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SOLAR PLANTS TO BE SET UP ON FARMERS' VACANT LAND; GOVT TO PURCHASE THE POWER GENERATED: ANIL VIJ

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 Use Citizen Reporter in the subject line and give details of the picture

NEWS BRIEFS

Ravneet Singh Bittu to appear before SC Commission on June 15

BUREAU CHANDIGARH: The Punjab State Scheduled Castes Commission has given time to Union Minister of State for Railways Ravneet Singh Bittu to present his side on the matter of using casteist words on June 15, 2026 at 11 am. Giving information in this regard, Chairman of Punjab State Scheduled Castes Commission Jasvir Singh Garhi said that the Commission had summoned Ravneet Singh Bittu today in the matter of using casteist words during his Dhuri visit, in which Advocate Ramandeep Singh and Advocate A.S. Barnala appeared on behalf of Union Minister of State Ravneet Singh Bittu and sought time from the Commission, which was accepted and time of June 15, 2026 has been given.

Vinesh Phogat Row: SC declines to remove Delhi HC observations against WFI

UNI NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday refused to expunge the remarks made by the Delhi High Court in its recent judgment permitting wrestler Vinesh Phogat to take part in the selection trials for the 2026 Asian Games.

A Bench comprising Justices PS Narasimha and Aravind Kumar observed that the petition filed by the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) against the Delhi High Court's ruling had become infructuous, as Vinesh Phogat had ultimately participated in the selection trials pursuant to the Supreme Court's order dated May 29. While declining to expunge the High Court's observations against the WFI, the Bench clarified that the disposal of the special leave petition should not be construed as an endorsement of those findings by the Supreme Court.

UPSC implements face authentication protocol in civil services exams to enhance integrity

NEW DELHI: In a bid to strengthen the integrity of the civil services examination process and curb impersonation, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has successfully implemented face authentication protocol. The face authentication protocol was successfully implemented in the recently conducted Civil Services and Indian Forest Service (Preliminary) Examination, 2026. The protocol ensures that the candidate whose photo was uploaded at the time of filling the application form is the same as the candidate who appears with the admit card to write the exam. As per the UPSC, the system enabled live, real-time authentication of candidates at examination venues through mobile-phone-based verification by invigilators, ensuring seamless identification and eliminating the possibility of impersonation and malpractice. The UPSC conducted a real-time face-authentication exercise across all 2,072 examination venues nationwide during this year's Civil Services (Preliminary) examinations 2026. The face authentication application has been developed and implemented by the UPSC with technical support from the National e-Governance Division (NeGD) of the Ministry of Electronics and IT. The UPSC also states that it has developed a business process which requires each candidate to undergo face authentication before he or she is allowed entry to the examination hall. The UPSC has also devised a detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) as part of this process, which has been shared with all states.

Delhi Fire Tragedy: Hotel owner sent to 4-day custody as probe deepens

UNI NEW DELHI, JUNE 4

Delhi's Saket Court on Thursday remanded Lovkesh Bajaj, owner of the Flourish Stay Guest House in South Delhi's Malviya Nagar, to four days of police custody in connection with the devastating fire that claimed 21 lives and left several others injured. While granting the remand, the court observed that the allegations against the accused were serious and involved offences punishable with life imprisonment. The court noted that the arrest was lawful and justified, and held that custodial interrogation was necessary as the investigation remains at a crucial initial stage.

Delhi Police informed the court that Bajaj's custody was required to verify the identities of workers and employees associated with the guest house, trace and apprehend other key individuals including the hotel's manager and accountant, recover ownership and operational documents, examine financial and booking records, seize electronic devices, and confront the accused with evidence collected during the investigation. The court accepted the police's submissions, observing that custodial interrogation was essential to uncover the complete circumstances leading to the fire, verify compliance with mandatory safety regulations, identify other responsible persons, and recover critical documentary and digital evidence.

According to the grounds of arrest, police have alleged that Bajaj was the owner and operator of Flourish Stay, lo-



located in Hauz Rani, where the fatal fire broke out on June 3. Investigators claim preliminary evidence points to negligence and failure to ensure adequate safety measures for occupants, resulting in multiple deaths and injuries.

Police have further stated that there was a reasonable apprehension that the

accused could tamper with evidence or influence witnesses if released.

During questioning, Bajaj reportedly told investigators that he was passing near the guest house when the fire erupted but chose not to stop and instead fled the area out of fear. He allegedly claimed that he did not return home after the incident and spent the night moving across different parts of the city.

The accused also told police that he had purchased the property around three years ago from a person identified as Ahluwalia and was operating it as a hotel-cum-guest house. He claimed the building previously housed a khadi store and was already in a dilapidated condition when he acquired it.

Bajaj further asserted that he possessed permissions for bed-and-breakfast operations, tourist accommodation, healthcare-related services, and restaurant activities. However, Delhi Police and other agencies are currently verifying the authenticity of these claims and examining whether all required licences and safety clearances were valid.

Five die in Bihar private hospital ICU fire

MUZAFFARPUR: At least five people were killed in a fire that broke out in the ICU of a private hospital in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district early on Thursday. The blaze erupted around 3 am at Prasad Hospital in the Brahmapura area, and quickly spread through the intensive care unit (ICU), filling it with dense smoke. "A total of 5 deaths has been confirmed. There are several injured persons, who are undergoing treatment at various hospitals," Muzaffarpur Municipal Commissioner Rituraj Singh said. Muzaffarpur District Magistrate Subrat Kumar Sen said that around 13 to 15 patients were being treated in the ICU, who have now been shifted to other hospitals by their family members. "We are trying to reach out to the kin of the deceased and other patients. The fire has been brought under control," Sen said.

Major terror conspiracy foiled in Pb; two held with RDX-based IED

BUREAU CHANDIGARH, JUNE 4:

In a major breakthrough against cross-border terror networks amidst the ongoing drive to make Punjab a safe and secure state as per directions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, State Special Operations Cell (SSOC) SAS Nagar has thwarted a terror conspiracy with the arrest of two associates of foreign-based terror operative and recovered one fully assembled RDX-based Improvised Explosive Device (IED), weighing approximately 2.5 kg from their possession, said Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav here on Thursday.

Those arrested have been identified as Mani Singh (32), a resident of Gujarpura in Amritsar and Abhishek Kumar (28), a resident of Gillwali Gate in Amritsar.

DGP Gaurav Yadav said that the recovered IED was fully assembled and ready for use. The operation has resulted in the foiling of a nefarious plot aimed at targeting critical public infrastructure in SAS Nagar and averted a potentially catastrophic threat to public safety and security,

he said. The DGP said that further investigations are underway to uncover the entire terror network, including handlers, associates, and all

positive YPS Chowk, Mohali, who travelled from Amritsar to Mohali by bus along with the explosive device.

During the operation, the police recovered the RDX-laden IED from their possession, he said, while adding that considering the grave threat posed by the device, the Bomb Disposal Squad was immediately summoned to the spot, which successfully neutralised and dismantled the IED by following all prescribed safety protocols.

The IGP said that preliminary investigation has revealed that accused Mani Singh had come in contact with foreign-based handler via social media platform recently and he also introduced his brother-in-law Abhishek Kumar to him. During their interactions, foreign-based handler offered financial assistance in return for carrying out certain tasks and both agreed to work for him owing to their financial difficulties, he said.

In this regard, a case FIR No. 08 dated 03.06.2026 has been registered under sections 113(3) and 61(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and sections 4 and 5 of the Explosive Substances Act at Police Station SSOC SAS Nagar.



linkages involved in the conspiracy.

Sharing operational details, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Counter Intelligence Ashish Choudhary said that acting on credible intelligence inputs, police teams apprehended both the suspects from near a park op-

Virat Kohli ruled out of Afghanistan series due to hamstring injury

AGENCY

MUMBAI: Star India batter Virat Kohli is ruled out of the ODI series against Afghanistan at home due to a hamstring injury, as per the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) sources. Virat was seen struggling while running during the final stages of the Indian Premier League (IPL) final against the Gujarat Titans (GT) at Ahmedabad, but took the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) to a tricky 156-run chase with a 42-ball 75. The ODI series against Afghanistan will consist of three matches and will start from June 13 onwards after a one-off Test between both sides at New Chandigarh. Batter and former captain Rohit Sharma, though he is included in the ODI squad, is also doubtful to feature in the series, with his participation subject to fitness. Virat finished the IPL as the fourth-highest run-getter and RCB's top-scorer with 675 runs in 16 innings at an average of 56.25 and a strike rate of 165.84, with a century and five fifties, with the best score of 105. The 37-year-old veteran is one of the greatest ODI batters ever and is the second-highest run-getter in the format with 14,797 runs in 299 innings at an average of 58.71, with 54 centuries, the most by a batter and 77 fifties. His best score is 183. Virat is an ODI exclusive player now, having retired from T20Is after the T20 World Cup title win in 2024 and from Tests last year in May before the start of the 2025-27 ICC World Test Championship (WTC) cycle. Since last year, the veteran has smashed 891 runs in 16 matches at an average of 68.53 and a strike rate of 98.45, with four centuries and five fifties in 16 innings, with a best score of 135. He also played a crucial role in India's ICC Champions Trophy win last year. Since last year's Australia tour, which started his journey as an ODI-exclusive batter, he has cracked 616 runs in nine matches and innings at an average of 88 and a strike rate of 106.39, with three centuries and three fifties.



India, Venezuela agree to expand cooperation across key sectors after Modi-Rodriguez talks

UNI NEW DELHI, JUN 4

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday held extensive discussions with Venezuela's Acting President Delcy Rodriguez in New Delhi, with the two leaders reviewing the full range of bilateral relations and identifying new opportunities for cooperation in sectors such as energy, trade, investment, healthcare and automobiles.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, the talks covered multiple areas of engagement between the two countries and focused on strengthening

existing partnerships while exploring fresh avenues of collaboration. "The leaders reviewed the full spectrum of bilateral relations and explored new avenues of cooperation in energy, trade, investment, healthcare, automobiles among others," the MEA said in a statement. The leaders also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

The ministry said both sides reaffirmed their commitment to deepening the India-Venezuela partnership and advancing the interests of the Global South, reflecting a shared emphasis on



stronger cooperation among developing nations. The meeting at Hyderabad House came amid growing engagement

reiterated India's commitment to enhancing relations with the South American nation.

Rain lashes Delhi, Himachal; brings temp down

UNI

NEW DELHI: Rain lashed parts of Delhi on Thursday afternoon, bringing respite from days of scorching heat. Grey skies took over the national capital, with reports of brief rumbling thunderstorms accompanied by strong surface winds. Rain also brought respite from scorching heat in Shimla and nearby areas. The temperature in Himachal capital came down after the rains which brought smiles on faces of tourists. Until 2:30 pm on Thursday, Mayur Vihar station recorded the highest rainfall at 23 mm, which falls under the IMD's 'moderate rain' category. Ayanagar, Pushp Vihar, Palam, and Pragati Maidan also recorded light rainfall, with gauges measuring 14.2, 10.5, 5.8 mm, and 3.6 mm, respectively, between 11:30 am and 2:30 pm, according to IMD. Weather officials issued a 'red' alert across all districts of Delhi, including Central Delhi, East Delhi, New Delhi,

North Delhi, North East Delhi, North West Delhi, Shahdara, South Delhi, South East Delhi, South West Delhi, and West Delhi, until evening. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast a heavy spell across Delhi, with precipitation rates exceeding 15 mm per hour, accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning, and strong gusty winds reaching speeds of up to 60 kmph. "Thunderstorms & Lightning with gusty winds (40-60 kmph) and moderate rain (5-15 mmh) very likely for neighbouring districts, including Faridabad, Gurgaon, Hajaraj, Jind, Palwal, Rohtak, and Sonapat," said IMD officials, issuing an 'orange' alert for the affected region. Meanwhile, the southwest monsoon has set over Kerala on Thursday, delayed by three days from normal. The monsoon typically arrives in Kerala around June 1, which marks the beginning of the Southwest monsoon season (June-September).

Police station row: FIR names Bikram Singh Majithia, four others



UNI CHANDIGARH: Senior Shiromani Akali Dal leader Bikram Singh Majithia and four others have been named in an FIR registered in connection with an alleged disturbance at the Majithia police station in Amritsar, with the document being released after directions from a local court. The development came after an Amritsar court asked the police to provide a copy of the FIR within 24 hours. Following the court's order, the police shared details of the case registered in relation to an incident that allegedly occurred on May 31. According to the police complaint, a person identified as Jobanpreet Singh was being questioned inside the police

station when a group led by Majithia allegedly entered the premises. Investigators claim the group included several associates and a large number of supporters. Police have alleged that the visitors moved through different sections of the police station while attempting to locate the individual in custody. The complaint states that despite objections from officials present on duty, members of the group continued to enter various offices and restricted areas, resulting in the disruption of routine police functioning. The FIR further alleges that tensions escalated when some members of the group reached the room where questioning was underway.

Veteran Journalist Dr. Chander Trikha bereaved as wife Sushila Trikha passes away

BUREAU CHANDIGARH, JUNE 4

A wave of grief has swept through the journalistic and literary fraternity following the demise of Mrs. Sushila Trikha, wife of veteran journalist Dr. Chander Trikha, Founder Editor of Yugmarg. She passed away on Thursday, leaving behind a legacy of warmth, compassion, and unwavering support for her family.

Mrs. Trikha was the beloved mother of Ms. Meenakshi Vashisth and Ms. Neeru Setia. Family members informed that her last rites will be

performed on June 5, 2026, at 10:30 AM at the Cremation Ground, Sector 25, Chandigarh.

Known for her gentle nature and strong family values, Mrs. Trikha played a significant role in supporting her family throughout the years. Her passing is being deeply mourned by relatives, friends, colleagues, and members of the media fraternity.

Expressing profound sorrow over the loss, Mr. Raj Sadosh, President of the Senior Journalist Forum and Abohar Lekhak Parishad, conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. He described Mrs. Trikha's



demise as an irreparable loss and prayed for strength and courage for the family during this difficult time.

Condolence messages have been pouring in from journalists, writers, social activists, and well-wishers across the region, all expressing solidarity with Dr. Chander Trikha and his family in their hour of grief.

May the departed soul rest in eternal peace, and may the family find strength and comfort in the cherished memories she leaves behind.



DORAHA (AMRISH ANAND): Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president S. Sukhbir Singh Badal has appointed Bibi Karamjit Kaur as the president of the party's women's wing for the Payal assembly segment.

Bomb threats to temples & Punjab Civil Secretariat are direct attack on peace, religious harmony and national unity: Sukhminderpal Singh Grewal

SARBJIT SUFI LUDHIANA, JUNE 4



National BJP leader and Advocate Sukhminderpal Singh Grewal strongly condemned the bomb threat emails sent to Durgiana Temple (Amritsar), Mukteshwar Temple, Devi Talab Temple (Jalandhar), Maiserkhana Temple (Bathinda), Kali Devi Temple (Patiala), and the Punjab Civil Secretariat in Chandigarh.

Grewal stated that these threats are not just against specific institutions but are attempts to create fear, commu-

peatedly rejected hatred, extremism, separatism, and violence, and remains committed to peace, development, brotherhood, and national integration. He also warned that anti-India elements operating from abroad often try to spread unrest and divisive narratives, but the people of Punjab firmly support democracy, constitutional values, and national unity.

Every section of society must contribute to eliminating drug abuse : Arora

SUMER GARG SUNAM, JUNE 4



Singh College. During the meeting, the Minister re-

viewed the activities being undertaken at the village lev-

el to eradicate drug abuse and encouraged participants to actively fight this social evil. He stated that while the Punjab Government is taking strict action to break the drug supply chain, every section of society must also contribute towards reducing the demand for drugs.

Mr. Arora said that the Punjab Government has been implementing stringent and effective measures to eliminate drug abuse. Under the "Yudh Nashian Virudh" cam-

paign, a large number of drug traffickers have been arrested and sent to jail.

Furthermore, extensive action has been taken against properties illegally acquired through drug trafficking. He emphasized that no person involved in the drug trade is being spared and that the government is firmly committed to making Punjab drug-free.

He noted that drug addiction affects not only an individual but also entire families and society as a whole.

Classified

Public Notices section containing various legal notices, name changes, and official announcements.

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NEWS BRIEF

Canal irrigation project launched in Payal after decades, says MLA Giaspura



AMRISH ANAND DORANA: In a major relief for farmers in Payal constituency, a canal irrigation project worth around Rs 4 crore was launched at Nizampur village under the Punjab government's "Canal Water for Farming" initiative. The project was inaugurated by Payal MLA Manwinder Singh Giaspura, who said the scheme would bring canal water to nearly 12,000 acres of agricultural land and help farmers shift towards sustainable irrigation practices. Addressing villagers, Giaspura said that despite the canal network existing in the area since 1882, farmers had remained deprived of canal water for irrigation for decades. He alleged that previous governments failed to ensure access to canal water for cultivators. The MLA credited Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann for promoting canal-based irrigation across Punjab to tackle the declining groundwater table. He said pipelines were being laid to deliver canal water directly to farms, which would not only benefit farmers but also help conserve groundwater. Village sarpanch S. Lakhvir Singh termed the project a major achievement for local farmers and thanked the Punjab government for fulfilling a long-pending demand of the area.

State Level Census Coordination Committee reviews progress of Census Phase-I operations in Punjab

SHASHI PAL JAIN
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 4

A meeting of the State Level Census Coordination Committee (SLCCC) was held today under the chairmanship of Mr K A P Sinha, Chief Secretary, Punjab, to review the progress of Census 2027: Phase-I – Houselisting and Housing Census Operations being undertaken across the State.

The meeting was attended by State Nodal officer for Census Shri Ghanshyam Thori, Administrative Secretary, Local Government, Punjab, along with senior officers heading the departments of revenue, planning, finance, rural development and education who are members of the SLCCC. The meeting was attended by all the Principal Census Officers (Deputy Commissioners and Municipal



Commissioners) of Punjab via video conferencing. The meeting was convened by Dr. Navjot Khosa, Director Census Operations, Punjab. During the meeting, a comprehensive review was conducted regarding the progress of Phase-I Census activities, including the Houselisting and Housing Census (HLO), creation and completion of Houselisting Blocks (HLBs), and mechanisms for ensuring quality and accuracy of data collection. The Chief Secretary emphasized the critical importance of timely completion of census operations, which form the foundation for evidence-based planning and policymaking. Dr. Navjot Khosa informed the Committee that work on a total of 52,365 Houselisting Blocks is currently underway across

Police Admn reaches out to traders to address civic issues

PATHANKOT (SHARANJEET): In an effort to address rising concerns over drug abuse, thefts, traffic congestion and illegal encroachments in city markets, a key meeting was held between traders and the district police administration at the Municipal Corporation office here on Tuesday. The meeting was organised through the efforts of Vikas Saini, District In-charge of the State Trade Commission. SSP Daljinder Singh Dhillon listened to the grievances of traders and assured them of prompt action to resolve the issues. Among those present were State Trade Commission Wing State Member Dharminder Sheru, Dr Anil Bhardwaj, Pathankot Chairman Tilak Dheeman, Sujjanpur Chairman Mukesh Lovely and Bhoja Chairman Karan Kajal, along with office-bearers of trade associations and prominent businessmen of the city. DSP Jagdish Attri, SHO Amit Kumar, SHO Amanpreet Kaur, Traffic In-charge Brahmdukt Sharma and other police officials also attended the meeting.



Deputation of Ward No. 9 and 10 of Kharar meets SDM



SHASHI PAL JAIN
KHARAR, JUNE 4

A deputation of Ward No. 9 and 10 of Kharar Municipal Council led by Harpreet Singh Gujral including Ashok Kapoor, Rakesh Kumar, Kulbir Singh, Narendra

Singh Jaggi, Amanpreet Singh and other esteemed members met SDM and gave him a memorandum for ward no 9 tubewell issue, cleaning of water tank in ward no 9 and ward no 10 sewerage issue. SDM assured all works will be done and he issued instructions to concerned authorities on the spot within 10 days. If work is not done within specified time said to remind him again after 10 days. Kudos again to efforts of all residents and specially above mentioned dignitaries.

Nihal Singh Wala Lions Club's great contribution in service of medicine man



JAGRAJ SINGH SANGHA MOGA: Nihal Singh Wala Lions Club, playing an important role in the field of social service, made a significant contribution to the public welfare service of Medicine Man Rajinder Singh Khote. The club members presented a commendable example of service to humanity by donating medicines and other essential materials to help the needy patients. On this occasion, the office bearers of the club said that it is the duty of every person to help the poor and needy people of the society. They said that the initiative of Medicine Man Rajinder Singh Khote to provide free medicines to the needy patients is highly commendable and the Lions Club will always contribute to such social welfare works. Medicine Man Rajinder Singh Khote team thanked Nihal Singh Wala Lions Club and said that with such cooperation, help will be provided to more needy patients. They also appealed to social service organizations and donors to join this campaign.

