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YUGMARG

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Multiple prominent schools in Chandigarh receive bomb threat emails

CHANDIGARH: Several prominent schools across Chandigarh received anonymous bomb threat emails on Thursday morning, triggering a massive security alert across the Union Territory. The local administration immediately coordinated with security authorities to initiate emergency safety protocols and further investigate the matter. Chandigarh Police confirmed that the emails were sent in a similar pattern as previous threats, and no suspicious object has been found so far. Authorities are investigating the matter while also ensuring that no panic is created among the public. Earlier in April, in a similar incident, a threatening email warning of multiple bomb blasts at key locations in Chandigarh.

PM Modi pays tribute to Rajiv Gandhi on death anniversary

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday paid tribute to former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on his death anniversary, remembering the late Congress leader in a brief message posted on social media platform X. "Tributes to former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi Ji on his death anniversary," the Prime Minister said in his post. Rajiv Gandhi, who served as India's Prime Minister from 1984 to 1989, was assassinated on May 21, 1991, in Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu, during an election campaign. He was killed in a suicide bombing carried out by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), an event that shocked the nation and marked one of the darkest chapters in India's political history.

27 Maoists surrender before police in Ranchi

RANCHI: A total of 27 Maoists surrendered before the police here on Thursday in the presence of Jharkhand DGP Tadasa Mishra, and these Naxals will be rehabilitated with full support, officials said. The ultras, belonging to the banned CPI (Maoist), laid down arms before senior officers of the Jharkhand Police, Jharkhand Jagur and the CRPF, among other units, they said. "Twenty-seven Maoists, wanted in a large number of cases, surrendered before the police under 'Operation Navjeevan'. A total of 22 Maoists were killed, 44 arrested and 29 surrendered in 2026. We appeal to the remaining few to return to the mainstream," a senior police officer said.

New helipad inaugurated in Katra to boost Vaishno Devi, Shiv Khori connectivity



JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha on Thursday inaugurated a newly-constructed helipad in Katra to streamline helicopter services for pilgrims visiting the Mala Vaishno Devi and Shiv Khori shrines. The facility, built at a cost of around Rs 27 crore, will improve connectivity and provide major relief to devotees travelling to the twin shrines, officials said, adding that helicopter services from Katra to Shiv Khori will commence soon. Addressing reporters after inaugurating the helipad at Katra, Sinha said the Mala Vaishno Devi Board and the Shiv Khori Board -- both civil authorities -- have jointly developed the facility.

SIR of electoral rolls in Haryana from June 15, final publication on Sep 22

YUGMARG BUREAU CHANDIGARH, MAY 21

Haryana Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Sh. A. Sreenivas, said that the Election Commission of India (ECI) has issued the schedule for conducting the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The SIR of electoral rolls is set to commence from June 15 to July 14, 2026, and the final publication of the electoral roll will be on September 22, 2026.

Sh. A. Sreenivas was addressing a press conference at the New Haryana Civil Secretariat, Sector-17, Chandigarh, today.

He said that in cases where Enumeration Forms have not been returned, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) may identify probable reasons such as "Absent", "Shifted", "Dead", or "Duplicate" after making inquiries from neighbouring residents and record the same accordingly. BLOs have been directed to visit each such household at least three times for the collection of Enumeration Forms.

He said that booth-wise lists of electors whose names are not included in the Draft Roll will be displayed on the notice boards of Electoral Registration officer, Panchayat Bhawans, Urban Local Body offices, and the offices of Block Development and Panchayat Officers to ensure public access to voter lists along with the probable reasons for non-inclusion.

The Commission has directed all Chief Electoral Officers to consolidate these lists and upload them on the CEO's website in an accessible format, along with similar lists on the websites of respective District Election Officers (DEOs).



During the house-to-house enumeration process, BLOs have been directed to carry at least 30-40 blank Form-6 applications along with blank Declaration Forms (Annexure-IV) to facilitate enrolment of new electors. The CEO urged political parties to appoint Booth Level Agents (BLAs) 1 and 2. So far, the CEO's office has received details of 14,520 BLAs, including 6,438 from BJP, 7,704 from INC, 165 from CPI(M), and the remaining from other political parties. BLAs may also collect Enumeration Forms from voters and submit them to BLOs.

Replying to a question, Sh. Sreenivas said that the last Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Haryana was conducted in 2002. Enumeration Forms can be downloaded from the official website from June 15, 2026 onwards. He also informed that a dedicated helpline number, 1950, has been established in all district headquarters and constituencies. The helpline will function in two shifts from 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM.

He further clarified that if a voter is not present during the house-to-house survey, any adult family member may sign Enumeration Form and submit the form to the BLO.

The CEO said that Haryana has approximately 18 percent logical errors in electoral data, including incorrect names and spelling mistakes, compared to other states. As of May 21, 2026, the total number of registered electors in Haryana stands at 2,06,52,760, while the total number of polling stations is 20,629.

Punjab surpasses national averages in all key maternal & child health indicators

YUGMARG BUREAU CHANDIGARH, MAY 21:

Punjab has emerged as a frontrunner in the country's healthcare delivery system by decisively outperforming national benchmarks across all major maternal and child health indicators, according to the latest Sample Registration System (SRS) data released by the Office of the Registrar General of India.

Highlighting Punjab's achievement, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Balbir Singh said Punjab has registered significant improvements in Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) and Under-5 Mortality Rate, reflecting the Punjab Government's sustained focus on strengthening public healthcare infrastructure and ensuring quality maternal and child care services across the state.

Sharing the details, Dr Balbir Singh said Punjab's Maternal Mortality Ratio has dropped to 77 per lakh live births, significantly better than the national average of 87. He stated that Punjab has also recorded an Infant Mortality Rate of 16 against the national average of 24, a Neonatal Mortality Rate of 11 compared to the country's average of 18, and an Under-5 Mortality Rate of 19 against India's average of 28.

Dr Balbir Singh said,



"Punjab has made remarkable progress in maternal and child healthcare, and these achievements reflect the unwavering dedication of our healthcare workforce and the Punjab Government's commitment to providing quality healthcare services to every citizen."

He stated, "Punjab has already achieved the SDG-2030 target for Neonatal Mortality Rate by bringing it below 12, which is a significant milestone achieved well ahead of the deadline."

The Health Minister said the state's outstanding performance is expected to bring a financial incentive of nearly 400 crore for Punjab under the latest performance-linked health sector scheme of the Central Government.

Dr Balbir Singh stated, "The Bhagwant Mann Govern-

ment has adopted a comprehensive approach to reproductive and child healthcare by strengthening institutional healthcare delivery systems and ensuring quality maternal and neonatal care facilities across the state. This has directly contributed to lowering maternal and child mortality indicators." Expressing gratitude to frontline healthcare workers, Dr Balbir Singh said their relentless efforts at the grassroots level have played a crucial role in ensuring safer pregnancies and improved healthcare outcomes for mothers and newborns across Punjab. Highlighting the expansion of healthcare infrastructure, Dr Balbir Singh said the Bhagwant Mann Government has operationalised 39 dedicated Maternal and Child Health (MCH) wings across the state to provide comprehensive emergency obstetric

'Cockroach Janata Party's X handle withheld, founder starts new account



NEW DELHI: The X account of Cockroach Janata Party, the satirical digital outfit that came up last week and took social media by storm, was withheld in India on Thursday. Soon after, came up another handle - 'Cockroach Is Back'.

"This was expected since there were attempts to hack the account yesterday. But this is a self-goal by the government," founder Abhijeet Dipke told a news agency.

"I have now started a new account named 'Cockroach Is Back' on X," Dipke added. He said the team would pursue the matter legally. At 3.40 pm, a little over an hour after it started, the 'Cockroach Is Back' X handle had 16,800 followers.

Cockroach Janata Party, which according to Dipke had 201,000 followers on X, came following a controversy over Chief Justice of India Surya Kant using "parasites" and "cockroaches" while pulling up a lawyer for his plea seeking senior designation. The CJ later clarified that he was misquoted and his remarks were directed specifically at individuals entering the legal profession through "fake and bogus degrees".

Cockroach Janata Party came into being a day after the CJ's remarks on May 15. It quickly went viral, attracting support from politicians, activists, artists and a large number of young and not so young social media users.

Railways to use AI, drones, CCTV to boost safety; urges passenger to stay vigilant

AGENCY NEW DELHI, MAY 21

The Railways are using the latest technology tools like AI, drones, CCTV, etc. intensively to enhance the safety of trains, passengers, station premises and the vast rail network. This is being undertaken in a mission mode by strengthening the intelligence gathering mechanism at the beat level of the Railway Protection Force (RPF). According to the Ministry of Railways, in a crucial high-level security review meeting held in New Delhi on Thursday, the Railway Ministry carried out extensive consultations with field officers from across the country in the presence of senior officials in the national



capital. The meeting was chaired by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw at Rail Bhawan. Ministers of State for Railways V. Somanna and Ravneet Singh Bittu were also present, besides the Chairman, Railway Board. It was noted during the meeting that in the last few days, the involvement of anti-social elements has emerged during the initial probe into multiple incidents, including some recent fire incidents. Indian Railways has taken these incidents seriously, and the RPF is actively probing them. In several cases, prompt and proactive action by Railways helped avert major eventualities. It was also felt that, besides strengthening intelligence systems and the use of technology to process inputs faster.

CBI files first chargesheet in Rs504 cr Haryana govt funds misappropriation case

UNI NEW DELHI: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday filed its first chargesheet in connection with the large-scale misappropriation of Haryana Government funds involving officials of IDFC First Bank, AU Small Finance Bank, public servants of the Government of Haryana, and private persons. The chargesheet was filed before a Special CBI Court in Panchkula, Haryana. A total of 15 accused have been chargesheeted, comprising six bank officials from IDFC First Bank and AU Small Finance Bank, three public servants of the Government of Haryana belonging to Haryana Power Generation Corporation Ltd., the Development and Panchayat Department, and Haryana School Shiksha Pariyojna Parishad, two shell entities along with their three partners/directors, and one private person. All accused are presently in judicial custody. They have been chargesheeted

for offences including criminal conspiracy, criminal breach of trust, cheating, forgery, destruction of evidence, and offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act. Investigation in respect of all 15 chargesheeted accused persons has been completed with regard to the offences for which the chargesheet has been filed. Investigation against other accused persons and into misappropriation in other departments is ongoing, and additional chargesheets will be filed shortly. The case pertains to the alleged misappropriation of government funds to the tune of ₹504 crore, siphoned off from bank accounts of various government departments of Haryana by bank officials in criminal connivance with public servants posted in the concerned departments.

Bengal govt orders immediate deportation of illegal Bangladeshi infiltrators

KOLKATA (UNI): West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari directed the police and Railway Protection Force (RPF) to send the illegal Bangladeshi infiltrators to the BSF on the border for deportation instead of producing them before the court. "I have instructed the Police Commissioner and the RPF that any illegal Bangladeshi infiltrator who does not fall under the purview of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) should not be sent to court. After proper food and care, they should be taken directly to the Petrapole border in Bongaon or to a Border Outpost (BOP) in Basirhat," the Chief Minister said after an administrative meeting in Howrah on Thursday.

India-Africa Forum Summit in Delhi postponed over Ebola outbreak scare

AGENCY NEW DELHI, MAY 21

The upcoming Fourth India-Africa Forum Summit, which was scheduled to take place in New Delhi next week, has been postponed due to the Ebola outbreak in Africa, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Thursday. The critical diplomatic gathering was deferred following detailed deliberations convened between Indian administrative authorities, the Chairperson of the African Union, and the African Union Commission to evaluate the feasibility of hosting the high-profile assembly and its ancillary events under current conditions. According to an official communique released by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the Government of India and the African Union exchanged views on the evolving health situation in parts of Africa and reaffirmed the importance of continued cooperation in strengthening public health preparedness and response capacities across the continent, including through support to Africa CDC and relevant national institutions. In light of the unfolding medical emergency, New Delhi has re-emphasised its unwavering alignment with African populations and their respective administrations. Furthermore, India has voiced its complete preparedness to provide material and strategic



assistance to operations spearheaded by the Africa CDC, ensuring all actions remain perfectly aligned with the shared commitment to an Africa-led response. The scheduling of fresh timelines for the multilateral conference and its supplementary conventions remains under review. The MEA indicated that the new dates for the Summit and its associated meetings will be finalised through mutual consultations and communicated in due course. Underscoring the deep historical and diplomatic ties that tie the two regions together despite the temporary delay, the official document

emphasised a mutual dedication to joint advancement. "India and Africa reaffirmed their longstanding partnership founded on solidarity, mutual respect, South-South cooperation, and a shared commitment to peace, development, prosperity, and the well-being of their peoples," read the statement. This major diplomatic decision comes as global attention has once again shifted to Ebola following the World Health Organisation's decision to designate the escalating crisis across Congo and Uganda as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

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 देव की भा भाँटा भाँटे ॥ हरि नानु परदारु नानु भाँटे ॥

With deep sorrow, we inform you of the peaceful passing of our beloved father,
COL. BALDEV SINGH
 on 12 May, 2026
 A Decorated Officer Of The Indian Army, Col. Baldev Singh Lived A Life Marked By Service, Honor, Humility, And Devotion To His Family.
 He Was A Loving Husband, Father, Grandfather And Great Grandfather,
 And His Memory Will Remain Forever In Our Hearts.
 We Humbly Request Your Presence To Join Us In Prayers And To Pay Your Final Respects.
 The Bhog Of Sri Akhand Path For The Departed Soul Will Be Held At Our Residence,
 Village Lakhnour Near Kurali.
 Followed By Shabad Kirtan And Antim Ardas At
 SINGH SABHA GURDWARA SAHIB VILLAGE LAKHNAUR NEAR KURALI.
 DATE: SATURDAY, 23 MAY, 2026
 TIME: 12:00 NOON TO 1:00 PM.
 In Grief And Loving Remembrance,
 Contact: +1 734-262-6638; +91 90414 40178

NEWS BRIEF

Chhatbir Zoo rolls out cool summer menu for animals



CHANDIGARH: In view of rising temperatures, Mahendra Chaudhary Zoological Park, Chhatbir, has implemented a comprehensive summer diet plan to safeguard the health and comfort of its animals. Under the guidance of Forest and Wildlife Preservation Minister Mr. Lal Chand Kataruchak, the zoo in order to combat heat stress, is providing 100 kg of Ice Cubes daily to each bear throughout the summer season. Bears, along with monkeys and elephants, are being offered fresh watermelon to ensure hydration and cooling. Recognizing increased fluid and electrolyte loss in hot weather, Glucon-D powder is being mixed in the drinking water of all carnivorous and omnivorous animals to maintain energy levels and prevent dehydration.

Punjab leader warns of environmental destruction as stubble burning, policy inaction raise alarm



DALJEET AJNOHA HOSHIARPUR: Stubble burning in fields and widespread open burning of waste are neither lowering temperatures nor reducing carbon dioxide levels; on the contrary, these practices flagrantly violate the Paris Agreement at a global level, warned Labour Party leader Jai Gopal Dhiman on Thursday. Highlighting the country's failure to take the climate crisis seriously, Dhiman said rising carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will reduce the oxygen content of breathable air and inevitably push up temperatures. He recalled international commitments to limit warming to well below 2°C, and preferably to 1.5°C, and said the country must adopt strong post-industrial policies after landing on the "plane" of development — but governments are unwilling to draft and enforce such measures. "Stubble burning causes irreparable damage to the world that humanity can never fully compensate for," Dhiman said. "The same earth that nourishes the farmer is being harmed." This is not barmy; the fires can be stopped and the soil's fertility saved." He warned that stubble kills animals, raises heat in the environment and accelerates ecological degradation, eventually turning fertile soil into barren land.

Mayor Joshi meets Bhupender Yadav, pushes green vision for Chandigarh's future

CHANDIGARH, MAY 21 (UNI)

Chandigarh Mayor Saurabh Joshi on Thursday called on union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav in New Delhi and held detailed discussions on strengthening environmental protection and accelerating sustainable urban development in the union Territory.

During the meeting, a broad range of key issues concerning Chandigarh's environmental planning and long-term development roadmap were discussed. These included scientific waste management reforms, expansion of green cover across the city, pollution control strategies, and strengthening of green infrastructure to meet the city's growing ecological and urban needs. The discussions also



touched upon improving sanitation systems and adopting more technology-driven and sustainable urban practices.

The Mayor highlighted the city's long-term vision under the "Viksit Bharat 2047 - Viksit Chandigarh 2047" framework, stating that Chandigarh must be developed as a model green city for the country. He stressed the need for integrated planning focused on ecological balance,

clean surroundings, and sustainable infrastructure, along with effective waste disposal systems and environmental protection measures.

Joshi also shared ongoing and proposed initiatives aimed at city beautification and environmental sustainability, including efforts to increase greenery, reduce pollution levels, and promote environmentally responsible urban growth. According to offi-

DM Faridkot imposes restrictions in view of MC election

JAITU (JAGDEEP SINGH GILL): District Magistrate Faridkot Mr. Rahul Chaba IAS, exercising the powers conferred under Section 163 of the Indian Civil Protection Code 2023, has issued orders to impose restrictions within a radius of 200 meters of polling booths/polling stations constructed in District Faridkot on the election day, dated 26-05-2026, in order to conduct the election process peacefully, smoothly and to maintain law and order under the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by the State Election Commission Punjab. As per the orders issued, no campaigning for any candidate or his/her supporters will be done at polling booths or public/private places. No person shall indulge in any form of violence or commotion near polling booths/polling stations. No person shall use cellular phones/cordless phones/wireless sets/loud speakers/megaphones etc. within 200 meters of polling booths/polling stations. This order shall not apply to observers, administrative, police officers, security personnel posted on duty, government employees involved in polling/counting. No political party, candidate contesting the election shall put up his polling booth/tent poster or banner within 200 meters of the polling booth/polling station.



Amritsar's Mannat Sharma crowned 'Miss Universe Punjab 2026', qualifies for Miss Universe India 2026 after winning 'Grand Finale' at Chandigarh University

SHASHI PAL JAIN KHARAR, MAY 21

Amritsar's Mannat Sharma, 25, was crowned as Miss Universe Punjab 2026 among 17 contestants during the glittering grand finale of this prestigious regional pageant hosted by Chandigarh University in collaboration with Queenified Events OPC Pvt. Ltd.

A journalism graduate and a model currently based in Delhi, Mannat Sharma advanced national Miss Universe India 2026 pageant to compete for the 'Miss Universe India 2026' crown with the elite finalists shortlisted from all corners of the country.

Chandigarh University's fashion designing student from Mohali, Kriti Malhotra, 20, took the 1st Runner-Up title at Miss Universe Punjab 2026. This prestigious pageant, held in Punjab for the first time, was held in two cat-



egories - Miss Universe Punjab for girls above 18 years of age and Miss Teen Punjab for girls above 16 years of age. In the Grand Finale of Miss Teen Punjab 2026 Grand Finale, Mohali's Jiya Tiwari, 17, was crowned the Miss Teen Punjab.

Adding a unique creative dimension to the event, the costumes worn by the contestants in a special round of this biggest and most prestigious pageant platform 'Miss Universe Punjab' were designed by the students and faculty of

the University Institute of Design's Department of Fashion Design at Chandigarh University.

The grand jury of Miss Universe Punjab included Manika Vishwakarma, Miss Universe India 2025 Winner, Ravitanya Sharma, Miss Universe Punjab 2025, Preeti Yadav, Founder, Queenified INC and State Director for Miss Universe Punjab, Manmohan Singh, Owner of MBP Group and Amjad Khan, Director, Franchise Operations, Miss Universe India.

Two brothers linked to drug and illegal arms smuggling module held with 5.5kg heroin, 4 pistols

CHARANJIT SINGH ARORA AMRITSAR, MAY 21

Amidst the ongoing drive to make Punjab a safe and secure state, Counter Intelligence (CI) Amritsar has dismantled a drug and illegal arms smuggling module with the arrest of two brothers after recovering 5.5 kg heroin and four pistols along with 10 live cartridges from their possession, said Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav here on Thursday.

Those arrested have been identified as Bobby Singh and Harjit Singh, both residents of village Rokhe in Ajnala, Amritsar.

Apart from recovering contraband, police teams have also impounded their black colored Hero Splendor motorcycle bearing registration number PB02FC8820.

DGP Gaurav Yadav said that preliminary investigation has revealed that the arrested accused were in contact with a cross-border



smuggler and had received arms/ammunition consignments for further distribution in the state.

Sharing operational details, he said that CI Amritsar had received a reliable input that suspects Bobby and Harjit had recently got a consignment of arms/ammunition and are going to deliver this consignment on their motorcycle in the area near Village Kale Ghanapur on bypass highway, Amritsar to another party.

Acting swiftly, police teams laid trap around the area and intercepted duo on the bypass in the area near Village Kale Ghanapur, he said, while adding that during their search, initially four pistols along with 10 live cartridges were recovered from their possession.

Following the disclosure statement of accused Bobby Singh, 5.5 kg heroin was further recovered from village Bhaka Tara Singh, he added. The DGP said that further investigation is underway to establish forward and backward linkages of this network to identify other associates connected to this module.

In this regard, a case FIR No. 35 dated 17-05-2026 under section 25, 25(1)(a) and 25(8) of the Arms Act, and section 61(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), was registered at Police Station State Special Operation Cell, Amritsar, while, section 21 of the NDPS Act is also added later.

