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



**DEVELOPED INDIA'S PATH
PASSES THROUGH
DEVELOPED HIMACHAL:
ANURAG SINGH THAKUR**

PAGE 5

**I DEVOTED MYSELF
WHOLEHEARTEDLY TO
THE DEVELOPMENT OF
AMBALA: VIJ**

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**RAIMA SEN'S 'PHOOL PISHI O
EDWARD' WILL LEAVE YOU GUESSING
TILL THE VERY END**

PAGE 12



NEWS BRIEFS

**Vessel carrying
20,000 tonnes of
LPG reaches
Gujarat**

KANDLA : A vessel carrying 20,000 metric tonnes of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) arrived at Deendayal Port Authority in Kandla in Gujarat after crossing the Strait of Hormuz amid the West Asia crisis, officials said on Sunday. The Marshall Islands-flagged MV SYMI started its journey from Qatar and docked at the port in Kandla around 11.30 pm on Saturday after crossing the Strait of Hormuz on May 13, they added. Since early March, 13 India-flagged vessels, comprising 12 LPG tankers and one crude oil tanker, have crossed the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow waterway close to the coast of Oman through which roughly one-fifth of the world's energy supplies pass.

**Rajasthan BJP
leader found
hanging from
a tree**

JAIPUR : A BJP leader was found hanging from a tree in Rajasthan's Banswara district, police said on Sunday. The deceased was identified as Arjun Singh Maida (47), a district secretary of the BJP and a resident of Junakheda village. According to ASI Ramesh Chand of Dampur police station, an argument reportedly took place between Maida and his wife on Saturday night, after which he left home.

**Hindus officially begin
regular worship at
Bhojshala**

UNI BHOPAL : Members of the Bhoj Utsav Samiti and a large number of Hindu devotees carried the statue of Maa Vagdevi (Goddess Saraswati) on their heads and placed it inside the Bhojshala amidst chanting of prayers at sunrise on Sunday. They initiated the regular worship rituals at the site, which the MP High Court has officially declared to be a Hindu Temple. Before that, the sanctum sanctorum and the entire Bhojshala premises were sanctified with Ganga water and cow urine. After the statue was religiously placed, it was garlanded and also purified. The eternal flame (akhand Jyoti) was also ignited and placed in the sanctum sanctorum. Prayers continued, and the Maha Aarti was conducted at around 11.45 AM. All the events were carried out with fervour and gaiety in response to the MP High Court's decision on Friday, declaring the archaeological monument of Bhojshala in the Dhar district of the state, as the Hindu Temple of Maa Vagdevi.

**'India faces
hypertension crisis as
only 10-12% patients
keep blood pressure
under control'**

UNI NEW DELHI : India is facing a major public health crisis, with nearly 220 million people estimated to be suffering from hypertension, while only 10 to 12 per cent can keep their blood pressure under control, a leading cardiologist has warned. World Hypertension Day is observed every year on May 17, and forms part of Hypertension Awareness Month. Dr Tarun Kumar, a professor and cardiologist at the Medanta- The Medicity Heart Centre in Gurugram, said that more than half of those living with the condition are unaware they have it. Dr Tarun Kumar said an estimated 220 million Indians suffer from hypertension, often described as a "silent killer" because symptoms frequently go unnoticed until serious complications develop. "India can be called the hypertension capital of the world," Kumar said, adding that more than half of people with hypertension remain unaware of their condition.

North India to face severe heat wave, temp may touch 45 deg

**AGENCY
NEW DELHI, MAY 17**

Delhi and several parts of North India are set to face sweltering heat, with temperatures rising by 3 to 5 degrees over the next few days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Sunday.

"Heat wave to severe heat wave conditions likely to prevail over plains of northwest India and central India during many days of the week," the IMD said in a statement.

The MeT Department, presenting a grim outlook, primarily for the plain areas in North, North-Western, as well as Central India, has forecast a 'hot spell' for the entire week, as it says that people in these regions may not see any respite from the heat wave.

Delhi and NCR have already started witnessing the impact of rising temperatures, with mercury rising above normal. On Saturday, Safdarjung, which represents the city's weather, recorded a maximum temperature of 40 degrees Celsius, 0.4 degrees above normal.

The temperature is likely to rise gradually for the entire week in many parts of North-West India, including Rajasthan, Punjab, and Haryana.

"Gradual rise in maximum temperatures by 3-5 degrees Celsius likely



over many parts of Northwest India till May 21 and no significant change during May 22-23," said the IMD on the weather outlook for the next week.

The weather department further said that heat wave conditions are likely to prevail over Rajasthan from May 17 to May 23, while regions of Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi are expected to see a spike in temperature from May 18 to May 23, and Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh are likely to face a heatwave from May 17 to May 21.

Parts of Uttar Pradesh are likely to face a moderate to severe heatwave during the next week, while in the

southern part, Telangana will also face the brunt of the heat.

The IMD has also forecast moderate rains combined with gusty winds and hailstorms in isolated parts of Madhya Pradesh & Vidarbha, and some parts of West India on May 17 and 18.

Many states in the North-East, including Assam & Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura, are likely to face rainfall on May 18 along with lightning and thunderstorms, while heavy rainfall is likely in Arunachal Pradesh around the same period.

India, Netherlands elevate ties to strategic partnership; ink 17 pacts

**AGENCY
THE HAGUE, MAY 17**

Driven by shifting global geopolitics, India and the Netherlands elevated their ties to a strategic partnership and inked 17 agreements to boost cooperation in defence, critical minerals and other key sectors during talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Dutch counterpart Rob Jetten.

In their meeting on Saturday evening, the two prime ministers expressed deep concern over the situation in West Asia, especially its serious implications for the region and beyond in view of disruptions caused to the global energy supplies and trade networks. Modi and Jetten also called for freedom of navigation and global flow of commerce through the Strait of Hormuz, while opposing any "restrictive" measures, and reaffirmed their support for ongoing initiatives in this regard, according to a joint statement.

Modi began his two-day visit to The Hague on Friday as part of four-nation trip to Europe that is aimed at ramping up bilateral ties in a range of key areas.

India and the Netherlands also inked a number of agreements to further enhance their cooperation in a range of areas.

"There has been significant progress in India-Netherlands ties in last one decade,"



Modi said in his televised opening remarks during the talks with Dutch PM Jetten.

Netherlands is one of India's largest trading destinations in Europe, with bilateral trade touching USD 27.8 billion in 2024-25. The European nation is India's fourth largest investor with cumulative foreign direct investment of USD 55.6 billion.

In his remarks, the prime minister said India considers the Netherlands among its most important partners as the historical and people to people relations between the two sides are "deep" rooted.

"Democratic values, market economy and responsible behavior are part of our common approach. Our cooperation in areas of Water, health-care and education has been making the lives of our people better," he said.

Modi also highlighted India's economic growth.

The prime minister suggested that there should be convergence of the Netherlands' expertise and India's "speed and skill" in every sector.

"We need to take our cooperation in areas of innovation, investment, sustainability and defence to new heights. Under this common vision, we are taking India-Netherlands relations to the level of strategic partnership," Modi said.

In his comments, Jetten also highlighted various key aspects of growing ties between the two countries and announced elevating the relations to the level of strategic partnership. PM Modi, along with Jetten, interacted with prominent CEOs of leading Dutch companies across various sectors such as energy, ports, health, agriculture trade, and technology, among others.

NEET-UG 2026 paper leak: Delhi court sends Manisha Mandhare to 14 days CBI custody



NEW DELHI : The Rouse Avenue court in the national capital on Sunday remanded Manisha Mandhare, a botany expert and National Testing Agency (NTA) panellist, to 14 days of CBI custody in connection with the NEET UG Exam Paper leak case. Mandhare allegedly had conspired with other co-accused persons, including Manisha Waghmare and Prahlad Vittal Rao Kulkarni to leak questions and content to students for a substantial monetary gain. The CBI has sought 14 days remand of the accused, Mandhare, to unearth the larger conspiracy and source of the leaked NEET UG 2026 question paper. She was apprehended from a hotel in Mathura. After hearing the submissions of the CBI, Special Judge Colette Rashmi Kujur granted 14 days of police custody of Mandhare to the CBI. She is to be produced before the court on May 30. While granting the custody, the court noted that, allegedly, there is a larger conspiracy angle present in this case, and as per CBI, several other accused persons who are the active members of this syndicate are yet to be identified and arrested, and for this purpose, the custodial interrogation of the accused is sought for 14 days. "Considering the facts and circumstances and nature of the offence and the prayer made in the present application, the application is allowed, and the accused Manisha Gurnath Mandhare is remanded to police custody for 14 days, subject to her medical examination. Let her be produced before the concerned court on 30.05.2026," Special Judge Kujur ordered on May 17.

Fire breaks out in Rajdhani Express near Ratlam; no casualties reported

**AGENCY
RATLAM, MAY 17**

A fire broke out in the B-1 AC coach and rear SLR coach of the Thiruvananthapuram-Hazrat Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express in Madhya Pradesh on Sunday morning, railway officials said. No loss of life or injuries were reported in the incident. Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Saurabh Jain said the incident was reported at around 5:15 am on Train No. 12431 under the Kota division. "This morning at 5.15 AM, a fire incident was reported in Train No. 12431, the Rajdhani Express travelling from Thiruvananthapuram to Nizamuddin, specifically in the rear SLR and B1 coach of the Kota division. Upon noticing the fire,



railway staff promptly evacuated all passengers, separated the affected coach from the rest of the train, and informed the fire brigade, state ad-

ministration, and railway authorities. Immediate action ensured the safety of all passengers," Jain said. Officials said the fire was brought largely under control shortly after emergency teams reached the spot. "The fire has been almost completely controlled. Three fire brigade units, ambulances, and civil administration are on-site, working collaboratively. Railway officials have arrived, and additional coaches are being arranged from Kota. The remaining portion of the train is expected to depart within 30 to 45 minutes, after which track restoration will begin. This incident has caused some regulation of trains in both directions, affecting approximately 5 to 6 trains.

'Why no action against Education Minister?' Rahul Gandhi renews attack on Modi govt

UNI NEW DELHI : Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday stepped up his attack on the Narendra Modi government over repeated paper leaks in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test, questioning the Prime Minister's silence and demanding the sacking of the education minister. Posting on his WhatsApp channel, Gandhi drew a direct comparison between the handling of NEET 2024 and NEET 2026, both marred by allegations of question paper leaks. "NEET 2024: The paper was leaked. The exam was not cancelled. The minister did not resign. The CBI launched an investigation. A committee was formed," Gandhi wrote. "NEET 2026: The paper was leaked again. The exam

was cancelled. Yet again, the minister did not resign. The CBI is once again investigating. Another committee will now be formed. "He followed the post with three direct questions to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Modi ji, the country is asking you some questions — answer them! Why are paper leaks happening repeatedly? Why do you remain silent every time this 'discussion on exams' comes up? And why are you not dismissing the Education Minister despite repeated failures?" he asked. Gandhi ended the message with the hashtag #SackPradhan, referring to union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. The post comes amid fresh controversy around NEET 2026, conducted earlier this month, which was cancelled after reports of a wide-spread paper leak surfaced in several states.

Chair and study centre in the name of Maharana Pratap to be established at KU: CM Saini



**BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, MAY 17**

Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini announced that a Study Centre and a Chair in the name of Maharana Pratap will be established at Kurukshetra University. Besides this, the name of the Government Women's College located at Baragadh in Shahzadpur will be changed to Maharani Padmavati Government College.

The Chief Minister made these announcements on Sunday at the state-level function organized at Shahzadpur in Ambala under the "Sant Mahapurush Samman Evam Vichar Prasara Yojana" on the occasion of Maharana Pratap Jayanti. He also announced Rs. 5 crore for various development works in the Naraingarh Assembly constituency, Rs. 31 lakh for the

construction work of the Rajput Hostel and construction of a pucca drain in Shahzadpur. Earlier, the Chief Minister also unveiled the renovated statue of Maharana Pratap. Governor of Mizoram General (Dr.) Vijay Kumar Singh specially attended the function.

Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that Maharana Pratap was such a great warrior that merely taking his name fills every heart with a wave of patriotism. He said Maharana Pratap was born in the Rajput community at a time when Indian society was overshadowed by injustice and oppression and efforts were being made to destroy our glorious culture and hurt religious sentiments. He inherited bravery and valour from Maharana Kumbha and Rana Sanga and after assuming power in Mewar.

Haryana speeds up census 2027 operations; Several districts achieve 100% commencement

**YUGMARG BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, MAY 17**

Haryana has recorded significant progress in the ongoing Census 2027 Houselisting and Housing Census (HLO) exercise, with houselisting activities already initiated in the vast majority of areas across the state. Haryana Chief Secretary Sh. Anurag Rastogi today held a comprehensive review meeting through video conference with Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Municipal Commissioners, District Education Officers and other senior officials to assess the pace of implementation and preparedness for timely completion of the nationwide exercise.



During the meeting, the Chief Secretary directed all officers to accord top priority to the census exercise and ensure that the work is carried out with full dedication, accountability and efficiency. He stated that

the Census serves as a vital foundation for policy formulation, development planning, resource allocation and implementation of welfare schemes, making its successful execution extremely important for gov-

ernance and public administration. He said any employee found neglecting or failing to cooperate in the census duty would face strict disciplinary action.

Director of Census Operations, Haryana, Dr. Lalit Jain informed that work has commenced in more than 97 per cent of the total Houselisting Blocks (HLBs) across Haryana. Several districts, including Yamuna Nagar, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Karnal, Fatehabad, Hansi, Charkhi Dadri and Faridabad, have achieved 100 per cent commencement of houselisting activities, demonstrating the efficiency and commitment of district administrations, enumerators and supervisory staff.

Amit Shah inaugurates newly built milk processing plant of Madhur Dairy at Dashela

GANDHINAGAR : Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Sunday inaugurated the newly built milk processing plant of Madhur Dairy at Dashela in Gandhinagar. Speaking on the occasion, Shah stated that the fully automatic milk processing plant, built on 15 acres of land at a cost of Rs. 128 crores, would become a key driver of economic progress for livestock farmers.

NEWS BRIEF

Pradeep Goswami Appointed Karnal Youth President



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, MAY 17: Pradeep Goswami has been appointed as the District President of the Youth Wing for Karnal during a programme organised at the Brahmin Dharamshala. The event was held under the leadership of Amit Sharma Udana and Vice President Shera Salwan, where appointments were announced for various districts and constituencies across Haryana.

Gripen fighter jets escort PM Narendra Modi into Sweden as he lands in Gothenburg for high-stakes bilateral talks

AGENCY GOTHEMBERG : Touching down for the high-stakes third leg of his five-nation European tour, PM Narendra Modi has landed in Gothenburg, where he was accorded a warm welcome by Swedish PM Ulf Kristersson at the airport.



Signalling the deep geopolitical significance of the state visit, Swedish Gripen fighter jets escorted PM Narendra Modi's plane as it entered Swedish airspace. Stepping onto Swedish soil, PM Modi carried the momentum of back-to-back diplomatic triumphs, having just wrapped up a series of high-stakes engagements in the United Arab Emirates and the Netherlands.

noted, "Prime Minister had earlier visited Sweden in 2018 for the first-ever India-Nordic Summit." During the intensive visit, Prime Minister Modi will hold bilateral talks with Prime Minister Kristersson to review the full spectrum of India-Sweden relations and identify new opportunities for cooperation in key sectors.

The MEA stated that the leaders will "explore new avenues of cooperation to enhance bilateral trade, which has reached \$7.75 billion (2025), and Swedish FDI into India, which has reached \$2.825 billion (2000-2025)." Beyond traditional commerce, the upcoming prime ministerial deliberations are expected to focus on collaboration in green transition, artificial intelligence, emerging technologies, start-ups, resilient supply chains, defence manufacturing, space cooperation, climate action, and strengthening people-to-people ties.

Rajasthan CM holds meeting with tribal groups over welfare schemes, partnership



AGENCY JAIPUR: Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma on Sunday engaged in a dialogue with members of the de-notified tribes, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic tribal communities. These included the Gadariya, Gayari, Dhangar, Pal, and Baghel groups. Discussions were held regarding budget allocations for the welfare of these communities, as well as a partnership for the 'Kishore Sanstha.' A delegation representing the communities expressed their

gratitude to Chief Minister Sharma. During the event, the Chief Minister also presided over the 301st birth anniversary celebrations of Devi Ahilyabai Holkar—revered as 'Lok Mata' (Mother of the People), where a calendar of cultural programs to be held across the state was unveiled. The event was attended by numerous community representatives, including Durmantu Kumar Baghel, the State President of the De-notified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic tribal communities.

Empower Wheelchair Cricket Triangular Series 2026 Concludes

R N KHERA CHANDIGARH: Empower Wheelchair Cricket Triangular Series 2026 concluded with the final being played between Uttar Pradesh(UP) and Madhya Pradesh(MP) at Government Model Senior Secondary School- Sec26's, ground today. The triangular series was played between three teams - Chandigarh, Madhya Pradesh(MP) and Uttar Pradesh(UP). In the final UP defeated MP to lift the trophy.



Society, and the National Association for the Blind, Chandigarh. In the final between UP & MP, MP won the toss and elected to bowl. UP put up a formidable target of 168/3 in 10 overs on the board. Amit Bind remained unbeaten with a score of 54*(22) and Jaydev Yadav scored 48 runs

off just 20 balls. For MP, Kabir Singh and Arwinder Singh took one (1) wicket each. In reply UP's bowling attack contained MP batsmen to just 89/1 in 10 overs. Resultantly UP won the match by a huge margin of 79 runs. Jaydev Yadav took one wicket for UP. Jaydev Yadav was declared Man of the Match.

Ruchi Pradhan Datta Becomes First Woman Headmaster of Sanawar



CHANDIGARH: The Lawrence School, Sanawar has appointed Ruchi Pradhan Datta as its new Headmaster with effect from May 1, 2026, making her the first woman to lead the institution in its more than 175-year history. Datta brings over 25 years of experience in the education sector and has held leadership positions at several reputed institutions across the country. An alumna of La Martiniere Girls' College and Isabella Thoburn College, she has previously served at institutions including The Bishop's School, Rashtriya Indian Military College, The Lawrence School, Lovedale and The Asian School, where she served as Principal for the past six years.

Panchkula Run Club concludes 30-Day "Beat Your Doubts" Fitness Challenge



PANCHKULA: Panchkula Run Club (PRC) successfully concluded its inspiring 30-Day "Beat Your Doubts" Fitness Challenge with an energetic closing session held on Sunday morning at Sector 5, Panchkula. Nearly 120

fitness enthusiasts gathered to mark the culmination of the month-long initiative that promoted discipline, consistency and healthy living among youth and fitness lovers. Participants who successfully completed the required

26 days of activity were awarded Finisher Medals in recognition of their dedication and consistency throughout the challenge. The challenge, which began on April 18, received an overwhelming response with around 225 participants registering from different parts of the country while 110 completed the challenge. Designed with the objective of encouraging people to adopt fitness as a daily lifestyle habit, the challenge required participants to dedicate at least 45 minutes every day to any physical activity of their choice and log their progress virtually through the Strava app.

Smart Dental Habits Essential for Healthy Teeth and Better Lifestyle: Dr. Harshit

NEERAJ SHARMA CHANDIGARH: Dr. Harshit (BDS) emphasized the importance of maintaining proper oral hygiene and adopting smart dental habits for healthy teeth, strong gums, and overall well-being. She stated that due to unhealthy lifestyles, excessive sugar consumption, junk food, smoking, and negligence towards oral care, dental problems are rapidly increasing among people of all age groups.



and plaque. She also highlighted the importance of flossing and regular cleaning between teeth, as food particles often remain trapped in areas where toothbrushes cannot reach properly. Dr. Harshit further said that frequent consumption of sugary foods, cold drinks, and tobacco products can severely damage teeth and gums. She encouraged people to follow a balanced diet, drink sufficient water, and include calcium-rich foods in their daily routine to maintain

stronger teeth and healthier gums. She also stressed the importance of routine dental check-ups, stating that regular dental examinations help in identifying oral problems at an early stage and prevent major complications in the future. According to her, many severe dental diseases can be avoided through awareness and timely treatment. Appealing to parents, Dr. Harshit said that children should be taught good dental habits from an early age so that oral hygiene becomes a part of their daily lifestyle. She added that spreading awareness about dental care can greatly help in reducing preventable oral diseases in society. Concluding her message, Dr. Harshit stated that a healthy smile reflects confidence, discipline, and a healthy lifestyle. She encouraged everyone to prioritize oral hygiene and adopt smart dental habits for a healthier and happier life.

CLASSIFIED

Public notices and classified advertisements including name changes, lost documents, and legal declarations. Examples include: I, Kulvir Singh S/o Baldev Singh R/o #553 Gahir Estate W.No.10 Near Panna Banoi Road Sunam Distt. Sangrur have changed my name to Kulbir Singh. 63372

CONTACT For any Advertisement query 0172-5002721

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PANCHKULA: Residents are advised to remain cautious, especially senior citizens and persons living alone. Residents are requested to stay cautious. Certain persons dressed as "sadhus" are approaching people near temples and parks, offering blessings and asking for tea/water to gain entry into houses. During interaction at your house, they hypnotize people which further make them feel weak or dizzy and then lure the elderly people to take their money and valuable items. Reportedly, 2 such incidents have taken place in Sector 4 in the last 3 days. Please do not approach these persons anywhere and do not allow these unknown persons to come inside your house and immediately report any suspicious activity to the police. The vehicles used by these people are 1. White Bolero UP25-CO-0314, 2. Grey Erliga UK08-BL-7546 (Courtesy Dhanpat Singh IAS (RETIRED))

NEWS BRIEFS

Ludhiana vigilance SSP releases toll-free number for public help



SARABJIT SUFFI LUDHIANA: Sukhminder Singh, founder of Voice of Asians and Asian Club International, and Ashok Dhir, senior patron, visited the Vigilance Bureau office yesterday to meet with Sardar Varinder Singh Brar, SSP of the Ludhiana Vigilance Bureau. During this cordial meeting, Sukhminder Singh and Ashok Dhir honored Brar by presenting him with a beautiful plant and a bouquet of flowers. Ashok Dhir and Sukhminder Singh urged SSP Brar to share the public number of the Anti-Corruption Cell to raise public awareness. SSP Brar, agreeing to the request, urged the public to report any corrupt officer on 95012-00 200. The complaint will be thoroughly investigated and the complainant will be called to the Vigilance Bureau to provide a statement so that action can be taken against the corrupt officer.

Chandigarh Police arrests alleged drug trafficker

SHASHI PAL JAIN CHANDIGARH, MAY 17

Continuing its special drive against drug traffickers, the Chandigarh Police achieved a significant breakthrough by arresting one accused in a case registered under the NDPS Act and recovering narcotic substances from his possession.

According to the official press release issued by the police department, the operation was carried out under the directions of Kanwardeep Kaur, W/SSP/UT Chandigarh, under the close guidance of K.M Priyanka, W/SP/City Chandigarh, and under the supervision of Gurjeet Kaur, DSP SDPO/South. A police team from Police Station Sector-49 Chandigarh led by Inspector Sher Singh, SHO/PS-49, arrested the accused identified as Deepak Kumar, son of Gaya Parsad, resident of Village Jagatpura, District Mohali, Punjab.