Construction of tunnel being built in new mine stopped

JAGDEEP SINGH GILL
JAITU, JUNE 4

In order to benefit the farmers of about 300 acres of paddy field Ramana Ajit Singh, the Punjab Government's Canal Department was constructing a two and a half feet high dam near paddy field Romana Ajit Singh between a minor talwala coming out of Raounta Rajbaha, which was stopped by the J.E. of the Canal Department and Constituency MLA Jaito Amolak Singh, Milkfed Punjab Chairman Navdeep Singh Jeeda and the canal department.

The farmers who gathered thanked the constituency MLA Amolak Singh and the chairman of Milkfed Punjab, Navdeep Singh Jeeda.

On this occasion, MLA Amolak Singh said that what would be the use of doing a work for which the farmers themselves are not happy and on this occasion he said to the other party that they should



get their canals and canals repaired and take the canal water so that no one has to face any problems. On this occasion, the leaders of the other party, Balbir Singh Romana, Ajit Singh, Amandeep Singh, Dharminder Singh, Mitu Master, Dhanvir Singh, Tar Singh, Jagmeet Singh, Jaspreet Singh, Ravinder Singh, Gardeep Singh Pradhan, Harvinder Singh etc., while defending their side, said that since there was no water in their pond for the last three years, we filed a case against the Chief Sahib at the Canal Department, Ludhiana on our own and the Chief Sahib personally came and inspected the pond, on the basis of which this pond was ap-

proved and all the previous owners were informed about the pond and their consent was also taken.

The farmers of the adjoining fields had objected that water would not reach their fields.

The dam being constructed was more shallow than Mogha No. 17802, so the speed of the water was also high and to stop the speed, a dam was being constructed, a proper map of which was prepared by the department and the contractor was given a contract and the work of the canal water dam was started on the basis of which. Seeing the interest of all the farmers on this issue, this work was stopped at the dam itself.

PS-39 Chandigarh police arrests street light cable theft accused

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 4

As per directions of Sh Sumer Partap Singh, I.P.S, W/SSP/UT, Chandigarh, under the close guidance of Ms. K.M Priyanka, W/S.P/City Chandigarh and under the supervision of Sh Dhiraj Kumar D.A.N.I.P.S, SDPO/South West a team of officials of Police Station, Sector-39, Chandigarh headed by Insp. Rajiv Kumar, SHO/PS-39, got major success by arresting accused namely Ramadhar S/o Kanya Lal R/o Village Kumda Sector 68, Mohali (PB) age 21 yrs, Permanent address- Village Sandila, PO Bhender, Distt. Hardoi (UP) in Case FIR No. 95 Dt. 03.06.26 U/S 303(2), 317(2) BNS, PS-39, Chd.

It is submitted that the above mentioned complaint was registered on the complaint of Sh Kuldeep Singh S/o Sh. Ranjeet Singh R/o# 456, Sec 41A Chd. He reported that he works in as Electrician in MC office Sec 17, Chd. On 03.06.26, he came to Sec 37



Chd for repairing street light. Then he saw that many contractors installed on street lights at Sec 37/41 light point found missing. He along with police staff caught one person and called the JE on the spot who called on 112. During the course of investigation, accused Ramadhar S/o Kanya Lal R/o Village Kumda Sector 68, Mohali (PB) age 21 yrs, Permanent address- Village Sandila, PO Bhender, Distt. Hardoi (UP) was arrested on 03.06.2026 accordingly. Previous Criminal record of accused Ramadhar: Nil. Accused Ramadhar produced before court & send to judicial custody accordingly.

Mann Govt's move to control private school fee hike commendable : Chhibbar

SHASHI PAL JAIN
KHARAR, JUNE 4

Aam Aadmi Party Punjab's Malwa East Shiksha Kranti Zonal Incharge and Observer Derabassi Harmeet Singh Chhibbar informed the press that the Punjab government's decision to reduce the 15% fee being charged by private schools to 5% is commendable, which will provide great relief to the parents.

He said that the government will issue an ordinance in this regard in the coming days, through which the 15% fee being charged by private schools from the students will be reduced to 5%.

Along with this, the government will give great relief to the parents and during the last three years, 10% more fee was collected and the fee will also be refunded.

Chhibbar said that the decision taken by Bhagwant Mann government against



He said that the government will issue an ordinance in the coming days, through which the 15% fee being charged by private schools from the students will be reduced to 5%.

the looting of students by private schools is being praised everywhere.

District Cycling Association Amritsar to organise cycle rally on June 7 on World Bicycle Day



AMRITSAR (HARPAL SINGH): Under the direction of Punjab Cycling Association (PCA) State President Charanjit Singh Dhaliwal and General Secretary (Maharaja Ranjit Singh Awardee) Jagdeep Singh Kahlo, District Cycling Association Amritsar will organize a district level cycle rally on Sunday, June 7 on the occasion of World Bicycle Day. General Secretary Bawa Singh Bhoma (International Cyclist), Amarjit Singh Railway (Maharaja Ranjit Singh Awardee), Joint Secretary Gurinder Singh Mattu (Famous Sports Promoter) G.S. Sandhu and Damanpreet Kaur National Cyclist jointly informed that a district level cycle rally will be organized from the main gate of Guru Nanak Dev University Amritsar on Sunday, June 7 at 6 am, which will pass through various places and return to the starting point and end.

Similarly, Ashmita Khelo India Women Cycling will be organized on Wednesday, June 10 City League will be organized. On this occasion, he said that it is the demand and need of the hour to further encourage and promote the cycling sports sector of the state as well as to improve it.

Akali veteran Harjit Singh Matharu joins BJP



HOSHIARPUR (DALJEET AJNOHA): Senior BJP leader and former cabinet minister Tikshan Sood said that ahead of the municipal corporation elections, large numbers of people from other parties are joining the BJP, attracted by its pro-people policies. He said that looking at recent history, it is clear that during the BJP's tenure the city received 100 percent household sewerage and drinking water connections, and major projects such as the new bus terminal, a mini secretariat, the municipal corporation building, the Nara and Paripariyat dams were undertaken for Hoshiarpur.

Sood said that it was under the BJP-led municipal administration that the city saw unparalleled progress in lane and road repairs, drinking water supply, sanitation and street lighting. He added that people prefer politics of development, whereas the current Punjab government only provides material for jokes and idle talk and confines its work to advertisements.

In this context, senior Shiromani Akali Dal leader, former Backward Classes district president and Doaba in-charge Harjit Singh Matharu left the Akali Dal and joined the BJP in the presence of former cabinet minister and senior BJP leader Tikshan Sood, Nipun Sharma, Meenu Sethi, Sanju Arora, Harmanjit Singh Walia, Neelam Rana, former councillor Ashok Kumar, Mahinder Pal Dhiman, Ravinder Singh Chadda and other BJP leaders.

Women will give answer to the breach of promise in 2027: Amrita Warring



SARBJIT SUFI
LUDHIANA, JUNE 4

A protest was held by the Congress Party Women's Wing under the leadership of Amrita Warring ji and Simerjit Singh Bains ji against the Punjab government's failure to fulfill the promise of Rs 1000 per month made to women before the elections. On this occasion, Simerjit Singh Bains and Amrita Warring said that the Punjab government had come to power by making big promises to the mothers, sisters and daughters of the state. It has been four years and four months since the government was formed, but till date women have not got their rights. They said that

according to the government's own promise of Rs 1000 per month, every woman has earned about Rs 52 thousand till now. But instead of giving Rs 52,000, the government is now reneging on its own promise by talking about starting with just Rs 1,000 per month. The leaders said that all the women above the age of 18 in Punjab are feeling cheated. The government has played with the feelings of women and now people are ready to answer this betrayal. They said that the women of Punjab have vowed that they will continue to fight for their rights and will teach a lesson to the government that violated this promise in the upcoming 2027 elections.

ADC Nikas Kumar inaugurates New Badminton Courts



HOSHIARPUR (DALJEET AJNOHA): As part of a major initiative to provide better sports facilities for athletes, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Development) Nikas Kumar today inaugurated two newly constructed badminton courts at the local indoor stadium. The courts were developed in collaboration with the Sonalika Group.

Speaking on the occasion, he praised the valuable role of private organizations in promoting sports and providing modern amenities to players. ADC Nikas Kumar said the district administration remains committed to encouraging sports. Under this effort, International Tractors Limited (Sonalika) has provided these facilities for badminton players as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities, offering local athletes opportunities for higher-level practice.

He thanked the Sonalika management and said such partnerships will play an important role in strengthening the sporting culture in the district.

He appealed to players to make full use of the available facilities, hone their skills, and bring glory to the district and the state.

Guru Kashi University introduces industry-integrated cyber security programmes with L&T Edutech



BATHINDA (ANIL VERMA): Anantdeep Kaur Guru Kashi University (GKU), Talwandi Sabo, in collaboration with L&T Edutech, has launched industry-oriented B.Tech and BCA programmes in Cyber Security, marking a significant step towards strengthening academia-industry partnerships and enhancing employability-driven education.

The programmes were formally inaugurated by Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Balraj Singh, L&T Edutech CEO F. Fabin, and Pro Vice Chancellor Dr. Pius Verma in the presence of senior officials and representatives from both institutions.

Addressing the gathering, Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Balraj Singh highlighted the university's achievements in research, innovation, and skill-based education. He emphasized that GKU has been continuously developing industry-aligned curricula in collaboration with leading organizations to equip students with relevant skills and create better career opportunities. L&T Edutech CEO F. Fabin stressed the importance of designing academic programmes in accordance with industry requirements to bridge the gap between education and employment.

He noted that such collaborations provide students with valuable industry exposure and prepare them for emerging technological domains.

MCM releases College and hostel prospectus for session 2026-27



CHANDIGARH, JUNE 4

Gearing up for the admission process for the academic session 2026-27, Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women officially released its College and Hostel Prospectus, here today. The prospectuses were unveiled by Officiating Principal Ms. Neena Sharma along with members of the Prospectus Committee.

The prospectuses, available on the college website, provide comprehensive information for prospective students, including details of the wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes offered by the institution, fee structures, admis-

sion procedures, eligibility criteria, and important admission schedules.

They also showcase the college's remarkable achievements and accomplishments at the national and international levels, reflecting its longstanding legacy of academic excellence and holistic development.

Ms. Neena Sharma reiterated the institution's commitment to imparting quality education and fostering the all-round growth of young women. She emphasized that the college continues to uphold its tradition of excellence by seamlessly integrating modern pedagogical practices with enduring values.

Tikka assures all kinds of support to newly appointed BJP state president Kewal Singh Dhillon

LUDHIANA (SARBJIT SUFI): Amarjit Singh Tikka, member of the Punjab executive committee of BJP and former chairman of the Punjab Medium Industry Development Board, congratulated the newly appointed Punjab BJP president Kewal Singh Dhillon on his appointment. Mr. Tikka presented a bouquet to Mr. Dhillon.

On this occasion, Mr. Tikka said that Mr. Dhillon is a determined politician and a big and successful businessman of Punjab, besides being a hardworking leader.

He has complete knowledge about the economy of Punjab and its political and social situation.

He said that under the leadership of Mr. Dhillon, the BJP in Punjab will be stronger than before and Mr. Dhillon will have a big contribution in forming the Bharatiya Janata Party government in Punjab in the Punjab assembly elections to be held in 2027.

Strict action must be taken against forces trying to disturb Punjab's communal harmony: Arvind Gautam



TILAK RAJ
MOHALI, JUNE 4

Serious concern has been expressed by Shiv Sena Punjab regarding the threats received to blow up Hindu temples in Punjab.

These incidents pose a major threat to the state's peace, communal harmony, and law and order situation. National President Mr. Sanjeev Ghanoli stated that the elements issuing such threats will not be spared under any circumstances, and the government and administration must take strict action immediately. On this oc-

casation, Youth Wing State President Mr. Arvind Gautam said that strict action must be taken against forces trying to disturb Punjab's communal harmony, so that a sense of security and trust remains among the people. In this meeting, District President Mr. Rajesh Malik and Kamgar Sena District President Mr. Dinesh Khushwaha were also present and strongly condemned the incident.

The organization collectively appealed that all possible steps should be taken to maintain peace and strengthen communal harmony in society.



PATIALA (RAKESH JINDAL): As part of its ongoing campaign against Single-Use Plastic (SUP) and in continuation of activities undertaken around World Environment Day, a team from the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) visited Gurdwara Sri Dukhniwaran Sahib, Patiala and met with the Head Granthi Ji and the management of the Gurdwara to discuss measures for reducing plastic waste generated during religious activities. During the interaction, PPCB appealed to the Gurdwara management to replace conventional plastic polythene bags used for distribution of prasad with environmentally friendly compostable bags and to institutionalize this transition as a permanent practice.

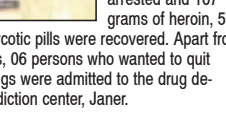
CHANDIGARH
FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026

NEWS BRIEF

6 cases registered in Nihal Singh Wala Sub-Division under campaign against drugs registered, 7 arrested

JAGRAJ SINGH SANGHA

MOGA: Singh Chahal SSP Moga while giving information to the press said that during the campaign "War Against Drugs" and "Village Guards" run by Sub Division Nihal Singh Wala, 06 drug cases were registered from 28.05.2026 to 03.06.2026, 07 accused were arrested and 167 grams of heroin, 50 narcotic pills were recovered. Apart from this, 06 persons who wanted to quit drugs were admitted to the drug de-addiction center, Janer.

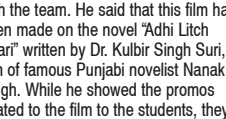


The film "Love You Dadu Dadi Ji" is making waves at Chaupal



AMRIK SINGH CHOWK MEHTA: The team of the film "Love You Dadu Dadi Ji", which is making a splash at Chaupal, paid a special visit to Sahib Sri Guru Gobind Singh Educational Institutions, Chung to promote their film. The director, screenwriter and dialogue writer of the film, Harinder Sohal, reached the school with the team. He said that this film has been made on the novel "Adhi Litch Saar" written by Dr. Kulbir Singh Suri, son of famous Punjabi novelist Nanak Singh. While he showed the promos related to the film to the students, they were also introduced to the actors of the film. Madam Jatinder Kaur Ji, a famous actress of Punjab and considered the soul of Punjabi films, has also played her role in this film. Harinder Sohal said that this film has started on Chaupal from June 1. It is also worth mentioning here that the songs "Adhi Litch Saar" and "Meerh Vasa De Zoro Zor" written by the chairman of the institution, Ragbir Singh Sohal, were also filmed in this film.

ADC asks banks to provide easy and maximum credit to agriculture and allied industries



PARAMJIT SINGH JALANDHAR: Additional Deputy Commissioner (Rural Development) Divya P today, during the special quarterly review meeting of the District Advisory Committee, asked all banks to provide easy and maximum credit facilities to agriculture and allied industries. During the meeting at the District Administrative Complex here, the Additional Deputy Commissioner instructed the banks to give priority to various schemes of the government related to agriculture, dairy, animal husbandry, fisheries and provide loans generously under these schemes. While reviewing the targets and results set for the quarter ending March 31, 2026 of the Annual Credit Plan of the financial year 2025-26 during the meeting, he said that banks should provide CD There is a need to further improve the ratio. He also directed to settle the applications of self-help groups on priority basis. LDM M. S. Moti, while presenting the performance report of all government, cooperative and non-government banks in the meeting, said that the banks have sanctioned loans worth Rs. 19553 crore against the target of Rs. 16866 crore for the priority sector set for the quarter ending March 31, 2026 and all the loan targets for the financial year 2025-26 have been met. Loans worth Rs. 4648 crore have been given against the target of Rs. 4592 crore for agriculture loans. Total loans worth Rs. 31124 crore have been disbursed till March 2026. LDM also informed that the target of the annual loan plan for the financial year 2026-27 is SLBC. (Punjab), which has been communicated to all the banks. He said that the CD ratio in this quarter has been 35.04%, which has increased by 1.80 points over the December 2025 quarter.

Mann govt orders drafting of law to curb arbitrary private school fee hikes

GAURAV GOEL CHANDIGARH, JUNE 4

Less than 24 hours after CM Bhagwant Singh Mann announced sweeping reforms to curb arbitrary fee hikes by private schools, the Punjab Government has moved swiftly to translate the decision into law. School Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains has written to the Secretary, School Education Department, directing the immediate drafting of legislation that will regulate private school fees, enforce transparency and accountability, and protect more than 32 lakh students and their families from unjustified financial burden.

The proposed legislation will cap annual fee hikes at 5% and require schools that have increased fees beyond the prescribed 15% threshold over the last three years to refund the excess amount collected from parents. The move marks a decisive step by the Punjab Government to curb profiteering in the education sector and ensure that private schools function in the interest of students and parents



rather than commercial gain. In the order, School Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains stated, "Providing accessible and affordable education is the topmost priority of our government. More than 32 lakh students are currently enrolled in nearly 7,800 private schools across Punjab. These students and their families deserve robust protection and safeguards against arbitrary fee increases, alongside complete transparency in how these institutions operate." The Education Minister said the decision has been taken under the leadership of CM Bhagwant Singh Mann to firmly curb profiteering in the education sector. "The Chief Minister has decided that the ongoing profiteering by private schools must be firmly curbed. Education is a noble and sacred endeavour; it is a public good, not a commercial enterprise to be exploited for profit. This principle has been explicitly reinforced by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, which has repeatedly ruled that while private institutions have the right to reasonable fee structures, commercialisation and profiteering in education are strictly impermissible," said the Minister. Minister Harjot Singh

Bains said, "To protect the interests of our citizens, the government intends to introduce a legislative framework that will ensure accountability and prevent arbitrary fee hikes. The matter is being accorded top priority and the Department has been directed to prepare a comprehensive proposal for Cabinet consideration at the earliest." As part of the proposed legislation, the Punjab Government will introduce a strict annual fee cap for private schools. Under the new framework, private schools will not be allowed to increase fees by more than 5% in a year. The legislation will also provide retrospective relief to parents. Any private school that has cumulatively increased its fees by more than 15% during the last three consecutive years will be legally required to refund the excess amount collected beyond the prescribed threshold to parents. The Bhagwant Mann Government believes that education should remain accessible and affordable for every child and that parents should not be burdened by unjustified fee increases.

Cheema meets employee unions; assures speedy action on legitimate demands

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 4

In a major push to resolve state government employees' issues, Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema on Thursday met with six major employee unions, reassuring them that the Bhagwant Mann Government is actively processing the regularisation of contractual staff, converting outsourced workers to contractual, besides fast-tracking their all other legitimate demands.

Addressing the key demands raised by the delegation, Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema stated, "The Punjab Government led by CM Bhagwant Singh Mann has already announced its decision to regularise contractual employees and convert outsourced workers to contractual status, and the implementation process is currently underway." Calling for expedited action, Minister Harpal Singh Cheema directed the administrative officers of the concerned departments, along with officials from the Personnel and Finance Departments, to fast-track the process and ensure that all legitimate demands are resolved at the earliest. He said, "All concerned departments should expedite their procedures



and address the genuine demands of employees in a fast-track mode."

As the Chairman of the Cabinet Sub-Committee formed specifically to resolve employee issues, the Finance Minister held these detailed discussions with representatives from the All Punjab DST/CTS Contract Instructor Union, the Punjab Raj Sarkari Sahayata Prapt School Adhyapakate Hor Karmchhari Union, the Adarsh School Teaching and Non-Teaching Malazam Union, Varinder Singh Momi, Jagroop Singh, Sher Singh Khanna, Gurwinder Singh Panu and Pawandeep Singh from the Theka Mulazam Sangharsh Morcha, Resham Singh, Shamsher Singh, Balwinder Singh, Baljit Singh and Rajesh Kumar from the Punjab Roadways / PUNBUS PRTC Contract Workers Union, and the Punjab Roadways (PUNBUS) State Transport Worker Union. During these meetings, Kirandeep Singh Rupana, Simranjit Singh and Sawaran Singh from the All Punjab DST/CTS Contract Instructor Union, Gurmeet Singh Madnipur, Sharanjit Singh Kadimajra, and Hardeep Singh Dhindsa from the Punjab Raj Sarkari Sahayata Prapt School Adhyapakate Hor Karmchhari Union, Jasvir Singh Galoti, Suhubdeep Kaur, Minu Bala and Manmohan Singh from the Adarsh School Teaching and Non-Teaching Malazam Union, Varinder Singh Momi, Jagroop Singh, Sher Singh Khanna, Gurwinder Singh Panu and Pawandeep Singh from the Theka Mulazam Sangharsh Morcha, Resham Singh, Shamsher Singh, Balwinder Singh, Baljit Singh and Rajesh Kumar from the Punjab Roadways / PUNBUS PRTC Contract Workers Union, and Lakhvinder Singh from the Punjab Roadways (PUNBUS) State Transport Worker Union presented their case.

Area under irrigation of the Bist Doab Canal network expands by 167% in 2025-26: Goyal

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 4

Breathing new life into a historic lifeline, Punjab's revival of the Bist Doab Canal is transforming fields, farms and futures across the Doaba region. In a major boost to the state's irrigation network, the Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann led Punjab Government has revitalised the canal, resulting in a remarkable 167% increase in irrigated area of the Bist Doab Canal Network during the 2025-26 agricultural year.