No scarcity of petroleum and LPG fuels in SAS Nagar



SHASHI PAL JAIN MOHALI, MAY 21

Deputy Commissioner Mrs. Komal Mittal today clarified that there is no shortage of petroleum products or domestic LPG gas in district SAS Nagar and appealed to residents not to indulge in panic buying or hoarding of fuels. Chairing a meeting with sales managers and representatives of petrol pump dealers and domestic gas companies at the District Administrative Complex, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the availability and supply position of petrol, diesel and LPG cylinders across the district. She informed that adequate stocks of petrol, diesel and LPG are available and regular supply

is being maintained in all parts of the district. She directed the concerned companies and dealers to ensure uninterrupted supply and to keep strict vigil against any artificial shortage or black marketing. Mrs Mittal appealed to the public to use fuels judiciously and avoid unnecessary rush at petrol pumps and gas agencies. She said that rumours regarding shortage of fuels should not be believed or circulated, as the administration is continuously monitoring the situation. The Deputy Commissioner further stated that all petrol pumps and gas agencies have been instructed to maintain smooth distribution and immediately report any issue related to supply or stocking.

MLA Malender Rajan participates in various social programmes, interacts with residents



PARDEEP SHARMA INDORA, MAY 21

Malender Rajan, MLA of the Indora Assembly constituency, participated in various social programmes organized across his constituency and interacted with local residents.

During the visits, he listened to public grievances and discussed several social and public welfare-related issues with the people. MLA Malender Rajan stated that the trust of the people is his greatest strength and that the development of the constituency is progressing with the support and cooperation of the public. He said that he always stands with the resi-

dents in their joys and sorrows and considers public service as his foremost responsibility. The MLA was warmly welcomed by local residents and members of various social organizations during the programmes. On the occasion, he sought blessings from senior citizens and appealed to the youth to actively participate in social welfare activities.

He emphasized that maintaining mutual brotherhood, cooperation, and unity in society is the collective responsibility of everyone. Speaking about development works, he said continuous efforts are being made to strengthen road infrastructure, drinking water facilities, education,

Seminar organized at Green Field Convent School Dangarh to make children aware of positive thinking



BARNALA (BALWINDER AZAD): A seminar was organized at Green Field Convent (Senior Secondary) School Dangarh to make children aware of positive thinking. This seminar was conducted under the leadership of Madam Sandeep Kaur. In this, the children were told how positive thinking keeps the level of our mind high and helps a person to be happy. With this thinking, we can achieve every stage of our life. She told the children in detail that this thinking arises when we talk to ourselves and many kinds of thoughts come to our mind, but we should give priority to good thoughts.

With good thoughts, we will also have good behavior with the society. The main objective of this seminar is to instill positive thinking among the students. On this occasion, Chairman S. Sukhminder Singh Gill highly praised this seminar. He said that such seminars are the main need of the present time. By having a positive mindset, a student can elevate his standard of life and become a good person for the society. On this occasion, Principal Preet Kamal Sharma, Vice Principal Jasvir Kaur, In-charge Ajinderpal Tiwana and DPE Sukhvinder Singh Sidhu etc. were present.

Punjab becomes first state to launch MCAD project

KHANNA (GURMINDER SINGH GREWAL): An awareness camp regarding Modern Command Area Development (MCAD) project covering 1388 hectares was organized in village Rauni near Khanna on Thursday

The officials of the department of Water Resources, district administration, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Central Water Commission, technical experts, and a large number of farmers present during the camp. Superintending Engineer (Department of Water Resources) Navjot Singh informed that the primary objective of the awareness camp was to educate farmers from Ludhiana, Fatehgarh Sahib, and Malerkotla districts about the project before the commencement of implementation work. The project will incorporate advanced technologies such as SCADA and Internet of Things, enabling farmers to receive real-time irrigation-related information through mobile applications. He further explained that the technology-driven system would help conserve water while ensuring equal water pressure and supply to farmers located at the tail-end of canal networks, similar to those situated at the head-end. Singh also informed that the project will cover approximately 1388 hectares across six villages in three districts. Four villages from Ludhiana - Bharthala, Rauni, Devipur, and Mullanpur - along with Pahedi village in Fatehgarh Sahib and Dhro Marja village in Malerkotla have been included under the project, especially as these villages previously lacked canal irrigation facilities.



Block-level camp held to prevent burning of crop stubble

JAGDEEP SINGH GILL JAITU, MAY 21

Under the guidance of Chief Agriculture Officer Faridkot Dr. Kalwant Singh Sandhu and under the leadership of Block Agriculture Officer Dr. Garpreet Singh, a block awareness camp was organized at Gajan Singh Wala Community Hall, Kathe. Inaugurating the camp, Dr. Nishan Singh, Agriculture Development Officer, advised the farmers to get their fields soil tested and water tested, saying that at present our fields are empty of crops, so farmers should definitely get their soil water tested before planting paddy. Dr. Garpreet Singh Sethi informed the farmers about the government subsidy for horticulture. During the camp, Dr. Jaswant Singh, Agricultural Extension Officer, informed the farmers about direct sowing of cotton and paddy and motivated



them about the pests and diseases that affect them. Block Officer Dr. Garpreet Singh, informed the farmers about the current kharif crops and also informed the farmers about the seeds of paddy so that the farmers should be careful of the diseases of paddy. He gave important information to the farmers about the care of paddy seedlings and motivated the farmers to spend less on agriculture. Dr. Garpreet Singh, AMO, who reached the camp from the Marketing Wing, informed the farmers about self-help groups and marketing.

"On-screen marking bringing new era of transparency in exam evaluation": Dr. Ram Kishan

SARDULGARH (KULWINDER KARWAL): In a significant step toward modernizing the education system, the On-Screen Marking (OSM) system is emerging as a revolutionary method in examination evaluation, said Dr. Ram Kishan Yadav, Principal of Meera Public School.

Highlighting the growing adoption of digital evaluation practices by various education boards across the country, Dr. Yadav stated that the On-Screen Marking system is enhancing transparency, accuracy, and reliability in the examination process. He explained that unlike the traditional manual checking method, which often carried the possibility of human error and bias, the OSM system ensures a more fair and systematic evaluation process. Under the On-Screen Marking system, answer sheets are scanned and evaluated digitally on computer screens by examiners. Every step of the marking process is securely recorded, making the system highly transparent and easy to monitor. Dr. Yadav emphasized that the key advantages of OSM include reduced errors, improved transparency, and faster declaration of examination results. He further noted that the digital system has also made it easier to identify and investigate any discrepancies or irregularities in the evaluation process.



Career guidance session organised at Partap World School



PATHANKOT (YUGMARG BUREAU): Partap World School organised an informative and inspiring career guidance session for students with the aim of creating awareness about higher education, global opportunities and emerging career prospects.

The session was conducted by Divya Kumar, who is associated with Cape Breton University as a Strategic Development Advisor and Global Market Entry Specialist.

Students participated enthusiastically in the session and gained valuable insights into international education, skill development, leadership abilities and the evolving global employment landscape. Addressing the students, Divya Kumar elaborated on overseas study opportunities, career planning and the importance of choosing the right direction according to one's aptitude and interests.

School Director Sunny Mahajan said that proper career guidance has become essential for students in today's competitive era. He added that such sessions help broaden students' perspectives and prepare them for future challenges.

Principal Shubhra Rani stated that career counselling sessions play a vital role in shaping the future of students and that the school would continue organising such programmes from time to time.

CDOE convocation and prize-giving to celebrate academic excellence beyond classrooms



TILAK RAJ MOHALI, MAY 21

The 10th Annual Convocation along with the 50th Annual Prize-Giving Function for the academic session 2024-25 was held today at Centre for Distance and Online Education, celebrating the remarkable achievements of distant and online learners across disciplines. The event reaffirmed that meaningful learning extends far beyond conventional classrooms and carries equal intellectual worth and social legitimacy. The ceremony transformed the often-solitary academic journeys of distant learners into a shared experience of recognition, dignity, and belonging. The programme commenced with the presentation

of the Annual Report by the Director, CDOE, Prof. Harsh Gandhar, who highlighted the institution's multidisciplinary growth, academic vibrancy, and significant achievements during the session. Delivering the Convocation Address, Prof. Sanjay Kaushik reflected on how academic accomplishment also brings social and ethical responsibility. He urged parents to provide children with creative and existential freedom so they may grow into self-aware individuals with clarity regarding their lives and careers. Prof. Meenakshi Goyal, the Dean of University Instructions, congratulated the students on their achievements and encouraged them to embrace future opportunities with confidence and determination.

Focus on public issues, not personal attacks during civic polls: Journalist Amrish Anand

DORAHA (BUREAU): Political activity has intensified in Doraaha town of Payal constituency ahead of the Municipal Council elections scheduled for May 26. Various political parties have accelerated their campaigns, with candidates actively reaching out to voters across the town. A keen contest is expected among candidates of the Congress, Aam Aadmi Party, Shiromani Akali Dal, Waris Punjab De, Bharatiya Janata Party and several independent contenders. Alongside the heated political atmosphere, allegations and counter-allegations among rival camps have also begun surfacing.

At times, personal remarks and provocative statements are being made for political mileage, which many believe are not in keeping with the democratic spirit. Journalist Amrish Anand said that election campaigns should remain centred on public issues, development agendas and welfare policies rather than personal criticism.

"People expect political parties to seek votes on the basis of their work, vision and future plans. Healthy and dignified political discourse strengthens democracy," he said. He further stated that the final decision ultimately rests with the voters, who are capable of understanding the ground realities and evaluating every situation carefully. While victory and defeat are integral parts of politics, maintaining mutual respect and social harmony is far more important, he added. "Elections last only for a few days, but people have to continue living together in society long after the results are declared. Social bonds, community relations and shared responsibilities should not suffer because of political rivalry," Anand remarked.



Children celebrate watermelon fest and pool party at St. Andrews Convent School



TARAGARH (VERMA): St. Andrews Convent School organized a fun-filled "Watermelon Fest and Pool Party" for kindergarten students on Wednesday. The special event was arranged to provide relief and entertainment to children during the summer season while also encouraging healthy eating habits. The tiny tots participated enthusiastically and enjoyed every moment of the celebration. The programme began with beautifully designed watermelon fruit decorations and healthy treats prepared especially for the children. Teachers explained the nutritional benefits of watermelon and the importance of staying hydrated during the hot summer season. The colourful arrangements and refreshing atmosphere brought smiles to the faces of all the children. After the fruit activity, a pool party was organized within the school premises where children enjoyed water games and fun activities under the supervision of their teachers. The little ones danced, played, and laughed together, turning the event into a joyful and memorable celebration. The entire campus echoed with excitement and happiness as children enjoyed the refreshing activities. School Managing Director Ramesh Saini said that such activities play an important role in the physical and mental development of children. He added that the school always focuses on providing a healthy, creative, and joyful learning environment along with academics.

NEWS BRIEF

Free coaching for B.Ed entrance test begins at Golden College of Education; help desk established: Dr. Mohit Mahajan

VERMA GURDASPUR: Golden College of Education, Gurdaspur, has started free coaching classes for students preparing for the B.Ed Entrance Examination. Along with this initiative, a dedicated help desk has also been established on the college campus to assist students with online registration and admission procedures. Providing details about the initiative, Dr. Mohit Mahajan, Chairman of Golden Group of Institutions, said that like previous years, the institution is once again offering free coaching facilities to aspiring B.Ed students appearing for the government-conducted entrance examination. He stated that a large number of students are already benefiting from these coaching classes and preparing seriously for the entrance test.

35 patients flee Punjab's Moga de-addiction centre after ruckus

CHANDIGARH: Around 35 patients escaped from a government-run de-addiction centre in Punjab's Moga district after allegedly creating a ruckus, assaulting staff members, and breaking the main gate lock of the facility, police said on Thursday. The incident took place on Wednesday evening at the government de-addiction centre located in a village under the Kot Ise Khan area. CCTV footage of the incident has surfaced, showing a large number of patients running out of the premises amid chaos and commotion. According to officials, nearly 95 patients were admitted to the centre for treatment and rehabilitation. Trouble reportedly began after an argument broke out between some patients and the staff members, which later escalated into a violent clash. The patients allegedly assaulted employees and created panic inside the facility.

VB nabs reader to district revenue officer, Moga red handed

CHANDIGARH: The Punjab Vigilance Bureau (VB) during its ongoing drive against corruption in the state, has apprehended Davinder Pal Singh Reader to District Revenue Officer, Moga red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs. 20,000/- Disclosing this here today, an official spokesperson of the state VB said the above-mentioned accused has been arrested based on a complaint lodged by a resident of village Chak Kanian Khurd, tehsil Dhamkot district Moga. He informed that the complainant's son had a pending case regarding the division of 13 acres of land in the court of the DRO, Moga. The accused Reader, Davinder Pal Singh, allegedly demanded a bribe of Rs. 1,00,000/- for an early settlement of the case within 5 to 6 months. He told the complainant to pay bribe money Rs. 50,000/- as an advance and the remaining bribe Rs. 50,000/- after the final settlement of the case. Complainant had recorded the entire conversation regarding demanding bribe.

Navjeet Singh Navi intensifies campaign across Morinda ahead of Municipal Council Elections

SANJEEV TEJPAL MORINDA: Ahead of the Municipal Council elections scheduled to be held across Punjab on May 26, election campaigning in Morinda has gathered significant momentum. Navjeet Singh Navi, son of former Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, has taken an active lead in spearheading the election campaign across all 15 wards of the Morinda Municipal Council. Navjeet Singh Navi has been conducting extensive door-to-door outreach campaigns and visiting residents in different wards on a daily basis. Along with local leaders and party workers, he has also been organizing public meetings, corner gatherings.

Mohinder Bhagat listens to grievances of potato growers and cold storage owners; assures all possible support

GAURAV GOEL
CHANDIGARH, MAY 21

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, the Punjab Government is making concerted efforts to enhance farmers' income and provide effective solutions to the challenges faced by them.

Pursuing this commitment, Horticulture Minister Mohinder Bhagat today held a special meeting with potato growers and cold storage owners at Punjab Bhawan, Chandigarh to hear and address their concerns. Additional Secretary, Horticulture Department, Mr. Latif Ahmed and Director Mr. Manish Kumar were present during the meeting.

During the interaction, potato growers and cold storage owners apprised the Minister of the various issues being faced by them. They informed that while the Punjab Government has been extending support for the establishment and maintenance of cold storage facilities for potato crops, issues related to the Punjab Pollution Control



Board require priority attention and timely resolution.

On this occasion, Minister Mohinder Bhagat carefully heard the grievances of potato growers and cold storage owners. He said that the Punjab Government is working actively to enhance the income of farmers in the state

and to ensure proper resolution of their problems. He further stated that cold storages warehouses and packing units are being strengthened through the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund and other schemes. The Minister also directed the officials to prepare a comprehensive report re-

garding the issues being faced by potato growers and cold storage owners. He instructed the officials to establish direct contact with farmers and prepare a detailed report. The officials assured the Minister that all tasks would be completed within the stipulated time.

Irregularities alleged in Bhadroya road construction, Akali Leader Vijay Baghi warns of protest



PATHANKOT (SHARANJEET): Senior Shiromani Akali Dal (Badal) leader Vijay Baghi has raised serious concerns over the ongoing road construction work from the old SDM Court to Bhadroya Road, alleging that the project is not being executed according to prescribed technical standards. Baghi alleged that if the road is constructed in the present manner, it would not withstand long-term usage and could deteriorate within a few months. He claimed that the contractor had dug up the entire stretch at once, causing immense inconvenience to commuters and local residents. He said that the road should have been repaired in phases, with damaged portions being restored immediately after excavation. However, the entire stretch from the Sally Road junction to the old SDM Court had been uprooted simultaneously, disrupting traffic movement and daily activities.

Governor confers startup samagam 2026 Awards in Ludhiana

SHARMA
LUDHIANA, MAY 21

Governor of Punjab, Gulab Chand Kataria, graced Start-up Samagam 4.0 - Leaders' Conclave 2026 as the Chief Guest at Park Plaza, Ludhiana. Organized by Ludhiana Angels Network, the conclave brought together more than 300 distinguished guests from across the startup and industrial ecosystem, including industrialists, startup founders, educational institutions, school organizations, innovators, policymakers, and business leaders.

Samagam, a flagship initiative of Ludhiana Angels Network, has emerged as one of Punjab's most recognized platforms promoting entrepreneurship, innovation, and manufacturing-led startups. Since its inception in 2023, the initiative has continuously worked towards building an organized and organic startup ecosystem in Punjab.

The event witnessed participation from eminent personalities including Dr Renu Vig, Vice Chancellor of Panjab University; Dr Madhu Chitkara, Pro Chancellor, Chitkara University; Prof Rajiv Ahuja, Director, IIT



Ropar; and Seema Bansal, Vice Chairperson, Punjab Development Commission. Several renowned industrialists and Directors of Ludhiana Angels Network (LAN) also addressed the gathering, including J.R.Singhal, Harpreet Soan, Vijay Munjal, Sanjeev Pahwa, Umesh Munjal, S.K. Rai, and Vineet Sood.

The conclave featured startup pitching sessions, discussions on innovation and entrepreneurship, and the prestigious Startup Samagam Awards 2026. Governor Gulab Chand Kataria also conferred awards across five major categories including Best Institute, Best Incubator, Best Change-Making Program, Best Emerging Entrepreneur, and Best Startup

to recognize exceptional contributions towards innovation and entrepreneurship. The winners for the respective categories were: Best Institute: IIT Ropar and Panjab University; Best Incubator: CEED, Chitkara University and PABI, Punjab Agricultural University; Best Startup: Labellerr AI; Best Emerging Entrepreneur: Vanshika Mittal; Best Change-Making Program: SHE, Punjab State Council for Science and Technology; and Best Aarambh School Award: Kundan Vidya Mandir, Ludhiana. Addressing the gathering, Governor Gulab Chand Kataria laid special emphasis on transforming Ludhiana into a leading defence manufacturing and innovation hub of the nation.

Red Cross organizes massive "War Against Drugs" cycle rally in Gurdaspur

VERMA
GURDASPUR, MAY 21

In a strong and inspiring initiative to spread awareness against drug abuse, the Red Cross Integrated Rehabilitation Centre for Addicts, Babbhali, Gurdaspur, organized a massive Cycle Rally under the banner "War Against Drugs - Say No to Drugs, Say Yes to Life."

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from youth, cyclists, social workers, and members of the public, reflecting the growing collective resolve to make Punjab drug-free. The rally was organized under the inspiring guidance of Shiv Dular Singh, IAS (Retd.) and the dynamic leadership of National Awardee Romesh Mahajan. The awareness rally was formally flagged off by Sh. Kuldeep Chand, PCS, Assistant Commissioner, Gurdaspur, who highly appreciated the sincere and dedicated



efforts being made by the Red Cross Drug De-Addiction Centre in combating the menace of drugs through awareness and rehabilitation initiatives.

On the occasion, distinguished personalities including Romesh Mahajan, Bakshi Raj, staff members of the centre, youth volunteers, and prominent citizens were present to encourage the participants and support the noble cause. A total of 45 cyclists and 155 enthusiastic youth volunteers, along with the entire staff of the Drug De-Addiction Centre, actively participated

in the rally. The rally commenced from the Drug De-Addiction Centre, Babbhali, and concluded at the Tiber Canal Bridge, covering various areas of Gurdaspur while spreading the powerful message of a healthy, progressive, and drug-free Punjab. Addressing the gathering during the inaugural ceremony, Chief Guest Mr. Kuldeep Chand, PCS, emphasized that the fight against drugs cannot be won by the administration alone and requires a united social movement involving every section of society.

Friend arrested in Medical college student murder case



TAPINDER SINGH
PATIALA, MAY 21

The Patiala Police has claimed to have solved the murder case of MBBS student Kamaldeep Mittal. Addressing the media here today, Varun Sharma said that on May 18, the blood-soaked body of medical student Kamaldeep Mittal was found in a PG accommodation in New Tej Bagh Colony, Patiala. Following the incident, the police immediately constituted a team of senior officers and initiated an investigation with the assistance of forensic experts. During the investigation, the police found important clues indicating that the accused had stabbed Kamaldeep Mittal nearly 25

to 30 times with a knife, leading to his death. Preliminary investigation revealed that the deceased Kamaldeep and the accused Mohit Verma were close friends and had studied together till Class 12. While Kamaldeep later pursued MBBS studies, Mohit Verma joined his father's jewellery business. The SSP further stated that both were also involved in share market trading together and Mohit Verma owed nearly Rs 4 lakh to the deceased. Frustrated over repeated demands for repayment, the accused allegedly planned the murder. Mohit Verma came from Baretta to Patiala and stayed overnight with Kamaldeep. Before the murder, both reportedly watched a movie together.

People of constituency firmly support development politics: Surjit Singh Rakhra



PATIALA (TAPINDER SINGH): After joining the Aam Aadmi Party, former Cabinet Minister and AAP leader Surjit Singh Rakhra has intensified his political activities. Speaking on the occasion, Rakhra said that the huge gathering of people from Samana constituency is proof that the public firmly stands with politics based on development.

He stated that the government led by Bhagwant Mann is continuously carrying out welfare-oriented and development-focused works for the overall progress of the state, which is transforming Punjab. Thanking the people of Samana for their overwhelming support and immense trust, he said that the public is wholeheartedly standing in favour of development, honest thinking, and a new direction. Among those present on the occasion were Charanjit Singh Dhaliwal, Sukhi Rakhra, Jaspal Kalyan, Raghvir Kalyan, Ashok Modgill, Rana Sekhon, Kapoor Chand Bansal, Gurdeep Singh Randhawa, Rinku Korjiwala, Sudarshan Mittal, Harinder Singh Kulburchhan, Harjinder Singh, Harkeval Singh, Nishan Singh, Kulwant Singh Chahurpur, Chachu Jauramajra, Kala Gajjumajra, Bunty Gajjumajra, Sukhi Mundkhera, Gurjant Singh, Sony and Jagroop Singh Fatehpur.

Awareness very important to prevent heat wave: DC

JALANDHAR (PARAMJIT SINGH): Deputy Commissioner Varjeet Walia, while appealing to the public to follow the advisory issued by the Health Department to prevent heat wave, said that awareness is very important to prevent illnesses related to heat waves so that people can protect themselves by taking necessary precautions.

