike's unique,

## Hyundai, TVS Join Hands for Electric Three-Wheeler Push

**MADRAS:** Hyundai Motor Company and TVS Motor Company have formalized a Joint Development Agreement (JDA) to develop and commercialize electric three-wheeler (E3W) solutions tailored for India's last-mile mobility needs. The partnership follows the successful unveiling of the E3W concept at the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 and marks a significant step toward delivering sustainable and affordable urban transport solutions.

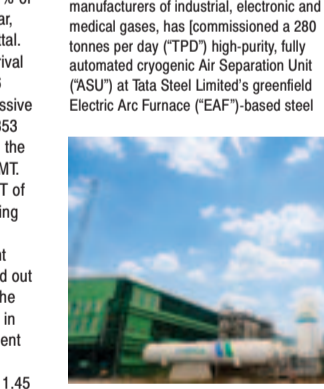


Under the agreement, Hyundai Motor will lead the design and co-development of the vehicles, leveraging its advanced R&D capabilities, mobility technologies, and human-centric design approach. Joongsun Ko, Senior Vice President, Corporate Strategy & Planning at Hyundai Motor, said the collaboration reflects the company's long-term commitment to improving India's transportation ecosystem and expanding access to safe, sustainable mobility. Sharad Mishra, President - Group Strategy, TVS Motor Company, noted that the agreement strengthens the shared vision of both companies to deliver accessible electric mobility solutions by combining TVS Motor's expertise in three-wheeler platforms with Hyundai's global technology leadership. The initiative is expected to accelerate the adoption of electric three-wheelers in India, particularly in the last-mile delivery and passenger transport segments, supporting the country's transition toward cleaner and more efficient urban mobility.

## District Achieves 88.97% of Expected Wheat Procurement

**SAS NAGAR:** The district has made significant progress in the ongoing wheat procurement season, achieving 88.97% of the expected procurement target so far, said Deputy Commissioner Komal Mittal. As per the latest figures, the day's arrival of wheat in the mandis stood at 4,006 metric tonnes (MT), taking the progressive arrival to 1,29,830 MT. Out of this, 4,353 MT was procured during the day, with the total procurement reaching 1,29,011 MT. In terms of lifting operations, 6,717 MT of wheat was lifted during the day, bringing the cumulative lifting to 52,894 MT. She further informed that procurement and lifting operations are being carried out smoothly across all grain markets in the district, with necessary arrangements in place to ensure hassle-free procurement for farmers. District had recorded a total arrival of 1.45 lakh MT during the corresponding period last year. The district administration reiterated its commitment to ensure timely procurement, prompt payments, and efficient lifting of produce to safeguard farmers' interests.

## INOXAP commissions a 280TPD ASU at Tata Steel's Ludhiana Facility



**LUDHIANA:** INOX Air Products Private Limited (INOXAP), one of India's leading manufacturers of industrial, electronic and medical gases, has commissioned a 280 tonnes per day (TPD) high-purity, fully automated cryogenic Air Separation Unit (ASU) at Tata Steel Limited's greenfield Electric Arc Furnace (EAF)-based steel

manufacturing facility at Ludhiana, Punjab. The plant is engineered to deliver uninterrupted, on-site supply of Gaseous Oxygen, Gaseous Nitrogen and Gaseous Argon; mission-critical gases required for high-grade steel production. The commissioning of this ASU intends to strengthen INOXAP's operational presence and liquid gas

## Axis Trustee launches PRISM to advance its Fintech-led trustee vision

**CHANDIGARH -** Axis Trustee Services Limited (ATSL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Axis Bank and one of India's leading trustee services providers, has announced the launch of PRISM, a digital-first platform aimed at enhancing client engagement and streamlining service delivery. This launch marks a significant step in Axis Trustee's ongoing journey towards becoming a fintech-led trustee. The platform launch of PRISM by Amitabh Chaudhry, MD & CEO of Axis Bank, along with Rahul Choudhary, MD & CEO of Axis Trustee Services Limited, underscoring the Group's strong commitment to driving digital innovation and transformation. Speaking at the launch, Mr. Rahul Choudhary, MD & CEO, Axis Trustee Services Limited said: "PRISM marks a significant milestone in our journey to reimagine trustee services through a digital-first approach. As financial markets evolve, the role of a trustee is steadily expanding beyond traditional oversight to becoming a more connected and insight-driven partner for clients.

## Axis Trustee launches PRISM to advance its Fintech-led trustee vision



development of the area. He promised to prioritize improved infrastructure, sanitation, roads, water, and other essential services in the area. He stated that the trust and support of the citizens of Ward No. 14 is his greatest strength, and he is committed to meeting their expectations. Following his nomination, his supporters gave him a warm welcome and expressed confidence in his victory. Election activities are expected to intensify in the coming days.

