

The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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THURSDAY | 9 MAY 2024

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HARERA Website: <https://haryanarera.gov.in>
Promoter: M/s DLF Limited
Project Name: DLF Privana West



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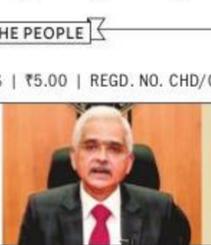
CHANDIGARH | GURUGRAM | JALANDHAR | BATHINDA | VOL. 144 NO. 128 | 18 PAGES | ₹5.00 | REGD. NO. CHD/0006/2024-2026 ESTABLISHED IN 1881 ■ HARYANA



US: PAUSED SHIPMENT OF BOMBS TO ISRAEL OVER RAFAH CONCERNS **WORLD**



IN LADAKH LOK SABHA POLL, IT'S KARGIL VERSUS LEH J&K



RBI DISCUSSES WAYS TO SCALE UP UPI ECOSYSTEM BUSINESS



ALL 398 FOREST FIRES IN UTTARAKHAND MAN-MADE, SC TOLD **BACK PAGE**

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THURSDAY | 9 MAY 2024

Eminent lawyer Patwalia to join The Tribune Trust



Paramjit Singh Patwalia, who has distinguished himself as a legal luminary over the last 37 years, will join The Tribune Trust as its member. A Bachelor of Law (LLB) from Panjab University, Patwalia has served as an Additional Solicitor General of India, representing the Indian Government in various cases and advising it on various high-stakes matters. After obtaining his LLB degree in 1987, Patwalia began his career as an advocate in the Punjab and Haryana High Court the same year and soon acquired a vast practice in the fields of civil, service, education, tax and corporate laws. Elevated as a Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court at age 42 in 2006, he remained the youngest High Court Judge in the country until he

Pitroda again, raises storm with 'racist' remarks, quits Cong post

Party distances itself from comments | Insult to countrymen: Modi

ADITI TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 8
Controversial telecom entrepreneur Sam Pitroda on Wednesday quit as Overseas Congress chief after his remarks on the appearance of Indians raised a political storm midway into the 2024 election cycle with PM Narendra Modi terming the views "disgusting" and the opposition party "completely distancing itself from him". "Sam Pitroda has decided to step down as chairman of the Indian Overseas Con-

'AKIN TO CHINESE'
In a podcast, Rahul Gandhi's aide Sam Pitroda said, "We can hold together a country as diverse as India where people in the East look like Chinese, people in the West look like Arabs, people in the North look like maybe Whites and people in the South look like Africans."



Rahul Gandhi with Sam Pitroda. FILE

CONTROVERSY'S FAVOURITE CHILD
■ Pitroda stoked many political storms in the past, putting the Congress in a spot
■ On Ram Mandir issue, he remarked, "Temples are not going to create jobs"
■ On 1984 riots, he quipped, "Hua toh hua (what happened, happened)"

gress of his own accord. The Congress president has accepted it," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh

said this evening in a move that has several party leaders heaving a sigh of relief. Only a few days ago, Pitro-

da's defence of the inheritance tax some US states levy on assets left behind by

Indian envoy: Separatists based in Canada crossing 'big red line'

SANDEEP DIKSHIT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 8
Indian envoy to Canada Sanjay Kumar Verma has said Sikh groups in Canada who call for separation of their homeland from India are crossing "a big red line" that New Delhi sees as a matter of national security. "Indians will decide the fate of India, not foreigners," Verma told the Montreal Council on Foreign Relations on Tuesday, reported CTV News, Canada. Gurpatwant Singh Pannun-led Sikhs for Justice had demanded the cancellation of his lecture. In his first public remarks since the arrest of three Indian

Continued on page 8

WON'T TOLERATE IT

66 Sikh groups in Canada who call for separation of their homeland from India are crossing the line... Indians will decide fate of India, not foreigners.
SK Verma, INDIAN ENVOY TO CANADA

OLIVE BRANCH TO TRUDEAU'S RIVAL

Canadian province Saskatchewan said India approved full diplomatic accreditation for the province's MD of India office, a rival of Trudeau. His visa was withdrawn after spat over Nijjar killing.

3 held for killing Nijjar appear before court

NEW DELHI, MAY 8
Three Indian youths accused of killing Khalistan separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar appeared before a Canadian court through video-conferencing for the first time. Karan Brar (22), Kamalpreet Singh (22) and Karanpreet Singh (28) were arrested and charged on Friday with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder. — TNS

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Today's issue is of 18 pages, including four-page Haryana Tribune.

BJP goes with Khanna from Sangrur, Sodhi Ferozepur

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 8
The BJP on Wednesday released the 19th list of three candidates for the June 1 Punjab Lok Sabha elections fielding Arvind Khanna from Sangrur, Rana Gurmit

Continued on page 8

PICKS SUBHASH SHARMA FOR ANANDPUR SAHIB SEAT



Arvind Khanna Rana Gurmit Sodhi

Top court order on Kejri's interim bail petition tomorrow

SATIYA PRAKASH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 8
The Supreme Court on Wednesday said it will deliver its order on granting interim bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in a money laundering case linked to the

Continued on page 8

Crew on mass 'sick leave', 90 AI Express flights grounded

THOUSANDS STRANDED, MINISTRY SEEKS REPORT
CABIN CREW UNION FLAGS 'INEQUALITY'

NEW DELHI/KOCHI, MAY 8
Air India Express cancelled more than 90 flights since Tuesday night with a section of senior cabin crew reporting sick to protest against alleged mismanagement at the Tata Group-owned airline, leaving
Continued on page 8
EDIT: AIR INDIA MESS

IN BRIEF

Will back Cong to topple Saini govt: Dushyant

HISAR: Asking Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini to quit or prove his majority in the House, JJP leader and former Deputy CM Dushyant Chautala on Wednesday said they were ready to go with the Congress if there was a move to bring down the government. **INSIDE**

HP Bench differs over 3 Independent MLAs' plea

SHIMLA: A Division Bench of the HP High Court has given two separate judgments on a plea filed by three Independent MLAs alleging that the Speaker was not accepting their resignations from the Assembly and sought intervention of the court in this regard. **INSIDE**

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Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini addresses a press conference in Sirsa on Wednesday.

No threat to BJP govt: Saini

OUR CORRESPONDENT

SIRSA, MAY 8

Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini today claimed that no matter how many schemes the Opposition devised, there was no threat to the BJP government. He dispelled fears about his government being under threat after three Independent MLAs withdrew their support yesterday.

Speaking to the media at the residence of BJP candidate Ashok Tanwar, he claimed that the government would run smoothly for five years. He said the country was familiar with Congress history, and it could do anything to form government.

He alleged that India bloc was an alliance of deceivers.

Saini said people associated with the Congress and its coalition were nurturing dreams of forming a government to save the corrupt. He claimed that under BJP rule, there was strict control over corruption, and action would be taken against corrupt individuals in the future as well.

Saini said opposition parties were spreading lies that farmers were angry with the BJP. In reality, some individuals who appeared to be protesting were actually Congress workers, he alleged, adding that PM Modi and the state government had implemented many schemes to honour farmers. They were being given subsidies on agricultural machinery, and compensation for damaged

crops was being sent to their accounts directly.

The Farmer Honour Fund was also being provided by the Centre and subsidies were being provided for DAP, urea and solar tube-wells. He claimed that farmers were protesting in front of Congress workers' houses. If any farm issues remained, they would be resolved through discussions after May 25. As far as the issue of MSP procurement was concerned, 15 crops were being procured at MSP in Haryana.

On the question of increasing unemployment in the state, the CM said the BJP government had introduced many schemes to make youth self-reliant. In the last 10 years, abundant jobs had been provided, he added.

Will support Cong move to topple Saini govt: Dushyant

Says CM should resign on moral grounds or prove majority

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

HISAR, MAY 8

Asking Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini to resign or to prove his majority in the House, JJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala today said they were ready to go with the Congress if there was a move to bring down the incumbent Haryana Government.

Addressing a press conference here, Dushyant said the JJP will issue a whip to vote against this government in case this government is asked to prove its majority in the House. "I don't need to go with the Congress or the BJP but we will support the Opposition to ensure the fall of this government."

When asked about why the JJP remained absent from voting during the trust vote after the formation of the new government headed by Saini, he said they had a rally on that day (in Hisar). "But we will issue a whip to the JJP MLAs against this government now. After issuing the whip, you can see that



JJP leader Dushyant Chautala addresses a press conference in Hisar on Wednesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

the five MLAs who were present in the Assembly at the time of confidence motion by the Saini government had to leave the Assembly," Dushyant said.

The former Deputy CM said in the wake of the withdrawal of support to the government by three Independent MLAs, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini should resign on moral grounds or prove his majority in the House.

"With three Independent MLAs withdrawing support to the government, the gov-

ernment does not have a majority in the Assembly," he said. He said the JJP will write a letter to the Governor to urge him to ask the government to prove its majority.

Stating that the Leader of Opposition (Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda) should initiate a move to topple the BJP government, Dushyant said, "The Chief Minister has accused Independent MLAs of indulging in some dealings. The CM should provide evidence on this. We never had such situa-

tions when we were in power along with Manohar Lal Khattar in the previous BJP-JJP coalition government," he said.

Asked to clarify whether the no trust move can be initiated since the Congress had also brought the no trust motion in February this year, Dushyant said the no-confidence motion was brought against the previous government headed by Khattar and not against the present government. He described Nayab Singh Saini as a weak CM.

JJP serves notice on three MLAs for anti-party activities

HISAR, MAY 8

With the internal crisis deepening as seven MLAs are missing from campaigning, the JJP has issued a show-cause notice to three of its MLAs on the allegations of indulging in anti-party activities.

Former Deputy CM Dushyant Chautala admitted during a press conference here today that they had material, including visuals and photos of these MLAs, indicating that they were involved in anti-party activities. "There is a procedure in which a notice is served on them, and subsequently, the Speaker is asked in writing to take steps to cancel their membership of the Assembly," he said.

"Each MLA has to cast vote toeing the party line till there is power of whip. We have served a notice to three MLAs and none of them have submitted a written reply. We will take appropriate action before the polling for the Lok Sabha poll," he said, adding that they would soon meet the Speaker for action against them. The former Deputy CM maintained that none of the JJP MLAs could violate the whip while being in the party. — TNS

JJP, Ind MLAs eyeing ticket from other parties in Assembly poll

PRADEEP SHARMA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MAY 8

The support by Independent and JJP MLAs to the Congress and the BJP, respectively, in the Lok Sabha elections is apparently in anticipation of getting ticket in the Assembly elections.

The support by the three Independent MLAs—Sombir Sangwan (Dadri), Randhir Gollan (Pundri) and Dharampal Gonder (Nilokheri)—to the Congress in the Lok Sab-

ha poll is seen as a smart move by them to pitch themselves as potential Congress candidates for the Assembly poll scheduled to be held in October. The trio yesterday withdrew support to Nayab Singh Saini government.

Since winning election as an Independent candidate again in the Assembly poll would be a tough task for them, the MLAs are cozying up to the Congress, which seem to be on a strong footing in view of anti-incumbency

WILL HAVE TO RESIGN FIRST

Independent MLAs are not governed by any whip in the Vidhan Sabha, though party MLAs are governed by the whip in the Assembly

Before joining any party, Independent MLAs will have to resign from the Assembly to avoid action under the anti-defection law

against the BJP government.

A leader, close to an MLA, who withdrew support to the government, said on condition of anonymity that the legislator planned to join the Congress in the run-up to the

Assembly elections. "As a former MLA, he would have a better claim to the Congress ticket than other claimants in the Assembly poll," he said.

The Independent MLAs are not governed by any

whip in the Vidhan Sabha, though the party MLAs are governed by the whip in the Assembly. However, before joining any party, the Independent MLAs will have to resign from the state Assembly to avoid action under the anti-defection law. Resigning from the Vidhan Sabha just before the Assembly elections and joining other parties was being explored by the Independent and JJP MLAs, sources said.

Similarly, three JJP MLAs,

who are likely to get show-cause notices, for alleged anti-party activities, are also aiming for ticket from rival parties in the Assembly poll.

Since the JJP is unlikely to re-nominate them, they will look to other parties for ticket. The support by two JJP MLAs—Ram Niwas Surjekhera (Narwana) and Jogi Ram Sihag (Barwala)—to the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections have to be seen in the context of the Assembly elections.



Bhupinder Singh Hooda with Sonapat candidate Satpal Brahmachari.

BJP has accepted defeat in Sonapat, claims Hooda

MUKESH TANDON

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SONEPAT, MAY 8

A former CM, Bhupinder Singh Hooda claimed the BJP had accepted its defeat at the Sonapat Lok Sabha seat as soon as the name of Congress candidate Pandit Satpal Brahmachari was announced.

"It seems that BJP is now just completing the formalities of contesting elections because all communities have united and decided to make Brahmachari win," Hooda said while addressing election meetings in Gohana, Kharkhoda and Murthal on Wednesday. He appealed to people to vote for Brahmachari.

Addressing the gathering, Hooda said the BJP did not have a single public-friendly promise in its manifesto. He said the public had lost confidence in BJP's election announcements, following which BJP leaders always

talked about Congress' manifesto instead of their own.

"The BJP leaders are spreading lies about the Congress manifesto, while the news has now reached the masses that Congress has announced 30 lakh permanent jobs in the Central Government, guarantee of MSP, guarantee of one-year apprenticeship to educated youth, etc," he said.