He said that as per the advisory, children, elderly persons, pregnant women and patients suffering from chronic diseases (such as heart disease or high blood pressure) are at the highest risk of heat stroke, therefore special attention needs to be paid towards their health.

Mr. Walia said that darkness before the eyes, dizziness and falling down, restlessness, anxiety, severe headache, mild or high fever, nausea (vomiting), excessive thirst, extreme weakness, stopping of sweating, redness and excessive heat of the skin etc. are symptoms of heat stroke.

He said that if any person shows the above symptoms, then for first aid it is necessary to immediately make such a person sit or lie down in a shaded/cool place, loosen the clothes and give some homemade liquid to drink.

Besides this, to quickly reduce body temperature, cold water strips should be placed on the head and whole body or the body should be wiped with a wet cloth.



Municipal workers call off 15-day strike in Shahkot as govt agrees to key demands



MEHARJOT SINGH
SHAHKOT, MAY 21

The 15-day-long strike by sanitation and municipal workers suspended on Thursday after the state government and the protesting unions reached a consensus on several major demands, including the regularisation of contractual employees.

Spearheaded by the Safai Sevak Union Punjab and the Municipal Action Committee, the agitation was officially called off following successful negotiations with the govern-

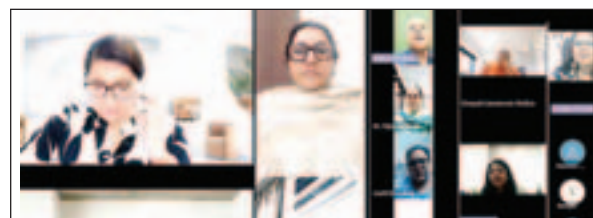
ment. Union leaders described the government's agreement to transition outsourced municipal employees to an insourcing model as a "principled victory" for the working class.

Other significant demands met during the talks include a salary increment for temporary staff and an official assurance that there will be no pay cuts for the duration of the strike. Despite the breakthrough, the Municipal Action Committee clarified that the strike has only been deferred.

Six-Day FDP on "Inner Transformation for outer excellence in skill and teaching" concludes successfully at KCET

CHARANJIT SINGH ARORA
AMRITSAR, MAY 21

A six-day online Faculty Development Program (FDP) on the theme "Inner Transformation for Outer Excellence in Skill and Teaching" was successfully organized at Khalsa College of Engineering and Technology (KCET), Ranjit Avenue in association with Khalsa University, Amritsar. The FDP aimed to promote holistic development among educators by integrating modern teaching methodologies with the principles of the Indian Knowledge System (IKS). The program witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty members and academicians from various renowned institutions including Khalsa College of Education, GHRCEM, MMCOE, Sanjay Bohare



Group of Institutes, AKGEC, Guru Nanak Dev University, Khalsa College for Women, Khalsa University, Government Medical College, SSSS College of Commerce, Tilak College of Education, LLRIET, SR Government College for Women, VVMU, JIIT, SBJS Khalsa College and several other institutions across the country. The inaugural session was addressed by Dr. Manju Bala, Director of KCET, who highlighted the importance of inner growth

and self-awareness in achieving professional excellence. She emphasized that education should focus not only on skill development but also on nurturing emotional balance, mindfulness, ethics, and human values among educators and students. She further stated that the Indian Knowledge System offers timeless wisdom that can help educators become more compassionate, creative, and effective in today's rapidly changing educational environment.

Health department strengthens heatwave safety measures across Public Centres

AJAY MALHOTRA
FATEHGARH SAHIB, MAY 21

Acting on the directives of Civil Surgeon Dr. Arvind Pal Singh, Senior Medical Officer Dr. Navdeep Kaur stated that the Health Department is ensuring the delivery of essential health services at the Ayushman Arogya Centres under PHC Nandpur Kalour, strictly adhering to all precautionary guidelines meant to safeguard the public from severe heat and rising temperatures during outdoor activities.

She informed that today, as part of Mamta Divas, vaccination services were provided at the centres. Simultaneously, under "World Hypertension Awareness Week", a dedicated Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) camp was organised. Beneficiaries were



screened for high blood pressure, made aware of the importance of timely medication, and guided on dietary restrictions necessary to manage the condition effectively. Dr. Kaur added that field staff has been actively sensitising the public regarding early-morning physical activities such as yoga, walking, exercise, and cycling—preferably before sunrise—to maintain overall fitness and prevent major

health issues. People visiting the centres were further educated on essential heatwave-prevention measures.

They were advised to avoid stepping outdoors unnecessarily between 11 AM and 4 PM, carry drinking water at all times while outside, and consume seasonal fruits and vegetables like cucumber, tomatoes, watermelons, and muskmelons to stay hydrated and healthy.

Inauguration of NABL-accredited food testing laboratory and newly constructed auditorium at CU Punjab

ANANTDEEP KAUR
BATHINDA, MAY 21

The Central University of Punjab (CU Punjab), Bathinda, organised the inaugural ceremony of its NABL Accredited Food Testing Laboratory (FTL) and newly constructed 200-seater Auditorium on Thursday. Marking the occasion, Chief Guest Smt. Hon'ble Member of Parliament from Bathinda Parliamentary Constituency and former Union Minister, Government of India, along with Vice-Chancellor Prof. Raghavendra P. Tiwari, formally inaugurated the facilities in the presence of distinguished guests, faculty members, students, and staff.

The ceremony featured Vande Mataram, the University Kulgeet, a plantation drive,



and cultural performances showcasing Punjab's rich heritage. Welcoming the dignitaries, Prof. Sanjeev Thakur, Dean Students' Welfare, highlighted the university's efforts towards strengthening academic infrastructure, innovation, and quality education. He expressed gratitude to Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal for sanctioning a grant of Rs. 5.05 crore in 2018 during her tenure as Union Minister of Food Processing Industries,

which played a vital role in establishing the Food Testing Laboratory. He remarked that the facility would emerge as a major food testing hub in the Malwa region. Addressing the gathering, Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal congratulated the university on achieving NABL accreditation for its Food Testing Laboratory and appreciated the institution's commitment towards scientific excellence and regional development.

Member of Punjab state food commission Vijay Dutt visits Rayya area of Amritsar district

AMRITSAR (HARPAL SINGH): Member of the Punjab State Food Commission, Mr. Vijay Dutt, today conducted a surprise inspection of various government schools and Anganwadi centres in the Rayya area of Amritsar district. During the inspection, he reviewed the ground-level implementation of schemes being run under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013. During his visit, Mr. Vijay Dutt inspected the



Mid-Day Meal arrangements, quality of food being served to children, cleanliness, kitchen management, and availability of safe drinking water. He directed the concerned officials and staff to ensure that children are provided with clean, nutritious and quality food and that all prescribed standards and guidelines are strictly followed. He also encouraged schools and Anganwadi centres to develop "Kitchen Gardens" so that fresh and nutritious vegetables could be made available to children.

KISHORI LAL BAINS

UNA: The district administration has completed all preparations for the General Elections-2026 of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Una district. Deputy Commissioner and District Election Officer Jatinder Lal reviewed the election arrangements during a comprehensive meeting with officials and Sub-Divisional Magistrates at the DRDA Hall in Una on Thursday. During the meeting, detailed discussions were held regarding election nominations, preparation of electoral rolls, physical verification of polling stations, training of polling parties, ballot paper distribution, appointment and training of counting staff,



deployment of sector officers and arrangements for Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad counting centres. Officials were also instructed to ensure proper arrangements for transportation of ballot boxes to strong rooms, availability of HRTC buses, accommodation and food for polling parties, and essential facilities such as electricity and water at counting centres.

CHANDIGARH

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NEWS BRIEF

CM pays tributes to Rajiv Gandhi on his death anniversary

DINESH AGARWAL

SHIMLA: Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today paid rich tributes to former Prime Minister late Rajiv Gandhi on his death anniversary being observed as Anti-Terrorism Day at Sadbhavana Chowk, Chhota Shimla. On the occasion, while interacting with the media, the Chief Minister said that the Congress Party had

lost two of its Prime Ministers, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, in the fight against terrorism in the country. Recalling the immense contributions of Rajiv Gandhi, the Chief Minister said that during his tenure as Prime Minister, he laid the foundation for the information technology revolution in India, which transformed the nation's technological and communication landscape.

Govt launches 'Mission-32 Percent' to boost green cover by 2030

DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA, MAY 21

To give a major green push to the state, the present government has launched the ambitious 'Mission-32 Percent' with the aim of increasing Himachal Pradesh's green cover to 32 percent by the year 2030. In line with the vision of Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, the Forest Department has initiated extensive preparatory measures and strategic interventions to strengthen the ecological resilience of the state. A comprehensive strategy is being developed to effectively implement various initiatives and achieve the targeted outcomes. The initiative marks a significant step towards establishing Himachal as a model Green Himalayan State dedicated to environmental sustainability and climate action. At present, the forest cover of the state stands at 29.5



percent, which is proposed to be enhanced to 32 percent by 2030. The expansion of forest cover is expected to play a vital role in biodiversity conservation, ecological restoration, soil and water conservation and mitigating the adverse impacts of climate change. Apart from environmental benefits, the initiative is also

expected to generate sustainable livelihood opportunities for rural communities through afforestation, eco-restoration, agro-forestry and community participation. To achieve these objectives, plantation and eco-restoration activities are being carried out under various forestry programmes, including CAMPA, externally aided projects and other departmental schemes. During the financial year 2026-27, a plantation target covering 8,000 hectares has been fixed with special emphasis on fruit-bearing and indigenous tree species to improve ecological balance and strengthen rural livelihoods. Since assuming office, the present state government led by Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has undertaken several pioneering green initiatives to promote environmental conservation and sustainable development in the state.

Govt starts online booking facility for 21-bed dormitory at Circuit House Hamirpur

DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA, MAY 21

A Spokesperson of the state government today here informed that the government has started online booking facility for the 21-bed dormitory at Circuit House Hamirpur from 20 May, 2026 by integrating it with the existing HIM Atithi online booking platform. The spokesperson informed that a nominal charge of Rs. 100 per bed has been fixed for Himachali residents, while non-Himachali residents will be charged Rs. 200 per bed. The facility has been introduced particularly keeping in view the needs of students visiting Hamirpur for competitive examinations and other educational purposes, enabling them to avail affordable and convenient accommodation through online booking. The spokesperson informed that the

state government had already launched online booking facility for government rest houses for tourists and private individuals from May 2025 on 50 percent advance



payment basis to make government accommodation facilities more accessible, transparent and citizen-friendly. The spokesperson further informed that the online booking initiative has significantly improved accessibility and availability of rest houses and circuit houses for tourists, students and the general public.

AIIMS Bilaspur shines at prestigious HPAOICON 2026 as young ENT doctors bring national glory



AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY

BILASPUR: The Department of Otorhinolaryngology (ENT) at AIIMS Bilaspur has added another feather to its cap with an exceptional performance by its postgraduate students at the prestigious 23rd HPAOICON 2026, held at Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Government Medical College. The remarkable achievements of the young doctors have brought immense pride to the institution and highlighted the growing academic and surgical excellence of AIIMS Bilaspur on the national stage. AIIMS Registrar Dr Rakesh Singh in a release said that demonstrating outstanding academic brilliance and clinical expertise, Dr Eshu Kumar and Dr Shubham Sharma clinched the coveted First Prize in the highly competitive Postgraduate Quiz Competition. The contest witnessed participation from seven distinguished teams representing leading medical institutions from across North India. Their victory reflected not only their deep medical knowledge and sharp analytical skills but also the robust clinical training imparted at AIIMS Bilaspur. Adding further glory to the institution, Dr. Shubham Sharma was adjudged the "Best Dissector" during the advanced hands-on cadaveric rhinoplasty dissection session.

Kamlesh Thakur says every councillor in Dehra is worthy of president and vice-president posts

ANIL KUMAR DEHRA, MAY 21

After the Congress party registered victory in the recent municipal elections in Dehra after a gap of 15 years, MLA Kamlesh Thakur and wife of Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu received a grand welcome on her arrival in Dehra town. Winning councillors, Congress workers and local residents welcomed her with drum beats and slogans in support of the Chief Minister echoed across the town. When mediapersons asked Kamlesh Thakur about the selection of the next president and vice-president of the municipal council, she said the decision would be taken collectively by the newly elected councillors themselves. She added in an enthusiastic tone that all five Congress-backed councillors



were capable of becoming president and vice-president. She said Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu was also delighted with the Congress party's victory in Dehra Municipal Council after 15 years and had conveyed his congratulations to all councillors and residents of Dehra. Kamlesh Thakur further stated that within a month, the process for constructing a

modern and fully equipped administrative building for the Dehra Municipal Council would be cleared. She said the people of Dehra would soon get a better council building with all necessary facilities. Expressing gratitude to the people of the constituency, she said the support and blessings received from mothers, sisters, youth and all sections of society for the development of Dehra were deeply valued.

Participation is key to the success of any mission, says Satish Sharma

ANIL KUMAR KANGRA, MAY 21

A programme was organised at the famous Baba Siddh Chano Temple under the aegis of Himachal Pride Foundation for rural women and girls associated with the Savitribai Phule Rural Women Self-Employment Scheme. Social worker and national president of Ashaan NGO, Satish Sharma, attended the event as chief guest. On his arrival at the temple, Satish Sharma was welcomed by local residents and trainees of the stitching and embroidery training centre. He also paid obeisance at the temple along with his associates. During the programme, Satish Sharma distributed diploma certificates to girls



who had completed a one-year stitching and embroidery training programme at the skill development centre. Free uniforms were also distributed among the trainees. Addressing the gathering, Satish Sharma said Savitribai Phule was India's first female teacher who fought against poverty and untouchability while pursuing education at a time when social discrimination

was at its peak. He said Savitribai Phule became a source of inspiration for women through her dedication to education and social reform. He said no mission could be completed successfully without participation and cooperation. According to him, organisations working with dedication and commitment towards public welfare eventually achieve positive results.

SSRVM students return after completing national camp



KISHORI LAL BAINS

UNA: Cadets of SSRVM Una returned to the school after successfully completing a 10-day training camp held at Indus International University. The camp proved to be a transformative experience for the participating students, with 24 cadets enthusiastically taking part under the guidance of escort teacher Khushboo. During the camp, cadets participated in various activities related to discipline, training and personality development, which helped them become more confident and responsible. On the first day, cadets adapted themselves to a demanding routine and learned time management and adaptability by setting up their barracks within a limited time. On the second day, they woke up at 4 am and practised uniform maintenance along with attention-rest drills, learning the importance of discipline. The third day focused on technical training, where cadets learned to dismantle and assemble service rifles, developing patience and concentration. On the fourth day, firing range practice and compass-based map reading sessions enhanced their marksmanship and sense of direction.

Ballot paper mystery rocks Bilaspur Panchayat Polls; Missing election documents trigger administrative alarm

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY BILASPUR, MAY 21

A major controversy has erupted in Bilaspur district after several ballot papers prepared for the ongoing Panchayat elections mysteriously went missing, sending shockwaves through the administrative and election machinery. The incident has intensified concerns over the security and monitoring arrangements surrounding the electoral process, especially in the wake of a similar episode recently reported from Kunihar in Solan district. According to official sources, ballot papers were being prepared at Ambedkar Bhawan in Lakhampur under the Sadar subdivision when officials discovered that ballot papers meant for the post of Pradhan of Ward No.



1, Jangal Sungal Panchayat, had disappeared from official records. Ballot papers bearing serial numbers 58001 to 58050 were reportedly found missing during verification, triggering panic among officials and employees present at the center. Acting swiftly, senior authorities were informed immediately, following which the Block Development Officer (BDO) of Sadar lodged a formal complaint with the police.

The administration, treating the matter with utmost seriousness, relieved the concerned Assistant Returning Officer of duties with immediate effect. Police have registered a case under the Representation of the People Act and other relevant legal provisions. Investigators are now closely examining documents, personnel, and procedures linked to the ballot preparation center to ascertain whether the incident resulted from negligence or a deliberate conspiracy. Deputy Commissioner and District Election Officer Rahul Kumar confirmed that a detailed report has been forwarded to the State Election Commission and assured that a fair, transparent, and impartial investigation would be conducted.

Anti-terrorism pledge held in Shimla

DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA, MAY 21

On the occasion of Anti-Terrorism Day, the District Administration Shimla organized an anti-terrorism pledge ceremony at the Deputy Commissioner's office complex on Thursday. Deputy Commissioner Shimla, Anupam Kashyap, administered the pledge to officers and employees, urging them to work unitedly against terrorism and violence. Officials and staff members from various departments of the district administration participated in the programme. It is noteworthy that the martyrdom day of former Prime Minister Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi is observed as Anti-Terrorism Day across the country. Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner said that



terrorism is one of the biggest threats to humanity and every citizen must remain aware and vigilant to combat it. He emphasized that collective efforts are essential to maintain the unity, integrity and peace of the nation. He said the objective of observing Anti-Terrorism Day is to strengthen the spirit of peace, harmony and brotherhood in society so that there is no place for violence and

extremism. He also called upon the youth to play a positive role in nation-building and maintaining social harmony. During the programme, officers and employees reaffirmed their commitment to oppose all forms of terrorism and violence and to uphold peace and communal harmony. The event concluded with a pledge to safeguard national unity and social harmony.

"The Soul Collection" Showcases Himachali Art and Culture

DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA, MAY 21

A painting exhibition titled "The Soul Collection" was inaugurated on Thursday at the Tavern Hall of the historic Gaiety Theatre in Shimla. BJP Himachal Pradesh Media Coordinator Karn Nanda attended the event as the chief guest. Several dignitaries, including State Treasurer Kamaljeet Sood, Rama Thakur, Sudeep Mahajan, Sanjay Kalra, Sanjeev Sood and Shyam Sharma, were also present on the occasion. The exhibition features paintings by artist Jitendra Chauhan depicting Himachali culture, spirituality, nature and social life. The colourful artworks attracted art lovers and received appreciation from visitors for their creativity



and emotional depth. Speaking at the event, Karn Nanda said that art is not only a medium of expression but also a powerful tool to preserve culture and connect society. He praised the efforts to present Himachal's traditions, folk life and natural beauty through paintings. He congratulated artist Jitendra Chauhan for organizing the exhibition and said such creative platforms

inspire youth to showcase their talent. He expressed hope that more art, culture and literary events would be organized in Himachal in the future to promote the state's rich cultural heritage at national and international levels. Nanda also said that preserving art and culture in the digital age is a collective responsibility, and such exhibitions help connect the younger generation with their roots and cultural values.

Nukkad Natak and awareness march held on electoral literacy

DINESH AGARWAL SHIMLA, MAY 21

The Legal Aid Clinic of Himachal Pradesh National Law University (HPNLU), Shimla, in collaboration with the Student Enrichment Cell and the Electoral Literacy Club, under the leadership of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Priti Saxena, successfully organized a Nukkad Natak and awareness march on the theme of "Electoral Literacy" in the nearby villages of Dhama and Ghanahatti on May 15, 2026. The initiative aimed at spreading awareness regarding the importance of informed voting and strengthening democratic participation among citizens. Members of the organising committees performed an engaging and informative Nukkad Natak



in the villages, which attracted the attention of residents from all sections of society, including school students, youth, and senior citizens. The performance focused on creating awareness not only about the importance of casting votes but also about exercising the right to vote responsibly and with informed judgment. Through impactful dialogues and relatable situations, the students emphasized the role of

citizens in electing capable and responsible representatives. Following the street play, an awareness march was conducted by the organisers and joined enthusiastically by local residents. During the march, students raised slogans highlighting voting rights and democratic responsibilities while carrying informative banners promoting electoral literacy and active civic participation.

Rajiv Gandhi remembered on Martyrdom Day



DINESH AGARWAL

SHIMLA: The death anniversary of former Prime Minister Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi was observed as Martyrdom Day on Thursday at Sadbhavana Chowk in Chhota Shimla, where floral tributes were paid to his statue. Health and Family Welfare Minister Colonel Dr. Dhani Ram Shandil, Revenue and Horticulture Minister Jagat Singh Negi, Himachal Congress President Vinay Kumar, Shimla Urban MLA Harish Janartha, Shimla Mayor Surender Chauhan, Deputy Mayor Uma Kausal, councillors and several other dignitaries attended the programme and offered floral tributes. During the event, Health Minister Colonel Dr. Dhani Ram Shandil administered a pledge of non-violence and tolerance to those present. Artists from the Information and Public Relations Department paid tribute to Rajiv Gandhi through patriotic songs and devotional performances during the programme.

MEHARJOT SINGH SHAHKOT: Panic gripped the Sardar Darbara Singh Government College in Shahkot after a youth allegedly pointed a pistol at his female classmate and threatened to kill her for turning down his friendship proposal. Based on the victim's complaint, the local police have registered a First Information

Report (FIR) and launched a manhunt to apprehend the accused. According to the police complaint, the victim stated that the accused, a resident of Manakpur village who studies in the same class, had been pressuring her to befriend him for a long time. Despite her repeated refusals, he continuously stalked and harassed her. The situation

escalated when the victim was leaving the college campus after appearing for her final examination. The accused allegedly intercepted her and hurled abuses before pulling out a firearm and threatening her with dire consequences. Seeing people approach, the accused managed to flee the scene. The Shahkot police initiated an investigation.

CHANDIGARH
FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2026

NEWS BRIEF

BJP govt has provided relief to people suffering from corruption and scams: Jagdish

NIRMAL SAINI RADAUR: BJP leader and former District General Secretary of Kisan Morcha, Jagdish Mehta Jathlana, strongly condemned Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's calling Prime Minister and Home Minister traitors. He said that



honesty and dedication with which Prime Minister and Home Minister are serving country is commendable. Rahul Gandhi continues to display his political immaturity by making such statements. He said that BJP government has provided relief to people suffering from continuous corruption and scams of Congress government. Benefits of government's welfare schemes are reaching every person in country. Despite repeated election defeats, Congress leaders are not learning a lesson. Congress needs to introspect.