## BJP leader Gurdarshan Singh Saini inaugurated his office in Zirakpur



**MUKESH CHAUHAN ZIRAKPUR:** In view of the upcoming municipal council elections, the Bharatiya Janta Party has intensified its activities in Derabassi constituency. An office was opened today on Chandigarh-Ambala road under the leadership of local BJP leader Gurdarshan Singh Saini. The election campaign was started according to religious customs. First, prayers were performed in the presence of all the leaders, after which the office was opened to the public. Gurdarshan Singh Saini said that this office will not only be the center of the election campaign, but also a common platform to directly interact with the people of the city and solve their problems. On this occasion, the entire leadership of BJP

showed unity. District president Sanjeev Vashistha and Sanjeev Khanna specially arrived during the program. Mukesh Gandhi, Sushil Rana, Harjit Mirta, Anuj Aggarwal and presidents of different circles also took part with him and claimed victory in the election. On this occasion, Mandal President Sanjal Bansal, Dev Rana, Rana Ranbir, Sanju Rana, Ekta Nagpal, Pradeep Sharma, Hardeep Singh Saini, Harpreet Singh Tinku, Rajpal Rana, Tony Saini, Gulzar Tiwana, Gurneet Tiwana, Monu Sharma and Rampal Saini, Rinku Janetpur, Major Paragpur, Sant Bharatwaj, Pushinder Mehta, Davinder Dhanori and others. A number of local people and party workers were present.

## Vanesa enters into the derma-care category with Kareena Kapoor Khan's trust for the brand's new "Pro+ underarm roll-ons"

**CHANDIGARH:** Vanesa, a premium women's fragrance and body care brand, has forayed into the derma-care category with the launch of its new range, Vanesa Pro+, with Kareena Kapoor Khan leading the introduction as the face for Underarm Roll-on category. This expansion marks a significant step in Vanesa's evolution, building on its presence in personal care while moving into a more ingredient-driven, skin-focused space. The launch is supported by a campaign film featuring brand ambassador Kareena Kapoor Khan for Vanesa Pro+ Underarm Roll-on, which brings a confident and more open lens to underarm



care, shifting it from a concern often kept hidden to a natural part of everyday self-care. This comes at a time when women/Indian consumers are seeking solutions for pigmentation and odour concerns without the use of harsh or aggressive ingredients as the purchasing power of young Indian consumers have also increased. With Pro+, Vanesa responds to this shift with an approach that balances visible underarm benefits with reliable odour protection, moving beyond the limitations of only fragrance-led solutions. Built around a Unique Derma Action Formula which works on underarm skin health with AHA and BHA actives like Lactic, Mandelic, Salicylic Acid + Enriched with Booster actives like Niacinamide, Kojic acid, Hyaluronic & Allantoin acid + Infused with botanical extracts Licorice, Aloe-vera, Green tea, Witch Hazel. The range is designed to support dead skin cell removal, gentle exfoliation, hydration, Skin Soothing and help improve the appearance of underarm skin while fitting seamlessly into everyday routines.

## BJP candidate Rakesh Goyal files his nomination for Panchkula Municipal Corporation Ward 14



**PANCHKULA:** Political activity has intensified in the city for the Panchkula Municipal Corporation elections scheduled for May 10. BJP candidate Rakesh Goyal filed his nomination today. A large number of supporters accompanied him during the nomination process, and the enthusiasm was palpable. On this occasion, Rakesh Goyal stated that his goal in contesting the elections was not merely politics, but public service and the overall

## IPL: Sudharsan's 87 powers GT to comfortable 8-wicket victory over CSK

**AGENCY CHENNAI** : A fluent half-century from Sai Sudharsan, along with vital contributions from Shubman Gill and Jos Butler, guided the Gujarat Titans (GT) to a comfortable 8-wicket victory over the Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) on Sunday in Chennai.

GT displayed a clinical run-chase. Sai, Gill and Butler, GT's top three, got the job done for the visitors, getting their fourth win of the season to climb up to the fifth spot in the points table.

Titans' win with 20 balls to spare is their second biggest victory against CSK at Chepauk, only behind KKR's 59-ball win last season chasing 104.

Chasing a target of 159, Sai Sudharsan and Shubman Gill opened the innings for GT. The chase began with a flurry of boundaries as captain Gill and Sudharsan took advantage of the power play. Gill looked in sublime touch, providing a brisk start that put the CSK bowlers on the back foot immediately.

The duo took GT to 55/0 at the end of field restrictions.

However, the opening stand was broken in the 7th over when Gill was stumped by Sanju Samson off the bowling of Noor



Ahmad for a well-made contribution.