Police stated that a total of 06.62 grams of mixed heroin and methaqua-



lone was recovered from the accused during the operation. Patrol Team Apprehended Suspect on Suspicion As per police officials, FIR No. 38 dat-

ed 16.05.2026 under Sections 21 and 22 of the NDPS Act was registered at Police Station Sector-49, Chandigarh on the complaint of SI Kiran Pal.

The incident took place around 10:05 PM near Small Chowk, Motor Market, Sector 48, Chandigarh, when the police team was conducting routine patrolling and crime prevention duty in the area. During the patrol, the accused allegedly attempted to turn back and walk away hurriedly after spotting the police party, raising suspicion among the officers.

The police team immediately apprehended the suspect and conducted a personal search, during which the narcotic substance was allegedly recovered. The accused reportedly failed to produce any valid permit or licence for possessing the contraband.

Police officials confirmed that the recovered narcotic substance has been seized through proper legal procedure and deposited in the police station malkhana. Further investigation in the case is currently underway.

MCM celebrates Himachali heritage and honours NSS volunteers

NEERAJ SHARMA CHANDIGARH, MAY 17

World Himachali Organisation organised its first annual cultural festival, 'Nyunder 2026', at Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women. Marking the first anniversary celebrations of the organisation, the event showcased the rich cultural heritage of Himachal Pradesh while recognising the dedicated service of 50 NSS volunteers from various schools and colleges of Chandigarh for their hard work, dedication and community service by Sh. Anurag Thakur, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha and Former Union Minister, Government of India. The event was attended by Rajya Sabha Members of Parliament Sh. Sikandar Kumar and Sh. Anurag Sharma, along with Sh. Ravji Bhardwaj, Member of Parliament, Kangra-Chamba, Dr. Anoop Kumar Vats, National Coordinator (Colleges), DAV College Managing Committee, New Delhi, graced the event as the Special Guest, who appreciated the initiative for honouring NSS volunteers while simultaneously preserving and promoting cultural traditions among the youth. Dean, Cultural Affairs at the college, Dr. Sukhpreet Bhatia, was also felicitated for her exemplary contribution towards promoting



cultural activities and nurturing artistic talent in the college. Adding vibrancy to the celebrations, renowned Himachali folk singer Karnail Rana enthralled the audience with a mesmerising cultural performance. Traditional Naati performances further highlighted the colourful folk heritage and cultural ethos of Himachal Pradesh. The event concluded with a traditional Himachali Dham, offering guests an authentic experience of Himachali cuisine and hospitality.

Officiating Principal Ms. Neena Sharma commended the organisers for successfully hosting the cultural extravaganza and for recognising the invaluable contribution of NSS volunteers. She appreciated the event for fostering cultural harmony, social responsibility and meaningful community engagement among the youth.

Snatching attempt near Maqsudan police station caught on CCTV, sparks safety concerns in Jalandhar

JS SODHI JALANDHAR, MAY 17

The rising incidents of robbery and theft in Jalandhar have once again raised serious concerns among residents after a fresh snatching attempt was reported from Ward Number 84, located barely 600 meters from the Maqsudan Police Station.

The incident took place in broad daylight near the Maqsudan Forest Department area, where two motorcycle-borne youths allegedly attempted to snatch a mobile phone from a woman. However, the accused failed in their attempt and fled the spot.

The entire incident was captured on a nearby CCTV camera. In the footage, one of the accused can be seen chasing the woman while trying to snatch her mobile phone. The woman, accompanied by

her young children, is seen screaming for help and running along the road to protect herself and her children.

again highlighted growing concerns over law and order in the city, as cases of theft and snatching continue to rise.



After receiving information, police reached the spot and initiated further investigation into the matter. The incident has once

Residents have urged the police administration to take strict measures to control such crimes and ensure the safety and security of citizens.

Goldsmith Community Punjab urges reconsideration of appeal not to buy gold

VERMA GURDASPUR:

The representatives of Swarnkar Samaj Punjab (Regd.), including founder Ashok Verma, Senior Advisor Gurmeh Singh Bathinda, President Hemraj Verma, State General Secretary Amrit Verma, and State Media In-charge Pawan Verma, jointly stated in a press release that the Prime Minister's appeal asking people not to buy gold for one year needs serious reconsideration. They said that till date no concrete steps have been taken for the safety and welfare of goldsmiths, while incidents of robbery, snatching, and theft continue to increase. The organization questioned whether the Central Government should introduce a proper compensation



appointment policy and financial support system for affected goldsmith families so that the dependents of victims can sustain their livelihood. The leaders further stated that such an appeal could adversely affect the livelihood of thousands of goldsmiths, artisans, and small traders connected with the jewellery industry. Meanwhile, Akhil Bhartiya Swarnkar Sangh National President Kashmir Singh Rajput, National Advisor Ashok Verma, National Senior Vice Presidents Pragat Singh

Dhanna and Kulwant Singh Chauhan, National Treasurer Ramesh Verma, National Vice President Ashok Luthra, and State President Ashwini Nimeshah jointly appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to reconsider the statement regarding not purchasing gold for one year. The leaders recalled that former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had also made a similar appeal on June 5, 1967, urging citizens not to buy or use gold in the interest of national discipline and economic stability.

State-level special meeting regarding Shaheedi Jor Mela at Damdami Taksal on 20

AMRIK SINGH CHOWK MEHTA:

Like every year, this time too, a grand Shaheedi Jor Mela dedicated to the 42nd martyrdom anniversary of all the martyrs of the third Ghallughara of June 1984 is being celebrated at an international level by Damdami Taksal. A special state-level meeting has been called at the headquarters of Gurudwara Gur Darshan Prakash Mehta on May 20 at 11:30 am to discuss the preparations and various arrangements required for this great martyrdom event being held from June 1 to 6. The gathering will be under the chairmanship of Damdami Taksal Chief Sant Giani Hamam Singh Khalsa, in which various religious sects, Panthic organizations, Seva Committees, Taksal students, preachers and a large number of Sangats have been invited to participate. These martyrdom events have started from May 1 and the flow of Shabad Kirtan and Kalha is going on continuously in various cities. The Shaheed Week will begin at Damdami Taksal Mehta from June 1, during which daily evening events will be held, after which the main and grand martyrdom event will be held on June 6 to pay tribute to the martyrs.



Gurwinder Singh Dhillon's efforts bear fruit: 'Fatehgarh Sahib' now correctly written on Chandigarh-Sirhind Road

AJAY MALHOTRA FATEHGARH SAHIB:

In a significant development, the long-standing demand raised by Chairman of Market Committee Sirhind-Fatehgarh Sahib Gurwinder Singh Dhillon, has finally been fulfilled. Under the Bharatmala Project, during the construction of the Chandigarh-Sirhind road, the name of the historic district Fatehgarh Sahi was mistakenly written as only "Fatehgarh" on an official signboard installed by the Central Government and concerned departments. Dhillon was the first to strongly object to this error, calling it a matter of deep religious and historical sensitivity. Dhillon emphasized that the site is profoundly sacred, being associated with the martyrdom of the younger Sahibzadas of Sahib Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, and therefore the full and correct name "Fatehgarh Sahib" must be written everywhere without compromise. Acting promptly, he wrote to the officials of the concerned department demanding immediate rectification of the error. He further escalated the issue through Chief Minister Punjab S. Bhagwant Singh Mann to Nitin Gadkari last month, urging the Central Government to take corrective action. Responding seriously to the concern, the department has now corrected the signboard installed near village Jhanjeri on the Landran-Sirhind road, where the name has been updated to "Fatehgarh Sahib" in its complete and rightful form. Expressing gratitude to the Punjab and Central Governments, Dhillon said that preserving the honour of a district named after the supreme sacrifices of martyrs is the duty of every Punjabi.



10 students who made it to the merit list in the 12th results honored



SURINDER DAMDAMI KOTKAPURA: During the felicitation ceremony organized by the Good Morning Welfare Club for 10 talented and bright children who aspire to reach high positions through civil services examinations like IAS, PCS, IPS, Engineer, Doctor, Lawyer, Judge etc., Dr. Manjit Singh Dhillon said that it is natural for the children of the new age to get inspiration from the achievement of these talented children in registering their names in the merit list in the 12th class results across the district. Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan's PRO Manpreet Singh Mani Dhalliwal along with project incharges Prof. H. S. Padam, Mukhtiar Singh Matta and Master Somnath Arora said that 9 girls and one boy have registered their names in the merit list, due to which the name of Faridkot district has become famous all over Punjab. He said that the maximum number of girls i.e. 6 out of 10 girls are students of Dreamland Public School Kolkapura. Finance Secretary Superintendent Jaskaran Singh Bhatti, while addressing the bright children and their accompanying family members, said that along with becoming great officers, it is also very important to become good human beings, that is, good citizens, only then can we hope to create a healthy society and a healthy Punjab.

Cricket Association Pathankot to conduct senior men's multi-day tournament trials on May 19

VERMA GURDASPUR: The Cricket Association Pathankot has announced trials for the Senior Men's Multi-Day Tournament, which will be conducted on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at Kuthar Cricket Ground, Pathankot. The reporting time for all players has been fixed at 10:00 AM. Sharing details regarding the trials, Secretary Sunny Mahajan stated that the association remains committed to providing a strong platform for talented cricketers of the region to showcase their skills and represent the district in competitive cricket at higher levels. He further informed that preference would be given to local players during the selection process. Mr. Mahajan appealed to all emerging senior cricketers of the district to participate in the trials with full preparation and sportsmanship. He added that the association has been continuously organizing professional tournaments, coaching opportunities, and selection camps to promote and develop cricket in Pathankot. The selected players will get an opportunity to represent Pathankot in upcoming Senior Multi-Day Cricket Tournaments and further strengthen the district's presence in Punjab cricket. The association also encouraged young cricketers to make the best use of this opportunity and demonstrate their talent before the selectors.



Vegetarian rally held from Katra Moti Ram



HARPAL SINGH AMRITSAR : To encourage people to adopt vegetarianism and spread the message of love, compassion, and kindness towards animals and birds, Dhyani Punjab Organization organized a Vegetarian Rally in Amritsar on 16 May. The organizers of the rally, Urvasi and Dr. Harjinder Kaur, informed that the rally was held from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM on 16 May. The rally started from Hathi Gate (Katra Moti Ram) and proceeded up to Ram Bagh Gate. They stated that in the present times, it is extremely important to spread the message of compassion, kindness, and non-violence towards living beings. Through this rally, people were encouraged to adopt vegetarianism, follow the path of non-violence, and come forward for the welfare of humanity. Urvasi further said that saints, great spiritual leaders, and reformers have always given the message of showing mercy towards living beings and following the path of non-violence.

Krishan Wadhwa leads Congress' aggressive door-to-door campaign in Bassi Pathana

AJAY MALHOTRA FATEHGARH SAHIB:

The political atmosphere in Bassi Pathana has heated up as the Municipal Council elections approach, and at the centre of this momentum stands Krishan Wadhwa, the newly appointed City President of the Indian National Congress. Despite taking charge only recently, Wadhwa has surprised party workers and opponents alike with his rapid mobilisation and highly active campaigning. Making the Congress victory in these civic polls his top priority, Wadhwa has launched an intense door-to-door outreach. Braving the rising temperatures, he can be seen visiting households across all wards, listening to people's grievances, discussing civic challenges, and assuring residents of more accountable and responsive governance under Congress. His hands-on approach has not only strengthened grassroots connections but also boosted the morale of local Congress cadres. During interactions on the campaign trail, Wadhwa asserted that the Municipal Council elections are not just routine polls but the first step towards a larger political roadmap leading to the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections. Expressing confidence, he said, "The Congress Party is regaining its ground. The public's growing support clearly indicates that Punjab is heading towards a Congress-led government in 2027." Reiterating the party's long-standing commitment, he said Congress has always stood firmly with the poor, labourers, and marginalized sections. His proactive style has particularly energized the youth, who are now joining the campaign in greater numbers.



Dr Anshu Kataria, President PUCA, Chairman Aryans honours winners of Employee Cricket league 2026 at Sec 16 Stadium

SHASHI PAL JAIN CHANDIGARH:

Grand Finale of Employees Cricket League 2026 (ECL-3) Concludes with a thrilling clash between PSCC and BRD Eleven (Airforce) at Cricket Stadium, Sector 16, Chandigarh. Organized and hosted by the Punjab Secretariat Cricket Club (Regd.), Chandigarh, the tournament brought together 26 teams from various government departments and PSUs. The final match, which began at 12:00 Noon onwards, witnessed a packed stadium with enthusiastic supporters from both sides. In a low scoring contest, BRD Eleven chased a target of 107 in 19th over by 6 wickets emerged victorious by 5 wickets and lifted the trophy after a dominant performance. Amit Yadav from BRD Eleven for scoring 47 not out was awarded Player of the Match. Aminder from PSCC was awarded as Fighter of the Match for his steady inning under pressure. Kamal Chamkaur was judged Player of the Tournament for his all round performance with bat and ball during the league. The closing ceremony was graced by Sanjay Tandon, Former President UTCA, Anshu Kataria, President, Punjab Unaided Colleges Association (PUCA) & Chairman, Aryans Group of Colleges, Subhash Sharma, Vice Chairman, Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board, Salish Chander, PCS and Janak Singh, Patron. Apart from these, representatives of various employees unions Sukhchain Khaira, Sushil Kumar Fauji and Manjeet Singh Randhawa also graced the occasion with their presence.



Need to take special care of health during the scorching heat: Dr. Preetinder Pal Singh Bhinder

SHARANJEET PATHANKOT:

The daily routine of the people is being affected due to the continuously increasing scorching heat in the area. Spine surgeon Dr. Preetinder Pal Singh Bhinder appealed to the people to be careful and said that even a little carelessness in this season can prove to be dangerous for health. He said that cases of heat-stroke and dehydration are increasing rapidly, so one should not step out of the house unnecessarily during the afternoon. While going out, one should cover the head with a hat or cloth and consume water, lemon water, juice and other fluids in large quantities. Dr. Bhinder said that due to lack of water in the body, problems like dizziness, weakness, fever and vomiting can occur. If such symptoms appear, immediate medical advice should be sought. He also appealed to take special care of children and the elderly.



16th Murti Sthapana Divas celebrated with devotion at Prachin Shiv Mandir, Mohali

LK BANSAL MOHALI:

Special puja, havan, and community langar mark the annual celebrations Prachin Shiv Mandir, a historic temple in Sector 69 Mohali, today celebrated Murti Sthapana Divas with great fervor and devotion. The temple, spread over one Kanal of land and home to multiple shrines including a 200-year-old Shiv Pindi, has been a spiritual center for devotees for generations. Prachin Shiv Mandir continues to be a beacon of faith, drawing devotees especially on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Saturdays. The weekly Maha Aarti at the Hanuman temple every Tuesday has also become a cherished tradition for the community for residents of sector 69 and neighbouring sectors. The day's celebrations began with a special puja and havan in the morning, attended by devotees. This was followed by Kirtan and a community langar from 12:30 PM onwards, which saw participation from more than 400 devotees. General Secretary Shri Sham Kumar told, "Ever since the new committee has taken charge, the number of devotees visiting the temple has steadily increased. Alongside fulfilling our religious obligations, we also undertake charitable initiatives to support the needy. Today's function was beautifully organized, and we are grateful for the overwhelming community participation." He further added, "Temple renovation work is progressing smoothly, and we are receiving wholehearted cooperation from all sections of society."



CHARANJIT SINGH ARORA
AMRITSAR: Amritpal Singh joined the Shiromani Committee in 2009 as a security staff employee. Later, the then Secretary Dilmegh Singh transferred him to the Information Centre. After Jaswinder Singh Jassi was first appointed Deputy Secretary and later Additional Secretary of the Shiromani



Committee, the post of Chief Information Officer had become

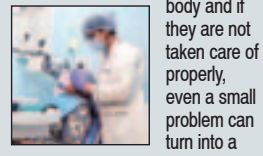
vacant. Today, Advocate Dhama entrusted this responsibility to Amritpal Singh. Amritpal Singh has completed his M.A. degree and also holds a Diploma in French Language from Guru Nanak Dev University. So far, he has provided information about the history of Sri Darbar Sahib, Sikh history, Sikh traditions.

NEWS BRIEF

Along with cleanliness, balanced diet is also essential for dental care:

Dr. Manpreet Kaur

SHARANJEET PATHANKOT: Due to today's changing lifestyle and the growing trend of fast food, dental diseases are continuously increasing. These things were expressed by Dr. Manpreet Kaur, a renowned dentist of MK Dentist Clinic located on Abrol Nagar Road. He said that teeth are an important part of the

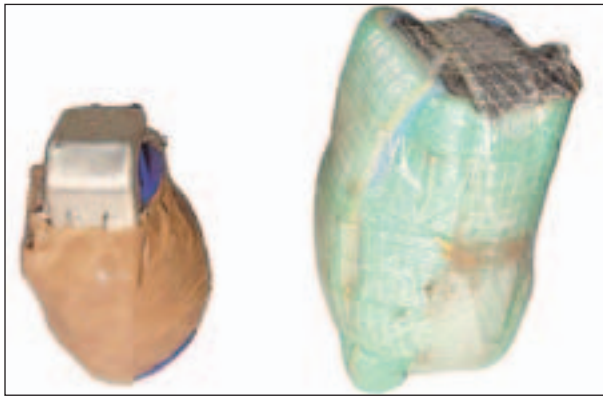


body and if they are not taken care of properly, even a small problem can turn into a major illness. Dr. Manpreet Kaur said that many people ignore toothache or bleeding gums as normal, which makes the problem more serious. She said that brushing at least twice a day, gargling after meals and avoiding excessive consumption of sweets are very important for dental health. He said that parents should pay special attention to the care of children's teeth.

Three involved in Gurdaspur grenade throw case held; one more grenade recovered

VERMA GURDASPUR, MAY 17

In a major breakthrough amidst the ongoing drive to make Punjab a safe and secure state, Gurdaspur Police in coordination with Counter Intelligence (CI) Punjab solved the Grenade throw case with the arrest of three accused persons and recovered one more hand grenade from their possession, said Director Punjab Gaurav Yadav here on Sunday. Those arrested have been identified as Amarjit Singh alias Billa, a resident of Ganesh Nagar, Rama Mandi in Jalandhar; Karanjit Singh alias Karan, a resident of Tarapur in Amritsar; and Satnam Singh, a resident of village Boparai in Amritsar. As per the



information, an unexploded hand grenade was found near a shop situated at Geeta Bhawan Road in Gurdaspur on April 27, 2026. Following successful defusal by the Bomb Squad, the grenade was secured by the Police. DGP

Gaurav Yadav said that following extensive probe into the case, police have identified the accused involved in hurling the hand grenade near the shop premises. During investigation, another hand grenade was also recovered

from the residence of arrested accused Amarjit Singh alias Billa, he said. The DGP said that preliminary investigation has revealed that the accused were acting on the directions of a foreign-based handler and had received two hand grenades from the handler. Sharing operational details, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Gurdaspur Aditya said that acting swiftly after the incident, multiple teams were constituted to work on the case. With the help of CCTV footage, human intelligence, and technical analysis, two suspects on a Pulsar motorcycle were seen hurling a grenade near Ashoka Chips, he said, while adding that through intensive search, three accused persons were arrested.

Punjab Governor raises awareness at Sahkar Bharti Punjab seminar

TAPINDER SINGH/RAKESH JINDAL PATIALA, MAY 17

Punjab Governor Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, while attending the Sahkar Bharti Punjab Awareness Seminar as the chief guest today, described the cooperative movement as an important pillar for rural development and social empowerment. Addressing the gathering, the Governor said that Sahkar Bharti is a very old and strong organization established in 1979, and since then it has been continuously working for the welfare of villages and the common people. The Governor said that the spirit of cooperation connects people through brotherhood, mutual support, and dedication. He stated that the principle of "Sanskar to Sahkar" plays a vital role in strengthening society. When good values are nurtured in society, people



willingly come forward to help one another, which further strengthens the spirit of cooperation. He said that the cooperative sector has made its greatest contribution in the fields of agriculture and dairy farming. Cooperative institutions have played an important role in providing farmers with fertilizers, seeds, and other essential facilities. In the dairy sector as well, cooperatives have helped rural people become self-

reliant. He added that strengthening the cooperative sector further could greatly benefit the rural economy. Praising Punjabis, the Governor said that their bravery, dedication, and hard work are an inspiration to the entire nation. He stated that Punjab is the food bowl of the country and that the farmers of the state have made immense contributions toward ensuring the nation's food security.

Yoga & meditation session conducted at Shivalika Kids School, Jaito



RAGHU NANDAN PRASHAR JAITO: Shivalika Kids School Jaito organized a refreshing and meaningful Yoga and Meditation Session for students under the guidance of Ms. Neelam. The session was conducted with great enthusiasm and active participation from both students and staff members. The main objective of the activity was to promote physical fitness, mental peace, concentration, and healthy lifestyle habits among children from an early age. During the session, students performed various yoga asanas, breathing exercises, and meditation techniques in a calm and disciplined environment. Students participated wholeheartedly and enjoyed learning different postures that help improve flexibility, focus, and emotional balance. Teachers and staff members also joined the session, making it a motivating and inspiring experience for the students.

Pro-People Policies drive 50 families in Dhuri to join AAP



SUMER GARG DHURI: In a significant boost to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Dhuri, around 50 families from Wards No. 2 and 3 joined the party on Saturday. OSD to Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, Sukhveer Singh, along with Chairman of the Punjab Small Industries and Export Corporation, Dalvir Singh Dhillon, formally welcomed the new members into the party fold. Welcoming the families, the leaders said that AAP's pro-people policies and development-driven governance have been drawing widespread public support, with more and more people joining the party across the region. They assured the new entrants of full respect and representation, and emphasized that collective efforts would be made to transform Dhuri into a model city. On the occasion, under the leadership of OSD Sukhveer Singh, Ward No. 2 residents Adesh Kumar (Kaka) and Ram Kumar (Rama), along with their supporters, joined the party and pledged to work actively for strengthening the organisation. Expressing gratitude, party leaders thanked all the newly inducted families and said their support would further accelerate development works and strengthen the party at the grassroots level in Dhuri.