Rahul Gandhi's 'Traitor' remark reflects his mental frustration: Sanjay Sharma

SANJAY AGGARWAL DHARAMSHALA: Issuing a scathing press statement in Dharamshala, Sanjay Sharma, the State Spokesperson for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), strongly condemned the unparliamentary remarks made by Rahul Gandhi the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha—against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). He asserted that Rahul Gandhi's use of terms like "traitor" to describe the country's top democratic leadership and an organization dedicated to nation-building exposes his deep political frustration and intellectual bankruptcy. Sharma further stated that the Congress party possesses absolutely no moral right to point fingers at the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh—an organization that has consistently served the nation from the front lines during every crisis, be it a border conflict or a natural disaster—given that the Congress's own history is one of compromising the country's security and sovereignty.

Piyush Goyal slams Rahul Gandhi's 'toffee' comment, hails PM's 5-nation tour

AGENCY
NEW DELHI, MAY 21

Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday launched a sharp attack on Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, saying that the world trusts Prime Minister Narendra Modi while the Congress leader continues to display a "negative mindset" in his remarks. Speaking to ANI, Goyal said Rahul Gandhi's statements and speeches reflected frustration and that the public was repeatedly rejecting him. "On the one hand, the entire world looks at India and the Prime Minister with great trust. On the other hand, Rahul Gandhi, who has a negative outlook, is repeatedly displaying his nature and character in his statements and speeches," he said. He further alleged that the Congress leader resorted to abusive language against the Prime Minister. "It is a different matter that the people of India are rejecting him one after another... His frustration



and self-created emotions, and the way he's resorted to abusive language and used derogatory language against the Prime Minister are evident," Goyal said. Questioning Rahul Gandhi's use of the term "treason" in political attacks, the minister launched a counter-charge against the Congress party. "Is eliminating Naxalism treason? Or is allowing Naxalism to flourish for years under Congress rule treason? The way the Congress Party and the Gandhi family support infiltrators is treason," he said. He further added comparisons on terrorism and national security, asking whether strong anti-terror actions should be criticised. "Is honouring the Indian flag on a global stage considered treason, or is insulting the Indian flag abroad

considered treason? Is breaking the back of terrorism, giving a befitting reply to terrorism, considered treason? Or is feeding biryani to terrorists, or compromising with terrorists, considered treason?" Goyal said. He also said Rahul Gandhi's language reflected weakness, saying, "It's clear that the terminology Rahul Gandhi uses is what is called 'abuses are the weapon of the weak' in English." "It's clear that the country is now looking at Rahul Gandhi's weaknesses, the failures of the Gandhi family and the Congress party, and the world's fastest-growing economy under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, and India's prestige on the global stage," he added. Goyal also highlighted Prime Minister Modi's recent five-nation visit, saying it was a major success for India's global outreach and economic diplomacy. "During Prime Minister Modi's visit, India was in the spotlight in 5 countries over 5 days..."

SDM listens to public grievances at Samadhan Camp directs prompt resolution



MAINPAL KASHYAP
INDRI, MAY 21

Following the instructions of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and under guidance of Deputy Commissioner Dr Anand Kumar Sharma, SDM Dr. Raman Gupta listened to public grievances at Samadhan Camp held in Indri subdivision on Thursday and directed the concerned officials to ensure prompt, effective and timely resolution. Officials from various departments were present. SDM stated that Samadhan Camps are proving extremely effective in resolving public grievances. These camps have established direct communication between the government and public, leading to

transparency and speed in resolution of problems. He stated that primary objective of Samadhan Camps is to remove obstacles related to government services and to resolve public grievances on spot. SDM appealed all citizens of subdivision to attend camps on designated days to have their problems resolved. SDM stated that a resolution camp is being organized at subdivision level every Monday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Complaints related to electricity, water, family identity cards, old-age pensions, and other issues are being heard and resolved on spot. Anita Devi, a resident of Labkari, arrived at the resolution camp today with a problem related to old-age pension.

Wave of faith surged during Shrimad Bhagwat Katha, devotees lit lamps in Aarti

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
KARNAL, MAY 21

An atmosphere of reverence and devotion prevailed on third day of Shrimad Bhagwat Katha Mahotsav. Large crowd of devotees gathered at Katha venue, Rukmini Vihar and entire atmosphere reverberated with chants of "Radhe-Radhe" and "Jai Shri Krishna." During Katha, devotees were completely immersed in Lord's devotion. Musical hymns and melodious kirtans created such an atmosphere that devotees danced in ecstasy. Devotees present were immersed in devotion of Thakurji, savoring devotional essence. During evening Maha Aarti, entire atmosphere became divine and transcendental. Devotees participated in Aarti by lighting lamps and entire premises resounded with



chants of Lord's praise. Program began with a ritualistic worship and lighting of lamps. Renowned Kathavachas, Param Pujya Shri Vivek Ji Maharaj was given grand welcome and honored with a garland. While narrating story, Shri Maharaj Ji said that Shrimad Bhagwat Katha inspires one to follow path of righteousness, values and devotion. He stated that simply listening to Lord's story destroys one's sins and brings happiness and peace to life. Saints and sages who

HSPCB Chairman reviews Yamuna action plan projects in Panipat and Sonipat

RAKESH BHAYANA
PANIPAT, MAY 21

Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) Chairman Vinay Pratap Singh, IAS, on Tuesday reviewed the progress of various pollution control and infrastructure projects being implemented under the Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) in Panipat and Sonipat districts. The visit was aimed at assessing ongoing efforts to rejuvenate and restore the Yamuna River through improved sewage and industrial waste management systems. During the inspection, the Chairman reviewed the installation and upgradation of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) being undertaken by the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) and



Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP). He also examined the development works of the Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) at Sector-29 being executed by the Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC). He further assessed the progress of sewer line laying works, tapping of discharge points into sewer networks and the management of industrial

effluents in the region. Accompanied by officials from the Municipal Corporation, PHED, Irrigation Department, HSIIDC, HSVP and Panchayati Raj Department, the Chairman conducted field inspections of Drains No. 1, 2 and 6. Emphasising the importance of timely completion and efficient functioning of STPs and CETPs, Vinay Pratap Singh said untreated sewage and

industrial discharge entering the Yamuna River must be stopped completely. He directed the concerned departments to ensure 100 per cent collection and treatment of sewage and asked officials to remove bottlenecks delaying project execution. Pending issues, he said, should be escalated to higher authorities within two days for prompt resolution. The Chairman also instructed HSPCB officials to strictly enforce effluent discharge norms, carry out surprise inspections and initiate stringent action against violators. Highlighting the need for continuous maintenance of drainage infrastructure, he stressed regular monitoring, desilting and upkeep of drains to improve carrying capacity and water flow management.

84 students selected in placement drive at Jat ITI Kaithal

SANJAY SHARMA
KAITHAL, MAY 21

A placement and apprenticeship drive organised by Swaraj-Sonalika, Berry Industries and Signature at Jat Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Kaithal, witnessed enthusiastic participation from students of various trades, with 84 candidates being selected for apprentice and trainee positions.

According to institute authorities, around 260 students participated in the recruitment drive conducted on Thursday. Students from fitter, welder, electrician and COPA trades appeared for interviews conducted by HR teams of the participating companies.

Principal Kuldeep Gopera and office-bearers of the Jat High School



Committee, including Rajkumar Beniwal, Baljinder Banwala, Advocate Rashmi Dhul and Balkar Nain, welcomed the company representatives to the campus. Principal Kuldeep Gopera said the selected candidates included 20 electricians, 24 fitters, 27 welders and 13 COPA students. He added that the selected students would receive a monthly stipend or salary of Rs 15,540 along with other facilities as per company norms.

The apprenticeship under the National Apprenticeship

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
TARAORI, MAY 21

The fourth day of the Shrimad Bhagwat Katha Mahotsav being organised by Shri Ram Rice Group at Leelavati Dham witnessed grand celebrations of Lord Krishna's birth anniversary with deep devotion and spiritual fervour. As the episode of Lord Krishna's birth was narrated during the discourse, the entire venue reverberated with chants of "Nand Ghar Anand Bhayo, Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki" and "Haathi Ghoda Palki, Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki." Devotees welcomed the occasion with thunderous applause and devotional enthusiasm. A large number of devotees, including women, youth and elderly people, gathered at the event organised at Rukmini Vihar and immersed themselves in devotion. Devotional hymns



dedicated to Lord Krishna created a spiritually charged atmosphere, while the venue had been attractively decorated for the celebrations. At the beginning of the programme, industrialists and distinguished guests from different regions welcomed renowned storyteller Vivek Maharaj with flower garlands. The stage proceedings were conducted by Aman Sharma. On the occasion, directors of Shri Ram Rice Group, including Sadhu Ram Singla, Ravindra Singla, Pramod Singla, Vijay Singla, Sanjay

Singla, Rakesh Singla and Mahesh Singla greeted the guests. Narrating the story of Lord Krishna's birth, Vivek Maharaj said that whenever unrighteousness increases on earth, God incarnates in some form to restore dharma. He said Lord Krishna's life teaches the values of love, truth and humanity. During the discourse, devotees became emotional and danced to bhajans such as "Yashoda Ne Makhana Khilaya", "Bada Natkhat Hai Mera Kanha" and "Radhe-Radhe Bol, Shyam Aa Jayenge."

Maharishi Kashyap: the great sage of creation, linked to origin of many lineages and beings

MAINPAL KASHYAP
INDRI:

In Indian culture, Sanatan Dharma, and the Vedic tradition, the name of Maharishi Kashyap is invoked with the utmost reverence and respect. Sharing this information, former Sarpanch Shamlal Kashyap stated that Maharishi Kashyap holds a preeminent position among the great Saptarishis of antiquity. In religious scriptures and the Puranas, he is described as a foundational pillar for the expansion of the cosmos and the genesis of numerous lineages. For this very reason, he is also known as the "Father of Creation" and the "Progenitor of All Living Beings." Maharishi Kashyap was the son of Maharishi Marichi—one of the 'Manas Putras' (mind-born sons) of Lord Brahma. Through his wisdom, asceticism, and adherence to the path of 'Dharma' (righteousness), he provided a new direction to society. According to the Puranas, Maharishi Kashyap undertook rigorous penance to attain divine knowledge and imparted a message of truth, righteousness, self-restraint, and service to human society. His life is regarded as the epitome of the ideal sage tradition within Indian culture. It is stated that, according to religious beliefs, Maharishi Kashyap had numerous wives, among whom Aditi, Diti, Vinata, and Kadru are considered the most prominent. From Aditi, the Devas were born—a lineage that includes the twelve 'Adityas', including Indra. From Diti, the Daityas originated, while from Vinata, Garuda and Aruna were born.



Samadhan camp powerful medium of public service, complaints must be resolved on priority: Vishram Meena



HANS RAJ KURUKSHETRA: Deputy Commissioner Vishram Kumar Meena said that officers should take all complaints received through resolution camps seriously. Complaints received at the camps should be resolved on a priority basis so that people don't have to repeatedly visit offices. Additionally, all complaints received should be uploaded to the portal. Avoid any negligence in this task. Deputy Commissioner Vishram Kumar Meena said that resolution camps were an effective means of implementing the government's commitment to good governance at the grassroots level. All department heads should ensure that every complaint is resolved within the stipulated timeframe. Quality ATRs should be uploaded to the portal so that the complaint is not reopened. Complaints that cannot be resolved should be classified as rejected.

Brijendra Singh's Sadbhav Yatra to culminate with grand rally in Rohtak on May 23

RAKESH BHAYANA
PANIPAT, MAY 21

Former MLA Shamsher Singh Gogi said that former MP and senior Congress leader Brijendra Singh has emerged as a strong political force in Haryana through his statewide "Sadbhav Yatra," which covered all 90 Assembly constituencies across the state. He said the yatra has infused new energy into the Congress party and created a fresh political momentum in Haryana. Addressing mediapersons on Thursday at the office of former Congress District President Jagdev Malik in Transport Nagar, Sector-25, Panipat, Gogi stated that the Sadbhav Yatra was launched from the Narwana Assembly



constituency on October 5, 2025, and continued for nearly seven and a half months. Covering all Assembly segments in 230 days, the yatra reached Sampla—the 89th constituency—on Thursday, while its grand finale will be held in Rohtak on May 23. Former District Congress President Jagdev Malik, Congress leaders Raghvir Sandhu, Surender Kharb and several party workers were also present during the press interaction. Gogi informed

that a massive procession will be taken out on May 23 from Rajiv Chowk (Delhi Mode) to Bhiwani Stand in Rohtak, where the concluding ceremony of the Sadbhav Yatra will be organized. Haryana Congress President Rao Narendra Singh, former state presidents and working presidents of the party are expected to participate in the event. Party workers who remained associated with the yatra throughout its journey will also be honoured on the occasion.

Hindustan Zinc hosts Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy at Rajpura Dariba Complex

YUGMARG BUREAU
CHANDIGARH, MAY 21

Hindustan Zinc Limited (BSE: 500188 & NSE: HINDZINC), the world's largest integrated zinc producer and one of the top global silver producers, hosted G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister of Coal and Mines, Government of India, at its Rajpura Dariba Complex in Rajasthan. The visit included a holistic tour of the company's Sinesar Khurd Mine, one of the world's largest silver-producing and technologically advanced underground mines, and Dariba Smelting Complex, a state-of-the-art smelting facility. With an annual refined metal production capacity of over 1.1 million tonnes, Hindustan Zinc plays a strategic role in strengthening India's mineral security and domestic metals ecosystem. The visit



highlighted the growing strategic importance of India's mining and metals sector in securing the raw materials required for the country's infrastructure expansion, manufacturing growth, energy transition and emerging technologies. Metals such as zinc, lead and silver are critical for sectors including steel galvanization, renewable energy, electric mobility, electronics, defence and advanced manufacturing. As

India moves towards becoming a globally competitive self-sufficient manufacturing and industrial economy under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat, the development of large-scale, technology-driven and globally competitive mining operations will play a vital role in reducing import dependence, strengthening mineral security and unlocking long-term economic value for the nation.

NEWS BRIEFS

Dates announced for SIR of electoral rolls – DEO Preeti

RAHUL KOHLI
YAMUNANAGAR: Deputy Commissioner and District Election Officer Preeti held a meeting with representatives of political parties and Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) from all four Assembly constituencies regarding the Special Summary Revision Programme of Electoral Rolls, conducted under the aegis of the Election Commission of India. She stated that, in accordance with the Commission's directives, the revision of the electoral rolls will be carried out as per the prescribed schedule. During the meeting, Haryana's Chief Electoral Officer, A. Srinivasan, provided detailed information regarding the Special Summary Revision Programme via video conference. The District Election Officer informed that, under this programme, the processes for adding the names of eligible voters, making amendments, and resolving objections will be completed according to the designated dates. For this Special Summary Revision Programme, the qualifying date is July 1, 2026, while the preparatory, training, and printing work will be conducted from June 5, 2026, to June 14, 2026. Similarly, the door-to-door verification by Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will take place from June 15, 2026, to July 14, 2026; the rationalisation of polling stations is to be completed by July 14, 2026; and the draft electoral roll will be published on July 21, 2026. She further explained that the period for receiving claims and objections will run from July 21, 2026, to August 20, 2026.

CM hears 338 grievances, warns strict action against those threatening complainant

YUGMARG BUREAU CHANDIGARH, MAY 21

Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini, while interacting with people during the Jan Samvad programme organised at Shivala Ramkundi in Ladwa, district Kurukshetra, on Thursday, said that strict action will be taken against the SDO who got electricity poles and a transformer installed in the middle of a farm pathway in village Bakali. He said the matter would be investigated by the SDM, Ladwa. Former Minister of State, Sh. Subhash Sudha was also present on the occasion. During the programme, the Chief Minister heard 338 grievances.

The Chief Minister also directed the police to register a case against those allegedly threatening the complainant. He further said that strict action will be taken against officers and employees who make the general public visit government officers repeatedly to get their work done. The government's objective is to ensure holistic development of the state and to make sure that the benefits of welfare schemes reach every eligible citizen, said Sh. Nayab Singh Saini.

While interacting with citizens, the Chief Minister urged people to mention

their mobile numbers on complaint applications so that departments can contact them directly regarding grievance redressal.

The Chief Minister said that the Jan Samvad platform reflects the government's commitment towards continuous



development, public welfare and a brighter future for the region. He said the development works carried out in Ladwa Assembly constituency over the years clearly show that both the 'Niti and Niyat' of the government are dedicated to public welfare. The government's only objective is to ensure the development of the region and the upliftment of every citizen. He further

directed officers and employees to ensure timely disposal of complaints and warned that citizens should not be made to visit ofices repeatedly for the same issue.

During the programme, a complainant informed the Chief Minister that he had purchased nearly seven acres of land in village Bakali several years ago and the pathway to the fields was part of the ownership record. However, some persons allegedly connived with the SDO and got electricity poles and a transformer installed on the pathway leading to his fields. The complainant also alleged that he was receiving threats. Taking serious note of the matter, the Chief Minister directed officers to initiate strict action. Hearing a grievance raised by Jasbir Singh of Dhanora Jattan village, the Chief Minister said that after examining feasibility, steps would be taken to upgrade the school up to Class XII. Similarly, acting on a complaint submitted by Nareesh Pal, he directed the Marketing Board to complete the road between Khirki Viran and Rudki village before the onset of the monsoon season so that residents of nearly six villages do not face inconvenience. He also directed the officers of the PWD Department to complete the construction of the road.

Complaint submitted against Jagdish Singh Jhinda over remarks on Lord Hanuman



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA AMBALA, MAY 21

A controversy has erupted after Haryana Gurdwara Management Committee president Jagdish Singh Jhinda allegedly told Vishva Hindu Takht chief Viresh Shandilya during a conversation that he does not consider Lord Hanuman a god. Following the remarks, Viresh Shandilya, along with several supporters, submitted a complaint to Ambala SP Ajit Singh Shekhawat seeking registration of an FIR against Jhinda for allegedly hurting religious sentiments.

Among those present during the submission of the complaint were Navratan Garg, Rajinder Pal Singh Bittu, Surender Pal KK, Tarsem Saini, Manish Pasi, Aditya Sharma, Mahinder Dhiman, Ramesh Kumar and Arun Kumar.

Speaking on the occasion, Viresh Shandilya said that Jagdish Singh Jhinda's statement amounted to an insult to followers of Sanatan Dharma in India and across the world. He demanded that an FIR be registered against Jhinda for allegedly provoking religious senti-

ments. Shandilya alleged that Jhinda and his supporters were attempting to weaken Hindu-Sikh brotherhood by spreading divisive views. He said Lord Hanuman is worshipped across the country and holds a revered place in Sanatan tradition.

Addressing mediapersons outside the SP office, Shandilya also demanded that Jagdish Singh Jhinda be removed from his post. He said Sikh devotees visit shrines such as Vaishno Devi, Jwala Ji, Naina Devi and Chintpurni, while places like Manikaran and Kalka temple complex also reflect Hindu-Sikh religious harmony. He further stated that Sanatan Dharma is thousands of years old and accused some individuals of attempting to create division between communities. Referring to Guru Tegh Bahadur, Shandilya said he personally respects and worships the ninth Sikh Guru for sacrificing his life to protect the religious identity of Brahmans. Shandilya said a formal request had been made to the Ambala police to register an FIR against Jagdish Singh Jhinda and take legal action over the alleged remarks against Lord Hanuman.

BJP govt proving ineffective in ensuring safety of traders: Shiv Bajaj

CHAMAN LAL KARNAL, MAY 21

The Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) organised a meeting of its Trade Cell's State Executive in Chandigarh. During the meeting, youth leader Shiv Bajaj urged INLD workers to raise their voices in support of traders' interests and encouraged them to display the INLD party flag on their vehicles and homes. Currently, traders in Haryana are living under a shadow of fear; miscreants have unleashed a reign of terror. The BJP government has proved ineffective in ensuring the safety of the trading community. He stated that traders in Haryana are operating in an atmosphere of fear, as criminals are openly demanding extortion



money. The menace posed by these criminals has escalated to such an extent that shopkeepers are being fired upon in broad daylight. He asserted that the INLD demands the government implement strin-

gent security measures to protect traders. Shiv Bajaj further remarked that the general public is distressed by rising inflation, unemployment, and economic challenges, yet the government does not appear to be

addressing these substantive issues with the requisite seriousness. He noted that the youth are struggling in their search for employment, farmers are anxious about securing fair prices for their crops, and the middle class is buckling under the burden of constantly rising prices.

At such a critical juncture, the government ought to focus its efforts on economic reforms and job creation. Frustration is mounting among the youth due to irregularities in recruitment examinations, paper leaks, and delays in selection processes. He alleged that the future of millions of young people is at stake, yet the government has failed to take concrete steps to address this crisis.

Blood donation camp organised in Karnal on Rajiv Gandhi's death anniversary

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, MAY 21

A blood donation camp was organised by Haryana Youth Congress at Mangal Sen Auditorium on the death anniversary of former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi. The camp began after floral tributes were paid to Rajiv Gandhi's portrait.

The blood donation camp was coordinated by Youth Congress state vice-president Somil Sandhu. Haryana Youth Congress in-charge Satyavan Gehlot, co-in-charge Meemansa Arya and media department state vice-chairman Mukesh Chaudhary were specially present during the event. A total of 76 units of blood were donated during the camp.

Addressing the gathering, Somil Sandhu said that it was



possibly the first time such a blood donation camp had been organised in Karnal on Rajiv Gandhi's death anniversary. He described Rajiv Gandhi as the architect of modern India whose visionary leadership and progressive thinking gave a new direction to the country.

