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CHANDIGARH > WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2025 RNI.No. PUNENG/2018/76070 | VOLUME 7, ISSUE 209 | ₹3.00

WAQF BOARD LAND SCANDALS LEAVE MUSLIMS AS THE PRIMARY VICTIMS P06

ISRAEL STRIKES SOUTHERN BEIRUT OVERNIGHT, SAYING IT TARGETED A HEZBOLLAH OFFICIAL P09

CENTRE CRACKS DOWN ON ₹206.6 CR WORTH SUBSTANDARD IMPORTS OF GOODS P11

India, Chile agree to begin negotiations for trade pact



NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

India and Chile on Tuesday announced starting negotiations on a comprehensive economic partnership pact as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chilean President Gabriel Boric Font held wide-ranging talks focusing on boosting the ties in areas of trade, defence, critical minerals and health.

Describing Chile as an important "friend and partner" for India in Latin America, Modi said several new initiatives were identified to enhance overall cooperation in the coming decade.

Boric, accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising ministers, members of Parliament, senior officials and business leaders, is on a five-day state visit to India. "India and Chile may be at different ends of the world map, there may be vast oceans separating us, but nature has linked us with unique similarities," Modi said in his media statement.

He further said: "The waves of the Indian Ocean flow with the same energy in India as the waves of the Pacific Ocean touch the shores of Chile." The prime minister said India is ready to share its positive experience with Chile in the areas of digital public infrastructure, renewable energy, railways, space and others.

"We welcome the growth in mutual trade and investment. We agree that there is also untapped potential for further cooperation in this," he said.

"Today we have instructed our teams to begin discussions on a mutually beneficial comprehensive economic partnership agreement." Modi further said that the India-Chile partnership will be strengthened in the field of critical minerals and work will be done to establish resilient supply and value chains.

In the field of agriculture, cooperation will be done to ensure food security by combining each other's capabilities, he said.

"The growing cooperation in the field of defence is a symbol of our deep mutual trust. We will move forward to create defense industrial manufacturing and supply chains in this area according to each other's needs," Modi said.

"We will increase cooperation between the agencies of both the countries to face common challenges like organised crime, drug trafficking, terrorism," he said. "At the global level, India and Chile agree that all tensions and disputes should be resolved through dialogue," he noted.

The prime minister also noted that India and Chile are "unanimous that reform of the United Nations Security Council and other institutions is essential to face global challenges". Together we will continue to contribute to global peace and stability, he said.

Both sides also inked an agreement on the cultural exchange.

"We also considered simplifying the visa process between the two countries. We will also continue to make efforts to increase student exchange between India and Chile," Modi said. The prime minister said the Chilean president's visit to India has created a "new energy and enthusiasm" in the relations. "This energy will give new momentum and direction to our bilateral relations as well as our cooperation in the entire Latin America region," he said. PTI

Modi's Sri Lanka visit: A look at how India and island nation share bonds in various sectors

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to leave for a two-day tour to Sri Lanka on April 4, at the invitation of President Anura Kumara Dissanayake. The Prime Minister's visit to the island nation is set to see multiple collaborations across various segments, including energy, trade and other economic spectrums. PM Modi's visit comes close on the heels of the Sri Lankan President's admission in its Parliament that the Indian PM is visiting for the 'stability of their country'. The Prime Minister's visit to Sri Lanka assumes significance in light of the tumultuous and turbulent political landscape in the country, marked by violent protests at the country's key installations.

6th BIMSTEC Summit to further boost India-Thailand economic, trade ties

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi prepares to embark on a visit to attend the 6th BIMSTEC Summit in Thailand from April 3-4, the key event is set to further strengthen India-Thailand economic and trade ties. In the ASEAN region, Thailand is the fourth largest trading partner of India after Singapore, Indonesia, and Malaysia. Bilateral trade between India and Thailand stood at $16.04 billion in 2023, with exports from India to Thailand at $5.92 billion and imports at $10.11 billion. The fast-growing Indian market remains attractive for Thai investors, with vast opportunities available in infrastructure, agro and food processing, automotive and auto parts, pharmaceuticals and health, tourism, retail and renewable energy sectors.

India takes pride in Odisha's history, literature and music: PM

NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Tuesday India takes pride in Odisha's history, literature and music, as he greeted people on the state's formation day.

He said on X, "Warm wishes on Utkala Dibasa! This day is a fitting tribute to Odisha's glorious culture. India takes pride in Odisha's history, literature and music." Praising the people of Odisha as hardworking, he said the Centre and the Odisha government have worked extensively over the last year to further the state's progress. The people of the state have excelled in diverse fields, he said. Utkala Dibasa is celebrated on April 1 every year to commemorate the formation of the state in 1936, carved out from the erstwhile Bihar and Orissa Province. PTI

MISSION ROZGAR

CM Bhagwant Mann hands over appointment letters to 700 teachers, total crosses 55,000-mark



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, April 1

Continuing Mission Rozgar, the Punjab government led by the Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Tuesday set a new benchmark by giving government jobs to more than 55,000 youth in the state in around 36 months of its tenure.

Addressing the gathering in a function to mark handing of appointment letters to more than 700 teachers, the Chief Minister congratulated all the newly recruited teachers on this historic occasion and expressed hope that they will discharge their duty sincerely. He said that youth have got the job after a lot of hard work and dedication as his government has laid major thrust on ensuring jobs to youth in a transparent manner. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that an era of Education Revolution has been heralded in the state as major infrastructure revamp has been introduced in the schools.

Likewise, the Chief Minister said that focus has been laid on imparting quality education to the youth due to which several path breaking initiatives have been taken. He reiterated that the state government fills all the posts as soon as they are vacant in the department. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that a foolproof mechanism has been adopted for the entire recruitment process due to which not even a single appointment out of these more than 55,000 jobs have been challenged so far in any court.

The Chief Minister said that it is a proud moment for the government of Punjab that these youth have been given government jobs completely on the basis of merit. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that transparent recruitment has increased the faith of youth in working for the state government due to which they have shunned the idea of moving abroad and are preparing for government jobs here. He said that it is on record that contrary to the earlier trend of moving abroad, the educational institutions in the state are witnessing a huge surge in admissions by the youth.

The Chief Minister bemoaned that the previous governments had deprived the youth of the state from jobs during their long rule. However, he said that those who had denied jobs to the youth were then ousted by the people of the state for their anti-people stance. Bhagwant Singh Mann quipped that it is ironic that now youths are getting jobs but those who have ruined their future are unemployed and sitting out of power.

The Chief Minister said that the previous rulers had plundered the state mercilessly besides bruising the psyche of Punjabis emotionally and patronizing several mafias in the state. He said that the state government is cleaning the mess created by the previous regimes and now the focus is on carving out a Rangla Punjab for which no stone is being left unturned. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that a complete overhaul is being witnessed in all the sectors of the state so as to give a major push to development of Punjab.

The Chief Minister said that the state government has been sending the teachers abroad and even to prestigious national institutes to upscale their teaching skills. He said that the well trained staff has helped in enhancing the rate of admissions in the government schools of the state adding that Punjab is witnessing education revolution across the state as the state government has laid major thrust on it.

Our mission is to eradicate drugs from Punjab: Kejriwal at AAP's executive summit in Ludhiana

INDERJIT SINGH
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, April 1



AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal today addressed AAP's Executive Summit in Ludhiana, outlining the Aam Aadmi Party's mission to eliminate drugs from Punjab. Calling it a crucial step for the state's future, Kejriwal assured the gathering of AAP volunteers that this mission is not just a goal but a collective commitment that will unite every individual in Punjab to free the state from the clutches of drugs.

Addressing the AAP volunteers Kejriwal said, "You are the ones who worked day and night to establish AAP's government in Punjab. Today's meeting is of great importance as we are gathered here for a single mission — to eradicate drugs from Punjab. I strongly believe that if every person here takes an oath to remove drugs from Punjab, then no one can stop us from achieving this goal."

AAP Leaders and Volunteers, along with Kejriwal, took the oath, "I am the true son of Punjab's sacred soil. I am a true volunteer of the Aam Aadmi Party. Today, I swear by the soil of Punjab. That I will never consume drugs myself. I will make every effort to keep my friends, family, and society away from drugs. Wherever I see drugs being sold, I will inform the police. I will not be afraid. Because in this fight, God is with me. I will choose education, not drugs; I will choose progress, not destruction; and I will choose revolution, not silence. As a true soldier of the Aam Aadmi Party, I swear that I will not rest until Punjab is free from drugs."

Kejriwal said that over the past month unprecedented actions have been taken to combat the drug menace. "What has been achieved in the last month is something that no one has witnessed in 75 years," he remarked, outlining the extent of the efforts being made to tackle drug trafficking and its associated networks. Kejriwal further added, "Thousands of drug traffickers have been arrested in just one month. These are the same traffickers whose names sent chills down the spines of people. Today, they are being arrested, and bulldozers are demolishing the homes of drug dealers. Large quantities of drugs and money have been recovered, including funds that were sent to Pakistan through hawala channels. Even the hawala operators are being arrested."

Bhagwant Mann hails AAP volunteers as backbone of party, credits Arvind Kejriwal for transforming Indian politics

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, April 1



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, addressing the gathering during the Executive Summit in Ludhiana, expressed his deep gratitude towards the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) volunteers, calling them the true driving force behind the party's success.

Mann praised AAP Volunteers' unwavering commitment and described them as passionate torchbearers of the party's ideology. Mann also emphasized the ongoing efforts to bring positive changes to Punjab and assured volunteers of the party's unwavering commitment to the people.

The Punjab Chief Minister lauded AAP National Convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for fundamentally changing the political discourse in India. "Earlier, election manifestos were filled with divisive agendas based on religion and caste. It was AAP that forced all political parties to focus on real issues like education, healthcare, and free electricity. We compelled them to change their priorities because we showed that good governance is possible," he asserted.

Mann also praised senior AAP leaders, including former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and ex-Health Minister Satyendar Jain, for their transformative contributions to Delhi's education and healthcare sectors.

Mann said, "Sanjeev Arora, who is contesting from Ludhiana West, has utilized the Rajya Sabha funds for hospitals and schools for underprivileged children. Our leaders have clear instructions from our convener: public money should be used for the public."

The Punjab CM also highlighted the speech of AAP Punjab President Aman Arora, endorsing his vision and strategy for the party's future growth in Punjab and beyond. "AAP is not just a party; it is a movement. Under the leadership of Arvind Kejriwal, we will continue to expand and bring governance

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Punjab In-Charge and senior leader Manish Sisodia expressed his deep gratitude to AAP National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal for entrusting him with the responsibility of Punjab.

"I consider myself truly fortunate that Arvind Kejriwal has sent me back to Punjab to serve as the state's in-charge," Sisodia said. "Every single person sitting here introduces themselves as part of Team Kejriwal, and that is our greatest strength."

False narrative being peddled on North's domination over South: Rajnath Singh

TUMAKURU, APRIL 1

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday that a false narrative is being peddled that the North has dominated the South over many issues.

"It is unfortunate that a false narrative is being spread that the North has dominated the South over many issues. This is completely untrue. People should move beyond this propaganda that is aimed at creating divisions between the northern and southern regions of India," said the Defence Minister while addressing a gathering at Siddaganga Mutt in Tumakuru, Karnataka, during the 118th birth anniversary and Guruvandana programme of the late Shivakumara Swamiji. PTI

Development projects launched in 258 Gram Panchayats



HARISH MONGA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, April 1

In line with the Punjab government's directives, special Gram Sabhas were organized across the district to formulate development plans for the financial year 2025-26. Based on the resolutions passed in these meetings, development projects have now commenced in various villages.

Deputy Commissioner Deepshikha Sharma informed that development work, including the cleaning and improvement of village ponds, construction of sports grounds, and parks, has been initiated in 258 Gram Panchayats across the district. In addition, employment has been provided to approximately 7,136 workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

The Gram Sabhas have approved various initiatives such as nurseries, solid and liquid waste management, rural huts, shared toilets, Anganwadi centers, community infrastructure for self-help groups, libraries, and plantation drives.

She further stated that in the coming days, similar projects, including the renovation of ponds, construction of parks and sports grounds, and maintenance of canal drains under the Irrigation Department, will be launched in all Gram Panchayats. All the concerned authorities have been directed to ensure maximum employment opportunities for MGNREGA workers while executing these development projects.

The Gram Sabhas have approved various initiatives such as nurseries, solid and liquid waste management, rural huts, shared toilets, Anganwadi centers, community infrastructure for self-help groups, libraries, and plantation drives. The Additional Deputy Commissioner (Development) and officials from concerned departments will closely monitor the progress of these projects to ensure their timely completion.

War Against Drugs: Illegal construction demolished

N.P.S. CHAMAK
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Amritsar, April 1



The Amritsar district administration, in a major operation in the Maqboolpura area, demolished the illegal construction made by drug smuggler Gurmeet Singh. The said drug smuggler has 3 NDPS cases registered against him in various police stations.

Police Commissioner Gurpreet Singh Bhullar stated that Gurmeet Singh is continuously involved in drug smuggling and has three cases registered against him one after the other.

He also informed that as per the instructions of the Punjab government, action is being taken on a war footing under the 'War Against Drugs' campaign, under which work is being done on a three-pronged policy of prevention, enforcement, and rehabilitation.

He said that after identifying the 'hot spot' areas of drugs in the district, action is being taken against drug smugglers. At the same time, along with awareness about the ill effects of drugs, special attention is being paid to vocational training to make drug-free youth capable of self-employment. He informed that during the month of March alone, the Commissionerate Police Amritsar has registered 125 FIRs under the NDPS Act, while 237 drug smugglers and peddlers have been arrested. He informed that during March, the police seized 36.36 kg of heroin, 2.179 kg of opium, Rs 10.50 lakh of drug money, and 18 vehicles, including 5 four-wheelers and 13 two-wheelers.

He appealed to the people to cooperate in the fight against drugs and said that they should come forward to provide information about drug smugglers, and their identity will be kept confidential, and strict action will be taken against the smugglers. On this occasion, DCP Law and Order Vijay Alam Singh and SP Harpal Singh were present.

Dramatic escape bid: Fazilka prisoner falls from electricity tower after shock

FAZILKA, APRIL 1



A dramatic escape attempt by a prisoner, Judge Singh, turned into a near-fatal accident when he suffered severe burns after coming in contact with high-voltage wires. The Fazilka police were transporting him to Faridkot jail under court orders when the incident occurred near Sadiq town in Faridkot district today.

According to police officials, Judge Singh, a resident of Jalal in Ferozepur, had been declared a fugitive in a 2021 NDPS Act case. Recently arrested, he was presented in a court, which ordered his transfer to Modern Jail, Faridkot. However, as the police vehicle slowed down at a chowk in Sadiq town, the prisoner pushed a guard, jumped out of the vehicle, and made a run for it.

While fleeing, Singh entered a 66-KV power grid area and climbed onto a tower. As soon as he reached the top, he came in contact with high-voltage wires, receiving a severe electric shock. The impact caused him to fall from the tower, leaving him critically injured.

Police officers rushed him to a medical hospital for treatment. His condition remains critical. The authorities are investigating the incident and reviewing security measures for transporting prisoners to prevent such escapes in the future. AGENCIES

Drug addict dies in police custody in Kapurthala

ASHOK KAURA
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, April 1

One NDPS accused died under mysterious circumstances in police custody at Sadar police station Kapurthala in early hours of this morning according to police.

City Deputy Superientendent of police Deep Karan Singh confirmed the death of accused in police remand at Sadar police station .He told media persons that accused identified as Vinod kumar (20) resident of Saido Bhulana was arrested by police on March 30 following recovery of 6 grams of heroin and 25 capsules of drugs and police after registering a criminal case under NDPS act produced him in local court and judge gave a police remand of two days.

DSP said at 3:30 am in morning today his condition became deteriorated and he was immediately rushed to local civil hospital where doctors declared him brought dead .

The doctors today conducted the post-mortem of body under the supervision of Judicial Magistrate Ist class Bhawna Bharti.

Police began investigation to ascertain the cause of death .

The body of deceased was handed over to parents for cremation ,which was attended by several residents this evening.

Over a century of excellence in shaping future leaders



HOSHIARPUR, APRIL 1

The 127-year-old Dayanand Anglo Vedic (DAV) Senior Secondary School, Hoshiarpur, has been the alma mater of numerous successful individuals across various fields. From industry and politics to medical profession and civil services, the school students have left their mark in every walk of life.

According to available records, the school began functioning on February 8, 1898, with Principal Ram Chander as its first head. Located in the heart of the city, the school occupies more than 6 acres of land. It was the second in a series of DAV schools established by Mahatma Hansraj ji, who founded the first in Lahore in 1886. The school has been permanently recognised and aided by the Punjab government since 1967. At the time, Hoshiarpur was part of a district under British rule, which included areas of Himachal Pradesh, present-day Jalandhar, Nawanshahar and Ropar.

The school offered a unique blend of Anglo-Sanskrit education, combining traditional Indian education, especially Sanskrit, with modern English instruction. Students from across the united Punjab and even neighbouring states, attended the school. For decades, it remained the epicentre of education in Punjab, particularly in the Doaba region.

A turning point in the school's history came in 1905 when Arya Samaj missionary Mahatma Devi Chand took over as principal. He significantly contributed to the school's development and made it a hub for spreading education across the region. Mahatma Devi Chand not only improved the school but also established 39 other schools, all of which were managed from this very institution. AGENCIES

MC Ludhiana undertakes first-of-its-kind 3D road corridor survey to transform urban mobility

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, April 1

In a landmark step towards modern urban mobility planning, the Municipal Corporation (MC) has successfully completed a first-of-its-kind 3D Total Station Survey of all major municipal roads in the city. This initiative, taken on the directions of MC Commissioner Aaditya Dachalwal, aligns with global best practices such as the Smart Road Asset Management (SRAM) model, widely used in advanced urban centers across the world.

This comprehensive 3D digital survey provides accurate geospatial data of road corridors, serving as a foundational tool for a wide range of interventions including Smart Asset Management of roads and associated infrastructure; Identification and resolution of drainage and waterlogging issues; Mapping and enumeration of trees and natural obstructions; Detection of fixed and movable hindrances such as electric poles, telephone lines, kiosks, etc; Planning for realignment and removal of encroachments; Scientific redesign of junctions and traffic corridors; Development of structured parking plans and resolution of on-street parking issues etc.

The survey spans over 50 kilometers of Ludhiana's primary mobility corridors including Old GT Road (Sherpur to Jalandhar Bypass via Jagraon Bridge); Jagraon Bridge to Ferozepur Road Octroi; Lakkar Bridge to Hambran Road Octroi; Samrala Chowk to Bharat Nagar Chowk; Samrala Chowk to Chandigarh Road Octroi; Atam Park T-Point to 200 Feet Road; Bhai Bala Chowk to Phullanwal Chowk (Pakhowal Road); Vishwakarma Chowk to GNDEC (Gill Road); Rahon Road and Tajpur Road.

Couple among six villagers booked for assaulting co-villager

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Lohian Khas, April 1



The Lohian Khas have booked six villagers including a couple for assaulting a co-villager.

Investigating Officer (IO)Balkar Singh said the accused have been identified as Sohan Singh a resident of Yushaf Pur Allewal village, his wife Shindo, sons Buta Singh and Jogindar Singh Mohindar Singh and Balwant residents of the same village.

Gurcharan Singh a resident of Tibbi village in Kapurthala complained to the police that his brother Balkar Singh in cultivating land in Allewal village and was coming to village on his jeep loaded with fodder and when he reached near the house of Sonah Singh the accused waylaid him and attacked and seriously injured him who is under treatment in a Jalandhar clinic.

IO said a case under 115(2),18(2) (voluntarily causing grievous hurt) 126 (wrongful restraint) 191(3) (rioting) and 190(unlawful assembly of the BNS has been registered against the accused.

In another incident, a 60 years old person have died in an accident.

Investigating officer (IO)Sukhwindar Singh said that the deceased has been identified as Sukhdev Singh a resident of Mulle Wal Brahmanna village. Paramveer Singh son of the deceased told the police that his father died in an accident.

IO said that the police acting under section 194 of the BNSS handed over the body to the family after post mortem.

46K mutations overdue, officials warned of action

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 1

The rising number of overdue mutations in 180 tehsils and sub-tehsils has set the alarm bells ringing in the government.

As 46,125 mutations were pending till March 24, Additional Chief Secretary-cum-Finance Commissioner Anurag Verma shot off a letter to all Deputy Commissioners, Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Tehsildars and Naib Tehsildars to review the situation and clear the pendency by April 4.

According to information, 7,746 mutations are pending in Ludhiana, 4,479 in Mohali, 2,941 in Amritsar, 2,901 in Tarn Taran and 2,611 in Patiala.

Ludhiana East tehsil has maximum overdue mutations (2,316), followed by Tarn Taran (1,264), Patiala (1,108), Ludhiana West (1007) and Zirakpur (1,000).

"It must be made clear to the tehsildars, naib tehsildars, kanungos and patwaris that if any overdue mutation is pending after April 4, strict action will be taken against them," reads the order by the ACS-cum-FCR.

Forty-five days from the day of the registry is the time-limit to complete a mutation, said officials of the Revenue Department, adding that technical glitches and inheritance cases add to backlog.

The pendency in Ludhiana is peculiar given that some officials were caught in a corruption case by the Vigilance Bureau after which the state government and revenue officials remained at loggerheads.

Least pendency has been recorded in Muktsar (1,123), SBS Nagar (1,016), Rupnagar (673) and Bathinda (592). AGENCIES

Masked men open fire on shops in Fatehabad

INDER PAL SINGH
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Tarn Taran, April 1

Shops and other commercial establishments remained closed on today to protest against indiscriminate firing in the town last night. Shopkeepers and others said two masked armed men came to the market in the town on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday and fired indiscriminately on shops leaving shutters of several establishments damaged.

Mandeep Singh, Jagdeep Singh and other shopkeepers while addressing protesting traders on the occasion alleged that they were maltreated by the Goindwal Sahib police today when they went to police station to file complaint regarding firing on their shops. Shopkeepers said the administration and the police had failed to maintain law and order in the town.

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PAU student conferred with twin awards

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, April 1



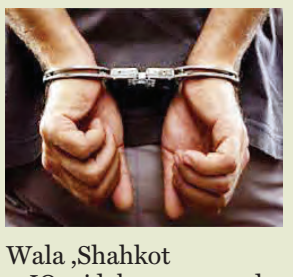
Rajni Goyal, an Integrated M Sc (Hons) graduate, Department of Microbiology, College of Basic Sciences and Humanities, Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), has received the 'Best Poster Presentation Award' for her poster titled 'Bioprocessing of Different Flours for the Production of Functional Foods Using Novel Yeast.' She presented the poster at the National Conference on 'Biovision 2025: Innovations and Applications in Biotechnology', organised by the Department of Biotechnology, 360 Research Foundation, recently. Besides, she has been conferred with the 'Best Microbiologist Award.'

During her M Sc programme, she conducted research on functional foods under the guidance of her major advisor, Dr Richa Arora, Microbiologist, Department of Microbiology, PAU.

Dr Satbir Singh Gosal, Vice-Chancellor, PAU; Dr Kiran Bains, Dean, College of Basic Sciences and Humanities; and Dr Urmila Gupta Phutela, Principal Scientist (REE)-cum-Head, lauded the student for her achievement.

Two drug peddlers arrested under NDPS Act

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Shahkot, April 1



The Shahkot police have arrested two drug peddlers on the charge of selling heroin.

Investigating officer (IO) and Talwandi Sanghera police post in-charge Nirmal Singh said that 20 grams heroin was recovered from the possession of the accused identified as Nitin Kumar a resident of Mohalla Chhimbian Shahkot and Ravindar Kaushal a resident of Mohalla Bagh Wala ,Shahkot

IO said that a case under sections 21/61/85 of the NDPS Act has been registered against the accused and impounded a scooter without registration number on which they were travelling with the contraband. In another incident, the Nakodar Sadar police have arrested a villager for using cast remarks.

Investigating Officer (IO) Kulwindar Singh said the accused has been identified as Gurpal Singh alias Pala, a resident of Nur Pur Chatha village.

Gagan Deep Singh a resident of the same village had complained to the police that the accused used caste remarks against him in an audio recording sent to him on his WhatsApp number on September 27 last year.

I swear by the soil of Punjab, I will not rest until Punjab is drug-free: AAP volunteers take oath with Kejriwal

YOGESH KAPOOR
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, April 1



AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday addressed AAP's Executive Summit in Ludhiana, outlining the Aam Aadmi Party's mission to eliminate drugs from Punjab. Calling it a crucial step for the state's future, Kejriwal assured the gathering of AAP volunteers that this mission is not just a goal but a collective commitment that will unite every individual in Punjab to free the state from the clutches of drugs.