Divulging further details, Water Resources Minister Sh. Barinder Kumar Goyal informed that this expansion has brought an additional 1,10,762 acres under canal irrigation, reinforcing the agrarian backbone of the region. Considered the lifeline of Doaba, the canal has witnessed a significant restoration in water flow driven by targeted interventions under



the leadership of Chief Minister S. Bhagwant Singh Mann, said the Cabinet Minister, adding that these efforts have strengthened irrigation by addressing long-standing water shortages in the districts of Jalandhar, SBS Nagar, Kapurthala and parts of Hoshiarpur.

Originating from the Ropar Headworks, the Bist Doab canal network, including its distributaries, minors and field channels, has undergone extensive rejuvenation.

This has enabled smoother and more efficient water distribution, significantly expanding the irrigated command area. Sh. Goyal said that a major milestone of this revival is that nearly 19,213 acres of farmland of Bist Doab Canal Network have received canal water for the first time, marking a significant shift for farmers who previously depended on erratic groundwater and rainfall. Improved water flow has reinforced the lift irrigation system through Kathgarh lift scheme in Balachaur region.

Areas such as Banga and Mukandpur in Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar and Apra, Nurmahal, Malsian, Nakodar, Adampur and Kala Sanghian in District Jalandhar have witnessed infrastructure strengthening, while restored distributaries linked to the Jalandhar branch have enhanced last-mile distribution, he added.

Campaign "Yudh Nashian Virudh" continues for elimination of drugs from Punjab



BIKRAMJEET SAHOTA FATEHGARH SAHIB, JUNE 4

Under the Punjab Government's campaign "Yudh Nashian Virudh" (War Against Drugs) aimed at restoring Punjab to its former glory, Village Defence Committees and Ward Defence Committees have been constituted across the state to help eradicate the drug menace from its roots. These committees are playing a significant role at the village and ward levels in combating the problem of drug abuse. These views were expressed by Fatehgarh Sahib MLA Lakhvir Singh Rai while addressing a special meeting of

Village Defence Committees and Ward Defence Committees at the Commerce Hall of Mata Gujri College. The MLA stated that to further strengthen these committees, the Punjab Government has directly linked them with the police and civil administration so that prompt and effective action can be taken whenever information regarding drug-related activities is received. He encouraged committee members and office-bearers to actively participate in the anti-drug campaign and to motivate people trapped in drug addiction to stay away from this social evil and lead healthy lives.

Doraha bhajan singer Varun Sharma launches fourth devotional track 'Raunak Mela'



DORAHA (AMRISH ANAND): Popular bhajan singer Varun Sharma from Doraha released his fourth devotional track, "Raunak Mela", during a special event where Payal MLA Manwinder Singh Giaspura unveiled the song. A large number of music lovers, local residents and prominent personalities attended the programme. Speaking on the occasion, president Sudarshan Kumar Sharma praised Varun Sharma for promoting devotional and cultural music through his singing. He said that at a time when western influence was increasing among youth, artists like Varun Sharma were helping preserve spiritual and cultural traditions.

MLA S.Manwinder Singh Giaspura congratulated the singer and said talented youth from the region should be encouraged to pursue their artistic abilities. He expressed confidence that the new track would receive appreciation from devotees and music lovers alike. Varun Sharma thanked his team, family members and supporters for encouraging him in his musical journey and said he would continue serving society through devotional music.

Overwhelming response for Mandeep Kaur Tangra's seminar on June 6 at Aryabhata Group in Collaboration with Industrial Chamber Barnala

BARNALA (BALWINDER AZAD): Massive enthusiasm among youth and the general public regarding registrations for the event. Barnala: With the objective of promoting the holistic development of students, personality enhancement, leadership development, and providing proper guidance for the future, Aryabhata College, Barnala, is organizing a special motivational lecture on June 6, 2026, at its campus.

The event will feature globally renowned thought leader, motivational speaker, entrepreneur, and social change advocate Mrs. Mandeep Kaur Tangra as the keynote speaker. Through her life experiences, struggles, achievements, and inspiring insights, she will motivate students to set ambitious goals, face challenges courageously, and move forward on the path to success. This event will not merely be a lecture but a unique platform for students to discover their hidden potential, strengthen their self-confidence, and transform their dreams into reality. In today's rapidly changing and highly competitive world, academic knowledge alone is not sufficient; skills such as personality development, communication, mental resilience, leadership, time management, and positive thinking are equally important. Keeping this vision in mind, Aryabhata College has organized this special lecture.



Big initiative in AI and Robotics: Arni varsity establishes Centre of excellence



SHARANJEET PATHANKOT, JUNE 4

Taking a significant step towards connecting higher education with future technologies, Arni University, Indore has established a state-of-the-art Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Robotics Centre of Excellence in partnership with Karnataka's renowned Sirena Technologies Private Limited.

This initiative is being considered a milestone towards connecting the youth of the region with future technologies and providing employment-centric skills. According to the university management, this will be the first center of its kind

within a radius of about 150 km, where students will be given practical training in modern technologies like AI, machine learning, robotics, data science, natural language processing (NLP), Python programming and automation. Along with this, students will also get opportunities for live projects, industry exposure, internships, research work and startup development.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in this regard was signed by Dr. Manish Kumar Srivastava, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Arni University and Akanksha Anand, Director, Sirena Technologies Private Limited.

District Admn to open new employment avenues for youth under leadership of Punjab Government: Dr. Himanshu Aggarwal

TAPINDER SINGH PATIALA, JUNE 4

A significant meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Dr. Himanshu Aggarwal to review the functioning of the District Bureau of Employment and Enterprises.

During the meeting, various schemes and initiatives aimed at providing greater employment, skill development, and self-employment opportunities to the youth were reviewed in detail. The Deputy Commissioner directed officials to ensure the implementation of three-month administrative internships for school and college students under Project Chetna and the College Internship Programme being undertaken under the leadership of the Punjab Government. He said that this initiative would provide



students with practical exposure to administrative functioning and help enhance their skills and capabilities. Dr. Himanshu Aggarwal stated that the district administration is committed to motivating youth towards employment and self-reliance and will continue making every possible effort in this direction. The meeting also discussed special skill development programmes for women candidates. He emphasized the need to connect women with employment-oriented courses such as postnatal caretaker training, self-defence training, and other vocational pro-

grammes to strengthen their economic independence. He further directed officials to work in a planned manner to ensure skill training and subsequent placement of candidates associated with de-addiction centres under the Punjab Government's campaign against drug abuse. The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need to make coaching classes for competitive examinations more effective. He said that the administration would consider starting coaching classes to provide quality guidance and facilities to candidates aspiring for government jobs.

Sultanpur Lodhi civil hospital receives advanced orthopedic operating table

ARVIND PATHAK SULTANPUR LODHI, JUNE 4

An advanced orthopedic operating table, procured through the MPLAD Fund of Rajya Sabha Member Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal, was dedicated to the Sub-Divisional Hospital, Sultanpur Lodhi, today. Speaking on the occasion, Sant Seechewal said that grants worth more than ₹73.42 lakh have been released from his discretionary fund so far for strengthening healthcare facilities in Kapurthala district. He emphasized that health and education are the two most important pillars of societal development.

Sant Seechewal informed that the newly installed state-of-the-art orthopedic table is operated through a remote-control system, enabling doc-



tors to perform complex bone and knee replacement surgeries with greater precision and efficiency. The table allows healthcare facilities in Kapurthala district. He emphasized that health and education are the two most important pillars of societal development.

Expressing gratitude to the Rajya Sabha MP, Civil Surgeon Kapurthala, Dr. Sanjiv Bhagat, said that under the leadership of the Punjab Gov-

Municipal Corporation Joint Commissioner Manreet Rana honours circle team members with certificates of appreciation

TAPINDER SINGH PATIALA, JUNE 4

Under the ongoing first phase of Census-2027, Supervisory Circle-23 of the Municipal Corporation Patiala has set an example by becoming the first circle to successfully complete its assigned work. In recognition of this achievement, Joint Commissioner Manreet Rana honoured the members of Circle-23 and the Charge Officer with Certificates of Appreciation.

Appreciating the hard work, dedication, and responsible performance of the team members, Manreet Rana said that the team had completed its task ahead of schedule, setting an inspiring example for other teams to follow. He urged other supervisory circles and enumerators to take



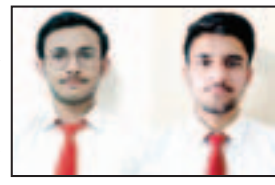
inspiration from Circle-23 and work with full commitment to complete the work in their respective areas by Saturday so that they too could become eligible for similar recognition and appreciation.

Manreet Rana stated that Census-2027 is one of the country's most significant and extensive administrative exercises. The data collected through the census will play a crucial role in planning fu-

Partap World School shines in JEE advanced 2026: Dhairyra Kundal (AIR 458) and Anuj Dhiman (AIR 2912) bring glory

GURDASPUR (VERMA): Partap World School, Pathankot, has once again demonstrated its commitment to academic excellence by achieving remarkable success in JEE Advanced 2026, one of India's most prestigious and challenging engineering entrance examinations. Two of the school's talented students, Dhairyra Kundal and Anuj Dhiman, secured outstanding national ranks, bringing immense pride to the institution. Dhairyra Kundal achieved an impressive All India Rank (AIR) 458, while Anuj Dhiman secured AIR 2912, earning their place among the country's top engineering aspirants. Their achievement is the result of years of hard work, dedication, discipline, expert guidance from teachers, and unwavering support from their parents.

JEE Advanced is regarded as one of the toughest competitive examinations in India and serves as the gateway to admission into the prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). Every year, millions of students appear for JEE Main, but only the top-performing candidates qualify for JEE Advanced. Success in this examination requires a deep understanding of concepts, analytical thinking, problem-solving skills, and consistent perseverance.



AVINASH CHAUHAN

AMB: Atul Thakur, General Secretary of the Himachal Pradesh Fencing Association, has been entrusted by the Fencing Federation of India with the important responsibility of successfully organizing the upcoming Asian Senior Fencing Championship 2026. This prestigious international competition will be held from June 18-24, 2026, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi,



and will feature top athletes from various Asian countries. On this occasion, Atul Thakur expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Rajiv Mehta, Secretary General of the Fencing Confederation of Asia and Honorable Secretary General of the Fencing Association of India, saying that due to their trust and guidance, he has received the opportunity to contribute to this prestigious international competition.

BJP spreading misinformation to divert attention from rising fuel and LPG gas prices: Revenue Minister

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, JUNE 4

Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi today here in a press conference said that BJP leaders are trying to divert public attention from pressing issues such as rising petrol, diesel and cooking gas prices by falsely claiming victory in the recent Panchayat elections.

He said that people across the state are demanding answers from the BJP over inflation. He said that the prices of petrol, diesel and LPG cylinders continue to rise, placing a heavy burden on ordinary families. He said that BJP leaders are urging citizens to avoid buying items such as gold and silver, whereas remaining silent on the

increasing cost of essential goods and services.

Negi said that the BJP is attempting to distract people from real issues by portraying the Panchayati Raj institution election results as a victory for the party, despite what he described as a clear rejection of the BJP by voters across the state. He said that the Panchayat elections were not contested on political party symbols. Whereas out of 3,754 panchayats in the state, around 2,400 Pradhans and 2,600 Deputy Pradhans elected were candidates aligned with Congress party. He further stated that the results of urban local body elections also favoured Congress. He said that Congress-backed candidates won in 29 out of



the state's 53 urban local bodies. In particular, Congress secured victories in all six municipal bodies in Kangra district, while the BJP failed to win any. He said that the BJP suffered a complete setback in Mandi district. Given these results, he questioned the basis on which the BJP was claiming victory.

Jagat Singh Negi said that Panchayat elections are not fought on party symbols and are generally influenced more by a candidate's personal popularity, local issues and regional factors. Despite this, the BJP is the giving a political colour results in an attempt to mislead the public.

The Revenue Minister also rejected claims that these elections were a 'semi-final' before future elections. He said they were neither a semi-final nor a quarter-final. Referring to the Assembly by-elections, he said that when the BJP attempted to bring down the democratically elected state government through the use of money power, the public responded by defeating the party. He said that the BJP

lost six out of nine Assembly by-election seats and questioned why Leader of the Opposition Jai Ram Thakur had not resigned after that result.

Revenue Minister said the BJP wants to keep the Panchayat election results in the spotlight to divert attention from important issues affecting both the state and the country. He said that it was the vision of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and the Congress Party that led to reservation in Panchayati Raj institutions for women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes (OBCs). He said these measures ensured wider participation in development and strengthened democracy at the grassroots level.

99 percent decisions of Cabinet fully implemented: Jagat Singh Negi

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, JUNE 4

A meeting of the Cabinet sub-committee to review the implementations of cabinet decisions was held here today under the chairmanship of Revenue, Horticulture and Tribal Development Minister Jagat Singh Negi. Housing, Technical Education and Town and Country Planning Minister Rajesh Dharmani was also present in the meeting. The sub-committee reviewed the implementation status of decisions taken during Cabinet meetings. It was informed that between 13 January, 2023 and 30 June 2025, a total of 1,160 decisions were taken by the Cabinet, of which 99 percent have been fully implemented. The committee also deliberated on the remaining one per cent of decisions that are yet to be fully executed.



These decisions pertain to the Departments of Finance, Health, Industries, Jal Shakti, Multi-Purpose Projects and Energy. Speaking on the occasion, Jagat Singh Negi commended the efforts of the officers and departments concerned for ensuring the effective implementation of Cabinet decisions. He directed officials to expedite the execution of the remaining decisions within a stipulated time frame. Chief Secretary Kamlesh Kumar Pant,

Principal Secretary Devsh Kumar, Secretary to the Chief Minister Rakesh Kanwar, Health Secretary M. Sudha Devi, Cooperation Secretary Amarjeet Singh, Digital Technology and Governance Secretary Ashish Singhmar, Member Secretary Harbans Singh Brascon, Director Urban Development Neeraj Kumar, Director Treasuries Accounts and Lotteries Vijay Vardhan and other senior officers were present in the meeting.

Himachal to mark World Environment Day with mini marathon, awards and green drives

DINESH AGARWAL

SHIMLA: The Department of Environment, Science, Technology & Climate Change, Government of Himachal Pradesh, in collaboration with the Himachal Pradesh Police, State Pollution Control Board and State Council for Science, Technology & Environment, will celebrate World Environment Day 2026 on June 5 under the theme "Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future." Addressing the media on the eve of the occasion, Secretary (Environment, Science & Technology) Sushil Singla said a series of awareness and outreach programmes have been planned to promote environmental conservation and public participation. The key attraction will be the "Mini Marathon 2026" carrying the message "Run for a Clean Environment & Chitta-Free Life." The marathon will be flagged off by the Governor of Himachal Pradesh, while winners and recipients of the Environment Leadership Awards will be honoured by the Chief Minister. An exhibition showcasing best environmental management practices will also be organized as part of the celebrations. Singla highlighted the state's focus on promoting a circular economy in waste management sectors, including solid waste, e-waste, biomedical waste, hazardous waste and construction & demolition waste. Efforts are underway to bring all stakeholders, from recyclers to rag pickers, onto a common platform to improve waste collection, prevent pilferage and ensure scientific disposal through authorized channels. He also noted significant improvements in the state's air quality, with the average Air Quality Index (AQI) improving from 81 to 66 since 2016-17. The progress has been achieved through strict enforcement of environmental regulations, promotion of cleaner industrial fuels and adoption of electric vehicles in public transport.

Fit India cycle rally held in Ghumarwin on World Bicycle Day

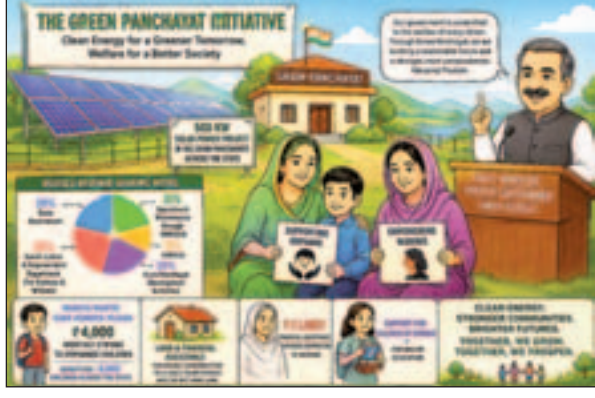


ANIL KUMAR HAMIRPUR: A cycle rally was organised in Ghumarwin on the occasion of World Bicycle Day under the joint aegis of Mera Yuva Bharat and the Fit India Movement. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation and was aimed at promoting fitness and healthy living among the youth. Former Himachal Pradesh minister Rajendra Garg flagged off the rally as the chief guest. BJP district secretary Naveen Sharma, Kamal Mahajan, Ankush Chandel, Arvind Sharma, Suraj and Harsh Vardhan Bobby were among those present during the programme. Addressing participants after the rally, Rajendra Garg launched a sharp attack on the Congress government in Himachal Pradesh, alleging that law and order in the state had deteriorated significantly under its rule. He claimed that crime and mafia activities were flourishing under government patronage, adversely affecting the image of the state. Garg alleged that illegal mining was continuing unabated in rivers across Himachal Pradesh and accused the government of failing to curb the activities of mining and forest mafias.

25 percent revenue of Green Panchayats to be utilized for welfare of orphans and widows

DINESH AGARWAL
SHIMLA, JUNE 4

The Green Panchayat initiative of state government will now also contribute to the welfare and upliftment of orphans and widows across the state. This pioneering step will not only promote environmental conservation through renewable energy generation but will also support vulnerable sections of society, ensuring inclusive and sustainable development. To further strengthen the social welfare component of the initiative, the state government has decided to revise the revenue-sharing model under the scheme. As part of the programme, ground-mounted solar power projects of 500 KW capacity are being established in 100



Gram Panchayats across the state. Under the revised revenue-sharing formula, 20 percent of the revenue generated through these projects will be allocated to the state government, 20 percent will be earmarked for operation and maintenance of

the projects through HIMURJA, 10 percent will go to HIMURJA, 25 percent will be provided to the concerned Gram Panchayat for development-related activities and the remaining 25 percent will be transferred to the Social Justice and

Empowerment Department for providing financial assistance to orphans and widows in the respective Gram Panchayat. The present state government has accorded top priority to the welfare of underprivileged and marginalized sections of society and has launched several initiatives to ensure their social and economic empowerment. One of its flagship programmes, the Mukhya Mantri Sukh Ashraya Yojana, provides comprehensive support to orphaned children to ensure their education, care and overall well-being. Under the scheme, each orphaned child is provided a monthly stipend of Rs. 4,000, benefiting approximately 6,000 children across the state.

Massive public endorsement for BJP in Panchayati Raj Polls; development agenda wins people's trust: Randhir Sharma

AJAY KUMAR UPADHYAY

BILASPUR: Senior BJP leader and MLA from Shri Naina Devi Ji Assembly Constituency, Randhir Sharma, has expressed heartfelt gratitude to the people of the constituency for delivering a resounding mandate in favor of BJP-supported candidates in the recently concluded Panchayati Raj Institutions elections. Terming the results as a clear endorsement of development-oriented governance, Sharma stated that BJP-backed candidates achieved remarkable success across the constituency. He highlighted that BJP-supported candidates secured victory in two Zila Parishad seats, while winning 8 out of 12 seats in the Panchayat Samiti elections. In the Swarghat Panchayat Samiti, BJP-supported candidates emerged victorious in 9 out of 15 seats, reflecting the party's growing grassroots strength and public confidence. Sharma said the impressive electoral performance demonstrates the unwavering faith of the people in the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the welfare-centric policies of the Central Government. He added that the mandate also reflects the dedication of BJP workers and the party's commitment to transparent, accountable, and development-driven governance. "The people have once again placed their trust in the politics of progress, good governance, and public welfare."



Youth should embrace Yoga as path to both career and health: Sanjay Sharma

SANJAY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA, JUN 4

The BJP has accorded a grand welcome to the inaugural World Yogasana Sports Championship 2026, being held at the EKA Arena in Ahmedabad from June 4 to June 8, 2026. The BJP State Spokesperson Sanjay Sharma asserted that it is solely due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary leadership and unwavering efforts that our ancient and invaluable heritage Yoga has today secured this historic and preeminent position on the global sports map. He noted that the global popularity of Yoga can be gauged by the participation of



over 70 nations in this historic championship, with more than 500 athletes and delegates from across the world taking part. Athletes from countries such as India, the USA, Japan, the Netherlands, Oman, Mauritius, Uganda, Zambia, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Kenya are showcasing their athletic prowess at this event. Competitors across Sub-Junior, Junior, and Senior

categories (ranging in age from 10 to 55 years) are participating in this championship. Under the competition, medals are up for grabs in various disciplines, including Traditional Yogasana, Artistic Single, Artistic Pair, Artistic Group, and Rhythmic Pair. Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya unveiled 'Veer' the official mascot along with the logo and jersey for this championship. This championship represents a major and concrete initiative by India aimed at securing the inclusion of Yogasana in the Olympic Games in the future. Sanjay Sharma further stated that 'Devbhumi' Himachal Pradesh renowned globally for its natural beauty, pristine air, and serene environment, holds the potential to emerge as a major international hub for Yoga and Wellness Tourism.