Massive search operation conducted by 150 police personnel across district, including Jaito

RAGHU NANDAN PRASHAR JAITO, MAY 17

To eradicate drugs from Punjab, the Punjab government has launched a campaign titled 'War Against Drugs' (Nashe Ke Khilaf Jang). Under this initiative, and in accordance with the directives of Punjab DGP Gaurav Yadav, drug traffickers and locations associated with drug sales are being identified across the entire state of Punjab. Continuing this effort, the Faridkot Police—under the leadership of SSP Dr. Pragna Jain—conducted a large-scale 'Cordon and Search Operation' (CASO) across the district, targeting drug hotspots and sensitive areas. This operation was executed simultaneously across all three sub-divisions of Faridkot district: Faridkot,



Kotkapura, and Jaito. The search operation was supervised by Faridkot's SP (Operations), Manwinder Bir Singh. During the operation, officers of DSP rank were instructed to personally oversee the campaign within their respective sub-divisions. Providing details regarding this initiative, Faridkot SSP Dr. Pragna Jain stated that, in compliance with the directives of the Honorable DGP of Punjab, Gaurav Yadav, rigorous and continuous

action is being taken to root out drug addiction; the search operation conducted by the Faridkot Police is an integral part of these ongoing efforts. During this operation, special teams comprising approximately 150 police personnel were formed under the supervision of DSP-rank officers; these teams conducted surprise raids to search the suspected hideouts of various drug traffickers. She further added that, during this exercise,

police teams specifically raided and searched the premises of individuals against whom cases have been registered under the NDPS Act and those possessing a criminal record. During this operation, suspicious individuals were screened, and vehicles were searched based on suspicion. Additionally, the entire area was cordoned off, all entry and exit points were sealed, and suspicious individuals were taken into custody for interrogation. SSP Dr. Pragna Jain further clarified that police officials have been directed to conduct a thorough investigation into the "backward and forward linkages" of all cases registered under the NDPS Act, and to take strict action against those involved in drug trafficking.

Farmer's house will not be auctioned: Rampal Sharma



GURMAIL SINGH SANGATPURA LEHRAGAGA: "Bharti Kisan Union Ekta Malwai will not allow the land or house of any farmer to be auctioned, even if our organization has to make any sacrifice to stop it." This was said by BKU Ekta Malwai state leader Rampal Sharma Sunam in a press note issued to the media. He said that some finance companies and banks are trying to evict farmers from their houses by using unfair policies and auctioning their houses, but the organization will never allow their such intentions to succeed. Leader Sharma further said that the house of Sukhbir Singh, son of Rajwinder Singh of Kartarpur, located on Haredi Road, has been given an auction notice by the 'AU Finance' company for May 19. He further said that our organization is also ready to help the house owner in paying the dues of AU Finance under the OTS (One Time Settlement) scheme, but the police administration and the AU Finance company still seem determined to auction the farmer's house and make the family homeless.

Special intensive revision of voter lists to be conducted transparently in Patiala district: Dr. Himanshu Aggarwal

TAPINDER SINGH PATIALA, MAY 17

Dr. Himanshu Aggarwal, District Election Officer-cum-Deputy Commissioner, Patiala, stated that as per the notification issued by the Election Commission of India, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will conduct door-to-door visits in Patiala district from June 25, 2026 to July 24, 2026 to get voter forms filled under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Punjab. The Deputy Commissioner said that as per the directions received from Anindita Mitra, Chief Electoral Officer, Punjab, the Special Intensive Revision of voter lists in Patiala district will be carried out in a completely transparent manner. He informed that the entire election machinery has been deployed for this exercise,



including 1,786 BLOs, 185 Supervisors, 8 Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and 16 Assistant Electoral Officers (AEROs). Dr. Himanshu Aggarwal said that each BLO has been assigned an average of 300 households and 1,200 voters for the SIR exercise. He added that all preparations regarding the Special Intensive Revision in the district have been completed as per the directions of the Chief Electoral Officer, Punjab. The

Deputy Commissioner further stated that the training of BLOs and other preparatory work related to the SIR exercise will be carried out from June 15, 2026 to June 24, 2026. He said that the objective is to include every eligible citizen in the voter list and remove ineligible persons from the rolls. The District Election Officer said that holding dual votes is an offence under the Indian Constitution, punishable with imprisonment of up to one year. He added that all voters in the district will have to fill forms under the SIR exercise. He further informed that according to the pre-SIR mapping conducted in Patiala district, there are 15,21,133 voters, out of which mapping of 12,39,790 voters has already been completed, which accounts for 81.50 percent of the total voters.

Prem Eye Hospital Barnala organises free eye check-up and operation camp

BALWINDER AZAD BARNALA, MAY 17

Prem Eye Hospital and Gynecology Hospital Barnala organized a free eye checkup and operation camp. During this camp, people of the area reached in large numbers and benefited. During the camp, eye specialist Dr. Rupesh Singhla and his team conducted a free eye checkup of the patients. Apart from this, eye medicines and glasses were also distributed free of cost to the needy patients. About 350 patients were examined by the team of doctors, out of which 40 patients were selected for cataract surgery. During the camp, patients were also made aware about eye care and timely treatment. On this occasion,



the special support of the village panchayat and sarpanch Nazam Singh, Gurmukh Singh Panchayat member, Manpreet Singh Panchayat member, Malkit Singh Jatana Panchayat member, Joginder Singh Panchayat member, Happy Singh Panchayat member, Gurpreet Singh Sehna, Geeta Bhawan Committee President Keshav Singhla ji, Dr. Parveen Singhla ji, was

there. Dr. Rupesh Singhla, Manager of Prem Eye and Gynecological Diseases Hospital Barnala, said that such free medical camps will continue to be organized with the aim of social service so that the needy and poor patients can get their treatment on time. He said that eye diseases should not be ignored and it is very important to get eye tests done from time to time.

Jalandhar Police arrest four Goldy Brar Gang sharpshooters with arms cache

PARAMJIT SINGH JALANDHAR, MAY 17

Jalandhar Police has achieved a major success as part of a special operation against gangsters in Punjab. A team of CIA (CIA) Staff, Jalandhar has arrested four active sharpshooters of the notorious gangster Goldie Brar gang. The police have recovered eight illegal pistols and 45 live cartridges from their possession. The operation was carried out under the able guidance of Commissioner of Police Dhanpreet Kaur (IPS) and under the supervision of senior officers. The arrested accused have been identified as Sukhwant Singh alias Sukha, Jugraj Singh, Gurpreet Singh and Neeraj. According to the police, Inspector Surinder Kumar's team received intelligence that the accused were



roaming in a silver Swift car in the Urban Estate Phase-2 area of Jalandhar with the intention of committing a major crime. Acting swiftly, the police laid a roadblock and arrested the four along with their weapons. During the investigation, it was revealed that the main accused Sukhwant Singh (28), a B.A. graduate, along with his associates, carried

out murder, shooting and extortion incidents in various districts of Punjab on the behest of Goldie Brar. A case has been registered against the accused under the Arms Act at Police Station Division No. 7. The police will now produce the accused in court and obtain remand so that the gang's network and other major conspiracies can be exposed.

BSF personnel urged to become guardians of water conservation: Khanna

DALJEET AJNOHA HOSHIARPUR, MAY 17

A special programme on water conservation was organised at the BSF camp in Kharkan by the Shri Prakash Rai Khanna — Shrimati Kaushalya Devi Khanna Memorial Trust, chaired by former MP Avinash Rai Khanna. Speaking at the event, Khanna urged the security personnel undergoing



training at the camp to become aware of water conservation and to pledge to save this precious resource. Khanna said that while Border Security Force personnel are already guardians of the nation's frontiers, if they make conserving water part of their duty alongside their regular responsibilities, they can help avert the looming global threat posed by water scarcity. He added that BSF

personnel can set an example and encourage all three services of the country to adopt water conservation as a fundamental duty. "History shows that major global movements have often begun in India," Khanna said. "If our armed forces integrate water conservation into their service ethos, an impactful message on water stewardship will reach across the world."

G. Holy Heart School Mehal Kalan shines bright in Class XII board results 2025-26



BALWINDER AZAD BARNALA: Under the visionary guidance of Managing Director Sushil Goyal, GHHS once again created history with its stupendous performance in the Class XII Board Examinations 2025-26. The school proudly celebrates the outstanding achievements of its students who brought laurels to the institution with their hard work and dedication. The biggest highlight of the result was the remarkable achievement of Ashpreet Kaur from the Humanities stream, who secured an exceptional 98% marks and emerged as the District Topper. Adding another feather to her cap, she scored a perfect 100/100 in English and 100/100 in Punjabi, showcasing her extraordinary academic brilliance. To honour her extraordinary achievement, the Managing Director, Sushil Goyal, felicitated Ashpreet Kaur and appreciated her dedication, perseverance, and commitment towards excellence. On this proud occasion, she was also invited to inaugurate the school's newly built Podcast Studio, marking yet another memorable moment in the history of the institution. The school also applauded the excellent performance of Manveer Singh and Sukhmandeep Kaur from the Commerce stream, who both secured an impressive 92% marks in the board examinations.

KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA: The results for candidates from Una, Hamirpur and Bilaspur districts under the Agnipath Scheme for recruitment year 2025-26 in the Agniveer Clerk/Store Keeper category have been declared by the Indian Army. Recruitment Director, Army Recruiting Office Hamirpur, Colonel Shridhar Rajan informed that candidates can check their results on the official Indian Army website. He

directed all selected candidates to report at ARO Hamirpur by 9 am on May 19 for pre-dispatch formalities and document verification. Colonel Rajan further stated that under the Indian Army recruitment process, the online Common Entrance Examination for JCO/OR and Agniveer recruitment will be conducted from June 1 to 15 as mentioned in the official notification. Admit cards for the examination have already been issued.

CHANDIGARH
MONDAY, MAY 18, 2026

NEWS BRIEF

Five inmates booked for assault on jail warden at Kishanpura sub-jail in Nalagarh

UNI SOLAN: Following alleged assault on jail warden at Kishanpura sub-jail under Nalagarh in the district, the police at Manpura Police Station today registered a case against five inmates under various sections of the BNS. According to the complaint, Rohit Kumar, son of Hansraj, resident of village Thachi, District Mandi, posted as a jail warden at Sub-Jail Kishanpura, was on watch duty when he was allegedly assaulted by inmates. In this incident, inmates Suryatej, son of Ishwar, Deepak, son of Dilbag, Sunil, son of Surendra, Gurcharan, son of Kamal, and Gagan, son of Vinod, suddenly attacked him. In the attack, Rohit Kumar suffered head and back injuries. The complainant further stated that when Head Constable Nandlal arrived at the scene to rescue him, he was also assaulted by the inmates, resulting in injuries. Later, other duty personnel arrived at the scene and brought the situation under control.

State government fulfilled all its ten guarantees: Congress

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, MAY 17

Health Minister Dr. (Col.) Dhani Ram Shandil and Panchayati Raj Minister Anirudh Singh today here in a press statement while strongly refuting the remark of Opposition Leader Jai Ram Thakur, said that the present state government has fulfilled all the guarantees promised to the people. They said that the Congress party delivers on what it promises and challenged the Opposition Leader to point out even a single guarantee that has not been fulfilled. They said that in its very first Cabinet meeting, the Congress government restored the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for 1.36 lakh employees, fulfilling its first guarantee. Whereas Jai Ram Thakur had challenged employees to



contest elections if they wanted pension benefits during his tenure. Under the second guarantee, eligible women are being provided Rs. 1,500 per month in a phased manner under the Indira Gandhi Piyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi Yojana. In the first phase, Rs. 29.12 crore was released as Samman



Nidhi to 35,687 women in the state. In the second phase, women from one lakh extremely poor families will receive a monthly pension of Rs. 1,500. They said that the government fulfilled another promise by launching the Rs. 680 crore Rajiv Gandhi Swarozgar Start-Up Scheme to encourage self-

employment opportunities among the youth. Both the Ministers said that to ensure farmers' welfare, the government has constituted a Kisan Aayog. To promote natural farming, the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for naturally grown wheat has been increased from Rs. 60 to Rs. 80 per kg, maize from Rs. 40 to Rs. 50 per kg and barley from Pangi Valley from Rs. 60 to Rs. 80 per kg. Similarly, the MSP for turmeric has been raised from Rs. 90 to Rs. 150 per kg, and for the first time, ginger has been given MSP at Rs. 30 per kg. They said that the government has also significantly increased milk procurement prices. The support price for cow milk has been increased from Rs. 32 to Rs. 61 per litre, while buffalo milk has gone up from Rs. 47 to Rs. 71 per litre.

BJP slams Himachal govt over cement price hike, alleges inaction against companies

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, MAY 17

BJP state chief spokesperson and MLA Rakesh Jamwal criticised the Indian National Congress-led Himachal Pradesh government over the latest increase in cement prices, alleging that the government has failed to provide relief to the public amid rising inflation. In a statement issued from Shimla, Jamwal said cement companies have again increased prices by Rs 5 per bag in the state. He claimed that similar hikes were also implemented in January 2026, when the prices of ACC, ACC Gold, Ambuja and UltraTech cement brands were raised. He alleged that cement prices in some areas of the state have reached between Rs 435 and Rs 490 per bag and claimed that prices have increased by

nearly Rs 30 over the last two years. Jamwal said it was unfortunate that companies benefiting from Himachal Pradesh's land, water and natural resources were selling cement at higher prices within the state compared to neighbouring states. He also referred to an earlier period when, according to him, cement in Himachal Pradesh was costlier than in Punjab and Haryana. The BJP leader alleged that due to the "weakness and inaction" of the state government, cement companies were acting arbitrarily. He said rising prices of diesel, transportation, steel and other construction materials, along with repeated hikes in cement rates, have increased the financial burden on poor and middle-class families, farmers and disaster-affected residents.



Jail Warden attacked in Kishanpura Sub Jail; case registered against five inmates

ANWAR HUSSAIN
NALAGARH: A case has been registered against five inmates for allegedly attacking a jail warden during duty at the Kishanpura Sub Jail in Nalagarh on Sunday. According to Superintendent of Police Vinod Dhiman, the incident took place while jail warden Rohit Kumar, son of Hans Raj and a resident of Thachi in Mandi district, was on surveillance duty inside the jail premises. As per the complaint, inmates Suryatej, son of Ishwar, Deepak, son of Dilbag, Sunil, son of Surendra; Gurcharan, son of Kamal; and Gagan, son of Vinod allegedly joined together and suddenly attacked the warden. Rohit Kumar sustained injuries on his head and back during the assault. The complaint further stated that when Havildar Nand Lal rushed to rescue the warden, the accused inmates allegedly assaulted him as well, causing injuries. Other jail staff later reached the spot and brought the situation under control. The accused inmates have also been charged with obstructing government duty and issuing death threats. A case has been registered at Manpura Police Station under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Jail Act. Further investigation is underway.

One Killed, Another Seriously Injured in Nalagarh Road Accident

NALAGARH: In another incident, one person died and another sustained serious injuries in a road accident in the Nalagarh area. According to the complaint lodged by Balvinder Singh alias Vicky, son of Prem Chand and a resident of Majra village, his father Prem Chand had gone to purchase goods along with Ramdev, son of Ramlok, from the same village. Ramdev was riding the motorcycle while Prem Chand was seated pillion. Near Kheda Baba bridge culvert, the motorcycle reportedly went out of control and fell below the culvert, leaving both men seriously injured. Locals rushed the injured to CHC Nalagarh, from where they were referred to GMCH-32 Chandigarh after primary treatment. Ramdev later succumbed to his injuries during treatment, while Prem Chand remains critically injured and is undergoing treatment. Police at Nalagarh Police Station have registered a case under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, and further investigation is in progress.

ARO suspended over Poll Symbol lapse

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA: District Election Officer (Panchayat) and Deputy Commissioner Anupam Kashyap has suspended Assistant Returning Officer Rajneesh Chauhan with immediate effect for alleged negligence in the allocation of election symbols during the ongoing panchayat elections in Shimla district. The action was taken after irregularities were found in the allotment of election symbols in Gram Panchayat Dalgaon under Rohru Development Block. According to official information, Rajneesh Chauhan, posted as Group Instructor at the Government Industrial Training Institute, Samarkot, Rohru, had been appointed as Assistant Returning Officer for Gram Panchayat Dalgaon under orders issued on May 6, 2026. After the final date for withdrawal of nominations, the responsibility of allotting election symbols to candidates on May 15 rested with the concerned officer. During the inquiry, it was found that the symbols were not allotted as per the guidelines issued by the State Election Commission. Officials stated that election symbols were required to be allotted according to the Hindi alphabetical order and the serial numbers notified by the State Election Commission under Rule 42 of the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj (Election) Rules, 1994. However, the prescribed procedure was allegedly not followed. The district administration termed the lapse a serious procedural error and gross negligence in duty, stating that it affected the smooth conduct of the election process. The order noted that during election duty, the officer was working under deputation to the State Election Commission under Section 160-E of the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, making any negligence in election-related work a serious disciplinary matter. Deputy Commissioner Anupam Kashyap said the suspension order was issued under the relevant provisions of the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, Article 243-K of the Constitution, CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965, and powers delegated by the State Election Commission.

IGNOU induction meet at Govt College Bilaspur empowers students with academic guidance and digital support

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY
BILASPUR, MAY 17

A vibrant induction meeting for newly enrolled students of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) was organized at Government College Bilaspur on Sunday, witnessing enthusiastic participation from nearly 150 learners. The event aimed to familiarize students with IGNOU's academic framework, examination procedures, assignments, practicals, and online services while motivating them toward disciplined and dedicated learning. Addressing the gathering as Chief Guest, Dr Surendra Singh, Coordinator of the IGNOU Study Centre (Code 1113) at Government College Bilaspur, encouraged students to pursue their education with commitment and sincerity. He assured learners that faculty members



at the college would always remain available to guide and support them in their academic journey whenever required. The session turned highly interactive as Dr. Surendra Singh used a smart interactive board to provide a live demonstration on navigating the IGNOU portal. Students were guided on how to download examination hall tickets, identity cards, assignment question papers, and various academic forms directly from the IGNOU website. He informed students that admissions to

77 per cent voting recorded in Una urban local bodies elections

KISHORI LAL BAINS

UNA: Polling for six urban local bodies in Una district concluded peacefully and smoothly on Sunday amid a fair and cordial atmosphere. Out of a total of 28,292 voters, 21,813 exercised their franchise, taking the overall voter turnout to 77 per cent. The voters included 11,244 women, 10,568 men and one third-gender voter. Enthusiasm among youth, senior citizens and women was visible throughout the day as long queues were seen outside polling stations since morning. Providing information, District Election Officer and Deputy Commissioner Jatin Lal said the highest voter turnout of 84.14 per cent was recorded in Tahliwal Nagar Panchayat. A total of 2,441 voters cast their votes there, including 1,171 men and 1,270 women across seven wards. In Amb Nagar Panchayat, 4,398 voters exercised their franchise in nine wards, including 2,183 men, 2,214 women and one third-gender voter. The polling percentage there stood at 78.89 per cent. Similarly, Gagret Nagar Panchayat recorded 76.64 per cent voting, with 2,054 voters participating, including 1,009 men and 1,045 women across seven wards. In Mehatur Basdehra Municipal Council, 4,919 voters cast their votes in nine wards, including 2,435 men and 2,484 women, taking the turnout to 77.35 per cent. Daulatpur Chowk Nagar Panchayat recorded 77.23 per cent polling with 2,354 voters, including 1,112 men and 1,242 women, exercising their franchise in seven wards. In Santoshgarh Municipal Council, 5,647 voters cast their votes in nine wards, including 2,658 men and 2,989 women. The voter turnout there remained 72.71 per cent. The Deputy Commissioner said all necessary arrangements had been made to ensure peaceful and orderly polling.

Hamirpur to have new synthetic track for budding athletes

AGENCY
HAMIRPUR, MAY 17

A new synthetic track will be laid at the Anu Degree College sports ground in Hamirpur district. Divya Tiwari, Executive Officer of the Sports Authority of India's Hamirpur unit, announced this at the inauguration of the two-day athletics competition in Hamirpur. About 900 young athletes are taking part in the two days championship. She said that hundreds of athletes have made Hamirpur proud by winning medals at state and national level competitions using the synthetic track in Hamirpur. She noted that players like Manisha at the international level, Priya, Shivali, and Suhani at the national level have brought glory to the state. She stated that the re-laying of the Anu Degree College synthetic track had been a long-standing demand from Hamirpur athletes and the district organisation, and the Sports Authority has taken action to address this demand. She said that the District Athletic Association's campaign against drug

addiction and to connect the new generation with sports is commendable. Thousands of athletes, children from various schools and parts of Hamirpur district, have joined this campaign so far. Chamber of Commerce President Sumit Thakur and General Secretary Rajendra Soni were also present as special guests on this occasion. District Athletic Association President Pankaj Bhartiya welcomed all the dignitaries and provided an overview of the Athletic Association's activities over the past year. He stated that in the past year, Hamirpur has produced one international medalist, two national medalists, and over 60 state medalists. He added that the winners of this competition will participate in the state-level competition to be held in Bilaspur on June 13-14. Athletics coaches Rajendra Dhiman, Suraj Thakur, Manju Devi, Anil Sharma, Rajneesh Sharma, Nirmala Kumari, Rahul Verma, Arun Kumar, Professor Sunny Kumar, Sanjay Sharma, Surendra Dahal, Dinesh Thakur, and many sports enthusiasts were present on the occasion.

Election rehearsal essential for error-free and fair polling: Shashipal Sharma

ANIL KUMAR
HAMIRPUR, MAY 17

The first election rehearsal for male and female presiding officers and polling officers deputed for the upcoming panchayat elections in Bhoranj block was conducted at Chief Minister Adarsh Government Senior Secondary School. The panchayat elections for 44 gram panchayats in Bhoranj block are scheduled to be held in three phases on May 26, 28 and 30. Around 477 employees participated in the rehearsal and were briefed about the election process. Block Election Officer and SDM Bhoranj Shashipal Sharma guided presiding officers and polling officers regarding their responsibilities and appealed to them to carry



out their duties in a coordinated and peaceful manner. He said every aspect of the election process is conducted strictly according to the directions of the Election Commission and therefore all procedures, from the beginning till the conclusion of polling, must be completed in a fair and error-free manner. During the session, officials were informed in detail about maintaining the

Kajal and Sudhir's Claim: Public voted against anti-people government

SANJAY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA, MAY 17

In a joint statement, Kangra MLA, Dharamshala Municipal Corporation Election In-charge, and State BJP Vice President Pawan Kajal—along with Dharamshala BJP MLA and former Minister Sudhir Sharma asserted that the BJP would register victories with overwhelming majorities in all 17 wards. They stated that on Sunday, the people of Dharamshala voted against the hollow policies of the state's Sukhu government. They emphasized that the party organization is the true strength of the BJP. They alleged that during the municipal corporation elections, the Congress party hurt public sentiments by propagating falsehoods

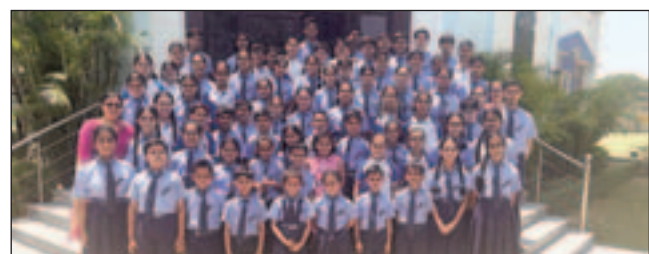


consequences of which the Sukhu government would witness in the election results. The aforementioned BJP leaders expressed confidence that the strength of their organization, the guidance of their senior leadership, and the public's faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi ensure that the BJP will win every seat in the Dharamshala Municipal Corporation. They highlighted that the BJP works on the real issues



facing the people and strives to provide them with amenities. They declared that the public has now launched a battle against the state Congress government a battle that will conclude only after the Sukhu government is ousted from power. Pawan Kajal and Sudhir Sharma noted that palpable frustration is evident among Congress leaders and their candidates regarding the municipal corporation elections.