He said Rajiv Gandhi, as the youngest Prime Minister of India, empowered the

youth by granting voting rights at the age of 18, strengthened the Panchayati Raj system and laid the foundation for the information technology revolution in the country. He added that Rajiv Gandhi's contribution towards understanding and empowering the aspirations of youth would always be remembered with respect and admiration.

Harvinder Kalyan holds meet officials, MC members for best arrangements for Shiva Mahapuran Katha

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA GHARAUNDA/KARNAL: Speaker Harvinder Kalyan held a joint meeting with officials and management committee members to review arrangements at venue, keeping in mind ever-increasing number of devotees attending Shiva Mahapuran Katha which will be held from May 17 to 23 at Gharaunda Grain Market. He discussed in detail with them need for better arrangements for devotees at event and provided necessary guidelines in a meeting with officials. He said that number of devotees attending Shiva Mahapuran Katha, being chaired by renowned storyteller and speaker Pandit Pradeep Mishra, is increasing by thousands every day. This is an event rooted in people's faith and devotion. No inconvenience should be caused to Shiva devotees and pilgrims during this event. Considering increasing number of devotees, venue should be expanded. He instructed officials to pay special attention to cleanliness in this area, ensuring adequate clean drinking water, toilets, fire engines, ambulances and electricity, and to arrange additional bus services for devotees. Sound systems, fans and coolers should be installed in pandal besides large screen. He also said that smooth traffic flow in city should be ensured and adequate security arrangements should be made. He called on social organizations to come forward and assist management committee in setting up drinking water stalls and community kitchens and to work together to ensure successful organization of this religious event, in view of summer season. Kalyan also appealed to devotees attending the Shiva Mahapuran Katha to cooperate in maintaining the arrangements and park their vehicles in the parking lots to ensure smooth traffic flow. He informed that parking arrangements have been made near Tiranga Dhaba and in Crown City. He assured that no devotees or local citizens should face any inconvenience. He participated in Aarti of Shiva Mahapuran Katha being held at Gharaunda Grain Market on Wednesday offered prayers and received blessings. He prayed for happiness, prosperity and healthy lives of people of Gharaunda Assembly constituency as well as state.



By laying foundation of modern India, Rajiv Gandhi empowered youth and farmers: Gaba

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL: On the occasion of the death anniversary of Bharat Ratna and former Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi, a tribute meeting and an all-faith prayer programme were organised today at 8:00 AM at Atal Park, located at Nirmal Kutiya Chowk in Karnal. During the event, leaders, senior functionaries, and members of the Congress party—representing the District Congress Committee (Urban) Karnal, the Rajiv Gandhi Panchayati Raj Sangathan, and various other party wings—paid heartfelt tributes. The program was led by Parag Gaba, President of the District Congress Committee (Urban) Karnal. During the ceremony, Congress members offered floral tributes at Rajiv Gandhi's statue and observed a two-minute silence to pay their respects. In his address, Parag Gaba stated that the late Rajiv Gandhi was not merely a politician, but the architect of modern India. He worked to steer the nation in a new direction by spearheading a technological revolution, expanding computer and communication networks, and strengthening the Panchayati Raj system. By integrating villages, the poor, farmers, labourers, and the youth into the democratic mainstream, Rajiv Gandhi secured a new global identity for India on the world stage. He remarked that under Rajiv Gandhi's leadership, India was forging a strong identity as a modern, progressive, and developed nation. At that time, the country's democratic framework, developmental ethos, and freedom of the press commanded global respect. He added that today, however, serious questions are being raised on the international stage regarding India's democratic image and freedom of expression. Citing a recent press conference held in Norway, Parag Gaba noted that the entire world witnessed the attempts made to evade questions posed by a female journalist there.



SVSU launches 12 new programmes this session

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA PALWAL, MAY 21

Shri Vishwakarma Skill University (SVSU) has announced the launch of 12 new programmes in the current academic session, taking the total number of programmes offered by the country's first Skill University to 65. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dinesh Kumar shared this information during a press conference held on Thursday at the University's Takshashila Bhawan.

He informed that from this session, the University has introduced B.Sc. Agriculture, B.Sc. Nursing, Diploma in Pharmacy, B.Pharmacy, B.Voc. Air Conditioning and Refrigeration, B.Voc. Printing and Packaging, B.Voc. Interior Design, B.Voc. French, Bachelor of Performing Arts (Music), BFA, and LLM programmes. The Bachelor in Physiotherapy programme is also being launched, and its approval process is nearing completion.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dinesh Kumar stated that Youth Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Minister Shri Gaurav Gautam has played a significant role in advancing the University. He added that the University is among the priority institutions of Chief Minister Shri Nayab Singh Saini and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He further informed that a new



course in the field of air conditioning is being launched in collaboration with three leading companies. Students enrolled in this programme will start receiving stipends from the very first month and will begin earning around 15,000 from the start of the course. Upon completion, the partnering companies will provide guaranteed jobs. In the first session itself, 500 students will be admitted to the programme.

Prof. Dinesh Kumar also stated that keeping in view the growing demand in the Delhi-NCR region, the University is launching B.Voc. Printing and

Packaging. He said Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi aims to make India self-reliant in the semiconductor sector. In line with this vision, the University has introduced B.Tech. Electronics Engineering (VLSI) and PG Diploma in Semiconductor Device Packaging. Additionally, considering the vast employment opportunities in the aviation sector, the University has launched BBA Airlines and Airport Management and PG Diploma in Airport Operations and Management programmes. The Airports Authority of India is the industry partner for these programmes.

Madrassas and maktabas are strong centres of Islamic education, says Maulana Mohammad

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, MAY 21

A grand annual conference was organised at Madrasa Masihul Uloom in keeping with its long-standing tradition. The programme was presided over by noted Islamic scholar Maulana Mohammad Ikram Rashidi.

In his presidential address, Maulana Rashidi said that madrasas and maktabas are strong centres of Islamic education and moral values where the younger generation is taught ethics, faith and religious teachings. He stressed that separate and high-quality educational institutions for girls' religious education are essential in the present time so that future generations may grow with religious and moral values and society may continue to receive cultured and righteous mothers. The programme began with the recitation of the Holy



Quran by Qari Shab Noor Ganhovi. This was followed by a naat presentation by Hafiz Zahid Khan, which emotionally moved the audience. Mohammad Akmal Jihana delivered a speech that received appreciation from attendees. The stage proceedings were conducted by Hafiz Mohammad Shahrulkh. Several scholars addressed

the conference, including Maulana Mohammad Ahmad Rashidi, Mufti Mohammad Anwar Shah Qasmi, Maulana Mohammad Tayyab Qasmi, Mufti Wajahat Qasmi, Master Aas Mohammad, Mufti Ubaidullah Khan and Maulana Barkatullah Amini. They highlighted the importance of religious education in society.

Free heart check-ups for cardiac patients every Thursday at Shah Multi-Specialty Hospital: Dr. Harjot Shah

SANJAY SHARMA KAITHAL: Dr. Harjot Shah will be available every Thursday at Shah Multi-Specialty Hospital in Kaithal to conduct free heart checkups for the residents of Kaithal district, and acting under the directives of his father—Dr. Mahendra Singh Shah (Director of Shah Multi-Specialty Hospital in Kaithal, a renowned local physician, and a prominent social worker)—Dr. Harjot Shah will now be available every Thursday at Shah Hospital in Kaithal to examine the hearts of patients from the district and its vicinity. During these sessions, Dr. Harjot Shah will conduct heart examinations for residents of Kaithal district and the surrounding regions completely free of charge. While Dr. Harjot Shah will continue to treat cardiac patients at the Shah Multi-Specialty Hospital in Karnal on the remaining days of the week, a particularly significant development is that every Thursday—from morning until evening—he, along with his team, will be present at Shah Hospital in Kaithal to attend to the heart health of the local residents; during this time, they will perform free ECGs, check blood pressure, and provide medical treatment to patients. The people of Kaithal have historically faced significant difficulties in accessing treatment for heart-related ailments. Residents of Kaithal district were previously compelled to travel to other cities within Haryana—or even to major metropolitan centers like Chandigarh or Delhi—simply to undergo a heart examination.



Unity pledge ceremony to be held on May 30, says Bhupinder Lather Bhuppi

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, MAY 21

A Unity Pledge Ceremony will be organised in Gagsina village on May 30, in which Congress national general secretary and Rajya Sabha MP Randeep Surjewala will attend as the chief guest.

Senior Congress leader Bhupinder Lather Bhuppi shared details of the programme during a press conference held at his Neelkanth Star Dhaba on Thursday. Before the press interaction, floral tributes were paid to former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi on his death anniversary. Congress workers raised slogans in his memory after offering flowers to his portrait.

Speaking to mediapersons, Bhupinder Lather said that the Congress party was playing the role of a constructive opposition across the country. He said under the leadership and

guidance of Rahul Gandhi, Congress leaders and workers were reaching out to people in villages and cities and raising public issues in Parliament.

He said the Unity Pledge Ceremony in Karnal was part of

were being organised across the country to spread the ideology of the Congress party among the masses. He added that Congress would once again work to strengthen the country by taking every citizen along. Targeting the



this outreach campaign. The programme is being coordinated by Sarvjeet Sandhu and residents of Gagsina village. He informed that the event would begin at 4 pm on May 23 and that Congress workers and villagers would accord a grand welcome to Randeep Surjewala. Bhupinder Lather said such programmes

the country was heading towards economic decline under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He claimed India had slipped out of the category of developing nations and echoed Rahul Gandhi's statement that an "economic storm" was approaching the country.

EDITORIAL

India, Italy to celebrate 2027 as Year of Culture

Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs, Sibi George, on Wednesday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Italy led to major initiatives aimed at strengthening cultural, educational, defence and people-to-people ties between the two countries. Addressing a special media briefing on the Prime Minister's visit to Italy, George said PM Modi and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni announced that 2027 would be celebrated as the Year of Culture between India and Italy. "To further strengthen cultural relations and promote two-way tourism, both leaders announced the celebration of 2027 as the Year of Culture between India and Italy," George said. He also said that an MoU for Italy's cooperation in the development of the National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal in Gujarat had been signed, while both countries were working on a twinning programme between UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India and Italy. George further said that a Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) on facilitating the mobility of nurses from India to Italy was among the major outcomes of the visit. "The JDI on facilitation of mobility of nurses from India to Italy was among the key outcomes of the visit, which will facilitate smoother movement of Indian healthcare professionals to Italy," he said. He added that an Indo-Italian roadmap on higher education and research, along with agreements on science and technology cooperation, had also been signed. Speaking about PM Modi's visit to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), George said the Prime Minister was conferred with the Agricola Award by the FAO Director-General in recognition of his contribution towards food security, sustainable agriculture and rural development. "The Prime Minister dedicated the award to our farmers, agricultural scientists of India, and those associated with farming, agriculture and fisheries," he said. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal described PM Modi's five-nation tour and the India-Nordic Summit as "very successful" and "impactful". He said the Prime Minister met more than 50 CEOs of major global companies during the visit and noted that their cumulative investment and business exposure in India stood at nearly USD 180 billion. Jaiswal said several new projects were in the pipeline in sectors such as semiconductors, logistics, green infrastructure and technology. "The estimated fresh commitments by the global majors that the Prime Minister met, including business expansion and business plans in India, stand around USD 40 billion," he added. George also said that PM Modi had invited Giorgia Meloni to visit India and that the invitation had been accepted. On the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), George said both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to cooperate on the project, recognising its "transformational potential" in global trade and connectivity.

UP Mission 2027: BJP begins 'performance test' on MLAs

The Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections may still be far away, but the political chessboard in Uttar Pradesh has begun to unfold. The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has entered election mode and begun preparing a 'report card' of its MLAs who will win in 2022.

Sources indicate that the party is assessing the MLA's grassroots presence in their constituency and their active engagement with the public. The search for new, winnable faces has been intensified to replace MLAs with whom the public is unhappy or whose aloofness has been complained about.

A senior party official said here on Thursday that, "The high command has assigned two external agencies the responsibility for the entire survey. These teams have been traveling across urban and rural areas for several days, directly interacting with people. Public opinion is being gathered on the work, behaviour, and presence of MLAs in their constituencies."

He added, "In addition, the popularity and ethnic-social influence of potential new contenders is also being assessed. The BJP wants to determine which candidate will guarantee victory in 2027."

The survey is being conducted division-wise across the state. The BJP's position is strong in most divisions, but the Moradabad division remains a cause for concern for the party.

In the 2017 elections, the BJP won 14 out of 27 seats here, which dropped to just 10 in 2022. To compensate for this loss, the party is exercising special vigilance in this



division and is searching for strong candidates for each seat.

According to BJP sources, the organisation is compiling a list of potential candidates by district and region. The opinions of local MPs and the RSS will also be considered. Reports from external agencies and the organisation's list will be compared.

A senior BJP leader stated that candidates who are common in both areas and on whom consensus is reached are considered almost certain to

receive a ticket. Sources indicate that the agency's report will be submitted to the party's High Command in Delhi soon.

Sources stated that this survey is not only assessing the MLAs, but also the public's sentiment regarding the Yogi government's schemes and nine years of work. The party wants to know in which areas the government's branding is strong and where there is an anti-incumbency.

The leadership believes that

the grassroots feedback received now will help sharpen its strategy for 2027. There are clear indications that MLAs who prove to be lackluster in their work will be denied ticket in the next election.

It is worth noting that the BJP is not the only party in the fray. Congress has begun commissioning private agencies to compile a list of potential candidates for seats in Western Uttar Pradesh. The Samajwadi Party is also secretly shortlisting candidates

through surveys.

Mayawati's BSP has already announced in-charges and potential candidates for several seats. Chandrashekhar Azad's Azad Samaj Party is working to poach strong leaders from other parties and bring them to its side. Overall, all parties have begun making their own moves even before the 2027 election battle begins. Ticket calculations, caste equations, and survey reports will determine who will win power in Lucknow next time.

The boy with the homemade school bag

In the golden haze of my fifth year, my world was no larger than the four walls of our rented house and the comforting hem of my mother's pallu. To me, life felt entirely safe and quiet under her shadow. But as the summer of my fifth birthday approached, a new whisper began to echo through our home. "It is time he be put into school, just like his siblings."

Arya School, where my elder sisters were studying, was only a short distance away. Yet, to my young mind, it might as well have been on the other side of the moon. I begged my parents to let me stay at home. The thought of trading my mother's gentle gaze for an unknown place full of strangers was a daunting mountain I was not ready to climb. However, my parents were a team of gentle yet firm architects, slowly building the bridge they knew I needed to cross.

When the morning of my first day arrived, I stood in the street with tears welling in my eyes, thoroughly reluctant to leave. Slung over my shoulder was a bag which was not a store-bought backpack with shiny buckles.

It was a makeshift bag, lovingly fashioned by my mother out of a dari, a sturdy woven bed mat. As its unfamiliar weight settled against my back, I felt my very identity shift. I was no longer a child at home. I was a student.

Entering the school gates felt like stepping into an entirely different world. I was ushered into the 'kachchi class', the very first rung on the academic ladder. The room was a sea of small, wide-eyed faces. Some children were crying openly, while others stared blankly at walls smeared with chalk writings.

Unlike my mother, the teacher was figure of iron discipline. She did not speak in her soft, comforting tones, she spoke with an authority that demanded immediate order. Initially, this strictness was a shock to my system. I sat stiffly on the floor mat in a neat queue, clutching my dari bag tightly, counting down the minutes until I could go home.

But then came the bell. At its sound, everyone burst out of the classroom. It was recess—time to play. The playground turned out to be the great equalizer. In the

dust and the warm sunlight, the sternness of the classroom dissolved. I soon found myself running, laughing, and realizing that these "strangers" were actually just friends I had not met yet. By the time the next bell rang, school did not feel quite so scary anymore.

As the weeks turned into months, I moved from 'kachchi class' to 'pakki class', and eventually into the numbered grades. Slowly, the rhythms of school life became my normal—the scratching of chalk, the morning prayers and the quiet pride of a correctly answered lesson became the heartbeat of my days.

Looking back, as a young boy with that mat-bag over my shoulder, I had no idea where I was heading. I only knew I was leaving the safety of home. But in those humble classrooms, I was not just learning to read and write—I was learning how to stand on my own two feet. It was the first step of a journey that has still not ended. That homemade bag carried far more than books. It carried me.

By Birinder Singh

Through Yam Dwar to Derapuk — Entering the celestial kingdom of Kailash



Dr Tanu Jain

There are journeys one undertakes with the body, and then there are journeys that begin dissolving the body itself — stripping away identity, ego, fear, and everything one once believed permanent. The sacred path from Yam Dwar to Derapuk Monastery felt like such a passage — not merely through mountains, but through dimensions of existence. The journey had begun amidst warnings of harsh winds, uncertain weather, and inhospitable terrain. It was said that the land tests every pilgrim before allowing entry into the abode of Lord Shiva. The winds here are often described as fierce enough to humble human pride, as though nature itself stands guard at the gates of the divine.

And yet, in a way impossible to explain, we felt welcomed. The skies opened gently for us. The sun shone with unexpected warmth upon the barren Himalayan wilderness. Soft winds touched our faces as though the mountain itself had accepted our presence. Frozen rivers stretched across the landscape under thick layers of ancient ice, glistening like crystal pathways carved through another realm. Every stream, every stone, every silence carried an unearthly stillness. It no longer felt like Earth.

Small creatures emerged now and then from the rocks and snow, pausing curiously to observe the arriving pilgrims — as though even nature wished to witness who had come seeking the celestial kingdom of Kailash.

And then came Yam Dwar. The sacred gateway stood quietly amidst the vast emptiness, yet its spiritual force felt immeasurable. In Hindu tradition, Yam Dwar is believed to be the threshold between mortality and liberation — the doorway where one symbolically leaves behind worldly attachments before entering the sacred domain of Shiva.

The very name carries profound meaning:

- * Yam — Yama, the lord of death,
- * Dwar — gateway.

Crossing Yam Dwar did not feel ceremonial; it felt deeply personal. An inward silence descended almost instantly. There exists an ancient belief that once one crosses the gate, one must not look back — a symbolic surrender of the past, the ego, and the illusions one carries through life.

At that moment, the ancient invocation of Shiva seemed to echo through the valley:

करचरणकृतं वाकायजं कर्मजं वा
श्रवणनयनजं वा मानसं वापराधम् ।
विहितमविहितं वा स्वमेतत्क्षम्यन्
जय जय करुणाब्धे श्रीमहादेव शम्भो ॥

"Whatever wrongs have been committed through hands or feet, through speech, body, mind, eyes or ears — knowingly or unknowingly — O ocean of compassion, Mahadev Shambho, forgive them all." The parikrama ahead no longer appeared like a trek. It felt like a dialogue between the soul and eternity. As we moved deeper through the valley, the western face of Mount Kailash slowly revealed itself — austere, commanding, almost impossibly



impossibly clear, that it felt less like imagination and more like divine symbolism carved into stone. The contours of the mountain looked architectural rather than natural. Distinct horizontal elevations appeared like perfectly segmented levels of a celestial palace. Certain sections resembled temple walls. Others appeared like sacred chambers hidden within the mountain itself. On one side, the formations looked strikingly similar to a Samavasarana — the divine preaching hall described in Jain tradition. It was impossible not to wonder: Could gods truly reside here? For the first time in life, a mountain no longer appeared lifeless. Kailash felt inhabited — breathing silently beneath layers of snow, cloud, and eternity. The immense vertical lines etched across its surface looked too precise, too sacred, too deliberate to belong to ordinary geology. One simply stands there in awe. No photograph can capture the energy of that sight. No description can hold its silence. As darkness slowly descended upon Derapuk, the North Face glowed beneath the fading Himalayan light like a cosmic throne suspended between worlds. The mountain seemed to watch over every pilgrim resting beneath it. And somewhere in that sacred stillness, one realizes: Kailash does not merely call people to visit. It calls them to transform. That night at Derapuk was not the end of a journey, but the quiet preparation for an even deeper crossing — onward toward Dolma La Pass, toward surrender, toward transcendence, toward the unknown chambers of the soul itself.

Har Har Mahadev. Jai Kailashpati.

Ceo Bareilly Ministry of defence

Ganga Water talks in focus as Bangladesh ratchets up demands

A Bangladeshi delegation flew into the city Wednesday for a meeting of the Joint Rivers Commission and a visit to the Farakka barrage where the flow of the Ganges is measured as it bifurcates into the Bhagirathi-Hooghly to meander towards Kolkata.

The meeting, just months ahead of the expiry of the 30-year Ganges Water Sharing Treaty in December this year, assumes significance as the political discourse in Dhaka over water sharing with India has taken a stormy turn.

Earlier this week, the ruling BNP's Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir warned that the future of India-Bangladesh relations would depend significantly on the outcome of Ganges negotiations, reflecting his party's "expectations and needs".

"India and Bangladesh usually jointly measure

water flows at the outset of the dry season. Its an ongoing process. However, what is worrying is this tendency of Bangladeshi leaders to take strong pre-decided stands even before real talks begin on renewing the treaty. It defeats the purpose of negotiations if you start taking rigid postures." Veena Sikri, former High Commissioner to Bangladesh, told UNI.

The Bangladeshi delegation is being led by Joint Rivers Commission member Md Anwar Kadir and includes senior representatives from Bangladesh's Water Resources Ministry, Foreign Ministry and hydrological agencies, underlining the importance Dhaka attaches to the upcoming discussions.

While officially the meetings are routine technical consultations, they come at a strategically delicate moment. Officials



on both sides have already begun preliminary discussions on renewal.

However, analysts suggest that a comprehensive renegotiation may prove difficult under current political circumstances,

making a temporary extension a more likely short-term outcome.