Development works are stalled due to flawed policies of Sukhu government: Pawan Kajal

SANJAY AGGARWAL
DHARAMSHALA, JUNE 4

State BJP Vice President and MLA Pawan Kajal held a roadshow in Kangra city alongside newly elected Panchayat Pradhans, Up-Pradhans, Ward Members, Panchayat Samiti members, and District Councilors following the Panchayati Raj elections.

During the event, accompanied by a marching band, he paid obeisance at the Maa Brajeshwari Temple and formally launched the BJP's 'Mission 2027'.

Taking aim at the Sukhu government, he stated that it has failed to fulfill the ten electoral promises made to the people of the state. He alleged that neither did women receive the promised monthly stipend of Rs.1,500, nor did the unemployed



secure permanent government jobs. The MLA asserted that, instead of providing regular employment across various departments, the Congress government has toyed with the future of the unemployed by resorting to temporary recruitments such as 'Bijli Mitra' and 'Van Mitra'.

He declared that, in the upcoming Assembly elections, the BJP would use these "false guarantees" as a central theme to expose the

Congress government's failures to the masses and seek public support. Kajal expressed confidence that BJP-backed candidates would secure the Chairmanship of both the District Council and the Panchayat Samiti in Kangra district. He noted that out of the 44 Panchayats in the Kangra Assembly constituency, 30 Pradhans and 30 Up-Pradhans who are BJP supporters have emerged victorious.

MSME workshop on Digital Marketing held in Bangana

KISHORI LAL BAINS
BANGANA, JUNE 4

A one-day training workshop on digital marketing, digital literacy, brand building, and the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal was organized in Bangana under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Programme. The event aimed to enhance the competitiveness of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), promote digital transformation, and strengthen their participation in government procurement processes. More than 70 entrepreneurs participated in the workshop and gained insights into marketing strategies, digital tools for brand building, and opportunities available



through the GeM and Central Public Procurement (CPP) portals. Participants were guided on vendor registration, tender participation, and accessing government procurement opportunities. BDO Bangana K.L. Verma highlighted the growing importance of digital marketing, digital literacy, and branding tools for businesses. He said these technologies help enterprises improve productivity, efficiency, and

competitiveness while enabling small and cottage industries to expand and establish a stronger market presence. A detailed session on digital marketing and brand building was conducted by Pradeep Kumar, who explained how social media, digital advertising, online presence, customer engagement, and content marketing can help MSMEs strengthen their brands and reach new markets.

By making Himachal tax-laden state, Cong govt has endangered tourism and trade: Akhilesh Kapoor

ASHISH SHARMA
KULLU, JUNE 4

The Bharatiya Janata Party has launched a scathing attack on the Congress government over the ongoing protests, road blockades and problems being faced by the people of the state on the Punjab-Himachal border. In a statement issued in Kullu said that today the people of Himachal, traders, transporters and people associated with tourism business are suffering the consequences of the entry tax increased by the Congress government. He said that the increase in entry tax on vehicles from Rs. 30 to Rs. 350 in different categories has had a direct impact on tourism, transport and trade. He said the



government wants to generate revenue of around Rs. 228 crore annually from entry tax, but is not concerned about the potential loss of thousands of crores to the tourism industry and trade. The people of the state, transporters and tourists are troubled due to the continuous road blockades, protests and alleged extortion from Himachal vehicles in Punjab. Akhilesh Kapoor said that

due to these incidents, a negative message about the state is being sent to the tourists, which is adversely affecting hotel bookings, taxi business, trade and the entire tourist season. Due to this, thousands of families associated with the economy of the state are getting affected. He said that hoteliers, taxi operators, transporters and small and big businessmen are being affected in Manali, Kullu, Shimla, Dharamshala and other tourist areas, but the state government remains silent. The BJP spokesperson demanded that the government immediately withdraw the increased entry tax, find a solution by talking to neighboring states and protect the interests of the state's trade, tourism and common people.

Forest department takes major action in Amb, seizes two vehicles with banned wood

AVINASH CHAUHAN

AMB: In the Amb area of Una district, the Forest Department's patrol team took major action against illegal timber transportation and seized two vehicles. According to information, on June 3, 2026, the Amb Range patrol team was on regular patrol and surveillance. The team included Deputy Forest Ranger (Block Officer, Jowar) Vijay Kumar, Deputy Forest Ranger Munish Kumar, Forest Guard and In-charge Jowar Beat Vijay Kumar and Forest Guard and In-charge Nehri Beat Virendra Kumar. At around 5:15 p.m., a patrol team stopped two suspicious vehicles (HP 55D 6399 and HP 24D 0942) near Amb Chowk for inspection. During



the search, both vehicles were found to be carrying prohibited wood species. When the drivers were asked to produce relevant documents, they failed to produce any valid documents. The Forest Department then seized both vehicles and transported them to the Range Office in Amb. In this regard, an FIR has been registered against the drivers involved under forest and wildlife laws at the Amb police station. Forest department officials stated that the investigation is ongoing and the source and destination of the timber are being determined. The department clarified that strict action against illegal transportation of forest resources will continue in the future.

NEWS BRIEF

Dalai Lama to undergo treatment for left knee; will stay in Ladakh until June



SANJAY AGGARWAL DHARAMSHALA: The Buddhist spiritual leader, the 14th Dalai Lama, will depart from Dharamshala for Delhi on Friday, June 5, where he will undergo treatment for his left knee. Following his recovery, he will travel to Ladakh at the end of June for an extended stay. According to information received from his office, the Dalai Lama will rest in Ladakh and also participate in religious activities there. Reports indicate that he is traveling to Delhi for medical examinations and treatment related to his left knee. After undergoing health check-ups and necessary medical consultations, he will proceed to Ladakh at the end of June for a prolonged visit. The Dalai Lama had previously traveled to the United States on June 21, 2024, for knee treatment. A successful surgery on his left knee was performed on June 28, 2024, at the prestigious Hospital for Special Surgery in New York.

Pre-SIR based special camp on June 7: DC

KULDEEP SOOD BARNALA: District Election Officer-cum-Deputy Commissioner Harpreet Singh IAS said that as per the instructions of the Chief Electoral Officer Punjab, special camps based on Pre-SIR are being organized in the polling booths of district Barnala from 10 am to 4 pm on June 7. He said that under this special campaign being run to make the voter lists absolutely correct and updated, all the booth level officers will be present at their respective booths on Sunday, June 7. He said that the main objective of this camp is to make the election process and the work related to the voter lists more transparent, error-free and easy.

12 years of Modi govt to be celebrated through mass public participation in UP: CM Yogi

UNI LUCKNOW, JUNE 4

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed officials to ensure that the celebrations marking the completion of 12 years of the Narendra Modi-led Central Government are transformed into a mass public movement, driven by active citizen participation and public awareness across the state.

Reviewing the preparations for the public participation-based programmes, the Chief Minister instructed officials to implement every initiative related to public service, good governance, environmental protection, youth welfare, and social welfare with sensitivity, transparency, and broad public involvement. On Wednesday evening, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath reviewed, through video conferencing, the state's law and order situation, preparations for the upcoming Civil Police Constable Recruitment Examination, and the



programmes to be organised to commemorate 12 years of the Central Government. The Chief Minister said, "On the completion of 12 years of the Central Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the programmes to be organised from World Environment Day to International Yoga Day should not remain mere formal events but should evolve into a large-scale campaign of public participation and public awareness." Referring to World Environment Day on June 5, he said, "A minimum of five crore saplings should be planted under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign. This initiative should become a symbol of environmental

conservation, respect for motherhood, and sensitivity towards nature." He directed officials to ensure the adequate availability of saplings, geo-tagging of plantations, and effective arrangements for their protection. The Chief Minister further said, "To transform environmental protection into a mass movement, every Gram Panchayat and Urban Local Body should work towards becoming free of single-use plastic, with active participation from every section of society." Highlighting the significance of the period between June 5 and June 21, he said, "This is an important opportunity to take the resolve of Viksit Bharat-Viksit Uttar Pradesh to every citizen. Under the guidance of ministers in charge and public representatives, dialogues should be organised with intellectuals, academicians, doctors, engineers, industrialists, advocates, young entrepreneurs, and startup innovators."

Jindal's 'Kurukshetra Model' to set precedent for entire nation for 'Viksit Bharat Abhiyan': Dr. Archana Gupta



HANS RAJ YADAV KURUKSHETRA, JUNE 4

An International Employment Festival was organised by the Naveen Jindal Foundation, under the guidance of MP Naveen Jindal, for youth aspiring to find employment abroad. Held under the 'Naveen Avasar' (New Opportunities) program, this festival witnessed immense enthusiasm among thousands of young participants. Speaking on the occasion, the newly appointed State President of the BJP, Dr. Archana Gupta, stated that MP

Naveen Jindal has taken proactive steps to address the national challenge regarding youth employment. She remarked that the 'Kurukshetra Model'—encompassing the skill training and various other developmental initiatives undertaken by MP Naveen Jindal in the region—will serve as a shining example for the entire country. She added that MP Naveen Jindal envisions a future where youth possess distinct talents and prioritize skill mastery, enabling them to establish their own ventures rather than having to seek handouts for employment.

Meeting held at International Jat Dharamshala

DALBIR SINGH MALIK KURUKSHETRA, JUNE 4

An important meeting was held at International Jat Dharamshala where detailed discussions were held to ensure success of upcoming All-Caste Khap Conference, scheduled for June 12, 13 and 14. Meeting discussed conference's outline, arrangements and various issues related to social welfare. It was informed at meeting that this conference will have extensive participation from women's organizations, student organizations, youth organizations, religious organizations, social organizations, various Khaps, Tapas, Barhas, and other prominent individuals in society. Conference aims to strengthen social unity,



eliminate social evils and create a positive social environment for future generation. During conference, several important resolutions will be passed, addressing topics such as social evils, drug addiction, women's safety, education, youth empowerment and social harmony. Speakers present stated that collective efforts are need of the hour to unite and strengthen society. Dr. Krishna Shyokand, President of International Jat Dharamshala, strongly condemned recent heinous

crime committed by Dr Shailendra Sharma "Shaili" against a minor. He stated that such crimes are disgrace to humanity and that perpetrators in such cases should receive harshest punishment. He demanded that if charges are proven in court, perpetrator should be given a harsh punishment, such as death penalty so that no one dares to commit such crimes in the future. Dr Shyokand commended police administration for their prompt and effective action in case.

SDM listens to public grievances, directs officials to resolve them quickly



MAINPAL KASHYAP INDRI: SDM Dr Raman Gupta listened public grievances and complaints at a Samadhan Camp held in his office today. Complaints related to various departments were received at camp and relevant officials were given necessary guidance for their resolution. He said that objective of Samadhan Camp is to provide quick and effective solutions to problems of common citizens. State government's intention is to ensure that citizens do not have to repeatedly visit offices to resolve their issues. To this end, Samadhan Camps are being organized so that people's problems can be resolved in one place. SDM stated that Samadhan Camps are proving to be extremely effective in resolving public grievances. These camps have established direct communication between administration and public, leading to transparency and speed in resolving problems. He said that objective of Samadhan Camp is to remove obstacles related to government services and to resolve public complaints on spot. SDM informed that Samadhan Camp is being organized at sub-division level every Monday and Thursday from 10 am to 12 noon.

Taking charge: Mayor leads the Broom Brigade in Local Veer Nagar Camp

RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR: A special step has been taken by the Municipal Corporation towards making the city beautiful, clean and neat. On Thursday, Mayor Suman Bahmani herself came to the front and swept the Veena Nagar Camp area of Ward No. 17 along with the sanitation workers and started the cleanliness drive. Under the campaign, Mayor Suman Bahmani along with Additional Corporation Commissioner Dheeraj Kumar, Chief Sanitation Inspector Vinod Beniwal, Chief Sanitation Inspector Harjeet Singh and local councillor Dixit Kumar, along with many dignitaries, officials and representatives of the area, held brooms in their hands and cleaned the streets and drains. Through this campaign, not only the roads and drains were brightened, but also a message was given to the local residents to be aware of cleanliness. During this, the Mayor also instructed the officials to take strict action against those throwing garbage in the open and issue challans. Under the campaign, special cleaning was carried out in the areas around Veena Nagar Camp and Bypass, where huge amount of dirt and garbage was accumulated. The team of sanitation workers cleared the drains by uprooting the bushes and grass growing in it.



International Yoga Day campaign draws massive public participation in Hisar

MAHENDER GOYAL HISAR, JUNE 4

Yoga awareness campaign being run by Patanjali Yoga Samiti, Bharat Swabhiman Trust and Patanjali Parivar Hisar on occasion of International Yoga Day 2026 is receiving overwhelming support from city's residents. Daily increasing participation in yoga camps organized in various parks and colonies of city is indication that yoga is now becoming a part of the lifestyle of every person. Giving this information, Surendra Panu Hindustani, spokesperson of Bharat Swabhiman Trust and Patanjali Yoga Samiti, Hisar said that Yoga Science, Sadhana and Pranayama camp organized in Madhuban Park was inaugurated by Haryana



State Incharge of Bharat Swabhiman Trust, Ish Arya, by lighting a lamp. He was especially accompanied by Lakshmi Agarwal, Anil Jain, G.C. Narang, Suman, Sunil Kakkar General Secretary, Dr Kalwant Jangra, retired SDO Chandra Singh, Madanlal Raheja and Shival Chauhan. He said that now time has come for India to not be limited to being called just Golden Bird but to lead world by becoming Golden Lion on strength of

knowledge, power, culture, Swadeshi and self-reliance. He said that Yoga, Ayurveda and Swadeshi are India's greatest strengths. If every citizen resolves to adopt Swadeshi and live a life of yoga, no one can stop India from becoming a developed nation. G.C. Narang, in-charge of Patanjali Business Cell, Hisar District, said that a healthy body and a calm mind are greatest assets of any individual, businessman and society.

Anurag Thakur participates in Viksit Bharat Education Bill review

ANIL KUMAR HAMIRPUR, JUNE 4

Former Union Minister and Hamirpur MP Anurag Singh Thakur participated in key deliberations held in Mumbai as part of the study visit of the Joint Committee reviewing the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025. During the meetings, the committee interacted with representatives of the Maharashtra Government, leading higher educational institutions and public sector undertakings associated with the railway sector. Representatives from prestigious institutions, including the University of Mumbai, IIM Mumbai, IIT Vadodara, VNIT Nagpur and NIT Goa, shared their views on higher education reforms and future requirements. Speaking on the occasion, Anurag Thakur said that under the visionary leadership of



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has ushered in transformative changes in India's education system. He emphasized that continuous dialogue with stakeholders is essential to build an innovation-driven, future-ready and globally competitive higher education framework. The discussions focused on promoting institutional excellence, strengthening research and innovation, improving governance in higher educational institutions and enhancing collaboration between academia, industry and public sector organizations. Thakur expressed confidence that the

proposed legislation would further accelerate ongoing reforms in the education sector, strengthen quality standards and create new opportunities for students and researchers. He said that strong and quality educational institutions will play a crucial role in achieving the vision of making India a developed nation by 2047. Suggestions received from universities, experts and public sector organizations, he added, will contribute significantly towards building a knowledge-based, innovation-driven and globally respected higher education system aligned with the goal of a Viksit Bharat.

AI seminar at Hartron Skill Centre, Yamunanagar



RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR: Sahil Dhull, founder of an AI wearable start-up and a human-computer interaction researcher, told a seminar at the Hartron Skill Centre, Yamunanagar, that the interface, not the model, has become the real bottleneck in artificial intelligence. Dhull argued that every era of computing has been defined by how humans interact with machines rather than the machines themselves. Tracing the shift from punch cards to keyboards, mice and touchscreens, he said each transition changed who could use computers. "Every ten to fifteen years, a new interface emerges, and the entire industry reorganises around it," he explained, adding that the next such shift is beginning, though most people haven't noticed. A 2020 Computer Science graduate from IIT Kanpur, Dhull holds a granted US patent for his work at Adobe Research, has built distributed systems at Cohesity in the Bay Area, and developed proactive AI agents at Sonatic, a venture backed by Andreessen Horowitz's Speedrun program.

Special campaign in Bhoranj to improve nutrition among malnourished children: Rathore



ANIL KUMAR HAMIRPUR: Hamirpur Deputy Commissioner Gandharva Rathore has said that the first 1,000 days of a child's life—from conception until the age of two years—are the most crucial for physical and mental development. Ensuring proper nutrition during this period can help children lead healthier lives in the future. Addressing awareness programmes organised under the Poshan Abhiyan at Government Senior Secondary Schools in Ladarour and Mundkhar on Thursday, Rathore spoke to a large gathering of women, Anganwadi workers and ASHA workers about the importance of child nutrition. She emphasised that mothers play a key role in ensuring proper nutrition for children. Rathore said mothers should be aware that infants should be exclusively breastfed for the first six months and should thereafter receive nutritious complementary foods along with continued breastfeeding. The Deputy Commissioner highlighted that many traditional foods and coarse grains are rich in essential nutrients and can help prevent malnutrition when included in daily diets. She informed participants that around 454 underweight and malnourished children have been identified in the Bhoranj subdivision.

DAV Public School Yamunanagar honours lifetime of hard work and humility

RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR, JUNE 4

A heartfelt retirement ceremony was organised at DAV Public School, Yamunanagar to honour Mr Satish Kumar, Office Attendant, on the completion of his 39 years of dedicated service to the institution. The programme commenced with a sacred Hawan at the Yagyashala, seeking divine blessings for his healthy and peaceful life ahead. Thereafter, a graceful celebration was held in the ATL in the presence of the Principal, staff members and non teaching staff members. Principal V.K. Kashiv appreciated Mr. Satish Kumar for his sincerity, discipline, and unwavering commitment towards the



school. Colleagues shared emotional memories and expressed their gratitude through speeches and heartfelt wishes. A token of love and appreciation was presented to Mr. Satish Kumar as a mark of respect for his remarkable contribution to the school. The programme concluded with warm wishes, applause, and prayers for his health, happiness, and prosperity in the new phase of life.

ceremony became emotional as staff members expressed their gratitude through speeches and heartfelt wishes. A token of love and appreciation was presented to Mr. Satish Kumar as a mark of respect for his remarkable contribution to the school. The programme concluded with warm wishes, applause, and prayers for his health, happiness, and prosperity in the new phase of life.

BKU Chadhuni protests proposed India-US Trade deal in Yamunanagar

RAHUL KOHLI YAMUNANAGAR, JUNE 4

Under banner of Bharatiya Kisan Union Chadhuni, protest was held in Yamunanagar on Wednesday against proposed India-US Free Trade Deal (FTA). District President Sanju Gundiyaan led protest. During protest, farmers, laborers, youth, women and members of social organizations raised slogans against government and submitted memorandum to PM, District President Sanju Gundiyaan stated that proposed India-US free trade deal could pose a significant threat to country's farmers, small businesses and rural economy. He stated that Indian farmers are already burdened by debt and rising costs. It will be impossible for small and



marginal farmers to compete with foreign companies and large American agricultural producers. He stated that farmers in US receive substantial government subsidies and financial assistance, while farmers in India are constantly struggling with economic crisis. If this deal is implemented, foreign agricultural products will enter Indian market at low prices, making it even more difficult for Indian farmers to secure

fair prices for their crops. Farmer leaders stated that decisions related to agriculture, food security and livelihoods of millions of people should not be made without consent of public and relevant organizations. Protesters demanded that central government immediately cancel proposed India-US free trade deal and protect interests of farmers, laborers, youth and ordinary citizens.

NEWS BRIEFS

Last rites of Mandeep who died in Canada performed on Thursday

KARAMBIR LADWA: Mandeep, a youth from Ladwa who went to Canada on a study visa three years ago, died due to drowning while bathing in the swimming pool. The news of death devastated the entire family. The body was kept in foreign soil for 10 days, when it reached home on Thursday, there was sadness in the village. During the rites the entire villagers were in tears. The deceased youth was the youngest among the three siblings of his parents and everyone's favorite. Everyone hoped that when he returned from Canada after completing his studies, he would change the fate of the family, but nature had something else in store. Giving information, Shri Sanatan Dharma Mahabir Dal's Deputy President Ram Kumar said that his nephew Mandeep had gone to Canada for study about three years ago and was completing his studies by staying in Canada for about two and a half years. He also used to work part time, so that he would not be a burden on the family. On the day of the accident, he had gone to take a bath in the swimming pool and while bathing his health deteriorated.



Solar Plants to be set up on farmers' vacant land; govt to purchase the power generated: Anil Vij

BUREAU CHANDIGARH, JUNE 4

Haryana Energy Minister, Sh. Anil Vij said that the state government is working on a new scheme under which domestic consumers with a connected load of 1 kW will also be provided solar power systems.