Students showcase talent in Dosing Table competition and Social Science quiz at Vashisht Public School Una



KISHORI LAL BAINS
UNA: Vashisht Public School organized a 'Dosing Table Competition' and a 'Social Science Quiz' to encourage the overall development of students and promote their talent. Students participated enthusiastically in both activities, displaying impressive knowledge, quick thinking, and team spirit. The 'Dosing Table Competition' was conducted for students from Classes I to IV with the aim of enhancing mathematical skills and making the learning of multiplication tables more engaging and enjoyable. Participants impressed everyone by reciting tables rapidly and confidently. In the Strawberry Group, the 'Smart Squares Team' comprising Harshiv Sharma, Abhidha Rawal, Avika, Anika Sharma, Rushank Kaushal, and Kairav Dhiman secured first position. The 'Prime Thinkers Team' stood second, while the 'Shape Shifters Team' claimed third place. In the Apple Group, the 'Aryabhata Team' secured first place, followed by the 'Brahmagupta Team' in second position and the 'Srinivasa Ramanujan Team' in third place.

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL: Former media coordinator of the Haryana State Haj Committee, Khursheed Alam, has appealed to Muslims across the country to respect the court verdict regarding the Bhojshala site in Dhar. In a statement issued from Karnal, Khursheed Alam said India is a land of Indian culture and deities and stressed that all citizens should abide by the law of the country. He stated that Muslims should welcome decisions taken by the courts



and constitutional institutions. Referring to the Bhojshala dispute, he said that if judicial institutions have given a decision based on available evidence, it should be accepted peacefully. He appealed to Muslims to maintain communal harmony and avoid being influenced by elements attempting to create division in the name of religion. Khursheed Alam said Islam teaches people to be righteous and to respect the laws of the country in which they live.

CHANDIGARH
 MONDAY, MAY 18, 2026

NEWS BRIEF

Health Department celebrates National Dengue Day in Health Centers and Schools: Civil Surgeon



KULDEEP SOOD
BARNALA: The Health Department, Barnala, in collaboration with the Education Department, celebrated National Dengue Day by organizing awareness activities in health centers and schools. These words were expressed by Civil Surgeon Barnala Dr. Haripal Singh Sidhu. Dr. Sidhu said that treatment and testing for dengue is free in all government hospitals. District Epidemiologist Dr. Sakshi Soni and Dr. Munish Kumar said that this year, National Dengue Day was celebrated by the employees of the Health Department under the theme "Dengue Control: Clean, Check and Cover" by creating awareness among school children and people.

Awareness camp organised at Health Block Mahalkalan on occasion of National Dengue Day



KARANPREET KARAN
BARNALA: Under the directions of Civil Surgeon Barnala Dr. Haripal Singh and under the leadership of Senior Medical Officer of CHC Mahalkalan Dr. Gurtejinder Kaur, awareness camps were organized by the health staff in the villages of Block Mahalkalan at various places such as schools, public places, health centers on the occasion of National Dengue Day. In his address during the camp organized at CHC Channanwal on this occasion, Dr. Jaspinder Walia gave detailed information about the causes, symptoms and treatment of dengue and malaria fever and said that dengue mosquitoes breed in stagnant water sources, therefore, coolers, flower pots, refrigerator trays etc. should be emptied and dried once a week. Dengue fever can be avoided by using methods such as covering the body, using mosquito nets while sleeping.

'Nation first, party second': CM Yogi Adityanath hails BJP's political ideology

AGENCY
 GORAKHPUR, MAY 17

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has emerged as a dominant political force in the country within a short span of time, claiming that it has formed governments in 22 states along with holding power in the Centre. Speaking at a programme organised under the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Training Mega-Campaign 2026 in Lucknow, the Chief Minister said the BJP has advanced its ideology through organisational strength and governance across multiple states. "In less than 50 years, BJP has emerged as the preeminent political force within the country; it has successfully advanced its campaign to effectively implement its ideology—relying on its own strength and capability—forming governments in 22 states and simultaneously assuming power at the Centre," he said. He further said the party is the only political



organisation globally that has consistently upheld the principle of "Nation First, Party Second, and Individual Last". "It is the only political party across the entire world that has consistently and steadfastly upheld this declaration: 'Nation First, Party Second, and the Individual Last,'" he said.

Yogi Adityanath added that whenever discussions on nationalism and political values arise, the BJP leadership comes to the forefront in public perception. "Whenever the

discourse turns to values and ideals in politics, or whenever the subject of nationalism arises—whether within India or anywhere else in the world where people of Indian origin reside—the one face that invariably comes to mind is that of the national leadership of the BJP; and if a symbol were to emerge before their eyes, it would be the Lotus flower," he said. Earlier in the day, the Chief Minister addressed public grievances during 'Janta Darshan' at the Gorakhpur Temple premises in Gorakhpur. The Chief

Minister listened to the grievances of the general public and issued directions to the officials for resolving them during the 'Janta Darshan'. Previously, on Saturday, CM Yogi filled out the online form for the 'Self-Enumeration' part of the first phase of the ongoing digital census in the state. Sharing a post on X, CM Yogi appealed to all residents of the state to actively participate in this important national campaign through digital self-enumeration. "Today, I feel immensely proud of having completed the digital 'self-enumeration' process under Census-2027 at Shri Goraknath Temple, Gorakhpur, thereby ensuring my participation in this national campaign. This census is not merely about counting the population but also serves as a strong foundation for holistic, inclusive, and planned development. I appeal to all residents of the state to actively participate in this important national campaign through digital self-enumeration," CM Yogi wrote.

Bhavya Bishnoi visits many villages, inaugurates development works



MAHENDER GOYAL
HISAR, MAY 17

Young BJP leader and former MLA Bhavya Bishnoi has said that his priority was to develop the area and strengthen the basic facilities of the citizens here. He said that development works were being carried out equally in every village of the area. He was visiting various villages of Adampur area on Sunday, inaugurating development works, inspecting the under construction projects and talking to the villagers and listening to their problems. During his visit, Bhavya Bishnoi inaugurated various development works in

village Balsamand and Salemgarh. Inaugurating the new library in village Kabrel, he said that education and knowledge were the basis of progress of the society and it was the need of the hour to provide better educational facilities to the youth of rural areas. He said that the construction of the library would greatly benefit the students and youth preparing for competitive examinations. Apart from this, while inaugurating the skin manufacturing works in village Siswal and Sadalpur, he said that the government was continuously making efforts to facilitate the farmers and strengthen the irrigation system.

RPF of NFR ensures passenger security with swift arrests of theft suspects

YUGMARG BUREAU
 MALIGAON, MAY 17

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Northeast Frontier Railway has once again reaffirmed its steadfast commitment to passenger safety and security by successfully carrying out a series of operations at various locations across the zone. On 12th May 2026, a team from Anti Drugging, Guwahati apprehended one individual, onboard Train No. 22450 (New Delhi - Guwahati) Purvottar Sampark Kranti Express for involvement in theft of passenger belongings. Two stolen mobile phones valued at approximately Rs 30,000/- were recovered from his possession. The accused, along with the recovered item, were handed over to GRP/Guwahati, where a case under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) has been registered. In another operation on the same day, RPF/Post/Katihar (East) personnel apprehended one person at Katihar Railway Station. A stolen mobile phone worth approximately Rs 32,000/- was recovered. The accused was subsequently handed over to GRP/Katihar, which registered a case under appropriate sections of BNS. Further continuing its



crackdown, on 13th May 2026, CIB team of Rangiya apprehended one-person onboard Train No. 15933 (New Tinsukia - Amritsar) Express at Rangiya Railway Station with two stolen mobile phone worth approximately Rs 25,000/-. The accused was handed over to GRP/Rangiya for further legal proceedings. These successful operations underscore the vigilance and swift response of RPF personnel in ensuring the safety and security of passengers and their belongings.

Gram Panchayat Kaithla Khurd expresses gratitude to Thanesar block committee chairperson Rajni Sharma for her support



DALBIR SINGH MALIK
KURUKSHETRA: The Gram Panchayat of Kaithla Khurd has expressed its gratitude to Acharya Ram Mehar—the representative of Thanesar Block Committee Chairperson Rajni Sharma—for the support extended to the village of Kaithla Khurd. Village Sarpanch Sardar Baldev Singh Saini stated that Acharya Ram Mehar, the representative of Thanesar Block Committee Chairperson Rajni Sharma, is always ready to assist the village of Kaithla Khurd in every possible way. He noted that Acharya Ram Mehar recently provided the village with 124 chairs, two cupboards, and a water cooler, and has also given a firm assurance regarding the construction of a boundary wall for the cremation ground. The residents of Gram Panchayat Kaithla Khurd are extremely pleased with the working style of Chairperson's representative, Acharya Ram Mehar.

Youth Sports Association Ladwa inaugurates district level Karate championship



KARAMBIR
LADWA: The District level Karate Championship was formally inaugurated by Youth Sports Association Ladwa at the Youth Sports Academy on Sunday. About 250 players from various schools and academies of Kurukshetra district participated in this championship. The championship was inaugurated by Sanjay Garg, President of Food Grain Dealers Association Ladwa by lighting the lamp and said that in the present times the importance of sports has increased a lot. We must involve our children in some sport or the other, so that they can stay away from drugs and minimize the use of mobile and social media. Children's health will also improve through sports and they will also take interest in studies because a healthy mind resides only in a healthy body. Youth Sports Association Chairman Jogdhyan Ladwa and President Vijay Taneja welcomed the chief guest Sanjay Garg by giving him a flower bunch and other guests by garlanding them. Chairman Jogdhyan said that the effort of their association was to provide maximum facilities to all the players and to provide them a platform to go to advanced competitions, so that they can get maximum medals in state level and national competitions.

Satsang organised in Rajaund on Dr Ambedkar Jayanti, Dr Rajesh Vaidya Valmiki seeks blessings

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
 KARNAL, MAY 17

A grand satsang programme was organised by the Valmiki community in Rajaund on the occasion of the birth anniversary celebrations of Bharat Ratna B. R. Ambedkar. Religious discourses were delivered by Valmiki community spiritual leader Shukracharya Darshan Rawat.



Valmiki said that Baba Saheb gave society the message of "educate, organise and struggle," while Maharishi Valmiki showed the path of equality and knowledge. He urged the youth to follow the teachings of these great personalities and adopt education as a tool for progress and empowerment.

He further said that the Congress party remains committed to protecting the

Constitution and the ideals of Dr Ambedkar. He added that the Valmiki community has a proud history and called upon society members to unite and ensure higher education opportunities for their children. Youth Congress leader Nitin Malhotra, along with a large number of Valmiki community members, youth and women, attended the programme.

MLA Vinod Bhayana inaugurates newly constructed Veterinary hospital building in Depal Village

DINKAR GAWRI
 HANSI, MAY 17

On Sunday, MLA Vinod Bhayana inaugurated the newly constructed Government Veterinary Hospital building in Depal village and launched the construction work for a development project worth ₹18 lakhs in Maman Pura village, under the 'Mukhyamantri Khet Khalihan Yojana' (Chief Minister's Farm-to-Barn Scheme). Speaking on the occasion, he stated that animal husbandry plays a pivotal role in the rural economy, and providing better healthcare facilities to farmers and livestock owners remains a top priority for the government. He noted that the establishment of a modern, well-equipped veterinary hospital in Depal village would significantly benefit livestock owners in the



surrounding areas, sparing them the need to travel long distances to seek treatment for their animals. The MLA mentioned that the construction of this building was undertaken under the NABARD scheme. Approximately Rs. 27 lakhs have been invested in this development project. The facility has been equipped with amenities such as a dispensary, OPD room, doctor's chamber, laboratory, waiting area, and restrooms,

which will render veterinary services more efficient and effective. MLA Vinod Bhayana asserted that the current government is undertaking historic initiatives for the upliftment of villages, farmers, and livestock owners. He highlighted that continuous development works are being carried out across the Hansi Assembly constituency to strengthen infrastructure in key sectors such as roads, education, healthcare, drinking water, and irrigation.

Awareness campaign organised on National Dengue Day



YAGYADUTT SHASTRI
PEHOWA: On the occasion of National Dengue Day, an awareness programme regarding dengue prevention and protection was organised at SDCH Pehowa. SDCH SMO Dr. Sanjeev Goyal stated that while dengue is a serious illness, it is possible to prevent it by taking timely precautions. He appealed to the general public not to allow water to stagnate in or around their homes, and to regularly clean water coolers, flower pots, discarded tires, and other containers. Dr. Sanjeev Goyal explained that the Aedes mosquito—the vector responsible for spreading dengue—breeds in clean water and bites during the daytime. Therefore, he advised wearing clothing that covers the entire body and making use of mosquito nets and repellents. Health Inspector Manjit Bholia informed that teams from the Health Department are continuously conducting surveys and awareness-generating activities across the region. He urged individuals who experience symptoms such as high fever, headaches, pain behind the eyes, body aches, or a drop in platelet count to immediately get tested at the nearest health center.

Bharat Vikas Parishad in collaboration with Mrs Krishna Goyal Foundation organises free eye check-up camp



KARAMBIR
LADWA: Ladwa branch of Bharat Vikas Parishad, in collaboration with Mrs. Krishna Goyal Foundation, organized a free eye check-up, treatment and operation camp at Baba Banshi Wala Old Age Home in Ladwa on Sunday. This information was given by the project head of the council, Dr. Amritpal Garg. He told that the camp was inaugurated by lighting the lamp by Krishna Goyal and Vijendra Goyal. Amit Goyal, founder of Smt. Krishna Goyal Foundation was especially present in the camp. The eyes of about 570 patients were examined in the camp, in which the eyes of 152 patients were found to be suffering from cataract, whose operation will be conducted absolutely free of cost by the Council. Free spectacles and medicines as per requirement were also distributed to other patients in the camp. Council President Rajeev Arya welcomed and expressed his gratitude to the guests and said that the Council continues to do public service work and will continue to do so in future also.

Deliberations on natural farming held at Gurukul as Shyam Singh Rana meets Gujarat Governor

HANS RAJ YADAV
 KURUKSHETRA, MAY 17

In a significant initiative aimed at promoting natural farming on a large scale in Haryana, a crucial round of deliberations took place at Gurukul Kurukshetra involving Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat, Haryana's Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shyam Singh Rana, and senior officials of the Agriculture Department. During the meeting, it was decided that—following the pattern of Gujarat—a "Cluster System" would be implemented in Haryana to bring farmers and agricultural experts onto a common platform, thereby facilitating the widespread expansion of natural farming. The meeting was attended by numerous officials and experts, including Vijender Kumar (IAS), Additional Chief Secretary of Haryana's Agriculture Department; Ranvir Singh, Director General of Horticulture; Dr. Manoj Kumar; Dr. Ramprakash; Padma Shri Dr. Hariom; Dr. Baljit Saharan; Dr. Aditya Dabas, Deputy Director of Agriculture (DDA); and Dr. Shivendu Pratap, District Horticulture Officer (DHO). During the proceedings, it was resolved that, as a first step,



officials from the Agriculture Department would undergo specialized training at the Natural Farming Training Center located within Gurukul Kurukshetra. Subsequently, farmers would be trained as "Master Trainers" to carry the message of natural farming to every village across the state. Agriculture Minister Shyam Singh Rana stated that the Haryana government intends to advance the cause of natural farming in a "mission mode." Under this initiative, one official from the Agriculture Department will be assigned to each cluster to work alongside approximately 150 farmers, ensuring that the farmers receive scientific and practical guidance.

Karnal striders organise first time night marathon, sees 220 participants

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
 KARNAL, MAY 17

For the first time, a night marathon was organized by Karnal Striders at Karna Stadium on Saturday night. About 220 participants enthusiastically participated in this unique event. The main objective of the marathon was to make people aware of health, fitness and stress-free life. The program was inaugurated by District Sports Officer Satya Kaur by flagging off. Pro Age-360 and Virk Hospital had special support in this event. In the marathon, participants showed their dedication towards fitness by covering different distances as per their capacity. Despite the scorching heat, the



enthusiasm of the runners was worth seeing. Sumit Mann inspired everyone by completing the 42.2 kilometer race, while Kavita, Rahul, Nishant, Garima and Pankaj performed brilliantly by running 35 to 40 kilometers. Many runners including Dr. Balveer Singh Virk, Pravesh Gaba, Surendra Chauhan, Sumit Mann, Samrat Anand, Dr. Divyanshu Kalanda, Ankush, Karna, Amita Gupta, Vikrant Gupta, Harpreet Koch, Sunny and Sitendra Mehta participated on this occasion. Former MLA Sumita Singh, former Chief Minister's OSD Sanjay Bathla and District Congress President Parag Gaba, Samrat Anand was also present in the program and they also participated in the race. Vikas Yadav, Dr. OP Miglani, Vaidyavrat, Sushil Mehra, Ravindra and their team had special contribution in the successful organization of the marathon.

NEWS BRIEFS

NIRC Hisar Branch to hold two-day conference on May 22 and 23

MAHENDER GOYAL HISAR: Under aegis of NIRC Hisar Branch, an organization of chartered accountants, GST and Indirect Taxes Committee of ICAI will organize a two-day conference on GST on May 22 and 23. Conference, to be held at Chaudhary Ranbir Singh Auditorium of Guru Jambheshwar University, will run from 10am to 5pm on both days. CA Ajay Goyal, Chairman of NIRC Hisar Branch, stated that CA J.K. Mittal, CA Navya Malhotra, CA Vikas Omar, CA Anchal Kapoor, CA Saurabh Jain and CA Neha Sukhija will shed light on various aspects of GST. There will be a special discussion on recent updates to GST, and a panel discussion will also be held. Information will also be provided on study of appellate orders, drafting of appeal, GST input tax credit, returns and related compliance. CA Ajay Goyal informed that in this conference, NIRC Hisar Branch Vice Chairman CA Vishesh Bhardwaj, Secretary CA Rajesh Sihag, Treasurer CA Sunil Godara, NICASA Chairman CA Prateek Arya, former Chairman of NIRC Hisar Branch CA Aman Bansal, Executive Member CA Mukul Mittal and Ex-Officio Member CA Ajit Singh Chandel along with all office bearers and members will have a special role.

I devoted myself wholeheartedly to the development of Ambala Cantonment: Vij

YUGMARG BUREAU CHANDIGARH, MAY 17

Haryana's Energy, Transport and Labour Minister Sh. Anil Vij said that "I have devoted myself completely to the development of Ambala Cantonment and I assure the people that I will continue to work for its development till my last breath."

Sh. Vij was addressing people today during the foundation stone laying ceremony for the stone pitching work from Babyl to Ramgarh Majra on the Tangri embankment near Sant Shiromani Ravidas Temple in Babyl, Ambala Cantonment, and for the reconstruction of the Mahesh Nagar Pump House building along with the upliftment of new flood gates.

Energy Minister Anil Vij said that today the stone pitching work from Babyl to Ramgarh Majra along the Tangri river embankment is being started, while tenders have already been floated for the stone pitching work from Ramgarh Majra to the Punjab border. Stone pitching from Babyl to the Punjab border will be carried out at a total cost of approximately Rs. 7.34 crore. Similarly, during the programme at Mahesh Nagar Pump House, Minister Anil Vij laid the foundation stone for reconstruction of the build-



ing and raising of flood gates at a cost of Rs. 2.80 crore.

He said that continuous efforts are being made to protect the region from floods. When the government was formed in Haryana for the first time under their leadership, he got a permanent embankment constructed from Ramgarh Majra to Ghasipur and also built a road there, which people are benefiting from today. Last year, Tangri river witnessed a record flow of 43,000 cusecs of water, due to which the opposite side of the industrial area was affected. He said that excavation

work of the Tangri river was initiated, but some anti-development elements in Ambala Cantonment did not allow the river to be deepened.

Now the Tangri river has been deepened from Ramgarh Majra to the Saharanpur railway line, while excavation from the Saharanpur railway line to the Delhi railway line is still pending. Tenders have also been floated for river excavation from Shahpur to Durana, but anti-development elements are creating obstacles, due to which work has remained stalled for the past month.

Captain Abhimanyu roars at sneha milan program



RAKESH BHAYANA PANIPAT, MAY 17

Former Haryana Finance Minister Captain Abhimanyu, while addressing the Sneha Milan program organized in Manana village of Panipat on Sunday, gave a message of unity among all 35 communities of the state and emphasized strengthening social harmony. During the event, he launched a sharp attack on the former Chief Minister without naming him, alleging that political conspiracies had created divisions among communities and pushed Haryana into the flames of caste violence.

Former Haryana Finance Minister Captain Abhimanyu attended the Sneha Milan program held in Manana village of Panipat on Sunday. He was welcomed by villagers and social organizations with a traditional turban ceremony.

Addressing the gathering, Captain Abhimanyu said that he has been organizing Sarv Samaj Bhairava Sneha Milan programs across Haryana with the aim of bringing all castes and communities onto one platform and strengthening mutual trust and social harmony.

He stated that representatives from all political parties, social organizations, and various communities participate in these programs to discuss the current social situation. He added

that Haryana has always had a glorious tradition of brotherhood and social unity, but political conspiracies created mistrust among communities.

Captain Abhimanyu said that the need of the hour is to rebuild social unity on the basis of traditional values and mutual respect.

While interacting with the media, he targeted the former Chief Minister without naming him and said that the caste violence and arson incidents witnessed in Haryana were part of a major political conspiracy. He alleged that people were instigated during the agitation and deliberate attempts were made to divide society.

He further said that Haryana never had a history of social or caste violence, but some individuals, for their political interests and dynastic politics, disturbed the peaceful atmosphere of the entire state.

Captain Abhimanyu said that thousands of people suffered losses and the future of many youths was adversely affected. He added that the public would never forgive those responsible.

Defending the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the former Finance Minister said that the party has always worked in the interest of society and also played an important role in providing reservation to the Jat community.

Samadhan Samaroh will be held to bring justice simple, accessible and closer to common man: Nitika Bhardwaj

HANS RAJ KURUKSHETRA, MAY 17

District Legal Services Authority Secretary and CJM Nitika Bhardwaj stated that Supreme Court is organizing a Samadhan Samaroh (Special Lok Adalat) in 2026 with aim of bringing justice simple, accessible and closer to common man. This important initiative will culminate with a special Lok Adalat to be held on August 21, 22, and 23.