Despite the breakthrough, the Titans did not lose momentum. Sudharsan, coming off a century in his previous outing, continued his rich vein of form. He anchored the innings with a composed half-century, reaching his fifty in 33 balls.

Sudharsan's ability to find the gaps and his massive sixes against the spinners, particularly Akeal Hosein, ensured that the

required run rate remained comfortably below seven.

Jos Buttler, batting at No 3 as a stabiliser in the middle, played a supportive role. Though he survived a dropped catch by Samson. By the 14th over, GT had surged to 121/1.

Sudharsan, in the following, slammed a massive six off Ahmed's bowling to take GT past 130 runs. In the next over, Sudharsan continued his attack as he smashed 16 runs off seamer Gurjapneet Singh.

In the following over, Akeal Hosein got the better of Sudharsan before he almost won the game for his side with an outstanding 87 runs off 46 balls. In the same over, Butler sealed the match for the visitors, smashing a six to complete the run chase with 20 balls to spare.

The disciplined performance by the Titans' top order stood in stark contrast to CSK's earlier struggle, as they navigated the

slowing Chepauk surface with ease to cruise toward a vital two points in the play-off race.

Earlier in the match, CSK skipper Rituraj Gaikwad played a lone hand with a resilient unbeaten 74 as CSK managed to post a competitive 158/7 against GT.

On a surface that appeared to offer some assistance to the pacers early on and grip for the spinners later, GT's bowling attack, led by a clinical Kagiso Rabada, kept the home side under constant pressure.

GT won the toss and opted to bowl first. Their decision paid immediate dividends as Kagiso Rabada (3/25 in 4 overs) dismantled the CSK top order during the Powerplay.

He first dismissed Sanju Samson (11 and shortly after, removed Urvil Patel (4) in the same over, leaving CSK reeling at 25/2 in 4 overs.

The middle order failed to provide the necessary impetus as Dewald Brevis was kept quiet, eventually falling to Manav Suthar (1/22 in 3 overs) for a sluggish 2 off 9 balls. Shivam Dube provided a brief spark with a 17-ball 22 but was dismissed by Arshad Khan (2/43 in 4 overs).

## IPL: Sanju Samson reaches 5,000 runs, enters elite club



**AGENCY CHENNAI** : Chennai Super Kings (CSK) star wicketkeeper/batter Sanju Samson etched his name in history books as he completed 5000 runs in the Indian Premier League (IPL), becoming only the 10th batter to achieve this feat in the tournament's history.

Samson achieved this feat in his side's clash against the Gujarat Titans (GT) in the ongoing IPL in Chennai on Sunday.

Samson reached the landmark with a four against Kagiso Rabada in the second over of the match.

Samson now has 5008 runs under his belt in 180 innings at an average of 31.69 and a strike rate of 140.59, including 5 hundreds and 26 half-centuries.

Samson completed the milestone in 185 matches for three franchises, the

Rajasthan Royals, Delhi Daredevils, and Chennai Super Kings.

He also became the third fastest batter to reach 5000 runs in terms of balls. AB de Villiers leads the list, reaching the milestone in just 3,288 balls, followed by David Warner with 3,554.

Samson now joins this elite company, surpassing Suresh Raina (3,620 balls), KL Rahul (3,688 balls), and MS Dhoni (3,691 balls).

Samson is also CSK's highest run-getter in the 2026 IPL so far, with 304 runs under his belt at an average of 50.66 and a strike rate of 169.83, including two outstanding hundreds.

Coming to the match, Captain Rituraj Gaikwad played a lone hand with a resilient 74 as CSK managed to post a competitive 158/7 against GT at Chepauk in their IPL 2026 match on Sunday.

## "Krunal Pandya is changing landscape of finger-spin bowling": Dinesh Karthik ahead of DC vs RCB IPL 2026 clash

**NEW DELHI** : Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) batting coach and mentor Dinesh Karthik hailed all-rounder Krunal Pandya as someone who is pushing the boundaries of finger-spin bowling and credited him for changing the landscape of the craft.

RCB will take on Delhi Capitals (DC) in their upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 fixture on Monday in Delhi, with the side currently placed second on the points table with 10 points, and looking to further strengthen their position as the tournament progresses.

Ahead of the contest, Dinesh Karthik praised Krunal Pandya for redefining finger-spin bowling, highlighting his innovative variations and growing mastery. He said Krunal's ability to create doubt in batters and deliver consistent results shows his evolution as an



all-rounder, adding that his impact reflects how the Indian Premier League is transforming the game, according to a release from RCB.