AAP leaders and volunteers, along with Arvind Kejriwal, took the oath, "I am the true son of Punjab's sacred soil. I am a true volunteer of the Aam Aadmi Party. Today, I swear by the soil of Punjab. That I will never consume drugs myself. I will make every effort to keep my friends, family, and society away from drugs. Wherever I see drugs being sold, I will inform the police. I will not be afraid. Because in this fight, God is with me. I will choose education, not drugs; I will choose progress, not destruction; and I will choose revolution, not silence. As a true soldier of the Aam Aadmi Party, I swear that I will not rest until Punjab is free from drugs."

In a clear message to the drug peddlers, Kejriwal stated, "If anyone dares to confront the police in an encounter, the police will not hesitate to take action. The message is clear: either stop selling drugs or leave Punjab."

Kejriwal also highlighted the dramatic decline in Punjab's ranking in terms of per capita income, from being number one to now being in 18th place. He attributed this decline to the political figures who have sold Punjab's youth for power and money. "Those responsible for bringing drugs to Punjab, who sold the youth of Punjab for the sake of power, will not be spared. They will face justice," he added.

Mann govt taking strict action against drug mafia; no drug trafficker will be spared: Manish Sisodia

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, April 1



Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national leader and Punjab in-charge Manish Sisodia praised the Punjab government's campaign 'Yudh Nasheyan Virudh' (War Against Drugs) and stated that under the guidance of AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal and the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, they will completely eliminate drugs from Punjab.

On Tuesday, in Ludhiana, Manish Sisodia, along with AAP Punjab President Aman Arora, addressed a press conference on this issue. He outlined Punjab government's 360-degree strategy against drugs and said that in today's meeting with Arvind Kejriwal and AAP leaders, it was decided that now both the Punjab government and the Aam Aadmi Party organization will jointly run a campaign against drugs to ensure that Punjab is completely drug-free as soon as possible.

He remarked that while meetings of other political parties revolve around strategies to gain power, Aam Aadmi Party's meetings focus on people's issues. Accusing the Congress, BJP, and Akali Dal, Sisodia said that drugs spread in Punjab because previous governments provided political protection to drug traffickers.

Punjab achieves historic excise revenue milestone, earns ₹10,743.72 crore in FY 2024-25: Cheema



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, April 1

Punjab Finance, Planning, Excise, and Taxation Minister Harpal Singh Cheema on Tuesday announced that the state's Excise and Taxation Department has reported a record-breaking Excise revenue of Rs 10,743.72 crore for the financial year 2024-25, marking an impressive annual growth rate of 16.36 percent compared to the previous fiscal year. He said that the state's total revenue collection from VAT, CST, GST, PSDT, and Excise during FY 2024-25 stood at Rs 42289.97 crore, showcasing a growth rate of 12.47 percent crossing the Rs 40,000 crore threshold for the first time in the state's history.

Disclosing this in a press communiqué issued here, Finance Minister Cheema attributed the remarkable growth in Excise collection to the successful excise policies implemented by the Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann-led Punjab Government. He said that the state witnessed a notable rise of Rs 598.72 crore in Excise revenue, surpassing the target of Rs 10145 crore for FY 2024-25. In March 2025, Punjab achieved a remarkable 30.67 percent growth rate in Excise revenue, collecting Rs 1477.04 crore, a significant increase from Rs 1130.37 crore in March 2024. He said that this achievement marks the first time the state has crossed the five-digit mark in Excise revenue.

Finance Minister Cheema further revealed that the state has also witnessed a net annual growth rate of 12.99 percent in Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections, with a net annual collection of Rs 23,642.15 crore compared to Rs 20,923.37 crore in the previous fiscal year. "In March 2025, the state recorded a net GST collection of Rs 1,913.82 crore, reflecting an 8.63 percent growth compared to Rs 1,761.70 crore in March 2024", said the Finance Minister while adding that Punjab has also achieved an annual collection of Rs 7,353.32 crore from Value Added Tax (VAT), up from Rs 6,975.3 crore in the previous fiscal year, registering a growth rate of 5.42 percent.

Finance Minister Cheema attributed these achievements to the transparent excise policies implemented by the Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann led Punjab Government, and the enforcement activities of the Excise and Taxation Department which successfully curbed liquor smuggling from neighboring states.

PSPCL achieves peak rated capacity at Pachhwara mine in FY 2024-25: Harbhajan Singh

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, April 1



In a major advancement toward ensuring uninterrupted and cost-effective coal supply for Its thermal power plants, the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) has reached a significant milestone by achieving the peak rated capacity of 70 lakh tonnes at its Pachhwara Central Coal Mine in Financial Year 2024-25, informed Power Minister Harbhajan Singh in a press communique issued here today.

The Cabinet Minister said that the Pachhwara Mine, which had remained non-operational since March 31, 2015, was successfully revived in December 2022 under the proactive leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann. Since its revival, the mine has supplied 115 lakh tonnes of coal to PSPCL's thermal power stations, generating estimated savings of Rs.950 crore compared to Cost of coal procured from Coal India Limited (CIL), significantly reducing power generation costs.

The Cabinet Minister said, achieving peak rated capacity at Pachhwara Mine showcased that Chief Minister Mann led government is committed to energy security, operational efficiency and financial prudence, adding that this milestone will enhance self-reliance in coal procurement, diminishes dependence on external sources and stabilizes power supply for Punjab.

Commenting on the achievement, Power Minister said, "This remarkable success at Pachhwara Mine showing department's dedication toward enhancing Punjab's energy security. By ensuring a steady and economical supply of coal, we are committed to providing reliable and affordable electricity to consumers."

Police conduct search operation at 147 railway stations across state

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, April 1

Continuing the war against drugs "Yudh Nashian Virudh" waged on the directions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann to eradicate drug menace from state consecutively for the 32nd day, Punjab Police on Tuesday conducted a cordon and search operation (CASO) at all the Railway Stations across the state.

The operation was carried out in all the 28 Police districts on the directions of Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav.

Special Director General of Police (Special DGP) Law and Order Arpit Shukla, who was personally monitoring this state-level operation, said that all the CPs/SSPs were asked to ensure heavy deployment of police force under the supervision of Superintendent of Police (SP) rank officers to make this operation successful.

He said that around 1925 people were checked during the operation conducted at around 147 railway stations in the state. Six suspicious persons were also rounded up for questioning during the operation, he added.

Apart from this, Police teams have continued its drive against drugs and conducted raids at 490 locations on Tuesday leading to the arrest of 40 drug smugglers after registration of 28 first information reports (FIRs) across the state. With this, the number of total drug smugglers arrested has reached to 4690 within 32 days.

The Special DGP said that the raids have resulted in recovery of 320.5 grams heroin, 500 grams opium, 1422 intoxicant tablets/pills and Rs 7978 drug money from the possession of arrested drug smugglers.

He informed that over 255 Police teams, comprising over 1500 police personnel, under the supervision of 107 gazetted officers have conducted raids across the state and checked as many as 546 suspicious persons during the day long operation.

He said that Punjab Police has devised a comprehensive strategy and such operations will be continued till the scourge of drugs eradicated from the state.

Punjab State Women Commission welcomes court's verdict in Pastor Bajinder case

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, April 1

Chairperson of the Punjab State Women Commission Raj Lali Gill welcomed the court's verdict sentencing Pastor Bajinder to life imprisonment till death in the Zirakpur rape case, calling it a significant step toward justice for women.

In a press release, the Chairperson said that this judgment sends a strong message that crimes against women will not be tolerated and the law will ensure justice." The Commission had earlier taken suo motu cognizance of the matter.

Ms. Gill also urged other survivors of similar crimes in Punjab to come forward, assuring them of full support. "The Punjab State Women Commission is committed to providing all necessary legal, emotional and rehabilitative assistance to victims of sexual violence. If you or anyone you know needs help, please reach out to us. Justice and safety for women remain our top priority", she added.

Police thwart possible terror attack with arrest of Pak-ISI linked operative; hand grenade recovered

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Amritsar, April 1

In a major breakthrough amidst the ongoing drive to make Punjab a safe and secure state as per directions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, Counter Intelligence (CI) Amritsar has averted a possible terror attack in the state with the arrest of an operative linked to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency and recovered one hand grenade from his possession, said Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav here on Tuesday.

The arrested accused has been identified as Jaiveer Tyagi alias Jawed, a native of Village Baroli in Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh (UP) and currently residing in Ludhiana.

DGP Gaurav Yadav said that CI Amritsar teams has received an input revealing about the Abroad-based individual identified as Sehlam, who is working for Pak-ISI agency, along with his cousin identified as Jaiveer Tyagi has been hatching a conspiracy to target the government infrastructure through terror attacks in various cities to disturb peace and harmony of the state.

The input further revealed that Jaiveer Tyagi has also retrieved the consignment of hand grenade from the area of Amritsar and is waiting for his other accomplices near Tara Wala Pul in Amritsar to commit a major crime, he said, while adding that acting swiftly on credible inputs, police teams from CI Amritsar launched an intelligence led operation and apprehended accused Jaiveer Tyagi after recovering one hand grenade from his possession.

War Against Drugs: Bulldozers in action on illegal constructions made by drug lords in Kapurthala

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Kapurthala, April 1

Kapurthala civil and police administration in a joint drive, carried out a major operation in village Boot under Subhanpur police station by demolishing illegal constructions on Panchayati land by Drug lords.

Acting on the orders passed by of B.D.P.O. Dhilwan, Manjit Kaur, the civil and police administration demolished three such structures that had been illegally built on Panchayat land by drug traffickers.

The Encroachers have been facing 34 cases at various police stations under NDPS act .

SSP Gaurav Toora said that the civil and police administration demolished illegal constructions on Panchayati land in village Boot, which were unlawfully occupied by Jeona Singh S/O Gurnam Singh and his wife Bhani. Jeona singh have 5 NDPS cases registered against him, while his wife Bhani have 4 cases. Additionally, illegal constructions by Sher Singh and his sons Kala Singh, Mehtab Singh and Charat singh were also demolished.

Sher Singh has one case against him, while his son Kala Singh have 5, Mehtab Singh 8 and Charhat Singh have 7 NDPS cases registered against them. Furthermore, an illegal construction by Surjit Singh on Panchayati land was demolished, with 6 cases registered against him in different police stations.

Women Commission condemns Patiala incident

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, April 1

Punjab State Women Commission Chairperson Raj Lali Gill strongly condemns the horrific crime against 12-year-old girl in Patiala as reported in the media. She expressed deep dissatisfaction by this incident and stands in solidarity with the survivor and her family in this time of distress.

As per reports, an auto driver has been arrested for sexually assaulting and impregnating a minor. An FIR has been registered under Sections 65(2) and 68 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, along with Section 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The Commission urges the law enforcement agencies to ensure a swift and thorough investigation so that the accused is brought to justice without delay.

Police bust cross-border drug smuggling racket; one held with 3.5 kg heroin

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ferozepur, April 1



Amidst the ongoing war against drugs waged on the directions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, Counter Intelligence (CI) Ferozepur has busted a cross-border drug smuggling racket with the arrest of a drug smuggler and recovered 3.5 kg heroin from his possession, said Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav here on Tuesday. The arrested accused has been identified as Sukhdev Singh alias Sukhi, a resident of Mohan Ke Uttar in Ferozepur. Apart from recovering heroin, police teams have also impounded his Hero Splendor motorcycle (PB-05-AM-5620), which he was riding. DGP Yadav said that preliminary investigation revealed that the arrested accused was in direct contact with the Pakistan-based smuggler, who was using drones to drop the drug consignments from across the border. Further investigation is underway to trace the forward and backward linkages in this case, he added.

Sharing operation details, AIG Counter Intelligence Ferozepur Gursewak Singh Brar said that following a reliable input about involvement of accused Sukhdev Sukhi in smuggling activities, police teams from CI Ferozepur launched an intelligence-based operation in the area of Village Lakho Ke Behram in Ferozepur and apprehended him along with seven packets of heroin, weighing 500 grams each, kept in a plastic bag.

Night sweeping initiative enhances cleanliness in commercial areas of Ferozepur

FEROZEPUR, APRIL 1

In line with the Punjab government's directives, a unique night sweeping initiative has been launched across all cities in Ferozepur district to improve urban cleanliness and hygiene in the city's bustling marketplaces, with a nodal officer appointed for each market and senior officials conducting surprise inspections.

Providing details about the initiative, Superintendent Sanitation Sukhpal Singh from the Ferozepur Municipal Council stated that, under the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Deepshikha Sharma, special measures are being taken for city cleanliness, sewer maintenance, streetlight management, and waste collection and disposal. Night sweeping operations are being conducted daily in the commercial areas of Ferozepur, Zira, Talwandi Bhai, Guru Har Sahai, Mallanwala, Makhu, Mamdot, and Mudki. AGENCIES

ECI's biggest engagement drive with political parties

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, April 1



The Election Commission of India (ECI) conducted a series of structured engagements with political parties at the level of Electoral Registration Officer (ERO), District Election Officer (DEO), and Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) across the country. In a span of 25 days and as of 31st March 2025, a total of 4,719 meetings were conducted, with 40 meetings by CEOs, 800 by DEOs, and 3,879 by EROs, engaging over 28,000 representatives of political parties nationwide.

These meetings were held in accordance with the directives issued by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar along with ECs Dr Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Dr Vivek Joshi, during the Chief Electoral Officers' conference held on March 4-5 2025, at IIIDEM, New Delhi.

The engagements are aimed to resolve any pending issues by the concerned competent authority i.e. ERO or DEO or CEO within the existing legal framework of the Representation of the People Act 1950 and 1951; the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960; the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 and the manuals, guidelines, and instructions issued by ECI from time to time. An action taken report has been sought from all State/UT CEOs for further assessment and any issue, if unresolved within the existing legal framework, will be taken up by the Commission.

Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria hands over appointment letters to 281 newly appointed JBT teachers in UT govt schools

A.S. PRASHAR
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, April 1



Punjab Governor and UT Administrator, Gulab Chand Kataria, today handed over appointment letters to 281 newly appointed Junior Basic Training (JBT) teachers at a state-level function organized by the Education Department, UT Chandigarh, at Government Post Graduate College for Girls, Sector 42, Chandigarh. This event marks a significant step toward strengthening the city's education system in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Addressing the gathering, the Administrator of UT Chandigarh congratulated the newly recruited JBT teachers and commended the Education Department for organizing the event seamlessly. He highlighted the pivotal role of teachers in shaping young minds, emphasizing that while their profession may entail a humble lifestyle, the respect and admiration they receive from students are invaluable. Shri Kataria remarked that becoming a teacher is not merely a profession but a divine opportunity to serve society and the nation.

Underlining the importance of a strong educational foundation, Kataria stressed that primary education plays a crucial role in a child's development. He urged teachers to lead by example, as students learn more through actions than words.

Expressing his vision for government schools to surpass private institutions in academic excellence within the next year, he encouraged teachers to adopt education as a mission and prepare students to achieve remarkable success in life. He further envisioned India becoming a Vishva-Guru (world leader) by 2047 through a well-structured and transformative education system.

Currently, 1.5 lakh students are enrolled in 111 government schools across Chandigarh, with 41,419 students at the primary level. Out of 1,391 sanctioned JBT teacher posts, 469 positions were vacant. To ensure a transparent and structured recruitment process, 281 JBT teachers were appointed today, significantly reinforcing the strength of government school education in Chandigarh.

The event was attended by Chief Secretary, UT Chandigarh, Rajeev Verma; Principal Secretary to the Governor, V.P. Singh; Secretary of Education, Prerna Puri; Director of School Education, Harsuhinder Pal Singh Brar; and other officials from the Education Department and Chandigarh Administration.

UT orders threefold hike in property tax on residential units

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, April 1

The Mayor said she was of the opinion that tax be increased by 1% on residential property and 2% on commercial ones.

The UT Administration has notified a threefold increase in property tax on residential properties and a two-time hike on commercial ones. All government properties are exempt from the hike. The new tax has become applicable from April 1 for 2025-26.

The Municipal Corporation (MC) had introduced the property tax at the rate of 3% of the annual rateable value on commercial, industrial and institutional land and buildings in 2004. The residential land and buildings were brought within the tax ambit in 2015. The levy had not been revised since it was first introduced.

According to the notification issued by the UT Local Government and Urban Development Department, "For the assessment year 2025-26, the property tax on residential sites and buildings shall be increased by three times the rates already specified by the administration (9% of the annual rateable value). The property tax on commercial and industrial lands and buildings shall be charged at 6% of the annual rateable value."

The notification further stated that properties that fall in the category of service charges shall continue to be charged at currently applicable 3% of the annual rateable value.

In February this year, the MC wanted to increase the property tax across all categories by four times to enhance its annual revenue by nearly Rs 200 crore. Also, the MC had proposed a 1% annual hike on commercial properties (until reaching the limit of 15%) and 5% annual hike on residential properties.

However, the proposal was rejected by all councillors cutting across party lines, but MC Commissioner Amit Kumar wrote a dissent note, stating that it was the need of the hour to improve MC's financial conditions. The proposal was sent to the UT Administration, which approved the increase in the tax.

The increase would provide some relief to the MC facing the financial crunch, as it would increase its revenue by nearly Rs 100 crore — Rs 72 crore from commercial properties and Rs 27 crore from residential ones.

Mayor Harpreet Kaur Babla said the agenda for increasing the property tax was brought to the MC House and was later rejected by all parties.

The Mayor said she was of the opinion that tax be increased by 1% on residential property and 2% on commercial ones. However, the Opposition rejected this proposal, so the Administration exercised its power under the Punjab Municipal Act to hike the levy. "This increased burden on the residents of Chandigarh is due to the non-cooperation of the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party and their petty politics," she added.

Haryana CM Nayab Saini prays at Mansa Devi



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Panchkula, April 1

Haryana Chief Minister (CM) Nayab Singh Saini along with his family offered prayers at the Shri Mata Mansa Devi Temple on the second day of Chaitra Navratri.

After his visit, Saini reached Yagnyashala and performed a havan. His wife, Suman Saini, and son, Vinay Saini, also participated in the rituals and received blessings.

The CM extended his greetings and best wishes to the people of Haryana on the occasion of Chaitra Navratri. He prayed for the well-being, peace, and prosperity of the state and expressed hope that the people would continue to contribute to the state's development.

Meanwhile, a blood donation camp was also organised on the occasion.

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Banto Kataria, former Haryana Assembly Speaker Gyan Chand Gupta, District BJP President Ajay Mittal, Deepak Sharma, Mandal President Yuvraj Kaushik, Mandal General Secretary Pramod Vats were among the others present at the occasion.

On the first day of the Chaitra Navratri fair, devotees offered a total donation of Rs 25,09,665 at Mata Mansa Devi Temple and Kali Mata Temple, Kalka. Around 1.1 lakh devotees visited Mata Mansa Devi Temple for the darshan. At the Shri Mata Mansa Devi Temple, donations amounted to Rs 17,01,285, while Shri Kali Mata Temple, Kalka, received Rs 8,08,380 in offerings.

SBI organises fire mock drill



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, April 1

A fire mock drill was conducted at State Bank of India, Local Head Office, Sector-17, Chandigarh. During the exercise, the Chandigarh Fire Service was informed by calling the emergency number 112. As soon as the emergency siren sounded, the building was evacuated with the assistance of all floor marshals.

A fire extinguishing drill was performed inside the building by the fire brigade team and officers from the Chandigarh Fire Service, led by Lal Bahadur Gautam. Additionally, a rescue drill was conducted to evacuate two staff members from the third floor of the building. An ambulance was also called to the site, where the medical team demonstrated first aid procedures for staff members who were evacuated after being trapped inside the building.

During the fire drill, the Fire Officer of the bank, Pawan Kumar, briefed all staff members about fire safety protocols and safe evacuation procedures.

Upon completion of the drill, Krishan Sharma, Chief General Manager, Chandigarh Circle, along with Sujeet Kumar, General Manager (Network-2); Manoranjan Panda, General Manager (Network-1); and Vimal Kishore, General Manager (Network-3), presented mementos to the officers of the Municipal Corporation Chandigarh & Fire Department in the presence of Kajal Kumar Bhowmik, Deputy General Manager and Circle Development Officer.

Shastrang Indian Modern Martial Art celebrates 8th Anniversary of Shastrang Day

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Panchkula, April 1



Shastrang Indian Modern Martial Art, based in Panchkula, proudly celebrated the 8th Anniversary of Shastrang Day with great enthusiasm and pride. The event, held at its headquarters at SCO-193, 2nd Floor, Sector 16, Panchkula, was a momentous occasion that brought together founding members, special guests, dedicated students, and their families.

The celebration was graced by the esteemed founder members of Shastrang, including VS Kundu (Ex-IAS), President; Sucheta Kundu, Media Advisor; Kala Nidhi, Treasurer; Dinesh Verma, Executive Member; and Dr. Meenu Verma, Executive Member. These leaders, who have been instrumental in the growth and development of Shastrang, were honored for their continued contributions to the organisation.

The event also welcomed special guests such as Gunanidhi Sharma, Pradeep Rana, Pradeep Singh, Navdeep Sood, and Navneet Kaushik, whose presence added significance to the occasion. A highlight of the celebration was the martial arts demonstrations by students, showcasing their skills in various combat techniques, much to the admiration of their parents and the audience.

Grandmaster Bikram Singh Thapa, the founder of Shastrang, addressed the attendees, sharing his inspiring journey with the martial art. He emphasized the importance of self-defense, not only as a means of protection but also as a way of life that fosters strength, discipline, and resilience. He expressed deep gratitude to the founder members for their unwavering support and to the students for their dedication to the art of Shastrang.

"I am immensely proud to see how Shastrang has evolved over the years. Our vision of imparting practical and modern martial arts training to individuals of all ages is being realized. This day stands as a testament to the hard work, discipline, and spirit of our students, as well as the continued support of our founder members and special guests," said Grandmaster Bikram Singh Thapa.

BJP Foundation Day to be celebrated with enthusiasm



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, April 1

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will celebrate its Foundation Day with great enthusiasm under the leadership of State President Jatinder Pal Malhotra. On this occasion, the party flag will be hoisted at the homes of party workers down to the booth level. Additionally, officials from all booths, Shakti-Kendras, Mandals, Districts, State, Morchas, Cells, and elected representatives have been assigned responsibilities for the celebrations.

Shakti Prakash Devshali, the convener of the Foundation Day celebrations in Chandigarh, stated that this year, the Foundation Day will be observed throughout the week, from April 6 to April 12, through various programs. As part of the celebration, the party flag will be hoisted at the party office and the residences of party workers on April 6. On April 6 and 7, primary members will gather at all booths to commemorate the party's foundation day. On April 8 and 9, a conference of active party members will be organized in each Mandal.

Furthermore, from April 7 to April 12, state and district officials, along with elected representatives, will visit villages and colonies as part of the 'Gaon/Basti Chalo Abhiyan'. This campaign will include cleanliness drives, beneficiary outreach, padyatras, chaupals, booth committee meetings, and interactions with community leaders.

Panjab University and University of Fraser Valley, Canada to start global programme initiatives

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, April 1

In order to initiate global program initiatives, University of the Fraser Valley (UFV), Canada and Panjab University (PU), Chandigarh today discussed modalities for joint degree program of the two leading Universities of India and Canada. The two Universities have agreed to formulate rules and regulations for the joint degree, which should be harmonious with applicable regulations administered by UGC and Education Quality Assurance (EQA) in India and British Columbia, Canada respectively.

Today, two senior academic leaders from UFV—Dr. James Mandigo, Provost and Vice President Academic, and David McGuire, Associate Vice President, International met PU senior officers' at PU Campus to explore new opportunities for collaboration.

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Jasveer Kaur W/O Manpreet Khan R/O Village Lassara Pohlewas PO Nizampur Tehsil Payal Distt Ludhiana have changed my name from Jasveer Kaur to Jasvir Begam.

I, Nitika D/O Satish Kumar R/O H. No. 3094 Ward No. 10, Sector 38 Chandigarh Road Focal Point (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Mishaa Rathore.

I, Jaskiran Singh S/O Davinder Singh R/O BXI-818 Khud Mohalla Sikandari Road (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Jaskran Singh.

I, Kanchan W/O Ashwani Kumar Budhiraja R/O B-24-1094/4/A St.No. 5/7 Harcharan Nagar (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Ranju Bala.

I, Davinder Jain R/O H. No. 32-B, New Kitchlu Nagar (Ludhiana) have changed my name to Davinder Kumar Jain.

I, Nirmal Singh S/o Gurditta SinghR/o Bhagibandar, PO. Baghi Bandar, Distt. Bathinda have changed my name from Nirmal Singh Wander to Nirmal Singh.

I, Kanwaldeep Kaur W/o Amandeep Singh R/o Ward No. 13, Taj Gold Complex, Tehsil Moonak, Khanauri Mandi, Sangrur have changed my minor son's name from Vatanvir Singh to Vatanveer Singh.