District Legal Services Authority Secretary and CJM Nitika Bhardwaj said that this special Lok Adalat will be organized in court premises, where appropriate cases pending in Supreme Court will be resolved through mutual consent, reconciliation and dialogue. This initiative promotes a collaborative and participatory justice system also known

as People's Court, in place of traditional judicial process. He stated that prior to this event, conciliation and mediation meetings will be held at Mediation Centers established at



state, district and taluka levels, where parties will be encouraged to reach a mutual settlement. This special Lok Adalat will handle a variety of cases, primarily matrimonial disputes, civil cases, motor accident claims, consumer matters, land acquisition and cases related to National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act (cheque

bounce). He stated that coordination of Honorable Justices of Supreme Court, senior advocates and advocates-on-record will facilitate speedy and practical resolution of cases. Furthermore, virtual hearings will be available through modern technology, benefiting litigants across country. Primary objective of this campaign is to ensure speedy, accessible, and amicable resolution of pending cases, thereby relieving litigants from lengthy judicial process. Interested individuals can fill out Google form available on Supreme Court's official website to enroll their pending cases in this special Lok Adalat. Deadline for submitting this form is May 31. For more information and assistance, interested individuals may contact One Stop Center (Bar Room) in-charge or relevant judicial officer.

Training campaign an important part of BJP's work culture: Manohar Lal

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, MAY 17

The second and concluding day of the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Prashikshan Mahabhiyan was organized at Krishna Mandir in Karnal under the chairmanship of BJP district president Praveen Lathar.

Addressing party workers as the chief speaker during the first session, Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar spoke about the Central Government's welfare schemes aimed at the poor. He said that schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Ayushman Bharat and free ration distribution had ensured that

development reached the last person in society.

He said that the training campaign was not merely a formal programme but an important part of the BJP's



work culture. Referring to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay's ideology of Antyodaya and Integral Humanism, he described these principles as the foundation of the party's

functioning. He added that organisational development begins with individual development and that this was the core objective of the campaign.

During the second session, district in-charge Bharat Bhushan Jial guided workers on the topic of ideological foundation. He explained the concepts of cultural nationalism and Integral Humanism and said that the BJP was built on the theoretical framework of Panch Nishtha.

In the third session, state spokesperson Rajkumar Kataria addressed party workers on the subject of historical development and discussed the journey of the BJP from its inception to the present.

Union Minister Manohar Lal expresses condolences



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

KARNAL: Union Minister for Power, Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal, expressed deep condolences on passing of Usha Gupta, wife of Shrawan Gupta, sister-in-law of Mayor Renu Bala Gupta. He visited her residence in Karnal to offer condolences and pray for peace of her soul. Union Minister arrived in Karnal by helicopter at 9am today. He was welcomed at airport by Deputy Commissioner Dr Anand Kumar Sharma, ADM Dr Rahul Raiya, and Assandh MLA Yogendra Rana with a bouquet of flowers. Afterward, Union Minister Manohar Lal directly proceeded to Gupta's residence in Chaudhary Colony. He expressed his deepest condolences to bereaved family and prayed for peace of her soul. It is noteworthy that Usha Gupta passed away on May 12. Prayer meeting in her memory will be held on May 24 from 2 to 3 pm at Anmol Garden, Ranwar Road, Karnal. Mayor Renu Bala Gupta, Brij Gupta, senior BJP leaders Trilochan Singh, Ashok Khurana, Neetu Mann, Devendra Gandhi and family members were present.

Need to Promote Oilseed and Pulse Crops Along with Sugarcane: Dr. B.R. Kamboj

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

KARNAL/UCHANA: Dr. B.R. Kamboj, Vice Chancellor of Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, said that adoption of intercropping in sugarcane cultivation can increase farmers' income and make agriculture more profitable.

He was addressing scientists and farmers during his visit to demonstration plots at the Regional Research Station of the university located at Uchana. On this occasion, he inspected sugarcane demonstration plots planted at a spacing of 4 feet, whereas farmers traditionally cultivate sugarcane at a spacing of about 2.5 feet.

Dr. Kamboj appreciated the successful demonstrations of sesame, groundnut, moong, soybean, okra and other crops grown along with sugarcane. He told Dr. Dalip Gosain, Former Principal Scientist (Agricultural Extension) and Head, KVK, NDRI that such intercropping systems should be widely promoted through intensive extension so that farmers can obtain additional income and ensure better utilization of land and resources. He also discussed the recently developed sugarcane variety CoH-191 and said that it is highly suitable and beneficial for intercropping systems.

Dr. Kamboj said that cultivation of oilseed crops like sesame and groundnut along with sugarcane during the kharif season would also help reduce the country's edible oil deficit. He further stated that inclusion of pulse crops would improve soil fertility and reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers.

Dr. Dalip Gosain said that this method of sugarcane planting requires less seed material and also facilitates easier application of fertilizers in the crop. He added that intercropping provides additional working days to farm labourers, thereby generating extra economic benefits for farmers and farm labour.



Workers should work with commitment to disseminate party's policies and ideology to masses: Subhash Barala

MAHENDER GOYAL HISAR, MAY 17

BJP Rajya Sabha MP Subhash Barala called upon workers to work with full commitment to disseminate party's policies and ideology to masses. He said that under Prime Minister's leadership, country is steadily progressing towards development and self-reliance and role of workers is crucial in this campaign. Subhash Barala was addressing session held on 2nd day of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Prashikshan Maha Abhiyan 2026 today. He delivered his speech on topic of Ideological Foundation. He said that fundamental foundation of Bharatiya Janata Party is based on ideology of nationalism, Antyodaya and service. Explaining in detail principles of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay's Integral Humanism, he said that party's priority is to bring rays of development to last person in society. Strengthening organization is possible only through dedication, discipline and ideological clarity of its workers. District President Dr. Asha Khedar thanked all speakers, officials and workers, stating that training paves way to becoming a great leader. Bharatiya Janata Party periodically organizes such training programs to provide workers with new information. District Media Incharge Ra-



jendra Sapra reported that second day's training began with lighting of lamps and singing of class song by Sanjeev Redi. During training campaign, workers present discussed ideological issues in depth and resolved to further strengthen organization. District Incharge Jawahar Saini spoke on "Challenges Facing the Nation," Advocate Dhuman Singh Kirnich on "Expansion of Work," and State Secretary Surendra Arya on "Vichar Parivar." Mayor Praveen Popli, Jitendra

Panihar, Ramphal Nain and Piyush Mahata presided over the session, while Krishna Sarsana and Krishna Khatana moderated session. Apart from above, former minister Dr. Kamal Gupta, former minister Anoop Dhanak, MLA Randhir Panihar, Chairman Ravindra Rocky, Ajay Gawad, media in-charge Rajendra Sapra, IT head Suresh Jangra, social media head Amar Patada, state and district officials, divisional officials and many workers were present in program.

Impartial probe in case of miscreants entering home of Cong state chief: Devendra Singh

RAHUL KOHLI

YAMUNANAGAR: District Congress Committee (Urban) strongly condemned incident of armed miscreants entering ancestral home of Congress State President Rao Narendra Singh in Narnaul early Saturday morning. District President Devendra Singh said that an impartial investigation should be conducted into this incident. He said that law and order has become a joke under BJP rule. He said that armed miscreants locked the servants' rooms from outside. Miscreants had come to commit a major crime. District President Devendra Singh said that it is a blessing that Rao Saheb's family is safe. He said that when even high-ranking people in the state are not safe, it is easy to imagine plight of the common man. He said that incidents of murder, robbery, dacoity and ransom are occurring daily. Those in power are patting themselves on back. Devendra Singh said that only an impartial investigation can reveal truth. BJP government should provide safe environment to people of state. He said that Congress workers are standing with their state president.



FIR filed against two clerks who failed to begin census work: DC

HANS RAJ YADAV KURUKSHETRA, MAY 17

Deputy Commissioner Vishram Kumar Meena stated that any negligence in census work will not be tolerated. Census is one of most important tasks of Government of India. House listing work is underway in district in first phase of census. A case has been filed against two clerks who failed to begin this work despite repeated requests. He stated that any negligence found in future regarding census will result in immediate action. DC chaired meeting regarding census in auditorium of Mini Secretariat. Earlier, Chief Secretary Anurag Rastogi provided necessary guidelines regarding census to all Deputy Commissioners of state via video conferencing. He said that census is being conducted in district, divided into 1,704 blocks. Currently, census

work is progressing rapidly in all blocks. Census work has been completed in 116 blocks so far. Census work will be largely completed in coming weeks. DC said that first phase of Census 2027 involving house listing and house enumeration



is underway and will be completed by May 30. In this phase, details of each household are being recorded. This includes house-related information, basic family information, basic amenities and family amenities which will be recorded

online by enumerators through an app. Public is encouraged to cooperate with this effort and provide accurate and precise information to enumerators visiting homes. He clarified that enumerators will not require any OTPs or documents. He explained that after collecting this information, data will be sent to supervisor for verification. Charge Officer will then verify data provided by supervisor. He issued instructions to all enumerators and supervisors, urging them to complete this task within stipulated timeframe with utmost dedication. Any problems faced by enumerators during census are being resolved. This is being monitored at district level. DC said that data collected during house listing process will be kept completely confidential and will be used in policymaking for welfare of public.

Drug smuggler nabbed with 07.36 grams of heroin

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

KARNAL, MAY 17: Karnal unit of Haryana State Narcotics Control Bureau (HSNCB) has achieved yet another success in its crackdown against drug smugglers. Acting swiftly on a tip-off, the Bureau team arrested a drug smuggler. 07.36 grams of heroin has been recovered from possession of accused. On strict instructions of Bureau Chief and Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Sanjay Kumar and under the leadership of Bureau Superintendent of Police Shri Mohit Handa IPS, action is being taken against drug smugglers across state.

Bureau Chief and Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Shri Sanjay Kumar, IPS has clarified that Eradicating roots of drug abuse is our top priority. Karnal Unit Incharge Inspector Rishpal Kumar reported that Sub-Inspector Sanjay Kumar, present at unit, received a tip-off that Ravi, son of Dilawar, a resident of nearby Sabdi Mandi, Arjun Nagar Kabaddi Road, Panipat, sells smack/heroin from his vacant shop. He is still selling smack/heroin at counter of his vacant shop to customers. If a quick raid is conducted, he could be apprehended in his shop with heroin. Police team immediately acted on information provided by informant and, with assistance of fellow officers, apprehended aforementioned individual along with the narcotic substance. Upon searching the accused in the presence of a gazetted officer, 7.36 grams of heroin was recovered from him. Arrested accused has been identified as Ravi, son of Dilawar, resident of nearby Sabdi Mandi, Arjun Nagar Kabaddi Road, Panipat. After taking accused on police remand from Court, police is now interrogating accused further to find out their drug addiction.

DAV Public School, professor colony shines with district topper honour

RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR, MAY 17

A wave of pride and celebration swept through DAV Public School, Professor Colony, Yamunanagar as the school felicitated its brilliant student *Yuvraj Singh* and his parents for securing an exceptional 97% marks and emerging as the *District Topper in the Non-Medical Stream in the CBSE* Examination Session 2025-26.

A grand celebration was organized in the school premises in the presence of students, teachers, parents, media representatives, and distinguished guests. The atmosphere echoed with joy and applause as the young achiever was honoured for his remarkable dedication, perseverance, and academic excellence. Principal V. K. Kashiv



congratulated Yuvraj Singh and his proud parents on this glorious achievement. In his inspiring address, he encouraged students to pursue excellence with discipline, determination, and sincerity.

He stated that such accomplishments bring immense honour to the institution and serve as a beacon of inspiration for future generations. Members of the DAV

Management Committee* also extended their heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the topper for his bright future and applauded the collective efforts of the teachers and parents in shaping young achievers. The celebration concluded with a message of motivation and pride, making the occasion a memorable milestone in the glorious journey of the school.

EDITORIAL

CBSE mandates third language for Classes 9-10

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has announced a major overhaul of its language scheme for Classes 9 and 10 starting with the 2026-27 academic session, making it mandatory for students to study three languages in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) 2023. In a circular issued on May 15, CBSE said the revised framework will come into effect from July 1, 2026, and will require all Class 9 students to study three languages, referred to as R1, R2 and R3. "With effect from 1st July 2026, for Class IX, the study of three languages (R1, R2, R3) shall be compulsory, with at least two languages being native Indian languages. Students who wish to study a foreign language may do so as the third language only if the other two languages are native Indian languages, or as an additional fourth language," the board said in the circular. The board said the move is part of a "transitional approach" to align the existing scheme of studies with the newly introduced NCERT syllabus for Classes 10 (2026-27). "CBSE has always been committed to the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) 2023. In this context, the Board has carefully reviewed the recently released NCERT syllabus for Class IX (2026-27), which includes the study of three languages (R1, R2, R3) at the Secondary Stage," the circular said. The board clarified that while the third language will be compulsory, students will not face board exam pressure for it. "To keep the focus on learning and reduce any undue pressure on students, no Board Examination shall be conducted for R3 at the Class X level. All assessments for R3 shall be entirely school-based and internal. The performance of students in R3 will be duly reflected in the CBSE certificate. It is clarified that no student will be barred from appearing in the Class X Board Examinations due to R3. Sample question papers, rubrics for internal assessment will be shared by the Board shortly," CBSE said. The board also asked schools to ensure adequate academic preparation for the new structure and directed principals to carefully implement the revised curriculum. "As Head of School, all Principals are requested to carefully read the NCFSE-23 Curricular Goals, Competencies and Learning Outcomes as well as other subjects. Comparative analysis shows approximately 75-80% overlap in core language competencies (oral communication, reading comprehension, written expression, and grammatical awareness) between Middle Stage and Secondary Stage," it said. To support the transition, CBSE said dedicated textbooks for the third language are being prepared. "Class IX R3 textbooks (2026-27 edition) of the chosen language will be made available to schools before 1st July. For the remaining native Indian languages, available SCERT and State level resources may be used, as per past practice," the circular stated.

Beijing meet

When US President Donald Trump arrived in Beijing for a two-day summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping, the contrast between the two leaders was visible long before the cameras captured their handshake inside the Great Hall of the People.

Xi entered the talks armed with a strategic vision measured in decades and anchored in China's long-term geopolitical ambitions. Trump arrived seeking immediate political and diplomatic gains at a time when the ongoing conflict with Iran had strained American military stockpiles, raised the financial burden of war, and intensified pressure ahead of the US midterm elections. That imbalance in priorities shaped the summit from the outset.

While Trump sought deliverables he could present quickly at home, Beijing focused on locking Washington into a broader strategic framework that could outlast a single administration. China emerged from the summit presenting what it called a "constructive China-US relationship of strategic stability," a formulation Xi described as a guiding structure for bilateral ties over the next several years. More than diplomatic language, the framework represented an attempt by Beijing to establish the terms through which future disputes over Taiwan, trade, technology exports, and regional security would be judged.

Xi's strongest remarks came on Taiwan. During the opening discussions, he warned Trump that mishandling the issue could push both countries toward "clashes and even conflicts," placing the broader relationship at risk. Yet even before formal talks began, Beijing had already secured important concessions. Washington had suspended a proposed \$13 billion arms package for Taiwan and approved the sale of Nvidia H200 chips to several Chinese firms, developments widely viewed as significant gains for Beijing ahead of the summit.

Moreover, Beijing and Washington have reached an agreement regarding China's purchase of aircraft, aircraft engines, and other related components from the United States, according to China's Commerce Ministry. The ministry said the two sides had agreed on the procurement of US-made aircraft by China and on maintaining



the supply of US aircraft engines and parts to the Chinese market. On the return flight from China, Trump said he had "heard Xi out" on Taiwan and would make decisions "over a fairly short period," while avoiding any firm commitments. China's foreign ministry later claimed the United States "understands China's position" and does not support Taiwanese independence — a characterisation the American side did not publicly challenge.

Xi also invoked the idea of the "Thucydides Trap," the theory that conflict often emerges between a rising power and an established one. Trump embraced the framing, calling it "100% correct" and blaming America's weakening position on previous US leadership. As both Xi and Trump spent nearly nine hours in discussions during the broader engagement, analysts

noted that the exchange effectively reinforced Beijing's preferred narrative: that China's rise is inevitable and that Washington must eventually adapt to a changing balance of power.

The summit nevertheless produced several tangible agreements. China indicated it could purchase roughly 200 Boeing aircraft, with Trump suggesting the number might rise substantially if ties improve further. Both sides also discussed expanded Chinese purchases of American agricultural products and reaffirmed opposition to Iran obtaining nuclear weapons while supporting freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.

Still, several contentious issues remained largely untouched. Human rights concerns, cyber espionage allegations, intellectual property disputes, and the

fenetyl precursor crisis received little public attention during the meetings,

overshadowed by elaborate ceremonies, official banquets, and carefully choreographed displays of diplomatic warmth. One of the summit's most closely watched moments came when Trump was asked whether the United States would defend Taiwan in the event of a Chinese attack. The president declined to answer directly, noting only that Xi had posed the same question privately during their discussions. The refusal to publicly reaffirm US deterrence commitments was interpreted differently across the region, as uncertainty in Taipei and as potential opportunity in Beijing. Trump's comments regarding the suspended Taiwan arms package further intensified debate in Washington. Calling the deal "a very good negotiating chip," he

suggested its future approval would depend on China's behaviour.

Although Secretary of State Marco Rubio later insisted that US policy toward Taiwan remained unchanged, critics argued that Trump's remarks implied Taiwan's security guarantees were becoming subject to broader negotiations with Beijing.

Some lawmakers and foreign policy observers warned that treating Taiwan arms sales as leverage could undermine longstanding American commitments under the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act and the 1982 Six Assurances issued during the Reagan administration. A bipartisan group of Senators had urged the White House before the summit to maintain support for Taiwan's self-defence capabilities, but those appeals appeared to have had limited influence on the president's approach.

Govt restricts silver bar imports amid rupee pressure



The Centre has tightened import rules for certain categories of silver bars by changing their import status from "Free" to "Restricted" with immediate effect, in a move that comes amid rising concerns over India's import bill, pressure on the rupee, and global uncertainty linked to the ongoing West Asia crisis. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, issued a notification on Saturday, amending the import policy for specific categories of silver covered under Chapter 71 of the Indian Trade Classification (ITC) Harmonised System (HS) 2022 import policy schedule. Under the revised policy,

import of silver bars -- containing 99.9 per cent or more silver by weight (ITC HS Code 71069221) and "Bar--Other" categories (ITC HS Code 71069229) -- which were earlier freely importable subject to RBI regulations, will now be classified as "Restricted". Certain categories of silver imports have also been brought under Reserve Bank of India regulations. Importers will now need to comply with "Policy Condition No. 7 of Chapter 71 of ITC (HS) 2022, Schedule-I" with immediate effect. "The import policy of items covered under ITC HS Code 71069221 and 71069229 are revised from 'Free' to 'Restricted' subject to Policy Condition No. 7 of Chapter 71 of ITC

(HS) 2022, Schedule-I (Import Policy) with immediate effect," the DGFT notification stated. The DGFT notification said the revised import policy has been issued under provisions of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 and the Foreign Trade Policy, 2023. The move comes at a time when gold and silver prices have remained volatile due to geopolitical tensions in West Asia, which have pushed investors globally towards safe-haven assets such as precious metals and the US dollar. The rupee has also come under pressure against the US dollar in recent weeks amid higher crude oil prices and global risk aversion linked to the regional conflict. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had recently urged citizens to reduce dependence on gold purchases and focus more on productive financial investments, while highlighting concerns around large precious metal imports and their impact on the economy. Analysts say India's large-scale imports of gold and silver increase pressure on the country's trade deficit and foreign exchange outflows, especially during periods of rupee weakness and elevated global commodity prices.

Margins may stay under pressure in FY27 as banks brace for West Asia risks, ECL transition

During the March quarter, Indian banks managed to keep asset quality largely stable, shrugging off worries faced due to the ongoing Gulf war. Brokerage firm Systematix warned that the true impact of the West Asia conflict was likely to surface only in the second half of the financial year 2026-27. Despite this, the brokerage maintained a constructive outlook on the sector, citing buffers from government schemes like CGSMFI 2.0 and ECLGS 5.0. "The repo rate cut of 25 basis points in December weighed on yields in the March quarter, with the full impact flowing through to the Yield on Advances (YoA)," Systematix noted. For SBI, AXIS Bank and Indian Bank, the sequential decline in Yield on Advances was steeper than peers. Although some benefit came from the downward repricing of deposits, it was limited for a few banks, resulting in a sequential contraction in Net Interest Margins (NIMs) for SBI, Union Bank, Indian Bank and AXIS Bank. Large private banks fared better. ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank managed to keep NIMs largely stable with a slight upward bias, improving by 2 bps and 3 bps QoQ, respectively. In contrast, PSBs faced sharper compression, with SBI's NIM falling 17 bps QoQ to 2.81 per cent and Union Bank's down 12 bps to 2.64 per cent, as their higher share of EBLR and T-bill-linked loans



bore the brunt of the rate cut.

Federal Bank and Bank of Baroda reported improved NIMs, but Systematix noted these were largely driven by one-offs such as interest on income tax refunds and higher recoveries from written-off accounts. Kotak Mahindra Bank's 13 bps expansion to 4.67 per cent was aided by day-count

benefits, though normalised NIM was flat at 4.54 per cent. Asset quality remained broadly in check. Most coverage banks reported a net slippage ratio below 80 bps, with the exception of IndusInd Bank. Slippages increased marginally for seven of the 12 banks, while five saw a decline. IndusInd led the improvement with an 85

bps QoQ drop to 2.2 per cent as stress in the microfinance segment eased, followed by Kotak Mahindra and AXIS Bank. Among PSBs, SBI continued to report a low 0.5 per cent slippage ratio, while Bank of India and Bank of Maharashtra saw modest upticks. Credit costs were mixed as banks created buffer provisions amid geopolitical uncertainty. ICICI Bank posted the lowest credit cost at 0.03 per cent, supported by strong corporate recoveries, while AXIS Bank and Federal Bank raised one-time prudent provisions of 20.01bn and 4.56bn, respectively. Bank of Baroda and Union Bank also made additional provisions for floating and standard assets. Advances growth held up, with the coverage universe expanding 5.2 per cent QoQ and 14.9 per cent YoY. Bank of Maharashtra led with 6.9 per cent QoQ growth, while AXIS Bank was the fastest among large private banks at 6.4 per cent QoQ. Deposit growth outpaced advances at 6.1 per cent QoQ, helped by 4Q seasonality. HDFC Bank recorded the strongest sequential deposit growth at 8.6 per cent QoQ. On capital, banks guided that they were confident of managing the transition to the new Expected Credit Loss (ECL) framework notified on 27 April, estimating a 0.7 per cent to 2.5 per cent impact on capital adequacy.

Housing sales remain resilient despite rising prices

India's residential real estate market entered a more stable and demand-driven phase in the January-March quarter of 2026, with housing sales and new launches remaining largely steady across major cities even as property prices continued to rise, according to a quarterly residential market report by PropTiger.