He said the unique feature of the scheme would be that beneficiaries would not have to visit banks for loans or guarantees. Department officials would visit consumers' homes, complete the necessary formalities, and facilitate the installation of solar systems on their rooftops. As a result, the electricity bills of such consumers would become nearly zero. He informed that more than 700,000 consumers in Haryana have electricity connections with loads of up to 1 kW and could benefit from this initiative.

He further said that a similar arrangement is being proposed for consumers with loads of up to 5 kW who regularly pay their electricity bills. Under this scheme, apart from the government subsidy, the remaining cost would be recovered from consumers through easy installments, and no bank loan would be required. Similarly, Sh. Anil Vij said that



he had recently placed a proposal before Union Power Minister, Sh. Manohar Lal. Under the proposal, farmers whose land remains vacant and whose family members live outside the village would be allowed to install solar plants on their land at their own expense. The government would then purchase the electricity generated at predetermined rates. This would provide farmers with an additional source of income while also promoting clean energy generation in the state.

He further informed that Haryana is set to receive three prestigious national awards today for the successful implementation of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. He said awards are not granted on recommen-

dations but on the basis of performance, and governments always recognize those who deliver results.

Anil Vij said that the Central Government has identified Haryana as one of the leading states in the field of solar energy. He added that the state government would intensify its efforts and continue working towards making Haryana completely self-reliant in solar energy.

Anil Vij said that wherever he has been assigned responsibility in government, he has worked with full dedication and commitment. He said that while handling important departments such as Health and Home Affairs, he achieved significant milestones and was honored by actor Amitabh Bachchan for his outstanding work in the Health Department. He added that, in the same spirit, Haryana is being recognized by the Central Government today under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

He informed that Haryana has received the highest number of applications under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. The state government has set a target of installing 220,000 rooftop solar systems during the current fiscal year and is striving to achieve the target ahead of schedule.

Journalists to receive free Rs 10 lakh accidental insurance cover at Shimla event on June 9

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA CHANDIGARH, JUNE 4

The Himachal Pradesh unit of the Media Wellbeing Association (MWB) North India will organise a launch and distribution ceremony for free accidental insurance policies worth Rs 10 lakh each for journalists in Shimla on June 9. The event will be held at Hotel Holiday Home, near the High Court, Shimla, as part of the organisation's efforts towards journalist welfare, security and recognition.

According to MWB North India president Chandrashekhar Dharni, the programme has been initiated following efforts by MWB North India senior vice-president and Himachal Pradesh in-charge Sanjay Bhutani.

Anirudh Singh will attend the function as chief guest. The event will be chaired by Naresh Chauhan, while Surender Chauhan will be the guest of honour. Harish Janartha will attend as a special guest.

Dharni said MWB Himachal Pradesh president Vishal Sood has been appointed convener for the event. Representatives from the North India unit, including general secretary Dr Surendra Mehta, treasurer Tarun Kapoor, vice-president Pawan Chopra and organisation secretary Mewa Singh

Rana, will also participate. Dr Surendra Mehta said the organisation has emerged as a leading platform for journalist welfare and is the first organisation in the country to provide cashless health insurance facilities to its founding members. He added that MWB has expanded steadily across North India, with state units functioning in Delhi,

death, accidental insurance provides protection against unforeseen accidents.

Mehta noted that journalism has become an increasingly challenging and risk-prone profession, often requiring reporters to work in difficult terrains, disaster-hit areas and sensitive situations. He said the organisation has connected thousands of journalists with various social security schemes to strengthen their welfare and financial security.

The association also announced that, for the first time in Chandigarh, camerapersons working in journalism will be provided accidental insurance coverage of Rs 10 lakh each. Senior journalist Sanjay Singh has been appointed coordinator of the Cameramen Committee for this initiative.

MWB officials stated that the organisation provides membership, cashless medical facilities, term insurance and accidental insurance benefits without any additional charges, making it a significant welfare platform for journalists across North India.

According to the organisation, founding members have been provided family cashless health insurance coverage for 2025-26, and the scope of this facility is expected to expand further in the future.



Chandigarh, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.

He said the association has been working continuously for the safety and welfare of journalists and their families over the past five years. As part of its initiatives, journalists in Haryana and other regions are being provided free term insurance and accidental insurance policies worth Rs 10 lakh each. While term insurance offers financial support to families in the event of an untimely

Devotion can move the Divine to appear before devotees: Gita scholar Gyananand

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA NILOKHERI, JUNE 4

Gita scholar and Mahamandaleshwari Swami Gyananand Ji Maharaj, while addressing a Divine Gita Satsang, emphasised the importance of imparting moral values to children in the present era. He said parents have a crucial role in shaping the character of their children, as the family is the first and most influential institution for nurturing values and sanskar.

Swami Gyananand said children grow up to become responsible citizens who contribute to society and the nation through righteous conduct. He added that this is possible only when parents themselves follow the path of Dharma and serve as role models for the younger generation.

Citing the example of Dhru-

va, he said that sincere and heartfelt devotion has the power to draw the Divine closer to devotees. Referring to the young devotee's unwavering faith at



the age of five or six, he said God becomes compelled to manifest before those whose devotion is pure and selfless. He added that the Divine values genuine devotion above all else and eagerly responds to the sincere emotions of devotees.

Swami Gyananand further said that adopting the teachings

of the Bhagavad Gita as a guide for life can help overcome despair, frustration and emotional distress. He noted that Lord Krishna's teachings in the Gita transformed the discouraged and hesitant Arjuna into a confident and determined warrior, demonstrating the timeless relevance of the scripture.

At present, renowned Bhagavata exponent Shri Ram Mudgal Shastri is narrating the Bhagavata Purana at Shri Krishna Kripa Dham, Haridwar, under the guidance of Swami Gyananand Ji.

Among those present at the satsang were Market Committee Chairman Shiv Nath Kapoor, Vishwa Hindu Parishad district president Balram Kapoor, Tilak Raj Arora, devotional singer Ratan Rasik and a large number of devotees.

Devbhoomi showcases blend of cultural heritage and urban development: Renu Bala Gupta

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, JUNE 4

The 17th meeting of the All India Mayors' Council in Rishikesh witnessed a unique confluence of urban development discussions and India's rich cultural and spiritual heritage. The event featured a grand Ganga Aarti at Triveni Ghat and a cultural evening attended by mayors and dignitaries from across the country.

The programmes were held in the presence of Council President and Karnal Mayor Renubala Gupta. Uttarakhand Cabinet Minister Pradeep Batra was also present on the occasion.

The Ganga Aarti at Triveni Ghat created a spiritually charged atmosphere with Vedic chants, the glow of thousands of lamps and the resonance of temple bells.

Participants offered prayers for national progress, public welfare and societal prosperity.

The cultural evening that followed showcased the rich folk traditions of Uttarakhand. Re-



nowned folk singer Pritam Bharatwan captivated the audience with his energetic performances. The presentations, rooted in devotion, folk consciousness and cultural values, emerged as one of the major attractions of the event. Speaking on the occasion,

Renubala Gupta said such programmes serve as an effective medium for passing on India's cultural traditions, folk heritage and spiritual values to younger generations. She emphasised that along with urban development, equal attention must be given to the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage. During the event, Renubala Gupta and former BJP acting district president Brij Gupta also held an interaction with Cabinet Minister Pradeep Batra. Highlighting the significance of the programme, the Mayor said the spiritual and cultural events organised alongside the council meeting reflected the vibrancy of Indian culture. She added that the blend of urban development, cultural heritage and spiritual awareness would further strengthen the identity of Rishikesh as a centre of faith.



Senior BJP leader Ashok Khurana of Karnal congratulates newly appointed Haryana BJP president Dr Archana Gupta by presenting a bouquet after she formally assumed charge in Panchkula on Wednesday.

Photo: Shiv Kumar Sharma.

Nutritious diet essential to combat illness: Chawla

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL: Along with medical treatment, prayers are also essential. Providing a nutritious diet is crucial for combating any illness. Today, it is imperative to instill a sense of self-reliance—alongside the values of thrift and Swadeshi within society. These remarks were made by Salish Chawla, the National Guardian of the full-time workers of the Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM). He was speaking at a program for the distribution of nutritious diet kits to TB patients, organized by the Medical Cell of the SJM's Senior Citizens' Wing. The event was held at the Shani Mandir Dharamshala in the Dakaut Basti area of Chand Sarai. This initiative has been ongoing for the past nine months. To date, 345 nutritious diet kits have been distributed.



The programme is being conducted in collaboration with the District Health Department. The Medical Cell of the SJM's Senior Citizens' Wing also organizes a medical camp every Sunday, where medicines are provided to patients free of cost. Present on this occasion, representing the Health Department, were Dr. Simmi Agarwal, along with Neeru Setia and other health workers. During the event, valuable information regarding their condition was shared with the TB patients. Prominent figures present at the program included Suresh Puri, Pravesh Agarwal, Dr. P.P. Agarwal, Inder Khurana, Subhash Gupta, Naresh Chawla, R.K. Sharma, Chiranjeev Badhwa, Dr. O.P. Gogia, Dinesh Garg, Pradeep Chaudhary, Bhajan Lal, and Dinesh Chhabra.

Manohar Lal synonymous with public service, good governance and development: Amarendra Singh Arora

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, JUNE 4

Former Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee president and senior BJP leader Amarendra Singh Arora on Wednesday described former Haryana Chief Minister and current Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar as a leader whose tenure was marked by public service, transparent governance and development.

Arora said Khattar's name occupies a significant place in Haryana's political history for prioritising transparency, honesty and public welfare. He stated that under Khattar's leadership, Haryana witnessed substantial progress in development, good governance and digital transformation between 2014 and 2024.

According to Arora, Khattar's political journey has been characterised by simplicity, organisational strength and

dedication to public welfare. He said the former chief minister sought to take governance beyond government offices and bring public services closer to citizens, with a focus on



ensuring that the benefits of development reached the last person in society.

Highlighting the government's recruitment policies, Arora said Khattar placed emphasis on merit-based selections and introduced measures aimed at making recruitment processes more transparent through online applications, written examinations and the increased use of technology.

He said the slogan "Without recommendation, without bribery" became closely associated with the government's approach and helped strengthen confidence among young job seekers.

Arora further said that after becoming a Union Minister in 2024, Khattar continued to focus on infrastructure development, energy, urban development and the expansion of public services. He added that Haryana residents take pride in seeing an experienced leader from the state holding an important position at the national level.

He credited Khattar's government with promoting e-governance and digitising numerous public services, reducing the need for citizens to visit government offices and improving transparency. Arora also cited initiatives such as the Family Identity Card (PPP) system, which he said helped streamline the delivery of wel-

fare schemes to eligible beneficiaries.

Referring to social welfare measures, Arora said Khattar's administration promoted women's empowerment through initiatives including the "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" campaign and worked towards improving the state's gender ratio. He also highlighted efforts in agriculture, irrigation, education, healthcare, skill development and infrastructure expansion during the former chief minister's tenure.

Arora said Khattar is widely regarded by his supporters as a leader known for clean governance, transparent recruitment processes, digital administration and welfare-oriented policies. He added that the former chief minister's tenure is remembered by many supporters as a period of administrative reforms, public service and efforts to make Haryana a modern, capable and self-reliant state. He concluded by saying that Khattar's supporters continue to associate both his tenure as chief minister.

Martial Arts trainer Satish Rana offers self-Defence tips to students of 'Samarth' Initiative

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, JUNE 4

If daughters are empowered, society too will be safe. In today's times, undergoing self-defense training has become absolutely essential for young women, as it not only strengthens them physically but also boosts their self-confidence. This enables them to defend themselves effectively in any emergency situation—and, significantly, without the need for any weapons. This sentiment was expressed today by International Master Satish Kumar Rana during a programme organised by Seva Bharti at the Seva Shri Ashram. Satish Kumar Rana visited the Ashram today to conduct a self-defense training session for the students enrolled in the 'Samarth Kishori Prakalp' (Empowered Adolescent Girls Project). Accompanied by international gold medalist and Black Belt holder Sarita Rohila, he taught the students various self-defense techniques—demonstrating how to protect oneself during emergencies and how to face difficult situations with confidence.

They also demonstrated how to teach a lesson to an aggressor in instances of snatching or harassment while walking alone on the street. Approximately 100 students participated enthusiastically in the program, including students from Nirmal Kutiya School as well as those un-



dergoing vocational training at the sewing, beauty care, and computer centers. All the students displayed a keen interest in learning the various self-defense exercises and actively demonstrated their proficiency by practicing the moves themselves. This special self-defense training was imparted to the young women under the aegis of International Master Satish Kumar Rana, the National President of the Martial Arts Foundation of India. The event was attended by several members and office-bearers of Seva Bharti, including Provincial Co-Treasurer and District Guardian Surendra Goyal, District Chief Vipin Arora, District Treasurer Naresh Mata, as well as Preeti Kukreja, Alka Chaudhary, Anita Singh, and teachers Asha, Sanchita, Poonam, and Supriya.

Youth Congress announces protest against alleged NEET paper leak and irregularities in government recruitment

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL: The Youth Congress has announced a series of protests against the alleged NEET examination paper leak and irregularities in government recruitment processes. As part of the campaign, a torchlight march will be held in Pannipat on June 5, according to Haryana Youth Congress senior vice-president Somil Sandhu.

Sandhu said party workers participating in the march will assemble near Skylark Resort before the procession begins. He added that Uday Bhanu Chib is expected to lead the torchlight march. Addressing the issue, Sandhu said students across the country are demanding justice, transparency and accountability. He alleged that examination paper leaks have jeopardised the future of millions of students and called for action against those responsible.

He further alleged that irregularities in examinations and recruitment processes were depriving young people of employment opportunities. Referring to the recent controversy surrounding the NEET examination, Sandhu claimed that the incident had adversely affected the future prospects of a large number of aspirants. The Youth Congress leader demanded the dissolution of the National Testing Agency and sought the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.



Changing lifestyles and excessive screen time pose serious health risks: Dr Anshul Rodhwanshi

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, JUNE 4

Dr Anshul Rodhwanshi, a gynaecologist at Naitrapal Rawal Hospital in Karnal, has said that changing lifestyles and delayed motherhood are among the major factors contributing to the rise in health issues among women.

Speaking about emerging health concerns, Dr Rodhwanshi said hormonal imbalances are becoming increasingly common and are linked to several medical conditions affecting women. She noted that reduced physical activity is also a significant reason behind the growing number of Caesarean deliveries compared to normal childbirth.

She expressed concern over excessive mobile phone use and prolonged screen exposure, stating that these habits are adversely affecting women's health. According to



her, increasing consumption of junk food and spending excessive time on digital screens are among the factors contributing to declining fertility rates among women.

Dr Rodhwanshi said conditions such as Polycystic Ovary Disease (PCOD) are becoming more prevalent. She added that the trend of marrying later in life and postponing motherhood is also posing health risks for women.

She advised pregnant women to minimise television viewing and reduce mobile phone usage during pregnancy, while emphasising the importance of adopting healthier lifestyle habits.

Highlighting the need for greater awareness, she said society must work towards promoting healthier routines and preventive healthcare practices. Dr Rodhwanshi informed that she completed her MBBS from Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences Rohtak and later earned her MD from King George's Medical University. She has been working as a consultant for the past nine years.

She observed that people today are becoming increasingly conscious about their health but added that rapidly changing lifestyles continue to pose significant challenges to maintaining overall well-being.

EDITORIAL

Wake-up call for the judiciary

Pendency of cases in courts is a huge legacy issue and an unsettling reality of the world's largest democracy. A steady rise in arrears, regardless of periodic increases in judicial strength, has been a constant phenomenon since Independence. As of early 2026, the number of pending cases across the country crossed a staggering 5.8 crore. District and subordinate courts alone account for close to 4.9 crore of these cases. The high courts collectively carry over 60 lakh, while the Supreme Court is straining under the weight of over 92,000 pending matters. Frequent adjournments on flimsy grounds have been the bane of the justice delivery system. Against this backdrop, the Supreme Court's latest direction to all high courts to curb delays in the pronouncement of judgments is a welcome step that could go a long way in reducing pendency. It has set a three-month deadline for high courts for the delivery of verdicts from the date of reserving the order. Delayed judgments are not merely a function of administrative lapses but also amount to a denial of justice itself. It was in the Anil Rai case (2001) that the SC observed the worrisome practice among HC judges of first reserving verdicts and then failing to pronounce judgments for months or even years, or delivering only the operative parts of the verdict with a promise to provide detailed reasons later, which in some cases was not done. This practice should hopefully end with the latest ruling from the top court. When cases are reserved for judgment indefinitely, it is the litigants who suffer the most. And, in many cases, the outcomes would carry major implications for the parties involved. In the case of undertrials, the situation is all the more pathetic. Many continue to languish in jail despite hearings being completed, while victims and their families remain gripped by uncertainty. In fact, undertrials constitute an alarming 70% of India's prisoners, and most of them remain in prisons for periods beyond the prescribed punishment applicable to the cases they are charged with. This exposes serious lacunae in the criminal justice system. No wonder India's prisons are largely overcrowded. The SC's directive that bail orders be issued the same day — or at the latest, the next day — is therefore very timely, humane and constitutionally necessary. The SC's focus on transparency is also welcome. By directing high courts to upload judgments within 24 hours and disclose timelines relating to reservation, pronouncement and uploading of verdicts, the judiciary is embracing greater accountability. Quality of judgments and timely delivery would go a long way in strengthening public faith in the judiciary. Severe shortage of judges is often cited as the main reason for the alarming pendency levels. Other contributing factors include lack of court management systems, poor infrastructure, frequent adjournments, lawyers' strikes and indiscriminate use of writ jurisdiction.

Killjoy moment for tourists as forest fires play havoc in Uttarakhand

Tourists are heading to the hills in hordes. Uttarakhand, which has Nanda Devi (7,816m) and Nanda Kot (6,861), two prominent peaks apart from the Panchachuli peaks and Mt Trishul, is much sought after destinations in the summers. While tourists are trying to avoid the heat of the plains, many of them want to see the snow-peaked Himalayan mountain ranges.

However, many visitors are returning disappointed. They complain of spending thousands of rupees to see the Himalayan peaks but can see none. Some also complain of unexpected heat in the mountains.

Reason: Forest fires are playing spoilsport.

The fires are not only generating excessive heat, it is also generating smoke, which is clouding the view of the mountain ranges.

As a tourist, I too was disappointed and felt the administration is not doing enough to check the fires in time. The enormity of the fires makes you think if they are all natural. Our taxi driver, Mr Chouhan, said many of these fires are fed by locals.

Most of the fires are in the Kumaon region.

A tourist from Palta, Barrackpore in West Bengal, Mr Das, had come to the hills with his family with the hope of seeing the Himalayan range. But he was devastated. "We had come all this distance (Binsar) to see the range. But what we see is smoke everywhere."

Another set of tourists, retired friends from Chandannagar, Hooghly, West Bengal, were visiting Chaukori with their wives just to see the Nanda Devi range. Armed with telly lens, they left disappointed.



"Our dream of capturing the range in our cameras has remained a dream. The forest fires have ruined our visit."

Vivek Pandey, who runs a quaint little space with five-six rooms, Chestnut Grove in Vijaypur, says the fires have been a spot of bother not only for the tourists but also for nature lovers like him. "We get a lot of tourists who tell us they expected the weather to be cleaner and greener and the forest fires have ruined their visit. We have had incidents where the guests have checked out early as they had no sighting of the Himalayan ranges," Pandey said.

"At the Chestnut group, we

have gone an extra mile to save the forests around us. On the other side, the ridge has seen growing of oak and rhododendron, which has grown on its own after we stopped the fires from happening," added the nature lover.

Pandey said that a couple of years back, some mischievous person had put on a fire near his place. He stopped it before it could become big, but that incident took him back by at least five years.

"It is disappointing for us, not only from the business point of view but also for our love for nature. Whenever we see or hear of a forest fire, we try to stop it on our own without

bothering to call for any help," said Pandey.

Hemendra Bartwal, a political analyst and journalist, who has his ancestral house in Pouri town, under Pouri Garhwal district, agrees that each year the fires play havoc with the pollution and tourism.

He says during his childhood days the forest fires were very rare and never reached his house, which is very close to the forest. But in the last 10-15 years, these forest fires have gone up manifold, he says, which is altering the climate of the area.

"The population has gone up. Many govt accommodations

have come up in the forests after unrestricted cutting of trees. Vehicular traffic has also gone up, leading to pollution. Tourism infrastructure is crumbling. The dry grass forms a carpet on the ground and is unsuitable for the livestock. This carpet also restricts further growth of fresh grass, which is why the villagers burn the dry grass. After rains, fresh grass grows, which helps them feed their livestock," said Bartwal.

The veteran journalist says the govt has tried to tell the villagers that they should not put in these fires and also offered them with incentives but it has not worked.

"The timber mafia has its own agenda. Since cutting trees in the hills is a crime, the mafia encourages the burning of grass. When the grass burns, the pine tree roots and its base is also burnt to a certain extent. The trees become weak and fall. Then the forest dept auctions these trees, helping the timber mafia," adds Bartwal.