Encouraged by the support of people, Brahmachari said Congress' victory was certain. "The Congress has announced to provide 2 lakh separate jobs in the state. Apart from this, promises such as Rs 6,000 pension for elderly, OPS benefit to employees, provision of gas cylinders at Rs 500 for every housewife and 300 units of free electricity are being made by the Congress while the BJP neither has any plans for the future, nor any report card of its past work," he said.

BJP: Lok Sabha outcome to decide candidates for Assembly elections

RAVINDER SAINI

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, MAY 8

While the Lok Sabha poll seems to be a bumpy ride for BJP candidates, its results will play a crucial role in deciding the fate of those aspiring for ticket in the Assembly poll scheduled for October. Even the performance of MLAs in their Assembly segment will be assessed.

As per sources, the party leadership has given the target to MLAs and ticket aspir-

ants to improve the party's performance in the Lok Sabha elections in their respective area. It has made it clear that this would be one of the major factors in the allotment of tickets for the Assembly poll.

"Not only the MLAs and other leaders, but also booth-level workers have been given the target of improving the polling percentage. Collective efforts are required to win, hence every worker has been tasked to ensure his/her

contribution to improve the performance," said a senior BJP leader. These elections were also an opportunity to observe the electors' mood before the Assembly poll, he said.

A BJP leader active in Ahirwal region said it was due to the party's instructions that MLAs in Mahendragarh districts were leaving no stone unturned to seek vote for party candidate Dharambir Singh, who is trying his luck for the

third time from the Bhiwani-Mahendragarh constituency.

Belonging to the Jat community, Dharambir is locked in a tough battle with Congress' Ahir leader Rao Dan Singh. The BJP has three Ahir MLAs in Mahendragarh district and the onus of ensuring Dharambir's victory in their Assembly segment is on them. Former minister Ram Bilas Sharma is also toiling in his area.



Former minister Ram Bilas Sharma seeks votes for BJP candidate Dharambir in Mahendragarh on Wednesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO



Former CM Manohar Lal Khattar during a roadshow at Nilokheri.

Govt safe, several MLAs in touch with us: Khattar

PARVEEN ARORA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KARNAL, MAY 8

To garner the support of people, former Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar held two roadshows in the Nilokheri and Indri Assembly segments on Wednesday. He said, "The government is safe. Several MLAs of the Opposition are in our touch."

He said this in response to a question on the withdrawal of support by the three Independent MLAs.

"During elections, it does not matter who goes where. Many MLAs are in touch, so there is no need to worry. The elections will continue for a while," said Khattar.

About his roadshow, Khattar interacted with the people and went to fields to know about the issues of farmers and labourers. He said, "I have completed roadshows in the Assandh, Israna and Samalkha Assembly segments. Today, I will cover the Nilokheri and Indri Assembly segments and will go to the

Gharaunda segment tomorrow. After completing one round of the roadshow in all nine Assembly segments, I will go for the second round. People are giving full support to the BJP," said the former CM.

During the public address, he sought votes for the development works done by the BJP government in state and country. He highlighted the steps taken by the government to bring transparency in the system and check on corruption. He further said that they had eradicated nepotism and provided jobs to the deserving ones.

Khattar said he had run the government in the state for nine-and-a-half years based on the PM Modi's model. "On the suggestion of PM Modi, we have chosen my successor, Nayab Singh Saini, as the Chief Minister in the state. Modi has himself asked me to come to Delhi to make me a Lok Sabha candidate, so I am contesting elections from here," he added.

Social media abuzz with election news, campaign din

SUNIT DHAWAN

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, MAY 8

Leaders and Lok Sabha candidates of different political parties are leaving no stone unturned in reaching out to electors physically and digitally. While rallies and election campaigns are being held across all constituencies, digital drives and social media campaigns are also being run by different parties and their candidates.

Though most of the political leaders believe in having personal contact with their electors, some of them are quite active on social media as well.

All social media platforms, including X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, are brimming with political news, poll campaigns of popular leaders, the latest trends and experts' comments and analysis.

Congress candidate from Rohtak Deepender Hooda

Khattar has 2.3 m followers on X, Raj Babbar 1.3 m on FB

posts pictures and highlights of his campaign on social media, while Congress nominee from Gurugram Raj Babbar has shared a mobile number on which a missed call can be given to join his campaign.

BJP candidate from Bhiwani-

Mahendragarh Dharambir Singh also posts political activities related to his campaign. However, former Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has taken the lead in the X factor over young leaders and celebrities.

Khattar has more than 2.3 million followers on X while Raj Babbar has 7.84 lakh, Deepender Hooda 5.76 lakh, Bhupinder Singh Hooda 3.85 lakh, Naveen Jindal 3.21 lakh and Selja Kumari 2.01 lakh.

On the other hand, Raj Bab-

bar leads on Facebook with 13.86 lakh followers while Krishan Pal Gurjar has 13.48 lakh, Deepender 10.64 lakh and Selja Kumari 10.12 lakh. Many leaders are not active on social media platforms and have not posted anything for a long time.

"The social media accounts of prominent leaders are mostly managed by young professionals and guided by their respective parties," says a political analyst.

Analysts point out that the

real enthusiasm of the residents, especially supporters, can be gauged with more certainty at political rallies and public meetings as compared to social media platforms.

Nonetheless, the residents who prefer to stay indoors owing to the sweltering weather not only keep track of the political developments on social media, but also support the leaders or candidates of their choice on these digital platforms.

BKU (Charuni) to back Abhay in Kurukshetra

NITISH SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KURUKSHETRA, MAY 8
Bhartiya Kisan Union (Charuni) chief Gurnam Singh Charuni has spiced up the election of Kurukshetra Lok Sabha Constituency by extending support to INLD leader Abhay Chautala through his (Gurnam's) Sanyukt Sangharsh Party. The seat is already witnessing a multi-cornered contest.



Bhartiya Kisan Union (C) chief Gurnam Singh Charuni

In March, Charuni had announced that his political outfit will participate in the Lok Sabha elections and a committee was formed to chalk out a strategy. The committee held meetings, including with former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda. But in May, Charuni announced that his party will not participate in the Lok Sabha elections. However, he also announced that the union members were free to support the candidates at their Lok Sabha level.

In an unexpected move, Gurnam announced to extend support to Abhay Chautala, and also opened a front against former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, accusing him of being hand in glove with the BJP. Meanwhile, the block level units of BKU (Charuni)

has started holding meetings to start campaigning for Abhay Chautala.

BKU (Charuni) spokesman Rakesh Bains said, "A meeting of Shahabad block was held today and it has been decided to start campaigning in support of INLD. Our teams will visit villages to appeal to people to support the INLD candidate and tell them about the plans of forming a third front for Assembly elections. The Congress has not given ticket to any farmer leader and the farmer unions were not even consulted about their issues and demands while the INLD approached us and assured that Abhay Chautala will not go with the BJP, following which we decided to support the party."

However, a section of farm-

ers are not happy with the decision and are questioning the BKU leaders for their decision on social media.

Gurnam Singh Charuni said, "We can't please everyone in politics. It seems the Congress leaders think that since farmers are not supporting the BJP, they have no other choice but to support Congress, but we want the voice of farmers to be raised in the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha. During the farmers' agitation, Abhay had supported the agitation and resigned as MLA from Haryana Assembly. It is our duty to support him."

"A rumour is being spread by the Congress that by extending support to the INLD, we are indirectly supporting the BJP. If this was the case, we would have extended support on all 10 Lok Sabha seats. The farmers are innocent and they get trapped by the tactics of these leaders," he added.

Meanwhile, senior Congress leader Ashok Arora said, "Earlier he (Gurnam Singh) was seeking ticket from the Congress and till then Congress and Hooda were right, but now they are targeting the Congress and Hooda. The INDIA bloc candidate is in a strong position and he will win the election."

Dabwali suffered under Dushyant, says BJP's Aditya

ANIL KAKKAR

SIRSA, MAY 8

Haryana Marketing Board Chairman and BJP leader Aditya Devi Lal launched an attack on his nephew and former Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala, and said despite having a number of departments under him, no significant development could be seen in the Dabwali constituency. He said this during a BJP rally at Goriwala village in Dabwali here on Tuesday in the presence of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini.

Aditya said, "My nephew was the Deputy Chief Minister, and had several departments under him. One of their MLAs accused him of having all beneficial departments. However, we could not speak up during that time. Dushyant is from this place, yet despite having so many departments under him, no industry could be brought here. He did nothing for the Dabwali constituency. He did not spend a single penny here."

He further said, "The family I come from got involved in the politics of suppression and fear, and not development. However, since I joined the BJP, there has been sig-

DID NOTHING FOR CONSTITUENCY

“Dushyant did nothing for the Dabwali constituency. He did not spend a single penny here.”

Aditya Devi Lal, BJP LEADER

nificant development. Now, the politics here is not about fear and suppression, but development."

He said, "There was a time when even raising one's voice required courage; even standing up required courage. But the change that has come in the last 10 years is immense. Now, BJP leaders daily discuss development plans for every village. Crores of rupees have been spent on schemes for farmers by the government. Village's dirty roads have been paved. In the last ten years, 372 km roads have been constructed, while in the last year, 93 km roads were built."

The BJP leader further said: "Opponents make baseless allegations against us, but the truth is that no government has given farmers as much money and compensation as this government has."

CBI to investigate Nafe Singh Rathi murder case

NEW DELHI, MAY 8

The CBI will probe the murder of INLD leader Nafe Singh Rathi and another party worker, who were killed after being fired upon by unidentified gunmen in February this year.

According to sources, the CBI has re-registered the case on the recommendation of the Haryana Government, which was routed to it by the Centre. The central probe agency has named seven accused, including former BJP MLA Naresh Kaushik, in the case, the sources said.

The other six accused are Karambir Rathee, Ramesh Rathee, Satish Rathee, Gaurav Rathee, Rahul and Kamal, they said.

They added that an FIR under IPC sections of criminal conspiracy, murder, among others has been filed against the accused in the case. Rathi and a party worker were shot down by unidentified gunmen in Bahadurgarh near Delhi on February 25.

During the attack, three private gunmen hired by Rathi for security had also sustained injuries when the assailants opened fire on the former MLA's SUV.

The attack, which took place two months before the Lok Sabha elections, had drawn sharp criticism from the opposition parties which questioned the law and order condition in the BJP ruled state. —TNS

15 Zila Parishad members extend support to Congress

KARNAL, MAY 8

In a jolt to the BJP 15 members of the Zila Parishad extended their support to the Congress today. Of 25 members, 18 attended a meeting, and after discussion, 15 declared support to the Congress, citing grievances over snatching of powers.

They raised concerns about the implementation of e-tendering, arguing that it had led to increased bureaucratic interference in development projects, thereby hindering their ability to independently carry out their duties.

Amit Barana, a member representing Ward No. 5, said in addition to the 15 members present at the meeting, five expressed their support to the Congress over the phone.

"We were elected one and a

half years ago with the expectation of facilitating development projects, but since our election, we have encountered various obstacles, including issues with e-tendering," he said.

Vikram Rana, husband of Alka Kumar, a member from Ward No. 6, said tenders were floated again and again but had to be cancelled due to low budget.

Sachin Budhanpur, who provided his support via phone, lamented the lack of authority even in basic tasks like constructing lanes in agricultural fields. "We are unable to address the needs of our voters, and now, even the responsibility for roads in the market committee has been thrust upon the Zila Parishad," he said. —TNS

Proceedings stayed against Budhiraja

CHANDIGARH, MAY 8

Acting on a petition filed by Youth Congress leader Divyanshu Budhiraja seeking quashing of a case registered against him for his alleged failure to appear before the trial court in a matter, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has stayed further proceedings arising out of the FIR. Budhiraja is contesting from Karnal against former CM ML Khattar.

Justice Kuldeep Tiwari also issued notice for August 22 to the State and other respondents. The Bench was told that the petitioner was facing the trial under the provisions of the Prevention of Defacement to Public Property Act, which was a compoundable offence. An application had been moved for compounding the offence.

The FIR was registered on January 3 under Section 174-A, IPC. Directions were also sought for quashing an order dated December 15, 2023, passed by the Magistrate concerned declaring the petitioner a "proclaimed person". "Since the petitioner has caused appearance before the trial court after being declared a 'proclaimed person' and has been released on regular bail, this court proceeds to consider the legality of the registration of the impugned FIR against the petitioner," the judge said. —TNS

Former Speaker to campaign for Cong's Budhiraja

KARNAL, MAY 8

Former Haryana Assembly Speaker Kuldeep Sharma, who had been seeking the ticket for his son Chanakya Pandit from the Karnal Lok Sabha seat, announced that he and his son would campaign for Congress candidate Divyanshu Budhiraja from the Karnal Lok Sabha seat, along with Congress candidate Trilochan Singh from the Karnal assembly segment.



Former Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kuldeep Sharma

Sharma said their campaign would strengthen prospects for both candidates. He made this announcement during a meeting with his supporters at Jat Dharamshala.

Addressing the gathering, he said, "We have accepted the decision of the party leadership. The supporters wished to have Chanakya as the candidate from Karnal; however, after our acceptance of the party's decision, the supporters, along with me and my son, would work for both candidates for the sake of the party."

Sharma criticised former CM Manohar Lal Khattar,

referring to him as an "absentee" CM for Karnal. He highlighted Khattar's absence from Karnal and said that there was an anti-incumbency sentiment against him along with two MPs — Sanjay Bhatia, elected in 2019 and former MP Ashwani Chopra, elected in 2014. He said they failed to address the problems of Karnal residents.