The report showed that nearly 96,000 homes were sold across eight major cities during Q1 2026, while new housing supply remained almost unchanged from a year ago, indicating that the market was moving away from the rapid post-pandemic expansion phase toward more balanced growth. According to the Real Insight-T Residential Q1 2026 report released by PropTiger, housing sales across the top eight cities stood at 95,973 units during the quarter, down 2.2 per

cent year-on-year but up 1 per cent from the previous quarter. New launches stood at 93,065 units, almost flat compared to the same period last year. "The Indian residential market has transitioned into a structurally more disciplined phase. Growth today is increasingly being driven by demand quality, inventory discipline, and buyer confidence rather than speculative expansion," said PropTiger CEO Prakash Tejwani. The report said average housing prices across major cities crossed the Rs 10,000 per square foot mark for the first time, reaching Rs 10,050 per square foot during the quarter, reflecting continued demand for premium housing projects. Among cities, Bengaluru emerged as the strongest-performing residential market, with housing sales rising 33 per cent year-on-year to 15,603 units. The report attributed



the growth to continued hiring by Global Capability Centres (GCCs) and startup

companies. Bengaluru is Q1 2026's standout performer across all three

dimensions," the report said, adding that the city's employment ecosystem

was "providing Bengaluru with a structurally differentiated demand

base."

Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) remained the country's largest housing market by both sales and value despite moderation in annual growth. Housing sales in MMR stood at 26,116 units during the quarter, down 14.9 per cent year-on-year, while new supply declined 13.2 per cent. However, sequential trends remained positive, with supply rising 10 per cent quarter-on-quarter and sales increasing nearly 2 per cent. The report said the decline in MMR reflected "base-effect normalization against an exceptional 2025 -- not a loss of demand momentum." Hyderabad also recorded strong annual growth, with sales rising nearly 25 per cent year-on-year to 13,297 units, while Delhi-NCR posted 11.4 per cent growth in housing sales and 17.6 per cent rise in

prices. Meanwhile, Chennai saw housing sales rise 43.3 per cent year-on-year, driven largely by buyers purchasing existing unsold inventory rather than newly launched homes. The report noted that rising property prices could become a challenge for buyers in the coming quarters, particularly in cities where income growth has not kept pace with housing prices. "Affordability pressure is intensifying across most top-eight markets," the report said, adding that sharp price increases in cities such as Bengaluru and Pune could test buyer affordability going forward. At the same time, the report said stable interest rates, infrastructure expansion, and improving digital property registration systems were continuing to support buyer confidence in the residential market.

RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR: Taking cognizance of the tragic incidents that have occurred over the past few days, Superintendent of Police Kamaldeep Goyal issued an advisory to the district's citizens, urging them to monitor their children's daily activities



and prevent them from going alone to rivers, streams, ponds and swimming pools, to prevent future tragic incidents. During the summer season, children and young people often go together nearby rivers, streams, or ponds to bathe. Due to the strong currents and inability to swim, tragic incidents often

occur. Families are completely devastated and unable to recover. It has often been observed that people sit on the banks of canals and consume alcohol, followed by bathing in the canal. Due to this intoxication, drowning incidents often resulted in death.

NEWS BRIEF

Delegation demands Punjab Library Act, staff recruitment in Rural Libraries



AMRISH ANAND DORAHA: A delegation led by social worker and youth leader Kulwant Singh Gill submitted a memorandum during the public interaction program held at Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann's native village Manki, demanding implementation of the Punjab Library Act and recruitment of qualified staff in rural and public libraries. The memorandum was received by SDM Samrula Gusharajit Kaur PCS in the presence of DSP Samrula S.Pritpal Singh Sandhu. The delegation, including Dr. Sompal Heera, Dr. Gurpreet Singh, Prof. Sandeep Singh Hundal and Roop Singh Sandhu, highlighted the shortage of trained staff in libraries and urged the government to appoint at least one librarian and supporting staff in every library. The delegation also raised pending issues related to aided college teachers, including delays in salary grants and pending pay fixation cases at the DPL level.

Punjab strengthens fight against Hypertension through prevention and cashless treatment

GAURAV GOEL CHANDIGARH, MAY 17

As the world marks World Hypertension Day, the Punjab Government's Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojna (MMSY) is bringing significant relief to patients battling high blood pressure and related ailments by ensuring affordable and timely healthcare access.

Hypertension, commonly known as high blood pressure, is often described by doctors as the "silent killer". It shows little warning before triggering strokes, heart failure or kidney disease. The condition is common across age groups. With hypertension emerging as a growing health concern across all age groups, the Punjab government is focusing on prevention, early detection, and treatment. While the CM di Yogshala promotes healthy living, Aam Aadmi Clinics ensure early screening (1 crore screened, 24 lakh treated), and the



MMSY provides cashless care, helping prevent serious complications like stroke and heart disease.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), India carries a rapidly increasing burden of hypertension, fuelled by poor dietary habits, stress, tobacco use, lack of physical activity and irregular routines.

Doctors warn that many patients remain unaware of the condition until severe complications occur. Amid this growing health crisis, Punjab's Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojna has become a critical

safety net. The scheme is helping thousands of patients receive treatment for hypertension and related complications without the burden of unaffordable medical bills. On this World Hypertension Day, the greatest achievement of the Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana may not only be the number of claims settled, but also the focus on prevention and timely detection of hypertension. The Punjab government has strengthened screening, early diagnosis, and treatment across Punjab.

DC Preeti appeals to come together to save environment for future generation

RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR, MAY 17

Deputy Commissioner Preeti appealed to the people to plant as many trees as possible so that the environment can be kept clean. She said that planting trees in maximum numbers was the need of the hour to protect the environment, because environmental cleanliness was essential for life on earth. As due to deforestation, the environment is getting polluted. If timely attention is not paid to creating a clean environment, then in the future, there could be a lot of harm to humans, animals and nature. Make the environment clean, come let us plant trees, this education has to be given to everyone under the policy of protecting the environment. The Deputy Commissioner stated that under the leadership of Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, the Forest Department is progressing in keeping



environment greener. The increasing level of environmental pollution is a matter of concern for all of us. We must all take timely steps towards environmental protection and inspire future generations to plant more trees by raising awareness about the environment. She stated that they must all pledge to plant trees on any festival or auspicious occasion and nurture them like their own children. Only then can the rising levels of environmental pollution be reduced. She explained that air pollution contributes to

the rise in diseases such as asthma, high blood pressure, lung diseases, eye diseases, and headaches. On average, every person suffers from one or another disease. She added that pollution in many major cities has increased so much that it has become difficult for people to breathe. The only solution to alleviate this is to plant and care for as many trees as possible. She stated that the Haryana government was rapidly progressing towards greenery and environmental cleanliness. Under the Haryana Government's Hariyali Yojana, the government is emphasizing on planting multipurpose indigenous species like Neem, Mango, Jamun, Baelpatra, Guava Amla, Harad, Baheda, Tun, Mulberry, Lasunda, Berry, Sheesham etc. She informed that to reduce pollution, trees are also planted on the land adjacent to National/State Highways and for environmental protection and on Panchayat land.

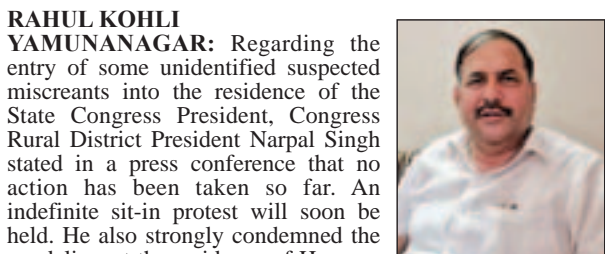
Pehowa BJP workers celebrate party's victory in municipal elections



YAGYA DUTT SHASTRI

PEHOWA: Following the BJP's resounding victory in the municipal corporation elections in Panchkula, Sonapat, and Ambala, workers celebrated the occasion at the BJP office in Pehowa. Led by Sushant Bharti, State Executive Member of the BJP Legal Cell, the workers celebrated the victory by distributing sweets and expressing gratitude to the party leadership. An atmosphere of excitement and enthusiasm prevailed in the office. Mr Sushant Bharti said that the historic victory in the municipal elections had once again proven that the Bharatiya Janata Party had become a party that lived in the hearts of the people. He said that the people of the state were expressing confidence in the policies of Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini and the development work being done by the government. This is why every section of the society is seen standing firmly with the BJP. He said that the BJP government has worked to extend the benefits of schemes to farmers, laborers, businessmen, employees and the last man of society. Due to the government's public welfare policies and transparent working style, a new wave of development is flowing in the state. The BJP does not limit itself to election promises, but works to win the trust of the people by implementing schemes on the ground.

Narpal Singh Gurjar criticises state govt over law and order situation



RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR: Regarding the entry of some unidentified suspected miscreants into the residence of the State Congress President, Congress Rural District President Narpal Singh stated in a press conference that no action has been taken so far. An indefinite sit-in protest will soon be held. He also strongly condemned the vandalism at the residence of Haryana State Congress President Rao Narendra Singh in Namaul. He stated that some unidentified suspected miscreants entered the State President's residence and attempted to commit a major crime, which was extremely serious and condemnable. He alleged that despite the incident, the administration and the government have not taken any concrete action. The matter will be brought to the public attention and a memorandum will be submitted to the Governor on May 20. He also warned that if action was not taken against the accused within the next two days, protests will be held across Haryana against the government and administration. If necessary, an indefinite sit-in dharna will also be held outside the residences of Superintendents of Police. President Narpal Singh Gurjar said that it was fortunate that the State President had reached Chandigarh by evening on the day of the incident otherwise a major tragedy could have occurred. He demanded an impartial investigation into the matter and the swift arrest of the culprits. Congress District Rural President Narpal Singh Gurjar stated that the ever-rising oil prices have broken the back of the common people. Inflation is constantly rising, affecting the poor and middle class the most.

CM Saini welcomes Nanaksar Head Baba Ghala Singh at Chandigarh residence



SARABJIT SUFI

LUDHIANA: At the invitation of Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, the current head of the Nanaksar sect, Sant Baba Ghala Singh, visited the Chief Minister's residence (Kabir Kutiya, Chandigarh), where he was warmly welcomed by the Chief Minister. Speaking on the occasion, Saini said that Nanaksar is the place of devotion from which Baba Ghala Singh came. He added, "Today his feet have touched my home. Therefore, I consider myself very fortunate." CM Saini honored Baba Ghala Singh with a shawl and a memento. Mr. Saini said, "I always receive guidance from all the places of the Nanaksar sect in Haryana." On this occasion, Baba Ghala Singh thanked the Chief Minister for making Sikhs proud by celebrating the centenary of the ninth Guru, Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji, and the martyrdom day of the younger Sahibzadas on a grand scale in Haryana. Baba Ghala Singh said that Chief Minister Saini is making a significant contribution to the management of all the historic gurdwaras in Haryana.

Samrat Anand pays tribute to Maharishi Kashyap during birth anniversary programme



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

KARNAL: Samrat Anand, son of Karnal MLA Jagmohan Anand, participated in a grand programme organised in Kanhwa on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Maharishi Kashyap. The event was organised by youth members of the Kashyap community. During the programme, Samrat Anand paid floral tributes before the portrait of Maharishi Kashyap and interacted with community members, women and youth present at the gathering. Addressing the event, he said the life of Maharishi Kashyap symbolised knowledge, penance, sacrifice and service to humanity. He added that the sage's teachings continue to inspire society towards harmony, values and public service. On the occasion, greetings were extended to residents of the area and a message promoting unity, brotherhood and preservation of Sanatan culture was shared. Members of the Kashyap community also organised a blood donation camp and encouraged youth participation in social service activities. Youth representatives of the Kashyap community raised the demand for greater political representation and inclusion of the community in the mainstream, stating that a significant population of the Kashyap community resides in Karnal.

Nivedita Public School organises educational zoo trip for students



HANS RAJ

KURUKSHETRA: Nivedita Public School organized an educational zoo trip for students. The primary objective was to bring children out of their classrooms and provide practical knowledge about nature and wildlife, which would help in expanding their education and understanding. The zoo trip was educational, informative and fun. The children saw many animals and birds for the first time. The school's Principal, Mrs. Bala Devi, described this educational trip as a commendable initiative that fosters enthusiasm and a spirit of learning among children. During the trip, teachers instructed students not to disturb the animals and to maintain a safe distance. Teachers including Mr. Gulab Singh, Mrs. Suman, Bhavna, Sonia, and Anjali were present on the zoo trip.

Electricity metres to be installed now outside homes in village Khurana

RANVIR PARASHAR KAITHAL, MAY 17

In Village Khurana, electricity meters will now be installed on the exterior of homes. Additionally, the villagers have pledged to cooperate in curbing electricity theft. In return, the Electricity Corporation will now provide a 16-hour daily power supply to the village. This consensus was reached following several rounds of meetings between the villagers and the district administration. On behalf of the administration, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Aparajita had assigned the duty of mediating the matter to Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM)



Sanjay Singh. SDM Sanjay Singh stated that the residents of Village Khurana had been demanding a 16-hour daily power supply. They had been staging a sit-in protest to press their demands. Several rounds of negotiations were held with the villagers, during which a consensus was reached that new electricity meters would henceforth be installed on the

Surendra Poonia delivers message of discipline to organisation among party workers

DINKAR GAWRI HANSI, MAY 17

The two-day district training workshop, organised in Hansi district under the Bharatiya Janata Party's 'Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Training Mega-Campaign,' concluded with great enthusiasm, discipline, and organizational energy. BJP Haryana State General Secretary Surendra Poonia was a special guest at this training workshop, which was held at the city's Shyam Bhawan. Dedicating his time throughout the entire workshop—including an overnight stay—he delivered a powerful message to the party workers regarding the



importance of discipline, dedication, and unwavering commitment to the organisation. During his overnight stay, Surendra Poonia also engaged in dialogue with the party workers, listening attentively to their concerns and suggestions. The workers, in turn, appreciated this warm and personal approach by the State General Secretary, hailing it as

a true symbol of his deep commitment to the organisation. Addressing the second session of the second day as the keynote speaker, State General Secretary Surendra Poonia stated that under the leadership of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, the Haryana government is working tirelessly—driven by the spirit of 'Antyodaya' to ensure that the benefits of various schemes reach every last individual in society. He called upon the party workers to take the government's public welfare schemes down to the booth level, thereby connecting the common people with the BJP's policies and initiatives.

Shiv Mahapuram Katha by Pandit Pradeep Mishra begins amid controversy and speculation in Gharanda

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA GHARAUNDA/KARNAL: The Shiv Mahapuram Katha by renowned storyteller Pradeep Mishra commenced at the grain market in Gharanda amid controversy and speculation surrounding the event. Laks of devotees from different states gathered at the venue, where a massive crowd was seen listening to the discourse despite intense heat. During the discourse, Pandit Pradeep Mishra highlighted the significance of devotion and worship. He said that offering a single pot of water to Lord Shiva can help resolve life's problems and emphasised the importance of chanting the mantra "Shri Shivay Namastubhyam." He remarked that while penance may bring boons, blessings can only be attained by seeking the guidance and blessings of parents and elders. He also told devotees that true devotion matters more than finding a place close to the stage and stressed the spiritual importance of offering bel leaves to Lord Shiva. During the programme, a testimony shared by a devotee named Poonam from Bapoli village in Panipat drew attention. According to organisers, she narrated that she had been diagnosed with third-stage cancer in 2024 and doctors had reportedly lost hope during treatment. She said her mother encouraged her to continue her faith in Lord Shiva and attend the Katha. Poonam claimed that later medical reports showed improvement in her condition, which she and her family attributed to divine blessings. Devotees from Haryana, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar attended the event.

Kirandeep Kaur Grewal felicitated on being appointed Congress District President

AMRISH ANAND DORAHA:

Kirandeep Kaur Grewal, who was recently appointed as the District President of Ludhiana (Rural) Congress by the Punjab Congress, was felicitated by several Congress leaders and women workers during a special function organised here. On the occasion, Satinderdeep Kaur Deepy Mangat, Surinder Kaur Mangat, Baljit Mangat and Davinder Kaur Rajgarh said that Kirandeep Kaur Grewal has been working with dedication and commitment for the party for a long time, and in recognition of her services, the party high command has entrusted her with this important responsibility. They expressed confidence that under her leadership, the Congress party would emerge stronger in Ludhiana (Rural) and that party workers at the grassroots level would be united to give new direction and momentum to the organisation. They also stated that the increasing participation of women in politics is a positive sign for society and that her appointment has generated fresh enthusiasm among women workers. During the event, Satinderdeep Kaur Deepy Mangat, Surinder Kaur Mangat, Baljit Mangat and Davinder Kaur Rajgarh also honoured Kirandeep Kaur Grewal. Congress workers present on the occasion congratulated the newly appointed district president by presenting bouquets and assured full support in strengthening the party at the grassroots level.



BJP candidates file nomination for Morinda MC polls under Major Anju Bala Singh



YUGMARG BUREAU

MORINDA: The Bharatiya Janata Party intensified its campaign for the Morinda Municipal Council elections as party candidates filed their nomination papers under the leadership of senior BJP leader Major Anju Bala Singh. Party workers and supporters gathered in large numbers during the nomination process, reflecting enthusiasm ahead of the civic polls. From Ward No. 7, Kusum Mattu, from Ward No. 10, Jaskaran Singh, and from Ward No. 13, Preeti Sharma filed their nominations as BJP candidates for the Morinda Municipal Council elections. Several BJP leaders, workers and local residents were present on the occasion.

KLM International School announces Rs. 51,000 scholarship for Class 10 high achievers

VERMA

SUJANPUR: K.L.M. International School has continued its tradition of encouraging academic excellence by announcing a Rs. 51,000 annual scholarship for students who perform exceptionally well in Class 10 examinations. According to School Chairman Surinder Mahajan, the scholarship will be awarded to students who secure 95% or above marks in Class 10 from any board or any school. He stated that the objective of the school management is to motivate talented students and further enhance their academic potential so that they continue to achieve excellence in the future. He further added that special academic arrangements will also be provided for scholarship recipients. These students will receive dedicated coaching and guidance from experienced and trained teachers for competitive examinations such as NEET and JEE. The school, known for its focus on discipline and character building, aims to prepare students not only for higher education but also to become responsible citizens, successful professionals, talented artists, and skilled athletes. The management emphasized that this initiative has been designed keeping in view the bright future of students. It also urged parents and guardians from the region to take advantage of this opportunity by enrolling their children in the institution.



NEWS BRIEF

India's largest rail tunnel boring machine cutterhead lowered for Mumbai bullet train project

MUMBAI: India's largest cutterhead for a rail tunnel boring machine (TBM) has been lowered at Vikhroli in Mumbai for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train project, marking a major milestone in the construction of the country's first undersea rail tunnel, according to the National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL). The cutterhead, which has a diameter of 13.6 metres and weighs around 350 tonnes, marks the final stage in the primary assembly of the TBM's main shield. NHSRCL said the machine will be used for excavation of a section of the underground tunnel for the high-speed rail corridor. "Two TBMs, each weighing over 3,000 tonnes, are currently being assembled to construct a 16 km portion of the 21 km Mumbai tunnel."

Shaam-E-Mehfil with Papon mesmerizes the audience at Nexus Elante Mall



CHANDIGARH: Famed for his unique blend of traditional folk and contemporary music, singer-songwriter Papon enchanted music lovers with a captivating live performance at Nexus Elante Mall here with Shaam-E-Mehfil, a tour of soulful ghazals and more. With his seamless fusion of Indian folk, classical, and modern sounds, Papon continues to hold a cherished place in the hearts of Indian music enthusiasts.

The mosquito agarbatti you light every night is dangerous than the dengue-causing mosquito.

CHANDIGARH: A comprehensive public health study by Home Insect Control Association (HICA), a non-profit industry body that promotes the safe use of household insecticides in India released ahead of National Dengue Day (May 16), reveals that illegal mosquito repellent agarbattis have emerged as a bigger and immediate health threat than the mosquito-borne diseases like dengue, malaria they are meant to prevent. Commenting on the insights from the Kantar report, Dr. Sanjay Saseedharan, Director - Critical Care, S.L. Raheja Hospital, Mahim - A Fortis Associate said, "While mosquito repellent is vital to safeguarding against dengue fever, one must be careful to avoid constant exposure to smoke emanating from these products, including mosquito agarbattis. The problem arises because some of the mosquito repellents sold in the market do not meet the required standard since some products can contain toxic substances like pyrethroids, organophosphates, heavy metals, and other compounds that can irritate the respiratory tract."

Global oil prices to stay in \$90 to \$110 per barrel range during 2026: Moody's

NEW DELHI: Oil prices in the global market are likely to remain in the high range of \$90 to \$110 per barrel "as there is little prospect of a swift and durable settlement between the US and Iran and with it the full reopening of the Strait of Hormuz", according to a Moody's global report on geopolitical risks. Moody's said even if safe passage in the Strait were to resume in the next six months, the oil market would remain supply-constrained, with persistently higher and more volatile energy prices and broader knock-on effects through costs, demand and financing conditions for exposed borrowers. "We now expect Brent crude in the \$90-110 per barrel range for much of this year, with significant volatility, including occasional fluctuations outside this range in response to new developments," it said in the report.

India's economic pact with European FTAs seen as gamechanger

NEW DELHI: The Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) between India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), operational since October 1, 2025, marks a transformative milestone in India's economic diplomacy and strategic engagement with Europe, according to an article. The agreement reflects India's emergence as a confident global economic power negotiating balanced, future-oriented and investment-linked trade partnerships and constitutes a defining step in India's integration with advanced global economies, the article in *Greens' GeoPolitics* news portal observed. The agreement targets \$100 billion in investments and one million jobs over 15 years. Bilateral trade reached \$24.4 billion in FY25, while tariff concessions cover nearly 99.6 per cent of India's exports. The EFTA bloc comprises four highly developed European economies, namely Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein. Although these nations are not members of the European Union.

Blenders Pride Launches Multi-Sensory 'Reserved Experiences'

FEROZEPUR/FARIDKOT: Blenders Pride Packaged Drinking Water has unveiled 'Blenders Pride Reserved Experiences', a new cultural platform aimed at redefining how flavour is experienced through immersive multi-sensory engagement. Built around the idea of 'Reserved in Every Sense', the platform presents flavour as more than just taste — transforming it into a journey that can be seen, heard, felt and experienced through multiple sensory elements. Debasree Dasgupta said modern consumers are increasingly seeking elevated and intentional experiences that go beyond functionality. She added that the new platform translates the depth and complexity of flavour into immersive sensory expressions that encourage richer consumer engagement. Celebrity chef Kunal Kapoor, who curated the experience, said flavour in its truest form is layered and evolving.

TMPVL Q4 Revenue Rises 7.2%, Board Recommends ₹3 Dividend

CHANDIGARH: Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Limited (TMPVL) announced its financial results for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2026, reporting improved fourth-quarter performance driven by recovery in Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) operations and strong domestic demand. During Q4 FY26, TMPVL posted consolidated revenue of ₹1,05,447 crore, registering a growth of 7.2 per cent year-on-year. Consolidated EBIT stood at 8.4 per cent, while profit before tax (before exceptional items) came in at ₹7,167 crore. The company said the quarter witnessed significant improvement on a sequential basis due to normalized production at JLR and record domestic volumes, resulting in healthy free cash flow of ₹11.4K crore. For the full financial year FY26, consolidated revenue stood at ₹3,35,582 crore, down 8.3 per cent compared to the previous year. EBITDA and EBIT margins were reported at

Agarwal community has rich legacy of pride and service: Nayab Saini



CHANDIGARH: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said the history of the Agarwal community is filled with pride, dignity and service to the nation, adding that the teachings of Maharaja Agrasen continue to inspire society even today.