A massive fire had broken out in the forests of Ratmatiya and Bheta in Bageshwar in the last few days of last month.

Around 1.72 hectares of forest have been damaged by fires in 97 days. So far in the fire season, about one hectare of forest has been destroyed by fire. Meanwhile, 72 hectares of forest areas have been damaged by forest fire in the last two days till 21 May, said a report by Dainik Jagran. According to the state forest department more than 5,000 foresters are deployed to track and douse forest fires in the state. More than 400 hectares of forest land was affected by forest fires this summer season.

Now with the occasional rains, the fires have ebbed to a large extent.

Govt set to scrap Capital Gains Tax on FPI investments in G-Secs

In a significant move to bolster India's appeal as an investment destination, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the scrapping of capital gains tax on investments in government

ordinance route to fast-track the relief measure, bypassing the need to wait for a parliamentary session. A formal notification is expected to be issued by this week, government sources told

improve the yield attractiveness of Indian sovereign debt for overseas investors, who have long flagged the tax as a deterrent. Government sources indicated that Wednesday's decision is not a standalone step. Further measures are being planned to encourage capital inflows into India and to cushion the economy against the cascading effects of the ongoing West Asia conflict, which has rattled global financial markets and supply chains in recent months. The move comes at a time when global investors are reassessing emerging market exposures amid geopolitical uncertainty. By removing the capital gains burden on government securities, New Delhi is signalling its intent to deepen the participation of foreign capital in its sovereign bond market, a step that could also support the rupee and help manage India's borrowing costs.

ANI. Under the existing tax framework, foreign investors are liable to pay 12.5 per cent Long Term Capital Gains (LTCG) tax on listed shares and bonds held for more than 12 months. The exemption on government securities is expected to significantly

securities by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs). The decision, taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday, will be implemented through an ordinance amending the Income Tax Act. The government has chosen the

From Newsroom to national landmark: Delhi's iconic Britannia Chowk renamed to honor fearless journalist Ashwini Minna



Ashwini Kumar Chopra Ji belonged to the prominent Hind Samachar and Punjab Kesari media family, a lineage defined by its unyielding, independent stance during the height of terrorism in Punjab.

One of Delhi's busiest intersections, Britannia Chowk, has been officially renamed "Ashwini Minna Chowk" in honor of the late veteran journalist, former Member of Parliament, and senior

media personality Ashwini Kumar Chopra Ji. Located in North-West Delhi near Lawrence Road, Keshav Puram, and Shakurpur, the landmark intersection serves as a prominent daily transit point. The renaming by municipal authorities stands as a lasting public tribute to Chopra Ji—popularly known as "Ashwini Minna"—who passed away on January 18, 2020. Respected across political lines for his fearless editorial voice, nationalist outlook, and distinct contributions to both Indian media and national politics, the new designation immortalizes a powerful legacy built on courage and public commitment.

A Legacy Born in the Crucible of Fearless Journalism Ashwini Kumar Chopra Ji belonged to the prominent

Hind Samachar and Punjab Kesari media family, a lineage defined by its unyielding, independent stance during the height of terrorism in Punjab. He carried forward a profound and deeply personal journalistic legacy: Grandson of Lala Jagat Narain Ji: The family patriarch and pioneering journalist who was assassinated for his uncompromising writings. Son of Romesh Chander Ji: He also lost his life standing firmly for the freedom of the press. Stepping into these massive shoes, Ashwini Chopra Ji took over the reins as Resident Editor of Punjab Kesari in Delhi. Over decades, his sharp editorials and fierce, independent commentary established the publication as a leading voice in the national capital, earning

him deep respect from peers and political adversaries alike. Transition to Public Service and Politics In 2014, Chopra Ji successfully transitioned his public advocacy into direct political action. Running on a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ticket, he was elected as a Member of Parliament representing the Karnal constituency in Haryana. During his tenure in the Lok Sabha, he remained an outspoken advocate for: Media ethics and press freedom Strong governance and anti-corruption measures Public welfare initiatives for underserved communities A Versatile Early Life Beyond the newsroom and parliament, Chopra Ji was also remembered as a highly talented sportsman in his youth. Before dedicating himself full-

time to journalism, he was a skilled first-class cricketer who represented Punjab, recognized by contemporaries as a promising athlete with a deep love for the game. A Permanent Landmark for Courage Chopra Ji passed away in 2020 after a brave battle with cancer, a loss that was widely mourned by top political leaders, journalists, and public figures nationwide. For the residents of North-West Delhi and the larger Indian journalism fraternity, the transformation of Britannia Chowk into Ashwini Minna Chowk is far more than a routine bureaucratic name change. It stands as a permanent visual reminder of a life dedicated to truth, public service, and independent thought.

TMC 2.0 is born, but will it find a place in the Sun?

It's official now, the Trinamool Congress party has split, with the majority of 59 out of 80 MLAs opting out of the party founded and led by Mamata Banerjee.

However, the big question is will this new party be able to win its place in the Sun? Parties, usually, need three things to sustain — firstly an ideology, secondly, a charismatic leader, and thirdly, popular support.

The questions which many are asking is — does the TMC 2.0, which will undoubtedly inherit the name and logo of the original TMC founded in 1998, be popular? Will it be able to inherit the support of the 41 per cent of the electorate who voted for Mamata Banerjee and her TMC in the last elections?

Questions will also swivel over whether the virtually unknown new leader Ritabrata Banerjee, (no relative of Mamata Banerjee), is charismatic enough to sustain the coup d'état against a woman who still has millions of followers? And last but not least, what exactly will be the new TMC's ideology?

The original Trinamool Congress was never a conventionally

ideological party in the mould of the Communists or the BJP. Its central ideology was opposition to the Left Front and, subsequently, the political project of Mamata Banerjee herself. The party's populism, Bengali regional pride, Leftist welfare programmes borrowed from socialist and communist parties, secular positioning and anti-CPI(M) legacy were all woven together through her leadership.

The challenge for TMC 2.0 is explaining what it stands for beyond opposition to Mamata Banerjee.

If the new leadership argues that it represents a more efficient, less personalised, less family-centric version of the Trinamool, that would be an organisational argument, but perhaps not an ideology. The problem for the new formulation is that voters rarely mobilise around internal party reforms. However, they do usually mobilise around identity, aspiration, grievance or belief.

Unless the new party can articulate a compelling political narrative distinct from both the BJP and Mamata Banerjee's camp, it risks



appearing as a faction rather than a movement.

The most important uncertainty concerns who will the TMC vote-bank ultimately support. The 59 MLAs who defected may have won their seats on Trinamool tickets, but those votes were not necessarily cast for them

individually. Many were votes for Mamata Banerjee's leadership, welfare schemes, party symbol and political branding.

This is the central dilemma facing every political split — When the legislative wing separates from the charismatic founder, who owns the

vote bank?

Will voters follow the organisational machinery or will they follow the leader or will they abandon both? The decisive test will come not in the Assembly head count but at the ballot box. If TMC 2.0 can demonstrate strength in municipal

polls, panchayat elections and by-elections, it will gain credibility. If it cannot convert individual legislators into vote-getters, its assembly majority may prove to be a chimera.

Indian politics offers examples pointing in opposite directions. The 2022 split in the Shiv Sena showed that control of the party organisation, legislators and symbol can provide a powerful advantage. However, even there, electoral legitimacy was and is a contested paradigm.

Conversely, many breakthrough factions across India have briefly controlled legislatures only to disappear when voters returned to the original leadership.

The crucial variable is whether the founder's personal appeal remains intact. History shows that the Congress party from which TMC was born, split several times and every time — the section which was bereft of these three props of ideological base, charismatic leader and popular support, later disappeared into political oblivion.

Even the charismatic Subhas Bose's break-away Forward Bloc, after Netaji's death and devoid of a

specific ideology, became an irrelevant "also ran". Congress (O), which was formed after the old guard decided to part ways with then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, hunted around for an ideology and leader through the 1960s only to be rendered into an "also ran" party, even though the Indira Gandhi-led Congress was denied the official symbol and party offices.

On the other hand, Indira Gandhi's success lay around the socialist principles she espoused along with a muscular yet secular nationalism and her own personal charisma. West Bengal's late chief minister Ajoy Mukherjee's Bangla Congress, which was founded in 1966 and led three governments within a short span, similarly disappeared without a trace even before it could celebrate its fifth anniversary.

The immediate question will not be whether TMC 2.0 survives next month or next year. It would be whether the new party can become something more than a coalition of legislators.

If it inherits the name and

symbol, it will inherit TMC's considerable organisational assets including perhaps its huge bank balance, fattened by electoral bond donations. However, names and symbols are ultimately nothing but claims to political legitimacy. To successfully transform the claims made by the new leadership, the party has to create acceptable political content.

To mark its presence and win its space among the electorate, the new party will have to define a political ideology that voters understand and differentiate from what Mamata Banerjee, the BJP or the Left Front espouses. The man on the street, politicians and analysts will be on the look-out to see whether Ritabrata, a 47-year-old who was earlier expelled from the CPI(M) after having been an upper house MP and whose brief description on X reads, "A proud Bengali & Indian. Incidentally MLA from Uluberia Purba, West Bengal & 2 times Former Member of Indian Parliament," can find enough traction among the highly argumentative people of Bengal to emerge as a leader who inspires loyalty among voters and not just numbers.

AMRISH ANAND DORAH: Senior women leaders of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) from the Payal constituency met senior party leader and MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal at the party's central office in Chandigarh to discuss organisational strengthening and expansion of the women's wing in the area. During the meeting, discussions were held on the political situation in Payal, grassroots outreach and increasing



women's participation in party activities. Senior women wing leader Bibi Jaspreet Kaur Dhaliwal said the party was witnessing growing public support in the constituency and workers were actively spreading the party's ideology at the grassroots level. She said women were emerging as a strong organisational force within the party and claimed that SAD would emerge stronger in Payal in the coming period.

NEWS BRIEF

AAP appoints Baljinder Chaunda as Punjab SC Wing state GS

AMRISH ANAND DORAH: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has appointed Baljinder Singh Chaunda as the State General Secretary of its SC Wing in Punjab, a move that has been welcomed by party workers and supporters across the region. Expressing gratitude to the party leadership, Chaunda thanked Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal, former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, Adil Ahmad Khan and Deepak Chauhan for reposing faith in him. He said he would work with full dedication to strengthen the SC Wing at the grassroots level and ensure that the party's welfare policies reach every section of society. Chaunda added that AAP has consistently worked for the upliftment of common people, backward classes and the Dalit community. He further said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, the Punjab government was fulfilling its promises to the people and taking key decisions in the fields of education, healthcare, employment and social welfare.

New call for Green Revolution to rise from Lucknow on World Environment Day

YUGMARG BUREAU LUCKNOW, JUNE 4

Uttar Pradesh is set to take another significant step towards promoting environmental conservation, circular economy and green industrial development. On the occasion of World Environment Day, a major initiative to promote bioplastics as an alternative to conventional plastics will be launched during "BioYug Green Command-2026", to be held on June 5 at Dilkusha Lawn in Lucknow Cantonment.

It is worth mentioning that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will attend the programme as the Chief Guest, while Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will be present as the Guest of Honour.

The Yogi Government, which has been continuously working towards making Uttar Pradesh the ethanol hub



of the country, is now linking innovations emerging from sugarcane-based industries with environmental conservation. Amid policies promoting ethanol production, bio-energy and green industries in the state, this bioplastics campaign is being seen as an important initiative towards sustainable development. Organised through the joint efforts of Balrampur Chini Mills Limited (BCML), one of India's leading integrated sugar and ethanol companies, and the Lucknow Cantonment Board, the programme will bring together policymakers, industry leaders, defence

representatives, research institutions and environmental experts. Detailed discussions will be held on strategies for large-scale adoption of bioplastics, production capacity, investment opportunities and market expansion.

The major attraction of the programme will be two high-level panel discussions. The first discussion, titled "Mandate to Market: Unlocking the Bioplastics Value Chain in Uttar Pradesh", will focus on the development of the bioplastics industry in the state, investment opportunities and government support.

The second discussion, "From Mess to Mission: Bioplastics for Defence", will feature experts sharing their views on the use of bioplastics in the defence sector, waste management and environmental benefits.

National roadmap for urban development formulated at 117th meeting of All India Council of Mayors

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL, JUNE 4

The 117th meeting of the All India Council of Mayors, held in the spiritual city of Rishikesh—located in the 'Devbhumi' (Land of Gods), Uttarakhand—has concluded successfully. Presided over by the Council's President and Mayor of Karnal, Renu Bala Gupta, the meeting brought together Mayors and urban development experts from across the nation. Through extensive deliberations on critical subjects—such as local self-governance, urban development, sanitation, digital administration, the expansion of infrastructure, and the provision of improved services to citizens—the participants formulated a roadmap for the future. Notably, throughout the two-day conference, the leadership of Council President Renu Bala Gupta remained a central highlight. While presiding over the second session of the meeting, she provided a shared platform for Mayors from across the country, facilitating a meaningful



dialogue regarding successful development models, innovations, and citizen-centric initiatives implemented in various cities. A special emphasis was placed during the meeting on the premise that by adopting one another's successful experiences, the cities of the nation can be transformed into cleaner, smarter, self-reliant, and citizen-friendly urban centers. Speaking on the occasion, Council President Renu Bala Gupta stated that local bodies constitute one of the most critical units of democracy, and that robust local self-governance undoubtedly serves as the foundation for the nation's holistic development. She

further remarked that organizations such as the All India Council of Mayors play a pivotal role in fostering better coordination among cities, facilitating the exchange of experiences, and ensuring the effective implementation of citizen-centric policies. Earlier, the first session of the meeting witnessed the participation of numerous distinguished guests, including Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, Urban Development Minister Ram Singh, Rishikesh Mayor Shambhu Paswan, Council General Secretary Ashutosh Varshney, and Cabinet Ministers Premchand Agarwal and Subodh Uniyal.

Saraswati Board Deputy Chairman inspects ongoing work on both sides of Saraswati river



HANS RAJ KURUKSHETRA: Saraswati Board Deputy Chairman Dhumant Singh Kirmach said that the work of building walls on both sides of the Saraswati river from Pipli to Jhansa Road in Thanesar was going on at a fast pace. Till now, three kilometers of work is almost completed by Saraswati Board and seven kilometers of Jhansa Road will be constructed. Its main objective is that water will never enter the city during the rainy season. Upon completion of this work, farmers and the general public will benefit. Saraswati Board Deputy Chairman Dhumant Singh Kirmach was inspecting the work of Saraswati River in Thanesar on Thursday and he directed the officials to complete this project soon. He said that this scheme of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini would benefit lakhs of people and the Saraswati Board is also saving all the ghats on the banks of Saraswati at the holy pilgrimage sites in this area. Till now all the temples and ghats come under Ashtakoshi Yatra. Work is going on those also.

Department launches major crackdown on illegal water connections in Mithapur



JAIBEER RANA THAMBER BARARA: With the objective of conserving drinking water and ensuring the smooth functioning of the water supply system, the Public Health Engineering Department conducted a special drive in the village of Mithapur to take action against illegal water connections. Acting under the directives of Executive Engineer Harbhajan Singh, a departmental team conducted inspections throughout the village during the drive, identifying numerous illegal connections and subsequently issuing notices to the violators. When the residents failed to disconnect their illegal lines despite these notices, the departmental team proceeded today to sever all such unauthorized connections. District Consultant Amit Khosla explained that illegal connections disrupt the overall drinking water supply, often resulting in consumers residing at the tail-end of the distribution network failing to receive an adequate quantity of water. The Department had been receiving complaints from villagers regarding low water pressure and irregular supply; this action was initiated in response to those complaints.

NIILM University, Kaithal announces 100% scholarships for 100 female students



SANJAY SHARMA KAITHAL: Setting a new milestone in the field of education, NIILM University, Kaithal, has launched the "HER Scholarship" scheme with the objective of empowering female students. Under this initiative, 100 meritorious female students will be awarded scholarships covering 100% of their tuition fees. Speaking at a press conference today, the University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Devender Singh Dhull, stated that the campus is equipped with Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and modern technologies designed to prepare students for the challenges of the future. This initiative by the university is set to bring a new identity to Haryana in the realms of education and innovation. 100% Tuition Fee Waiver – Applicable to the 100 selected female students. Eligibility – Female students who have secured a minimum of 85% marks are eligible to apply. Applications Open – Applications commenced on June 1, 2026, and the deadline for submission is June 11, 2026. The university management stated that the objective of the HER Scholarship is to provide equal opportunities for higher education to girls and to encourage their advancement in the fields of AI and technology. This scheme will also lend significant strength to the "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" (Save the Daughter, Educate the Daughter) campaign.

Aim of SIR campaign is to correct voter list, common citizens should cooperate with BLO: DC



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL: Deputy Commissioner and District Election Officer Dr. Anand Kumar Sharma during a press conference in the auditorium of the Mini Secretariat on Thursday, said that as per the instructions of the Election Commission of India, the work of special intensive revision of voter lists - 2026 was being conducted in the entire country. The objective of SIR is to correct the voter list so that no eligible citizen is deprived of getting his name registered in the voter list. He clarified that under this campaign, from June 15 to July 14, BLOs will go door-to-door to verify voters. During this time the name of any eligible person will not be removed from the voter list, only the name of the ineligible person will be removed from the voter list by adopting the process of issuing notice. Apart from this, youth who have completed 18 years of age considering July 1, 2026 as the qualifying date, will also be able to get their votes cast and will be included in the voter list. He informed that the qualifying date for special intensive revision has been fixed as July 1, 2026. According to the program, training and material distribution of BLOs will be done from June 5 to June 14. The draft voter list will be published on July 21 and claims and objections will be received from July 21 to August 20 which will be settled by the concerned ERO by September 18, 2026.

Lakshya Janhit Society liberates 3,100 trees from tree guards



CHAMAN LAL KARNAL: Tree guards, originally installed years ago for the sake of environmental conservation, are now, in many places, becoming a source of harm to the very trees they were meant to protect. These iron tree guards—erected with the objective of safeguarding saplings—have begun to cut into the trunks of fully grown trees because they were not removed in a timely manner. In numerous instances, sharp iron wires and mesh fencing have deeply embedded themselves into the trees, thereby adversely affecting their natural growth. In Karnal and its surrounding regions, one can observe many such trees trapped within the constricting grip of tree guards installed years ago.

Chairperson of Haryana State Commission for protection of Child Rights visits Kaithal

RANVIR PARASHAR KAITHAL, JUNE 4

Tripti Sheoran, Chairperson of the Haryana State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, visited the Civil Hospital, Bal Upvan Ashram, and Anganwadi centers on Thursday to take stock of the arrangements. She issued necessary directives to officials from the concerned departments who were present on the spot. She emphasized that all facilities for children and women must be provided in strict accordance with the rules, and that absolutely no negligence should be tolerated in this regard. Chairperson Tripti first arrived at the Civil Hospital, where she met with doctors in the PMO's office to gather information regarding the services being provided at the hospital. Subsequently, she inspected the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), the maternity ward, and the OPD, and interacted with women admitted to the



hospital who were present at the time. The women expressed their appreciation for the facilities being provided by the government. Following the inspection, she stated that high-standard facilities are being made available to children at the Civil Hospital, and directed that the provision of these facilities be maintained on a regular basis. She further emphasized that special attention must be paid to hygiene and general arrangements within the hospital premises.

Aryaveer and Arya Veerangana learn tricks of self-defense at Gurukul Kurukshetra

HANS RAJ KURUKSHETRA, JUNE 4

Thursday was a very exciting and full of energy day in the national camp of Universal Aryaveer Dal and the provincial character building camp of Arya Veerangana Dal going on in Gurukul Kurukshetra. In the camp, all the young Aryaveers and Aryaveerangnas from the country and the state were given special training in self-defense under the holy guidance of Swami Devvrat Ji Saraswati. It is worth noting that these camps have been organized in this Gurukul under the inspiration of the Governor of Gujarat, Acharya Devvrat, in which all the arrangements for



food, accommodation for the youth are being made by the Gurukul Management Committee under the chairmanship of Gurukul Head Rajkumar Garg. During today's session, the youth were taught the special tricks of Niyudham (an ancient Indian method of self-defense without weapons) by the certified and experienced exercise instructors of Aryaveer Dal. In the camp, the youth were given intensive practice on the techniques of maintaining patience in times of crisis and protecting themselves.

Yoga protocol training programme organised at Indira Gandhi P.G. Mahila Mahavidyalaya



SANJAY SHARMA KAITHAL: On the occasion of the 12th International Day of Yoga 2026, a Yoga Protocol Training Programme was successfully organised today at Indira Gandhi P.G. Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Kaithal, under the directions of the District Ayurvedic Officer, Kaithal. The programme was conducted to familiarize participants with the Common Yoga Protocol and prepare them for the main International Yoga Day celebrations. During the training session, yoga instructors appointed by the AYUSH Department guided students and participants through various yoga postures (asanas), pranayama techniques, and meditation practices. They also highlighted the numerous physical, mental, and emotional health benefits of regular yoga practice. The students participated enthusiastically and pledged to adopt a healthy and balanced lifestyle through yoga. In his message, Sh. Ram Bahadur Khurania, President of the Governing Body, emphasized that yoga is an integral part of Indian culture and encouraged students to make it a regular part of their daily lives.