He said Khattar was an inactive CM, which was why he was replaced by the party midway through his term. He said if Khattar had continued his term as the CM, the BJP would have faced an even greater defeat. —TNS

Multiple inquiries sans cognisable offence 'impermissible', rules HC

SAURABH MALK
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MAY 8

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has described as "impermissible in law" multiple inquiries being conducted in more than a few cases in Haryana and Chandigarh without complainants disclosing commission of cognisable offence. The assertion came as Justice NS Shekhawat asked Haryana and Chandigarh's DGPs to come out with details of such matters.

The order comes as a major embarrassment for the police in Haryana and UT as Justice Shekhawat asserted the inquiries were being conducted without the registration of FIRs and even when information provided by the

Details sought from Haryana, Chandigarh police chiefs

complainant did not disclose cognisable offence.

He asked the DGPs to submit the details of inquiries conducted by the police in each complaint without the registration of FIR. The details were required to be submitted district-wise in case of Haryana and police station-wise for Chandigarh.

The two police chiefs were asked to file their personal affidavits mentioning the details of the inquiries were being conducted without the registration of FIRs and even when information provided by the

conducted in "every such matter", the fate of each inquiry, the name of official conducting the inquiry and the number of inquiries conducted in each case.

The directions came as the court expanded the scope of a petition originally filed against Punjab. Taking cognisance of multiple and repeated inquiries conducted across Punjab by the police, in violation of a Supreme Court judgment, Justice Shekhawat had initially asked the state DGP to submit district-wise details.

Justice Shekhawat had taken note that no less than 14,838 complaints were pending for the purpose of preliminary inquiry before the FIR's registration in Mohali district alone.

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I, Ashwani Kumar Chopra R/o Sh. Shadi Ram r/o 103, Sigma City, Moharh road, Zirakpur, SAS Nagar (Lohgarh), Punjab-140603 have changed my name from Ashwani Kumar to Ashwani Kumar Chopra. All concerned please note. (CL24012737)

I, Mukandi Lal s/o Lajja Ram r/o #3109, Sector 45-D, Chandigarh have changed my name from Mukandi Lal Saini to Mukandi Lal. All concerned please note. (CL24012746)

I, Lily Madhu W/o Prasan Kandulna R/o 355, Khuda Lahora, Chandigarh 160014 have changed my name from Lily to Lily Madhu. (CL24012763)

I, Sanjeev S/o Late Sh. Sohan Lal R/o Kharar changed my name to Sanjeev Kumar. (CL24012859)

I Satinder Kaur W/o Manjinder Singh Sahni, D-2, Civil Lines, Bathinda declare that in my Passport No. L6979494 (Expired on 2.2.2024) my name and my husband name are wrongly entered as Satinder Kaur Sahni and Manjinder Singh, instead of Correct name's Satinder Kaur and Manjinder Singh Sahni. (CL24012866)

I, Krishna Rani W/o Late Sh. Biru Ram R/o 1253/1, Burali, Chandigarh declare that my son Shiv Charan Sonu his wife Anchal Gupta and their daughter Shama are out of my control. I disown them from all my moveable/immovable property. I shall not be responsible for any of their acts and anybody dealing with them shall do so at their own risk. (CL24012872)

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COURT NOTICES

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC) In the Court of Sh. Tanveer S. Madhav Civil Judge (Junior Division), Tarn Taran. Next Date, Purpose of case, Orders and Judgments as well as other case information is available on http://districts.ecourts.gov.in Punjab National Bank Vs. Kulbir Singh CNR No. PBTT02-000165-2023 Next Date:- 24.05.2024 Publication issued to: Kulbir Singh :- Gian Singh R/o V. Qila Kavi Santokh Singh, Noordi Tarn Taran. In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 24.05.2024 at 10:00 a.m. For details logon to https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=tarn_taran Dated, this day of 03.05.2024. Sd/- Civil Judge (Junior Division), CL24005933 Tarn Taran.

In the Court of Sh. Gagandeep Singh Civil Judge (Jr. Division), Amritsar Punjab National Bank Vs. Harjap Singh and others ...Plaintiff ...Defendants CNR No. PBAS020058902019 Next Date: 26.07.2024 Suit for Recovery Notice to: 1. Harjap Singh Randhawa s/o Mr. Gurinder Singh, 2. Rajwinder Kaur w/o Mr. Gurinder Singh both residents of House No. 21-B, Guru Amar Dass Avenue, Block-B, Ajnala Road, Amritsar In above titled suit defendants could not be served. It is ordered that the respondents should appear in person or through counsel on 26.07.2024 at 10.00 a.m. For details logon to https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=amritsar Sd/- (Gagandeep Singh) Civil Judge (Jr. Division), CL24012448 Amritsar (U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC) In the Court of Gurmohan Singh Additional District and Sessions Judge, Amritsar. Waryam Singh s/o Tara Singh r/o Village Heir, PS Airport, Tehsil and District Amritsar. ...Claimant Versus Vikas Kumar @ Yogi and Others ...Respondents CNR No.: PBAS01-012596-2020 Next Date: 26.07.2024 Claim Petition U/S 166 of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 Publication issued to: Vikas Kumar @ Yogi:- Kamlesh Yogi r/o Dagarwara, Jaipur City, Rajasthan. In above titled case, the respondent could not be served. It is ordered that respondent should appear in person or through counsel on 26.07.2024 at 10.00 a.m. For details logon to https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=amritsar Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 24.04.2024. Sd/- Additional District and Sessions Judge, CL24012449 Amritsar.

Continued from page 09

Promises on anti-flood measures, illegal mining remain unfulfilled



AMAN SOOD TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, MAY 8 Considered to be a Congress pocket borough, Patiala had sent Congress candidates to the Vidhan Sabha and Parliament for most of the times. However, political equations have changed and with turn-coats having a field day, all four major political parties are on a sticky wicket.

In the past two tenures, Patiala had sent candidates with different parties to Parliament and both are now again in contest, but their loyalties have changed. A four-way contest is on the cards for the first time in Patiala, which usually saw the Congress taking on the SAD-BJP alliance and since 2014, it had become a triangular contest with the entry of Aam Aadmi Party. The Patiala seat can be a litmus test for almost all political parties.

However, what has not changed are the issues concerning Patiala residents, including the poor rail connectivity, lack of civic amenities, Ghaggar floods, rampant corruption in the Municipal Corporation, drugs menace in villages and road infrastructure. The shifting of the bus stand from the city to the outskirts is another issue against the present regime as traders in two constituencies have suffered losses. The 2023 floods that caused damage to paddy crops and the urban middle class is an example how the political parties did little to tackle the menace of floods.

It is an open secret that Patiala is a hub of illegal mining and despite different governments blowing



PRENEET KAUR (BJP)

Four-time MP is well-versed with politics and is one of the most humble leaders, who is known to keep a direct contact with her workers. During the past two Congress regimes in Punjab, Preneet Kaur was the bridge between the Capt Amarinder Singh government and Patiala and it was under her control that Patiala got maximum funds for various development schemes. Preneet has been raising issues concerning Patiala with the central leadership and knocking doors of the ministers.

DHARAMVIRA GANDHI (CONG)

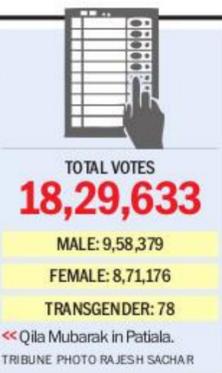
In 2014, he defeated Preneet Kaur and made his debut in the Lok Sabha. During his tenure, he was instrumental in raising several issues pertaining to Patiala. He refused to distribute grants based on caste and religion and ensured that the villages, which needed the most would get the grants on the basis of necessity. He raised the issue of Patiala's connectivity with Delhi and a train to connect Patiala to Chandigarh and Bathinda. He is quite popular among the government employees.

DR BALBIR SINGH (AAP)

The Cabinet Minister who made his debut in the Vidhan Sabha riding high on the AAP wave that swept Punjab in 2022, he has ensured to work hard to improve the health facilities. An eye surgeon and Health Minister, he was once an aide of Dr Gandhi during the latter's campaign in 2014. However, when Dr Gandhi parted ways with AAP, Dr Balbir stayed with the party. Dr Balbir had lost the first Assembly election in 2017 to former Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh.

NK SHARMA (SAD)

Elected to the Vidhan Sabha from Dera Bassi for the first time in 2012 and re-elected again in 2017, NK Sharma has remained Chief Parliamentary Secretary in the SAD-BJP government. A realty king of Zirakpur, Sharma is the owner of a real estate empire and is known for his calm demeanour and direct contact with the party workers. As he tests political waters in Patiala, SAD is banking on his down-to-earth image and also the Hindu face to swing votes in its favour.



their own trumpet, the mining mafia continues to thrive. Backed by political lobbies Rajpura, Sanaur, Ghanaur and Shutrana continue to be in the grip of illegal mining.

Patiala district has primarily been a Congress bastion. Earlier, the main electoral battle used to be between the Congress and SAD with Capt Amarinder Singh and his family being the Congress strength. However, since 2014, things have changed with the emergence of AAP. In the 2014 Lok Sabha poll, Dr Dharamvira Gandhi upset the Congress apartheid by defeating Preneet Kaur, then Union Minister of State for External Affairs. However, in 2019, Preneet defeated Dr Gandhi, who contested as

an Independent after deserting AAP. Interestingly, Preneet Kaur is now a BJP candidate and trying her luck to be an MP for the fifth time. She had earlier won in 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2019.

Almost neglected for over a decade during the SAD-BJP tenure of 2007-17, the Congress promised the moon to the local electorate during the 2017 Vidhan Sabha poll. In return, despite a strong AAP wave in the Malwa belt, the Congress won seven out of the nine Assembly seats here while SAD won two. However, in 2022 elections, AAP made a strong inroads into the Congress fortress winning all nine seats.

The constituency is spread over two revenue and two police districts of

Patiala and Mohali. With around 50 per cent Jat community and OBC votes, caste equations can play a crucial role.

In the 2019 poll, Preneet Kaur, who won the election by more than 1.5 lakh votes, failed to make a dent in SAD's bastion of Dera Bassi where she trailed behind SAD's Rakhra by over 17,000 votes. She bagged 70,883 votes from the Dera Bassi Assembly segment while Rakhra got 87,993 votes.

Despite Patiala being the nearest to Punjab's capital of Chandigarh, it has a national highway to connect it to Chandigarh but a single accident-prone road to Sirhind. Hundreds of people have lost their lives on this stretch. The constituency has one of the oldest and well-equipped

health facility, Government Rajindra Hospital, but it is mostly in news for the wrong reasons, including shortage of medicines, manpower and specialists.

While SAD faces challenge as they have fielded NK Sharma, who hails from Zirakpur and is dependent on local leaders, the BJP candidate Preneet Kaur continues to face backlash from agitating farmers, who are opposing her visit to villages. The Congress is no different with many leaders openly revolting against Dr Gandhi's candidature urging high command to have considered old party leaders. AAP also faces anti-incumbency besides some farmer outfits oppose AAP due to delay in compensation for recent crop loss.

Khaira files papers from Sangrur

SANGRUR, MAY 8 Congress candidate for Sangrur Lok Sabha constituency Sukhpal Khaira filed his nomination papers before the returning officer-cum-DC Jitendra Jorwal here today. At the time of filing of these, former Chief Minister Rajinder Kaur Bhattal, former Sangrur MLA Surinderpal Singh Sibia and former Bhadaur MLA Pirmal Singh were present. Earlier, a rally was also organised near Shaheed Bhagat Singh Chowk here. — OC

Cong's Dharamvira files nomination after roadshow

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, MAY 8 Congress candidate Dr Dharamvira Gandhi today filed his nomination papers for the Patiala parliamentary constituency after a roadshow. Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, including senior leaders of all nine Assembly segments of Patiala, put up a united face.

Stating that the days of royalty were over when maharajas and maharanis used to govern, Warring said, "The common man wants a leader like Dr Gandhi, who is a 'faqir'." "The love and enthusiasm of the people shows that Dr Gandhi will win this constituency with a huge margin. The united Congress will ensure victory of Dr Gandhi," said the Pradesh Congress Committee chief.

Dr Gandhi said, "You can see how the people are backing my candidature. It is because of the fact that I have always spoken the truth and have stood by the masses. For me, ideology is vital and the betterment of the constituency and its people is supreme." "All other parties are dividing people on the basis of religion and caste. I have never done such politics as I believe in serving the people," said Dr Gandhi, adding that he had been doing social welfare for the past 50 years.

State free to initiate action, won't join duty: Parampal

RUCHIKA M KHANNA TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MAY 8 BJP candidate from Bathinda Parampal Kaur Sidhu has decided to dig in her heels. She continued with her election campaign, refusing to give any weightage to the notice served on her by the Punjab Government last evening. Not to be cowed down by the notice, instructing her to join her duties or face consequences, the 2011 batch officer brushed it aside, saying that the notice was served on her just as a "diversionary tactic".