Sikri pointed out that the Ganges water treaty "could not be viewed in isolation" and a host of treaties and relations

including connectivity and trade needed to be considered in tandem.

Indian officials also believe that the Ganges treaty which shared the flow at Farakka headwaters on a 50:50 basis, needs an overhaul as the

glacial melt which gives Ganges its waters has reduced even as

downstream demand for water has shot up with population exploding on both sides of the border. Complicating the talks

over water are Bangladesh's growing relationship with China and Pakistan. Even before Alamgir warned India on the Ganges water treaty, Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman met his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Beijing to formally seek China's involvement in the Teesta River Comprehensive Management and Restoration Project, oblivious of Indian sensitivities on handling over such a project just across the border from India's Siliguri corridor, a narrow strip of Indian land which separates China from Bangladesh.

About a week back, a high level Pakistan Air Force team visited Dhaka to finalise training of Bangladesh pilots in Islamabad. This comes on top of reports that suggest Bangladesh is keen on buying Pakistan's JF-17 Thunder fighter jets, which

are produced under licence from China at Kamra in Pakistan's Punjab.

Pakistan's military intelligence wing — ISI — is also believed to have expanded its presence in Dhaka, according to sources. ISI has long been suspected of being involved in earlier decades in shipping arms to India's northeast rebels, and in training and funding Islamist militants in Bangladesh who were then sent to other parts of the South Asian sub-continent.

In the last two decades, intelligence reports linked an attack in 2002 on the American Center in Kolkata to both Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba and Bangladesh-based Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami (HuJI-B), which are known to have links with ISI and a terror bombing with IED explosives at Both Gaya ahead of a visit by the Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama in 2018.

CHAMAN LAL

KARNAL: Today, on the death anniversary of the 'Bharat Ratna' and former Prime Minister, the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, a massive blood donation camp was organised by Saumil Sandhu, Senior Vice President of the Haryana State Youth Congress. Young volunteers participated enthusiastically, making an invaluable contribution to this noble cause of service to humanity. On this



occasion, District President Parag Gaba (Urban Congress Committee) and other office-bearers also donated blood, playing a

pivotal role in making the event a success. Saumil Sandhu stated that the late Rajiv Gandhi ji always inspired the youth to follow the path of national service, humanity, and brotherhood; this blood donation camp held today was dedicated to his spirit of service and his ideals. Heartfelt gratitude and best wishes are extended to all the blood donors, young volunteers, and every worker associated with the organization of this event.

NEWS BRIEF

Municipal committee announces special rebate scheme on property tax

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA NILOKHERI: Municipal Committee Nilokheri has announced a special rebate scheme on property tax under a Haryana Government initiative, providing major relief to residents of the municipal area. Under the scheme, citizens making one-time payment of pending property tax or house tax for the period from 2010-11 to 2024-25 by June 30, 2026, will receive 100 per cent waiver on interest. Giving this information, Municipal Committee Chairperson Sanmeet Kaur Ahuja said consumers depositing their pending dues within the stipulated period will get complete exemption from interest. She added that citizens making online payments would also receive an additional 1 per cent rebate. She appealed to residents to deposit their pending as well as current property tax on time and take maximum benefit of the government's special scheme. She further informed that after June 30, 2026, an interest of 1.5 per cent per month would be charged as per rules.



Student Transport Security Scheme Part 2 launched in Babain block benefitting students of 38 villages

HANS RAJ KURUKSHETRA, MAY 21

Haryana Education Department's Principal Secretary Vijay Dahiya said that the 10th and 12th class exam results of government schools have improved significantly due to the dedicated work of teachers. Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini is working day and night to develop infrastructure for sports and other activities along with education in the state's government schools. As per the orders of Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini, Student Transport Security Scheme Part 2 has been launched in Babain block in this constituency. Around 1167 students from 38 villages will benefit from this scheme. The Principal Secretary of Haryana Education Department was speaking on Thursday on the premises of PM Shri Government School,



Babain, at the Student Transport Safety Scheme organized under the aegis of School Education Department, Haryana and the Student and Teacher Felicitation Ceremony organized by the District Administration. Earlier, Principal Secretary Vijay Dahiya, former State Minister Subhash Sudha, Director General Jitendra Dahiya, Deputy PS CM Dr. Yashpal, Deputy Commissioner Vishram Kumar Meenahonored all the guests by giving them mementos. Expressing gratitude to Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini, he said that in Babain's government school, teachers were working hard in every field, including education, to shape the country's future generation. Therefore, the support of both teachers and the general public is crucial. If the community stands together and works with the school, the quality will improve further. Currently, the state government is working with full focus to provide all kinds of high-

GM Construction conducts safety inspection and reviews progress of Balurghat-Hili new line project

YUGMARG BUREAU MALIGAON, MAY 21

Ashish Bansal, General Manager/Construction of Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) conducted a comprehensive safety inspection and detailed review of ongoing developmental works in the Eklakhi - Balurghat and Balurghat - Hili sections during his visit on 20th May, 2026. The inspection focused on assessment of railway infrastructure, track conditions, station development works, bridges, passenger amenities, operational preparedness and overall progress of construction activities under the Balurghat - Hili New Broad Gauge Line Project. The Balurghat - Hili New Broad Gauge Line Project, having a total length of 29.257 km in Dakshin Dinajpur district of West Bengal, is being executed at an anticipated cost of Rs. 1181.09 crore. The project



aims to strengthen rail connectivity in the region and accelerate socio-economic development. For execution of the project, 100% land acquisition covering 156.38 hectares has already been completed and the land has been handed over to Railways. The project includes construction of 11 major bridges, 43 minor bridges, station buildings, road over bridges (ROB), road under bridges (RUB), staff quarters, track formation and other related railway infrastructure works. Various developmental activities are progressing continuously in different sections of the project to ensure timely completion. The target date for completion of the project has been fixed as March 2027. During the inspection, special emphasis was laid on safety standards, quality of construction works, progress of bridge works, station infrastructure, utility shifting and operational preparedness to ensure safe and reliable train operations in future.

Moonak's team declared overall winner with cash prize of Rs. 41000



MEGHRAJ LUTHRA

KARNAL: In final of second cricket tournament under aegis of AS Sports Club, Moonak's team became overall winner. It was given a cash prize of Rs 41000. Team of Japati Chhapra was at 2nd place and got a prize of Rs 2000. Teams of Saidpura and Kalsora were at 3rd and 4th place and were given consolation prizes of Rs 3100 each. Total of 32 teams from Haryana and other states participated in this event. Village Saidpura is on Karnal-Pehwa Highway within limits of Karnal Municipal Corporation where sports lovers were invited every day in this three day tournament dedicated to Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar. Teams which cleared pool on 2nd day of tournament include teams from villages Saidpura, Kalsora, Japati Chhapra, Balla, Munak, Nigdu, Pindhora and Bastali. Final match was played today. Arun Saidpura, main organizer of tournament said that this tournament was held last year with aim of keeping youth away from drugs and connecting them with sports. To boost enthusiasm in this, it was already announced that first team would be given Rs 41000 and 2nd coming team would be given Rs 31000. Chief guest of tournament, Mayor Renu Bala Gupta told the players and villagers that sports promote mutual brotherhood. Along with improving health, they also build career of the players. They strengthen the country.

New intercity train service between Hisar and Amritsar sought

MAHENDER GOYAL

HISAR: A delegation met with MP Jai Prakash and submitted a memorandum demanding introduction of a new intercity train service between Hisar and Amritsar. Social workers Shivam Soni, Dinesh Vji, Sumit, Jagmal and Indrajit highlighted inadequate rail services on the Hisar-Amritsar section. They stated that Hisar is a major educational, industrial and agricultural hub. Similarly, Amritsar is a major religious and tourist destination in country. Hundreds of passengers travel daily from Hisar to Amritsar via Ludhiana-Jakhal route. Delegation explained that no new rail service has been launched on this important route in the last 18 years, despite steady increase in passenger traffic. Currently, 14653/54 Amritsar-Hisar Express is only daily train service on this route. This train has been operating with a nearly identical coach composition for past decade and a half. It offers only six general coaches and one reserved sleeper coach. This facility is insufficient to meet current demand. This train service is particularly important for tourists, pilgrims and devotees traveling to Amritsar and visiting Radha Swami Beas. New train service will also greatly benefit passengers from major stations along this route, including Barwala, Jakhal, Sunam and Dhuri. Therefore, there is an urgent need to introduce a new intercity train service between Amritsar-Hisar-Amritsar via Ludhiana-Jakhal route. Additionally, 14653/54 Amritsar-Hisar Express needs to be augmented with additional coaches, especially general and sleeper coaches with immediate effect.



Sadhaura Municipality gets modern cleaning machine: Shalini Sharma



PRITI SAINI

SADHAURA: The Sadhaura Municipality has taken a significant step towards making the city clean and beautiful. The municipality has purchased a modern cleaning machine at a cost of Rs. 38.85 lakhs. The machine was formally inaugurated by Municipality Chairperson Shalini Sharma, who performed the traditional ritual of breaking a coconut. Present on this occasion were Market Committee Chairman Naveen Bhasin, Municipality Secretary Nitin, along with municipal officials, staff members, and prominent citizens of the town. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Chairperson Shalini Sharma stated that this machine was acquired with the objective of further strengthening and modernizing the town's sanitation system. She explained that the machine will be used to clean the city's main roads and major lanes, thereby enabling cleaning operations to be carried out more rapidly and effectively than before. She added that the use of this machine would also reduce the reliance on manual labor and make it possible to clean a larger area in a shorter amount of time. She emphasised that keeping the town clean is not solely the responsibility of the municipality, but also the duty of every citizen.

Socio-economic survey report of Bhaini-Majra prepared by M.Sc. students of NIILM varsity officially published



SANJAY SHARMA

KAITHAL: The socio-economic survey report of Bhaini-Majra village—prepared by final-year M.Sc. Geography students from the Department of Geography, School of Social Sciences and Humanities at NIILM University, Kaithal—was officially published. The report was formally released by Dr. Ekta Chahal, Dean of the School of Social Sciences and Humanities. This survey was conducted by the students as part of their academic fieldwork to study the social and economic conditions of the village. During the survey, detailed data was collected and analyzed regarding various key aspects related to population structure, education, occupation, agriculture, housing, health facilities, transportation, income, social infrastructure, and development. The entire survey project was executed under the direction and guidance of Dr. Vikas Nain and Mr. Shrawan Kumar Singhmar, Assistant Professors in the Department of Geography. With their academic guidance and field support, the tasks of conducting the survey and preparing the report were successfully completed. The department also expressed special gratitude to Amarjeet Mor, Dr. Sonam, and Ajit Singh for providing continuous support throughout the survey process.

Memorandum submitted over demands of Bapoli Government College



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

BAPOLI: A memorandum highlighting various infrastructural and student welfare demands of Government College Bapoli was submitted to CM Window Eminent Person Ramnivas Kaushik in the name of Education Minister Mahipal Dhanda, Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and MLA Manmohan Bhadana. College Principal Ritu Nehra informed that several essential facilities are required in the college, including installation of an open gym for students' health and fitness, seating arrangements in the college campus and park, approval for a bus stop stand in front of the main gate for students' convenience and installation of water coolers. Speaking on the occasion, Ramnivas Kaushik said MLA Manmohan Bhadana's vision is that children from his constituency should excel in the field of education and bring laurels to the region at national and international levels.

PO staff team arrests fugitive accused absconding for 2 Years

RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR, MAY 21

PO staff team arrested a fugitive accused absconding for 2 Years. Providing details, a police spokesperson stated that the District Police is currently conducting a special drive to apprehend fugitive accused persons and bail jumpers. Acting under the directives of Superintendent of Police Kamaldeep Goyal in this regard, the PO (Proclaimed Offender) Staff team has achieved another significant success. The team has arrested an accused individual who had been declared a fugitive by the court nearly two years ago, and has produced him before the court for further legal proceedings. The police spokesperson further informed that a special team was constituted under the leadership of Inspector Rajpal, In-charge of the PO Staff; the team included ASI Ashwani, Head Constable Sandeep, Head Constable Mahavir, and Lady Head Constable Saraswati. Through a concerted



effort and acting on a tip-off, the team successfully arrested the fugitive accused—identified as Intazar, son of Sajid, a resident of Begampur village—who had been absconding for nearly two years. The accused, Intazar, was implicated in a criminal case and had been declared a fugitive by the Honorable Court due to his failure to appear for court hearings.

Complete drain cleaning works before Monsoon; waterlogging must be prevented: MLA Arora

RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR, MAY 21

Yamunanagar MLA Ghanshyam Das Arora inspected the ongoing drain cleaning operations within the city. Accompanied by various officials—including Municipal Corporation Commissioner Mahabir Prasad—he closely examined the cleaning of the drains and sought details regarding the storm water lines and various city drains by reviewing the relevant maps. He issued strict instructions to the officials to ensure that all drains are thoroughly cleaned to their full depth before the onset



of the monsoon, thereby preventing city residents from facing waterlogging issues during the rainy season. On Thursday, MLA Ghanshyam Das Arora, along with Municipal Corporation Commissioner Mahabir Prasad, visited the large drain located at Vishwakarma Chowk, where an agency was carrying out cleaning operations with the aid of JCB machines and manual labor.

Congressmen pay tribute to late PM Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi on his martyrdom day



RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR:

Congress workers celebrated the martyrdom day of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi with reverence at the Congress District Rural Office. The program was organized under the leadership of the party's Rural and Urban District Presidents, Narpal Singh and Devendra Singh. Everyone paid tribute by offering flowers to the portrait of Bharat Ratna, the late Rajiv Gandhi. In their addresses on this occasion, Congress District President Narpal Singh Gurjar and Urban District President Devendra Singh said that the Gandhi family had always set an example by sacrificing for the unity and integrity of the nation. Late Rajiv Gandhi was the architect of modern India. He provided 33 percent reservation for women. The welfare of women was Rajiv Gandhi's vision. Rajiv Gandhi strengthened the Panchayati Raj system. Rural District President Narpal Singh Gurjar said that they were working to realize the dreams of the late Rajiv Gandhi.

DC honors enumerators for outstanding performance in first phase of Census 2027

CHAMAN LAL

KARNAL: Deputy Commissioner Dr. Anand Kumar Sharma honored enumerators who performed outstanding in House Listing and Housing Census (HLO) work in first phase of Census 2027 in auditorium of Mini Secretariat today with certificates of appreciation. He said that census is nationwide and extremely important process. It is on this basis that future government schemes, policies and development works are outlined. He said that employees who went to field and collected accurate data deserve congratulations. Their hard work has contributed to district's excellent performance in this task. He called upon all employees to discharge their official responsibilities with same dedication and transparency in future. DC honored Neelam Rani, PGT, GMSSS, Gharaunda, Anita Taneja, PGT, GGSSS, Gharaunda, Surendra, TGT, GMS, Dhumsi, Vikas, TGT, GMS, Dhumsi, Pramod Kumar, JBT, GGSSS, Indri, Navjot Kaur, PGT, GGSSS, Indri, Dinesh Kumar, PRT, GPS, Soli, Sumil Kumar, PRT, GMSSS, Salwan, Mamta Devi, TGT, Gole, GGSSS, Assandh, Pooja Sharma, TGT, GGSSS, Assandh, Rimpi Devi, PGT, English, GMSSS, Taraon, Ratan Kumar, TGT, Sanskrit, GMS, Budhera, Sompal, TGT, Sanskrit, GHS, Jamba, Mukesh Kumar, PRT, GPS, Nilokheri, Mamta, PGT, English, PM Shri, GSSS, Nilokheri, Sahil, PGT, History, GMSSS, Nising, Pradeep Kumar, PGT, Fine Art, GMSSS, Nising, Jasbir Singh, PRT and JBT, GPS, Bijna.



No tolerance for negligence in census operations: Tehsildar Ankit Beniwal



JAIBEER RANA THAMBER

BARARA: Under the guidance of the SDM of Barara, Tehsildar Ankit Beniwal convened a meeting of the subdivision's census supervisors to issue necessary directives regarding the census operations. He emphasised that all employees must collect accurate and precise information regarding every building, household, and residential site within their respective house-listing blocks, and ensure that the work is completed within the stipulated time frame. He further stated that this is a team effort, which can only be successfully accomplished through mutual coordination and cooperation. Tehsildar Ankit Beniwal asserted that the census is a critically important national undertaking; therefore, no form of negligence in its execution will be tolerated. He instructed the officers and employees to discharge their duties with complete responsibility and integrity.

Abacus and Olympiad winners honoured at Pratap Public School



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

TARAORI: A special ceremony was organised at Pratap Public School to honour winners of the Abacus examination conducted for students of Classes 1 to 4 and the Olympiad examination held for students from Classes 1 to 10. Students who performed exceptionally well in the examinations were awarded gold medals for first position, silver medals for second position and bronze medals for third position, along with certificates of appreciation. The students appeared delighted and proud after receiving their medals during the ceremony. In the Abacus examination, young students from Classes 1 to 4 displayed impressive mental calculation skills, while participants in the Olympiad examination showcased strong logical reasoning abilities and subject knowledge. School director Pithi Chaudhary congratulated the winners and said learning Abacus helps develop concentration, imagination and problem-solving skills. She said it also contributes to the balanced development of both hemispheres of the brain.

Amazon launches all-new Fire TV Stick HD in India

CHANDIGARH : Amazon has announced the launch of the all-new Fire TV Stick HD in India. This is Amazon's fastest HD streaming stick yet, delivering over 30% faster performance on average than the previous generation. It provides customers access to full HD streaming with HDR10+ and Wi-Fi 6 support, a slimmer, more portable design, and a new Fire TV experience, redesigned for faster, more organised navigation. With Fire TV Stick HD, customers can stream lakhs of movies and TV episodes across content providers and enjoy Xbox cloud gaming without the need for a console (subscription fees may apply). "Customers expect their TV streaming experience to be fast and responsive—apps that load quickly, content that's easy to find, and streaming that's smooth and lag-free. Our latest Fire TV Stick HD delivers exactly that. It's over 30% faster on average than the previous generation and comes with our new, faster Fire TV interface for seamless streaming. It's also our slimmest, most portable Fire TV Stick yet, designed to fit neatly behind a TV, offering a clutter-free setup," said Sayantani Choudhuri, Head of Fire TV, Amazon India. "From performance to design, we've built this device to offer a streaming experience that's fast, smooth, and convenient. We're excited to bring it to our customers in India."

CEO Chandigarh Reviews Preparedness for Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Roll



CHANDIGARH: Following the announcement by the Election Commission of India regarding the schedule for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the Electoral Roll in Chandigarh under the 3rd Phase on May 14, 2026, a review meeting was held on May 21, 2026 under the chairmanship of Chief Electoral Officer, U.T. Chandigarh, Ms. Prerna Puri, IAS, to assess preparedness and coordination for the exercise. At the outset, the Chief Electoral Officer directed officials to ensure wide publicity of the SIR schedule, hold meetings with political parties and maintain close coordination with all stakeholders. Detailed discussions were subsequently held regarding the roles and responsibilities of officers involved in the Special Intensive Revision of the Electoral Roll. The District Election Officer was directed to complete the rationalization of polling stations by July 14, 2026. The Electoral Registration Officer was instructed to conduct meetings with political parties and Booth Level Agents (BLAs), closely monitor claims and objections and supervise field staff to ensure transparency in the revision process. Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) were directed to dispose of Forms 6, 7 and 8 in a time-bound manner after following due procedure. They were also instructed to ensure adequate availability of Declaration Forms along with Forms 6 and 8, as Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are required to carry at least 30 blank Forms 6 and 8 along with blank Declaration Forms during the Enumeration phase for providing them to persons seeking enrolment as new electors or those shifting from outside the State. The AEROs were further directed to undertake micro-level planning for the distribution, collection and digitization of Enumeration Forms. Necessary arrangements regarding manpower, infrastructure, connectivity and training in their respective offices are to be completed by May 30, 2026. It was also decided that unmapped electors would again be contacted by BLOs through door-to-door verification for necessary mapping. SVEEP Nodal Officers were directed to prepare a comprehensive awareness plan for various phases of the SIR through print media, flash mobs, nakkad natak and other voter awareness activities by May 25, 2026.

Electors will also be sensitized regarding the Voter Helpline Number 1950 by dialing 0172-1950 and pressing 3 for voter-related assistance and services. The Nodal Officer for Media and Social Media was instructed to disseminate information regarding different phases of the SIR through various social media platforms and ensure timely countering of fake news by circulating accurate information. Directions were also issued for regular dissemination of voter awareness content through social media platforms. Additionally, NSS volunteers have been identified to assist BLOs during the Special Intensive Revision.

The Nodal Officer, Computerization, was directed to establish a 24x7 IT Help Desk to provide technical assistance to BLOs during the SIR and ensure smooth functioning of the State Contact Centre. Concluding the meeting, the Chief Electoral Officer directed that employees of Sampark Centres be trained regarding the SIR process and schedule so that they can effectively guide citizens of U.T. Chandigarh. Instructions were also issued to establish help desks displaying IEC (Information, Education and Communication) material in offices of the Chandigarh Administration. Further, directions were issued to impart training to nodal officers of Voter Awareness Forums already established in various departments of Chandigarh.

Chief Secretary Reviews Projects and Schemes of Forest, Environment, Science & Technology and Renewable Energy Departments

CHANDIGARH: Sh. H. Rajesh Prasad, Chief Secretary, UT Chandigarh, today reviewed the status of ongoing projects and schemes being implemented by the Forest Department, Department of Environment, Department of Science & Technology & Renewable Energy (DST&RE), and the Chandigarh Pollution Control Committee (CPC). The review meeting was attended by Sh. Mandip Singh Brar, Secretary Forest; Sh. Saurabh Kumar, Chief Conservator of Forests-cum-Chief Wildlife Warden; Mr. Anup Kumar Soni, IFS, Addl. Director, Department of Environment; Sh. Nitish Singla, Director Science & Technology & Renewable Energy, along with other senior officers. During the meeting, the Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) gave a detailed presentation on the forest and tree cover of Chandigarh and highlighted various initiatives being undertaken for the scientific management of forests and integrated development of wildlife habitats.