Felicitation ceremony held at Brahma Kumaris Ashram in Sadhaura



PRITI SAINI SADHAURA: A felicitation ceremony was organised today at the Brahma Kumaris Ashram in Sadhaura. Haryana's former Education Minister, Kanwar Pal, attended the event as the Chief Guest. He inaugurated the programme by lighting a ceremonial lamp and lauded the work being undertaken by the Brahma Kumaris organisation. During the event, the former minister delivered a strong message against drug abuse. Additionally, he made a significant statement regarding Chief Minister Nayab Saini's upcoming visit to the Sadhaura Assembly constituency on June 5th. He stated that this visit is being organised by Renu Bala—an MLA expelled from the Congress party—and her husband, Rishi Pal. The felicitation ceremony took place today at the Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwavidyalaya (Spiritual University) located in Sadhaura. Former Education Minister Kanwar Pal graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Upon his arrival at the ashram, he was welcomed by the sisters of the organization with garlands of flowers.

Mayors from across the nation join divine aarti of Maa Ganga



SHIV KUMAR SHARMA KARNAL: During the 117th meeting of the All India Council of Mayors, the divine Aarti (ritual worship) of Maa Ganga—held at Triveni Ghat in the Devbhoomi Rishikesh—became a magnificent confluence of faith and spirituality. Council President and Mayor of Karnal, Renu Bala Gupta, along with mayors and elected representatives arriving from across the country, participated in the Aarti to offer prayers for the nation's progress and the welfare of its people. Uttarakhand Cabinet Minister Pradeep Batra was also present on this auspicious occasion. Amidst the chanting of Vedic mantras, the blowing of conch shells, and the ethereal glow of thousands of lamps, the entire ghat became completely immersed in an atmosphere of deep devotion.

Dr. Archana Gupta's appointment as BJP State President enhances prestige of Agarwal Community: Rateria

DINKAR GAWRI HANSI: Expressing their delight over the Bharatiya Janata Party's appointment of Dr. Archana Gupta as the Haryana State President, the Agrabandhu Parishad has hailed this move as a historic decision for both the organisation and the community. Extending his gratitude to the BJP's national and state leadership, Advocate Dharamvir Rateria, President of the Parishad, stated that this appointment has bestowed a distinct honour and prestige upon the Agarwal community. He remarked that Dr. Archana Gupta is an experienced, diligent, educated individual deeply dedicated to public service; having remained active in the social and political spheres for a considerable period, she has made significant contributions toward strengthening the organisation. Given her work ethic, organisational capabilities, and leadership skills, entrusting her with the responsibility of State President is a decision that is entirely appropriate and highly welcome. Advocate Dharamvir Rateria further noted that the BJP has consistently strived to provide fair representation to all sections of society. By handing over the reins of the state unit to Dr. Archana Gupta, the party has also accorded a new recognition to women's leadership.



NEWS BRIEF

Selling on Amazon enabled Somani Packaging to replace millions of plastic units across India
SHIMLA: As a time when plastic disposables were deeply embedded in daily life, mounting landfill pressure and packaging waste exposed a critical gap in the market for practical alternatives. To bridge this gap, Somani Packaging was launched in 2014 in Hyderabad with a clear mission: to make functional, everyday sustainable packaging widely accessible. Over the years, Amazon India has been instrumental in amplifying the brand's visibility, unlocking wider access to eco-friendly options for conscious consumers nationwide. From its early days, the brand operated in a space where eco-friendly alternatives were still far from mainstream and largely limited to niche demand. What began as a small setup with a limited product range has grown into a sustainable packaging and tableware business serving more than 40,000 customers.

Sintex introduces SMART Tank in Ludhiana to ensure safe water storage and long-term health protection
LUDHIANA: Sintex, a part of Welspun World India's leading and trusted manufacturer of quality water storage solutions, has launched an innovative Sintex SMART Tank in Ludhiana. The tank is made from 100% virgin plastic, ensuring it is food-grade and safe for long-term potable water storage, thus prioritising the health and well-being of Indian households. Understanding the budget-conscious needs of Indian households, Sintex has priced SMART Tank economically with an 8 years warranty, ensuring that quality water storage solutions are within the reach of every family in Ludhiana. Today, top players in the market offer a plethora of plastic tanks at economical price points but many of them are made from recycled plastic, which can pose significant health risks. Typically, when buyers purchase a water tank, they are guided by sellers to focus only on price, colour or number of layers, often lacking awareness of the tank's material quality and safety.

Reliance Consumer launches Alan's Potato Chips Limited-Edition Football Collection
Chandigarh: As football fever grips fans across the globe, Reliance Consumer Products Limited (RCPL) is bringing the excitement from the world's biggest sporting stage straight to snack lovers with the launch of a special limited-edition range from Alan's Potato Chips. Inspired by some of football's most iconic nations, the new collection features four globally inspired flavours that capture the spirit, taste and energy of Spain, Argentina, Brazil and Portugal. Available in convenient packs priced at ₹10, ₹20 and ₹50, the limited-edition ranges aims to make the celebrations even more flavourful for consumers across India. The limited-edition collection has been crafted keeping evolving consumer preferences in mind. Tomato continues to be one of India's most-loved flavour profiles, while cheese-based snacks are witnessing strong growth among consumers. At the same time, demand for spicy and bold taste experiences continues to surge.

CPL's Franchisee teams jerseys unveiled, trophy to be launched on Sunday
CHANDIGARH: The Chandigarh Premier League (CPL) 2026 under the aegis of UT Cricket Association (UTCA) hosted its Official Jersey Unveiling of all the six participating franchisee teams at the Hotel Lait on Thursday. Former IAS officer Rajesh Khullar, former Chief Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister of Haryana, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and applauded the efforts of the organisers in strengthening the sporting culture of the region. Jerseys reflected a perfect blend of modern sporting aesthetics and the league's vibrant identity. Featuring bold colours, dynamic patterns and contemporary designs, the jerseys captured the energy, passion and competitive spirit of T20 cricket. Sanjay Tandon, Member, Founder President, UTCA said: "The unveiling of the team jerseys marks the beginning of another exciting season and we are confident that CPL 2026 will raise the bar further in terms of competition, professionalism."

Massive flag march conducted in Doraha under senior police officials
DORAHA, [JAMRISH ANAND]: In a major security exercise aimed at maintaining law and order, Punjab Police conducted a large-scale flag march in Doraha under the leadership of Ludhiana Police Commissioner Swapan Sharma Ips and Khanna SSP Dr Darpan Ahluwalia Ips. The march was carried out across key and sensitive areas of the town to instill confidence among residents and send a strong message against any attempt to disturb peace and communal harmony. Senior police officials urged people to maintain brotherhood and cooperate with the administration in ensuring a peaceful atmosphere. Among those present during the march were SP Khanna Harpinder Kaur Gill, DSP Pawan Kumar, DSP Gabbar Singh, Rao Varinder Singh, SHO Doraha Akash Dutt and SHO Payal Talwinder Kumar Bedi, along with a large contingent of police personnel. Before the flag march, Commissioner Swapan Sharma reviewed the overall security arrangements, vigilance measures and operational preparedness with Khanna police officials.

8 out of 12 samples collected from dairies in Amritsar city fail quality tests
AMRITSAR (HARPALSINGH) - Acting on the directions of the Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration, Punjab, a team constituted by the headquarters under the leadership of Assistant Commissioner Food, Dr. G.S. Panu, collected 12 samples of milk and milk products from various dairies in Amritsar city on May 21, 2026, and sent them for testing to the Food Laboratory, Kharar. Out of these 12 samples, 2 were found unsafe, 6 were found substandard, while only 4 samples passed the quality test. Providing details, Dr. G.S. Panu stated that from Gill Dairy, Adda Gonsabad, Ram Tirath Road, two samples of paneer were taken, out of which one was found unsafe and the other substandard. Similarly, a milk sample taken from Guru Nanak Dairy, Ram Tirath Road, Putilghar, was found substandard. He further informed that one paneer sample and one milk sample from Guru Dairy, Putilghar, were also found substandard.

Permod Ricard India Unveils 'Royal Stag Barrel Select Reserve Whisky'
DHARAMSHALA: Royal Stag Barrel Select from Permod Ricard India proudly announces the launch of its newest variant: Royal Stag Barrel Select Reserve Whisky. Designed for the discerning few who seek distinction and depth in every sip, this new expression is a testament to the brand's relentless pursuit of excellence and commitment to innovation in Indian whisky. The new variant features a tall, sleek bottle that exudes elegance, complemented by a premium clear-on-clear label. A first in the category, Endorsed by Master Blender Kevin Balmforth, the new product underscores authenticity and expertise. Crafted with the assurance of the Triple Select Promise, Royal Stag Barrel Select Reserve Whisky brings together three superior product attributes: Select Indian grain spirits, Select Scotch malted in Select American oak barrels. The result is a liquid that reflects the highest standards of craftsmanship and quality. A testament to the brand's commitment to creating an exceptional blend for the discerning few.

PGIMER highlights heatwave preparedness, indoor heat risks on World Heat Action Day

CHANDIGARH: Considering the increasing frequency and severity of heatwaves, the Department of Community Medicine and School of Public Health, PGIMER Chandigarh, observed World Heat Action Day and Environment Day 2026 under the global theme "Indoor Heat." This event brought together specialists from clinical medicine, public health, environmental health, and meteorology to discuss evidence-based approaches to reducing heat-related illnesses and building community resilience.



Prof. Arun Kumar Aggarwal, Head of the Department of Community Medicine and School of Public Health at PGIMER Chandigarh, inaugurated the session and emphasized the need to document successful practices, based on evidence, to enhance the reduction of public health risks through effective climate adaptation strategies. He further added that generating evidence relevant to local contexts and translating it into models that can be used at a larger scale is important for guiding preparedness and response efforts across health systems.

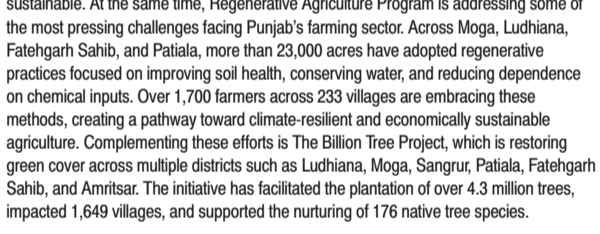
That, compared to the last decade, the frequency of heatwave days has increased by a factor of 4. He emphasized that the meteorological department is focusing on the early warning system to disseminate information through the SACHET and MAUSAM Applications as risk-reduction strategies. The talk by Prof. Ravindra Khaival focused on how we can build heat-resilient communities in India. He stressed that heatwaves are often considered an outdoor problem, but indoor conditions can also stay dangerously hot for long periods, creating significant health risks, particularly for vulnerable groups that include children, older adults, pregnant women, individuals with ongoing health issues, and households with low income. Hence, there is a need to focus on

protecting the vulnerable population, as heatwave-related mortality is significantly high among them, by providing proper social and infrastructure support. He also stated that we can minimize the effects of increasing temperatures, known as the Urban Heat Island, by adopting nature-based solutions and sustainable urban planning for Blue-Grey-Green infrastructure. Discussing the clinical effects of heat exposure, Dr. Ashish Behera, Assistant Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at PGIMER Chandigarh, remarked that extreme heat can cause dehydration, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke, and can worsen conditions related to the cardiovascular, respiratory, and kidney systems. He emphasized that heat-related illness often begins with non-

specific symptoms such as dizziness, fatigue, dehydration, and muscle cramps, but can rapidly progress to life-threatening complications. Clinicians should maintain a high index of suspicion during periods of extreme heat and prioritize rapid cooling, fluid replacement, and early intervention to prevent severe outcomes. Dr. Bijaya K. Padhi, Associate Professor, mentioned that awareness, preparation, and community engagement are essential for protecting at-risk populations from the health effects of heat. He highlighted the importance of collaboration across multiple sectors among public health professionals, urban planners, meteorologists, healthcare providers, policymakers, and local communities to address the growing problem of indoor and outdoor heat.

4.3 Million Trees Planted, 87,000 Tons Waste Managed Across Punjab

CHANDIGARH: Environmental sustainability is no longer just about conservation. It is about creating systems that enable communities to thrive while restoring natural ecosystems. Across Punjab, integrated initiatives in waste management, regenerative agriculture, and afforestation are demonstrating how grassroots action can deliver measurable environmental and social impact. In several districts, including Moga, Bhatinda, Patiala, Jalandhar and Faridkot, Waste Management initiatives are helping rural communities adopt waste segregation, composting, and responsible disposal practices. These efforts have enabled the management of over 87,000 tons of wet waste, generated more than 17,000 tons of compost, and positively impacted nearly 88,000 households. By transforming waste into a resource, villages are becoming cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable. At the same time, Regenerative Agriculture Program is addressing some of the most pressing challenges facing Punjab's farming sector. Across Moga, Ludhiana, Fatehgarh Sahib, and Patiala, more than 23,000 acres have adopted regenerative practices focused on improving soil health, conserving water, and reducing dependence on chemical inputs. Over 1,700 farmers across 233 villages are embracing these methods, creating a pathway toward climate-resilient and economically sustainable agriculture. Complementing these efforts is The Billion Tree Project, which is restoring green cover across multiple districts such as Ludhiana, Moga, Sangur, Patiala, Fatehgarh Sahib, and Amritsar. The initiative has facilitated the plantation of over 4.3 million trees, impacted 1,649 villages, and supported the nurturing of 176 native tree species.



Dubai Summer Surprises 2026 Promises Biggest-Ever Season of Deals and Entertainment

CHANDIGARH: Dubai is gearing up for its most value-packed summer festival yet as Dubai Summer Surprises (DSS) 2026 returns from July 2 to August 30, bringing 60 days of shopping, entertainment, dining, family attractions and exclusive offers across the city. Organised by the Dubai Festivals and Retail Establishment (DFRE), this year's festival carries the theme "Make it a Dubai Summer", featuring major retail promotions, live entertainment, family experiences and rewarding shopping campaigns. A key highlight will be the Great Dubai Summer Sale, offering discounts of up to 90 percent, exclusive brand promotions and flash deals. From August 3 to 30, the Back-to-School campaign will provide attractive offers on school supplies, fashion, electronics and student technology products. Adding excitement to the festival, shoppers spending AED 500 or more at participating outlets will be eligible for the Win Your Home in Dubai initiative. Conducted in partnership with Dubai Chambers and Binghatti Developers, the campaign will offer 12 residential units, including 11 studio apartments and a grand-prize two-bedroom apartment.

Narayana Student Arnav Jain excels in JEE Advanced 2026 with AIR 84

MOHALI: Narayana Educational Institutions has once again demonstrated its academic excellence by delivering outstanding results in JEE Advanced 2026 and achieving remarkable success at the national level. Computer Science Engineering at IIT Delhi, Arnav credited his success to the unwavering support of his parents, dedicated teachers, and the academic guidance provided by Narayana. Narayana achieved outstanding results in the Tricity region (Chandigarh, Mohali, and Panchkula), with the best rank being AIR 84, one of the leading results in the region. Furthermore, 12 students from Narayana Tricity secured positions within the All India Top 1000 ranks. This year, Narayana students secured excellent ranks across the country, reaffirming the institution's commitment to quality education, discipline, and result-oriented teaching methodologies. At the national level, Narayana students secured AIR 5, AIR 6, AIR 13, AIR 14, AIR 15, AIR 16, and AIR 20, bringing great pride to the institution.



Princess Asharaje Gaekwad to Launch GMSCL in Nepal

New Delhi: The Global Mega Street Cricket League (GMSCL), the international expansion of the Gali Mohalla Cricket League (GMCL), is set to enter Nepal with the support of Princess Asharaje Gaekwad as the country partner. Announcing the development, Baba Inder Preet said the initiative aims to strengthen grassroots cricket in Nepal and create a larger talent pool for national and international cricket selections across multiple age groups and formats. Princess Asharaje Gaekwad said her long association with sports, through Nepal's renowned Rana family and the Royal Family of Baroda, has inspired her commitment to promoting sports as a platform for youth empowerment. She said the partnership with GMSCL would provide young boys and girls in Nepal an opportunity to participate and pursue cricket professionally at both national and international levels. The league is expected to be officially launched through a press conference in Kathmandu and is being positioned as one of Nepal's largest grassroots cricket initiatives. A key feature of the competition will be the introduction of the newly developed "Double Wicket - T3 Format" alongside tournaments in leather-ball cricket, tennis-ball open-ground cricket and BSM cricket. Competitions will be organised in Under-14, Under-16, Under-19, Under-23 and 23-plus categories for both men and women. Players and teams will be selected through a unified international points-based ranking system. Top-performing cricketers from participating nations will also be invited to compete in local tournaments across the 11 countries involved in GMSCL, providing greater exposure and opportunities to showcase their talent. The league also plans to organise Inter-School, Inter-College, Inter-Club, Corporate and Open Category tournaments in T10, T15, T20 and T3 Double Wicket formats at the national level. Organisers believe the initiative will help identify emerging talent at the grassroots level while creating new pathways for players to progress into higher levels of competitive cricket.

Chinese Imports Hit Gujarat's Stainless Steel MSMEs, Thousands of Jobs at Stake

HISAR - The Stainless Steel Induction Furnace Association Gujarat and Stainless Steel Re-Rollers Association Gujarat, representing a large number of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) across the stainless steel value chain, have expressed deep concern over the recent suspension of the Quality Control Order (QCO) applicable to stainless steel products. The associations stated that the suspension of QCO has opened the door for a surge of low-priced imports from China, placing domestic MSME manufacturers under severe pressure and threatening thousands of jobs and substantial investments made by Indian entrepreneurs. The stainless steel MSME sector in Gujarat supplies critical raw materials to downstream industries including utensils, kitchenware, appliances, fabrication, engineering products and numerous other manufacturing sectors. These industries collectively support large-scale employment and contribute significantly to India's manufacturing ecosystem. The associations highlighted that Chinese stainless steel products are entering the Indian market at predatory prices, creating an uneven competitive environment for domestic manufacturers who comply with Indian quality standards, environmental regulations and employment obligations. The QCO introduced by the Ministry of Steel was intended to ensure that all stainless steel products sold in India met prescribed quality standards through compliance with BIS registrations. Since many foreign suppliers, including several Chinese manufacturers, did not possess the necessary BIS certification, the QCO helped establish a fair and quality-driven market while encouraging domestic manufacturing. Relying on the Government's policy direction and commitment towards strengthening domestic manufacturing under the "Make in India" initiative, many MSME units invested significantly in capacity expansion, technology upgrades, quality improvement and employment generation. However, the recent suspension of the QCO has created considerable uncertainty and has exposed domestic manufacturers to unrestricted imports of low-cost material, putting these investments and jobs at serious risk. Mr. Vinay Jain, President, Stainless Steel Industry Federation Association Gujarat, said: "The QCO was introduced to ensure quality compliance and create a level playing field for all participants in the market. Based on this policy framework, hundreds of MSME units invested in manufacturing capacity, modernization and employment generation. The sudden suspension of the QCO has severely impacted industry confidence and exposed domestic manufacturers to unfair competition from imported material that may not be subject to the same compliance standards. We urge the Government to immediately restore the QCO and safeguard India's manufacturing ecosystem."

Punjab Traders Commission Holds Meetings to Boost Traders' Confidence in Amritsar

AMRITSAR (HARPAL SINGH): The Punjab State Traders Commission organized a series of meetings with traders and shopkeepers across key commercial areas of Amritsar to strengthen their sense of security and address business-related concerns. The meetings were conducted under the guidance of the Punjab State Traders Commission and the leadership of Sheetal Juneja, Zone In-charge and Member of the Commission. A traders' meeting was held in Chheharta under the leadership of Manjit Singh Maan, while similar interactions were organized at Liberty Market and Nehru Shopping Complex in the North Assembly Constituency under the leadership of Rahil Khanna. The primary objective of the meetings was to remove fear and insecurity among traders and reinforce confidence in the business community. Traders were encouraged to openly share their concerns, suggestions and issues, which were discussed in detail. Senior police officials, including Area ACPs and SHO's, also participated in the meetings and assured traders that the Police Department remains fully committed to ensuring their safety and security. They urged traders to immediately report any threats, suspicious activities or untoward incidents and assured strict action against anti-social elements.