"Krunal Pandya is a player this game will remember for a long time. He is pushing the boundaries of finger spin and bowling deliveries that weren't imaginable a few

years ago. He is becoming a master at it. He knows when to use his variations to create doubt in the batter's mind, and more often than not, it delivers results. A lot of credit must go to him for how he is evolving as an all-rounder. IPL is changing the landscape of cricket, and Krunal is doing the same for finger-spin bowl-

ing," Karthik said as quoted in release.

Notably, Krunal has played a handy role for RCB in the ongoing IPL season. The all-rounder has taken eight wickets in seven matches and also chipped in with a crucial 12-ball 23-run unbeaten cameo in RCB's previous match, against the Gujarat Titans.

Karthik also gave an update on opener Phil Salt, who missed the clash against GT due to an injury. Karthik said that the right-hand batter is still recovering from injury and will not feature against DC at Delhi.

"He's injured for the moment," said Karthik.

Dinesh Karthik praised RCB captain Rajat Patidar for his calm and thoughtful leadership, highlighting his steady batting, strong respect within the team and also his effective handling of bowlers.

## Ashu scored century in GC tournament, British Deputy High Commission won exhibition match

**CHANDIGARH**, The Gully Cricket Tournament being jointly organized by the UT Cricket Association and Chandigarh Police enters at day nine with exceptional performances across multiple venues in the city. The highlight of the day was

Meanwhile in other matches of the day, Team No. 8 defeated Team No. 11 by 4 wickets, while Team No. 23 secured a 7-wicket win over Team No. 28. Team No. 33 got the better of Team No. 43 by 5 wickets. A strong all-round effort saw Team

Team No. 184.

Later in the evening, an exhibition match held at the Sector 16 Cricket Stadium wherein British High Deputy Commission XI outclass Competent XI in a one-sided affair by eight wickets. Batting first,

Competent XI posted 74/7 in their allotted 10 overs, with Sonu top-scoring with 37 runs. However, the British Deputy High Commission chased down the target efficiently, scoring 75/2 in just 6.3 overs. Rajinder Singh Nagarkoti was commended for his all-round performance as he clinched two vital wickets, scored ten runs and one crucial run out.

Alok Krishan, Treasurer along with UTCA's functionaries felicitated the winning team. The second match of the day was played between IRS XI and CAs XI at the same venue.

## Journalist Premier League: Rajasthan defeat Haryana by 38 runs



**CHANDIGARH/PANCHKULA**: In the quarterfinal clash of the Journalist Premier League, Rajasthan registered an impressive 38-run victory over Haryana in the fourth match by delivering a strong all-round performance. The match was played at Tau Devi Lal Stadium in Panchkula.

Journalist Welfare Trust in association with the United Press Club is organising this league. According to President of United Press Club Arshdeep Singh Summer, the league aims to pay tribute to the families of journalists who lost their lives in the line of duty. The event also serves as a platform to promote unity and camaraderie within the journalism community. Teams from Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Chandigarh are participating in the tournament.

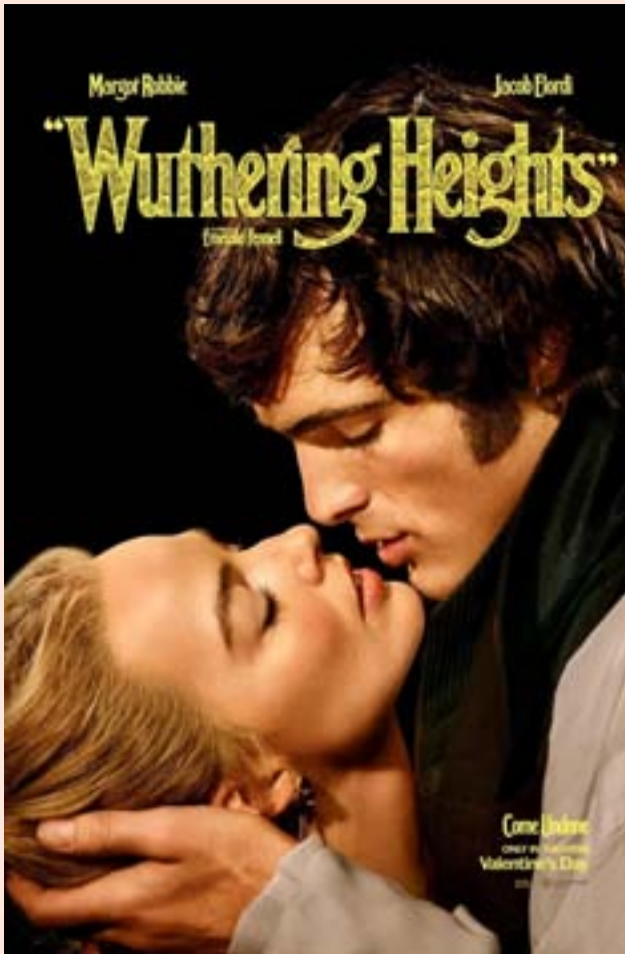
Haryana Cabinet Minister Krishan Bedi graced the occasion as

the chief guest. Encouraging the players, he said such events not only promote the spirit of sportsmanship but also recognise and honour the contributions of journalists in society. He urged players to uphold discipline, dedication, and fair play.