The Chief Secretary was informed that against the plantation target of 5,76,221 saplings under the Greening Chandigarh Action Plan 2025-26, a total of 6,64,133 saplings were planted by various greening agencies and stakeholders, achieving an overall survival rate of around 79 per cent up to March 2026. The meeting was also apprised about key initiatives being undertaken by the department, including the Wildlife Survey in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, Fish Diversity Study and the Wetland Mitras Programme. Sh. Mandip Singh Brar, Secretary Forest, informed that the Plantation Plan for 2026-27 is in the final stage of preparation and that the department is focusing on quality plantation rather than quantity. He stated that the plantation target for the current year has been fixed at 4,10,725 saplings, including distribution. He further informed that the department is also working on a project for the development of a City Forest in the Sukhna Chhote forest area. The project aims to promote conservation and ecological awareness, sustainable ecotourism, awareness generation, education and capacity building, besides encouraging behavioural and experiential learning outcomes. The vision of the project is to create greater public awareness regarding the protection and conservation of forests, wildlife and the environment through nature-based

learning opportunities, while promoting eco-tourism in an ecologically sustainable and economically viable manner. Reviewing the initiatives, the Chief Secretary directed the department to ensure scientific management and adequate protection of forests. He emphasized that plantation activities should be undertaken only after careful assessment of site-specific requirements and suitable species should be planted and properly maintained for better growth and survival. He also directed that the preparation of the Working Plan for scientific forest management be expedited. In urban areas, he stressed the need to promote plantation of suitable colourful shrubs for enhancing the city's landscape. Sh. Nitish Singla, Director Science & Technology & Renewable Energy, also made a presentation on various schemes being implemented by DST&RE, including Research & Development Support to Research Institutions.

NEWS BRIEF

Marking the 'Impression of a Century' by leveraging its Start-Up persona and entrepreneurial spirit, Essel Group completes 100 exciting years
SHIMLA: Multi-faceted Indian business conglomerate Essel Group has marked a historic milestone in its journey, as it completes 100 glorious years of delivering value across the globe. From a humble beginning in 1926 in a small town named Adampur, to a multi-faceted conglomerate with a diverse presence across a gamut of businesses, Essel Group has created a lasting impression across the world. Commemorating the special occasion, Dr. Subhash Chandra said, "Essel Group's journey has been one of persistence, resilience, innovation and growth. Our belief that progress must create value for the society and Nation at large has guided the pioneering steps undertaken by the Group across every business dimension."

Coke Studio Bharat Reimagines a Forgotten War Story Through a Wife's Eyes in 'Kachaudi Gali'

CHANDIGARH, LUZHIANA: Coke Studio Bharat returns with its third release of Season 4, travelling this time to the lanes of Benaras for Kachaudi Gali, a folk song inspired by the forgotten human cost of the First Anglo-Burmese War. Shantanu Gargane, IMX (Integrated Marketing Experience) Lead, Coca-Cola India and South West Asia, said "One of the most exciting things about folk music is that it carries memory in a very natural way. Bhojpuri has a rich tradition of storytelling that, over time, has slowly faded from the mainstream. With Coke Studio Bharat, the endeavour has been to bring these lost stories and cultures back into the conversation. Kachaudi Gali is a powerful example of that approach: a truly local story interpreted through the distinct voices and creative instincts of Rekha Bhardwaj, Utpal Uditi, and Kiwaab, in a way that feels both timeless and contemporary."

Marking the 'Impression of a Century' by leveraging its Start-Up persona and entrepreneurial spirit, Essel Group completes 100 exciting years

HARYANA: Multi-faceted Indian business conglomerate Essel Group has marked a historic milestone in its journey, as it completes 100 glorious years of delivering value across the globe. From a humble beginning in 1926 in a small town named Adampur, to a multi-faceted conglomerate with a diverse presence across a gamut of businesses, Essel Group has created a lasting impression across the world. Since 1967, Essel Group has reinvented itself by achieving the paradigm shift from a traditional business to a global conglomerate with a Start-Up culture. The traditional commodity trading business of the Group was pivoted to Army supplies & cross border trade. Subsequently, most of the Group's businesses have been of pioneering nature, with many industry firsts to its credit. Nurturing its start-up mindset and keeping a sharp focus on profitability, the Group has never shied away from closing certain businesses, which did not rise to the desired value-delivery levels. Commemorating the special occasion, Dr. Subhash Chandra said, "Essel Group's journey has been one of persistence, resilience."

The IET India Scholarship Award Opens Applications for its 10th Edition; Prize Pool Doubled to ₹20 Lakhs

INDIA: The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), one of the world's largest professional engineering bodies, has announced the launch of the 10th edition of the IET India Scholarship Award, one of India's leading platforms for undergraduate engineering students. Marking the milestone edition, the scholarship has doubled its total prize pool from ₹10 lakhs to ₹20 lakhs. Applications are now open and will close on 15 June 2026. Over the past decade, the IET India Scholarship Award has recognised students who go beyond academic excellence to use engineering and technology to solve real-world problems. From healthcare accessibility and sustainable agriculture to waste management and assistive technology, participants have showcased innovations focused on meaningful social impact.

Vi launches flexible International Roaming Plans to suit every travel this summer

LUZHIANA/CHANDIGARH :- Leading telecom operator, Vi, today announced the launch of its new flexible International Roaming (IR) offerings for Postpaid customers, designed to offer greater convenience, flexibility and value for international travellers. The introduction of new 7 day, 14 day and 21 day packs further strengthens the company's existing range of international roaming offerings. Commenting on the launch, Avneesh Khosla, Chief Marketing Officer, Vi, said: "International travel requirements are becoming increasingly diverse and dynamic. With Vi's flexible roaming proposition, we are simplifying global connectivity by giving customers the freedom to choose plans that best match their travel duration and usage needs. Whether it is a short work trip, an essential family visit, or an extended stay abroad, customers can stay connected seamlessly with greater flexibility and peace of mind."

Isuzu Motors introduces leasing solution for ISUZU D-MAX S-CAB

JALANDHAR: Isuzu Motors India has announced the introduction of a new leasing model for the ISUZU D-MAX S-CAB. With vehicle leasing steadily evolving as a preferred option for various businesses in India, the new model aims to offer customers a smarter and more convenient way to access commercial vehicles without the burden of ownership. The programme is being introduced with a strong focus on the ISUZU D-MAX S-CAB, a vehicle widely recognized for its durability, reliability, performance and versatility across diverse business applications. The leasing model is designed to offer greater operational flexibility and financial efficiency.

Amazon.in strengthens its position as India's largest beauty store - to add over 100 premium brands in 2026

CHANDIGARH: Amazon.in, India's largest online beauty store, today announced the expansion of its premium beauty selection, with over 100 new brands set to go live on Amazon.in in 2026. These include Dolce & Gabbana, Laura Mercier, Elemis, Urban Decay, Aveda, La Roche Posay, Biodance, Eucerin, Paula's Choice, Riis, Anessa and more. As demand for international beauty brands accelerates across India, new launches this year will also extend to Japanese, Australian, French beauty and Middle Eastern fragrance brands like Anessa, Kokebana, Mystique, Goat Soaps, KANS, One Leaf and more. This Prime Day in July, customers can look forward to exciting new launches, great offers and blockbuster deals across beauty products from both global and homegrown premium brands on Amazon.in. "India's beauty industry is seeing a clear shift from availability-led shopping to more intentional, discovery-led consumption, driven by growing awareness of global beauty trends. On Amazon, premium beauty is growing 50% YoY with demand for K-beauty and French pharmacy nearly doubling year-over-year."

New Study Links Daily Almond Consumption to Better Brain and Metabolic Health in Adults with Prediabetes

CHANDIGARH: New research published in the Journal of Nutrition indicates that a simple dietary change – eating just a few almonds each day – may benefit cognitive performance, metabolic health, and markers for inflammation and oxidative stress in middle-aged Asian Indian adults with prediabetes. Prediabetes affects more than 600 million people worldwide and is linked not only to an increased risk of type 2 diabetes but also to impaired brain function. In the 24-week study conducted in New Delhi, 60 Asian Indian adults aged 40 to 60 with prediabetes but no signs of cognitive decline were randomly assigned to either a control or intervention group after receiving guidance on following a balanced diet consistent with dietary guidelines for Asian Indians. While the control group continued with the same diet, the intervention group consumed a calorie-matched diet that included almonds, with almonds accounting for 20% of daily calories, equivalent to around 32-42g per day. Participants were monitored remotely twice a week and attended in-person visits every four weeks. Researchers assessed cognitive performance, blood glucose levels, HbA1c, blood lipids, weight, BMI and waist circumference at the beginning and end of the study. At the end of the study, participants in the almond group experienced improvements in executive function and processing speed, both key measures of cognitive performance. The group also demonstrated better blood sugar control, including lower fasting blood glucose, lower blood glucose levels two hours after eating, and improvements in HbA1c, a marker of long-term blood sugar control. Additional metabolic benefits included significant reductions in body weight, body fat, BMI, waist circumference, total cholesterol and LDL cholesterol. Participants consuming almonds also showed improvements in markers related to inflammation and oxidative stress.



5 Expert Tips to Prevent Heatstroke During Rising Summer Temperatures

PATIALA: With heatwaves becoming increasingly common, heatstroke is emerging as a serious health concern. Prolonged exposure to high temperatures can affect the body and may lead to symptoms such as dizziness, headaches, confusion, fatigue, and, in severe cases, even neurological complications can occur. Early precautions and timely intervention play an important role in preventing heatstroke. Dr. Nitti Kapoor Kaushal, Consultant- Neurology, Manpal Hospital, Patiala, recommends the following measures to stay protected: 1. Stay Hydrated- Drink plenty of water throughout the day and avoid dehydration, especially while stepping outdoors. 2. Avoid Peak Heat Hours- Limit outdoor activities between 11 AM and 4 PM when temperatures are usually the highest. 3. Wear Light Clothing- Choose loose, breathable, and light-coloured clothing to help regulate body temperature. 4. Eat Water-Rich Foods- Include fruits and vegetables such as watermelon, cucumber, and citrus fruits in your diet. 5. Pay Attention to Early Symptoms- Do not ignore dizziness, headaches, confusion, excessive tiredness, or muscle cramps as these may indicate heat-related stress. As heat exposure can impact neurological health as well, persistent symptoms such as severe headache, confusion, stroke, altered behaviour, fainting, or prolonged dizziness should not be ignored. In such cases, timely consultation with a neurologist is recommended for appropriate evaluation and care.



Paras Health Panchkula Launches Adult Vaccination Services

PANCHKULA: Paras Health Panchkula has launched dedicated Adult Vaccination Services under the campaign theme "Stay Protected. Stay Ahead." to strengthen preventive healthcare and spread awareness about the importance of timely vaccination among adults, senior citizens, and travellers. The initiative was introduced during an awareness event held at the hospital and is being led by Dr. Amit Mandal and Dr. Navneet Arora. The newly launched services offer a comprehensive range of vaccines for adults, travel and pilgrimage vaccination, and specialised vaccination support for people aged 55 years and above. The campaign aims to encourage preventive healthcare practices and increase awareness about adult immunisation. Healthcare experts highlighted that vaccination is not limited to childhood and has become increasingly important due to international travel, lifestyle-related diseases, ageing, and weakened immunity. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Pankaj Mittal said adult vaccination is one of the most effective ways to prevent serious infections and protect long-term health. He added that many adults miss essential vaccines due to a lack of awareness and the misconception that immunisation is only necessary during childhood. The vaccination services cover Flu, Hepatitis B, HPV, MMR, Tdap (Tetanus), Pneumococcal disease, Shingles (Zoster), Typhoid, Hepatitis A, Yellow Fever, Japanese Encephalitis, Rabies, and Meningococcal vaccines.



2026 May Release: Now there's even more to Airbnb

CHANDIGARH : Last year, we expanded Airbnb beyond homes with the launch of Airbnb Experiences and Airbnb Services. For the first time, you could book a place to stay, explore a city with a local, and have a private chef cook you dinner, all on Airbnb. Since then, millions of people around the world have done exactly that. This summer, we're going further. We're adding new categories of services to make every part of your trip easier, and new experiences you can only find on Airbnb – including exclusive access to the FIFA World Cup 2026. We're also bringing boutique and independent hotels to Airbnb. And we're upgrading the app with AI-powered tools to help you find the perfect place to stay, plan your trip, and get help the moment you need it. "Travel shouldn't just be convenient. It should be meaningful. The best trips help you explore, learn, and come home a little different than when you left. That's what we're building at Airbnb. And this summer, we're giving people even more ways to do it – from incredible places to stay and boutique hotels that feel like Airbnb, to unforgettable World Cup experiences and services that make your trip easier," said Brian Chesky, co-founder and CEO of Airbnb.

Strategic Partnerships Opening Doors to Aspirational Students in Ludhiana

LUZHIANA : Amid growing demand for international higher education opportunities among students across Punjab, a new international study centre has been launched in Ludhiana to support students aspiring to pursue overseas education through globally aligned transition support for international university education. The centre is located on the 1st Floor, Green Park Enclave, SCO 18-19C, Pakhawal Road, Jilla Kacheri Area, Model Gram, Ludhiana, Punjab – 141001. Speaking on the launch, Vinayak Sood, Branch Director, KC Overseas, Ludhiana, said, "Punjab has consistently been one of India's strongest international education markets, with students actively exploring global academic and career opportunities. However, today's students and parents are also evaluating factors such as affordability, long-term career outcomes, academic preparedness, and overall student experience more carefully than ever before. Through this study centre, we aim to provide students with more informed guidance and structured support as they navigate overseas education pathways." Commenting on the broader evolution of international education pathways, Amit Garga, Co-Founder, The WorldGrad, said, "The global higher education landscape is evolving rapidly, with increasing emphasis on accessibility, academic pathways and structured guidance services. The new study centre, launched through a partnership between The WorldGrad and KC Overseas Education, Ludhiana, will function as a regional hub for students seeking admissions guidance, pathway-based learning opportunities, academic counselling, and



Sanyukt Karamchari Morcha Intensifies Fight for Regularization, Equal Rights and Job Security

CHANDIGARH: The Sanyukt Karamchari Morcha intensified its campaign for the long-pending demands of employees by organizing a major press conference at the Chandigarh Press Club on Thursday with the participation from six prominent employee organizations and federations representing UT and Municipal Corporation employees. The Morcha announced the submission of a joint memorandum of demands to the Government, UT Administration, both Members of Parliament and major political parties, seeking urgent intervention to address the concerns of regular, contractual, daily-wage and outsourced employees. A key demand raised during the conference was the one-time regularization of daily-wage, contractual and outsourced employees who have completed 10 years of service and are engaged in perennial duties, alongside the demand for job security for outsourced staff through a centralized government agency from recruitment to retirement, replacing the existing GeM portal system. Addressing the media, the convenors Gopal Dutt Joshi (Federation of UT and MC Employees), Sukhbir Singh (Joint Employees Welfare Association), Ranjit Mishra (UT Chandigarh SS Federation), Surmukh Singh (Joint Action Committee of UT and MC Employees), Ranjit Hans (UT SS Federation Chandigarh), and Bipin Sher Singh (All Contractual Karamchari Sangh Bharat, Chandigarh) highlighted multiple employee concerns.



Amazon.in strengthens its position as India's largest beauty store to add over 100 premium brands in 2026

SHIMLA: Amazon.in, India's largest online beauty store, today announced the expansion of its premium beauty selection, with over 100 new brands set to go live on Amazon.in in 2026. These include Dolce & Gabbana, Laura Mercier, Elemis, Urban Decay, Aveda, La Roche Posay, Biodance, Eucerin, Paula's Choice, Riis, Anessa and more. As demand for international beauty brands accelerates across India, new launches this year will also extend to Japanese, Australian, French beauty and Middle Eastern fragrance brands like Anessa, Kokebana, Mystique, Goat Soaps, KANS, One Leaf and more. This Prime Day in July, customers can look forward to exciting new launches, great offers and blockbuster deals across beauty products from both global and homegrown premium brands on Amazon.in. "India's beauty industry is seeing a clear shift from availability-led shopping to more intentional, discovery-led consumption, driven by growing awareness of global beauty trends. On Amazon, premium beauty is growing 50% YoY with demand for K-beauty and French pharmacy nearly doubling year-over-year. We're seeing more than 50% of this demand come from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities such as Thrisur, Dehradun, Patiala."

Aditya Birla Housing Finance launched its new branch in Kharar

KHARAR: Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited expanded its footprint in Punjab with the launch of a new branch in Kharar, as part of its broader plan to expand its pan-India distribution network. With this addition, ABHFL's total network in Punjab has increased to 7 branches, strengthening its presence in high-growth markets and improving customer accessibility. Kharar has emerged as a fast-growing residential market due to its proximity to Chandigarh and expanding infrastructure. The city continues to witness increasing demand from young families and first-time homebuyers looking for affordable housing options. The new branch will strengthen access to seamless and tailored affordable housing finance solutions in the region. ABHFL offers a comprehensive suite of housing finance solutions tailored to diverse customer segments, including affordable housing, prime housing, construction finance, and loans against property, catering to salaried individuals, self-employed professionals, self-employed non-professionals, and emerging income groups. Backed by a robust digital ecosystem, ABHFL enables a seamless onboarding, Faster Approvals, and enhanced transparency, ensuring a superior customer experience. To mark the launch, ABHFL is offering zero login fees along with spot loan sanctions of up to Rs. 50 lakh, valid from May 20 to May 31, 2026, enabling faster and more affordable access to credit for customers at these new branches. Speaking on the expansion, Mr. Pankaj Gaddi, MD & CEO, Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited, said that Punjab is a key growth market for us.



Parle-G Lookalike Face Brings Recognition to Virak

PANCHKULA: A student of The Bharat School, Sector-12, Panchkula, who bears a striking resemblance to the iconic face featured on the Parle-G biscuit pack, was specially felicitated at the school. The child and said it was a matter of pride for the institution that one of its students had gained such recognition at a young age and had been selected by Digital Aura for a one-year engagement. She added that the school has always encouraged students to nurture their talents and motivates them to excel not only in academics but also in creative fields. She expressed hope that this achievement would inspire other students as well. Teachers, staff members, and fellow students also extended their best wishes and wished the child success in his future endeavours. During the felicitation ceremony, the student was honoured and applauded for his accomplishment. The school management stated that identifying children's talents and providing them with the right platform is the true purpose of education, and The Bharat School continues to work in this direction.



Star Health launches 'Value Plus' affordable health insurance in Chandigarh

CHANDIGARH: Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Limited (NSE: STARHEALTH; BSE: 543412), India's leading standalone health insurer, today announced the launch of an affordable offering, designed to bring increased health protection to young Indians in Tier 2-3-4 cities. Titled, 'Value Plus', it offers high sum-insured covers from ₹7.5 lakhs to ₹25 lakhs at nearly 20% lower premiums, through a curated hospital network. Commenting on the launch, Anand Roy, MD & CEO, Star Health Insurance, said: "Over the last 20 years, Star Health Insurance has worked to make health insurance more trusted, accessible and affordable for millions of Indians. With Value Plus in Chandigarh, we are building on that legacy by bringing quality health insurance within reach of more individuals and families across Tier 2, 3 and 4 India. Chandigarh is an important market for us, and by combining higher sum insured options, curated hospital access and wellness-led benefits at nearly 20% lower premiums, Value Plus brings affordability-by-design to a wider set of customers."

Daria residents meet Sanjay Tandon, seek his help restoring land rights to them

CHANDIGARH: A delegation of Daria village residents met senior BJP leader Sanjay Tandon at his residence here, seeking his help in restoring the land ownership rights of Sharnat Deh and Mustharka Malkan land owned by them in the village. After giving a patient hearing to them, BJP leader Tandon promised every possible help so that justice is done to them. "If the need arises, I will even take up the matter with Punjab Government and UT Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria," said Tandon in a statement. "I strongly feel that there is no reason for the UT Administration in delaying the implementation of the Apex Court judgement dated 16.5.2025 reported as the 'State of Haryana vs Jai Singh & Ors', pertaining to vesting of ownership of the lands to their actual owners in Daria village," said Tandon. "My full support is with the aggrieved parties, seeking justice and proper implementation of the court's decision. I am personally pained to see the kind of trauma they have been undergoing despite getting the relief from the court." It is worth mentioning that the Supreme Court of India has upheld the rights of original proprietors over unutilized portions of Sharnat Deh and Mustharka Malkan lands in Haryana and Punjab. The judgment, delivered on May 16, 2025, in the case of State.



Bharti Airtel CEO Says Priority Postpaid Aims to Solve Everyday Network Congestion Challenges

CHANDIGARH: Bharti Airtel has launched Airtel Priority Postpaid, a new postpaid offering powered by advanced 5G slicing technology. In a letter emailed to Airtel customers, Bharti Airtel India MD and CEO Shashwat Sharma said the company introduced the service after receiving Priority Postpaid," Sharma said. According to Sharma, Airtel Priority Postpaid has been "specially designed" to deliver a more consistent experience in congested areas through Airtel's latest upgrade to its 5G network called slicing. "Airtel Priority Postpaid is specially designed to give you consistent experience even in congested areas. This has been made possible through our latest upgrade to our 5G network, called slicing," he said. The company described slicing as an advanced 5G capability already introduced in several global telecom markets. Sharma said Airtel has now brought the capability to postpaid consumers in India as part of its postpaid offering. "Slicing is a capability that has been launched in many other parts of the Western world, and I am delighted that we have now brought this to you in India," Sharma said in the letter. According to Airtel, the capability enhances the network and creates additional capacity that can be used to offer a better experience to Priority Postpaid customers.