"They are free to initiate any action they want. How can I join duty, when I have been relieved from service by the Centre on April 10. If they (Punjab Government) want to initiate any action, they can. This will not impact my candidature and I will soon file my papers." Parampal Sidhu, BJP NOMINEE

Singh Maluka, had put in her papers, seeking voluntary retirement on April 1. When her application for VRS remained pending with the government, she wrote a letter to the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Government of India, on April 7, seeking voluntary retirement. This was accepted by the Centre on April 10 and she was relieved from service with immediate effect. A letter was also sent to the state Chief Secretary by the DoPT, saying her resignation had been accepted from the forenoon of April 10. A day later, she joined the BJP and was declared the candidate from Bathinda on April 16



Parampal Sidhu, BJP NOMINEE

- SOUGHT VRS ON APRIL 1
Parampal Sidhu, daughter-in-law of SAD leader Sikan-dar Singh Maluka, had put in her papers, seeking voluntary retirement on April 1
When her application for VRS remained pending with the government, she wrote a letter to the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) on April 7, seeking voluntary retirement
This was accepted by the Centre on April 10 and she was relieved from service with immediate effect
A letter was also sent to the state Chief Secretary by the DoPT, saying her resignation had been accepted from the forenoon of April 10
A day later, she joined the BJP and was declared the candidate from Bathinda on April 16

Secretary by the DoPT, saying her resignation had been accepted from the forenoon of April 10. Asked about the charge levelled against her by the state government that she had misrepresented in her application for seeking VRS, saying she wanted to take care of her mother, Parampal Kaur said she did say she wanted to live with her mother in Bathinda, and "I will pursue other plans".

Taranjit plays 'Samundri' card to fight 'outsider' tag

GS PAUL TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, MAY 8 To counter the "outsider" tag, BJP candidate Taranjit Singh Sandhu has started using "Samundri" as a suffix in his name.

In new hoardings, Sandhu has highlighted his family and the Panthic background with a tagline "Amritsar Di Pukar... Sandhu Samundri Is Vaar". Sandhu's family hails from Rai Buri Ka village of Tarn Taran, which was earlier part of Amritsar district. The 1988-batch Indian Foreign Service officer who retired in February started his political debut from Amritsar after joining the BJP. This had created ripples not just among the rivals, but also within the BJP camp.

"If a soldier who served at the border comes to his home, will he be called an outsider? Likewise, I served the foreign services for 38 years and have come back to my roots. The Opposition leaders who have no development plans for Amritsar have no reason to criticise and term me as an outsider," said Sandhu.

Sandhu is the grandson of Teja Singh Samundri, who played a major role in the Gurdwara Reform Movement and the Civil Disobedience Movement. He was the founder member of the SGPC and in recognition of his services to the Sikh Panth, the SGPC named its headquarters in Amritsar as "Teja Singh Samundri Hall".

Sarchand Singh, media advisor to Sandhu, added that "Samundri" has lately been used after his (Sandhu) name as an introduction to his family bond.

"Before Partition, Sandhu's grandfather Teja Singh's father Deva Singh served in the armed forces. When he retired, he was awarded around 25 acres of land for his distinguished service at Samundri area located in Punjab province in Pakistan," said Sarchand.

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Cong's Anand, BJP's Bhardwaj locked in their first LS contest from Kangra

INDIA VOTES 2024

LALIT MOHAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DHARAMSALA, MAY 8
The BJP is banking on the popularity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Lok Sabha election to the Kangra constituency that comprises 17 Assembly segments located in Kangra and Chamba districts. The Congress is relying on its 12 MLAs in the Lok Sabha constituency to ensure the victory of its candidate. The BJP has fielded Rajiv Bhardwaj, a relative of former Chief Minister Shanta Kumar, while the Congress has given ticket to former Union Commerce Minister Anand Sharma. Both Bhardwaj and Sharma are fighting their first Lok Sabha elections.

Sharma will be fighting elections directly after about four decades. He had contested the Assembly elections from Shimla in 1982 and lost to BJP candidate Daulat Ram Chauhan by a slender margin of 200 votes. Sharma had challenged the election result in the Himachal High Court,




KEY STATS

14,90,118

Total voters

7,61,346

male

7,28,766

female

Third gender: 6

Polling booths: **1,910**

- Last winner: **Kishan Kapoor, BJP**
- Votes polled: **7,25,218**
- Vote %age: **72.02**
- Runner-up: **Pawan Kajal, Cong**
- Votes polled: **2,47,595**
- Vote %age: **24.59**
- Victory margin: **4,77,623**

Assembly constituencies: 17

Main candidates for 2024 elections

- **Rajiv Bhardwaj, BJP**
- **Anand Sharma, Congress**

PAST MPs FROM KANGRA SEAT		
Year	MP	Party
1971	Vikram Chand	INC
1977	Durga Chand	BLD
1980	Vikram Chand	INC
1984	Chandresh Kumari	INC
1989	Shanta Kumar	BJP
1991	DD Khanoria	BJP
1996	Sat Mahajan	INC
1998	Shanta Kumar	BJP
1999	Shanta Kumar	BJP
2004	Chander Kumar	INC
2009	Rajan Sushant	BJP
2014	Shanta Kumar	BJP
2019	Kishan Kumar	BJP

ASSEMBLY SEGMENTS IN KANGRA LS SEAT:	
Nagrot-Bagwan, Shahpur, Kangra, Dharamsala, Palampur, Sulah, Jaisinghpur, Baijnath, Nurpur, Indora, Jawali, Fatehpur, Jwalamukhi (Kangra)	Chamba, Dalhousie, Churah and Bhattiyat (Chamba)

the BJP has dominated the Kangra seat, winning six out of eight elections. The BJP has won the Kangra parliamentary seat for three terms consecutively in 2009, 2014 and 2019.

BJP candidate Kishan Kapoor had won the Kangra seat in the 2019 parliamentary poll by a margin of 4.77 lakh votes; he secured 72 per cent votes.

The Congress, which has fielded heavy weight candidate Anand Sharma on the seat this time, is relying on its 12 MLAs in the parliamentary constituency to help the party win the elections. The Congress has 10 MLAs in Kangra district and two in Chamba district. The BJP has five MLAs in the Kangra parliamentary constituency — three in Kangra district and two in Chamba district.

Sources said that Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu had directed all 12 Congress MLAs in the Kangra constituency to ensure that the party gets a lead in its their Assembly segments. However, it will be a Herculean task for the Congress to overcome the 4.77 lakh lead that the BJP got in the constituency in the 2019 elections.

HIMACHAL BYPOLL

RAJESH SHARMA

UNA, MAY 8
The Gagret seat is one of the six Assembly segments where byelections will be held along with the Lok Sabha elections on June 1. The BJP and the Congress had won the seat twice each in the past four Assembly elections and a tough fight is expected this time.

Prior to 2013, the Gagret seat was reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC) but after the delimitation exercise it was declared open while the Chintpurni seat was reserved for SC candidates. The Gagret Assembly segment has 82,884 voters (41,953 male and 40,931 female). As many as 91 polling stations will be set up in the constituency. Ten polling stations have been declared as 'critical' where additional security arrangements will be made during the elections.

Chaitanya Sharma had won the 2022 Assembly elections on Congress ticket with a margin of over 15,000 votes. However, he rebelled against the party during the Rajya Sabha elections early this year. The Assembly Speaker

PAST WINNERS

Year	Candidates
2007	Balbir Singh (BJP)
2012	Rakesh Kalia (Cong)
2017	Rajesh Thakur (BJP)
2022	Chaitanya Sharma (Cong)

82,884

Total voters

41,953

male

40,931

female

Third gender: Nil

Polling booths **182**

Main candidates in 2024 elections



Chaitanya Sharma
BJP



Rakesh Kalia
Congress

disqualified him and five other rebel Congress MLAs, necessitating the byelections.

The Congress has fielded Rakesh Kalia against Chaitanya Sharma, who is fighting the byelection on the BJP ticket. Kalia had joined the BJP after the Congress denied him ticket to fight the 2022 Assembly elections. He had even campaigned against Congress candidate Chaitanya Sharma in the last elections. Kalia had lost to BJP's Rajesh Thakur in the 2017 state elections.

However, after the BJP gave ticket to Chaitanya Sharma for the Gagret byelection, Kalia rejoined the Congress last month in the office of Rajiv Shukla, AICC general secretary in-charge of Himachal Pradesh. He also managed to secure the Congress ticket for the byelection before returning to Gagret.

In Gagret, both candidates Chaitanya Sharma and Rakesh Kalia have changed sides, leaving the party cadres confused. When the BJP gave ticket to Chaitanya, the Gagret party office-bearers had threatened to resign en masse but the situation was saved following the intervention of senior leaders.

The situation in the Congress in Gagret is the same after Kalia returned to the party fold and secured the Congress ticket. Both candidates are Brahmins, so caste politics do not matter in the byelection.

Both Kalia and Chaitanya are campaigning relentlessly along with senior party leaders. As days pass, the electoral battle in Gagret is beginning to get more intense.

Congress indulging in divisive politics, talks of religion-based quota, says Nadda

SHIMLA, MAY 8
BJP national president JP Nadda today accused the Congress of indulging in divisive politics, a proof of which was the promise of reservation based on religion, which was against the spirit of secular India.

Nadda, while addressing party workers at a 'Panna Pramukh' sammelan on his home turf of Bilaspur, said it was essential that people make the right choice while casting their vote on June 1. "Despite Constitution clearly stating that there will be no religion based reservation, they have done it in Karnataka. Is it not an attempt to take away the reservation of dalits, OBCs and STs," he asked.



BJP national president JP Nadda, Hamirpur candidate Anurag Thakur, Leader of the Opposition Jai Ram Thakur in Bilaspur.

"The Congress is an issueless party with no vision. Congress is Ram virodhi, Sanatan virodhi and rashtro drohi party, so they should not be allowed to come to power," he remarked. National

BJP vice-president Saudan Singh, Anurag Thakur, BJP candidate from Hamirpur, state BJP president Rajeev Bindal, Rajya Sabha MP Harsh Mahajan and party MLAs were present at the sammelan.

"For the BJP it is not a question of winning the election but enhancing the victory margin. It should be a one-sided victory," he stated. The BJP must win all four Lok Sabha and also all six assembly by-polls as its political fallout will be very significant, he said in an oblique reference to the possible fall of the Congress government in Himachal.

In Mandi, Nadda said that the Congress and other parties were promoting nepotism. He addressed the first public meeting of the BJP at Segali in the Nachan Assembly segment.

"This election is not just about BJP candidate Kangana Ranaut but an election to fulfil the resolve of a developed India," he added.

Cong picks Jaggi for Dharamsala bypoll

DHARAMSALA, MAY 8
After much delay, the Congress today announced Davinder Jaggi as its candidate for the Dharamsala Assembly byelection. Jaggi, a former Mayor of Dharamsala, was the choice of Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu.

Sources said that Jaggi got the ticket due to the ardent support of the Chief Minister though senior Congress leaders from Kangra had expressed reservations over his candidature.

Jaggi's nomination has increased the chances of a four-corner contest in the Dharamsala byelection. BJP rebel Rakesh Chaudhary, who was one of the aspirants of the Congress ticket, had already announced that if he was not given the Congress ticket, he would contest the byelection as an independent candidate.

The Gaddi community has been lobbying for the grant of the Congress ticket to Vijay Inder Karan. — TNS

SHIMLA, MAY 8
Unaccounted cash, ornaments and liquor worth Rs 13.38 crore had been seized till May 6, said Chief Electoral Officer Maneesh Garg. — TNS

Differing HC judgments on petition filed by 3 Ind MLAs on resignations

SHIMLA, MAY 8
A Division Bench of the HP High Court has given two separate judgments on a petition filed by three independent MLAs alleging therein that the Speaker is not accepting their resignations from the Legislative Assembly and sought intervention of the court in this regard.

Chief Justice MS Ramachandra Rao has dismissed the petition filed by them by observing therein that "the petitioners want this court to usurp the functions of the Speaker on the validity of their resignations. The court cannot impede the exercise of discretion of an authority acting under the statute by issuance of a writ of mandamus."

While dismissing the petition the Chief Justice further observed that "Considering the high respect to be given the office of the Speaker and fact that he is the designated authority to decide on resignations of Members of Legislative Assembly under Art.190(3) (b) of the Constitution of India, and in the absence of any exceptional circumstances, I decline to grant relief sought by petitioners as it would then amount to ourselves exercising in the first instance the adjudicatory powers conferred on the Speaker by Article 190 of the Constitution of India, which is impermissible in law."

The Chief Justice held that "in my opinion, no direction can be issued to the Speaker to take a decision on the resignation letters within a fixed time frame."

However, Justice Jyotsna Rewal Dua has directed the Speaker of the Himachal Pradesh State Legislative Assembly to take decision upon the resignations tendered on March 22 by the petitioners from the Assembly within two weeks.

In her separate judgment, Justice Jyotsna Rewal Dua observed that "Being a constitutional authority does not mean that the said authority is beyond or above the Constitution. Duties of the constitutional authority are more onerous. The constitutional authority has to act and conduct in accordance with the Constitution for he has sworn an oath to bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India. It is the Constitution which is supreme and not the constitutional authority. Continued state of indecision on petitioners' resignations, in the given facts, where petitioners complain of violation of their indefeasible rights, warrants exercise of limited jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution of India. Not taking any decision for long may also amount to a decision. In the given facts and circumstances of the case, the writ petition is maintainable at pre-decisional stage." — OC

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Materials Manager, Northern Railways, Ambala Cantt.-133001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites Tender through E-Procurement System (www.ireps.gov.in) for the supply of the below item:-

S.N.	Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Tender Closing date & Time	EMD (₹)
01	98245253	Optical Biometer (as per attached specification)	01 Nos.	04.06.2024 at 11:00 hrs.	52710

NOTE: 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No manual offer will be entertained.