After winning the toss, Rajasthan captain Mukesh Meena opted to bat first. Rajasthan posted a strong total of 189 for 4 in their 20 overs. Aditya Atreya led the charge with a brilliant 65, while wicketkeeper-batsman Garvit Narang remained unbeaten on 60. Satish Kumawat also played a quickfire knock of 44 off just 21 balls. Chasing a target of 190, Haryana was bowled out for 151 in 17.4 overs. Jatin (54) and Lalit (44) showed some resistance, but the team struggled against Rajasthan's disciplined bowling attack. Satish Kumawat and Avaj Panchal picked up four wickets each, while Ashutosh Zee chipped in with two wickets.

DIRECTORATE OF SMALL SAVINGS, BANKING AND LOTTERIES, PUNJAB										
Draw Time: 05:00 PM ONWARDS DATE: 26/04/2026										
RESULT OF PUNJAB STATE DEAR 50 RANGER SUNDAY 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. 15.25 Lakhs)										
E 59998										
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)										
63510	64300	75165	88377	93142						
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)										
0437	4610									
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)										
1176	1259	2124	5813	7436						
5th Prize Amount (125) Rs. 1,000/- (On last 4 digits)										
(Seller Prize Amount Rs. 100/-, Sub Stockist Prize Amount Rs. 50/-, Total Prize Amount Rs. 1,150/- Each)										
0162	0294	5248	5902	9217						
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)										
2100	2258	3058	3597	9486						
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)										
0017	0025	0027	0036	0073	0087	0093	0094	0112	0120	
0125	0160	0147	0163	0184	0189	0200	0203	0212	0221	
0273	0283	0290	0298	0305	0352	0413	0417	0420	0430	
0450	0471	0482	0508	0527	0566	0580	0588	0598	0613	
0637	0662	0667	0672	0713	0716	0733	0766	0773	0781	
0797	0801	0804	0812	0817	0827	0842	0851	0857	0858	
0859	0864	0879	0881	0891	0908	0925	0939	0944	0985	
0991	0992	0997	1003	1022	1027	1031	1040	1043	1045	
1047	1062	1065	1105	1116	1128	1139	1157	1172	1173	
1211	1224	1228	1247	1253	1270	1272	1294	1301	1314	
1319	1325	1345	1363	1371	1372	1374	1383	1393	1395	
1405	1408	1431	1462	1516	1564	1568	1593	1597	1621	
1629	1632	1646	1650	1667	1684	1706	1707	1733	1747	
1801	1807	1900	1942	1950	1963	1968	1981	1994	1910	
1914	1922	1954	1964	1974	1990	2009	2034	2056	2063	
2076	2097	2110	2138	2162	2163	2165	2176	2180	2184	
2185	2193	2217	2218	2221	2231	2243	2305	2317	2321	
2329	2357	2369	2373	2386	2425	2431	2440	2446	2461	
2467	2471	2475	2492	2498	2516	2520	2545	2530	2545	
2594	2560	2590	2594	2602	2607	2611	2617	2618	2627	
2661	2669	2674	2739	2783	2797	2816	2826	2838	2846	
2848	2852	2857	2872	2893	2902	2903	2914	2915	2935	
2950	2952	3019	3056	3070	3072	3092	3099	3107	3108	
3133	3136	3143	3150	3157	3161	3166	3170	3184	3202	
3250	3256	3265	3310	3311	3361	3368	3375	3398	3412	
3418	3419	3422	3461	3463	3506	3518	3527	3581	3632	
3643	3655	3663	3675	3710	3716	3719	3739	3762	3789	
3798	3800	3840	3866	3871	3912	3936	3937	3948	3967	
3976	3989	4002	4033	4044	4111	4121	4129	4132	4136	
4178	4206	4217	4221	4225	4273	4312	4315	4353	4363	
4387	4447	4448	4459	4469	4478	4512	4530	4535	4538	
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4979	4992	4995	5000	5001	5061	5066	5067	5079	5083	
5105	5125	5126	5138	5156	5158	5184	5253	5316	5328	
5330	5331	5344	5375	5388	5391	5414	5422	5426	5450	
5454	5466	5473	5475	5490	5523	5532	5548	5571	5590	
5604	5606	5633	5654	5656	5752	5801	5803	5812	5837	
5858	5864	5878	5891	5894	5896	5927	5933	5937	5959	
5962	5964	5998	6009	6015	6017	6038	6081	6085	6091	
6116	6125	6130	6131	6143	6154	6168	6183	6222	6225	
6236	6257	6263	6264	6278	6309	6315	6318	6350	6356	
6365	6388	6393	6399	6414	6425	6428	6436	6439	6442	
6445	6465	6468	6474	6500	6508	6521	6534	6562	6606	
6610	6620	6628	6631	6653	6673	6672	6681	6700	6714	
6713	6722	6742	6783	6782	6789	6858	6888	6906	6907	
6943	6944	6971	6995	6996	7007	7017	7022	7026	7028	
7031	7040	7049	7061	7061	7087	7093	7125	7134	7137	
7171	7244	7255	7261	7271	7278	7281	7283	7284	7287	
7289	7293	7311	7323	7337	7346	7383	7384	7388	7394	
7458	7459	7471	7488	7489	7506	2544	2572	2586	2605	
2609	2611	2612	2628	2630	2632	2641	2642	2647	2651	
2650	2693	2697	2700	2713	2721	2733	2740	2746	2747	
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8124	8140	8150	8159	8169	8183	8188	8190	8192	8199	
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8358	8362	8364	8368	8379	8395	8404	8414	8425	8427	
8431	8434	8452	8459	8479	8530	8567	8579	8596	8603	
8641	8644	8647	8649	8659	8660	8695	8702	8713	8717	
8721	8800	8810	8814	8816	8828	8840	8849	8851	8867	
8872	8918	8925	8932	8936	8985	8988	9005	9014	9021	
9022	9037	9042	9051	9055	9060	9069	9086	9089	9113	
9114	9117	9124	9138	9148	9205	9211	9245	9274	9292	
9322	9326	9341	9367	9375	9394	9399	9405	9421	9422	
9441	9442	9447	9473	9472	9509	9513	9516	9523	9530	
9553	9580	9595	9597	9620	9628	9633	9651	9687	9704	
9746	9781	9782	9784	9801	9810	9831	9833	9839	9853	
9856	9881	9894	9911	9914	9919	9946	9957	9989	9990	