I Arshdeep W/o Tajbir Singh Sokhi R/o 349 R, Model Town, Ludhiana have changed my name to Arshdeep Kaur Sokhi

I No 15614866K Hav Guman R/o Vill Lapawali, PO- Lapawali, Teh-Todabhim, District - Karauli, Raj- 322230, have changed my wife name & DOB From Lakhanwati (18 Jun 1984) to Lakhanbati (01 Jan 1986).

I, Harmandeep Kaur W/o Bikramjeet Singh, R/o Village Mehas, Post office Thuhi, Nabha (Patiala) have changed my name to Harmandeep Kaur Sekhon.

I Mann Singh S/o Sujan Singh R/o 224, St. No. 2, New Shakti Nagar, Basti Jodhewal, Ludhiana have changed my name to Maan Singh

I Anju W/o Surinder Kumar R/o Plot No. 103, St. No. 9, Sant vihar, Near New GMT School, Balloke, Ludhiana have changed my name to Anju Bala

I Charanjeet Kaur W/o Sukhwinder Singh R/o 2835, St. No. 6, Radha Swami Road, Chet Singh Nagar, Ludhiana have changed my name to Charanjeet Kaur Sohal

I Paramjit W/o Ajay Kumar, R/o Opposite H.No 119, Street No-3, Patti Road Piyara Colony (Barnala) have Changed my name to after Marriage Sonu Rani

I Beant Singh Bawa S/o Jarnail Singh R/o Dhilwan Road, Ward No.2, Tapa, Distt Barnala have changed my name to Beant Singh

I Jasvir Kaur Bange W/o Inderjit Singh R/o Bagha Purana (Moga) have changed my name to Jasvir kaur.

I Baljinderjeet Kaur Bawa W/o Beant Singh R/o Dhilwan Road, Ward No.2, Tapa, Distt Barnala have changed my name to Baljinderjeet Kaur

I Beant Singh Bawa S/o Jarnail Singh R/o Dhilwan Road, Ward No.2, Tapa, Distt Barnala have changed name my minor son from Avijot Singh Bawa to Avijot Singh

I Gurinder Singh S/o Darshan Singh R/o Village Dandrala Kharoud Tehsil Nabha (Patiala) have changed name of my minor son from Tegveer Singh Kharoud to Teghveer Singh Kharoud

I Rupinder Kaur W/O Balwinder Singh R/O Santa Wali Gali, Barnala (Barnala) Have Changed My Name To Rani

I Alka Bansal W/o Sunil Kumar R/o H.No.290, 22 Acre , Barnala (Barnala) have changed my name to Alka Rani after marriage

I hitherto known as NITIN KUMAR VERMA S/o ASHOK KUMAR residing at Yoga Ashram Street, Near Mansa Devi Mandir, Chakerian Road Mansa, District Mansa, Punjab-151505, India, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NITIN

I Ramesh Miglani S/o Mathra Dass R/o H.no:-460/3-A/1,New Kidwai Nagar (Ludhiana) have changed my name from Ramesh Miglani to Ramesh Kumar.

I, Sarabjit Singh S/O Iqbal Singh R/O Bagha Purana (Moga) Have Changed My Name To Sarbjit Singh Brar

I Raj Kumar s/o Nand Lal @ Nand Lal Sikka r/o # 3131-C, Collage Road, Ropar have changed my name to Raj Kumar Sikka

I, Simranjit Kaur W/O Kamaljeet Singh R/O H.no. 105, East End Estate Colony, Near Sant Avenue, G.t. Road, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Simranjit Kaur To Simranjeet Kaur. All Concerned May Please Note.

I Jyoti Mishra W/O Nishan Singh R/O Fatehgarh Churian Road, Baba Deep Singh Colony Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Jyoti Mishra To Jyoti. All Concerned May Please Note.

I, Rakesh Kumar Arora S/o Ram Lal R/o Backside HDFC Bank Preet Nagar Bassi Road Sirhind (Fatehgarh Sahib) have changed my name from Rakesh Kumar Arora to Rakesh Kumar.

I Priyanka Monga w/o Kamaldeep Dua R/o Near MGM School, Nandiana Gate Faridkot have changed my name to Priyanka Dua. After Marriage.

I Pritpal Singh Dharni S/o Pritam Singh R/o Village Golewala, Patti Maloka (Faridkot) have changed my name to Pritpal Singh.

I K U Srishti D/o Late Sub Kulwant Singh R/o B-4/470, Street No. 4 SAS Nagar, Sri Muktsar Sahib have changed my name to Srishti.

I Gurbachan Kaur w/o Chanan Singh R/o Village Madi Ke Tehsil Gurharsahai (Ferozepur) have changed my name from Bachan Kaur to Gurbachan Kaur.

I Paramjeet Singh S/o Mani Ram R/o House No-1054 Street No- 4 Preet Nagar Hoshiarpur have changed my name to Singh Paramjeet. Concerned Note.

I, Saroop Singh S/o Sardar Singh R/o Village Chhurian, PO. Terkiana, Tehsil Dasuya, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab have changed my name spelling from Sarup Singh to Saroop Singh. Concerned Note.

I, hitherto known as AMRITPAL SINGH SAFRI S/o NIRBHAI SINGH, residing at Patti Baba Jivan Singh, Near Dharamshala, VPO. Matwani, Moga, Punjab-142053, India have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AMRITPAL SINGH.

I, hither to known as Bishek S/o Ram Lal (Passport No. X2613828) R/o Village Salerian Kalan P/o Harsa Kalota Tehsil Mukerian, Distt. Hoshiarpur, Punjab India have changed my name from BISHEK to BISHEK BISHEK and shall hereafter be known as given name BISHEK and surname BISHEK.

I, Baljinder Kumar S/o Harbilas R/o VPO. Randhawa Masandan, Jalandhar, Punjab-144004 have changed my name from Baljinder Kumar to Given Name as Baljinder & Surname as Kumar. All concerned please note.

I, Devinder Kumar S/o Sh. Tehal Dass R/o VPO. Pandori Nijjran, Distt. Jalandhar, Punjab, India have changed my name from Devinder Kumar to Davinder Kumar. All concerned please note.

I, Jaswinder Singh S/o Dalip Singh R/o H.No. 114, Raja Garden Colony, Mithapur Road, Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name from Jaswinder Singh to Given Name as Jaswinder Singh and Surname as Maroke. All concerned please note.

I, Harpreet Kaur W/o Jaswinder Singh R/o H.No. 114, Raja Garden Colony, Mithapur Road, Jalandhar, Punjab have changed my name from Harpreet Kaur to Given Name as Harpreet Kaur and Surname as Maroke. All concerned please note.

I, Rajji W/o Jasvir Singh R/o VPO. Chitti, Distt. Jalandhar have changed my name as Rajji to Rajji Rani. All concerned please note.

PUBLIC NOTICE

We, Janak Pal S/O Avinashi Pal and Sudesh Rani W/O Janak Pal R/O H. No. 1809 Urban Vihar Dugri (Ludhiana) declare that our son Hunny Arora and his wife Taruna Chhabra and their child Riansh, Rohaan are out of our control so we disown them from our movable and immovable properties anybody deal with them at their own risk.

I Barinder Singh S/o Ranjit Singh R/o H. No. 81, St. No. 23, Bank Colony, Haibowal Kalan, Ludhiana declare that my son Deepak Singh Gosai and his wife Manisha Kumari are out of my control. I disowned them and their heirs from my all moveable and immovable properties. Anybody deals with themat his/her own risk. I and my family members will not be responsible for any act or conduct done by them

I Munish Kumar S/o Tarsem Lal R/o 2B, Janta Nagar, Dhuri (Sangrur) declare that in my future Multi Life Insurance company No.01003422 my name wrongly entered as Moni Alias Soni Kumar but my correct name is Munish Kumar

I, Simranjit Kaur W/O Kamaljeet Singh R/O H.no. 105, East End Estate Colony, Near Sant Avenue, G.t. Road, Amritsar Have Changed My Name From Simranjit Kaur To Simranjeet Kaur. All Concerned May Please Note.

I, Kashmira Singh s/o Darshan Chand R/o V&PO. Bajrawar, Distt. Hoshiarpur, declare that my son 'Harjit Singh' is out of my control, so I hereby dis-inherited him from my moveable / immovable property if he perform any illegal formalities or if anybody gives him loan etc. then our family will not held responsible. All concerned please note.

I Polli Devi mother of Lucky Choudhary R/o Near Shiv Mandir Village Bega, PO Chandu Chak, Tehsil Suchetgarh District jammu (Jammu and Kashmir) Pin 181102 have changed my name to Polli Devi to Bimla Devi. Vide affidavit dated 29-03-2025. Before District Courts Faridkot.

I MaChhala mother of Ankur Singh R/o Hariya Kheda, Budhana, Muzaffar Nagar (UP) Pin 247771 have changed my name from Machhala to Machhla Devi. Vide affidavit dated 03- 082024. Before Notary Public Sri Ganganagar.

I hitherto known as SUKHDARSHANA KUMARI W/o ASHOK KUMAR R/o Panditan Wali Gali, Old Grain Market Faridkot Pin 151203, Punjab, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SUDARSHANA KUMARI.

I Geetam Singh is legally father of Ghanshyam Sundar R/o Village Nagala Mawasi PO Donkely Tehsil and District Firozabad (UP) 283203 have changed my Date of birth from 01-01-1949 to 10-03-1959. Vide affidavit dated 01-04-2025. Before District Courts Faridkot.

I Ram Murti is legally mother of Ghanshyam Sundar R/o Village Nagala Mawasi PO Donkely Tehsil and District Firozabad (UP)-283203 have changed my Date of birth from 01-01-1954 to 01-01-1960. Vide affidavit dated 01-04-2025. Before District Courts Faridkot.

I, Joginder Pal s/o Munshi Ram R/o B-23, H.No. 399, Aslamabad, Hoshiarpur, Punjab, India, declare that the change of name my son's from Gurpreet to Gurpreet Singh. All concerned please note.

I Pratima Sardar is legally mother of Surajit Sardar R/o VPO Bajitpur Tehsil Basirhat District North 24th Parganas (WB) Pin 743427 have changed my Date of birth from 01-07-1953 to 01-01-1969. Vide affidavit dated 01-04-2025. Before District Courts Faridkot.

ਮੈਂ ਅਮਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਸੰਤੋਖ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ:-99- ਏ ਸਰਗੋਧਾ ਕਾਲੋਨੀ ਮਾਡਲ ਗ੍ਰਾਮ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਮੇਰਾ ਲੜਕਾ ਇਸ਼ਮੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਤੇ ਉਸਦੀ ਪਤਨੀ ਪ੍ਰਵੀਨ ਕੌਰ ਮੇਰੇ ਅਤੇ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹਨ ਮੈਂ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੱਲ-ਅਚੱਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖ਼ਲ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ-ਦੇਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਖੁਦ ਜਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ ਸੰਬੰਧਤ ਨੋਟ ਕਰਨ।

ਮੈਂ ਬਲਬੀਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਗੁਰਦੇਵ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਮੁੱਹਲਾ ਜੱਟ ਪੁਰਾ ਸਰੰਹਦ ਸ਼ਹਿਰ ਤਹਿ: ਵਾ ਜਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਫਤਿਹਗੜ੍ਹ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਬਿਆਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਮੇਰੀ ਦੋ ਬੇਟੀਆ ਹਨ ਅਮਰਜੀਤ ਕੌਰ ਅਤੇ ਅਰਸ਼ਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਕੌਰ ਦੋਨੋ (ਨਾਬਾਲਗ) ਹਨ ਮੇਰੇ ਕਹਿਣੇ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਹਨ। ਮੈਂ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਚੱਲ-ਅਚੱਲ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਤੋਂ ਬੇਦਖਲ ਕਰਦਾ ਹਾਂ। ਇਹਨਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਲੈਣ-ਦੇਣ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਖੁਦ ਜਿਮ੍ਹੇਵਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ ਸਬੰਧਤ ਨੋਟ ਕਰਨ।

LOST AND FOUND

I, Dalvir Singh S/o Kulwant Singh R/o Street No. 01, Sant Rajinder Singh Nagar, Back Side PSPCL Sangrur (Sangrur) Decalre that my original registry has been lost on 10.3.2025 while coming from me to Punjab and Sindh Bank Sangrur, which has been reported as LR No:584464/2025, 31.3.25 at Police Station City Sangrur, whose original sale deed number is 2295 dated 11.01.2010. If anyone finds this registry, please contact this number 90416-19306.

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MORE CLASSIFIED ADVTs ON PAGE-7

Rajya Sabha MP Arora reaffirms his commitment to transforming Ludhiana into a model city

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, April 1



Rajya Sabha MP Sanjeev Arora held an interactive session on Monday evening at the residence of Raj Kalra, Managing Director of Kalra Buildtech Pvt Ltd, in BRS Nagar.

Highlighting his key achievements—such as the development of Halwara Airport, the upgradation of Civil and ESI Hospitals, the establishment of ESI Medical College, and infrastructure projects including four bridges along Sidhwan Canal, an elevated road, and a cycle track—Arora urged voters to support him in the upcoming by-election for the Ludhiana (West) assembly constituency. He reiterated his commitment to transforming Ludhiana into a model city, comparable to Indore and Chandigarh.

During the session, Arora invited attendees to share their concerns and grievances. Addressing each issue individually, he assured them of prompt action. The audience responded positively, expressing satisfaction with his approach. Many participants praised Arora's hands-on problem-solving style and his deep understanding of industrial concerns, given his own background in the sector.

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Industrialist Ashok Malhotra and municipal councillor Sunny Master also spoke at the event, while councillors Harpreet Singh Bedi and Tanvir Singh were among those present.

'Yeshu Yeshu' fame pastor Bajinder Singh gets life term in 2018 rape case



MOHALI, APRIL 1

A court in Punjab's Mohali on Tuesday sentenced self-styled pastor Bajinder Singh to life imprisonment in a 2018 rape case.

The court of Additional District and Sessions Judge (ADSJ) Vikrant Kumar pronounced the verdict.

Bajinder was pronounced guilty on March 28 under sections 376 (rape), 323 (punishment for voluntary causing hurt) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code. Five other accused were acquitted in the case.

The case was registered on a complaint filed by a woman at the Zirakpur police station in Mohali in 2018. The victim had accused him of rape under the pretext of sending her abroad.

Additionally, a separate case of sexual harassment involving a Kapurthala-based follower is yet to be presented in court.

Tight security arrangements were made at the court complex before the pronouncement of the verdict on Tuesday.

Bajinder Singh, widely known as the 'Yeshu Yeshu' pastor, gained popularity through viral videos of his sermons, frequently accompanied by the chant 'Mera Yeshu Yeshu.' AGENCIES

Fight against drugs in focus at National Theatre Arts Society event

BALINDER SINGH
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Patiala, April 1

The National Theatre Arts Society (NTAS), Asian Educational Institute, Sirhind Road and city artists marked the "World Theatre Day" at the Asian Educational Institutewith the presentation of "World Theatre Day Yudh – Nashian Virudh (War on Drugs) Natak Mela here.

The event aimed at promoting World Theatre Movement and spreading values, Institute's Founder Chairman Tarsem Saini, National President of the Federation of Rice Millers Associations, Principal Minu Singh Sachan alongwith faculty, Padamshri Awardee Pran Sabharwal, students and theatre activistss attended the celebrations marking the inauguration of "World Theatre Day – Yudh Nashian Virudh" Awareness Theatre Campaign.

Sukhbir Badal condemns withdrawal of Majithia's security cover

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 1

Shiromani Akali Dal leader Sukhbir Badal on Tuesday claimed that the Punjab government had withdrawn senior party leader Bikram Majithia's security cover, alleging "witch-hunt" by the AAP government against the former minister.

SAD's former president Badal also alleged that the AAP government was trying to "implicate" Majithia, who is his brother-in-law, in a drug case.

"Withdrawal of the entire Z+ security cover of Bikram Singh Majithia confirms beyond doubt the dangerous and deadly designs of the AAP government against the SAD leadership," claimed Badal in a post on X.

"This decision has to be seen alongside the massive 'witch-hunt' launched by the AAP government against Majithia," he alleged.

Badal also mentioned about a bid on his life outside the Golden Temple in Amritsar in December by Narain Singh Chaura.

'Withdrawal of the entire Z+ security cover of Bikram Singh Majithia confirms beyond doubt the dangerous and deadly designs of the AAP government against the SAD leadership'

"Withdrawal of security to Majithia has to be seen with the govt's complicity in the failed lethal attempt on my life - an attempt foiled only with divine intervention of Guru Sahiban," alleged Badal.

Majithia also condemned the state government for the withdrawal of his security cover. "When they failed in silencing my voice, they withdrew my security on the evening of March 29," he said.

Majithia also claimed that the Punjab Police has formed a new special investigation team (SIT), the fifth one, in a 2021 drug case against him. PTI

Delhi businessman, nine others seek share in former Faridkot ruler's ₹25,000-crore property

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 1

A businessman from Delhi, Sardar Gurpreet Singh, and nine others have approached the Chandigarh District Courts seeking their share in properties worth over Rs 25,000 crore of a former ruler of Faridkot, Harinder Singh Brar.

Claiming to be the "legal beneficiaries" of Rajkumari Maheep Inder Kaur, one of the three daughters of Brar, they have filed an execution petition before the court.

The claimants said Brar had three daughters — Amrit Kaur, Deepinder Kaur and Maheep Inder Kaur — and a son.

They said after Brar's death, the following "class one heirs were alive and available to inherit his property in an equal share of 25 per cent per person".

They were Maharani Mohinder Kaur (mother) and daughters Amrit Kaur, Deepinder Kaur and Maheep Inder Kaur.

They said Maheep Inder Kaur died on July 26, 2001, leaving the last will, dated December 11, 1995.

They said they had filed an execution plea for 25 per cent share in the properties by virtue of her will and other supporting documents.

Besides the will, the claimants have also submitted an irrevocable assignment deed and affidavit, dated December 11, 1995, and a registered power of attorney and affidavit, dated March 19, 1998.

Earlier, Amrinder Singh, grandson of Kanwar Manjit Inder Singh, brother of Brar, had filed an execution petition before the court for distributing his 33.33 per cent share in the properties after the issue was finally decided by the Supreme Court. His petition is still pending before the court.

Brar was the last ruler of the erstwhile princely state of Faridkot. His son, Tikka Harmohinder Singh, died in 1981.

After his son's death, Brar slipped into depression. The king died on October 16, 1989.

One of his daughters, Amrit Kaur, filed a civil suit in the Chandigarh District Courts in 1992 challenging the will executed by the king and questioning its authenticity. Another suit was filed by Kanwar Manjit Inder Singh through legal heirs. AGENCIES

FIR lodged against 12 persons for fake SC certificates in Patiala

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, April 1

Patiala police have registered an FIR against 12 individuals for allegedly obtaining fake Scheduled Caste (SC) certificates to secure government jobs and other reserved category benefits.

Tarsem Lal Chumber, head of the legal cell of the Reservation Chor Phado Morcha Punjab, welcomed the police action and extended gratitude to the Punjab and Haryana High Court, which issued the directive leading to the case registration.

The accused have been identified as Amandeep Singh, son of Bhag Singh; Vicky, son of Bhag Singh; Manjit Kaur, wife of Bhag Singh; Angrej Singh, son of Kashmir Singh; Kulwant Kaur, wife of Baljit Singh; Jaswant Singh, son of Swaran Singh; Swaran Singh, son of Pala Singh; Gurpreet Singh, son of Swaran Singh; Balbir Kaur, wife of Swaran Singh; Davinder Singh, son of Sewa Singh; and Narinder Singh, son of Sewa Singh—all residents of Alampur village, Patiala district. The case has been registered at Patiala Sadar police station under FIR No. 42/2025, invoking IPC Sections 420, 465, 467, 468, 471, and 120-B.

Providing further details, Chumber stated that all the accused belong to the general category and fraudulently obtained SC certificates. The complaint against them was lodged with the Director of Social Justice, Empowerment, and Minority Affairs, Punjab, by Udham Singh, son of Bhagwan Singh, and Balbir Singh, son of Nirmal Singh, both residents of Alampur.

Following a thorough investigation by the state-level scrutiny committee, it was confirmed that the accused belong to the Sikh Rajput community but had falsely secured SC certificates. The Punjab and Haryana High Court upheld the committee's findings, leading to the FIR registration.

Chumber reiterated that individuals misusing SC reservations would not be spared and affirmed that Reservation Chor Phado Morcha Punjab will continue its efforts to expose such frauds and ensure the perpetrators face legal consequences.

To curb pollution in Amritsar, Simranjit Singh Mann seeks SGPC's intervention

AMRITSAR, APRIL 1

The Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) has sought intervention of the SGPC in resolving the issue of air pollution emanating from the Amritsar's garbage dumping site at Bhagtanwala that has been polluting the holy sarovars and shrines.

SAD (Amritsar) president Simranjit Singh Mann has submitted a memorandum to SGPC secretary Partap Singh on the issue. The mountain of city garbage at Bhagtanwala is only around 1.5 km away from the Golden Temple.

Any fire at the garbage dump often continues for several days, causing massive air pollution, which is said to affect the sheen of the Golden Temple's gold plating. The SGPC has to engage experts from the UK to clean the gold plating and marble surface of the shrine, he said.

Mann also expressed gratitude towards the SGPC for including a resolution in its recently held general house about the condemnation of Union Home minister Amit Shah's remarks in Parliament on Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and his alleged sarcasm on the recitation of Gurbani. AGENCIES

Govt committed to provide basic amenities to people: Minister

RAMAN CHAMAK
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Amritsar, April 1



The State Government led by Chief Minister Punjab Bhagwant Singh Mann, is committed to providing basic amenities to the people, and no road in the state will remain unpaved. These words were expressed by Public Works Minister Harbhajan Singh, after visiting Gadli village.

Singh stated that the villagers had brought to his attention that the Khajala to Bhangwan via Gadli road has been widened, resulting in heavy traffic flow. However, the bridge over the drain in Gadli is very narrow, causing frequent traffic jams and significant inconvenience to the villagers. The Public Works Minister immediately inspected the bridge site and instructed the department officials to construct a new 10-meter wide bridge to resolve the people's problems. He informed that Rs 1.10 crore will be spent to widen this bridge, which will also facilitate the smooth movement of heavy vehicles.

Services sector leads Punjab's growth numbers



CHANDIGARH, APRIL 1

The services sector has emerged as the largest contributor to Punjab's economy, accounting for the around 48 per cent of the gross state value added — a measure of the value of goods and services produced within a state.

The segment has also given employment to 41 per cent of the workforce against the national average of 30 per cent, according to Punjab's Economic Survey Report (2024-25). The contribution of the segment in the total output has risen from 43.8 per cent in 2011-12.

In the meantime, the share of the agriculture and allied sector in the gross state value added (GSVD) has remained stagnant at 24.53 per cent, a 0.42 per cent dip from 24.95 per cent recorded in 2023-2024.

The farming sector employs 27 per cent of the labour force, 1 per cent less than the industry's contribution of 28 per cent.

According to the survey, the services sector's contribution is still much less the national average of 55.30 per cent despite it clocking a growth rate of 6.8 per cent this fiscal. AGENCIES

BSP activists start indefinite strike in Phillaur

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Phagwara, April 1



Bahujan Samaj Party Activists have started indefinite dharna near the statue of Dr Ambedeker in village Nangal near Phillaur after the vandalizing of the statue of Dr Ambedeker on Monday early morning.Punjab BSP President Avtar Singh Karimpuri has announced that the BSP would continue a permanent protest in the village until the perpetrators are apprehended. "If the BJP leaders claim to be true followers of Dr. Ambedkar, they should urge Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure the full implementation of the Constitution in its true spirit across the country," Karimpuri stated.

Meanwhile, the police have launched an investigation, reviewing CCTV footage from the area to identify the culprits. The incident has triggered widespread anger among the Dalit community and Ambedkarite organizations, with several activists demanding justice.

Though DSP Phillaur Sarwan Singh Bal has assured to nab the culprits soon and even a FIR has also been registered against SFJ chief Gurwant Singh Pannu under 295A of IPC ,this act of vandalism comes amid rising concerns over repeated attempts to target symbols of Dalit pride in Punjab. BSP have accused the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government of failing to curb such incidents, calling for stronger measures to protect the legacy of Dr. Ambedkar.

3,709 children and 827 pregnant women in camps vaccinated during vaccination campaign, says Ludhiana Civil Surgeon

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, April 1

A special vaccination campaign was conducted across the district under the leadership of Civil Surgeon Dr Ramandeep Kaur. As part of this initiative, children aged 0 to 5 years were vaccinated.

Sharing details, Civil Surgeon Dr Ramandeep Kaur stated that the campaign ran for a week, from March 24 to March 31, across the district. It was supervised by District Vaccination Officer Dr Amita Arora.