E-Tender Notice No. 98245253 Dated: 08.05.2024 1397/2024

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NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Northern Railways, Firozpur for and on behalf of the President of India is inviting open Tender (Two Packet System) for Development of GCT at Baramulla and Awantipora Railway Station with details as under:

S. N.	Station and e-tender number	Code	EMD Required (In Rs.)	Tender form cost (In Rs.)	Period of contract	Date of closing
1.	Baramulla (3-AC-GCT-BRMLFZR-24)	BRML	3,39,32,900/-	11,800/-	35 years	31.05.2024
2.	Awantipora (3-AC-GCT-ATPAFZR-24)	ATPA	4,34,95,700/-	11,800/-	35 years	30.05.2024

For further details, please visit Railway's Website www.ireps.gov.in
No: 3-AC-GCT-BRMLFZR-24 Date: 08.05.2024 1399/24

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NORTHERN RAILWAY Corrigendum No. 1

Open Tender Notice No. 05/2024-25

The Open Tender. (i) 30-Elect/T-14/2024-25 (ii) 30-Elect/T-15/2024-25 & (iii) 30-Elect/T-16/2024-25 published vide Tender Notice No: 05/2024-25 dt. 03.05.2024, the opening of above open tenders are cancelled due to administrative technical reasons.

No. 30-Elect/T/Notice/3205/2024-25(Corr) Date: 07.05.2024 1393/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTH ZONE CULTURAL CENTRE, PATIALA

(Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE
(Providing Food)

North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala organizes cultural programmes from time to time at various places in its member States i.e. Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Chandigarh, in which artists representing various cultural regions across the country perform.

Tenders (in two parts) - Part I - Technical Bid & Part II - Price Bid are invited at <https://www.gerpegov.com/MOC> for providing food to minimum 50 artists/participants invited for various programmes/activities from reputed firms/agencies having working experience of National level cultural shows with proven track record, capable of managing the affairs in a flawless manner with a fail proof approach and having valid Food Safety Certificate. The number of persons and number of days can vary at different times.

The tenders which includes Technical Bid and Price Bid be addressed to the Director, North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala and should be uploaded upto 05.00 pm on 05/06/2024 at <https://www.gerpegov.com/MOC> which will be opened 06/06/2024 day at 02.00 pm. The Technical bid will also include Documentary proof in support of their working experience, Income Tax return for the last 3 years, Regd. No., GST No., Pan No. etc. The price bids of only those firms/agencies would be opened who would qualify on scrutiny of the technical bid. The firms/agencies have to deposit Rs.50,000/- (Rs. Fifty thousand only) as Earnest Money along with tender. Undersigned reserves the right to accept/reject all or any tender without assigning any reason.

Price bid form and other tender related information will be available on website <https://www.gerpegov.com/MOC> and www.cultureorthindia.com only. For further inquiries may contact at Phone No.: 0175-2211429, 2202918.

Sd/-
DIRECTOR

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Department	Name of Work/Notice/Tender	Opening Date Closing Date	Amount/EMD (Approx.) in Lacs	Nodal Officer/Contact Details/Email
1.	Executive Engineer, Provincial Division No. 2, PWD (B&R) Branch, Patiala	Reconstruction of Concrete Pavement of RUB Portion & approaches on Bhankepur-Mubrakpur Road (ODR-05) Distt. SAS Nagar	07.05.2024/05.06.2024	3.31 LACS	9988600128 eepd2ptapwdbp@gmail.com
2.	Executive Engineer, Faridkot Canal & Ground Water Division, Faridkot	1. Estimate for restoration of water courses of RD 29064A, of Khara Minor.	07.05.2024/17.05.2024	40.58 THOUSAND	9464687517 xencanalk2022@gmail.com
3.	Executive Engineer/SAS Nagar, Drainage-cum-Mining & Geology, WRD Punjab	Repair Strengthening Raising and construction of revetment provision of studs on left Ghaggar Bandh from Village Dehar to Tiwana.	22.05.2024/22.05.2024	3.89 LACS	8427937729 xenminingmohali@gmail.com
4.	Executive Engineer, Bist Doab Division, Jalandhar	Sit Clearance/Linking/Construction/Removal of Obstructions/ Water Courses and Repair of Outlets (1 to 5 Nos. work on work order basis and 6 and 11 Nos. work on Agreement Basis)	08.05.2024/18.05.2024	3.07 LACS	8146818685 xembdoab:anali@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND CORRIGENDUM & ADDENDUM, IF ANY, KINDLY VISIT:
www.eproc.punjab.gov.in

RO Code: 26/12/953/2023/34046
DPR/Pb/34046

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Vaccine withdrawal

AstraZeneca can't evade responsibility

UK-based pharmaceutical major AstraZeneca has initiated global withdrawal of its Covid-19 vaccine, which was sold and administered as Covishield in India and Vaxzevria in Europe, amid a furore over its admission of a rare side effect, thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS), which can cause blood clots and a low blood platelet count. Citing commercial reasons, the firm has attributed its decision to a 'surplus of available updated vaccines'. AstraZeneca has claimed that the vaccine withdrawal is not linked to the court case it is facing and that the timing is just a coincidence. However, the move is being seen as a damage-control exercise reeking of desperation.

The company's legal troubles are not going to end anytime soon as TTS has been linked to at least 81 deaths in the UK as well as hundreds of serious injuries. Seeking damages, more than 50 purported victims and their relatives have moved the High Court of Justice in London. In India, the Supreme Court has agreed to hear a petition pertaining to the AstraZeneca vaccine, which was manufactured here by the Pune-based Serum Institute of India. The petitioner has sought that an expert panel be set up to investigate the side effect in question and that the government must provide compensation in cases where individuals died or became disabled after being inoculated.

It is not enough for AstraZeneca to assert that patient safety is its highest priority. Vaxzevria and Covishield undoubtedly played a major role in saving millions of lives and controlling the global pandemic, but the health problems caused by TTS cannot be overlooked. A thorough probe is the need of the hour. The regulatory authorities, which apparently failed to maintain stringent standards to ensure safe use of the vaccine, must also be brought to book. At stake is the people's trust in vaccine safety in general, besides the accountability and credibility of vaccine makers.

Air India mess

Protests by disgruntled crew hit operations

THE Air India Express, a subsidiary of the Tata Group, is facing turbulence, with over 90 international and domestic flights cancelled or delayed due to a sudden shortage of staff caused by cabin crew going on 'sick leave' in protest against management policies. The Civil Aviation Ministry seeking a report from the airline underscores the seriousness of the matter. With passengers left in the lurch and chaos reigning at airports, swift action is required to address the grievances of the crew hit by changes in human resources policies and the alleged mismanagement within the airline. These disruptions have coincided with the onset of the merger of Air India Express with AIX Connect.

The unrest comes on the heels of last month's scale-down of operations by Vistara, the Tata group's other carrier, after a number of pilots called in sick, purportedly to voice concerns over a new pay structure and the impending merger with Air India. The airline had to drop 25-30 flights per day, leading to airfares on key routes soaring by nearly 25 per cent.

These developments are symptomatic of the challenges facing India's aviation sector, which is grappling with capacity constraints and heightened demand for flights. With major carriers like IndiGo and Go First contending with grounded aircraft and supply chain issues, the industry is under pressure to meet the needs of travellers. These challenges necessitate comprehensive solutions that prioritise both employee welfare and passenger experience. As Air India Express works to resolve its problems, the industry must strike a balance between addressing the current disruptions and implementing long-term strategies for sustainable growth. In a landscape fraught with uncertainty, collaboration between airlines, regulatory authorities and stakeholders is essential for charting a course towards stability and resilience.

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

LAHORE, FRIDAY, MAY 9, 1924

Lahore's farewell to the Governor

FOR obvious reasons, very little interest attaches to the farewell address presented by the Lahore Municipal Committee on Monday last to His Excellency the Governor of Punjab. Neither the address nor His Excellency's reply to it contains any reference to the cause that led the Hindus to abstain from participation in the last Municipal Elections, although this matter has been agitating the minds of the Hindus of Lahore during the last year and a half. Possibly, both parties were anxious to avoid making a reference to anything that would have created the impression that the address was given by a body not fully representative of the people and therefore not claiming to give true expression to the people's feelings with regard to the retiring Governor's administration. After expressing the usual regret at the departure of His Excellency and paying a tribute to his administrative capacity and width of experience, and above all, his "unfailing tact and sympathy", the address goes on to refer to the happy coincidence of the approximation of the Lahore Municipal Committee to a self-governing institution by the introduction of an elected president and the reduction of the nominated element to a minimum with His Excellency's term of office. Opinions, have, however, always differed as to the nature of the aforesaid coincidence because we firmly believe that it is this coincidence that has made it necessary for the most advanced and influential section of the citizens of Lahore to abstain from participating in the administration of its municipal affairs. Again, it is this very coincidence that has reduced to a minimum the control over Lahore municipal finances by a class that contributes the maximum to the funds of the town.

Peace elusive without unanimity

Proposed summit in Switzerland will be a non-starter if Russia remains absent

ABHJIT BHATTACHARYYA
AUTHOR AND COLUMNIST

WORLD history of the past 400 years shows that geographically large nations have been relatively benign or far less aggressive compared to countries with smaller territories. The latter have demonstrated a peculiar penchant for worldwide expansion — conquering, killing, plundering and profiting while redrawing maps and dividing weak nations.

Take today's 10 biggest nations in terms of area — Russia, Canada, the US, China, Brazil, Australia, India, Argentina, Kazakhstan and Algeria. They are no match for nine particular countries/empires — Portugal, Spain, Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Denmark, Belgium and the Netherlands — when it comes to overseas aggression and transcontinental imperial conquests.

Barring the post-1945 hostile posturing of the US and the post-1949 Chinese belligerence, the 'big 10' have largely avoided any activity aimed at intercontinental usurpation. Today's Russia-Ukraine conflict, however, is an aberration; it is an exception to the rule owing to a combination of factors for which neither Russia nor Ukraine is solely responsible. Till 1991, both were part of the Soviet Union and never did their rulers resort to a ruthless assault on territories abroad. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 was an aberration as well.

Among the other constituents of the 'big 10', Australia and Canada were British dominions, whereas Argentina and Brazil were under Spanish



TRAGEDY: The Russia-Ukraine conflict owes its origin to factors for which neither nation is solely responsible. REUTERS

and Portuguese empires for hundreds of years. Algeria came out of French clutches after being vanquished in the 19th century. India was partitioned by the British, while the 1991 breakup of the USSR led to the birth of landlocked Kazakhstan and other nations.

Contextually, one understands how and why the West felt the need for an overarching umbrella to launch a collective attack like that on Yugoslavia in 1999, and on Iraq and Afghanistan in the beginning of this century. Now, it is the bloc of nations under the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the European Union that is keen to prolong the Russia-Ukraine conflict at the behest of warmongers.

In the midst of the war in eastern Europe comes the proposal to hold the Ukraine peace summit at Burgenstock, Switzerland, in June. On the face of it, this is good news, yet Russia's reported absence/non-participation makes the summit a potential non-starter because no peace move can fructify without the presence of all belligerents on the high table. Russia's exclusion would only result in a stillborn agenda.

Germany, Europe's most pop-

No doubt Russia committed a blunder with its invasion of Ukraine in 2022. However, no war of this magnitude begins without grave provocation over a considerable period.

ulous and second largest country, is a key member of the anti-Russia front of the West. Berlin needs to recall its own humiliation at the Treaty of Versailles in June 1919, when the German delegation was threatened that war would be resumed in five days if the draft treaty was not signed instantly. German signatories were not even allowed to sit with the Anglo-French delegates at the negotiating table. Germany must also not forget its bifurcation after World War II.

Having been among the worst sufferers of 20th-century wars, Germany must put its foot down to abort any peace summit without Russia's participation and not provoke Moscow into causing mutually assured destruction. Of late, political stalwarts of the West have virtually stooped to the level of foul-mouthed street urchins while castigating their opponents.

Let's face it: it would be well-nigh impossible to expect the success of a peace summit on the Russia-Ukraine war without a redrawing of the map. That's the crux, as a change of the boundary is the inevitable end result of a long-drawn conflict. One can foresee prolonged haggling and wrangling over the lingering dispute. What will be the possible shape and size of post-war Ukraine? Who will get what? Which nation could be the surprise beneficiary and which the unexpected loser?

Following the trend and pattern of Western conflicts, the partition or repartitioning of terrain is a historical inevitability. Russia aside, at least five adjacent countries (Romania, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Poland and Turkey) and the crowded Israel

of the Levant could be eyeing additional 'living space' (Lebensraum) from Ukraine in the aftermath of a peace conference. It's because war, peace and partition are part of a cyclical process of Europe's past and present and there is nothing to show that the future would be any different. The formula has been consistently followed both within and outside Europe. From the Third Partition of Poland (1795) and the Congress of Berlin (1878) to the upheaval in Germany, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, India, Korea, Sudan and Vietnam, all are testimony to the historical formula.

No doubt Russia committed a blunder with its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. However, no war of this magnitude begins without grave provocation over a considerable period of time. The West has inherently been anti-Russia. Unsurprisingly, the feeling is mutual because Russia hasn't forgotten that when it was in the throes of a civil war in 1919, a coalition of Western and Eastern forces consisting of the US, Britain, France, Italy, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Canada and Japan had invaded the newly born Soviet Union through the Siberian port of Vladivostok in a bid to break its vast landmass into pieces. Russians say that they never invaded the US, Britain, France, Italy, Canada or Japan because their land extends from the border of Vilnius to Vladivostok. Hence, Russia was neither a transoceanic nor a transcontinental imperial power. Moscow has a point.