# 'Wuthering Heights' to stream from May 1



Warner Bros.' adaptation of Emily Brontë's classic novel 'Wuthering Heights', directed by Emerald Fennell, is set to stream on HBO Max beginning May 1, according to Variety. The film will also make its debut on HBO linear on May 2 at 8 pm ET. An American Sign Language (ASL) version will stream exclusively on HBO Max, performed by ASL Dubbers Leila Hanaumi ("Barbie with ASL") and Giovanni Maucere ("Superman with ASL"), and directed by Justin Jackson ("It: Welcome to Derry with ASL"). It marks the first romance title available to stream in ASL on HBO Max with two dubbers. Directed by Fennell, who is known for the provocative film 'Saltburn', the R-rated drama stars Margot Robbie as Catherine Earnshaw and Jacob Elordi as Heathcliff, portraying the iconic tortured lovers at the heart of Brontë's story. Fennell's version intensifies the novel's erotic and psychological undertones, transforming the Yorkshire moors into a dark, operatic space of desire, power and revenge, according to Variety. Supporting cast members include Shazad Latif as Edgar Linton, Martin Clunes as Mr. Earnshaw, Charlotte Melling as young Catherine, Owen Cooper as young Heathcliff, Hong Chau as housekeeper Nelly, and Alison Oliver as Isabella Linton. The film also marks the first collaboration between Robbie and Fennell in a leading role, after Robbie previously executive produced 'Promising Young Woman' and 'Saltburn'. Jacob Elordi, meanwhile, is set to appear in 'Euphoria' Season 3 and also earned an Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actor for his role in 'Frankenstein', according to Variety. 'Wuthering Heights' has grossed USD 241 million worldwide, including USD 84 million domestically and USD 157 million internationally, against a USD 80 million production budget.