Raids Conducted at Sweet Shops to Curb Food Adulteration

AMRITSAR (HARPALSINGH) Under the directions of Hon'ble Health Minister of Punjab, Dr. Balbir Singh, Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration Punjab, Ms. Kamalpreet Kaur Brar, and Deputy Commissioner Amritsar, Sardar Dalwinderjit Singh, and in compliance with the instructions of Civil Surgeon Amritsar, Dr. Satinderjit Singh Bajaj, the Health Department continued its ongoing campaign against adulteration in milk and milk products. A team led by Assistant Commissioner Food, Rajinder Pal Singh, along with Food Safety Officer Satnam Singh, conducted surprise inspections at Maha Bikaner Sweets, Mudhal; Verka Ahuja Sweets, Basant Avenue; and Thakur Sweets, Basant Avenue. During the inspection, inquiries were made regarding the procurement of milk by the sweet shops, and the establishments were instructed to maintain proper records related to milk purchases. The Food Safety Team collected a total of five samples from the said shops, including two samples of khoya, two samples of khoya barfi, and one sample of milk cake. All collected samples have been sent to the Food Laboratory, Kharar, for analysis. Appropriate departmental action will be initiated after the receipt of the laboratory test reports. This version is suitable for official press release use in English.

Adani Foundation and Anushkaa Foundation Partner to Support 10,000+ Children with Clubfoot Across Five States

CHANDIGARH: More than 10,000 children affected by clubfoot across five states are set to benefit from a new partnership between the Adani Foundation, the social welfare and development arm of the Adani Group, and the Anushkaa Foundation, a specialised nonprofit focused on eliminating clubfoot through public health partnerships. Announced on World Clubfoot Day, the three-year initiative will expand access to treatment, strengthen public health systems and improve long-term care across 61 districts in Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh. The partnership was formally launched at Manyavar Kanshiram Samyukth



Chikitsalay and Trauma Centre, Kanpur, one of Uttar Pradesh's important public healthcare institutions. Uttar Pradesh carries one of the highest clubfoot burdens in India, with an estimated 6,000 children born with the condition every year. As one of the state's largest districts, Kanpur reflects both the scale of the challenge and the opportunity to improve access to timely treatment. Clubfoot is a congenital condition in which one or both feet are turned inward at birth, affecting nearly one in every 800 newborns.

PepsiCo India Strengthens Lakhpati Didi Yojana in Partnership with HSRLM and Indus Action

KARNAL: Under its RevolutioNari initiative, PepsiCo India has partnered with the Haryana State Rural Livelihoods Mission (HSRLM) and Indus Action to strengthen the implementation of the Government's Lakhpati Didi health insurance scheme. Anchored in PepsiCo India's Partnership of Progress philosophy, the initiative aims to build an enabling ecosystem that connects Self-Help Groups (SHG) women with livelihood schemes, subsidized finance, and market-linked opportunities, by

supporting their journey towards achieving sustainable annual household incomes of over ₹1 lakh. The initiative is projected to support 1.1 lakh Potential Lakhpati Didi's over three years, enabling improved access to cash transfers, subsidised productive assets such as cattle, and structured skill-building opportunities. Speaking about the initiative, Yashika Singh, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer and Sustainability Head, PepsiCo India and South Asia, said, "At PepsiCo India, we believe that empowering women economically, under RevolutioNari initiative, creates a multiplier effect across families and communities."



Honda India Foundation Opens Haryana's First Public Driving Practice Zone in Mahendragarh

MAHENDRAGARH: Honda India Foundation (HIF) has inaugurated Haryana's first Driving Practice Zone (DPZ) in Mahendragarh, providing aspiring drivers with a dedicated and safe space for driving practice and road safety training. The facility, the first of its kind in the state, will be open to the public free of cost and is designed to help learner drivers gain practical experience in a controlled environment before driving on public roads. The initiative addresses a major challenge in many Tier-II and Tier-III towns, where the absence of formal driving practice infrastructure often forces learners to train on public roads, posing risks to themselves and other road users. The Driving Practice Zone features specially designed practice tracks along with classroom facilities for theoretical road safety sessions. The programme aims to improve driving skills, road awareness, confidence and responsible driving behaviour among new motorists. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Kanwar Singh Yadav, Anupama Anjali, Deepak and Vinay Dhingra. Speaking on the occasion, Vinay Dhingra said road safety begins with access to proper training facilities. He noted that the Driving Practice Zone will provide learner drivers with a structured environment to build driving skills, enhance road awareness and develop responsible driving habits before taking to public roads. The initiative reflects Honda India Foundation's continued commitment to promoting road safety and making quality driver training more accessible at the community level.

Vodafone Idea and Meta Partner to Deliver Safer, Faster & Seamless Verification for Vi Users Across Meta Platforms

GURUGRAM / HISAR: Vodafone Idea (VI), one of India's leading telecom operators, today announced the launch of Silent Mobile Verification (SMV) capabilities across Meta Platforms WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram for Vi users enabling safer, seamless and password-less digital experiences for millions of users. SMV is a secure, network-based authentication technology that verifies a user's mobile number in the background without requiring manual entry of verification credentials, switching between apps, or waiting for verification messages. When a Vi user accesses WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram on the Vi mobile network, the verification request is validated through the telecom network itself, delivering a faster and frictionless experience. Vi users may experience SMV-supported journeys across scenarios such as new user registration, mobile number verification, login and re-login, account recovery, and authentication during security checks. This translates into faster onboarding, fewer manual steps, and enhanced protection against phishing and digital identity risks.

Protean eGov launches Aadhaar Seva Kendra in Gurugram

GURUGRAM: Protean eGov Technologies Ltd., a pioneer in building population-scale Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), has been awarded the mandate by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to launch the Aadhaar Seva Kendra (ASK) in Gurugram. This centre will help in strengthening citizen access to Aadhaar enrolment and update services across the residential and commercial corridors in and around Haryana. In addition, there are 8 ASK centres planned in Haryana. Protean eGov will run this ASK center that offers a comprehensive suite of walk-in services, including Aadhaar enrolment demographic and biometric updates, Aadhaar authentication, and e-KYC services. Designed to deliver a consistent, secure, and citizen-friendly experience, the centre aims to ensure timely and reliable resolution of Aadhaar-related requirements. There were representatives from UIDAI and Protean eGov, to formally launch the Center which is sited at Plot No. 804, 1st floor, Chakkarpur main Market Road, Saraswati Vihar, Housing Board colony, Chakkarpur village Sector 28, Gurugram 122002 and they appreciated the support extended by the local administration in enabling the centre's operational readiness. This development follows Protean eGov's recent mandate from UIDAI to establish and operate Aadhaar Seva Kendras across multiple districts in the country. Under this mandate, Protean will roll out Aadhaar Seva Kendras across 190 districts nationwide, strengthening last-mile delivery of identity services and improving citizen convenience.



Ice Make Posts Record Q4 Revenue of ₹256 Crore

CHANDIGARH: Ice Make Refrigeration Limited (NSE: ICEMAKE), a leading provider of industrial and commercial refrigeration solutions, announced its audited financial results for the quarter and full year ended March 31, 2026, reporting its highest-ever quarterly revenue of ₹255.85 crore in Q4. Continuous Panels, Chest Freezers, and Visi Coolers, alongside robust demand across the Company's core refrigeration and cold chain solutions portfolio. The Board of Directors, at its meeting held on May 29, 2026, approved the standalone and consolidated financial statements and recommended a final dividend of ₹2.25 per equity share (22.5% on face value of ₹10 per share), subject to shareholders' approval at the ensuing Annual General Meeting. Mr. M. Srinivas Reddy, Chief Executive Officer, commented: "FY26 was a year of strong growth momentum, culminating in record revenue performance during both Q4 and the full financial year. All our businesses posted robust growth driven by healthy demand across food processing, cold chain, HoReCa, pharmaceutical, retail, and industrial refrigeration segments. The new business categories of Chest Freezers, Visi Coolers, and Continuous Panels received excellent market acceptance and are emerging as important growth drivers for the Company."

New Toyota Innova Crysta Gets Premium Styling, Added Features

CHANDIGARH: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) has launched the refreshed Toyota Innova Crysta, introducing premium styling upgrades, enhanced interior features, and added convenience while retaining the MPV's renowned reliability, comfort, and performance. The updated Innova Crysta features a bolder exterior design with a newly styled radiator grille, revised front bumper garnish, and refreshed rear bumper elements, giving the vehicle a stronger and more sophisticated road presence. Inside, the MPV receives a premium makeover with new dual-tone leather seat upholstery, Grace Copper-finished trims on the instrument panel and doors, wood-pattern highlights, and refined detailing on AC controls and switches. Toyota has also added practical features such as a Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS) and a wireless charger to enhance convenience and safety. Commenting on the launch, Sabari Manohar, Executive Vice President, Sales-Service-Used Car Business, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said the Innova Crysta has sold over 1.3 million units and continues to set benchmarks in the MPV segment through its legacy of reliability, comfort, and value. He said the latest updates bring a fresh appeal while preserving the qualities customers trust most. Powered by Toyota's proven 2.4-litre diesel engine paired with a manual transmission, the Innova Crysta delivers strong performance, smooth drivability, and a certified fuel efficiency of up to 15 kmpl. The MPV continues to offer a spacious cabin, flexible seating arrangements, touchscreen infotainment with smartphone connectivity, and a comprehensive safety package including seven airbags, ABS, Vehicle Stability Control, Hill Start Assist Control, Electronic Brake-force Distribution (EBD), and Brake Assist. Toyota is also backing the vehicle with flexible finance options, Express Maintenance Service, 24x7 roadside assistance, and a warranty package of 3 years/1,00,000 km, extendable up to 5 years/2,20,000 km. The new Innova Crysta is available in Platinum White Pearl, Super White, Silver Metallic, Attitude Black Mica, and Avant-Garde Bronze Metallic colours.

Zee TV brings a soulful new story with 'Dilon Ki Ram Leela' starring Mishkat Varma, Aastha Sharma, Eijaz Khan, and Mansi Salvi



CHANDIGARH: Zee TV has always been known for bringing culturally rich, emotionally engaging, and relatable stories that deeply connect with audiences across generations. Continuing to rule the BARC ratings with three of its shows, Vasudha, Ganga Mai Ki Belyian, and Tumm Se Tumm Tak, featuring among the top five, the channel has consistently won viewers' hearts with stories filled with emotions, relationships, and human connection. Zee TV is now all set to win hearts once again with a fresh new slate of fiction shows. While audiences recently witnessed the first promo of Tu Hi Re Dil Mein, the channel is now gearing up to launch yet another heartfelt fiction show, Dilon Ki Ram Leela, a touching tale of love, family bonds, emotions, and destiny. Featuring Aastha Sharma and Mishkat Varma in lead roles, along with renowned actors Eijaz Khan and Mansi Salvi in pivotal characters, the show promises to take viewers on an emotional journey filled with warmth, relationships, and human connection.

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At the heart of the story is Leela, a young woman who seemingly has everything: wealth, status, and luxury, yet deeply yearns for the one thing she craves the most: her father's love and acceptance. Despite belonging to an affluent family, Leela often feels emotionally lonely and incomplete. Amid this emotional void, she finds comfort, understanding, and unwavering support in Ram, her father's trusted PA, who slowly becomes her confidant and strongest pillar of support.

Unlike Leela, Ram comes from a close-knit and loving family where relationships are valued above everything else. While the two belong to completely different worlds, destiny repeatedly brings them together, creating a beautiful bond rooted in trust, care, and emotional healing. As their journey unfolds, Dilon Ki Ram Leela beautifully explores how love, compassion, and meaningful relationships can change lives in the most unexpected ways.

The recently released first promo of the show has already struck an emotional chord with viewers, receiving an overwhelming response across social media platforms for its emotional depth, storytelling, and heart-warming visuals. Audiences have especially appreciated the soulful essence and old-school emotional touch reflected in the promo.

Karisma Kapoor Dances on her Iconic Song 'Sona Kitna Sona Hai, Sone Jaisa Mera Mann' with Contestant Raturaj on India's Best Dancer Season 5

CHANDIGARH: The premiere of India's Best Dancer Season 5 on Sony Entertainment Television celebrating India Wala Dance is set to bring back the magic of the 90s as Bollywood icon Karisma Kapoor recreates her evergreen charm on stage with contestant Raturaj Mahalim. Bringing back memories of her iconic Bollywood era, Karisma grooves to her hit song, 'Sona Kitna Sona Hai, Sone Jaisa Mera Mann,' filling the stage with nostalgia and entertainment.

During the episode, Raturaj's performance leaves everyone reminiscing about the golden era of Bollywood, especially Karisma Kapoor's memorable on-screen pairing with Govinda. Adding to the nostalgic atmosphere, host Haarsh Limbachiyaa says, "Lekin Karisma ma'am, aapne kaha tha na aapko ise dekh ke Govinda Sir yaad aa gaye. Humein aapki aur Govinda Sir ki dono ki yaad aa gayi. Aapko dekhte hi woh saari filmein, woh saare gaane kaano mein bajne lagte hain."



Wanting to relive the magic, the host then requests Karisma Kapoor to dance to one of her iconic songs. Smiling warmly, Karisma agrees with a cheerful "Okay," delighting everyone on set. Soon after, Karisma Kapoor and contestant Raturaj light up the stage as they dance together to the evergreen track, 'Sona Kitna Sona Hai, Sone Jaisa Mera Mann,' bringing the essence of the 90s alive once again on the India's Best Dancer stage.

Their lively performance leaves the judges, contestants, and audience thoroughly entertained, turning the moment into one of the standout highlights of the episode.

Don't miss India's Best Dancer Season 5, starting June 6th on Sony Entertainment Television, and streaming on Sony LIV.

Kriti Sanon offers prayers at Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple



Bollywood actor Kriti Sanon visited the sacred Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Tirumala on Wednesday, where she offered prayers and sought the blessings of Lord Venkateswara. Dressed in a simple traditional attire, the actress participated in temple rituals amid tight security. Visit comes at a time when she is looking forward to the release of her upcoming film 'Cocktail 2'. film's trailer has been unveiled and Kriti is set to share the screen with Shahid Kapoor and Rashmika Mandanna. The almost three-minute trailer of the film features a tale of chaos, confusion and heartbreak between three friends, Kunal (Shahid Kapoor), Diya (Rashmika Mandanna) and Ally (Kriti Sanon).

In the trailer, the lead cast were seen travelling, where the trio explore their friendship and different aspects of their relationship, including a possibility of a threesome. In some sequences of the trailer, Kriti Sanon is seen flirting with Shahid Kapoor while the actor appears to be in a relationship with Rashmika Mandanna. The situation takes a downturn when the lady duo starts fighting over Shahid Kapoor. Prior to the trailer, the makers had released the chartbuster songs from the film. Recently, they released the romantic track 'Tujhko', unveiling a soulful duet that brings together celebrated singers Arjji Singh and Sunidhi Chauhan in a deeply emotional musical collaboration. The other tracks from the movie include 'Mashooqa' and 'Jab Talak'. Cocktail 2 (2026) is a standalone spiritual sequel. It is not a direct sequel to the 2012 original Cocktail, which featured Saif Ali Khan, Diana Penry and Deepika Padukone in the lead roles. The movie is directed by Homi Adajania and is written by Tarun Jain and Luv Ranjan. The music of the film is composed by Pritam. The movie is slated to release in theatres on June 19.

CHANDIGARH

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Using your sex to malign someone's image, absolutely shameful: Hina Khan



Actor Hina Khan has allegedly reacted to Shilpa Shinde's recent admission that the sexual harassment allegations she made against 'Bhabiji Ghar Par Hain!' producer Sanjay Kohli nearly a decade ago were false, calling the act "absolutely shameful" and describing the producer as the "real victim" in the controversy. Shilpa's remarks, made during a recent conversation with comedian Bharti Singh and Haarsh Limbachiyaa, sparked widespread discussion online. The actor revealed that she had accused Kohli of sexual harassment in 2016 because she felt cornered during a contractual dispute and had "no other option" to resolve the situation. Responding to the controversy without mentioning the name of the show, the actor, or the producer, Hina Khan wrote, "I usually

never talk about anyone, I never comment or react on someone else's business, I only and only speak up when it is about something sensitive, something that affects all of us as a society especially as women.. As someone who enjoys public light and has a position to speak up, I must do my bit." She further wrote, "Yes, using your sex to malign someone's image in order to win during a conflict is absolutely shameful. And everyone is Absolutely Right to Call it out and demand Justice. I am shocked beyond words. But I want to talk about the 'Real Victim' here. A respected Man with a wife, a daughter and many other women in his family.. A real hardworking producer with many iconic shows. Who went through such an ordeal. As admitted by the Female Actor, her allegations were not just baseless they were used to gain advantage, to win, to score, to claim, to settle without the utilisation of Law."

"Mumbai has given me so much...": Anupam Kher fondly reflects on 45-year journey, struggles, lessons

For more than four decades, legendary actor Anupam Kher has remained one of the most enduring and versatile figures in Indian cinema. From his breakthrough performance in 'Saaransh' in 1984 to a career spanning over 500 films across multiple languages and genres, Kher has continually reinvented himself while leaving an indelible mark on the entertainment industry. Speaking to ANI, Kher reflected on his remarkable journey and looked back on the milestones, challenges, and lessons that have shaped his career. "I came to Mumbai from Lucknow on June 3, 1981. I came here because someone had opened an acting school here. I read the advertisement, and he said that he will give me Rs 5,000 per month and a house. Unfortunately, he could not fulfil his promise. At that time, I was the youngest lecturer in Lucknow. I was around 24-25 years," Kher recalled. He further spoke about how he reached out to his longtime friend and fellow actor Suhas Khandke, whom he knew from the days of the National School of Drama (NSD). "I told him that I don't have a place to stay. I didn't have a job, money or even a house. He let me



stay for 10 days and was very loving. The first house I stayed in was in Bandra East with three others. Four of us shared a single room. At that point, I felt like I had come to Mumbai at the wrong time. I should have worked a little more in Lucknow," he added. Noting that it took him nearly three years to find his footing in Mumbai,

the actor recalled how he would observe the crowd of people working for their livelihoods in the city.

During the conversation, Anupam Kher also spoke about working with veteran action director Sham Kaushal, the father of actor Vicky Kaushal. "Sham was my fight master. He was my action director. He was also my neighbour. We used to talk to each other. We used to tell each other that one day we would succeed. That's why I really love him. He is my friend from that time," Kher said. The actor shared how he once saw his late friend, actor Satish Kaushik, associating with legends like Shabana Azmi, Javed Akhtar, and Farooq Sheikh. "I went straight to Prithvi Theatre, where I saw Satish Kaushik with Shabana ji, Javed Akhtar, and Farooq Sheikh. They were shaking hands and hugging. I thought that he had gone too far. He was my class fellow. I felt scared and lonely at that moment," the actor shared. Kher spoke about his debut film 'Saaransh', which came as a game-changer for him. "Saaransh gave me everything. Mahesh Bhatt, Sooraj Barjatya and more.

Akshay Kumar sends warm birthday wishes to 'Welcome to the Jungle' director Ahmed Khan



Actor Akshay Kumar has extended a heartwarming birthday wish to his 'Welcome To The Jungle' director Ahmed Khan, hailing the latter's work on the upcoming film. Akshay Kumar shared a picture with the filmmaker on his Instagram story, where the duo could be seen engaged in a light-hearted conversation. Sending best wishes to Ahmed Khan's 'Welcome To The Jungle', Akshay wrote, "Tu samjha? Nahi tu nahi samjha" But somehow, through all the chaos, you always got me. And there's nobody else who could've pulled off the madness of Welcome To The Jungle the way you have. Happy Birthday my friend, @khan_admedasas. May this film become the biggest gift of your career." The makers of 'Welcome To The Jungle' have released the film's highly anticipated official teaser, offering a first look at a large-scale, chaotic comedy built on meta-humour, nostalgia, and slapstick spectacle. Positioned as the third instalment in the popular 'Welcome' franchise, following 'Welcome Back', the teaser introduces a self-aware comedic tone that leans heavily into parody and ensemble-driven chaos. The teaser opens with a satirical twist on standard industry disclaimers, immediately setting a tongue-in-cheek tone. The on-screen text reads: "In the making of this film no animals were used... except for some horses and us donkeys." The footage then transitions into a fictional film-set premise, where the ensemble cast plays characters trapped in a production environment.

Aamir Khan's 'Lagaan' to be re-released in theatres

Marking 25 years of 'Lagaan', the makers have decided to re-release the Aamir-Khan starrer in theatres on June 12, 13, and 14th. The update was shared on the official Instagram handle of Aamir Khan Productions. "A timeless epic that touched every heart. On the 25th Anniversary of LAGAAN, the epic saga returns to the big screen. Relive the magic in theatres on 12th, 13th and 14th June," the post read. The makers also shared the film's trailer ahead of the re-release, leaving cinema buffs nostalgic. "Best movie...can't wait to watch it in theatres again," a fan wrote. "Gold," another user commented. Filled with nostalgia and unforgettable moments, the trailer beautifully captures the essence of brilliant storytelling, rural India, the pre-Independence era, the British Raj, and the emotions that made the film so special. It revisits the themes of love, brotherhood, inspiration, and triumph, complemented by adrenaline-pumping music, soulful melodies, and the pride of victory and freedom. Set in 1893, during the late Victorian period of British colonial rule in India, the film follows the inhabitants of a village in Central India.



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