As far as West Asia is concerned, the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict, too, is unlikely to reverse the cartographical pattern in view of the West's diplomatic and economic interests in the resource-rich region. But here again, there are powerful groups that want the war to continue. In this tragic scenario, peace would be a distant dream in the absence of unanimity. Hope the West and the warring nations come to their senses.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Wars have never hurt anybody except the people who die. — Salvador Dali

Stem the rot in the exam system

CHETANA VAISHNAVI

DECADES ago, I was sitting on the front bench during an exam in Class V when I saw a classmate copying from a textbook. I stood up and alerted the teacher: 'Miss... Uday is cheating.' She simply ignored me. I went back to my seat but couldn't concentrate on the question paper. Boldly, I again apprised the teacher, who was sitting on a chair, of my classmate's illegal means to pass the exam. There might have been several Udays in the class, copying from textbooks, but I was unaware of them. My second pleading made the teacher assert without rising from her chair: 'Uday, please don't copy!'

Recently, the CBSE suggested an open-book exam for English, mathematics and science for Classes IX and X, and for English, mathematics and biology for Classes XI and XII in selected schools on a trial basis. If copying is permitted in such important exams, won't it make things too easy for the students?

Exams evaluate one's knowledge. In the race to acquire more marks, knowledge is often the first casualty. A topper is not a person with high marks but one who is successful in life. When parents put pressure on children, some of them adopt unfair means to get good marks. Even though the quality of education is worsening, the marks obtained by students are rising exponentially. Learning is more important than marks. Some teachers help students cheat so as to improve their school's performance. Cheating in exams is nothing but academic dishonesty. The Vyapam scam pertained to exams for the selection of medical students and state government employees in Madhya Pradesh. It operated successfully for two decades before being unearthed in 2013. The exams were taken by lakhs of students each year, many of whom were paid proxies of undeserving aspirants. Other tricks used by the fraudsters included copying and tampering with answer sheets. The scam also led to several 'unnatural' deaths of persons involved in it.

Last year, mass copying in the Class XII physics exam was detected in a Pune school; nine teachers were booked. Earlier this year, the Class XII biology and mathematics papers of the Uttar Pradesh board exams were reportedly leaked on WhatsApp. Rampant cheating was witnessed in Nuh during the Haryana board exams. People brazenly scaled walls to pass on answer sheets to students.

Strict rules and regulations are a must to prevent cheating in exams. The Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, includes provisions for stringent penalties, hefty fines and imprisonment for people involved in using unfair means. This law has been enacted to bring greater transparency, fairness and credibility to the public examination system. Hope it will help curb the menace of copying.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Prajwal unfit for public office

Refer to the editorial 'Sexual abuse case'; the allegations of sexual harassment against Janata Dal (Secular) MP Prajwal Revanna, who is the grandson of former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, are shocking. If the claims about him sexually abusing women and video-graphing these acts are true, it reflects his lack of decency. It is unlikely that his family members knew nothing about his involvement in immoral activities. As a representative of the people, he seems to have gained more power to oppress women. It is telling that his father is under arrest on the charges of molestation and abduction. Such leaders are unfit to hold public office. The latest revelation should make all those voters who treated them as their leaders hang their heads in shame.

AG RAJMOHAN, ANANTAPUR (AP)

Bring perpetrators to book

Apropos of the editorial 'Sexual abuse case'; it is shameful that atrocities against women are continuing unabated in the country. It is equally disturbing that politicians are reportedly involved in cases of kidnapping, molestation or sexual harassment. This is a poor reflection on the way women are treated in Indian society. Citizens expect their representatives to lead by example. But since political leaders wield much influence, they sometimes abuse that power to commit atrocities against women. Because of social stigma and fear, the victims often don't come forward to report the matter. The perpetrators need to be dealt with sternly, and the victims must get justice.

RAMI SHARMA, DHARIWAL

Israel must stop now

Refer to the article 'Students lead struggle for reinvention of democracy'; it is inspiring to see American youth take an unequivocal stand to end the Gaza war. The killing of women and children has sadly been normalised. The civilians stuck in Gaza have become sitting ducks for the attackers, and that is what US university students are protesting. Further, the fact that the US is still supplying military aid to Israel instead of dousing the fire of war speaks volumes about its priorities. Israel's initial response

to the October 7 attack by Hamas terrorists was legitimate, but it must stop now.

BM SINGH, BY MAIL

Palestinian lives at stake

The war between Israel and Hamas is intensifying. The Israeli attacks on Rafah will leave Gaza in an even bigger humanitarian crisis. While the world repeatedly expresses its displeasure over Israel's onslaught on Palestinian civilians, it continues to bomb women and children. The famine-like conditions in parts of Gaza and the scarcity of food and essential drugs will become unimaginably worse with the latest developments. On the one hand, America has asked Israel to stop the war; but on the other hand, it continues to send military aid to the country. It is high time that world leaders came together and persuaded Tel Aviv to stop the conflict.

DVG SANKARA RAO, VIZIANAGARAM (AP)

India is not xenophobic

US President Joe Biden recently called India and some other countries xenophobic. His bracketing of India and Japan with Russia and China is bizarre. His comment that the countries are xenophobic is ill-timed. Biden is right to say that America's economic strength is in being open to immigrants. The US is still the most-sought-after destination for immigrants looking for a better life. However, India's journey has been very different. Though it didn't have the economic strength to be a magnet for immigrants, it has still taken in millions of refugees.

PL SINGH, BY MAIL

A welcome move

Refer to 'Jyoti Malhotra appointed first woman Editor-in-Chief'; The Tribune Trust deserves kudos for selecting a female journalist as its next Editor-in-Chief. Readers of The Tribune, north India's premier newspaper, have high hopes from her. In this day and age, women are surpassing men in every field. Women have been making a name for themselves in areas that were earlier seen as male bastions. The appointment of Malhotra is a welcome move. As an experienced professional, she will hopefully live up to the expectations of the readers, just like her predecessors.

KL NOATAY, BY MAIL

The enduring lesson of strategic restraint



LT GEN JS CHEEMA (RETD)
FORMER DEPUTY CHIEF
OF THE ARMY STAFF

IN 1999, Pakistan's Kargil intrusions challenged India's territorial integrity. Emboldened by its nuclear tests conducted the year before, Pakistan aimed to internationalise Kashmir as a nuclear flashpoint, assuming that its newly acquired capability would deter India from a full-scale military response, forcing early mediation and allowing it to keep the intruded territory across the Line of Control (LoC). To resolve the unprecedented crisis, India categorically rebuffed any diplomatic efforts proposed by Pakistan until the intruders were completely evicted. A long period of diplomatic parleys would have afforded adequate time for the Pakistani intruders to consolidate their positions and indulge in excessive nuclear rhetoric to pressure India to accept the new alignment. Accordingly, the Cabinet Committee on Security instructed the armed forces on May 18, 1999, to clear the intrusions employing air power offensively but laying down a term of reference not to cross the LoC. India's declaratory self-imposed caveat of not crossing the LoC, reflecting its policy of

'strategic restraint', was aimed at garnering international acceptance of a responsible nation avoiding escalation and prioritising peace. This could also help lift sanctions imposed by the global community after it had conducted nuclear tests in 1998, though this stance left many questioning the policy. Not surprisingly, it created a paradox, wherein India wanted to evict the intruders from its territory but was not ready to enter Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), which was under Pakistan's illegal control since 1948. It was tantamount to accepting the LoC as the international border and abdicating its claim to PoK. This limitation bolstered Pakistan's belief that India feared escalation because of the former's nuclear capability. The restriction also caused tremendous consternation among the Army and the Indian Air Force (IAF), as it involved frontal attacks along the expected approaches, causing larger Army casualties and curtailing the radius of the circuit of IAF combat aircraft. On being explained the adverse implications for the conduct of military operations, as the contingency might arise to cross the LoC, the National Security Adviser diluted the restriction, stating publicly that not crossing the LoC holds good today, but not sure what would happen tomorrow. The damage was, however, done, with Pakistan perceiving it as a meek military response.

Pakistan raised the spectre of a nuclear confrontation, with its Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif, declaring its newfound confi-



IMPACT: The Kargil conflict marked a strategic shift in the international perception of India, whose measured response was viewed positively. FILE PHOTO

dence in countering an Indian attack on equal terms. Days later, Pakistan issued an official warning of retaliation, implicitly with its nuclear weapons. These threats were primarily aimed at the international community, especially the US and other Western nations, to pressure them to restrain India's military push. However, New Delhi dismissed these threats, well aware of Islamabad's limited nuclear capability — possessing only a few undeveloped nuclear weapons with restricted delivery systems sans a proper command structure for using them. Lt Gen Prakash Menon, former Military Adviser to the National Security Council Secretariat, aptly remarked: "It was with a non-existent capability around which Pakistan wove its paradigm of a nuclear umbrella, to prevent escalation as well as leverage the nuclear flashpoint card internationally."



Powerful nations employing disproportionate force to achieve tactical objectives need to introspect.

The international community, initially swayed by Pakistan's rhetoric, saw through it as India presented concrete evidence of the Pakistani army's involvement in the intrusions. The shift in the narrative compelled Pakistan to tone down its rhetoric. Reacting to Islamabad's threats of more incursions, New Delhi hinted at military action across the border. The Army's success in recapturing the intruded heights reflected the hollowness of Pakistan's nuclear rhetoric. India carefully calibrated strategic troops posturing close to the border and relocating naval assets to the Arabian Sea to create a strategic asymmetry along the entire Indo-Pak front to achieve escalation dominance, should there be a need for war. While the Western media overplayed the nuclear threat, Pakistan's attempt to link its actions to a potential nuclear flashpoint

failed. Instead, it came under intense international pressure to withdraw.

As the Indian military operations gathered momentum, Pakistan sought an exit strategy. Its Prime Minister visited Washington in July 1999 to meet then US President Bill Clinton, who categorically rejected Pakistan's repeated pleas for direct US intervention in the J&K dispute and called again for withdrawal. Pakistan eventually agreed, and the Indian Army accepted a phased withdrawal on its terms and conditions. The Pakistani army withdrew by July 17, barring three areas, which were cleared by the Indian Army by July 25. On July 26, the Indian Army declared the successful conclusion of the Kargil War.

The Kargil conflict marked a strategic shift in the international perception of India, whose measured response, exercise of strategic restraint and prioritisation of regional stability over escalation were viewed positively. The US unequivocally favoured India, with its Congress recommending the suspension of loans from international financial institutions to Pakistan until it withdrew its troops. The G8 countries and the European Union adopted a similar stance. Russia was more supportive, while Pakistan's trusted ally, China, maintained a neutral stand. Most of the other countries showed even-handedness, asking for restraint, while Saudi Arabia and Iran sought UN intervention. The saga of the

unparalleled courage and bravery of Indian soldiers was superbly supplemented by politico-diplomatic initiatives bolstering India's international standing as a responsible country. Pakistan was humiliated not only on the Kargil battlefield, but also globally.

The Kargil conflict highlighted the contrasting perspectives of India and Pakistan. India conceptualised a limited conventional war as an option below the nuclear threshold. Pakistan, however, believed that its newly acquired nuclear capability had deterred a stronger Indian response, emboldening it to continue using terrorism as an instrument of state policy, as evidenced by the terrorist attacks on Parliament in December 2001 and the Mumbai terror attack in November 2008. Whether an all-out war in 1999 could have prevented major terror attacks originating in Pakistan remains debatable.

The strategy of restraint can be a powerful tool of a strong nation and not a sign of weakness, as it underscores a country's confidence in its long-term strategic approach. In today's world, this lesson seems more relevant than ever before. Powerful nations employing disproportionate force to achieve tactical objectives need to introspect. The object of war, as per Carl von Clausewitz, is not victory but to establish enduring peace. But unfortunately, that has rarely happened, as testified by the numerous ongoing confrontations.

Right to apprenticeship should be a priority in India



SANTOSH MEHROTRA
RESEARCH FELLOW, IZA INSTITUTE
OF LABOUR ECONOMICS, GERMANY

IN its manifesto for the 2024 elections, the Congress announced a right to apprenticeship (RA) for all post-secondary certificate/degree/diploma holders. It guarantees all under-25-year-olds the right to apprenticeship with firms where the youth can get training and work together, based on the duality principle of the Germanic skilling model (involving schooling and simultaneous work experience). India has always had a supply-driven vocational skilling ecosystem, where youth are getting educated but not 'skilled' in a true sense, where there is very little employer connect and no requirement for internship or apprenticeship. This calls for a scrutiny of the performance of the government's skill development initiatives in India and why reforms like an RA are a step in the right direction.

Vocational education and training (VET) has been neglected in India for over half a century until the 2000s (just as school education had

remained neglected in India's planning strategy) — the costs of which we continue to pay today. In 1991, when India's economic reforms began, literacy was 51 per cent — or half of India's population was illiterate, mostly concentrated in the agriculture sector. Although school education received a new-found emphasis in public spending in the 1990s, VET still continued to be neglected (although that was not the case for technical higher education). The 11th Five-Year Plan (2007-12) was the first Plan that had a chapter on skill development.

The result is that India's manufacturing and services workforce still has very low levels of education. Worse, the National Sample Survey Office's Employment-Unemployment Survey (2011-12) says 2.2 per cent of the workforce had received formal VET. Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data shows that the percentage of formally vocationally trained individuals decreased from 2.2 per cent (10.43 million) in 2011-12 to 2 per cent (9.14 million) in 2017-18, but in five years, rose to 3.7 per cent (21.05 million) in 2022-23. So, who have been added as 'vocationally trained'?