# Preity Zinta celebrates PBKS' record 265 chase against Delhi Capitals



Actor and Punjab Kings (PBKS) co-owner Preity Zinta expressed happiness after her team scripted history by chasing down 265 runs, the highest-ever in T20s to defeat Delhi Capitals (DC) by six wickets in an IPL match on Saturday. Taking to her Instagram, she congratulated both Punjab Kings team and DC opener KL Rahul for their performances. "Yessss yessss!!!! What a game Congratulations @punjabkingsipl & @klrahul for such a stunning performance tonight." Zinta also praised Shreyas Iyer, Prabhsimran Singh, Priyansh Arya, Nehal Wadhwa and Shashank Singh for their efforts in today's match, adding, "@shreyasiyer96 this one is for the record books... Tonight the heat was really on @prabhsimran\_84 @\_arya\_priyansh @nehalwadhwa @shashankingsingh027 #Ting #DCvsPBKS #Basjeetnaha". Talking about the match, PBKS continued its unbeaten run, generating another instant classic match and chasing down 265 runs, the highest-ever in T20s. KL's record-breaking 152\* in 67 balls, which made him the first Indian to score a 150 in the IPL and the holder of India's highest men's T20 score, went in vain as the batter had to watch a powerplay assault from Prabhsimran Singh and Priyansh Arya helplessly, which laid down the platform for a strong finish. With this win, PBKS stand unbeaten with six wins and a no result, giving them 13 points. DC is at the sixth spot, with three wins and four losses, giving them six points. PBKS broke their record of chasing down 262 against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in the 2024 season. Coming to the match, after DC opted to bat first, an entertaining 220-run second-wicket stand between KL Rahul (152\* in 67 balls, with 16 fours and nine sixes) and Nitish Rana (91\* in 44 balls, with 11 fours and four sixes) took DC to 264/2. PBKS did not put their weapons down either, as Priyansh Arya (43 in 17 balls, with two fours and five sixes) and Prabhsimran (76 in 26 balls, with nine fours and five sixes) shaved off 116 runs in the powerplay, later, Shreyas (71\* in 36 balls, with three fours and seven sixes) put partnerships with Nehal Wadhwa (25) and Shashank Singh (19\*), completing the chase in 18.5 overs with six wickets left.

# Major Regional Music Powerhouse Lokdhun Joins PPL India, Exits RMPL

CHANDIGARH : In a significant development for India's public performance licensing landscape, Lokdhun Telemedia Private Limited—one of the most influential regional music companies behind iconic hits like "Lollipop Lagelu"—has joined PPL India effective from 1 April 2026, exiting its earlier association with Recorded Music Performance Limited (RMPL). Founded in 2016 and headquartered in New Delhi, Lokdhun boasts a robust content library exceeding 80,000 tracks. It operates powerhouse sub-labels like Wave Music and Lokdhun Punjabi, dominating the Punjabi and Bhojpuri music scenes. With billions of cumulative digital views worldwide, Lokdhun has become synonymous with viral anthems that pulse through wedding seasons, street celebrations, and social media feeds. Tracks like "Lollipop Lagelu" have transcended borders, racking up hundreds of millions of streams and cementing Lokdhun's status as a regional music juggernaut. This strategic shift brings Lokdhun into the fold of PPL India, the country's premier public performance licensing body. Representing over 500+ music labels, PPL India now bolsters its fast-growing regional repertoire, capturing the vibrant sounds of India's heartland. The move underscores a broader industry trend: consolidating fragmented licensing under efficient, rights-focused frameworks. PPL India welcomed Lokdhun with enthusiasm: "Lokdhun's catalogue has shaped the soundscape of Punjabi and Bhojpuri music across generations. Their joining significantly strengthens PPL India's regional repertoire and reinforces our commitment to transparent and effective licensing for music owners." Echoing the sentiment, Lokdhun Telemedia stated: "We are pleased to partner with PPL India and join a structured licensing ecosystem that supports fair monetisation and wider reach of our catalogue across platforms."

CHANDIGARH  
MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026

# Lifestyle

Yugmarg

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# 'Khalnayak Returns': Sanjay Dutt unleashes his dark, intense aura in sequel teaser

Actor Sanjay Dutt has sparked a wave of nostalgia among fans, unveiling his first look from the much-awaited sequel to his iconic film 'Khalnayak', marking a dramatic return to one of his most celebrated on-screen avatars. Unveiling a striking new look, the makers, on Friday, dropped the first look teaser of 'Khalnayak Returns'. In the clip, Dutt could be seen in a rugged, battle-worn avatar, exuding a dark intensity. With a hardened expression and a visibly aggressive aura, his character could be seen consumed by violence and chaos. The teaser instantly struck a chord with fans, reminding many of his unforgettable portrayal in the 1993 blockbuster, generating excitement across social media. "Kuch kahaani khatam nahi hoti... woh dobara shuru hoti hai. 'Khalnayak Returns,'" Dutt wrote alongside the teaser. The makers also dropped the film's posters, giving a closer look at Dutt's character. "Har kahaani ka ek waqt hota hai... aur uska waqt aa gaya hai. Khalnayak Returns," the caption read. While Sanjay Dutt features in the lead role, further details around the remaining cast and the plot are yet to be unveiled. 'Khalnayak Returns' is made in association with Jio Studios, Aspect Entertainment, and Three Dimension Motion Pictures. Aspect Production, the entertainment arm of Aspect Global Ventures, has officially acquired the production rights for 'Khalnayak Returns' and roped in Jio Studios and Jyoti Deshpande to creatively helm it. Talking about this collaboration, Sanjay Dutt said, "Khal Nayak is a film that is close to my heart, and even today it's remembered with fondness. It's been a long-cherished dream of mine to be able to revive this film, and hence we have legally acquired the rights for it. I want to thank Subhashji and the team of Mukta Arts for entrusting us with this legacy."