The Chief Minister was addressing the 5143rd Foundation Day celebrations of the Agra community organised by the All India Agarwal Maitri Sangh at Circus Ground, Sector 17, Chandigarh, where people from Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and other

northern states participated. Saini praised organiser Pradeep Goyal for the arrangements and said members of the Agarwal community have consistently contributed to the nation's economic growth and employment generation.

Referring to Maharaja Agrasen, the Chief Minister said his principle of "One Rupee, One Brick" promoted self-reliance and mutual cooperation in society. He added that the Central Government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also working on the principle of "Sabka Saath, Sabka

Vikas, Sabka Vishwas aur Sabka Prayas".

The Chief Minister highlighted that initiatives such as Startup India and Atmanirbhar Bharat have created new opportunities for entrepreneurs and the business community.

Speaking about Haryana's development roadmap, Saini said the state government has introduced the 'Viksit Haryana 2047' vision document and established a Department of Future to promote innovation and startup culture. He

said Haryana has emerged as the country's fourth-largest state and that a ₹2,000 crore 'Fund of Funds' has been created to encourage investment.

He further stated that a dedicated Directorate for MSMEs has been set up and projects worth ₹170 crore are underway across 48 MSME clusters in the state. According to the Chief Minister, the government has also removed over 1,100 unnecessary regulations across 48 departments to provide relief to the business community.

BJP leader Sanjay Tandon seeks blessings of Sri Sri Ravi Shankar during Gurudev's 70th birthday celebrations

CHANDIGARH: Senior BJP leader Sanjay Tandon, along with his wife Priya Tandon, visited the The Art of International Center Bengaluru, to seek the blessings of renowned spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, on the special occasion of Gurudev's 70th birthday and the celebration of 45 glorious years of The Art of Living Foundation.



During the visit, Sanjay Tandon presented Gurudev with a traditional Himachali cap and a shawl as a mark of respect and admiration. The couple conveyed their heartfelt wishes for his good health, long life and continued service to humanity while seeking his divine blessings. In a statement, Tandon said that Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's teachings have positively transformed millions of lives across the world by spreading the timeless message of harmony, meditation, compassion, and inner peace. He added that the Art of Living movement has played a remarkable role in promoting spiritual well-being, social service, and human values globally, inspiring people across generations and cultures. Tandon also shared his experience of visiting the sprawling ashram campus, where he was shown various service-oriented initiatives being run under the guidance of Gurudev. These included a gaushala, educational facilities for children, temples, healthcare services, skill development centres, and Ayurvedic treatment facilities. The couple also participated in feeding cows at the gaushala and interacted with volunteers and devotees at the ashram. The BJP leader attended the grand celebrations organised at the centre, which were also attended by dignitaries including Governor of Haryana Prof Ashim Kumar Ghosh and Chief Minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnis.

Launch and Discussion Ceremony of Dr. Subhash Sethi's First Poetry Collection "Meri Fursat Bikau Hai" Held Successfully



ZIRAKPUR: The launch and discussion ceremony of Dr. Subhash Sethi's first Hindi poetry collection "Meri Fursat Bikau Hai", which touches deeply upon emotions, memories, and human relationships, was held in a dignified atmosphere at Hotel Tulip Inn. The event witnessed the presence of several distinguished personalities and literature lovers from the fields of literature, medicine, and social service. The program was conducted by renowned poetess and writer Vimla Guglani. This poetry collection, comprising 54 poems, presents deeply moving portrayals of love, separation, loneliness, memories, and human emotions. Speaking on the occasion, author Dr. Subhash Sethi said that whenever he finds time, he maintains his friendship with the pen. Amid the busy life of medical service, writing has been a source of inner peace for him. Dr. Sethi shared that "Meri Fursat Bikau Hai" is his fourth book. Prior to this, three of his short story collections had already been published — two in English and one in Punjabi. He said he had long wished to express his emotions through poetry. The memories of his late wife Neelam Sethi stirred profound feelings within him, which he wove into words to create this poetry collection. He has dedicated the book to the memory of his beloved late wife. Poetess and writer Vimla Guglani, while expressing her views on the book, said that every word in the collection touches the heart.

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, to visit Amethi on May 20th

LUCKNOW: Excitement is at its peak in Amethi regarding Rahul Gandhi's proposed arrival and workers' conference. This event, scheduled for Wednesday, May 20th, 2026, is not just a political event, but a living symbol of the long-standing, intimate, familial relationship between Amethi and the Gandhi family. The people here have always considered the Gandhi family as part of their family, and this closeness is clearly visible in the preparations for this conference. Under the able guidance of Amethi's popular MP, Honorable Kishori Lal Sharma, Congress District President Pradeep Singh, along with other officials, is personally leading the preparations for this historic event. Under the leadership of the Honorable MP and senior leaders, arrangements are being thoroughly reviewed at every level to ensure a grand and well-organized event. All the district's block presidents, officials from the Nyaya Panchayat and city units, booth-level workers, and senior Congress members are working day and night to make this event a success. Meetings are continuing in villages, infusing new energy and enthusiasm among the workers. Workers believe that Rahul Gandhi's arrival will not only give a new direction to the organization but will also strengthen the development and public sentiment of Amethi. Amethi MP Kishori Lal Sharma, who was with the family of the late Amethi Congress District President Yogendra Mishra after his death on March 1, 2026, after a prolonged illness, spoke with Rahul Gandhi and will soon meet with the family. He will arrive at his Gauriganj residence on May 20, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. to be with the family.

CtrIS Hyderabad Datacenter Hosts BharathCloud's First AI-Ready Sovereign Cloud Centre

CHANDIGARH: BharathCloud, an Indian AI-ready cloud services provider, launched BharathCloud's first Cloud Centre at CtrIS Datacenters' Hyderabad DC1 facility, marking an important step in strengthening India's sovereign and AI-ready digital infrastructure ecosystem. JLL, the largest international property consulting firm in India, served as the exclusive advisor for the transaction in which BharathCloud established its datacentre ecosystem. The Cloud Centre has been formally inaugurated by Sidhar Pinnareddy, Founder & CEO, CtrIS Datacenters. The launch reflects the growing need for secure, scalable, and sovereign digital infrastructure as AI workloads, data localisation, and digital transformation continue to accelerate across industries.



The launch of BharathCloud's first Cloud Centre at CtrIS' Hyderabad DC1 marks the beginning of BharathCloud's infrastructure expansion journey in India. Supported by JLL's global infrastructure advisory capabilities and hosted within CtrIS AI-ready, Rated-4 datacenter ecosystem, the initiative highlights the increasing demand for resilient and high-performance digital infrastructure environments. Congratulating BharathCloud on the launch, Sidhar Pinnareddy, Founder & CEO, CtrIS Datacenters, said: "India's AI and digital growth story will require resilient, secure, and sovereign digital infrastructure at scale. At CtrIS,

we are focused on enabling this transformation through Sovereign AI-ready datacenters and trusted infrastructure ecosystems that support enterprises, governments, and digital platforms. We congratulate BharathCloud on the launch of their first Cloud Centre at our Hyderabad facility and wish them success in their growth journey." Rahul Takkalpalayy & Padma Reddy Sama, Co-Founders, BharathCloud, said: "Mr. Sidhar's pioneering vision and CtrIS' world-class digital infrastructure capabilities make them an ideal partner in our journey to build India's most trusted AI-ready sovereign cloud ecosystem. Along with JLL's strategic expertise, this collaboration provides us the scale, strength, and confidence to expand our infrastructure footprint

nationally and globally." Rachit Mohan, MD, Datacenter Leasing, India & APAC Lead, JLL, said: "This collaboration highlights the growing demand for secure, scalable, and AI-ready cloud infrastructure across the globe. We are pleased to support BharathCloud in enabling next-generation cloud ecosystems designed for future digital growth." The initiative is part of BharathCloud's \$100 million (approximately ₹950 crore) investment plan over the next five years to build AI-ready sovereign cloud infrastructure across India. The expansion roadmap spans key metro cities, including Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi NCR, Kolkata, and Pune, alongside expansion into Tier-II and Tier-III cities.

Himachali Culture Comes Alive at Nyunder-2026 Celebration



CHANDIGARH: The First Annual Festival Nyunder-2026, organised by the World Himachali Organization, was held with great enthusiasm at MCM DAV College, Sector 36, Chandigarh, showcasing the rich cultural heritage, folk traditions and unity of Himachal Pradesh. The grand cultural evening witnessed the participation of a large number of members from the Himachali community across the Tricity region and nearby areas. Member of Parliament Anurag Thakur attended the event as the Chief Guest, while Rajya Sabha MP Sikander Kumar was present as the Guest of Honour. Anurag Thakur appreciated the initiative of the World Himachali Organization and stated that such cultural festivals play an important role in preserving the rich heritage of Himachal Pradesh and inspiring the younger generation to stay connected with their roots. The festival showcased the vibrant colours of

Himachali culture through traditional performances, folk music and cultural programmes. Renowned folk singer Karnail Rana enthralled the audience with his popular Himachali folk songs, while energetic performances of Himachali Nati and Jhamakda dance forms added to the festive spirit. Visitors also enjoyed the specially arranged traditional Himachali feast, Dham. An exhibition depicting the glorious history, folk traditions and cultural heritage of Himachal Pradesh was another major attraction of the event. President Asha Jaswal said that the objective of the festival is to connect the youth with their roots, traditions and cultural values while strengthening the spirit of Himachali brotherhood. President Anil Rana stated that the organisation will continue to organise such programmes in the future to promote Himachali identity and culture at national and international levels.

AGI Cricket Excellence Centre Ready with Modern Training Facilities in Jalandhar



BUNNY SODHI JALANDHAR: The AGI Cricket Excellence Centre, equipped with modern cricket training infrastructure and advanced facilities, is set to begin operations from May 18, 2026, at the sports ground of AGI Global School located at Jalandhar Heights-II, Urbana, 66 Feet Road, Jalandhar. Sharing details about the project, Abhijit Singh, Life Member of the Punjab Cricket Association and Managing Director of AGI Majestic Living Pvt. Limited, said the centre has been developed with complete professional cricket infrastructure, including two soil turf pitches, one concrete pitch and one synthetic surface pitch. He added that a modern floodlit box cricket arena measuring 105 feet by 65 feet is also nearing completion. Modern facilities such as separate washrooms for boys and girls, changing rooms and pantry facilities have also been developed for players. Arun Bhambri, Honorary Secretary of Jalandhar Heights Cricket Club (Regd.), which will manage the centre, informed that experienced national-level coaches have been appointed for professional training of budding cricketers. Centre In-charge and Coach Parag Sharma said players will receive training with modern equipment including bowling machines, along with specialised fitness coaching.

BJP and India Alliance leaders gathered at PC Joshi's thirteenth day ceremony in Prayagraj

PRAYAGRAJ: The thirteenth day ceremony of Puran Chandra Joshi, a senior official of Indian Telephone Industries (ITI), husband of Dr. Rita Bahuguna Joshi, a former cabinet minister of Uttar Pradesh and former BJP MP from Prayagraj and a prominent politician of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand and retired professor of Allahabad University, was held late Sunday night in the auditorium of the Kal Prasad Memorial Trust, an international educational institution for dependent and independent India, located on MG Road near Medical Square in Prayagraj. A complete biographical documentary was shown on TV, including the biography of the late PC Joshi and the son of the soil of Allahabad, a development man, former Chief Minister, Union Cabinet Minister, and freedom fighter Hemwal Nandan Bahuguna. In the above mentioned thirteenth day ceremony, the well-wishers of late Shri Joshi and his family from far off places like Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Maharashtra, West Bengal.

ICF Calls Global Sikh Meet Over Punjab Beadbi Law

CHANDIGARH: The Indus Canada Foundation (ICF) has raised serious concerns over the Punjab Government's recently passed Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Saktar (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which proposes life imprisonment for acts of beadbdi of Sri Guru Granth Sahib. While reaffirming deep respect for Sri Guru Granth Sahib and strongly condemning any act of sacrilege, ICF said the legislation raises complex constitutional, legal and international concerns, especially for the nearly 11 million Sikhs living outside India. ICF President Vikram Bajwa announced that a global Zoom meeting of Sikh gurdwaras and community organisations from Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia will be held on June 11, 2026, to discuss the implications of the law in democratic societies where such punishments may conflict with constitutional principles and established legal systems. Bajwa said many younger Sikhs abroad are "astounded and deeply concerned" over the

severity and scope of the proposed punishments. Referring to Western countries, he noted that religious scriptures are generally viewed as sources of spiritual guidance rather than instruments tied to criminal penalties. ICF also questioned whether a broad interpretation of the law could create uncertainty for Sikhs abroad regarding the keeping of Sri Guru Granth Sahib in private homes. Bajwa stated that religious scriptures are not owned or governed by the Punjab Government and should not be subjected to state control over global religious practices. The Foundation further claimed that no major democratic country currently enforces a law with such stringent criminal provisions linked to religious scriptures and alleged that the legislation appears to be politically motivated rather than based on wider religious consensus. ICF said legal consultations are underway and added that the legislation could be challenged before the Supreme Court of India following the June 11 consultations.

GMCL Launches Nationwide 'Nasha Mukh Bharat' Cricket League



NEW DELHI: The Gali Mohalla Cricket League (GMCL) has launched the Nasha Mukh Bharat League Segment, Season 1 (2026-27) across all Indian states and Union Territories to promote awareness against drug abuse through cricket and sports participation. GMCL founder Baba Inder Preet said that for the first time in India, representatives from the Central and State Governments will come together on a common cricket platform to support the "Nasha Mukh Bharat" and anti-drug campaign. According to the organisers, Members of Parliament (MPs), Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs), Municipal Councillors, MLCs and Sarpanches from across the country will participate in exhibition cricket matches aimed at spreading awareness against drug addiction.

Under the initiative, each state will form four teams representing MPs, MLAs, councillors and sarpanches, who will play two exhibition matches. In addition, separate teams comprising officials from Central and State Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) will also participate in exhibition matches to spread the message of building a drug-free society. GMCL stated that the league has emerged as a grassroots sports platform working to combat drug abuse while also creating alternative opportunities to support families affected by the drug menace. Princess Asharaja Gaekwad and Raj Kapoor, who are associated with GMCL as founding members, appreciated the initiative and said the campaign would also receive international support.

United Sikhs Takes Initiative to Build Protective Embankments Along Sutlej River



FEROZEPUR: UN affiliated organization United Sikhs has taken a major initiative to protect villages and farmers from recurring floods caused by the Sutlej River. The organization has decided to construct strong protective embankments at vulnerable points along the river to prevent flooding from entering villages and damaging agricultural land during the monsoon season. Mr. Jagmeet Singh, In-charge of United Sikhs Ferozepur, stated that people in the region have been suffering from flood-related problems for years, but no permanent solution had been implemented. Keeping this in mind, United Sikhs has stepped forward with a humanitarian approach to take responsibility for this important work. He added that the project will be carried out with the support of the local sangat and volunteers, and the initiative will be expanded further in the coming time. He informed that around 15 strong embankments will be constructed near Basti Ram Lal village along the Sutlej River, which is expected to provide major relief to nearby villages. The service initiative is aimed not only at ensuring safety for residents and farmers but also at spreading the message of humanity and selfless service. Mr. Jagmeet Singh further shared that a special program will be organized at Basti Ram Lal village, where social workers, prominent personalities, political representatives, and religious saints are expected to be present. Village Sarpanch, Mr. Jasmail Singh and Mr. Daljinder Singh Manga, along with several other dignitaries, will also attend the occasion.

Bharti Enterprises announces agreement for Prudential plc to acquire majority stake in Bharti Life Insurance

CHANDIGARH: Bharti Enterprises today announced that Prudential plc ("Prudential"), a leading insurer and asset manager in Asia and Africa, has agreed to acquire a 75% stake in Bharti Life Insurance Company Limited ("Bharti Life"), one of India's leading life insurance providers, from Bharti Life Ventures Pvt Ltd (and other selling shareholders). Sunil Bharti Mittal, Founder and Chairman, Bharti Enterprises, said, "We are delighted to welcome Prudential Plc as the controlling shareholder of Bharti Life, further accelerating its growth trajectory. Prudential's experience and global scale, combined with Bharti's strong track record, create a formidable alliance to tap into the immense potential of India's life insurance sector. This partnership opens new opportunities for Bharti Life's employees and further reinforces the strategic relationship between India and the United Kingdom." Commenting on the development, Karan Bhagat, Founder, MD & CEO, 360 ONE, said "Our private equity funds are pleased to have made a meaningful investment in Bharti Life Insurance and we have been encouraged by the company's market-leading growth and strong momentum. Today's transaction reflects both its current performance and long-term potential. We are also delighted to welcome

Prudential PLC's controlling investment in Bharti Life Insurance and look forward to continuing the distribution of the company's products through our network." This transaction comes with India's life insurance sector undergoing rapid transformation, driven by digital adoption, increasing awareness, and rising demand for financial protection solutions. The market continues to present strong structural growth opportunities, supported by favorable demographics and relatively low life insurance penetration, indicating significant unmet demand. Bharti Life Insurance, an entity of Bharti Enterprises, has built a strong presence in India through innovative life insurance solutions and an expanding footprint. The investment will support Bharti Life's next phase of growth by enhancing its product offerings and expanding its distribution reach to better serve evolving customer needs. Bharti Life's strong local presence, combined with Prudential's established insurance expertise, is expected to expand access to life and health protection solutions across the country, supported by the combined brand strength and operational capabilities of both organizations.

NK Sharma Alleges Bid to Reject Opposition Nominations

ZIRAKPUR: Ahead of the Municipal Council elections scheduled for May 26, former MLA NK Sharma alleged that the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is pressuring the administration to reject the nomination papers of opposition candidates. Addressing a press conference, Sharma claimed that No Objection Certificates (NOCs) of 31 Shiromani Akali Dal candidates had already been cleared, but attempts were allegedly being made to cancel their nomination papers. He termed the alleged move as politically motivated and against democratic principles. Sharma also raised questions over AAP's candidate selection process, alleging that the party had fielded several candidates with controversial backgrounds. He claimed that cases related to illicit liquor trade, fraud, cryptocurrency scams and forgery had reportedly been registered against some candidates or their close associates. Referring specifically to candidates from Ward Nos. 27, 31, 19 and 5, Sharma alleged that handling over the administration of Zirakpur to such individuals could prove harmful for the city's future. Highlighting civic issues, Sharma said Zirakpur was facing problems such as garbage accumulation, damaged roads, poor sewerage infrastructure and neglected parks and public spaces.

NEWS BRIEF

Chelsea gets new manager, signs four-year contract with Xabi Alonso

LONDON: Chelsea announced the appointment of former Liverpool and Real Madrid star Xabi Alonso as their new manager, set to start his role from July onwards on a four-year deal.

A statement from the club said, "Chelsea Football Club is delighted to announce the appointment of Xabi Alonso as Manager of the men's team. The Spaniard will begin his role on July 1, 2026, having agreed a four-year contract at Stamford Bridge." Chelsea have not had the best season so far, they are currently in ninth place in the Premier League, with 13 wins, 10 draws and 10 losses, giving them 49 points and keeping them 30 points away from table-toppers Arsenal. The Blues had sacked Liam Rosenior in April after three months in charge following a string of poor performances and had been looking for a new head coach. The interim boss before Alonso's appointment was Calum McFarlane.

Xabi has won two UEFA Champions Leagues as a player, one each with Liverpool and Real Madrid, and also captured the FA Cup, La Liga, Copa del Rey and Bundesliga (with Bayern Munich) as a player. In his first stint as a coach, he led Bayer Leverkusen to an unbeaten Bundesliga title win back in 2023/24.

On his appointment, Xabi said: "Chelsea is one of the biggest clubs in world football and it fills me with immense pride to become manager of this great club. From my conversations with the ownership group and sporting leadership, it is clear we share the same ambition. We want to build a team capable of competing consistently at the highest level and fighting for trophies."

Ambati Rayudu calls Sunil Narine 'IPL's greatest-ever player' after heroics against GT

NEW DELHI: Sunil Narine continued to enhance his IPL legacy after another match-winning spell for Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), drawing rich praise from former India batter Ambati Rayudu, who called him the "best IPL player of all time". Narine returned figures of 2 for 29 in KKR's 29-run win over Gujarat Titans (GT) in IPL 2026, producing yet another controlled performance in the middle overs to earn the Player of the Match award in his landmark 200th IPL appearance.

Speaking on ESPNcricinfo's TimeOut show after the game, Rayudu said Narine's all-round influence and sustained excellence separated him from every other player in the league's history.

"Proper match-winner with the ball, [and] with the bat," Rayudu said, as per ESPNcricinfo. "There have been such great players in the IPL, but this guy always stands out. He's at the top of the list for me."

Former India all-rounder Sanjay Bangar also placed Narine among the greatest performers the tournament has seen, citing his longevity and ability to reinvent himself despite scrutiny over his bowling action during different phases of his career.

"Some great names have plied their trade in this league, but yes, longevity is a factor. He had also had to overcome a lot of other problems in terms of how his action was questioned on many occasions, but he seems to have found another way of delivering with the same overspin that you generally associate with his skill set, [while] retaining the ability to get the ball turning both ways," Bangar said.

HOPS FC crowned champions of IWL 2, Juba Sangha FC secure promotion

NEW DELHI: HOPS FC emerged champions of the Indian Women's League 2 (IWL 2) 2025-26 season after securing a perfect record of five wins from five matches in the Final Round and nine out of nine overall, while Juba Sangha FC finished second to seal promotion to the Indian Women's League (IWL) for the 2026-27 season. The six-team Final Round, played in a single-leg round-robin format at the Padukone-Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence in Bengaluru, concluded with HOPS topping the standings on 15 points. The side from Delhi scored eight goals and did not concede a single goal throughout the final round, according to a press release.

They had topped their group with four wins in as many games to make it to the final round. It marks HOPS' first IWL 2 title and a return to the top tier of Indian women's football after their relegation last season.

Juba Sangha FC, also based in Delhi, finished runners-up with 12 points after registering four wins in five matches. They ended the competition as the highest-scoring team in the Final Round with 15 goals. It marks Juba Sangha's first-ever promotion to the Indian Women's League. HOPS began their campaign with a 3-0 win over Krida Prabodhini Pune before defeating Mumbai Knights FC 2-0 and edging Suruchi Sangha 1-0. They then secured another narrow 1-0 victory against Kemp FC before defeating Juba Sangha 1-0 in the final match of the competition to confirm the title.

RCB beat Punjab Kings by 23 runs, enter playoffs



AGENCY DHARAMSALA: Royal Challengers Bengaluru has registered a comfortable win against Punjab Kings by 23 runs and seal a playoff berth in the IPL here on Sunday. Earlier Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) posted 222/4 against Punjab Kings (PBKS) in their clash at the

Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium on Sunday, a knock that added to the growing list of high-scoring games in men's T20 cricket. According to records in men's T20 cricket, India now leads the chart for most 200-plus totals with 50 such scores, followed by RCB with 44, Chennai Super Kings (CSK) with

43, Punjab Kings (PBKS) with 41, and Somerset with 40.