Dr Arora stated that nearly 255 special vaccination camps were set up across the district, with approximately 109 camps in rural areas and around 146 in urban areas. Through these camps, a total of about 3,709 children and 827 pregnant women received vaccinations. In rural areas, 211 pregnant women were vaccinated, while in urban areas, the number was around 616.

The Civil Surgeon emphasized the critical importance of vaccination for young children, noting that timely immunization helps to protect them from several serious diseases. She urged the general public across the district to visit government health centres and utilise facilities every Wednesday for vaccinations to ensure their children and pregnant women receive necessary immunizations.

Vet Varsity NSS camps on Youth for Digital Literacy concluded

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Ludhiana, April 1

Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Ludhiana organised week-long special camps for more than 150 volunteers of the National Service Scheme (NSS). These camps were about 'learning to be digitally literate.' They learnt the intricacies of optimal utilisation of digitalisation besides developing capacity to shun screens.

Dr Sarvpreet Singh Ghuman, Director Students' Welfare, informed that camps were aimed at raising awareness among students in digital literacy and subsequently motivate society to develop among themselves a sense of responsible use of screens. Dr Ghuman emphasized that with such camps the volunteers developed competence for selfless service for the community and the nation.

The in-campus colleges of Vet Varsity participated under the theme of 'Youth for Digital Literacy' as guided by the Regional Directorate of NSS. Dr Kuldeep Singh Kaka, Agriculture Officer, Fatehgarh Sahib, delivered a lecture on Role of NSS application to be adopted by the volunteers to strengthen Digital Literacy.

bright Punjab Express

A bumper crop

Punjab is set to harvest a bumper wheat crop, thanks to Mother Nature combined with a series of measures taken by the Punjab government ensuring timely supply of farm inputs to kisans.

Agri experts have forecast a bumper wheat crop in Punjab, with the total production expected to touch 190 lakh tonnes. The procurement is due to begin today and arrangements in 1,864 mandis and procurement centres have been completed.

According to Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) experts, the entire season for the crop was ideal as winters were mild and there was no natural calamity such as rain or hailstorm, and at the maturing stage, the temperatures were ideal, below 35 degrees Celsius. The reports coming from different parts of the state suggest that the crop has grown in perfect conditions.

According to the sources in the state agriculture department, the production is expected to cross beyond 60 quintals per hectare. The crop was cultivated over 34 lakh hectares (85 lakh acres). The agriculture department is in the process of conducting crop-cutting experiments to ascertain actual yield output, the results of which are expected to be encouraging.

The state food and civil supplies department has arranged a cash credit limit (CCL) of 28,894 for the purchase of the crop at the minimum support price of 2,524 per quintal. Experts said the crop has not matured completely in many parts of the state so it might take at least a week to 10 days for the arrivals to pick up pace.

According to the agriculture minister, they are expecting wheat arrivals at Rajpura and Fatehgarh Sahib mandis. Adequate gunny bales have also been arranged. The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has set a target of procuring 124 lakh tonnes from the state.

He also went on to assure that there is adequate storage space of at least 135 lakh tonnes, including covered godowns and covered area plinths. Unlike paddy, wheat storage is unlikely to pose any problem. At least 15 lakh tonnes will be picked up from mandis to be transported to consumer states for public distribution system (PDS) under the National Food Security Act.

SPIRITUAL WORLD



WAVES 'Create in India Challenge' crosses 85,000 registrations with 1100 international participants

The Create in India Challenge (CIC) Season-1, launched as part of the World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) set to take place at the Jio World Centre in Mumbai from 1st to 4th May, 2025, has achieved a new milestone of crossing 85,000 registrations including 1,100 International participants. Over 750 finalists, selected after a meticulous selection process, from across 32 diverse challenges, will get a unique opportunity to showcase the outcome and output of their individual challenge, their talent and skills, apart from networking opportunities with business leaders from their respective sector including pitching sessions, and learn from global stalwarts through masterclasses, panel discussions, conferences etc. The winners of the Create in India challenges will be felicitated with 'WAVES Creator Awards' in a grand ceremony at Mumbai.



These challenges have made a powerful entry into the creative landscape, igniting a wave of innovation and engagement across India and beyond, emerging as a premier platform for creative talent on a global scale. Featuring 32 diverse and dynamic challenges including the high-energy Reel Making Competition, the solution-oriented Truth Tell Hackathon, the visionary Young Filmmaker's Challenge, and the imaginative Comics Creator Championship, CIC offers a unique opportunity for creators to showcase their skills. Other flagship events such as the A.I. Avatar Creator Challenge, WAM! Anime Challenge, Esports Tournament, Trailer Making Competition, Theme Music Competition, and the cutting-edge XR Creator Hackathon further establish CIC as a definitive launchpad for the next generation of storytellers, designers, and digital innovators.

By uniting creators across disciplines, borders, and generations, CIC not only celebrates India's creative energy — it has sparked a global dialogue around the future of storytelling and digital expression. With this remarkable foundation, CIC is poised to scale new heights in the seasons ahead, continuing its mission to empower creators and shape the cultural landscape of tomorrow.

About WAVES

The first World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES), a milestone event for the Media & Entertainment (M&E) sector, will be hosted by the Government of India in Mumbai, Maharashtra, from May 1 to 4, 2025.

Whether you're an industry professional, investor, creator, or innovator, the Summit offers the ultimate global platform to connect, collaborate, innovate and contribute to the M&E landscape.

WAVES is set to magnify India's creative strength, amplifying its position as a hub for content creation, intellectual property, and technological innovation. Industries and sectors in focus include Broadcasting, Print Media, Television, Radio, Films, Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, Sound and Music, Advertising, Digital Media, Social Media Platforms, Generative AI, Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR), and Extended Reality (XR).**IANS**

The elusive embrace of sleep

Anoopreet Kaur*



There was a time when sleep arrived as effortlessly as the setting sun. Gone are the days when we would pull a sheet over our heads and sleep till the rooster called. Our Circadian rhythm was in harmony with nature. We would sleep with shining stars and arise as the first rays of the sun lit up the sky in a breathtaking cascade of colours while the dark night tiptoed away.

Today is another story altogether. Our sleep patterns are totally disrupted in this fast paced modern life. Working late-nights to meet deadlines and sometimes even pulling all-nighters has become more or less a routine. Even when obligations don't demand our wakefulness, distractions gladly fill the void. Compelling books which refuse to be put down, scrolling on the phone and binge watching riveting series on television keep us up into the wee hours of morning. Chatting with friends and family late into the night has a charm of its own. In the stillness of the night, with no distractions, the conversation goes on endlessly as it moves seamlessly from one topic to another, laughter and whispers stretching into the small hours.

As dawn breaks we have to pay the price for our nocturnal indulgences. Sleep deprived, we rush to work in the morning. Even when we try to sleep early to reclaim the lost hours of rest, it eludes us since our internal clock is thrown into chaos. This is playing havoc on our health. As adults, we need to sleep for six to eight hours daily. Anything less than this can take a toll on our mental and physical health. We feel irritable, confused, tired and become low on immunity.

Some find solace in power naps, those precious moments of respite which are very refreshing. Others sleep longer during the weekend to add sleep hours to the sleep bank to help cover up the deficit. But is recovery sleep ever quite as restorative as a well-kept routine ?

Earlier we would sleep to the hypnotic rhythm of counting the stars or listening to the murmur of grandma's stories. Now we seek guided breathing techniques- box breathing which involves inhaling for four seconds, holding breath for four seconds, exhaling for four seconds and holding breath for four seconds repeatedly. The famed 4-7-8 is also a very useful technique for relaxing which involves inhaling for four seconds, holding the breath for seven seconds and exhaling for eight seconds. We continue this rhythmic breathing till sleep comes passing by.

We sip chamomile tea, watching its dried flowers bloom and dance in hot water, believing in the ancient promise of calm. Trustingly, we turn to herbs like Brahmi and Ashwagandha, for tranquility.

Some find warmth and comfort in Reiki, the embracing warmth of universal energy. Yoga Nidra or guided sleep meditation in 'Shavasana' is profoundly relaxing and cradles one into deep sleep as it coaxes the mind into surrender.

Technology offers several Sleep apps like Sleep+, Pillow, Sleepwatch, Autosleep etc. that track, monitor and analyze sleep patterns. They help one achieve sleep goals. Sleep inducing music tracks act like sedatives facilitating deep relaxation.

Yet, for all the science, all the remedies, and all the technology, nothing quite compares to the simplest of comforts—a mother's lullaby, her voice a melody of love and reassurance, her fingers combing gently through our hair until sleep arrives, not as a conquest, but as an embrace.

Perhaps, in our pursuit of rest, what we truly seek is not just sleep, but the feeling of being held—safe, soothed, and at peace.

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Waqf Board land scandals leave Muslims as the primary victims

Harsh Ranjan, Senior Journalist



After Army and Railways Waqf is the third largest owner of properties in India, The Waqf Asset Management System of India (WAMSI) portal reveals that the total area of Waqf properties in India exceeds a staggering 37.39 lakh acres. India comprises 28 states and 7 Union Territories, out of which 32 Waqf Boards operate across various states & UTs. The scale of Waqf assets in India is immense, with a total of 8,72,802 Waqf properties. Additionally, there are 4,02,089 'Waqf by users', but no proper documentation is available for them. Furthermore, only 1,088 Waqf deeds have been registered, and there are 26,676 private Waqf (Waqf alal Aulad) properties.

History of Waqf in India and Present Crisis

The governance of waqf properties in India has evolved through multiple legislative changes, aimed at improving administration and preventing mismanagement. Since the Privy Council ruling in 1894, various laws including the Mussalman Wakf Acts (1913, 1923, 1930), the Wakf Act of 1954, and its subsequent amendments have shaped waqf administration. The Waqf Act, 1995, further strengthened regulatory mechanisms, with a major amendment in 2013 expanding its scope.

Despite having such an illustrious history, Waqf Boards across India are mired in allegations of corruption and mismanagement. Reports suggest that Waqf properties are frequently sold illegally or leased at throwaway prices to private entities while bypassing legal procedures. This rampant corruption has sparked growing unrest within the Muslim community as cases of encroachments, illegal land transactions, and legal disputes continue to rise. However, while the issue is widely recognized, most community members refrain from speaking out due to fear of social backlash and peer pressure.

Rampant Encroachments and Legal Disputes

A significant portion of Waqf properties is under encroachment, leading to numerous legal battles. According to the WAMSI portal, there are currently 58,890 cases of encroachments on Waqf properties. The total number of litigation cases related to Waqf properties stands at 31,999, out of which 16,140 cases are specifically related to encroachments. Among these, 3,165 cases have been filed by Muslim petitioners. Many within the Muslim community believe that the lack of transparency and accountability within Waqf Boards has allowed corrupt officials and vested interests to exploit these assets, depriving the community of its rightful resources.

Fear of Speaking Out and Internal Conflicts

The issue has led to growing internal discord within the community as people increasingly realize that the mismanagement of Waqf properties primarily harms Muslims. However, open criticism remains scarce due to social pressures. Several social activists, prominent rationalist Muslim personalities, educationists, and thinkers have highlighted a growing yet unspoken consensus on the urgent need for Waqf law reforms. However, they note that many community leaders hesitate to address the issue publicly, fearing backlash from religious and political groups.

Litigation and Complaints Across India

The Ministry of Minority Affairs has received numerous complaints and representations regarding encroachments on Waqf properties across India. The scale of these encroachments has reached an alarming level, often with the direct involvement of Waqf Boards. Several cases across different cities highlight the extent of the crisis:

In Bhopal, a Waqf Complex was illegally constructed on government land, and out of 125 registered graveyards, 101 have mysteriously disappeared. In Hyderabad, 765 notices were issued to encroachers in 2021 alone, while Telangana's Waqf Board, one of India's richest, owns assets worth ₹5 lakh crore, yet 75% of its land is encroached upon. In Mumbai, over 60% of Maharashtra's Waqf land has been illegally occupied, with the Lal Shah Baba Dargah in Parel, originally spanning 72 acres, now surrounded by residential towers built on Waqf land. In Lucknow, the Uttar Pradesh government has reported that 78% of the land claimed by the Waqf Board is actually government-owned, and a 1989 government order that illegally registered uncultivable land as Waqf property has been revoked. In Patna, the Bihar Sunni Waqf Board issued a notice claiming ownership of land in the Hindu-majority village of Govindpur, Fatuha, affecting seven Hindu households.

Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is a Part of Reform Process

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is part of the reform process. Claims that it is unjust to Muslims are misleading, as its sole objective is to ensure better management for the benefit of the community. Muslim intellectuals and legal experts argue that Waqf Boards must undergo a complete overhaul to prevent further misuse of community assets. Some suggest that Waqf properties should be brought under stricter governmental oversight with mechanisms ensuring community participation in decision-making. Legal expert who specialize in Waqf affairs opine that the Waqf Act needs amendments to increase transparency and accountability, as properties meant for community welfare should not become instruments of corruption and personal gain.

Key Features of the Waqf Amendment Bill 2024

The Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is being hailed as a solution to the long-standing problems plaguing Waqf properties. The bill aims to address administrative inefficiencies within Waqf Boards. One of the major issues has been the failure to digitize records and upload them on the WAMSI portal. The Amendment mandates that all Waqf properties be registered online within six months, ensuring greater transparency and ease of access.

Government's Homework and Consultations

The government has conducted extensive consultations with the Muslim community over the past eight years, engaging in nationwide discussions on Waqf-related issues and possible reforms. To ensure transparency, a Joint Committee on Waqf Amendment Bill, 2024, was constituted, which held 36 meetings across India to gather public feedback. Additionally, the committee received lakhs of suggestions from concerned citizens, further reinforcing the need for amendments. Contrary to claims by particular groups that the government is imposing the bill, the reality is that the proposed amendments are a result of widespread consultation. The primary resistance to the bill comes from influential figures within the Muslim community who see it as a financial threat since it will curb the illegal sale and encroachment of Waqf properties. However, the common Muslim population, especially Muslim women, has welcomed the government's initiative, recognizing that the reforms will protect community assets from further exploitation.

Conclusion

The Waqf property crisis represents not just a legal and administrative failure but also a moral dilemma for the Muslim community. Unless bold steps are taken to ensure fair management of these lands, the losses will continue to mount, affecting those who depend on Waqf resources the most. With the Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 offering a structured and transparent solution, the question remains: Will the community support reforms for the greater good, or will internal power struggles continue to hinder progress.

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NEWSBRIEFS

Speeding car claims life of 14-year-old boy in Udupi district

UDUPI: A 14-year-old boy was killed on Tuesday after being struck allegedly by a speeding car while crossing NH 66 in Brahmavara in Udupi district, police said. The incident occurred around 8.30 AM when Vamsh Shetty, a Class 6 student at SMS School, was heading to a summer camp, they said. The driver of the offending vehicle, Akhilesh (21), from Kalaburagi, was arrested by Brahmavara police, who have registered a case in connection with the incident, police said. Preliminary inquiry suggested that the car was allegedly over-speeding as it approached from the Kundapur side, they said. According to the police, Shetty was rushed to a nearby private hospital but succumbed to his injuries. His parents, originally from Vakvady village, reside in Brahmavara. PTI

Man found dead in drain, pouches of liquor recovered near body

SAHARANPUR: The body of a 45-year-old man was recovered from a drain near a forest area here, police said on Tuesday. Superintendent of Police (Rural) Sagar Jain told PTI that the deceased, identified as Tejpal, a resident of Kalsia, was found near a forest area close to a highway. "Passersby noticed the body and informed Behat police, following which officers reached the spot and retrieved it from the drain," Jain said. The police said they recovered pouches containing liquor and packets of snacks near the body, indicating possible alcohol consumption before the incident. "Tejpal used to collect and sell empty bottles to buy liquor," Jain added. PTI

Security of every MP important: Dhankhar on threats to Ramji Lal Suman

NEW DELHI, APRIL 1



Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday said security of every Member of Parliament is important after Samajwadi Party MP Ram Gopal Yadav raised concerns over the security of Ramji Lal Suman following threats to him over his remarks on Rana Sanga made in the house.

The chairman also urged Yadav to use his influence on Suman to bring the matter to quietus by adhering to the chair and not reiterate the observations that have already been expunged from the records of Parliament. Suman had earlier made some remarks against the Rajput ruler which were objected to in the house by BJP and NDA members and the chairman had expunged the same. His remarks had also not gone well with a certain section of society and he faced backlash. During the Zero Hour on Tuesday, Dhankhar rejected four adjournment notices by SP members, including Yadav, to suspend the listed business of the day and take up a discussion on alleged threat and attempt to attack the residence of former Union minister and sitting Rajya Sabha MP Ramji Lal Suman.

The residence of SP Rajya Sabha MP Suman was attacked last month in Agra allegedly by workers of the Karni Sena, days after the lawmaker's remarks on Rana Sanga triggered a row. A video of the Rajya Sabha MP surfaced recently, in which he is purportedly heard saying that Rana Sanga was a "traitor" who brought Babur to defeat Ibrahim Lodi. Raising the issue in the House, Yadav said he had given a notice on Friday in this regard for taking it up on Tuesday.

He said a person has announced a reward of Rs 25 lakh on the life of Ramji Lal Suman. "I want to talk about his protection," Yadav said. Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge too joined the issue, and wondered why treasury benches had problems if a senior member like Yadav was trying to raise the issue of security of an MP. Dhankhar said security of every citizen as well as MPs is important and those concerned will take all steps.

"I had the painful duty on the last occasion to indicate that when, in the burst of emotion, an hon'ble member exceeds decorum, there is a mechanism for rectification. Observations made by hon'ble member were expunged as they were hurtful to chivalry, patriotism of a great son of the soil," Dhankhar said, in an apparent reference to the remarks made by Suman. He said now the observations having been expunged and the minimum respect a member can pay is not to reiterate them. "The reiteration of the same that has taken place is something on which members need to think about. Secondly, I am sure the security of every citizen and a member is important and those concerned will take all steps in that direction. PTI

Tejashwi challenges Shah for debate on Bihar

PATNA, APRIL 1

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Tuesday challenged Union Home Minister Amit Shah for a debate on the contributions of his party in the development of Bihar, in comparison with the BJP-led NDA which has been ruling the state for the last couple of decades. At a press conference here, the former deputy chief minister of Bihar charged Shah, who addressed a rally in Gopalganj two days ago, with targeting his father Lalu Prasad, the RJD's founding president.

"Let Amit Shah leave Lalu ji alone and engage with me. I am ready for a public debate with him at a time and a place he decides," the leader of the opposition said. Yadav claimed that the central assistance secured for Bihar by his father, who was a member of the Congress-led NDA, was far greater than the help from the current regime. PTI

7 killed in blaze at firecracker factory in Banaskantha



PALANPUR, APRIL 1

Seven persons were killed after a blast at a firecrackers factory led to a blaze and collapse of parts of the building in Gujarat's Banaskantha district on Tuesday, officials said. The incident took place at the unit located near Deesa town.

As per preliminary information, a blast at the factory, located in an industrial area, led to a fire and collapse of parts of the building, leaving several persons trapped in the rubble, Sub Divisional Magistrate, Deesa, Neha Panchal said. "As many as seven workers have died in the incident, and the operation is underway to remove the rubble and rescue those trapped," Banaskantha Superintendent of Police Akshayraj Makwana said.

Firefighters from Deesa municipality doused the blaze. An operation was underway to rescue those trapped in the rubble, as per officials. A team of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) was also at the site to assist in the rescue work, police officials said. PTI

Renaming an attempt to cover up governance failures: Mayawati



LUCKNOW, APRIL 1

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Monday criticised the trend of renaming districts, cities and institutions by BJP governments in states, calling it an example of "narrow-minded politics" aimed at covering up governance failures. In a post on X, the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister said, "Like the SP government in UP, the BJP governments of Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh have been changing names of districts, cities and institutions.

"It is not governance through the rule of law but a very worrying narrow-minded politics to cover up their failures based on hatred and discrimination." She emphasised that during the four BSP governments between 1995 and 2012, multiple welfare schemes were introduced and new districts, tehsils, hospitals and universities were established with new names, but no existing names were changed.

She urged the current governments to take lessons from this approach. Mayawati's remarks come amid an ongoing debate over the changing of names of various places and institutions in different states. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami had on Monday announced the renaming of 11 places in Haridwar, Dehradun, Nainital and Udham Singh Nagar districts after Hindu deities, icons, mythological characters and prominent BJP and RSS leaders. PTI

Govt to form committee for decision on assets of MTNL and BSNL in Mumbai: Scindia

MUMBAI, APRIL 1

Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Tuesday said a committee of government officials will be formed to take a decision on the assets of public sector telecom companies Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in Mumbai.

The committee will comprise officials of the state urban development department, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), and the central government's telecommunications department, and its report will be submitted in four weeks, Scindia was quoted as saying in a release.

The Minister of Communications attended a meeting organised at the Sahyadri Guest House here on the BSNL's assets in Mumbai and the communication system in Maharashtra. The meeting discussed in detail the assets of BSNL and MTNL in Mumbai, construction of mobile towers, communication systems to be created under the BharatNet programme. PTI

DELHI/NCR

CAG report tabled in assembly flags lapses in Delhi's pollution control measures

NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

Delhi's worsening air pollution has been exacerbated by lapses in its pollution control mechanisms, including irregularities in the issuance of PUC certificates, unreliable air quality monitoring systems, and poor enforcement of pollution control measures, according to a CAG report tabled in the Assembly on Tuesday.

The report on 'Vehicular Air Pollution in Delhi', tabled by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, highlighted major policy gaps and weak enforcement and poor coordination among agencies as key reasons behind the worsening pollution scenario in the national capital. More than 1.08 lakh vehicles were issued pollution under control (PUC) certificates despite them emitting carbon monoxide (CO) and hydrocarbons (HC) beyond permissible limits, the reports said.

In many cases, multiple vehicles were issued certificates at the same time, sometimes within a minute of each other, it said. Between 2015 and 2020, nearly 4,000 diesel vehicles that exceeded pollution limits were still certified as compliant, allowing them to remain on the road despite their high emission levels, the report said. Out of the 14 CAG reports on the performance of the previous Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) dispensation in Delhi, eight, including on excise and health, have been tabled in the Assembly so far by the BJP government, which assumed charge of Delhi after more than 26 years following a landslide victory in the Assembly polls held on February 5. The report said the city's Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) do not meet the requirements set by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), leading to concerns about inaccuracies in pollution control measures.

The Air Quality Index (AQI) values reported daily may not always reflect the actual pollution levels, making it difficult for the authorities to respond effectively, it noted. The report also criticised the previous AAP government for failing to conduct any real-time studies to identify the exact sources of pollution, a crucial step in formulating targeted solutions.

"Vehicles are one of the major local contributors to Delhi's poor air quality," the report said. Out of the 47.51 lakh overage vehicles required to be deregistered from 2018-19 to 2020-21, the government deregistered only 2.98 lakh such vehicles, constituting a small fraction (6.27 per cent) of the end-of-life-vehicle (ELV), while a majority 93.73 per cent (44.53 lakh) of the ELVs had "active" registration status as of March 2021, the report said, indicating that these ELVs were still plying on Delhi roads. PTI

2020 Delhi riots: Court orders lodging of FIR against Delhi Minister Kapil Mishra, others

NEW DELHI, APRIL 1



A Delhi court on Tuesday ordered an FIR against Delhi cabinet minister Kapil Mishra and others to investigate his alleged role in 2020 Delhi riots.

Additional chief judicial magistrate Vaibhav Chaurasia found a "prime facie" cognisable offence, requiring a probe. "It is clear that Mishra was in the area at the time of alleged offence. further probe required," the judge said. The judge was hearing arguments on a plea filed by a Yamuna Vihar resident Mohammad Ilyas, seeking registration of the FIR, which was opposed by Delhi Police, claiming Mishra had no role in the riots. PTI

> 'It is clear that Mishra was in the area at the time of alleged offence. further probe required,'the judge said

Delhi CM Gupta promises pothole-free roads before monsoon

NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said the Delhi government will ensure pothole-free roads in the national capital before the monsoon arrives in the city. Following a midnight inspection of road repair work on the Outer Ring Road stretch from Madhuban Chowk to Mukarba Chowk on Sunday, Gupta directed the officials to prioritise public convenience and ensure there is no negligence in execution.

"She expressed her commitment to make Delhi's Roads pothole-free before the monsoon and has issued necessary instructions to all concerned agencies," a government statement said. "Our government is making every possible effort to strengthen and improve Delhi's roads. Today, construction of a 4 km road stretch from Madhuban Chowk to Mukarba Chowk, to ensure high-quality execution and timely completion," it said. The project, being executed by PWD Northern Zone, involves strengthening both sides of the Outer Ring Road alongside the elevated corridor. The road work is being carried out using cold milling and hot recycling techniques for long-lasting durability.