# IDFC FIRST Bank Q4-FY26 PAT up 5% at Rs. 319 crore

CHANDIGARH/ PANCHKULA : The Board of Directors of IDFC FIRST Bank, in its meeting held today, approved the audited financial results for the quarter and the year ended March 31, 2026. Commenting on the results, Mr. V Vaidyanathan, MD and CEO said, "The asset quality of the bank remains stable. We have always mentioned that the asset quality of all businesses continues to perform well, except for the micro-finance book, which was an issue for the entire industry in FY25 and FY26. Hence, with the micro-finance issue behind us, the GNPA and NNPA have come down to healthy levels of 1.61% and 0.48% respectively. The provisions during Q4 FY26 have come down to the lowest level of two years, at 1.63% of loans, which is equivalent to 1.18% of assets. The first month of Q1FY27 has started strong for deposits, and the bank is confident of growing its deposit business healthily in line with past trends."



# 'Drishyam 3' gets huge boost; Pen Studios to invest Rs 100 crore in Mohanlal starrer film

Popular Entertainment Network (Pen Studios), the film distribution media company, has announced an investment of Rs 100 crore in the upcoming Mohanlal starrer film 'Drishyam 3'. Drishyam 3 is one of the highly anticipated films of the entertainment industry, which stars Mohanlal in the lead role. It is directed by Jeethu Joseph. Taking to their Instagram, Pen Studios shared their next venture in the entertainment industry by announcing an investment of Rs 100 crore in Ashirvad Cinemas through Panorama Studios for the film Drishyam 3 starring Mohanlal. "Pen Studios to invest Rs 100 cr in Aashirvad Cinemas through Panorama Studios for the film Drishyam 3 starring Mohanlal," read the announcement. While sharing the post, the media distribution company wrote, "Pen Studios backs one of India's most iconic thrillers, Rs 100 Cr investment. Drishyam 3 in Cinemas 21st May." In September 2025, the makers commenced the film's shooting and shared pictures from a puja ceremony. The inaugural function was marked by a traditional lamp-lighting and puja. Director Jeethu Joseph and producer Antony Perumbavoor joined Mohanlal at the event. In the snaps, Mohanlal was seen holding a clapperboard of the film, followed by the traditional lamp lighting and puja with the cast and crew of the movie. The Dadasaheb Phalke Award-winning actor plays the character of Georgekutty in the 'Drishyam' franchise. The first instalment of the franchise was released in 2013. The 'Drishyam' franchise follows the struggle of Georgekutty and his family, who come under suspicion when the son of the Inspector General (IG) of Police goes missing.

# Convocation ceremony for NDDY diploma holders held at Khalsa College, Mohali

BUREAU MOHALI, APRIL 26

A convocation ceremony for NDDY diploma holders was successfully held at Khalsa College, Mohali, by Arogya Vidya and Naturopathy Institute under the leadership of its Chairman, Dr. M. P. Dogra. The event was attended by several distinguished guests from the fields of healthcare and public service. The Chief Guest, Ram Gopal, DSP, Chandigarh Police, addressed the gathering and highlighted the growing importance of yoga and naturopathy in promoting a healthy lifestyle. He emphasized that these traditional practices play a vital role in reducing stress and preventing lifestyle-related diseases. Guest of Honour Dr. Sachin Gupta, Director (Oncology) at Max Hospital, shared his views on the role of yoga and naturopathy in managing cancer and other chronic illnesses. He noted that an integrated approach combining modern medicine with natural therapies can significantly improve patient outcomes and enhance quality of life. Dr. Puneet Malik, Secretary of the Gandhi Smarak Naturopathy Committee, New Delhi, spoke about the expanding career opportunities and future prospects in the field of naturopathy and yoga. He encouraged graduates to contribute actively to healthcare through natural healing practices. Senior Ayurvedic physician Dr. Rajeew Kapila emphasized the importance of synergy between Ayurveda and naturopathy, stating that a combined approach can lead to more effective and holistic healthcare solutions. The programme was conducted by Ms. Jyotsna Sukhija, who ensured the smooth and engaging flow of the event. The highlight of the ceremony was the conferment of diplomas to the NDDY graduates. The students expressed immense joy and pride in their achievement and pledged to serve society through the principles of naturopathy. The convocation concluded on a note of enthusiasm and commitment, reinforcing the institute's mission to promote holistic health and well-being through yoga and natural medicine.

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