NEWS BRIEF

Ex-Congress Councillors Accused of Misusing Welfare Funds
SHARANJEET PATHANKOTI: Ashwani Sharma has accused former Congress councillors of allegedly misusing government development funds meant for poor and needy families in 2021.

PAU's PABI Wins Best Incubator Award at Startup Samagam 4.0

LUDHIANA: Punjab Agricultural University's Punjab Agri Business Incubator was honoured with the 'Best Incubator Award' during Startup Samagam 4.0 - Leaders' Conclave 2026 held at Park Plaza, Ludhiana.

Arya Yuva Samaj Organises Inspiring "No Nasha Nation" Programme at DAV-8 Panchkula



PANCHKULA: In a powerful and socially significant initiative aimed at building a drug-free India, Arya Yuva Samaj organised a grand awareness programme titled "No Nasha Nation - Empowering Youth Through Vedic Wisdom" at DAV Senior Secondary Model School, Sector-8, Panchkula.

Sanjay Tandon reviews preparations for Chandigarh Premier League at Tau Devi Lal Stadium



CHANDIGARH: In preparation for the upcoming Chandigarh Premier League (CPL) scheduled to be held in June 2026, UT Cricket Association (UTCA) Founder President Sanjay Tandon visited Tau Devi Lal Stadium, Panchkula, along with UTCA officials to take stock of the arrangements and review the readiness of the venue for the prestigious tournament.

"Children Spread the Light of Spiritual Awareness" says Shri Amarjit Singh Nirankari



CHANDIGARH (R N KHERA): Through the divine knowledge and teachings imparted by the Satguru, children develop values of discipline, humility, gratitude, and humanity. In today's era, if children remain connected with Satguru, they can become responsible citizens for the nation and the world.

Drug peddler arrested with heroin in Morinda

YUGMARG BUREAU MORINDA: Punjab Police has claimed to have arrested a drug peddler with heroin during a special anti-narcotics drive in Morinda. According to information, acting on the directions of District Police Chief Maninder Singh and under the guidance of DSP Gurjit Singh, the City Police Station Morinda launched a special campaign against drug traffickers.

Census-2027 First Phase Underway in Hoshiarpur: DC

DALJEET AJNOHA HOSHIARPUR: Ashika Jain said the household listing work under the first phase of Census-2027 is being carried out at a war footing across the district and will continue till June 13.



Women Honoured in Kalka-Pinjore After MC Poll Victory



PANCHKULA: Following the victory in the Panchkula Municipal Council elections, Ward No. 5 Councillor and Lambardar Narendra Singh Thakur along with social worker and Gurdwara Management Committee Chairman Gurmeet Singh Ramsar organised a special programme to honour women from Kalka and Pinjore.

Commissionerate police Amritsar busts national bomb threat nexus



AMRITSAR, MAY 21 (HARPAL SINGH): In a major breakthrough against cyber-terrorism and coordinated hoax bomb threats, the Commissionerate Police Amritsar has arrested a key operative from West Bengal allegedly involved in facilitating mass "bomb blast" threat e-mails sent to schools and other sensitive establishments across multiple states.

TDI Infrastructure announces TDI Premier League 2026

SONIPAT: TDI Infrastructure is all set to launch the TDI Premier League from 23rd May 2026 onwards, bringing together 10 spirited and highly competitive teams for an exhilarating cricket tournament that celebrates teamwork, sportsmanship, leadership, and the true spirit of healthy competition.

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD PUBLIC NOTICE. Subject: Mutation/Transfer of ownership right in respect of Dwelling Unit No.2123-B of Two Bed Room Category & Parking No B16-CSO-886 in Block No B16 in Sector 63, Chandigarh on the basis of Sale Deed in the name of SH. JOGINDER SINGH SANDHU S/O SH. AVTAR SINGH from the name of allottee/transferee SMT. NEERU VERMA W/O SH. CHANDER DUTT VERMA.

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD PUBLIC NOTICE. Subject: Mutation/Transfer of ownership right in respect of Dwelling Unit No.2221 of Category-EWS/LIG, Sector 40-C, Chandigarh on the basis of Sale Deed in the name of SH. RAHUL KANOJA S/O SH. MATA PRASAD from the name of allottee/transferee SMT. HEMLATA W/O SH. NARESH KUMAR.

ਗਰੈਟਰ ਮੁਹਾਲੀ ਏਰੀਆ ਡਿਵੈਲਪਮੈਂਟ ਅਥਾਰਟੀ ਪੁੱਖਾ ਚਕਰ, ਸੈਕਟਰ 62, ਐਮ. ਏ. ਐਮ. ਠਾਂਡਾ। ਪਲਾਟ ਨੰਬਰ: 2213, ਸੈਕਟਰ 88, 500 ਵ.ਯਮ, ਐਮ. ਏ. ਐਮ. ਠਾਂਡਾ ਦੇ ਆਈ ਐਮ ਐਮ ਸਿੰਗਲ S/O Fhuman Singh, Baldev Singh S/O Fhuman Singh, Gurdeep Singh S/O Fhuman Singh, Prem Singh S/O Fhuman Singh ਨੂੰ ਅਪਣੇ ਪਲਾਟ ਨੂੰ ਅਮਰਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੂੰ ਖਰੀਦਣ ਦੀ ਇਜਾਜ਼ਤ ਦੇਣ ਦੀ।

NORTHERN RAILWAY Tender Notice. Sr. Divisional Materials Manager, Northern Railways Ambala Cantt-130001 for and behalf of the president of India invites tender through E-Procurement System (www.ireps.gov.in) for the supply of the below item.

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD PUBLIC NOTICE. Subject: Mutation/Transfer of ownership right in respect of Dwelling Unit No.266-1 of Category-LIG, Sector 41-A, Chandigarh on the basis of Sale Deed in the name of SH. MANDEEP KUMAR S/O SH. HARI RAM from the name of allottee/transferee SMT. RAJWINDER KAUR W/O SH. DALJEET SINGH.

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD PUBLIC NOTICE. Subject: Mutation/Transfer of ownership right in respect of Dwelling Unit No.3280-1 of Category-LIG, Sector 45-D, Chandigarh on the basis of Sale Deed in the name of (i) SH. RAM PHAL NAIN S/O SH. AJMER SINGH & (ii) SH. KUNAL NAIN S/O SH. RAM PHAL NAIN from the name of allottee/transferee SH. SURESH CHAND GUPTA S/O SH. RAM SAROOP GUPTA.

ਗਰੈਟਰ ਮੁਹਾਲੀ ਏਰੀਆ ਡਿਵੈਲਪਮੈਂਟ ਅਥਾਰਟੀ ਪੁੱਖਾ ਚਕਰ, ਸੈਕਟਰ 62, ਐਮ. ਏ. ਐਮ. ਠਾਂਡਾ। ਪਲਾਟ ਨੰਬਰ: 2213, ਸੈਕਟਰ 88, 500 ਵ.ਯਮ, ਐਮ. ਏ. ਐਮ. ਠਾਂਡਾ ਦੇ ਆਈ ਐਮ ਐਮ ਸਿੰਗਲ S/O Fhuman Singh, Baldev Singh S/O Fhuman Singh, Gurdeep Singh S/O Fhuman Singh, Prem Singh S/O Fhuman Singh ਨੂੰ ਅਪਣੇ ਪਲਾਟ ਨੂੰ ਅਮਰਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੂੰ ਖਰੀਦਣ ਦੀ ਇਜਾਜ਼ਤ ਦੇਣ ਦੀ।

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD PUBLIC NOTICE. Subject: Mutation/Transfer of ownership right in respect of Dwelling Unit No.2924-A of Category-EWS, Sector 49, Chandigarh on the basis of Sale Deed in the name of SH. SANDEEP SINGH S/O SH. MANGAT SINGH from the name of allottee/transferee SH. TANURAG PRASHAR S/O SH. RANVIR PRASHAR.

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD PUBLIC NOTICE. Subject: Mutation/Transfer of ownership right in respect of Dwelling Unit No.2924-A of Category-EWS, Sector 49, Chandigarh on the basis of Sale Deed in the name of SH. SANDEEP SINGH S/O SH. MANGAT SINGH from the name of allottee/transferee SH. TANURAG PRASHAR S/O SH. RANVIR PRASHAR.

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD PUBLIC NOTICE. Subject: Mutation/Transfer of ownership right in respect of Dwelling Unit No.3280-1 of Category-LIG, Sector 45-D, Chandigarh on the basis of Sale Deed in the name of (i) SH. RAM PHAL NAIN S/O SH. AJMER SINGH & (ii) SH. KUNAL NAIN S/O SH. RAM PHAL NAIN from the name of allottee/transferee SH. SURESH CHAND GUPTA S/O SH. RAM SAROOP GUPTA.

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD PUBLIC NOTICE. Subject: Mutation/Transfer of ownership right in respect of Dwelling Unit No.3280-1 of Category-LIG, Sector 45-D, Chandigarh on the basis of Sale Deed in the name of (i) SH. RAM PHAL NAIN S/O SH. AJMER SINGH & (ii) SH. KUNAL NAIN S/O SH. RAM PHAL NAIN from the name of allottee/transferee SH. SURESH CHAND GUPTA S/O SH. RAM SAROOP GUPTA.

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD PUBLIC NOTICE. Subject: Mutation/Transfer of ownership right in respect of Dwelling Unit No.2924-A of Category-EWS, Sector 49, Chandigarh on the basis of Sale Deed in the name of SH. SANDEEP SINGH S/O SH. MANGAT SINGH from the name of allottee/transferee SH. TANURAG PRASHAR S/O SH. RANVIR PRASHAR.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Auction Notice. Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Ambala Cantt for and on behalf of President of India invites bids through E-Auction on IREPS website for allotment of contracts at Railway Stations of Ambala Division of Northern Railway.

AXIS BANK PUBLIC NOTICE PURSUANT TO SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002. This notice serves to inform the public that the following borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) had availed the financial assistance from Axis Bank Ltd. We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates.

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD PUBLIC NOTICE. Subject: Transfer/Mutation of Allotment/Registration of Dwelling Unit No.3162-A, Category EWS, Sector 52, Chandigarh in the name of (i) SMT. JYOTI DEVI W/O LATE SH. SUBHASH CHAND, (ii) SH. VISHAL S/O LATE SH. SUBHASH CHAND & (iii) MS. DEEPIKA D/O LATE SH. SUBHASH CHAND on the intestate Demise of allottee/transferee SH. SUBHASH CHAND (SUBHASH CHAND) S/O SH. ROSHAN LAL.

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD PUBLIC NOTICE. Subject: Transfer/Mutation of Allotment/Registration of Dwelling Unit No.488-2, Category LIG, Sector 41-A, Chandigarh in the name of (i) SH. RAM CHANDER GAMBHIR (RC GAMBHIR) S/O SH. NATHU RAM GAMBHIR (NRGAMBHIR) & (ii) SH. AMIT GAMBHIR S/O SH. RAM CHANDER GAMBHIR on the intestate Demise of allottee/transferee SMT. USHA KUMARI (JSHA KUMARI GAMBHIR) W/O SH. RAM CHANDER (RAM CHANDER GAMBHIR).

Hungama OTT Launches Original Series 'Looteri Dulhan', A Story of Crime, Consequence, and Two Women on Opposite Sides of the Law

CHANDIGARH : Hungama OTT, one of India's leading digital entertainment platforms, launched its latest original series Looteri Dulhan on 19th May 2026, a sharp and riveting crime drama set against the heartland of Madhya Pradesh. Starring Pooja A Gor and Sanvika in powerful lead roles, alongside Manmohan Tiwari, the series weaves together a high-stakes investigation with a deeply compelling portrait of two women navigating a world that was never quite built for them.

Looteri Dulhan follows a bizarre crime wave hitting Madhya Pradesh, grooms being looted by a bride who disappears overnight. While others dismiss it, Sub Inspector Sandhya Yadav spots a pattern and begins chasing the unseen mastermind. Sharp, disciplined, and shaped by years of judgment, Sandhya is determined to prove herself, even as societal pressure around marriage lingers. Her investigation leads her to Maya, a brilliant con artist who turned survival into strategy, running a network that preys on men while staying one step ahead of the law. As Sandhya closes in, the case turns personal, triggering insecurities, obsessions, and a deeper understanding of the woman she is chasing. What unfolds is a tense cat-and-mouse pursuit between two women defying a patriarchal world, one upholding the law, the other rewriting it, both fighting to live life on their own terms. Will Sandhya catch Maya, or will Maya outplay the system and finally claim her freedom?

Talking about her character, Pooja A Gor shares, "Sandhya is someone I deeply admire. She is not just a police officer doing her job, she is a woman constantly having to prove that she deserves to be in the room. What I found most compelling about her is that she carries two battles simultaneously, one on the outside where she is chasing a criminal, and one on the inside where she is struggling emotionally. That duality is what made this role so exciting for me. And the fact that her biggest adversary turns out to be a woman just as fierce and driven as herself, that dynamic is something audiences have rarely seen."

Sharing her experience of stepping into Maya's shoes, Sanvika says, "When I first read the script, I knew Maya was going to be a challenge, and that is exactly why I said yes. She is someone who has built an entire world on her own terms, and there is a strange brilliance to the way her mind works. What really stayed with me while preparing was how close to reality this felt. These stories exist, people talk about them, and yet the woman at the centre of them is rarely ever truly understood. I wanted to bring that complexity to Maya, not just the cunning, but the why behind it. I think audiences are going to be surprised by how much they feel for her, even as she stays one step ahead of everyone."



Bajaj at 100: From Freedom Movement to Global Scale

PM Modi Hails a Century of Nation-Building



AMRITSAR : The Bajaj Group, one of India's oldest family businesses and among its largest conglomerates by market cap at \$USD 148 billion, today commemorated 100 years in business – with Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi extending his greetings on a milestone that traces India's own arc – from the freedom movement to its global economic rise. Founded in 1926 in Mumbai (then-Bombay) by Jammalal Bajaj, a freedom fighter, social reformer, philanthropist, industrialist and considered the fifth adopted son of Mahatma Gandhi, the Bajaj Group serves one in three Indian households and employs over 130,000 employees. With over 100 companies, exports to over 100 countries, and an upcoming foray into healthcare, the Bajaj Group has built one of India's most trusted brands across automobiles, financial services, consumer electronics and engineering. Some of its listed companies include Bajaj Auto, Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Holdings & Investment, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Housing Finance, Bajaj Electricals and Mukand. In a message to the Bajaj family recognising the Bajaj Group's contributions to nation-building, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, said, "On the occasion of the centenary of the Bajaj Group, I extend my greetings and best wishes to everyone associated with this milestone. A hundred years is a significant journey for any institution. It reflects not only longevity, but also the ability to adapt to changing times, contribute to economic growth and remain relevant across generations. "Started under the leadership of Shri Jammalal Bajaj, the Bajaj Group has been a part of India's industrial and economic landscape through many phases of our nation's development. It has grown into a diversified company with operations across various sectors, which serve customers both in India and across the world."

Supyarde Singh launches 'Anant Drishti Production'

Actor Supyarde Singh has launched her production house, Anant Drishti Production Private Limited, based in Andheri, Mumbai. The move marks her transition from actor to producer to back story-driven films with a strong emotional and social connect. Under her new banner, Supyarde is developing a feature film centred on a social issue. She will also play the lead role in the project, which brings together director Sanjay Shastri and cinematographer Ajay Pal Singh. Sanjay Shastri, who comes from a theatre background, has directed over 25 plays, six award-winning short films, and two web series that are currently in production. Ajay Pal Singh has worked on more than 85 commercial advertisements, and one of his recent film projects is expected to be released on Netflix.

The upcoming film from Anant Drishti Production Private Limited will feature Supyarde Singh, Chandan Roy, and Varun Buddhadev in lead roles. The supporting cast includes Akhileendra Mishra, Pramod Pathak, Mukesh Bhatt, Kumar Saurabh, and Tulika Banerjee, all of whom will play key roles in the film. Supyarde began her acting career with the critically acclaimed film 'Kaatru Vellyidai', directed by Mani Ratnam, with music by A R Rahman. She played the role of Varsha, a performance that drew attention for its emotional depth. The film later received two honours at the 65th National Film Awards. She later appeared in Telugu films including 'Cheppina Evaru Nannaru' and 'Lingoccha - The Game of Love', where her portrayal of Noorjahan was noted for its layered characterisation. She also featured in the Hindi web series 'I Love Us' season 2.



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Imtiaz Ali calls

Main Vaapas Aaunga

"a film of today's times"

Kylie Minogue reveals she privately battled cancer for second time in 2021

Pop star Kylie Minogue has revealed that she privately battled breast cancer for the second time in 2021, more than 15 years after she was first diagnosed with it in 2005. The 57-year-old singer spoke about her health battle in her new self-titled Netflix documentary, which was released on Tuesday. As per Page Six, Minogue, while speaking about her second diagnosis, said, "My second cancer diagnosis was in early 2021. I was able to keep that to myself ... Not like the first time." She added, "Thankfully, I got through it. Again. And all is well. Hey, who knows what's around the corner, but pop music nurtures me ... my passion for music is greater than ever." Minogue also shared that the diagnosis came after a routine checkup. She said early detection helped her and also urged others to get regular checkups.

"There will be someone out there who will benefit from a gentle reminder to do their check ups ... Early detection was very helpful and I am so grateful to be able to say that I am well today," she said in the documentary's promotional material, as per The Guardian. The singer also spoke about why she did not share the news with the public at the time. She said she was not ready to talk about it, even as her 2023 song "Padam Padam" became a major success. "I don't feel obliged to tell the world, and actually, I just couldn't at the time because I was just a shell of a person," she said. "I didn't want to leave the house again at one point. 'Padam Padam' opened so many doors for me but on the inside I knew that cancer wasn't just a blip in my life. And I really just wanted to say what happened so I can let go of it. I'd sit through interviews and every opportunity I thought, 'now's the time', but I kept it to myself," she added. The singer also said she had made a reference to her private battle in her 2023 song "Story" from her album "Tension". "I had a secret that I kept to myself ... Turn another page, baby take the stage," the lyrics read. Minogue was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 2005 at the age of 36. At that time, she cancelled the remaining dates of her Showgirl greatest hits tour.



In the run-up to the release of 'Main Vaapas Aaunga', filmmaker Imtiaz Ali has opened up about the emotional core of the film, describing it as a story where "love is more and tragedy is less" despite being rooted in the painful memories of partition. Speaking in an interview with ANI, the director reflected on how the film draws from deeply personal emotions, collective memories, and stories shared by people who lived through the partition of India. "I think that any tragedy has the power to be tolerated with love. Love is necessary for us to live this life," Ali said. The filmmaker explained that while 'Main Vaapas Aaunga' revisits the trauma of partition, the narrative focuses more on human connection and emotional remembrance than on violence or hatred. "So, I think that when I talked to those people who have seen partition in their lives, they often found that today, after so many years of partition, people remember things of love. My doll, my childhood home, my friend, the girl who used to come to the balcony. So, they remembered things of love," he added. Calling the project "a film of today's times," Ali said the story revisits the idea of division through contemporary emotions and relationships. "My film is a film of today's times, which remembers partition. Love is more and tragedy is less (shown in the movie)," he said. The director also spoke about the process of capturing the film's emotional depth on screen. According to him, portraying the core emotion was not difficult because the stories that inspired the film already carried strong emotional truths. "Actually, it was very easy to bring the core emotion in this film. Because in all the stories on which this film is based, the core emotion of love was very much there," he said. Ali further revealed that many conversations and real-life accounts directly influenced the screenplay. "So, actually, I have written less than myself. I have brought more people's talks in this film," he said. Known for crafting emotionally layered characters in films such as 'Jab We Met', 'Rockstar', 'Tamasha', and 'Highway', Ali also reflected on why many of his protagonists appear emotionally adrift and searching for unanswered questions. "Surely, the reason for this would be that I am a little lost myself."

'Gullak 5' to be out on June 5



Popular family drama show 'Gullak' will be back with its fifth season soon. On Wednesday, the makers announced the release date of the show. It will start streaming on Sony LIV from June 5 onwards. This season, Mishra Nivas isn't just getting an upgrade, it's getting a life update. A fresh coat of paint. A new Wi-Fi connection. And a family slowly (and sometimes reluctantly) trying to keep up with changing times. But while the world outside evolves, the little moments inside the house remain timeless, as per the press note.

Annu (now played by Anant Joshi) is "battling the familiar pressure of proving himself and the family, where ambition constantly wrestles with self-doubt." Aman returns quieter than before, carrying secrets of his own. And Shanti unexpectedly finds herself enjoying a little spotlight, thanks to the online popularity of "Bittu Ki Mummy," in a world suddenly obsessed with being seen. Talking about the new season, Vijay Koshy, President, TVF shared, "With every season, Gullak has only grown closer to audiences because the Mishras feel like a family we all know. Season 5 reflects the changing realities of middle-class India while holding onto the warmth and simplicity that make the show special. This season is about growth, change, and the bittersweet feeling of moving forward while staying connected to your roots." Geetanjali Kulkarni said, "Shanti has always been the emotional anchor of the Mishra family, but this season audiences will see a slightly different side to her - one that's adapting to a rapidly changing world in her own unique way. What I love most about Gullak is how honestly it captures everyday life, and I think that's why people see themselves in these characters year after year." Produced by The Viral Fever, the new season brings back the beloved ensemble featuring Jameel Khan, Geetanjali Kulkarni, Harsh Mayar, Sunita Rajwar, Helly Shah and Anant Joshi stepping into the role of Annu this season.

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