The chief minister asserted the road strengthening project being carried out at Rs 12.85 crore, includes a two-layer reinforcement process. The first layer utilises dense bitumen macadam (DBM) while the second layer comprises dense bitumen concrete (DBC). Additionally, existing road layers are being removed through cold milling to maintain proper levelling. Thermoplastic paint, glow studs, and median markers are being installed to enhance night-time visibility, while a 50 mm thick stone matrix asphalt (SMA) layer is being laid near the elevated flyover, she said. PTI

Auction Notice

Auction of three sheds and three rooms (including debris) will be held at Shaheed Kartar Singh Government Senior Secondary School, Sarabha, District Ludhiana on 05.04.2025 at 11.00 AM. Individuals or parties participating in the auction can reach on time and participate in the auction process.

S.M.C Committee Mob.No. 80041-32738

PUBLIC NOTICE

ਦੀ ਚੱਕ ਗੁੱਜਰਾਂ ਬਹੁਮੰਤਵੀ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਸਹਿਕਾਰੀ ਸਭਾ ਚੱਕ ਗੁੱਜਰਾਂ ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਅਤੇ ਜਿਲਾ ਹੁਸ਼ਿਆਰਪੁਰ

ਚੱਕ ਗੁੱਜਰਾਂ ਸੁਸਾਇਟੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੇਲਸਮੈਨ ਕਮ ਕੈਸ਼ੀਅਰ(1) ਆਰਜੀ ਤੌਰ ਤੇ ਡੀਸੀ ਰੇਟ 'ਤੇ ਰੱਖਣ ਲਈ ਯੋਗ ਉਮੀਦਵਾਰਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਅਰਜ਼ੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਮੰਗ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ। ਇਹਨਾਂ ਅਰਜ਼ੀਆਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਏਰੀਆ ਆਪਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਪਿੰਡ ਚੱਕ ਗੁੱਜਰਾਂ, ਪਡੋਰੀ ਰੁਕਮਾਣ, ਹੈਦਰੋਵਾਲ ਅਤੇ ਦੇਓਵਾਲ ਨੂੰ ਪਹਿਲ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ। ਵਿਦਿਅਕ ਯੋਗਤਾ: ਮਾਨਤਾ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਯੂਨੀਵਰਸਿਟੀ ਤੋਂ ਗ੍ਰੈਜੂਏਸ਼ਨ, ਦਸਵੀਂ ਪੱਧਰ ਦੀ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਪਾਸ, ਕੰਪਿਊਟਰ ਕੋਰਸ, ਆਈ ਐਸ ਓ,9001 ਤੋ 120 ਘੰਟਿਆਂ ਦਾ ਮਾਨਤਾ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਸੰਸਥਾ ਤੋਂ ਪੇਂਡੂ ਏਰੀਏ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਬੰਧਿਤ ਆਪਣੀ ਅਰਜੀ ਨਾਲ ਤਸਦੀਕ ਸ਼ੁਦਾ ਸਰਟੀਫਿਕੇਟਾਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਫੋਟੋ ਕਾਪੀਆਂ ਸਭਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਮਿਤੀ 16.04.2025 ਸ਼ਾਮ 5 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ ਸਭਾ ਦੇ ਦਫਤਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਦੇ ਸਕਦੇ ਹੋ ਅਰਜੀ ਕਰਤਾ ਮਿਤੀ 17.04.2025 ਨੂੰ ਸਵੇਰੇ 10 ਵਜੇ ਸਭਾ ਦੇ ਦਫਤਰ, ਦਸ਼ਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦੀ ਪੜਤਾਲ ਲਈ ਆਪਣੇ ਅਸਲੀ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਲੈ ਕੇ ਹਾਜ਼ਰ ਹੋਣ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਕਾਰਨ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਭਾ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਭਰਤੀ ਨੂੰ ਮੁਲਤਵੀ ਕਰਨ ਦਾ ਅਧਿਕਾਰ ਰੱਖਦਾ ਹੈ ਚੋਣ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਦਾ ਫੈਸਲਾ ਅੰਤਿਮ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ।

ਅਦਾਲਤੀ ਇਸ਼ਤਿਹਾਰ

ਬਾ-ਅਦਾਲਤ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਰੁਸਤਮ ਕੁਮਾਰ ਸਬ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਾਰ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਮੁਕਤਸਰ ਸਾਹਿਬ।

ਨੰਬਰ:-1177/ਆਰ.ਸੀ. ਮਿਤੀ 28/03/2025

ਦਰਖਾਸਤ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਹਰਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਬਲਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਚੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਪਿੰਡ ਸ਼ਰੀਹਵਾਲਾ ਬਰਾੜ ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਗੁਰੂਹਰਸਹਾਏ, ਜਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਫਿਰੋਜ਼ਪੁਰ ਬਾਬਤ ਘਰ ਲਿਖੀ ਵਸੀਅਤ ਮਿਤੀ 01-12-2024 ਵੱਲੋਂ ਬਲਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਚੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਕਪੂਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਅਧੀਨ ਪਿੰਡ ਸ਼ਰੀਹਵਾਲਾ ਬਰਾੜ ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਗੁਰੂਹਰਸਹਾਏ, ਜਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਫਿਰੋਜ਼ਪੁਰ ਜੇਰ ਧਾਰਾ 40-41 ਭਾਰਤੀਆ ਰਜਿਸਟਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਐਕਟ ਤਹਿਤ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਡ ਕਰਨ ਬਾਰੇ।

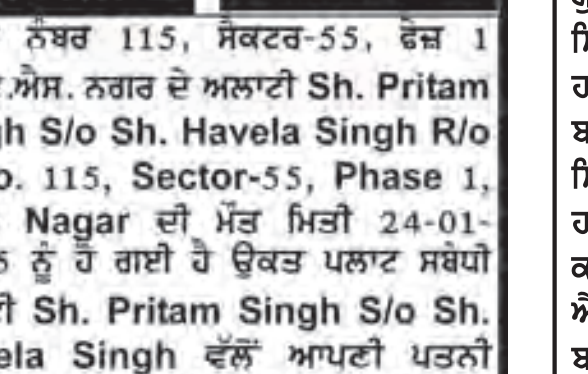
ਨੋਟਿਸ ਬਨਾਮ ਹਰ ਆਮ ਵਾ ਖਾਸ

ਇਸ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਹਰ ਆਮ ਵਾ ਖਾਸ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਹਰਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਬਲਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਚੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਪਿੰਡ ਸ਼ਰੀਹਵਾਲਾ ਬਰਾੜ ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਗੁਰੂਹਰਸਹਾਏ, ਜਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਫਿਰੋਜ਼ਪੁਰ ਨੇ ਇਕ ਦਰਖਾਸਤ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰਕੇ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਕੀਤੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਮੇਰੇ ਪਿਤਾ ਬਲਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਚੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਕਪੂਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਅਧੀਨ ਪਿੰਡ ਸ਼ਰੀਹਵਾਲਾ ਬਰਾੜ ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਗੁਰੂਹਰਸਹਾਏ, ਜਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਫਿਰੋਜ਼ਪੁਰ ਦੀ ਮੌਤ 18-12-2024 ਨੂੰ ਹੋ ਚੁੱਕੀ ਹੈ। ਉਹਨਾਂ ਨੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਜੀਵਨਕਾਲ ਵਿੱਚ ਆਪਣੀ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਇਕ ਘਰ ਲਿਖੀ ਵਸੀਅਤ 01-12-2024 ਨੂੰ ਜੋ ਕਿ ਸੁਖਜੀਤ ਕੌਰ ਪਤਨੀ ਬਲਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਚੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾ ਹਰਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾ ਵਿਰਸਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਬੇਟੇ ਬਲਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਚੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ ਪਿੰਡ ਸ਼ਰੀਹਵਾਲਾ ਬਰਾੜ ਤਹਿਸੀਲ ਗੁਰੂਹਰਸਹਾਏ, ਜਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਫਿਰੋਜ਼ਪੁਰ ਦੇ ਹੱਕ ਵਿੱਚ ਲਿਖਵਾਈ ਸੀ।ਜ਼ੋ ਅਧੀਨ ਜੇਰ ਧਾਰਾ 40/41 ਭਾਰਤੀਆ ਰਜਿਸਟਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਐਕਟ ਤਹਿਤ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਡ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਇਸ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਹਰ ਆਮ ਵਾ ਖਾਸ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਜੇਕਰ ਇਸ ਖਾਨਗੀ ਵਸੀਅਤ ਦੇ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਡ ਹੋਣ ਵਿੱਚ ਕਿਸੇ ਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਨੂੰ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ (ਉਜ਼ਰ) ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਉਹ ਇਸ ਇਸ਼ਤਿਹਾਰ ਦੇ ਅਖਬਾਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਛੱਪਣ ਤੋਂ 30 ਦਿਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਅੰਦਰ-ਅੰਦਰ ਆਪਣੇ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਅਸਾਲਤਨ ਜਾਂ ਵਕਾਲਤਨ ਅਦਾਲਤ/ਦਫਤਰ ਹਾਜ਼ਰ ਹੋ ਕੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕਰ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਬਾਅਦ ਗੁਜਰਨੇ ਮਿਆਦ ਕੋਈ ਇਤਰਾਜ ਮੰਨਣਯੋਗ ਨਾ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ ਅਤੇ ਵਸੀਅਤ ਹਸਬ ਜਾਬਤਾ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਡ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ। ਇਹ ਇਸ਼ਤਿਹਾਰ ਮੇਰੇ ਦਸਤਖਤਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਮੋਹਰ ਅਦਾਲਤ ਸਹਿਤ ਅੱਜ ਮਿਤੀ 28-03-2025 ਨੂੰ ਜਾਰੀ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ।

ਮਿਤੀ: 28-03-2025 ਸਥਾਨ: ਸ੍ਰੀ ਮੁਕਤਸਰ ਸਾਹਿਬ।

ਸਬ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਾਰ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਮੁਕਤਸਰ ਸਾਹਿਬ।

ਗਰੇਟਰ ਮੋਹਾਲੀ ਏਰੀਆ ਡਿਵੈਲਪਮੈਂਟ ਅਥਾਰਟੀ
ਪੁੱਡਾ ਭਵਨ, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ
ਜਨਤਕ ਸੂਚਨਾ



ਮ੍ਰਿਤਕ ਅਲਾਟੀ ਲਾਭਪਾਤਰੀ

ਪਲਾਟ ਨੰਬਰ 115, ਸੈਕਟਰ-55, ਫੇਜ਼ 1 ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ ਦੇ ਅਲਾਟੀ Sh. Pritam Singh S/o Sh. Havela Singh R/o H no. 115, Sector-55, Phase 1, SAS Nagar ਦੀ ਮੌਤ ਮਿਤੀ 24-01-2025 ਨੂੰ ਹੋ ਗਈ ਹੈ ਉਕਤ ਪਲਾਟ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਅਲਾਟੀ Sh. Pritam Singh S/o Sh. Havela Singh ਵੱਲੋਂ ਆਪਣੀ ਪਤਨੀ Balwant Kaur W/o Pritam Singh ਦੇ ਨਾਮ ਵਸੀਅਤ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ ਇਹ ਵਸੀਅਤ ਵਸੀਕਾ ਨੰਬਰ 584, ਬਹੀ ਨੰ. 3 ਮਿਤੀ 04-12-2013 ਰਾਹੀਂ ਸਬ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਾਰ, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ ਵਿਖੇ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਡ ਹੈ ਉਕਤ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਡ ਵਸੀਅਤ ਦੇ ਅਧਾਰ ਤੇ Balwant Kaur W/o Pritam Singh R/o H No, 115, Sector -55, Phase 1, SAS Nagar ਵੱਲੋਂ ਪਲਾਟ ਨੰਬਰ 115, ਸੈਕਟਰ-55, ਫੇਜ਼ 1, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ ਦੀ ਮਲਕੀਅਤ ਆਪਣੇ ਨਾਮ ਤਬਦੀਲ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਇਸ ਦਫਤਰ ਨੂੰ ਪੇਸ਼ ਕੀਤੇ ਗਏ ਹਨ ਅਤੇ ਇਹ ਕੇਸ ਮਿਲਖ ਅਫਸਰ (ਹ), ਗਮਾਡਾ ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ ਦੇ ਦਫਤਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਅਧੀਨ ਹੈ ਇਸ ਲਈ ਮਲਕੀਅਤ ਤਬਦੀਲ ਕਰਨ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਸਭ ਆਮ ਅਤੇ ਖਾਸ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਮ੍ਰਿਤਕ ਅਲਾਟੀ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਡ ਵਸੀਅਤ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਕੋਈ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਉਹ ਇਸ ਵਿਗਿਆਪਨ ਦੀ ਮਿਤੀ ਤੋਂ 15 ਦਿਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਅੰਦਰ-ਅੰਦਰ ਆਪਣਾ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਮਿਲਖ ਅਫਸਰ (ਹ) ਗਮਾਡਾ ਮੋਹਾਲੀ ਪਾਸ ਲਿਖਤੀ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਦੇ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ ਨਿਸ਼ਚਿਤ ਮਿਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਤੇ ਕੋਈ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਨਹੀਂ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ ਅਤੇ ਪਲਾਟ ਨੰਬਰ 115, ਸੈਕਟਰ-55, ਫੇਜ਼ 1, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ ਦੀ ਮਲਕੀਅਤ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਡ ਵਸੀਅਤ ਦੇ ਅਧਾਰ ਤੇ ਉਕਤ ਲਾਭ ਪਾਤਰ ਦੇ ਨਾਮ ਤਬਦੀਲ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ।

ਮਿਲਖ ਅਫਸਰ (ਹ)
ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ.ਨਗਰ

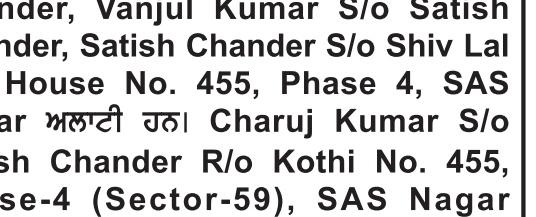
ਗਰੇਟਰ ਮੋਹਾਲੀ ਏਰੀਆ ਡਵੈਲਪਮੈਂਟ ਅਥਾਰਿਟੀ
ਪੁੱਡਾ ਭਵਨ, ਸੈਕਟਰ-62, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ ਨਗਰ।
ਜਨਤਕ ਸੂਚਨਾ

ਸਿੰਗਲ ਵਿੰਡੋ ਡਾਇਰੀ ਨੰਬਰ 432487 ਮਿਤੀ 05-02-2025 ਰਾਹੀਂ ਬਿਨੈਕਾਰ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਕਮਰਸ਼ੀਅਲ ਸ਼ਾਪ ਐਲ.ਓ.ਆਈ. ਨੰ: 1109 (ਫਿਊਚਰ ਰੈਫਰੈਂਸ ਨੰ ਐਲ.ਪੀ./24-25/1185), ਮਿਤੀ 18-12-2024, ਸਾਇਜ 60 ਵਰਗ ਗਜ, ਸੈਕਟਰ 101-ਇੰਡਸਟ੍ਰੀਅਲ ਪਾਰਕ, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ ਦੇ 6.77% ਹਿੱਸੇ ਦੇ ਅਲਾਟੀ ਸ਼੍ਰੀ ਯੁਵਰਾਜ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਸ਼੍ਰੀ ਦਿਨੇਸ਼ ਕੁਮਾਰ ਵਾਸੀ ਮਕਾਨ ਨੰ 11, ਸਿਵਲ ਲਾਈਨ, ਸੁਭਾਸ਼ ਮਾਰਗ, ਰੇਲਵੇ ਰੋਡ, ਕਰਨਾਲ, ਹਰਿਆਣਾ ਨੇ ਉਕਤ ਐਲ.ਓ.ਆਈ ਦਾ ਸ਼੍ਰੀਮਤੀ ਅੰਜੂ ਬਾਲਾ ਪਤਨੀ ਸ਼੍ਰੀ ਦਿਨੇਸ਼ ਕੁਮਾਰ ਵਾਸੀ ਮਕਾਨ ਨੰ 11, ਸਿਵਲ ਲਾਈਨ, ਸੁਭਾਸ਼ ਮਾਰਗ, ਰੇਲਵੇ ਰੋਡ, ਕਰਨਾਲ, ਹਰਿਆਣਾ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣਾ ਮੁਖਤਿਆਰੇ ਆਮ ਨਿਯੁਕਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ ਜੋ ਕੀ ਸਬ-ਰਜਿਸਟਰਾਰ, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ ਦੇ ਦਫਤਰ ਦੇ ਵਸੀਕਾ ਨੰਬਰ 115, ਬਹੀ ਨੰ.-4, ਜਿਲਦ ਨੰ-, ਸਫਾ ਨੰ-, ਮਿਤੀ 12-04-2024 ਰਾਹੀਂ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਡ ਹੋਈ ਹੈ।

ਹੁਣ ਇਸ ਮੁਖਤਿਆਰੇ ਆਮ ਦੇ ਆਧਾਰ ਤੇ ਸ਼੍ਰੀਮਤੀ ਅੰਜੂ ਬਾਲਾ ਪਤਨੀ ਸ਼੍ਰੀ ਦਿਨੇਸ਼ ਕੁਮਾਰ ਵਾਸੀ ਮਕਾਨ ਨੰ 11, ਸਿਵਲ ਲਾਈਨ, ਸੁਭਾਸ਼ ਮਾਰਗ, ਰੇਲਵੇ ਰੋਡ, ਕਰਨਾਲ, ਹਰਿਆਣਾ ਅਤੇ ਬਾਕੀ ਦੇ ਅਲਾਟੀਆਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਕਮਰਸ਼ੀਅਲ ਸ਼ਾਪ ਐਲ.ਓ.ਆਈ. ਨੰ: 1109 (ਫਿਊਚਰ ਰੈਫਰੈਂਸ ਨੰ ਐਲ.ਪੀ./24-25/1185), ਮਿਤੀ 18-12-2024, ਸਾਇਜ 60 ਵਰਗ ਗਜ, ਸੈਕਟਰ 101-ਇੰਡਸਟ੍ਰੀਅਲ ਪਾਰਕ, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ ਨੂੰ ਸ਼੍ਰੀ ਸ਼ਿਵਰਾਜ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਕੌਸ਼ਲ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਸ਼੍ਰੀ ਮੋਹਨ ਲਾਲ ਕੌਸ਼ਲ ਵਾਸੀ ਮਕਾਨ ਨੰ 5063/3, ਮਾਡਰਨ ਕੰਪਲੈਕਸ, ਮਨੀਮਾਜਰਾ, ਚੰਡੀਗੜ੍ਹ ਦੇ ਨਾਮ ਤੇ ਵੇਚਣ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਵਾਨਗੀ ਮੰਗੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ। ਇਹ ਐਲ.ਓ.ਆਈ ਨੂੰ ਵੇਚਣ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਵਾਨਗੀ ਦੇਣ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾ ਸਭ ਆਮ ਅਤੇ ਖਾਸ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਇਸ ਮੁਖਤਿਆਰ ਨਾਮਾ ਆਮ ਅਤੇ ਖਾਸ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਕੋਈ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਇਸ ਵਿਗਿਆਪਨ ਦੀ ਮਿਤੀ ਤੋਂ 15 ਦਿਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਅੰਦਰ-ਅੰਦਰ ਆਪਣਾ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਮਿਲਖ ਅਫਸਰ (ਪ), ਗਮਾਡਾ, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ ਪਾਸ ਲਿਖਤੀ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਦੇ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਨਿਸ਼ਚਿਤ ਮਿਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਹੋਏ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ਾਂ ਤੇ ਕੋਈ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਨਹੀਂ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ ਅਤੇ ਉਕਤ ਮੁਖਤਿਆਰੇ ਆਮ ਦੇ ਆਧਾਰ ਤੇ ਕਮਰਸ਼ੀਅਲ ਸ਼ਾਪ ਐਲ.ਓ.ਆਈ. ਨੰ: 1109 (ਫਿਊਚਰ ਰੈਫਰੈਂਸ ਨੰ ਐਲ.ਪੀ./24-25/1185), ਮਿਤੀ 18-12-2024, ਸਾਇਜ 60 ਵਰਗ ਗਜ, ਸੈਕਟਰ 101-ਇੰਡਸਟ੍ਰੀਅਲ ਪਾਰਕ, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ ਦੀ ਐਲ.ਓ.ਆਈ ਨੂੰ ਵੇਚਣ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਵਾਨਗੀ ਬਿਨੈਕਾਰ ਦੇ ਨਾਂ ਤੇ ਜਾਰੀ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ।

ਮਿਲਖ ਅਫਸਰ (ਪ),
ਗਮਾਡਾ, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ।

ਗਰੇਟਰ ਮੋਹਾਲੀ ਏਰੀਆ ਡਿਵੈਲਪਮੈਂਟ ਅਥਾਰਟੀ
ਪੁੱਡਾ ਭਵਨ, ਸੈਕਟਰ 62, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ
(ਜਨਤਕ ਸੂਚਨਾ)



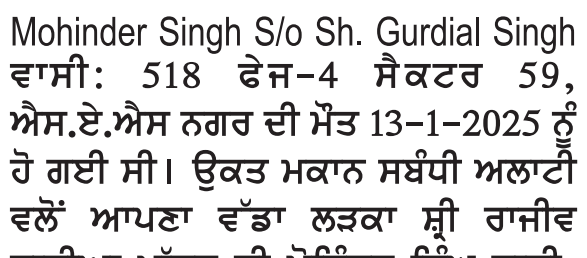
ਅਲਾਟੀ/ਜੀ.ਪੀ.ਏ ਅਲਾਟੀ ਅਲਾਟੀ

ਐਸ.ਸੀ.ਐਫ. ਨੰਬਰ-63, ਸੈਕਟਰ-59, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ ਦੇ 1/2 ਹਿੱਸੇ ਦੇ Charuj Kumar S/o Satish Chander, Vanjul Kumar S/o Satish Chander, Satish Chander S/o Shiv Lal R/o House No. 455, Phase 4, SAS Nagar ਅਲਾਟੀ ਹਨ। Charuj Kumar S/o Satish Chander R/o Kothi No. 455, Phase-4 (Sector-59), SAS Nagar (Mohali) ਨੇ Satish Chander S/o Shiv Lal R/o Kothi no. 455 Phase 4 Sector 59 Mohali ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣਾ GPA ਨਿਯੁਕਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੈ ਜੋ ਕਿ ਸਬ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਾਰ ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ ਵਿਖੇ ਵਸੀਕਾ ਨੰਬਰ 50, ਬੁਕ ਨੰਬਰ 4, ਮਿਤੀ 25-04-2014 ਰਾਹੀਂ ਰਜਿਸਟਰ, ਹੋਈ ਹੈ। Vanjul Kumar S/o Satish Chander R/o 32 Janice St. Seven Hills, N.S.W. 2147, Australia ਨੇ Satish Chander S/o Shiv Lal R/o Kothi no. 455 Phase 4 Sector 59 Mohali ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣਾ GPA ਨਿਯੁਕਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੈ, ਜੋ ਕਿ Sydney, Australia ਵਿਖੇ ਮਿਤੀ 13-05-2014 ਨੂੰ ਬਣੀ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਨੰਬਰ 616 ਮਿਤੀ 03-06-2014 ਰਾਹੀਂ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਵਿੱਤ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨਰ ਦੇ ਮਾਲ ਸਕੱਤਰ ਵਲੋਂ ਇਮਬੋਸ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ।