The latest RCB innings in Dharamsala further strengthened their position among the most destructive batting units in franchise T20 history. However, the flip side of the high-scoring trend also highlights the chal-

lenges faced by bowling units, with PBKS topping the unwanted list of most 200-plus totals conceded in men's T20 cricket with 46 such instances, followed by RCB with 40, Delhi Capitals (DC) with 35, Rajasthan Royals (RR) and Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) with 34 each, and Middlesex with 33. The pattern has been

particularly evident in IPL 2026, which has already produced 53 scores of 200-plus – the highest in a single edition of the tournament – surpassing IPL 2025 (52), IPL 2024 (41), IPL 2023 (37), and IPL 2022 (18), underlining the increasing dominance of bat over ball in the modern T20 era.

The record also reflects on captaincy trends, with Shreyas Iyer having led sides that conceded 31 totals of 200-plus in men's T20s, followed by Faf du Plessis (29), MS Dhoni (28), Babar Azam (21), and Rishabh Pant (20), further highlighting the evolving demands on bowlers and leadership in high-scoring conditions. In terms of competition-wise struggles, PBKS have once again featured prominently, having conceded nine 200-plus totals in IPL 2026 alone – the most in a single men's T20 competition – followed by Southern Punjab in the National T20 Cup 2020/21 (8), SRH in IPL 2024 (7), RR and LSG in IPL 2025 (7 each), and RR again in IPL 2026 (7), underscoring the relentless scoring surge in franchise cricket.

Coming to the match, RCB produced a commanding batting display to post 222/4 against PBKS, powered by half-centuries from Virat Kohli and Venkatesh Iyer. Kohli anchored the innings with a fluent 58 off 37 balls, marking his record-extending ninth 500-plus run season in IPL history, while Venkatesh remained unbeaten on 73 off 40 balls to finish the innings strongly. After being put in to bat, RCB made a steady start before Jacob Bethell.

Virat Kohli equals Alex Hales for most 50-plus partnerships in Men's T20s



DHARAMSALA: Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and India's iconic batter Virat Kohli has once again underlined his consistency in T20 cricket by drawing level with Alex Hales for the most 50-plus partnerships in Men's T20s history. Both batters now sit at the top with 210 fifty-plus stands in the shortest format.

Kohli achieved this feat during RCB's clash against the Punjab Kings (PBKS) in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) on Sunday afternoon in Dharamsala at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium.

He stitched a brilliant 76 runs off 41 balls stand with Devdutt Padikkal for the second wicket during the clash. This elite list also features T20 giants, David Warner (200), Babar Azam (196), and Chris Gayle (191).

This fifty-plus stand with Padikkal marked the duo's sixth 50+ partnership of the season, as Virat Kohli once again etched his name into IPL partnership history.

After rewriting records alongside AB de Villiers in 2016, Kohli has recreated the magic a decade later with a new partner at the crease.

Their six 50-plus stands in just nine innings is the joint second-highest tally ever by a non-opening pair in a single IPL season. Kohli-de Villiers duo of 2016 sits above them with seven such partnerships in 13 innings. The list also includes legendary combinations of Chennai Super Kings (CSK) Michael Hussey and Suresh Raina in 2013, along with the Mumbai Indians (MI) star pair of Suryakumar Yadav and Tiaq Varma in 2025.

Thailand Open 2026: Satwik-Chirag suffers defeat in final, settles with silver

AGENCY PATUMWAN: India's top men's doubles pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty finished runners-up at the Thailand Open 2026 after going down to Indonesia's Leo Rolly Camando and Daniel Marthin 21-12, 25-23 in a 53-minute final at the Nimbutr Stadium in Thailand on Sunday. A difficult opening game saw Satwik and Chirag struggle to find momentum, with the Indonesians racing away to a 21-12 win.

The Indian duo bounced back in the second game, producing a strong fightback and taking it down to the wire, where, after saving five championship points in a row, they eventually succumbed to a 25-23 defeat, according to a press release from BAI Media.

This is the only medal for India from the tournament after Lakshya Sen and PV Sindhu lost their respective matches in the quarter-final.



Earlier on Saturday, the two-time former champions Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty reached the final of the Thailand Open once again after missing last year's edition, defeating Malaysia's Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin 19-21, 22-20, 21-16.

In the Round of 16 clash, the Indian pair defeated their Malaysian opponents,

Goointing Bryan Jeremy and Haikal Muhammad, 21-12, 21-19. In the men's singles, Sen, the runner-up at the All England Open, was eliminated by Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn in the quarter-final match, which shattered Indian hopes in the singles event. In women's singles, PV Sindhu also lost the quarter-final clash 21-19 against Japan's Akane Yamaguchi.

GT would be worried after loss to KKR about their top-two chances: Piyush Chawla

AGENCY MUMBAI: Former Indian cricketer Piyush Chawla said that following their loss, the Gujarat Titans (GT) would be worried because they want to finish in the top two, with a game still left. He added that if they lose, net run rate and other results could come into the picture.

The Titans stay in the top two, but with other top four teams still having more than one match left and teams like Chennai Super Kings (CSK), Rajasthan Royals (RR), Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) and Delhi Capitals (DC) still fighting for a playoff spot, they would not be entirely assured of their top-two finish if they lose to Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in their final league stage match and end up with a total of 16 points. Speaking on Star Sports 'Crickit Live', Piyush said, "Gujarat Titans will be worried because they would want to finish in the top two. They still have the ball in their court. They have a game against CSK left. If they win that one, they will definitely finish in the top two. But if not, then net run rate and all those things will come into the picture. You want to be safe because you do not



want to be dependent on others, especially at this stage of the tournament. The things that are in your control, you

just want to make sure you do them really well." He also hailed the bowling spell of 2/29 from legendary spinner

Sunil Narine while defending 248 runs, calling him "one of the best in the business" who always stands out.

"This guy can walk into a lot of sides in world cricket": Shastri pushes for Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's India debut

AGENCY NEW DELHI: Former India head coach Ravi Shastri believes teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is ready for international cricket and has urged selectors to fast-track him into the national T20 setup.

Fresh from starring in India's victorious ICC Men's Under-19 World Cup campaign earlier this year, Sooryavanshi has taken the IPL by storm with the Rajasthan Royals.

The left-handed opener has scored 440 runs in 11 innings at a blistering strike rate of 236.56 and an average of 40, including a stunning 36-ball century against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) and two more half-centuries. He has hit 40 sixes and 38 fours in this IPL season.

His aggressive batting and fearless approach have impressed Shastri, who feels the 15-year-old could make his senior India debut as early as next month during the tour of Ireland.



"The door would be three-fourths open," Shastri told The ICC Review.

"I can tell you that, for sure, because if you want to encourage or get someone young and into the setup as quickly as possible, then it's the T20 format of the game, and he is not short by any margin. This guy can walk into a lot of sides in world cricket at the current moment in time. Just when you look at the exuberance of youth and that youth shows on his face," Shastri added.

Shastri said Sooryavanshi's age should not become a talking point, given the maturity he has shown against seasoned bowlers in the IPL.

Sooryavanshi made his IPL debut as a 14-year-old last year with the Rajasthan Royals and made 252 runs in seven matches. During his third IPL game, he also struck the second-fastest IPL century, coming in just 35 balls.

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot

Admission Notice
M.Sc. Nursing courses (PMNET-2026)

Online applications are invited alongwith requisite fee for admission to M.Sc. Nursing course, session-2026 in all the Govt./University constituent /Private colleges of Punjab through University website from 19.05.2026 to 16.06.2026. Prospectus for admission to M.Sc. Nursing course will be available on university website from 19.05.2026. The Entrance Test (PMNET-2026) for admission to M.Sc. Nursing course will be conducted on 27.06.2026

Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing course (PPBNET-2026)

Online applications are invited alongwith requisite fee for admission to Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing course, session-2026 in all the Govt./University constituent /Private colleges of Punjab through University website from 19.05.2026 to 16.06.2026. Prospectus for admission to Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing course will be available on university website from 19.05.2026. The Entrance Test (PPBNET-2026) for admission to Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing course will be conducted on 27.06.2026. The Schedule of Counselling will be intimated later on through University website.

Note: Any Notification/Corrigendum/Amendment by Govt. of Punjab will be followed. For Prospectus/fee details/schedule/online counseling/details & updates visit us at: www.bfuh.ac.in.

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Germany's Healy World Enters India

CHANDIGARH: Healy World, the Germany-based global innovator in frequency wellness technology, announces its entry into India with the launch of Zero Hertz, a lifestyle collection designed to support digital well being in an increasingly connected world. The collection has been created for people who live, work, and travel with constant exposure to smartphones, laptops, smart appliances, Wi-Fi routers, Bluetooth devices, digital wearables, and expanding wireless networks. The new three-product Zero Hertz line features Healy's advanced non-metallic EMF and RF-shielding material, engineered to help shield against 100% of low-frequency EMFs and reduce up to 90% of RF exposure. Zero Hertz introduces a new class of shielding material engineered through advanced carbon-based coating technology. The material is designed to help absorb and redistribute portions of low-frequency electromagnetic exposure before it reaches the body, while remaining soft, breathable, and skin-friendly for all-day comfort. The technology works passively without electricity, batteries, or grounding, and is designed not to interfere with phones, Wi-Fi, or other signals—allowing normal digital use. The Zero Hertz products have also undergone independent material testing and are reported to be compliant with EU RoHS Directive (EU) 2015/863, with no restricted substances detected within measurable limits. The materials are also compliant with EU REACH regulations and meet global OEKO Tex Standards along with the KC safety standards, reinforcing their safety, quality and suitability for everyday use. The leadership team at Healy World shared that India was chosen as the first launch market due to its strong demand for holistic wellness and its rapid expansion in smart technology use. They stated that Zero Hertz represents the next phase of wellness innovation where material science, comfort, and technology work together to support everyday balance.

How Life Insurance Supports Retirement Planning, Financial Security for India's Growing Elderly Population

The article has been authored by Mr. Sudeep PB, Chief Distribution Officer-Proprietary & PNB, PNB MetLife. India is known to have one of the largest working populations in the world, but it is also preparing for another significant demographic shift—the rise in its aging population. Retirement planning is increasingly becoming significant for a large portion of the society, and India has important opportunities to strengthen healthcare systems, expand financial inclusion, and build long term care and social protection frameworks.

By 2036, Indians aged 60 and above are projected to number around 230 million, or 15% of the total population. Southern states and parts of Northern

India are expected to have a higher share of elderly citizens, with Kerala's elderly population projected to rise to nearly 22.8%. Eastern and Northern States will follow closely, with West Bengal expected at 18.2% and Punjab at 18.3%, while Western and hill states will also witness rapid growth, including Gujarat at 15.4% and Jammu & Kashmir at 15.5%. All states are expected to witness a steady increase in their elderly population.

As advances in medical care help people live longer and healthier, their challenge shifts from earning during their working years to sustaining income across longer post-retirement lives. In today's increasingly connected world, families are more geographically diverse, with many people living in different cities or even settled abroad. Younger generations are balancing multiple financial priorities, from investing in their children's education to planning their own retirement, so there is a growing emphasis on financial independence and proactive planning for aging parents.

With India entering a new phase of demographic evolution, the conversation around retirement is also evolving from dependency to self reliance. Retirement-focused life insurance plays a key role in providing sustainable income and financial independence post retirement. With disciplined savings, guaranteed income and capital protection, people can choose travel and hobbies, pursue a second career or start a venture and lead a joyful, purpose driven second innings.

Today, the life insurance market is offering a wide range of retirement focused solutions that align closely with individuals' life goals, personal aspirations, and long term financial needs. Annuity plans are central to this retirement ecosystem, offering a guaranteed, lifelong income that delivers financial certainty throughout retirement. Retirees can choose monthly or quarterly payouts based on their cash flow needs, leading to stable income management. As market independent solutions, annuities offer protection from volatility and bring peace of mind, with both deferred and immediate choices available to suit different life stages and retirement journeys.

Beyond income solutions, some life insurance products cover customers right up to 100 years, whole life insurance being the clearest example. Term insurance is vital in safeguarding the wealth created over the years, against any uncertainty in life. By providing assured support to the loved ones, term insurance helps preserve the retirement corpus, allowing the spouse and family stay financially secure, and ensuring that unexpected events do not derail long term goals.

Ultimately, a good retirement plan goes beyond simply accumulating sufficient funds. It is about enabling the freedom to use one's resources meaningfully and the confidence that what has been built is protected. Well structured retirement planning also contributes meaningfully to India's long term economic resilience. Financially independent seniors are in a better position to remain active participants in the economy, sustain household consumption, and even start their own ventures. By expanding access to financial protection and retirement planning solutions, India's financial foundations will be strengthened for decades to come.

Ranbir Kapoor buys land in Ayodhya for Rs 3.31 crore



Bollywood actor Ranbir Kapoor has invested in Ayodhya's growing luxury real estate market by acquiring a land parcel at 'The Sarayu', a premium plotted development project by The House of Abhinandan Lodha (HoABL). According to the official announcement, the transaction is valued at Rs 3.31 crore for a total land area of 2,134 square feet. The investment marks another milestone in the rising demand for luxury branded land developments in Ayodhya, amid rapid infrastructure growth and increasing investor confidence in the city's evolving real estate ecosystem, as per the press release. Ranbir Kapoor's purchase is part of 'The Sarayu', a 75-acre landmark plotted development situated on the banks of the Sarayu river in Ayodhya. The project features a grand clubhouse, over 35 curated lifestyle amenities and a five-acre fully vegetarian luxury hotel by The Leela Hotels. Kapoor in a statement, "I believe Ayodhya has chosen me, and I have just answered this calling. Ayodhya is deep rooted in our history and is a critical part of our cultural fabric. This land at The Sarayu became my gateway to ensuring this becomes a part of my legacy for my family." He further praised the seamless acquisition process facilitated by the company. "HoABL made this journey seamless, transparent and easy with their fully digital process," the actor added. Commenting on the development, Abhinandan Lodha, Chairman of The House of Abhinandan Lodha, said Ayodhya is witnessing a strong cultural and economic resurgence. "Ayodhya stands at the centre of India's cultural and spiritual resurgence, with a clear long-term growth trajectory driven by infrastructure, tourism, and global attention. With The Sarayu, we are creating a benchmark for spiritually rooted, world-class land developments," he said. He further added that Ranbir Kapoor's investment reflects growing confidence among buyers in Ayodhya's future. "Ranbir Kapoor's investment reflects the growing conviction among discerning buyers who are looking at Ayodhya not just emotionally, but also as a strategic, future-forward destination." Lodha stated Ayodhya has witnessed a rapid transformation in recent years due to large-scale public investment, improved connectivity and major infrastructure projects, strengthening its position as a leading spiritual, cultural and real estate hub.

Yugmarg

CHANDIGARH

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Lifestyle

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Raima Sen's 'Phool Pishi O Edward' will leave you guessing till the very end

The makers of Raima Sen's forthcoming Bengali thriller "Phool Pishi O Edward" dropped the engaging trailer for the drama on Saturday.

Helmed by Nandita Roy and Shiboprosad Mukherjee, the movie has been set against the backdrop of a tragic zamindar wedding where every guest turned into a suspect.

The preview revolves around dysfunctional relationships, emotionally charged confrontations,

bizarre family dynamics, and mounting paranoia that slowly build into a murder mystery.

The story, screenplay, and dialogue for "Phool Pishi O Edward" have been provided by Zinia Sen, with additional screenplay, dialogue, and script correction from Samragnee Bandyopadhyay.

Talking about her next, Raima said, "What I loved most about Phool Pishi O Edward is that every character carries a secret, and the audience keeps changing their suspicions every few minutes. The

trailer gives you just enough to pull you into this strange, chaotic world without revealing what's actually underneath. That unpredictability is what makes the film so exciting."

Nandita Roy and Shiboprosad Mukherjee added, "With Phool Pishi O Edward, we wanted to create a murder mystery that feels deeply rooted in Bengali culture while still being universally engaging. The zamindar wedding setting gave us the perfect space to combine grandeur,

dysfunction, humour, suspense, and emotional chaos. Every character has layers, every interaction carries suspicion, and the trailer is only the beginning of the mystery."

The project enjoys a stellar ensemble cast led by Raima and Sohini Sengupta, along with Arjun Chakraborty, Ananya Chatterjee, debutant Shyamoupti Mudley, Koneenica Bandyopadhyay, Anamika Saha, Shaheeb Chattopadhyay, Rajatava Datta, Soumya Mukherjee, and Rishav Basu in

ancillary roles.

Sharing the trailer on social media, Raima wrote, "Unusual death on the night of Manindra Chandra Nandi's third marriage. The accident... Or planned murder? Can you find out the truth full PC? Mystery-thriller-filled 'Full PC and Edward' directed by Nandita Roy and Shivprasad Mukhopadhyay is releasing on 29 May. (sic)"

"Phool Pishi O Edward" is slated to reach the cinema lovers on 29th May this year.

Shekhar Kapur votes for John Abraham as the next James Bond: He has cool 'shaken not stirred' persona

Acclaimed filmmaker Shekhar Kapur has shared his views on which one of the Bollywood hunks can be seen on the screen as the next James Bond.

Through his latest Tweet, the 'Masoom' maker voted for John Abraham as the next James Bond after Daniel Craig.

Shekhar pointed out that John's 'shaken not stirred' persona and praiseworthy acting skills make him a perfect candidate to be considered for the iconic role.

The 'Mr India' director further pointed out that the producers locked in Daniel Craig as James Bond after seeing his impressive performance in Elizabeth (1998), which was directed by Shekhar Kapur.

Taking to the micro-blogging site, the filmmaker wrote, "As the search of the next Bond heats up, my vote for the next James Bond after Daniel Craig would be John Abraham. He has the cool



'shaken not stirred' persona and certainly good actor with the 'Bond Charm' By the way Daniel Craig was cast as

James Bond after the producers saw him in my film Elizabeth (sic)."

The globally renowned

spy series came into existence from Ian Fleming's novels and ended up spanning 27 films.

The primary instalment in the acclaimed franchise "Dr. No" (1962), featuring Sean Connery, was made under the direction of Terence Young.

After this, Eon Productions went on to produce 25 films in the 'James Bond' franchise, with two non-Eon films—"Casino Royale" (1967) and "Never Say Never Again" (1983)—being outside the main series.

Over the years, several actors have stepped into the role of the beloved spy, including Sean Connery (1962-1967, 1971, 1983), David Niven (1967), George Lazenby (1969), Roger Moore (1973-1985), Timothy Dalton (1987-1989), Pierce Brosnan (1995-2002), and Daniel Craig (2006-2021). On the other hand, helping Shekhar's claim, John has created a niche for himself in the action genre with movies such as "Pathaan", "Dhoom", and "Force".

Priyanka Chopra drops a glimpse of daughter Malti making a new friend

Global icon Priyanka Chopra frequently treats her Insta Fam with glimpses of her precious moments with her loved ones, especially her 4-year-old daughter, Malti Marie Chopra Jonas.

On Saturday, PeeCee shared another album, featuring snippets from her "current era" on her official Instagram handle.

In one of these pictures, little Malti was seen joyfully making a new friend. She was seen standing in front of a horse. With her back towards the cam-

era, Malti was dressed as a cute little rider.

"Soft launch of my current era (sic)," Priyanka captioned the post.

In another video uploaded by the 'Barfi' actress, the little munchkin was captured running in the corridor, melting hearts with her smile towards the end.

We could also see Malti holding two roses, one in each hand, literally carrying a heart on her back.

The post further included Malti placing colorful hearts on the bed, and mom PeeCee indulging in some skin-

care.

Along with posting a couple of stunning selfies, Priyanka also provided an insight into her food habits through her latest post.

Meanwhile, this Mother's Day, the 'Fashion' actress received an adorable handmade note from her daughter.

Making the gesture even more special, the note mentioned Malti's 'mom's favourite things'. Gushing over how well her four-year-old knows her, Priyanka shared a picture of the card on her social media handle with the caption, "She knows me so well. I (sic)."

Rose Leslie joins Russell Crowe in 'The Last Druid'

'Game of Thrones' star Rose Leslie has been roped in for a key role in action-drama 'The Last Druid'. Andreas Pletschmann (Nuremberg), and Daniel Zovatto (Don't Breathe) have also come on board for the project, which already stars Oscar winner Russell Crowe. The movie will tell the story of a Roman Emperor who discovers a secluded Druid stronghold in the mountains of Caledonia. A peaceful Celtic elder (Crowe) must take up arms to protect his family and people from annihilation, as per Deadline. William Eubank (Paranormal Activity: Next of Kin) is directing from a script by Eubank, Phil Gawthorne (Modern Life is Rubbish) and Carlyle Eubank (Muzzle) The film is being produced by Adrian Guerra (Buried), Brian Kavanaugh-Jones (Longlegs).

Tusshar Kapoor wraps up the latest schedule for 'Golmaal 5': Picture Abhi baaki hai



Actor Tusshar Kapoor has wrapped up the latest schedule for his eagerly-awaited laughter ride, "Golmaal 5". He took to his official Instagram handle and published a group selfie with his team, celebrating 79 days of hard work and passion. "#Schedulewrapsellie #golmaal5 79 days of hard work, passion, day-night shoots and holidays! Return picture Abhi baaki hai! (sic)," read the caption.

Reacting to the post, Aftab Shivdasani commented, "The A Team". Over the years, Tusshar has received a lot of love as Lucky in the various instalments of the 'Golmaal' franchise.

The speech impairment of the character, compensated through hand gestures and unique voices, turned out to be its biggest appeal. In March, filmmaker Rohit Shetty commenced the shoot for "Golmaal 5", with an exciting cast comprising Ajay Devgn, Akshay Kumar, Arshad Warsi, Tusshar Kapoor, Shreyas Talpade, Kunal Kemmu, and Sharman Joshi.

The project went on the floor on Rohit Shetty's birthday. Dropping the video of the 'Golmaal' cast, Rohit wrote on the photo-sharing app, "20 years ago, the first Golmaal was released, a film that changed my life. The credit goes to you, my audience. Over the past 20 years, we have entertained you, and yes, sometimes disappointed you, but we have always been honest in our work. So now, once again, my fabulous team and I are set on a journey to entertain you as we start filming G5. You have always loved and supported me. All we need is your blessings. See you at the movies." A few days ago, Ajay Devgn dropped a sneak peek from the Ooty schedule of "Golmaal 5".

He was seen posing with Arshad, Tusshar, Sharman, Shreyas, and Kunal on the iconic five-seater motorbike, which has been an integral part of the film franchise. "Iss baar sawaari badi hai, aur entertainment usse bhi zyada bada hoga #Golmaal5 Ooty schedule with the boys @itsrohitshetty @rohitshettypicturez," Ajay Devgn captioned his post. The primary instalment of the 'Golmaal' franchise, featuring Ajay, Tusshar, Arshad, and Sharman, reached the audience in 2006.

This was followed by "Golmaal Returns" in 2008, "Golmaal 3" in 2010, and "Golmaal Again" in 2017.

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