PLFS 2017-18 shows that 22 per cent of total vocationally trained undertook less than six-month courses, and that share has now risen to 37 per cent. More worryingly, in 2017, 29 per cent individuals



NECESSARY: What India's youth need urgently is a pathway to work opportunities. PH

used to take two-year or longer courses, now reduced to 14.29 per cent. The VET duration of Skill India Mission courses is very short (in some cases, only 10 days).

Since 1961, India has had the Apprentices Act, which requires all registered firms to accept apprentices for at least one year or more. Ten years ago, about 250,000 apprentices existed in registered non-farm enterprises. In August 2016, the government of India launched the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS), worth Rs 10,000 crore. Though the objective was to train 50 lakh apprentices by 2020, only 20 lakh could be trained by 2022. Out of the envisioned Rs 10,000 crore, only around Rs 650 crore was disbursed to states between 2017 and 2022. NAPS-2 was launched in

Skill policies and schemes need a big overhaul on the lines of Swiss and Germanic models, in which the youth and the industry take centre stage.

2023; no figures for the same are currently available.

An International Labour Organisation study in 2022 concluded that the amendments to the 1961 Act have contributed to an increase in the number of apprentices in India. In a workforce of 570 million in 2022-23 (PLFS), the apprentices were just over a half million, arise from 2.5 lakh 10 years ago. Clearly, the amendments have not worked wonders. This is not surprising, given that practically the entire private corporate sector has largely ignored the apprenticeship schemes. Only central and state public enterprises have tended to fulfil their obligations. MSMEs still continue to ignore the scheme. The result: Germany, with a 46-million workforce, has at least 6 million apprentices; India has, by contrast, half a million. The differ-

ence arises from the industry/employer involvement in pre-employment training — which makes India's approach supply-driven, but successful VET programmes around the globe have been demand-driven.

What India's youth need urgently, as 6 million or more join the labour force each year, and over 100 million wait in the wings as NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training), is a pathway to work from their education, whether the education is of a general academic nature or vocational or technical. This requires that the Central Government think seriously and urgently about involving employers/industry in the skilling process.

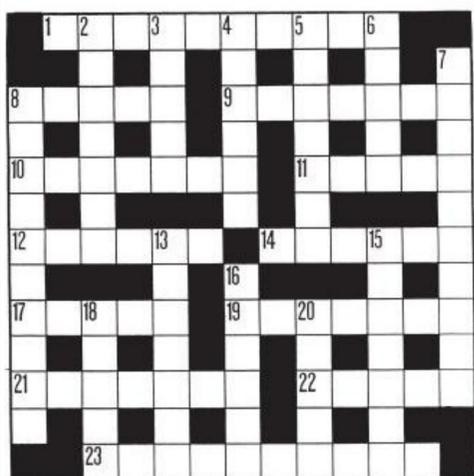
The urgency arises from the following facts: The India Skills Report 2021 argues that nearly half of India's graduates are unemployable. Open unemployment was barely 2.1 per cent in 2012 and had already nearly tripled to 6.1 per cent in 2018, the highest rate in 45 years of India's labour force surveys. The number of unemployed was one crore in 2012; it tripled to three crore by 2018. The youth unemployment rates went through the roof for those with middle school (Class VIII) education, rising from 4.5 per cent to 13.7 per cent; those with secondary education (Class X) from 5.9 per cent to 14.4 per cent; and with high-

er secondary (Class XII) education from 10.8 per cent to 23.8 per cent. Educated unemployment worsened sharply. For graduates, the unemployment rate rose from 19.2 per cent to 35.8 per cent; and for postgraduates from 21.3 per cent to 36.2 per cent (2022-23).

In the light of educated unemployment, a lack of takers of skill programmes, low-quality training and abysmal placement rate, there is an urgent need for a comprehensive overhaul of the skill ecosystem. India, suffering from unemployment among the highly educated, in the future is moving towards the problem of skill underutilisation and overeducation (or 'degree mania'). Mere rhetoric and inflated government statistics will no longer suffice. It is imperative that the government prioritises quality over quantity, ensuring that every individual emerges from these programmes truly equipped to contribute meaningfully to the workforce. Anything less would be a disservice to the aspirations of millions seeking a better future through skill development.

Skill policies and schemes have failed; they need a big overhaul on the lines of Swiss and Germanic skill models, in which the youth and the industry take centre stage. A Right to Apprenticeship for every youth should be an urgent priority.

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- Without preparation (3,3,4)
- Persistently harassed (5)
- The largest ape (7)
- Put at risk (7)
- Second planet from the sun (5)
- Thick soup (6)
- Grasp tightly (6)
- Sequence (5)
- Print and distribute (7)
- Expand (7)
- Half-hearted (5)
- On top of everything else (2,3,2,3)

DOWN

- One who bothers about trivia (7)
- Private teacher (5)
- Swallow up completely (6)
- Disentangle (7)
- A criminal (5)
- Take up a cash collection (4,3,3)
- Show a profit (2,2,6)
- Relating to a class (7)
- Of little consequence (7)
- Maintenance (6)
- Appointment (5)
- To suit (5)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Gratis, 4 Sketch, 9 Dead Sea, 10 Drawn, 11 Wedge, 12 Dossier, 13 Cutting edge, 18 Infidel, 20 Perch, 22 Frown, 23 Vis-a-vis, 24 Rather, 25 Adonis.

Down: 1 Go down, 2 Award, 3 Inspect, 5 Kudos, 6 Tearing, 7 Hungry, 8 Hand in glove, 14 Up-front, 15 Exposed, 16 Differ, 17 Thesis, 19 Dense, 21 Riven.

SU DO KU

2	6		8		4				
3					7	5			
		7	5						
		9					3	4	
									7
		4							
			3	2				9	
			9	1					8
			3		6			4	9

V. HARD

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

4	2	5	1	6	7	8	3	9
7	9	1	3	4	8	2	5	6
6	3	8	9	2	5	1	7	4
8	6	2	5	7	1	4	9	3
3	7	4	6	8	9	5	1	2
5	1	9	2	3	4	6	8	7
2	5	6	8	9	3	7	4	1
9	8	7	4	1	6	3	2	5
1	4	3	7	5	2	9	6	8

CALENDAR

MAY 9TH 2024, THURSDAY

- Shaka Samvat 1946
- Vaishakh Shaka 19
- Vaishakh Parvite 27
- Hijri 1445
- Shukla Paksha Tithi 1, up to 6.22 am
- Shukla Paksha Tithi 2, up to 4.18 am
- Sobhana Yoga up to 2.41 pm
- Kritika Nakshatra up to 11.56 am
- Moon in Taurus sign

FORECAST

SUNSET:	THURSDAY	19:05 HRS
SUNRISE:	FRIDAY	05:32 HRS
CITY:	MAX	MIN
Chandigarh	37	27
New Delhi	39	26
Amritsar	40	24
Bathinda	40	25
Jalandhar	40	24
Ludhiana	40	24
Bhivani	41	27
Hisar	42	25
Sirsa	41	27
Dharamsala	32	21
Manali	25	08
Shimla	25	16
Srinagar	29	11
Jammu	40	22
Kargil	23	11
Leh	21	06
Dehradun	34	25
Mussoorie	25	15

TEMPERATURE IN °C

In Ladakh, it's Kargil vs Leh as Muslim, Buddhist bodies back their candidates

INDIA VOTES 2024

ARJUN SHARMA

JAMMU, MAY 8

Religious and social organisations in Leh are trying hard to reach a consensus in favour of only one of the two Buddhist candidates of the BJP and Congress in the district, as they believe that the sole Muslim candidate from Kargil will dominate the poll on May 20. Over the time, the situation has turned into Buddhist-dominated Leh versus Muslim-majority Kargil in the lone Lok Sabha seat of Ladakh.

While there are two candidates, including BJP's Tashi Gyalson and Congress' Tsering Namgyal contesting from Leh, there is only one Independent candidate, Haji Hanifa Jan, contesting from Kargil, amid polarisation of the vote bank, which is also giving nightmares to the BJP and Congress as their votes are likely to split in Leh.

Sensing the urgency, the Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA), a prominent religious body, has started making efforts to build a consensus to urge locals to vote for one of the two candidates from Leh.



Leaving Hanifa Jan, the two other Independent candidates who had filed nomination from Kargil, including Kacho Mohammed Feroz and Sajjad Kargili, have withdrawn their nomination, giving a clear way to Jan.

"I have convened the meeting of both Congress and BJP candidates to urge them that one of them should back out of campaigning. However, as both Congress and BJP are national parties, their candidates cannot take a decision on their own. Votes in Leh will split in favour of

two candidates and will benefit the lone Kargil candidate," said LBA chief Chhering Dorje Lakrook.

He added that being a non-political organisation, he could only urge the candidates to think about Leh. Former MP Thupstan Chhemwang has also urged the locals in Leh to vote en masse in favour of only one candidate. However, no decision on the name of the candidate has been reached so far.

Meanwhile, Hanifa Jan is also leaving no stone unturned to consolidate the

vote bank in Kargil. He is meeting religious and social leaders and urging them to support him. He recently held a meeting with the chairman of the guardian council of the Imam Khomeini Memorial Trust (IKMT), Sheikh Mohammad Mohaqqiq, and called for unity in Kargil.

Interestingly, Hanifa Jan is an NC leader and had recently resigned along with entire Kargil unit of the party. NC leaders of Kargil have gone against their party order of supporting Con-

VOTES WILL BE SPLIT IN LEH

"We are meeting Congress as well as BJP candidates to urge them that one of them step down from Leh. However, as both Congress and BJP are national parties, their candidates cannot take a decision on their own. Votes in Leh will be split between BJP's Tashi Gyalson and Congress' Tsering Namgyal and will benefit the lone Kargil candidate, Haji Hanifa Jan. Chhering Dorje Lakrook, LBA Chief

<< BJP candidate Tashi Gyalson interacts with monks at the Hemis Monastery in Ladakh.

gress (INDIA bloc) candidate Tsering Namgyal.

The BJP has also targeted the NC and claimed that the resignation of party leaders in Kargil was a jolt to the INDIA bloc. Senior BJP Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta said: "The mass resignation of NC leaders in Kargil underscores the inherent weaknesses within the alliance. This development serves as a testament to the transient nature of alliances formed solely for opportunistic gains."

Poonch ambush: No headway, search operation enters 5th day

OUR CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, MAY 8

The search operation to trace the terrorists who carried out the attack on an Indian Air Force (IAF) convoy in Surankote area of Poonch district entered its fifth day on Wednesday, with no success for the security forces.

The Army, police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) have intensified combing and search operation with the help of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), sniffer dogs and specialised teams in large swaths of forest areas in the region.

Terrorists had targeted an IAF convoy in the Shaista area of Poonch district, resulting in the killing of an IAF personnel and injuries to four others on May 4. The search operation is being carried out in Shahsitar, Gursai, Sanai, Lasana and Sheendara top in the Surankote belt

25 detained for questioning so far



A security man stands guard during a search operation in Surankote.

and adjoining areas in Poonch district. Security forces have also circulated the sketches of the terrorists.

Posters offering a cash reward of Rs 20 lakh for any information leading to the arrest of the two individuals, believed to be the prime sus-

pects, have also been put up in Surankote.

As of now, over 25 persons have been detained for questioning in the case. Security forces believe that the terrorists might have been helped by local associates, who might also be providing them food.

Ultra killed in fresh Kulgam gunfight

TRF commander was among 2 killed at same site on Tuesday

SRINAGAR, MAY 8

A terrorist was killed in a fresh gunfight with security forces on Wednesday near the site of an encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district where two ultras were killed a day earlier.

During search of houses

near the encounter site in the Redwani area of the district, the fresh exchange of fire took place with a terrorist hiding there, an official said.

One terrorist was killed today, the official said and added that the identity of

the deceased was being ascertained. He said firing was going on till last reports came in.

Two ultras, including wanted terrorist of Lashkar-e-Toiba Basit Dar, were killed in the encounter with security forces on Tuesday. — PTI

Youths languishing in jails, Centre's claims about normalcy false: Mufti

SRINAGAR, MAY 8

PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday said the Centre's assertions about restoring normalcy in Kashmir were flawed as numerous youth were still languishing in jails across the country, without facing any trial.

"Why are employees terminated while youth with government jobs face security clearance denials based on mere suspicion?" she said.

Addressing rallies in Chadoora, located in the Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency, the PDP chief criticised the disparity in power tariffs, highlighting that while Jammu and Kashmir provides subsidized power to other states, its own residents face exorbitant rates. She underscored the dire levels of joblessness in the region.



PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti at a rally with her party's Srinagar candidate Waheed Parra in Budgam on Wednesday. ANI

Mufti recounted her initiative in the formation of Gupkar alliance and her keenness to collaborate with other political groups, including the NC. However, she said NC leader Omar Abdullah's dismissal of PDP's relevance awakened

PDP workers and the people too did not like the arrogant attitude. PDP's Srinagar candidate Waheed ur Rahman Parra urged youth to stand firm against external pressures, he reassured them that victory was within reach. — OC

Bukhari: Locals must have first right on natural resources in J&K

SRINAGAR, MAY 8

Apni Party chief Altaf Bukhari on Wednesday said local residents should have the first right on natural resources in Jammu and Kashmir. He declared that if Apni Party, if it gets the public mandate to serve, would take a range of initiatives aimed at fostering the economic empowerment of the people of the UT, while effectively utilising its natural resources.

He said Apni Party would ensure that the hundreds of victims who were showered with pellets during the PDP's tenure in 2016 receive government assistance for lifetime.