ਇਹਨਾਂ ਜੀ.ਪੀ.ਏ. ਦੇ ਅਧਾਰ ਤੇ Satish Chander S/o Shiv Lal Kothi no. .455 Phase 4 Sector 59 Mohali ਵਲੋਂ ਐਸ.ਸੀ.ਐਫ. ਨੰਬਰ-63, ਸੈਕਟਰ 59, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ ਦੇ 1/2 ਹਿੱਸੇ ਨੂੰ Sanam Kapoor S/D/W/o Sanjeev Kapoor R/o # 300, M.S ENCLAVE, DHAKOLI, ZIRAKPUR, PUNJAB ਦੇ ਨਾਂ ਤੇ ਵੇਚਣ ਦੀ ਆਗਿਆ ਲੈਣ ਲਈ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ ਮਿਤੀ 11-03-2025 ਨੂੰ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਹਨ। ਹੁਣ ਇਹ ਕੇਸ ਮਿਲਖ ਦਫਤਰ (ਹ), ਗਮਾਡਾ, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ ਦੇ ਦਫਤਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਅਧੀਨ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਉਕਤ ਐਸ.ਸੀ.ਐਫ. ਨੰਬਰ-63, ਸੈਕਟਰ 59, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ ਦੇ 1/2 ਹਿੱਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਵੇਚਣ ਦੀ ਆਗਿਆ ਦੇਣ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਆਮ ਅਤੇ ਖਾਸ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਕੋਈ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਉਹ ਇਸ ਵਿਗਿਆਪਨ ਛੱਪਣ ਦੀ ਮਿਤੀ ਤੋਂ 15 ਦਿਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਅੰਦਰ-ਅੰਦਰ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਸੁਪਰਡੰਟ (ਹ), ਗਮਾਡਾ, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ ਪਾਸ ਲਿਖਤੀ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਦੇ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਨਿਸ਼ਚਿਤ ਮਿਤੀ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਇਤਰਾਜ਼ ਤੇ ਕੋਈ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਨਹੀਂ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ ਅਤੇ ਉਕਤ ਜੀ.ਪੀ.ਏ. ਦੇ ਆਧਾਰ ਤੇ ਐਸ.ਸੀ.ਐਫ. ਨੰਬਰ-63, ਸੈਕਟਰ 59, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ ਦੇ 1/2 ਹਿੱਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਵੇਚਣ ਦੀ ਆਗਿਆ ਜਾਰੀ ਕਰ ਦਿਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ।

ਸੁਪਰਡੰਟ (ਹ),
ਗਮਾਡਾ, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ।

ਗਰੇਟਰ ਮੁਹਾਲੀ ਏਰੀਆ ਵਿਕਾਸ ਅਥਾਰਿਟੀ
ਪੁੱਡਾ ਭਵਨ, ਸੈਕਟਰ 62, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ



ਜਨਤਕ ਸੂਚਨਾ

ਮ੍ਰਿਤਕ ਅਲਾਟੀ ਲਾਭਪਾਤਰੀ

ਪਲਾਟ ਨੰ: 518 ਫੇਜ਼-4 ਸੈਕਟਰ 59, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ ਨਗਰ ਦੇ ਅਲਾਟੀ Sh. Mohinder Singh S/o Sh. Gurdial Singh ਵਾਸੀ: 518 ਫੇਜ਼-4 ਸੈਕਟਰ 59, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ ਨਗਰ ਦੀ ਮੌਤ 13-1-2025 ਨੂੰ ਹੋ ਗਈ ਸੀ। ਉਕਤ ਮਕਾਨ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਅਲਾਟੀ ਵਲੋਂ ਆਪਣਾ ਵੱਡਾ ਲੜਕਾ ਸ਼੍ਰੀ ਰਾਜੀਵ ਭਾਟੀਆ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਸ਼੍ਰੀ ਮੋਹਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ: 518 ਫੇਜ਼-4 ਸੈਕਟਰ 59, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ ਨਗਰ ਦੇ ਨਾਮ ਵਸੀਅਤ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ ਜੋ ਕਿ ਵਸੀਕਾ ਨੰ: 96, ਬਹੀ ਨੰ: 03 ਮਿਤੀ 21-04-2023 ਰਾਹੀਂ ਸਬ-ਰਜਿਸਟਰਾਰ, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ ਨਗਰ ਦੇ ਦਫਤਰ ਵਿਖੇ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਡ ਹੈ।

ਇਸ ਰਜਿਸਟਰਡ ਵਸੀਅਤ ਦੇ ਅਧਾਰ ਤੇ ਸ਼੍ਰੀ ਰਾਜੀਵ ਭਾਟੀਆ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਪੁੱਤਰ ਸ਼੍ਰੀ ਮੋਹਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਾਸੀ: 518 ਫੇਜ਼-4 ਸੈਕਟਰ 59, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ ਨਗਰ ਵਲੋਂ ਪਲਾਟ ਨੰ: 518 ਫੇਜ਼-4 ਸੈਕਟਰ 59, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ ਨਗਰ ਦੀ ਮਲਕੀਅਤ ਆਪਣੇ ਨਾਮ ਤੇ ਤਬਦੀਲ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ। ਅਤੇ ਇਹ ਕੇਸ ਮਿਲਖ ਅਫਸਰ (ਹ), ਗਮਾਡਾ, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ ਨਗਰ ਦੇ ਦਫਤਰ ਵਿਖੇ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਅਧੀਨ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਲਈ ਉਕਤ ਮਕਾਨ ਦੀ ਮਲਕੀਅਤ ਟਰਾਂਸਫਰ ਕਰਨ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਆਮ ਅਤੇ ਖਾਸ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ, ਕਿ ਜੇਕਰ ਇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਕੋਈ ਇਤਰਾਜ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਉਹ ਇਸ ਵਿਗਿਆਪਨ ਦੀ ਮਿਤੀ ਤੋ 15 ਦਿਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਅੰਦਰ ਅੰਦਰ ਆਪਣਾ ਇਤਰਾਜ ਮਿਲਖ ਅਫਸਰ (ਹ), ਗਮਾਡਾ ਪਾਸ ਲਿਖਤੀ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਦੇ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਨਿਸ਼ਚਿਤ ਮਿਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਇਤਰਾਜ ਤੇ ਕੋਈ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਨਹੀਂ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ ਅਤੇ ਪਲਾਟ ਨੰ: 518 ਫੇਜ਼-4 ਸੈਕਟਰ 59, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ ਨਗਰ ਦੀ ਮਲਕੀਅਤ ਵਸੀਅਤ ਦੇ ਆਧਾਰ ਤੇ ਤਬਦੀਲ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ।

ਮਿਲਖ ਅਫਸਰ (ਹ),
ਗਮਾਡਾ, ਐਸ.ਏ.ਐਸ. ਨਗਰ

Cyclothon 2.0 in Haryana from April 5 to raise awareness against drug addiction: CM



RAJENDRA KHATRY
PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, April 1

To combat the growing menace of drug addiction in Haryana, Cyclothon 2.0 will be organised from April 5 to April 27 as part of Haryana's drug de-addiction campaign, aimed at raising public awareness about the harmful effects of substance abuse. This state-level initiative will commence in Hisar on April 5 and conclude in Sirsa on April 27.

This was disclosed during a meeting chaired by Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini here on Monday. MLAs, Mayors, Deputy Commissioners, District Superintendents of Police, and other dignitaries also attended the meeting via video conferencing.

Addressing the meeting, the Chief Minister said that the primary objective of the Cyclothon is to educate the youth about the harmful effects of drugs and protect them from substance abuse. He said that a similar event was organized last year, witnessing participation from 177,200 cyclists and 525,800 other individuals. He further stated that the Cyclothon will pass through all assembly constituencies of the state under the theme "Drug-Free Haryana."

The Chief Minister urged all MLAs and administrative officers to ensure that ministers, MLAs, district administration officials, and other dignitaries are present at every location where the Cyclothon Yatra passes. Their presence will help maximize public awareness and encourage greater participation in the campaign against drug addiction.

He also emphasised the need to involve Sarpanchs, Numberdars, village intellectuals, and, in particular, women and youth in welcoming the Yatra as it passes through their villages, further strengthening the movement for a Drug-Free Haryana.

The CM directed that the Sarpanches from villages officially declared drug-free in Haryana should be felicitated during the Yatra. Additionally, arrangements should be made for them to share their experiences and insights with others.

He emphasised the need to review the route taken by last year's Cyclothon and ensure that, this time, the Yatra passes through villages that were not previously covered. This will help extend the reach of the statewide public awareness campaign against drug abuse.

The CM suggested that as part of this public awareness campaign, efforts should be made to engage with religious leaders, spiritual camps, and saints involved in drug de-addiction initiatives, seeking their support for the cause.

He said that local influencers and social media platforms be leveraged to maximise public outreach and ensure the Yatra's objectives are met. Emphasising the importance of feedback, he urged officials to gather insights from those associated with last year's Cyclothon Yatra to strengthen this year's "Nasha Mukt Haryana" campaign.

During the meeting, it was informed that the Cyclothon Yatra will pass through schools, colleges, educational institutions, religious centres, and villages, facilitating discussions on Nasha Mukt Haryana. The campaign will also feature street plays, drug-free pledges, cultural programmes, and other awareness activities. Those participating in the Cyclothon can register themselves on the Haryana Uday Portal.

Harassing farmers BJP's established policy: Hooda



PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, April 1

Former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda has said that looting and unnecessarily harassing farmers has become BJP's policy. He said poor management of crops and deliberate indifference towards farmers forces them to sell crops below MSP. "Every season, there is deliberate delay in starting the crop procurement and procurement is not started even on the fixed date. There is no arrangement of gunny bags in the mandis nor for lifting, due to which farmers have to bear the brunt. Every time they have to wait for several days to sell their crop. Most of the farmers have to sell their crop to private agencies at a rate much lower than the MSP," the former CM said.

Hooda said that the government had announced to start wheat procurement from April 1, but as usual, somewhere tenders were not made for lifting, and somewhere even gunny bags were not given to the commission agents. Due to lack of lifting, every time the crop piles up in the mandis. "There was no tender for lifting in Jind also and most of the water coolers are lying broken. The tender for loading-unloading has not been finalised in Fatehabad also. There was not even a tender for labor for lifting in Sirsa. The tender for labor and transportation is still pending in Kurukshetra.

Hooda said this time also the BJP government is not paying any attention to the purchase of crops and the convenience of farmers. "There has not been any tender for lifting in any market and purchase center of Panipat till now. The cleaning of the market is also half-finished. The water cooler that supplies drinking water to the farmers is also lying broken," he said. He said there is no arrangement of gunny bags and no proper electricity in Ambala. "In Yamunanagar, the electric wires are hanging in many places and the sanitation system seems to have completely collapsed. In Kaithal, the situation is so bad that the stock of paddy is still lying under the grain market's sheds and barns. In such a situation, the farmers who come with wheat will have trouble unloading their crop," he stated.

Haryana Police's action against songs promoting gun culture fair: Official

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 1



Haryana Police's action against songs which allegedly promote the gun culture and "glorify" violence is being taken in a fair manner, a senior police official has said.

Some singers said that not just few, but all such songs should be pulled down from social media.

Haryana Police has recently intensified its action to curb the promotion of gun culture and violence in songs, and the initiative targets singers, social media and other such platforms that "glorify" gun culture or incite hatred.

The cybercrime unit's teams monitor social media and take appropriate action where required, the official said.

Such songs or music videos garner a sizable viewership and have the potential to adversely affect the youth, the official said.

During last month, more than ten songs were taken down from various social media platforms, with seven of of them sung by popular Haryanvi singer Masoom Sharma.

"My only point is that there should be no discrimination. Ten songs have been banned, seven of these are mine... When I was recently doing a programme in Gurugram, Haryana Police got me to give a written assurance that I will not sing any of the banned songs.

"I am with the government if all the songs are pulled down, but there should be no discrimination. There are so many songs of other artists which have not been pulled down from social media. If the government has started from me, it is good, but the action should be fair," Sharma (33) told mediapersons.

He also said that some of his songs, which commanded viewership in millions, have been pulled down, causing him a financial loss.

Meanwhile, the police official said, "Action is being taken in a very fair manner. There is nothing selective. It's very fair. Every word is analysed. Freedom of speech and expression, we have to respect. But we have to see where boundaries are crossed. Proper scrutiny is done...then action is taken." The government's action align with a Punjab and Haryana High Court's 2019 order banning celebratory firing and performance of songs glorifying liquor, drugs and violence.

Many Khap panchayats have also favoured stringent action against such songs. At a recent meeting, leaders from Kandela, Punia, Majra, and some other khaps demanded a ban on songs that glorify gun culture, vulgarity and violence. IANS

Three held for performing car stunts, vehicles seized in Gurugram

GURUGRAM, APRIL 1

Three people have been arrested for allegedly performing stunts in a moving car in the Badshahpur area here in Gurugram, police said on Tuesday. The Police have also seized three cars that were allegedly found performing stunts recklessly at high speed. The stunts, which disrupted traffic for several minutes, posed a risk to commuters, police said. The accused were identified as Rohan Yadav, Krishna Yadav, residents of the village Fazilpur Jharssa Gurugram, and Hitesh Yadav, a resident of Sector-21 Gurugram. An official said that they have also seized a Mahindra Thar, a Swift, and a Verna.

The police also collected CCTV footage that corroborated their reckless act and traced them through the vehicle's number, and zeroed in on the accused. The matter came to light after a video purportedly showing a Mahindra Thar, Swift, and Verna car performing



stunts in the Badshahpur area made rounds on social media. The official said that taking cognizance of this, Gurugram Police registered a case under the relevant sections in Police Station Badshahpur on Monday. "The accused Rohan and Krishna are real brothers. Accused Rohan has studied BBA, Krishna has studied BCA, and accused Hitesh has studied MBA," he said.

He added that during questioning, the accused said they did the act just for enjoyment and for making videos. "The three suspects were released on bail later on Monday night, but their vehicles remain impounded. The case is under investigation," the official said.

Earlier in January, four men were arrested for allegedly performing stunts on a moving Ford Mustang GT and shooting a video of the act to post on social media in an underpass on Golf Course Road in DLF Phase-I, Gurugram. "We appeal to the people not to engage in such acts, which disrupted traffic for several minutes and posed a risk to the commuters' lives. If anyone is found doing such a thing, strict action will be taken against them," said Sandeep Kumar, Spokesperson of the Gurugram Police. IANS

HIMACHAL/J&K

Centre cleared PMGSY-III bridge projects worth over ₹140 crore for Himachal: PWD Minister

SHIMLA, APRIL 1



Himachal Pradesh Public Works Minister Vikramaditya Singh on Tuesday said the Union rural development ministry has cleared bridge projects worth more than Rs 140 crore proposed by the state government under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY-III).

The approved projects under Batch-I of 2024-25, PMGSY-III, include the construction/upgradation of 21 bridges with a total length of 970.772 metres at an outlay of Rs 140.90 crore.

Of this, Rs 126.81 crore will be provided by the Ministry of Rural Development while the state government will contribute Rs 14.09 crore, an official statement said. The projects are expected to significantly enhance rural connectivity, particularly in Hamirpur, Kangra, Kullu, Mandi and Lahaul and Spiti districts, the statement said.

The approval followed the recommendations of an empowered committee and a compliance report submitted by the state government.

The PWD minister said the bridges would provide all-weather connectivity in remote areas, strengthening road network and improving accessibility for the rural communities.

Several bridges across Himachal Pradesh have also been approved for upgradation to improve road connectivity, including the 110-metre double-lane motorable bridge over the Beas river at Pandoh in Mandi district.

Expressing gratitude to Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan for approving the projects, Singh said the clearance came with specific conditions to ensure highest quality standards.

The state government will verify hydraulic data, catchment area calculations, geotechnical investigations and structural designs before floating tenders for the projects, Singh said, adding that a bridge management cell with expert manpower will be set up to oversee project execution. PTI

Rain, snow likely in parts of Himachal on April 3: Met

SHIMLA, APRIL 1

Light rain and snowfall are likely in a few places in Himachal Pradesh on Thursday, with the weather department predicting below normal rainfall in most parts of the state in the month of April. The state has received 75.5 mm of rain against an average of 113.4 mm in the month of March, a deficit of 33 percent, meteorological department officials said on Tuesday.

In March Himachal Pradesh logged isolated to widespread precipitation but widespread rain was recorded only on four days -- March 1, 4, 15 and 16 -- while the weather remained dry on 11 days, they said.

According to the weather office, the lowest rainfall of 5.4 mm was received in 2022 since 1901.



Khadrala in Shimla district witnessed very heavy snow on March 1, while the heaviest rain of 112.2 mm was recorded in Bhuntar in Kullu district on the same day, the Met said.

Barring Kullu and Mandi districts which logged 17 percent and five percent excess rainfall respectively, all the other ten districts received deficit rains ranging between two percent in Shimla and 62 percent in Una district, it added.

The department said that light rain and snow is likely in Himachal Pradesh on April 3 in Chamba, Kullu, Kangra, Kinnaur and Lahaul and Spiti districts. PTI

Himachal's first controlled atmosphere store with geothermal tech to be built in Kinnaur

SHIMLA, APRIL 1

The Himachal Pradesh Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation (HPMC) is planning to build a controlled atmosphere store with geothermal technology in collaboration with an Iceland company, horticulture minister Jagat Singh Negi said on Tuesday.

He said the pilot project would start in Tapri in Kinnaur district soon. Talking to reporters after the 217th meeting of the Board of Directors of HPMC, Negi said this would be the first such store in the state.

Geothermal cooling utilises Earth's relatively constant below-surface temperatures to cool buildings. The heat from indoors of the building will be transferred to the cooler ground and back in a closed loop system.

Negi said the HPMC has already established a fruit and vegetable dryer, which has started working on a small scale -- 500 kg per day -- and the results were good. He said use of geothermal technology could be an eye opener; it could be used to generate electricity and keep homes centrally heated in the coming times.

Citing that the corporation has attained the highest ever production of 2,000 tonnes of apple concentrate, the minister said he hoped it would earn the highest-ever profit of up to Rs 5 crore this financial year.

He said the HPMC apple juice is in demand since it contains no added sugar. The corporation has also started manufacturing of apple cider, vinegar and wines, which are now being sold in several metros, including Delhi and Jaipur.

The minister said the HPMC land lying idle would be utilised to earn revenue. Around Rs 100 crore is expected upfront, with an annual rent revenue of Rs 2 crore.

He said the Board of Directors has decided to give the controlled atmosphere stores and the grading packing centres in the state to private people through a tender process.

Negi said HPMC has been working for the gardeners and farmers of Himachal Pradesh for a long time. Apart from this, it also holds the responsibility of procurement of apples under the Market Intervention Scheme. PTI

Mine blast along LoC followed by brief firing in Poonch

POONCH/JAMMU, APRIL 1

Security forces resorted to brief firing following a mine blast along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Wednesday, officials said. The mine blast occurred under suspicious circumstances in a forward area of the Krishna Gati sector early this morning, they said. This prompted the troops deployed along the LoC to open retaliatory fire briefly. There were no injuries or casualties reported in the incident. PTI

Omar Abdullah launches free bus service for women in Jammu and Kashmir

SRINAGAR, APRIL 1



Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah launched free bus service for women in the Union Territory, at a function held at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) here on Tuesday.

Abdullah expressed hope that the move would make travel easy and comfortable for women.

The launch was also attended by ministers Satish Sharma and Sakina Itoo.

Free bus rides for women, a promise made in the National Conference's election manifesto, was announced in the recent budget presented by the chief minister.

"In the budget, we had made a special announcement that women will travel free of cost in SRTC (state road transport corporation) and Smart City buses from April 1. Today, we have launched the service with a hope that it will make their travel across Jammu and Kashmir easy and safe," Abdullah told reporters here.

He said the government will compensate the SRTC and Smart City buses for the zero-fare tickets. "There will be no losses for the SRTC and Smart City buses. We will provide them compensation from the budget," Abdullah said. PTI

Protest in Shimla against SP MP Ramji Lal Suman over his remarks on Rana Sanga

SHIMLA, APRIL 1

Devbhoomi Kshatriya Samaj, a Himachal Pradesh-based organisation, on Tuesday staged a protest against Samajwadi Party (SP) MP Ramji Lal Suman over his controversial remarks on Rana Sanga. They burnt the MP's effigy outside the Himachal Pradesh Secretariat in Shimla.

People associated with the organisation raised slogans against the MP and also had a minor scuffle with police.

Rumit Singh Thakur, the organisation's president, said, "We are on the streets to honour our warriors. Those who have no understanding and knowledge of history or geography are making objectionable comments about our brave warriors. This is deeply unfortunate and will not be tolerated by the Kshatriya community." Thakur further said that the protest in Shimla was "just the beginning".

"On April 12, Kshatriya groups from across the country, including members from Himachal Pradesh, will gather in Agra to stage a protest and show solidarity against the controversial remarks," he said. IANS

GoC meets LG in Jammu, discuses security situation in J&K

JAMMU, APRIL 1

General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Rising Star Corps, Lieutenant General Rajan Sharawat, called on Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday and discussed the prevailing security scenario.

The Rising Star Corps oversees the operational areas of Kathua, Samba and parts of Jammu districts, including the International Border belts in J-K.

During the meeting, the Lieutenant General also discussed various important aspects of security with the Lieutenant Governor, the officials said.

Lt Gen Sharawat was accompanied by the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Tiger Division, Major General Mukesh Bhanwala.

The meeting holds significant importance in light of the ongoing 10-day operation in Kathua district, during which two terrorists were killed, four police personnel lost their lives and three others, including a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), sustained injuries. PTI

NEWSBRIEFS

US sanctions Chinese officials for undermining autonomy of Hong Kong

WASHINGTON: The US Department of State has imposed sanctions on six individuals from Beijing and Hong Kong, accusing them of undermining the autonomy of Hong Kong and engaging in transnational repression. The sanctions are a response to actions that have been seen as a violation of Hong Kong's freedoms and its people's rights, with particular focus on the enforcement of the National Security Law (NSL) and the international targeting of individuals, including those in the United States.
The Department of State released a statement saying, "This includes five individuals for their role as leaders or officials of the Hong Kong government that have engaged in actions or policies that have degraded the autonomy of Hong Kong, including in connection with transnational repression targeting individuals residing in the United States, and one individual for their role in implementing the National Security Law." IANS

South Africa to uphold diplomacy while sticking to principled positions, says minister

JOHANNESBURG: South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Ronald Lamola reaffirmed the country's commitment to diplomacy, emphasising that it will remain firm on its principled positions. Speaking on Monday at the opening of the inaugural Annual Aziz Pahad Peace, Security, and Human Rights Dialogue in Pretoria, the country's administrative capital, Lamola noted that South Africa will not engage in "trading insults" with any country, Xinhua news agency reported."We're practicing diplomacy. We're not in the business of trading insults with anyone in the world. We will remain firm on our principled positions. We will continue to pursue our national interest in line with diplomatic decorum," Lamola said. "If we disagree with any country, it should not be on the basis of insults but the substance of the matter." IANS

Greek islands Paros, Mykonos close schools, ban traffic as severe storms cause destruction

ATHENS: A powerful storm lashed the Greek islands of Paros and Mykonos on Monday, triggering widespread flooding and prompting authorities to close schools and impose a ban on all traffic except emergency vehicles.
Heavy rainfall in Paros' main towns of Parikia and Naousa - both popular vacation spots - caused floodwaters that surged through streets, carrying cars and debris past whitewashed buildings.Authorities on Paros said 13 people stranded in the storm were taken by firefighters to their homes, adding that no one was reported injured or missing. On Mykonos, where the flooding was less intense, excavators were used to clear a path for floodwater and it gushed past seafront cafes and restaurants. AP

Israel strikes southern Beirut overnight, saying it targeted a Hezbollah official

BEIRUT, APRIL 1



The Israeli military struck a building in Beirut's southern suburbs early Tuesday, saying it targeted a member of the Hezbollah militant group.

The airstrike came without warning days after Israel launched an attack on the Lebanese capital, Beirut, on Friday for the first time since a ceasefire ended fighting between Israeli forces and the Hezbollah militant group in November. The Israeli military then had warned residents in the crowded suburbs before the attack after two projectiles were launched from southern Lebanon, which Hezbollah denied firing.

The Israeli military said in a statement the latest strike targeted a Hezbollah member who had been helping the Palestinian Hamas group in the Gaza Strip in attacks against Israel. It said the attack was "under the direction of the Shin Bet," Israel's domestic intelligence agency.

Hezbollah did not comment on the strike. There was no immediate word on casualties.

Photos and videos widely shared on local and social media showed the top three floors of an apartment building damaged following the strike. Piles of debris on cars below the building can be seen.

Jets were heard in parts of the Lebanese capital before the strike near the Hay Madi neighborhood. During Israel's last war with Hezbollah, Israeli drones and jets regularly pounded the southern suburbs, where Hezbollah has wide influence and support. Israel sees the area as a militant stronghold and accuses the group of storing weapons there.

The leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah group, Sheikh Naim Kassem, warned Saturday that if Israel's attacks on Lebanon continued and if Lebanon's government does not act to stop them, the group would eventually resort to other alternatives.

Under the US-brokered ceasefire that ended the 14-month Israel-Hezbollah war, Israeli forces were supposed to withdraw from all Lebanese territory by late January, while Hezbollah had to end its armed presence south of the Litani River along the border with Israel.

Israel has launched daily strikes in southern and eastern Lebanon since the US-brokered ceasefire went into effect, saying it targets Hezbollah officials and infrastructure. The Lebanese military has gradually deployed in the country's southern region, and Beirut has urged the international community to pressure Israel to stop attacks and withdraw its forces still present on five hilltops in Lebanese territory. AP

As war draws men to fight, Ukraine's women take tough new jobs in machinery, mines Dnipropetrovsk Region

KIEV, APRIL 1



Kateryna Koliadiuk was curious. The 19-year-old Ukrainian agronomy student spotted an ad seeking women to enroll in a tractor driving course and decided to try. But the industrial vehicle was huge and complex, and she wasn't sure she could operate it.

"In the beginning I was so scared. In the beginning I couldn't do this," she said. She now drives with authority, her manicured fingers resting at the wheel.

From driving tractors to working in coal mines, Ukrainian women are taking jobs once reserved for men, who are being drafted to the front lines in the war with Russia. Women have also signed up to join the armed forces at a higher rate.

Koliadiuk said her family was shocked. "We were told that women should be in the kitchen, at home with children. That is why to go and study such equipment was so scary," she said. "But then we took care of ourselves." It's part of a crucial government effort to grow an economy devastated by three years of war and address labour shortages created by the mobilisation, according to the economy ministry, which leads training programmes in construction, agriculture and transport geared toward women.

"Ukrainian women are under a lot of pressure because their men are on the front line," Economy Minister Yulia Svyrydenko said in an interview with The Associated Press. "When the man is mobilized, the woman is mobilised with him as well." Businesses want to hire again after the initial economic shock of Russia's full-scale invasion, but the labour force has shrunk. About 5 million Ukrainians left the country and are abroad, the minister said, and another million are serving in the armed forces.

That's a lot considering about 9 million Ukrainians are currently employed, she added. Svyrydenko is Ukraine's first female economy minister and a symbol of the rise of women in the labour force because of the war. IANS

India is amazing from space, for sure going back to my father's home country: NASA astronaut Sunita Williams

NEW YORK, APRIL1



India is amazing from space, NASA astronaut Sunita Williams said and voiced optimism that she will visit her "father's home country" and share experiences about space exploration with people there.

Sunita made these remarks during a press conference Monday. She was responding to a question on how India looked from space when she was in the International Space Station and on possibility of her collaborating with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on space exploration.

"India is amazing. Every time we went over the Himalayas, and I'll tell you, Butch got some incredible pictures of the Himalayas. Just amazing," Sunita said.

The 59-year-old NASA astronaut and fellow astronaut Butch Wilmore addressed reporters at their first joint press conference days after they returned to Earth as part of the SpaceX Crew-9 mission, having been stranded in space for over nine months.

"And you can see, like I've described it before, just like this ripple that happened, obviously when the plates collided, and then as it flows down into India. It's many, many colours," she said.

"I think, when you come from the east, going into like Gujarat and Mumbai, the fishing fleet that's off the coast there gives you a little bit of a beacon that here we come, and then all throughout India, I think the impression I had was it was just like this network of lights from the bigger cities going down through the smaller cities. Just incredible to look at at night as well as during the day, highlighted, of course, by the Himalayas, which is just incredible as a forefront going down into India," she said.

Sunita added that "I hope, and I think for sure, I'm gonna be going back to my father's home country and visiting with people and getting excited about the first, or not the first, but the Indian national who's going up on the Axiom Mission coming up, pretty awesome," she said.

She made those remarks while referring to the Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4) commercial astronaut mission to the International Space Station that will include Mission Pilot Shubhanshu Shukla of India. Lucknow-born Shukla will be India's second astronaut after former Indian Air Force officer Rakesh Sharma to go to space since 1984.

"They'll have a hometown hero there of their own that will be able to talk about how wonderful the International Space Station is from his perspective. But I hope I can meet up at some point in time, and we can share our experiences with as many people in India as possible, because it's a great country, another wonderful democracy that's trying to put its foot in the space countries, and we'd love to be part of that and help them along," she said.

Sunita's father Deepak Pandya hailed from Gujarat and came to the US in 1958 where he did his internship and residency training in Medicine in Cleveland, Ohio. IANS

China's provocations threaten regional peace, says Taiwan after Beijing's military drills

TAIPEI, APRIL 1



Strongly condemning China's joint military drill around Taiwan, Taipei on Tuesday said that Beijing's provocations are threatening regional peace.

This comes after 19 Chinese Navy ships operating around Taiwan were detected on Tuesday morning.

The Taiwanese Ministry of National Defence condemned the move, which it called a disruption to the status quo, and said it had deployed military vessels and aircraft in response to the threats.

"19 Chinese Navy ships operating around Taiwan were detected on Tuesday morning. Taiwan's Armed Forces have monitored the situation and employed CAP aircraft, Navy ships, and coastal missile systems in response to detected activities," the defence ministry stated. The Taiwanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs demanded China stop destabilising the status quo and Indo-Pacific peace and stability through "reckless behaviour." Taking to X, the ministry posted, "We strongly condemn China's joint military drills near Taiwan. CCP's provocations from the East & South China Seas to Oceania threaten regional peace. We urge Beijing to stop destabilising the status quo & Indo-Pacific peace & stability through reckless behaviour."

Meanwhile, the defence ministry said that Taiwan adheres to the principle of "no escalation of conflict, no provocation of disputes, responding prudently to grey-zone harassment to safeguard national sovereignty and the security of the people." IANS



A volcano began erupting in southwestern Iceland on Tuesday. AP

Iran threatens to develop nuke weapons should US attack

TEHRAN, APRIL 1

An adviser to Iran's supreme leader warned that if the US or Israel were to attack Iran under the pretext of nuclear concerns, the country would be compelled to pursue the development of nuclear weapons. Ali Larijani, an adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, made the remarks in response to recent anti-Tehran threats made by US President Donald Trump and Israel, Xinhua news agency reported quoting the official news agency IRNA.

Larijani noted that Iran had been prohibited from acquiring nuclear weapons under a religious directive issued by Khamenei. However, he added, "If the United States makes any mistake, Iran will be forced to pursue nuclear weapons due to pressure from its people." Larijani stressed that taking military actions against Iran would have consequences, saying Iran's nuclear program would not be destroyed through bombing. IANS

Survivors still being found from Myanmar earthquake, but hopes begin to fade as deaths exceed 2,700

BANGKOK, APRIL 1



Rescue workers saved a 63-year-old woman from the rubble of a building in Myanmar's capital on Tuesday, but hope was fading of finding many more survivors of the violent earthquake that killed more than 2,700 people, compounding a humanitarian crisis caused by a civil war.

The fire department in Naypyitaw said the woman was successfully pulled from the rubble 91 hours after being buried when the building collapsed in the 7.7 magnitude earthquake that hit midday Friday.

Experts say the likelihood of finding survivors drops dramatically after 72 hours.

Death toll numbers forecast to increase The head of Myanmar's military government, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, told a forum in Naypyitaw, that 2,719 people have now been found dead, with 4,521 others injured and 441 missing, Myanmar's Western News online portal reported.

Those figures are widely expected to rise, but the earthquake hit a wide swath of the country, leaving many areas without power, telephone or cell connections and damaging roads and bridges, leaving the full extent of the devastation hard to assess.

Most of the reports so far have come from Mandalay, Myanmar's second-largest city, which was near the epicentre of the earthquake, and Naypyitaw. IANS

Marine Le Pen banned from running for French Prez; far-right leaders slam decision

PARIS, APRIL 1



Far-right leaders slammed the decision of the Paris court concerning Marine Le Pen, leader of National Rally, being banned from running in the 2027 presidential election. A Paris court on Monday ruled that Le Pen, who has been a three-time presidential candidate, will be barred from running in the next presidential race following her conviction for embezzlement of European Union funds.

Le Pen, who was the frontrunner for the next election, received a four-year prison sentence with two years suspended, to be served under house arrest, and a €100,000 ($108,000) fine. Her party, National Rally, was also fined €2 million. The party denounced the trial as politically motivated, according to media reports.

In her first reaction to the verdict, Le Pen called the ruling a "political decision" aimed at preventing her from running in the 2027 presidential election.

"It was a political decision that was made. The magistrate took it upon herself to implement the provisional execution of the ineligibility, to render my appeal on this matter useless in order to prevent me from standing and being elected President of the Republic," said Le Pen in an interview clip shared by her on X. IANS

Pak dispatches first shipment of 35 tonnes of relief supplies to quake-hit Myanmar

ISLAMABAD, APRIL 1

Pakistan on Tuesday dispatched the first shipment of 35 tonnes of relief supplies to help the victims of the earthquake in Myanmar.
The country was hit by a 7.7 intensity tremor on March 28, wreaking havoc at a massive scale.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif spoke with his Myanmar counterpart Senior General Min Aung Hlaing a day ago and conveyed his condolences over the loss of lives and property due to the earthquake. He also said that Pakistan was ready to provide any assistance to alleviate the suffering. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), a leading body to tackle disasters, started sending relief supplies and the first shipment of aid includes 35 tonnes of goods, including tents, tarpaulins, blankets, ready-to-eat meals, medicines and water modules. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazal Chaudhry attended the ceremony for the dispatch of the relief supplies, which were being transported by a special aircraft to Yangon.

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Chaudhry stated that a total of 70 tonnes of aid will be sent to Myanmar, adding that Pakistan stands with the people of Myanmar in this difficult time. A special message of sympathy for the people of Myanmar was also conveyed by Prime Minister Sharif. PTI

lifestyle



Arjun shares a playful conversation with his 'Ki' as he celebrates nine years of 'KI & KA'

Arjun Kapoor took to social media to celebrate the 9th anniversary of his hit film "Ki & Ka" with a fun and heartfelt conversation. On Tuesday, the 'Gunday' actor took to his Instagram handle and shared a glimpse of his engaging conversation with his 'Ki' and captioned it, "Siri, Alexa, ChatGPT... Everyone came, but no replacement of 'Ka' was found! What do you think about 'Ki & Ka 2'? #9YearAnniversary."

A chat appears on the screen where Ki says, "Aree, already 9 years? Time flies!" To which Ka replies, "I know, right! 9 years since we turned gender roles upside down!" Ki then recalls, "Remember how people were shocked to see you running the house while I ran the office?" Ka responds with a laugh, "Hah! And now husbands are meal prepping and wives are investing in stocks. We were just ahead of the trend!" Ki chuckles and asks, "Haha, true! But tell me, do you think the Ka of 2025 still runs the house like a pro?" To which Ka responds, "Well, now I have a secret weapon—AI!"

Arjun also reshared a fan-edit collage featuring him and Kareena Kapoor Khan. Directed by R. Balki, "Ki & Ka" stars Kareena Kapoor Khan and Arjun Kapoor in the lead roles. Released theatrically on April 1, 2016, the film received mixed reviews but went on to become a hit, grossing over Rs 100.33 crore worldwide.

The film follows the story of Kia, an ambitious woman (Kareena Kapoor), and Kabir, a man who chooses to be a househusband. Their unconventional marriage flourishes until they encounter challenges such as ego clashes and jealousy. The romantic comedy marked Kareena's first on-screen collaboration with Arjun. Meanwhile, both Arjun and Kareena were recently seen in Rohit Shetty's cop drama "Singham Again," which also featured Akshay Kumar, Ranveer Singh, Tiger Shroff, Deepika Padukone, and Jackie Shroff. **IANS**

Fawad, Vaani's 'Abir Gulaal' teaser puts spotlight on sweet love story



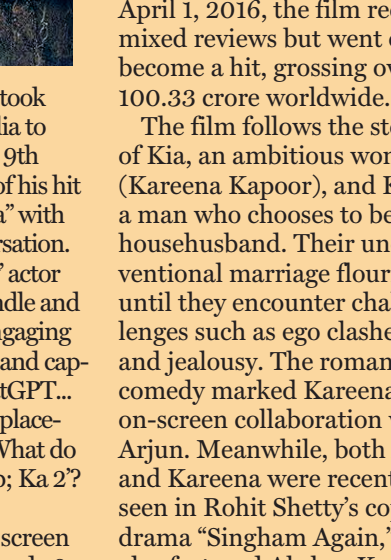
The makers of upcoming film "Abir Gulaal" unveiled the film's teaser on Tuesday and it is packed with love, romance and a lot of flirting. Vaani and Fawad took to their respective Instagram, where they shared the teaser. It begins with the question "when was the last time you fell in love?". It then pans to the Pakistani actor singing "Kuch Na Kaho" by Kumar Sanu from the 1994 movie "1942 A Love Story", in the car. Vaani, who is seen sitting on the passenger seat asks if he is flirting with her. To which, Fawad asks: "Do you want me too?" The teaser was captioned: "The wait is over! Bringing love back to the big screen with Abir Gulaal and @fawadkhan81. A Richer lens film @aricherlens. See you in the cinemas on 9th May!"

Directed by Aarti S Bagdi and produced by Vivek B Agrawal, Avantika Hari and Rakesh Sippy, it is slated for May 9 release. The shooting for the upcoming entertainer commenced on September 29 last year in the picturesque backdrop of London and was announced by production house Indian Stories.

Last year, the director Aarti S Bagdi offered a glimpse into the storyline and said that the film is about love and healing. Bagdi said: "The film explores the journey of two individuals who unintentionally help each other heal, with love blossoming as an unexpected consequence."

The film has been shot in the UK over October and November. A leading Bollywood music composer has already created 6 original tracks to be sung by Bollywood's best music talent, read a statement from the makers. It was in 2014, when Fawad, one of Pakistan's biggest stars, made his debut in Indian cinema with the Sonam Kapoor-starrer "Khoobsurat", a romantic comedy drama by Shashanka Ghosh. The film was loosely based on the 1980 film of the same name. It also featured names such as Kirron Kher, Ratna Pathak Shah and Aamir Raza Hussain. **IANS**

Nimrat Khaira: As I started reading history, my interest grew significantly



Punjabi actress-singer Nimrat Khaira, who will soon be seen in Gippy Grewal's "Akaal", said her interest grew significantly for history as she started reading it. "Akaal: The Unconquered," which will be released on April 10, is set in the 1840s Punjab. It tells the tale of honour and resilience follows Sardar Akaal Singh and his village as they face a vengeful assault by Jangi Jahan and his forces after the death of Maharaja Ranjeet Singh.

Asked if she enjoyed reading history since she's starring in a period film, Nimrat told IANS: "To be honest, I didn't read much history before. And I started reading it recently. As I started reading, my interest grew significantly."

"Specifically, the history of the Sikh Empire, which Maharaja Ranjit Singh ruled for 40 years. When I read that, I felt a sense of power. After that, I read Hari Singh Nalwaji, Sham Singh Attariwala ji, Baba Banda Singh Bahadur. So I tried to read all those things."

Talking about Nimrat, she is the winner of Voice of Punjab season 3 and gained fame after the release of her single "Ishq Kacheri".

She started her singing career from a duet song "Rab Karke" with Nishawn Bhullar, which was released in 2015 and received good response from audience, but she got much fame through her next two songs "Ishq Kacheri" and "SP De Rank Wargi", both released in 2016. She continued her success with songs like "Salute Wajde" in 2016. In 2017, she released many hit singles, such as "Rohab Rakhdi", "Dubai Wale Sheikh", "Suit" and "Designer". Nimrat made her film debut with Lahoriye in 201. It stars Amrinder Gill, Sargun Mehta, Yuvraj Hans, Nimrat Khaira, Sardar Sohi and Guggu Gill. **IANS**

Nit C Drops 'Impala': A Smooth Ride Through Love, Luxury & Timeless Vibes!



This latest drop is an effortless fusion of smooth romance, classic aesthetics, and an undeniable flex, making it the ultimate anthem for those who appreciate both style and substance

Rising hip-hop artist Nit C is back with a new release, Impala—a track that seamlessly blends vintage charm with contemporary swagger. This latest drop is an effortless fusion of smooth romance, classic aesthetics, and an undeniable flex, making it the ultimate anthem for those who appreciate both style and substance.

Set against the backdrop of a sleek, iconic Impala, the song paints a picture of confidence and charisma. Nit C's effortless lyricism draws poetic parallels between his love interest's captivating eyes and the intoxicating allure of Madira, weaving a narrative of passion, finesse, and timeless appeal. With a beat that instantly grabs attention and verses dripping in smooth-talking charm, Impala is designed for those who understand the art of leaving an impression.

"Impala is my ode to timeless swagger—the kind that doesn't chase, but attracts. It's about rolling smooth, talking slick, and owning your vibe, whether behind the wheel of a classic ride or in the game of love. Style isn't just what you wear or drive—it's how you carry yourself," says Nit C. Whether it's setting the mood for a late-night drive or elevating a classy night out, Impala is set to become a go-to track for listeners who appreciate effortless cool. **BPE**

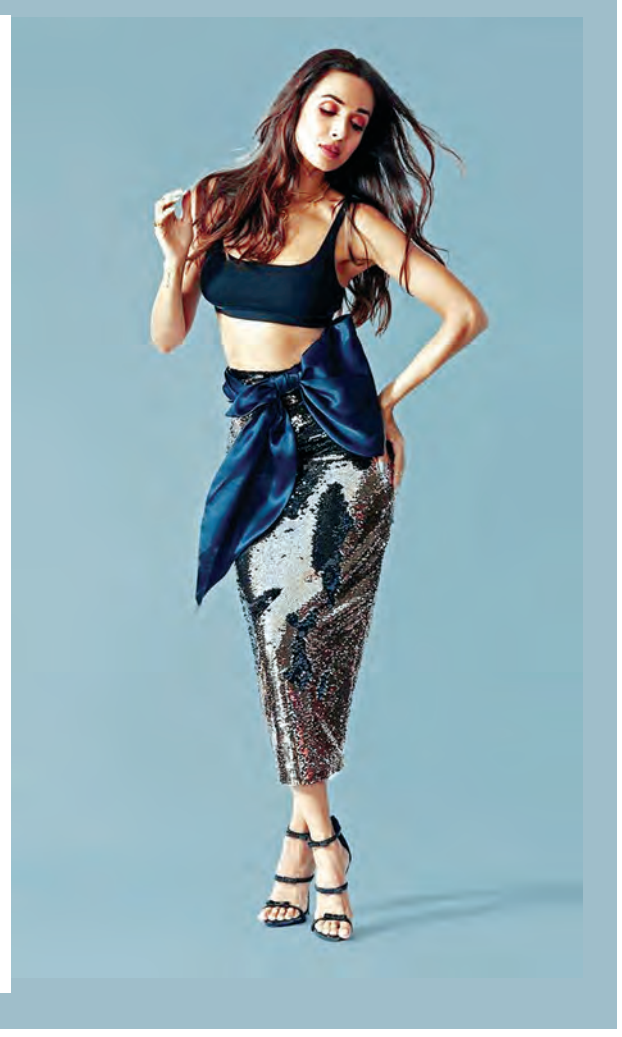
Malaika shares a post about 'strong tomorrow' amid dating rumours with Kumar Sangakkara

Malaika Arora has shared an inspiring post about a "strong tomorrow" on social media amid ongoing dating rumours with cricketer Kumar Sangakkara. Recently, the actress has been making headlines due to speculations about her alleged link-up with the former Sri Lankan cricketer. The rumors were sparked after Malaika was spotted enjoying an IPL match alongside Kumar Sangakkara.

Sangakkara, who previously served as the head coach of Rajasthan Royals (RR), was seen supporting the team during the match. Interestingly, Malaika was also cheering for Rajasthan Royals, which only fueled further speculation about their relationship. Fans quickly took to social media, questioning the nature of their association, with some even wondering if the two are dating. Amidst this, the 'Chaiyya Chaiyya' actress posted a video of herself from her yoga workout, captioning it, "Sore Today, Strong Tomorrow Fitness Motivation | Abs and Core Workout." In the clip, Arora is seen performing various yoga asanas on a mat. She frequently posts videos from her yoga workouts, giving a glimpse into her disciplined fitness regime.

Meanwhile, Malaika Arora's love life has always been a topic of public interest. Malaika Arora was married to Arbaaz Khan for 19 years before they divorced in 2017, citing compatibility issues. The couple shares a son, Arhaan Khan. She was previously in a relationship with actor Arjun Kapoor, but they parted ways in 2024. The actor confirmed his single status during the promotions of his film "Singham Again," stating, "Nahi, abhi single hoon. Relax karo" (No, I'm single now. Relax.

Malaika and Arjun were reportedly in a relationship for several years, having started dating in 2018. Despite their breakup, Arjun has continued to show his support for Malaika, notably being there for her during the passing of her stepfather. Now, Malaika is reportedly being linked to former cricketer Kumar Sangakkara, fueling fresh rumors about her personal life. **IANS**



NEWSBRIEFS

Paytm travel launches ravel pass subscription, offering free cancellations, insurance, and seat discounts up to ₹15,200

CHANDIGARH: Paytm (One97 Communications Limited), India's leading payments and financial services distribution company and pioneer of QR codes, Soundbox, and mobile payments, has introduced the Paytm Travel Pass, a subscription-based offering designed to provide significant savings and convenience for frequent flyers and business travellers. Priced at ₹1,299, the Pass includes free cancellations, travel insurance, and seat discounts worth up to ₹15,200, making it a cost-effective choice for travellers. **BPE**

Škoda Auto marks its silver jubilee in India with highest ever monthly sales

CHANDIGARH: Škoda Auto India's Silver Jubilee year, which also marks its New Era in India has already hit a landmark – record monthly sales in its 25-year-history in India. March 2025 saw Škoda Auto India sell 7,422 units, which is the highest-ever monthly sales by the brand in India. The achievement comes soon after the introduction of all-new Kylaq SUV and Ranveer Singh becoming the company's first-ever Brand Superstar, driving awareness and consideration. **BPE**

M3M City in Panipat started possession

PANIPAT: M3M City of Dreams, popularly referred as M3M City in Panipat, has commenced possession for its first phase. The project spans 337 acre and integrates world-class infrastructure, offering an unparalleled urban lifestyle experience. Designed to redefine tier-2 city development, it includes premium residential plots, independent floors, schools, temples, social clubs, retail spaces, entertainment zones, and lush green landscapes.**BPE**

LM Thapar School of Management hosts historic inter-college fest Kaladhara 2025

CHANDIGARH: The LM Thapar School of Management (LMTSM) celebrated a significant milestone with the successful execution of Kaladhara 2025, its inaugural inter-college academic and cultural festival. This two-day event was a grand showcase of talent, intellect, and creativity, drawing students from various esteemed institutions to participate in a series of stimulating competitions and performances. With the theme "Innovate, Inspire, Ignite," Kaladhara 2025 aimed to bridge the gap between academic excellence and extracurricular prowess, providing a platform for young minds to explore and express their multifaceted talents. **BPE**

Indian Council of Astrological Sciences organised convocation

CHANDIGARH: The Indian Council of Astrological Sciences (ICAS), organized a grand Astrology Seminar and Convocation at Sector 42, Chandigarh under the esteemed guidance of Hon. National Vice President, Anil Kaushal. The event was graced by the Hon. National President, A. B. Shukla, IAS (Retd.), as the Chief Guest. Hon. National Working President cum Controller of Examination, Navneet Kaushik was the Guest of Honour. Anil Kaushal said that the seminar and convocation celebrated the accomplishments of students who had mastered the discipline of astrology, marking the culmination of their hard work and learning. **BPE**

Let's Get LOUDER unveils 'Duma Dum Mast Qalander

CHANDIGARH: Let's Get LOUDER is all set to launch 'Duma Dum Mast Qalander - Rebooted & Revved Up', an electrifying fusion of high-energy beats and spiritual devotion, reimagining the iconic qawwali track for today's global audience. This bold new version takes the traditional rhythms and gives them a contemporary twist, creating an unforgettable anthem that merges nostalgia with cutting-edge sound. **BPE**

Social brings stadium-like match day energy with its #Doosrastadium experience

CHANDIGARH: Social is gearing up to be the ultimate match-day destination bringing back it's #DoosraStadium vibes from March to May 2025. Designed to bring fans together for an immersive cricket-watching experience, SOCIAL is transforming its outlets across India into lively hubs featuring large-screen match screenings, team-inspired décor, and a curated food and drinks menu crafted for shared enjoyment. In partnership with FanCode, Social will also offer exciting merchandise giveaways and interactive activities like trivia contests, ensuring that every moment-from the first ball to the final over-is experienced with the energy of a stadium, right in the neighbourhood. **BPE**

Social launches a special Navratri menu

CHANDIGARH: Navratri is a time for reflection, devotion, and celebration with loved ones. To mark the festive occasion, Social is introducing a limited-time Navratri menu, available upto 7th April. This special menu brings together traditional fasting flavors with SOCIAL's signature twist, offering a delicious and satisfying experience for those observing the festival, as well as for guests looking to explore and enjoy unique festive flavors. At the heart of the menu the Navratri Thali, a wholesome and flavorful spread featuring Aloo Jeera-spiced potatoes tossed with cumin, Paneer in a rich tomato gravy, crunchy Makhana, vrat-special Samak Rice, crispy Falahari Poori, creamy Sabudana Kheer, and crispy Sabudana Vada, served with papad. **BPE**

Centre cracks down on ₹206.6 crore worth substandard imports of goods

NEW DELHI, APRIL 1



The government on Tuesday said that a total of 206 cases against import of substandard goods, valued at Rs 206.62 crore, have been booked in FY25 (till February) by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and Customs field formations under Customs Act, 1962.

The Centre has implemented various measures to curb the import of substandard goods in Indian markets and protect the domestic industry.

To protect the domestic industry from the adverse impact of cheaper imports, the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), an attached office of Department of Commerce, conducts various investigations (anti-dumping/safeguard (quantitative restrictions)/ countervailing) under the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 and the rules made thereunder on the basis of duly substantiated petition filed by the domestic industry, said Minister of State for Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Jitin Prasada, in a written reply in the Lok Sabha. The authority at DGTR examines applications filed by the domestic industry and evaluates responses received from importers, exporters and other interested parties in accordance with the provisions of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.

Based on this examination, the DGTR submits its recommendations to the Ministry of Finance for final consideration.

According to the minister, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and Customs field formations under CBIC keep constant vigil to check import of substandard goods into India. On the detection of such cases, action is taken in accordance with Customs Act, 1962 & other Allied Acts.

Further, the Indian Customs Risk Management System (RMS) implements the policies of risk-based selective examination and testing based on the selectivity criteria of the respective regulatory agency, thereby thwarting the attempts of import of substandard goods.

"Further, Section 25 of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Food Safety and Standards (Import) Regulations, 2017 regulates the import of food articles into the country. The clearance or No Objection Certificate (NOC) issued by the FSSAI is subject to scrutiny of documents, visual inspection, sampling and testing, in order to determine whether or not they conform to the safety and quality standards," informed Prasada. **IANS**

EPFO empanels 15 more banks for direct payment of collections

NEW DELHI, APRIL 1



The EPFO on Tuesday entered into agreements with 15 additional banks, both in the public and private sector, to enable direct payment of nearly Rs 12,000 crore in annual collections and provide direct access to employers who maintain their accounts with these banks, to pay their monthly contributions. The EPFO has already empanelled 17 banks, and with the addition of these 15 banks, the total number has gone up to 32 banks.

The agreements with the banks were signed in the presence of Union Labour & Employment Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, and Union Minister of State for Labour & Employment, and MSMEs Shobha Karandlaje. Mandaviya said that with nearly 8 crore active members and more than 78 lakh pensioners, the EPFO provides benefits that ensure social security for millions. He expressed happiness that the EPFO is offering an interest rate of 8.25 per cent to its beneficiaries. The participation of banks in service delivery would further enhance the efficiency of the EFPO and improve good governance, he added.

He further stated that in the Financial Year 2024-25, EPFO settled a record of over 6 crore claims, which is a 35 per cent increase compared to the 4.45 crore claims settled in the previous year (2023-24). Mandaviya said that a significant milestone was also marked with the introduction of the Centralised Pension Payment System.

"This system will benefit over 78 lakh pensioners, enabling them to receive their pensions in any bank account across the country. Previously, pensioners were required to have an account in a specific zonal bank; this compulsion has now been removed," the Minister said.

Mandaviya also touched upon the significant reforms introduced by the EPFO recently. "The auto claim settlement process is a major reform which has improved claim processing speed. With auto-processing, claims are now being settled in just three days. In FY 2024-25, we settled 2.34 crore claims under this system, a 160 per cent increase from the 89.52 lakh claims in 2023-24," he said. The EPFO, one of the largest social security organisations in the world and has ollected over Rs. 3.41 lakh crore in contributions remitted by employers through 1.25 crore electronic challan cum returns till 20th March 2025. **IANS**

WhatsApp bans 9.7 million accounts in India in February for rule violations



NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

WhatsApp on Tuesday said that it has banned over 9.7 million accounts in India during February 2025, citing violations of its Terms of Service.

According to its latest monthly safety report, a significant portion of these bans, over 1.4 million accounts, were proactively removed by WhatsApp before any user complaints were even made.

The company, which has more than 500 million users in India, explained that the bans were the result of its ongoing investment in AI-driven moderation and advanced reporting tools.

"Over the years, WhatsApp has consistently invested in Artificial Intelligence and other state-of-the-art technology, data scientists and experts, and in processes, in order to keep our users safe on our platform," a WhatsApp spokesperson said in a statement.

WhatsApp takes these actions to combat abusive behavior on the platform and ensure a safer environment for users.

"In accordance with the IT Rules 2021, our latest published report outlines user complaints received, actions taken, and WhatsApp's proactive approach to preventing abuse, including accounts that were proactively banned, before any reports from users," the spokesperson added.

According to the report, while many bans result from user complaints, WhatsApp also uses automated detection systems to identify suspicious activities.

Common reasons for account bans include spamming, automation through bots or third-party apps, and adding users to groups without their consent.

Another reason for banning accounts is unsolicited messaging, which involves messaging people using data obtained from unauthorised sources, especially after being asked to stop.

Forwarding fake news or misinformation and misusing broadcast lists can also lead to account suspension.

WhatsApp encourages users to be responsible when using the platform. It suggests that users always ask for consent before adding someone to a group, respect requests to stop messaging, avoid forwarding unverified content, and use broadcast lists sparingly.

The company reminds users that harassment, defamation, and sharing false information are against WhatsApp's Terms of Service.

If users feel their account was banned by mistake, WhatsApp offers an appeal process. Users can file an appeal directly through the app by entering a 6-digit code sent via SMS. **IANS**

ATF, commercial LPG rates cut

NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

The price of Jet fuel, or ATF, on Tuesday was cut by a steep 6.1 per cent and the rates of commercial LPG that is used in hotels and restaurants were reduced by Rs 41 per 19-kg cylinder in the monthly revision done in line with benchmark international prices. The Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) price was reduced by Rs 5,870.54 per kilolitre, or 6.15 per cent, to Rs 89,441.18 per kl in the national capital - home to one of the busiest airports in the country, according to state-owned fuel retailers.

The reduction negates the increase in prices effected since February. The ATF price in Mumbai was cut to Rs 83,575.42, while those in Chennai and Kolkata were reduced to Rs 92,503.80 and Rs 91,921 per kl, respectively, from Rs 84,511.93 per kl previously. Oil firms also reduced the price of commercial LPG by Rs 42 to Rs 1,762 per 19-kg cylinder in the national capital. This reduction follows a Rs 6 per cylinder hike effected on March 1. Commercial LPG now costs Rs 1,713.50 per 19-kg cylinder in Mumbai, Rs 1,868.50 in Kolkata and Rs 1,921.50 in Chennai.

Prices of ATF and LPG differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local taxes, including VAT.

The rate of cooking gas used in domestic households, however, remained unchanged at Rs 803 per 14.2-kg cylinder. State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) revise prices of ATF and cooking gas on the first of every month based on the average price of benchmark international fuel and foreign exchange rate. **PTI**

India's growth to be highest amongst advanced, emerging G20 nations: Moody's

NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

Moody's Ratings on Tuesday said India's growth at 6.5 per cent this fiscal will remain the highest amongst the advanced and emerging G-20 countries, supported by tax measures and continued monetary easing, and the country will continue to attract capital and withstand any cross-border outflow. In its report on emerging markets, Moody's said such economies are "exposed to choppy waters" from the churn of US policies and its potential to reshape global capital flows, supply chains, trade and geopolitics. Large EMs (emerging markets) have resources to navigate the turbulence.

It said economic activity in the fastest-growing economies will slow slightly from high levels but remain strong this year and next. In China, exports and investment in infrastructure and priority high-tech sectors remain the main growth drivers, while domestic consumption remains weak. "India's growth will remain the highest of the advanced and emerging G-20 countries, supported by tax measures and continued (monetary) easing," Moody's said, while projecting at a 6.5 per cent growth for 2025-26 fiscal, down from 6.7 per cent in 2024-25.

It projected inflation to average 4.5 per cent in the current fiscal (April-March), from 4.9 per cent in the last fiscal. The government in the Budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year has hiked I-T rebate to Rs 12 lakh from Rs 7 lakh, which gave tax relief of Rs 1 lakh crore to the middle class.

Besides, the RBI in February had cut interest rates by 25 basis points to 6.25 per cent. It is widely expected that the Reserve Bank's monetary policy committee (MPC) will cut rates again in its monetary policy review on April 9. Moody's said the uncertainty in US policies would increase the risk of capital outflows but large emerging markets, such as India and Brazil, are better positioned to attract and retain global capital in risk-averse conditions because of their large and domestically oriented economies, deep domestic capital markets, moderate policy credibility and substantial foreign exchange reserves. **IANS**

GST collections surge 9.9 per cent to ₹1.96 lakh crore in March



NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

India's goods and services tax collections surged by 9.9 per cent to Rs 1.96 lakh crore during March this year compared to the same month of the previous year, reflecting the higher level of economic activity and better compliance.

Sequentially, the GST collections were 6.8 per cent higher than the Rs 1.84 lakh crore revenue recorded in February this year.

Gross GST revenue in March included Rs 38,100 crore from Central GST, Rs 49,900 crore from State GST, Rs 95,900 crore from Integrated GST, and Rs 12,300 crore from compensation cess.

In comparison, February saw Central GST collections at Rs 35,204 crore, State GST at Rs 43,704 crore, Integrated GST at Rs 90,870 crore, and compensation cess at Rs 13,868 crore.

Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh were the top five contributors to GST collections in March.

Maharashtra paid Rs 31,534 crore in March, a 14 per cent increase compared to March last year while Karnataka paid Rs 13,497 crore, a 4 per cent increase year-on-year. Gujarat contributed Rs 12,095 crore, a 6 per cent rise from March 2024. Tamil Nadu paid Rs 11,017 crore, reflecting a 7 per cent increase, while Uttar Pradesh collected Rs 9,956 crore, a 10 per cent year-on-year growth.

Delhi was the sixth-highest payer, contributing Rs 6,139 crore, which represents a 5 per cent increase from March 2024. **IANS**

Sensex plunges nearly 2 pc amid US reciprocal tariff concerns



MUMBAI, APRIL 1

Indian stock markets on Tuesday witnessed a sharp decline on the first trading day of the new financial year. The fall came as investors reacted to global market concerns, especially the upcoming US reciprocal tariffs on April 2.

The Sensex, which represents 30 major companies, dropped by 1,390.41 points or 1.80 per cent to close at 76,024.51. During the trading session, it fluctuated between an intra-day high of 77,487.05 and a low of 75,912.18.

The Nifty index also tumbled 353.65 points or 1.50 per cent, ending at 23,165.70. It touched a high of 23,565.15 and a low of 23,136.40 during the intra-day.

Almost all stocks in the Sensex index ended lower, except Zomato, IndusInd Bank, and State Bank of India (SBI).

The biggest losers included HCL Technologies, Bajaj Finserv, HDFC Bank, Bajaj Finance, and Infosys, which saw their share prices decline by up to 3.66 per cent.

Midcap and smallcap stocks also faced pressure. The Nifty Midcap100 index closed 0.86 per cent lower, while the Nifty Smallcap100 index slipped 0.70 per cent.

The BSE Midcap index was down 0.9 per cent, whereas the Smallcap index managed to rise slightly by 0.2 per cent.

Sector-wise, most indices ended in the red, with IT, real estate, and consumer durables stocks falling by around 2 per cent each. Only media, oil & gas, and telecom stocks managed to stay positive.

Market volatility also surged as the India VIX, commonly known as the fear index, jumped 8.37 per cent to 13.78 points. This suggests that investors are increasingly cautious about the market's direction. **IANS**

SPORTS

KANE WILLIAMSON

"IT WAS A COMPLETE PERFORMANCE. WINNING THE TOSS, BOWLING FIRST, AND EXECUTING THEIR PLANS BEAUTIFULLY. BRINGING IN AN EXTRA SEAMER, ASHWANI."

Ashwani credits MI skipper Hardik for memorable IPL debut

MUMBAI, APRIL 1



Mumbai Indians newcomer Ashwani Kumar on Tuesday said skipper Hardik Pandya settled his nerves before his IPL debut by reminding him that "Punjabis are fearless" and that he should just go out and scare the opposition.

The 23-year-old left-arm pacer from Jhanjeri, Punjab, became the first Indian ever to take four wickets in maiden IPL appearance as he ended with figures of 4/24 in three overs to blow away KKR's star-studded batting lineup here on Monday.

Ashwani, who only ate a banana before the match, credited his captain for making him feel at ease.

"It is a very good feeling. I hadn't thought that I'll do so well. Hardik bhai told me, 'you're from Punjab and Punjabis are fearless, so just scare the opponents and enjoy yourself'," Ashwani told iplt20.com about the unique advice he received.

He also became the first Indian bowler in the last decade to take a wicket off his very first ball in the IPL.

Bowling coach Paras Mhambrey was impressed with Ashwani's composure.

"To see someone coming in, first game, under pressure, happy for him. He worked on his strengths and focused on his strengths and that gave him results. It's not about performance, it's about going and enjoying what you do best," Mhambrey said.

Ashwani was one of three changes MI made for the match and Mhambrey explained the rationale behind his selection.

"Left-arm seamer who swings the ball and has got a high pace, ticks a lot of boxes for us. Wankhede, we always knew, is a wicket that has a lot of bounce compared to others. He's the kind of guy who swings the ball and has a high pace as well, so we felt it was the right surface for him to play."

The debutant was overjoyed to bag Andre Russell's wicket in particular.

"Manish Pandey had hit me for a four already. Hardik bhai told me to bowl at the body for him. My favourite wicket was Andre Russell's because he is a very big player. Hardik bhai told me don't be afraid, so I just wanted to bowl to my plans."

Ashwani struck off his first ball to dismiss KKR skipper Ajinkya Rahane but not before a fumble from Tilak Varma.

Speaking about that moment, Ashwani said, "When he fumbled, I was just hoping he catches it because when you take a wicket off your first ball, the match usually goes well."

Ashwani's success left his family and friends overjoyed too.

"My whole village was very happy because Mumbai is the best team and has a lot of big players."

Ashwani realised his record-breaking feat after coming off the field.

"I just had to bowl to my field and I didn't know I was the first Indian to do this but it feels good."

Having waited for many years for an opportunity, Ashwani said the success was a result of years of effort and dedication.

"All the seniors support us and tell us to enjoy. This is the result of a lot of hard work."

Ashwani joined a long and illustrious list of young Indian talent discovered by MI in the IPL featuring the likes of Jasprit Bumrah, Hardik Pandya, Krunal Pandya and Tilak Varma. PTI

It was a complete performance: Williamson on MI win

MUMBAI, APRIL 1



At a time when teams are amassing big totals with consummate ease in the IPL, Mumbai Indians have bowled out Kolkata Knight Riders for 116 in their latest face-off here, an effort that has left New Zealand star Kane Williamson highly impressed.

MI won the game by eight wickets on Monday to open their account in the ongoing edition of the league after starting it with two successive reverses.

"It was a complete performance. Winning the toss, bowling first, and executing their plans beautifully. Bringing in an extra seamer, Ashwani, who was outstanding. They took wickets consistently, and I think that was the most pleasing aspect," said Williamson on JioHotstar.

"It's not often nowadays, with the impact player rule, that you see a team preventing any substantial partnerships. But they applied pressure throughout and were dominant in every phase of the match," the Kiwi great added.

Ashwani Kumar's record four-wicket haul on IPL debut and Ryan Rickelton's 62 not out powered Mumbai Indians to a commanding win over defending champions KKR at the Wankhede Stadium.

The 23-year-old Ashwani from Punjab's Jhanjeri became the first Indian ever to take four wickets on IPL debut as he ended with figures of 3-0-24-4 to blow away KKR's star-studded batting lineup.

Former India spinner Piyush Chawla said KKR failed to come up with the right strategy while batting keeping in mind the conditions and match situations.

"Sometimes, you have to respect the conditions. It wasn't a typical batting surface, especially with the new ball. You need to play cautiously at the start because once the ball gets older and softer, that's when you can go for your shots. But here, that didn't happen.

"We all know Trent Boult can swing the ball outside, and it was clear that he had a plan for Sunil Narine, which worked perfectly. Venkatesh Iyer also struggled, repeatedly attempting fancy shots. As I mentioned earlier, the pressure of his heavy price tag is always there," Chawla said.

He added, "Then, the way Rinku got out -- he has a good head on his shoulders, but that shot was unnecessary. There were still 8-10 overs left, and the team needed stability. Even with an impact player and batting depth till number nine, they couldn't play the full 20 overs. That tells the whole story." Chawla praised MI skipper Hardik Pandya's captaincy in the game.

"I think the best part of his captaincy was his attacking approach. He read the conditions well and understood that there was something in the pitch for the seamers, so he used them effectively. One move I particularly liked was when Vignesh came in to bowl while Harshit Rana was batting towards the end.

"You want to get that wicket rather than letting the opposition add another 10-15 runs with Ramandeep Singh still there. Overall, his decision-making was spot on.

"When a partnership was building between Manish Pandey and Rinku Singh, he brought Ashwani Kumar into the attack, and that over changed the game. The team executed their plans perfectly today," Chawla said. PTI

I engage in constructive self-criticism and look to improve by 1 pc every game: Arshdeep

LUCKNOW, APRIL 1



Left-arm seamer Arshdeep Singh, who has evolved into a death-overs specialist since bursting on to the scene, has attributed his success to constructive self-criticism and steadily improving by half a percent after every game.

The 26-year-old Arshdeep, who plays for Punjab Kings in the IPL, picked up the important wickets of Sai Sudharsan and Sherfane Rutherford in his team's 11-run victory over Gujarat Titans in their only match so far this season.

On how he has evolved over the years, Arshdeep told JioHotstar: "The key is to improve by 1% to 1.5% after every game, every day - whether the performance was good or bad. I've always believed that the biggest room in the world is the room for improvement.

"So whenever I get the chance, I engage in constructive self-criticism and strive to enhance my skill set, even if it's just by 1% or half a percent." PBKS are currently being led by stylish batter Shreyas Iyer, and Arshdeep is optimistic of the team breaking its jinx of never winning the IPL title this time.

Asked about his bond with Shreyas and the new skipper's approach, Arshdeep said: "I have played with Iyer before, under his captaincy in the Duleep Trophy, and I really enjoyed it. He always backed his players and gave them the freedom to express themselves.

"What I've noticed here is that his approach remains the same - he doesn't impose rigid instructions but encourages players to trust their skills and play for the team.

He promotes a selfless approach, assuring full backing to the players. I truly admire this mindset, and as players, we will do our best to support him and help the team win back-to-back titles."

Arshdeep, who has so far taken 78 wickets in the IPL from 66 matches besides grabbing 99 wickets from 63 T20 Internationals for India, said he always looks to deliver when the going gets tough.

"I enjoy stepping up when the team is under pressure - whether it's stopping runs or taking wickets. When they hand me the ball in crucial moments, it feels good to know that they trust me.

"I genuinely enjoy the added responsibility, regardless of the situation. I try not to feel the pressure and instead focus on delivering my best for the team.

"Success doesn't come overnight, but I ensure that any setbacks don't affect my bowling. Every time I get another opportunity, I give my all to help the team win," Arshdeep said. PTI

Bayern reportedly against giving club favorite Thomas Müller another season

BERLIN, APRIL 1



Bayern Munich favorite Thomas Müller could be about to end his career as media reports suggest the club will not extend his contract at the end of the season.

The 35-year-old Müller's current deal runs only through June and both SportBild and Kicker magazine were reporting that Bayern would prefer to save his considerable wage packet than offer him a new one.

Müller made his Bayern debut under Jürgen Klinsmann in 2008 and his breakthrough came under Louis van Gaal the following season. He has since made more appearances than any other player at the club, 742 across all competitions (with 247 goals) including super cups and club world championships.

He has gone on to win a record 12 Bundesliga titles and two Champions Leagues - and he may win more because Bayern leads the former by six points with seven games remaining, and faces Inter Milan in the Champions League quarterfinals. Munich hosts the final in May.

Müller, who joined Bayern's youth setup in 2000, brings vast experience and intelligence to the team, but his playing time has been limited. Of his 23 Bundesliga appearances, 15 were as a substitute this season. It's similar in the Champions League with just three starts from 10 appearances. If he plays at all it's often just for the final minutes. Last weekend, he went on in the 85th against St. Pauli, and the 87th against Stuttgart last month.

SportBild reported that Bayern's board member for sport Max Eberl informed the player's representatives two weeks ago that the club decided not to renew his deal, in contrast to the new contracts for teammates Manuel Neuer, Alphonso Davies, Jamal Musiala and Joshua Kimmich, all recently announced.

Müller reportedly wanted to play on for another season. Bayern may opt to give the player a short contract extension so he can play at the inaugural Club World Cup in the United States this summer, but Müller will likely have to be content with "just" 13 Bundesliga titles.

Müller retired from international soccer after the European Championship last year, having clocked 131 appearances for Germany. He wore No. 13 for Germany, and always said it was his lucky number. AP

Man City sweat over Haaland's ankle injury



MANCHESTER, APRIL 1

'Erling underwent initial tests in Manchester on Monday morning and will now seek specialist consultation to confirm the full extent of the injury'

Manchester City's Erling Haaland sustained an ankle injury in their FA Cup quarter-final at Bournemouth over the weekend, the Premier League club said on Monday, with the striker requiring further tests to determine the full extent of the injury.

Haaland was replaced in the 61st minute of Sunday's 2-1 win, having equalised for City, and the Norwegian international is now a doubt for their semi-final against Nottingham Forest at the end of April due to the left ankle problem.

"Erling underwent initial tests in Manchester on Monday morning and will now seek specialist consultation to confirm the full extent of the injury," City said in a statement.

"The expectation is that Erling will be fit in time to play a further part in the remainder of this season, including this summer's FIFA Club World Cup," the club added, referring to the June 14 to July 13 tournament in the United States.

Haaland has scored 21 goals in 28 league games this term. Four-times defending champions City are fifth in the table with only one win in their last four Premier League matches. They host Leicester City on Wednesday. AGENCIES

Rashford not on United boss Amorim's radar

MANCHESTER, APRIL 1



Marcus Rashford said he is playing better since joining Aston Villa on loan from Manchester United after scoring his first two goals for the Birmingham side in a 3-0 win over second-tier side Preston North End to reach the FA Cup semi-finals on Sunday.

England forward Rashford, who has scored 138 goals in 426 appearances for his hometown club United, was omitted from their squad by manager Ruben Amorim before his loan move to Villa was announced last month.

Rashford's revelation that he was ready for a new challenge was followed by Amorim calling into question the 27-year-old's work rate, saying he would rather put a goalkeeper coach on the bench than a player not giving their all.

"It's a great feeling. It's always nice for a forward to get a goal, so hopefully it continues," Rashford told the BBC after netting a second-half brace on Sunday.

Rashford, who has scored four Premier League goals in 15 appearances for United this season, last appeared for his parent club in December.

'I feel like I've been getting fitter and playing better football since I've been here. I missed a lot of football before joining up with them. My body feels good and I'm enjoying my football for now'

"I feel like I've been getting fitter and playing better football since I've been here. I missed a lot of football before joining up with them. My body feels good and I'm enjoying my football for now," Rashford added.

Amorim said later on Monday said at press conference that despite's Rashford good showing at Villa, he player is not on his mind.

"We have a lot of games to play, and I'm focused on my team and my players. "Rashford is not my player at the moment but every player that performs well on loan is good news for my club. So I am happy with that,' Amorim said on the eve of Manchester United's Premier League trip to Nottingham Forest.

Ninth-placed Villa continue their league campaign at Brighton & Hove Albion on Wednesday. AGENCIES

Minerva Academy Stages Thrilling comeback to start their Sub Junior Leaguea

PUNJAB EXPRESS BUREAU
Chandigarh, April 1



Minerva Academy's sub-junior team scripted a stunning comeback victory, defeating Namdhari 2-1 in a nail-biting encounter. Trailing by a goal, the young Minervans showcased their mettle, fighting like warriors to turn the tables and claim three crucial points.

The match seemed to be slipping away from Minerva Academy as Namdhari took an early lead. However, the Minervans refused to give up, displaying a never-say-die attitude that has become synonymous with the team. They created chance after chance, their persistence eventually paying off in the second half.

Akash and Kipgen emerged as the heroes, scoring the decisive goals that sealed the comeback victory. Their strikes sparked jubilation among the Minerva Academy faithful, who cheered their team on to a hard-fought win.

This triumph propels Minerva Academy to a strong start in the Sub Junior League, and is a testament to the team's grit, determination, and footballing prowess. As the league unfolds, Minerva Academy will look to build on this momentum, aiming to stay ahead of the pack and make a strong case for the title.

Minerva is incredibly proud of their young players for showing the courage and resilience to come back from a goal down and this win is a reflection of their hard work, dedication, and teamwork. They are now all excited to see how they'll continue to grow and perform in the league.

Printer, Publisher & Owner: Dr Tejinder Pal Singh. Printed at IE Press, C-5, Institutional Area, Sector 6, Panchkula-134108 and published at SCO 118-119 (First Floor), Sector 8-C, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh-160009. Managing Editor-cum-Managing Director: M.P.S. Pali.
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