He said the NC and PDP had never allowed democracy to flourish in J&K over the past seven decades. — OC

NC suffered the worst due to militancy, but never supported separatism: Omar

OUR CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR, MAY 8

While stating that he was fighting "New Delhi's power" during the elections in Kashmir, former Chief Minister and NC vice-president Omar Abdullah today said J&K had changed for the worst, as militancy had now taken root in those areas that were once free from it. He added that militancy had started emerging in those areas, which were free from the militancy when he was in the government.

"Militancy has now revived in those areas which we had made peaceful and militancy-free. This is being seen in the form of target killings in Srinagar or targeting security forces in the Rajouri-Poonch

LONE ALLYING WITH BJP TO WEAKEN NC

"Sajad Gani Lone is allying with the BJP to weaken the NC. He helped the Delimitation Commission in its gerrymandering to weaken the NC vote bank. Omar Abdullah, NC vice-president



belt. There is no stability anywhere in J&K, instead, devastation has been added manifold," Omar said while talking to reporters in Kupwara.

Earlier, addressing a rally, Omar said the administration was creating hurdles in his campaign. "I am not fighting against an individual, I am fighting New Delhi's power in Kashmir. After the security forces, NC is the biggest victim of militancy. So many NC workers were killed by militants. So many of my colleagues in the

National Conference were assassinated," Omar said.

He added that suffering the worst due to militancy, the NC never changed its stance and never supported militancy. "They are asking us what we've done for the past 70 years. The NC has liberated Kashmiris from economic enslavement," Omar said, referring to the land reforms initiated by the NC founder and his grandfather, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah.

Omar said Sheikh Abdullah and the NC had also paved

way for political liberation. "In these times, the BJP are pushing us towards economic and political enslavement. Our land is in danger, our employment is in danger and so is our future. If you visit any office today you will not find any Kashmiri," Omar added.

Launching an attack on Peoples Conference candidate Sajad Gani Lone, Omar said he was surprised to notice that not a single poster of his father Abdul Gani Lone had been put up. He said: "If he doesn't respect his father, how will he respect you?"

He added that Lone was allying with the BJP to weaken the NC. He accused Lone of helping the Delimitation Commission in the latter's gerrymandering to weaken the NC vote bank.

Indian envoy: Separatists based in Canada..

nationals in the case of Hardeep Singh Nijjar's killing, the High Commissioner seemed to link the case to domestic crime. "Foreigners having, if I can call it, (an) evil eye on the territorial integrity of India that is a big red line for us. We are ready to sit down at the

table any day, and we are doing that," he said.

A few hours earlier, Canadian Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly stood by allegations that the Indian Government was complicit in Nijjar's killing last year. "We stand by the allegations that a Canadian

was killed on Canadian soil by Indian agents," said Joly, refusing to comment further. "The investigation by the RCMP is being done. I won't comment further and no other officials from our government will comment further," she said.

Pitroda again, raises storm with 'racist'..

the deceased kicked up a row with PM Modi telling the electorate that the Congress planned to grab their ancestral properties.

In a fresh controversy, US-based Pitroda, 82, commenting on the diversity of India, said "people in the East of India looked like Chinese, those in the West looked like Arabs, people in the South looked like Africans and those in the North appeared White".

Modi seized the remarks to fire a fresh salvo at the Congress. Taking a cue from him, Union ministers, BJP leaders

and chief ministers too lashed out at the opposition party. Manipur CM N Biren Singh even threatened to sue the US-based investor, who has often lent political fodder to the BJP.

"I am absolutely disgusted by the remarks of the senior Congress leader, who is the friend, philosopher and guide of the Congress' Crown Prince. His remarks are racist and in a very poor taste," the PM said at rallies in Telangana's Karimnagar and Warangal, asking Rahul Gandhi to come clean.

"I am furious today. I can condone all insults heaped at me, but not at the people of my country. Will the merit of Indians be determined by the colour of their skin? These people who swear by the Constitution are insulting my people on the basis of their appearance. This remark is extremely racist and petty. The Congress' Prince will have to answer: India and Modi will not tolerate this," said the PM.

Earlier today, the Congress distanced itself from Pitroda's comments even as it continued to firefight the inheri-

rance tax issue. "The analogies drawn by Sam Pitroda in a podcast to illustrate India's diversity are most unfortunate and unacceptable. The Congress completely dissociates itself from these analogies," Ramesh said.

Hours later Pitroda quit his Congress post, first such drastic move in his nearly 40-decade-old association with the party and its top leaders.

Born in Odisha to Gujarati parents, Pitroda, known to stoke controversies, studied in Gujarat before leaving for the US.

Eminent lawyer...

resigned in December that year to resume his practice as a Senior Advocate at the Supreme Court of India.

Patwalia has presented several papers at various international law seminars and conferences across the world. He participated as a delegate from India in the 27th Session of the Human Rights Council of the United Nations General Assembly in 2017, and presented a paper at the 2019 Commonwealth Law Conference in Livingstone, Zambia, on "The process of Judicial Appointment, Developments & Transparency in Commonwealth Nations".

Patwalia will join former J&K Governor N N Vohra, Justice SS Sodhi, Lt Gen SS Mehta (ret'd) and Gurbachan Jagat on the Board of the Tribune Trust.

Top court order...

Delhi excise policy scam on Friday. The AAP leader has sought interim relief to campaign for the ongoing elections. "We will pronounce the interim order on Friday. The matter related to the challenge to arrest will also be taken the same day," said Justice Sanjiv Khanna, who headed the Bench that could not complete the hearing on Tuesday.

TENDER NOTICE: ECHS CELL, STATION HEADQUARTERS PATIALA

1. Online Tenders are invited for empanelment of registered local chemists for supply of emergent/Life saving medicine/drug/consumables to ECHS Polyclinics Patiala, Sangrur, Nabha and Samana, under ECHS Cell, Stn HQ Patiala wef 01 Jun 2024 to 31 May 2026. Bids quoting less than 15% discount on MRP (inclusive of all taxes) shall not be considered. The Chemist shop should be located within the district/municipal limit to the specified polyclinic. The tender can be downloaded from <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> (defproc.gov.in).

E-TENDERING SCHEDULE	
File No.	1737/ALC/Pat/ECHS
Date of issue/publishing	09/05/2024
Documents download starts date	09/05/2024 (12:00 hrs)
Bid submission start date	11/05/2024 (11:00 hrs)
Last date & time for uploading of bids	24/05/2024 (11:00hrs)
Date & time for opening of Technical bids	27/05/2024 (11:00hrs)
Address for communication	Presiding Officer C/o ECHS Cell, Stn HQ Patiala, Pin Code-147001

2. In case of non functioning of CPP Portal due to technical issue and otherwise also hard copies of the following documents duly self attested be sent in a sealed envelope by Regd Post or hand over to the Presiding Officer by 24 May 2024 (10:00 hrs). (a) Valid License issued by State Drug Controller. (b) Non conviction certificate from State Drug Controller. (c) Annual turnover of bidders not less than of Rs Ten Lakhs. (d) Copy of latest GST Paid challan with No dues. (e) Scanned copies audited balance sheet of last two years. (f) Copy of PAN & VAT allotted to the Firm/Owner. (g) Ink signed/affix stamp copy of maximum discount offered by the bidder. (h) EMD of Rs 10000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) for each ECHS Polyclinic in the form of Demand Draft payable in the name of ECHS Help Line, ECHS Cell, Stn HQ Patiala. Kindly see website e Procurement system for Organizations under MoD (defproc.gov.in). Government of India, Tender ID 2024 ARMY for Request for Proposal and filling of tender forms. For any query, contact ECHS Cell, Stn HQ Patiala at Tele No. 0175-2970127, Army No.2684 and email echspatiala@gmail.com during working day hrs. OIC ECHS Cell, Stn HQ Patiala

Crew on mass 'sick leave'..

thousands of passengers stranded at various airports in the country. Scores of flights have also been delayed and the airline's passengers, mostly scheduled to travel to Gulf nations, protested at airports in Kerala against flight cancellations as many of them were informed only after the security checks.

The Civil Aviation Ministry on Wednesday sought a report from Air India Express on the flight cancellations. Aloke Singh, CEO, Air India Express, said the airline would curtail flights for the next few days to cope with

'LOOK INTO EMPLOYEES' GENUINE DEMANDS'

In a letter to Air India Express CEO and Air India CEO on May 4, Regional Labour Commissioner had flagged "blatant violations" of labour laws & directed a panel be set up to look into genuine demands of staff

Labour Commissioner Ashok Perumalla said concerns of Air India union were genuine and the management had so far not sent any responsible decision-maker in meetings on non-availability of crew members. — PTI

BJP goes with Khanna from...

Singh Sodhi from Ferozepur and Subhash Sharma from Anandpur Sahib. Khanna, who has been campaigning in Sangrur for days, was earlier Congress MLA from Sangrur (2002 to 2007) and Dhuri (2012 to 2014).

He resigned as the Dhuri MLA in May 2014 amid discontent in the Punjab Congress at the time. After quitting the Congress in 2015, he joined the BJP in January 2022. Khanna is close to former Punjab CM Capt Amarinder Singh.

Sodhi, a special invitee to the BJP national executive, is an erstwhile Congress leader

and former Punjab minister. He was elected MLA from Ferozepur's Guru Har Sahai in 2002, 2007, 2012 and 2017, and was previously also Chief Whip of the CLP in Punjab.

Sodhi was dropped from the Cabinet in September 2021 after Charanjit Singh Channi took over as CM. He joined the BJP in December 2021. Subhash Sharma is the state vice-president of the Punjab BJP and overtook former MP Avinash Rai Khanna and BJP parliamentary board member Iqbal Lalpura and his son in the candidacy race.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 04

COURT NOTICES

In the Court of
Dr. Seema Agnihotri
Judicial Magistrate - 1st Class,
Rupnagar

M/s Shri Ram Finance Ltd.
(Branch at Bhatha Sahib
Gurdwara, Chandigarh Road,
Rupnagar, Tehsil and District
Rupnagar through its Authorised
Signatory/Attorney Holder)

Sukhraj Singh S/o Swarn Singh
r/o Village Ballan Kalan, PO
Morinda, Tehsil Chamkaur Sahib,
District Rupnagar 140101

CNR No.
PBRO03-001094-2023
Next Date: 05.07.2024

Petition U/S 138 of Negotiable
Instrument Act

Publication issued to:
Sukhraj Singh S/o Swarn Singh
r/o Village Ballan Kalan, PO
Morinda, Tehsil Chamkaur Sahib,
District Rupnagar 140101

In above titled case, the accused
could not be served. It is ordered
that accused should appear in
person or through counsel on
05.07.2024 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to
https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=ropar

Dated, this day of 06.05.2024.
Sd/-
Judicial Magistrate - 1st Class,
CL24012635 Rupnagar

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
(Succession Case)
In the Court of
Ms. Surekha Dadwal
Additional Civil Judge
(Senior Division), Phagwara.

Achla Sud d/o Late Smt.
Mahindra Sud @ Mohinder Sood
w/o Late Sh. Pran Nih Sud r/o
Sood Bhawan Railway Road
Phagwara, District Kapurthala
now residing at 160 Meandering
Drive Lebanon TN 37090 USA
through her Special Attorney Smt.
Madhu Bala wife of Sh. Harsharan
Singh resident of 281, Kohat
Enclave Pitampura Saraswati
Vihar S.O North West Delhi -
110034

Versus
General Public
CNR No.: PBKPA0-00092-2024
Next Date: 24.05.2024

Notice to:
General Public:-
General Public

In above titled case, the
defendant(s)/respondent(s) could
not be served. It is ordered that
defendant(s)/ respondent(s)
should appear in person or
through counsel on 24.05.2024
at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to
https://highcourthd.gov.in/?mod=district_notice&district=kapurthala

Dated, this day of 24.04.2024.
Sd/-
Ms. Surekha Dadwal
Additional Civil Judge
(Senior Division),
CL24012773 Phagwara.

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)
In the Court of
Dr. Gurpreet Kaur
Principal Judge, Family Court
Camp at Phagwara,
Phagwara

Tarsem Singh
Versus
Jaswinder Kaur
CNR No.

PBKPF2-000047-2022
Next Date: 24.05.2024

Publication issued to:
General Public

In above titled case, the
defendant(s)/respondent(s)
could not be served. It is
ordered that defendant(s)/
respondent(s) should appear
in person or through counsel
on 24.05.2024 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to
https://highcourthd.gov.in/?mod=district_notice&district=kapurthala

Dated, this day of
22.03.2024.
Sd/-
Dr. Gurpreet Kaur
Principal Judge, Family Court
Camp at Phagwara
CL24012775 Phagwara.

In the Court of
Ms. Prabhot Kaur, PCS,
Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.)
Batala

Regd. No. CS/1434/2023
CNR No.
PBGDA0-002181-2023
Next Date: 24.05.2024

Gurmeet Singh
Versus
Paramjit Singh etc.
Nature: Permanent Injunction
Notice to Defendant:

1. Paramjit Singh son of
Darbara Singh resident of
Bolewal, Tehsil Batala, District
Gurdaspur.

Correct Address: Paramjit
Singh son of Darbara Singh
resident of Village Beas Street
No. 3, House No. 694 Ph.
79732-95708 Tehsil Baba
Bakala, Dist. Amritsar.

In above titled petition the
respondent(s) could not be
served. It is ordered that the
respondent(s) should appear
in person or through counsel
on 24.05.2024 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to
https://www.highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=gurdaspur

Given under my hand and the
seal of the Court
Sd/- Ms. Prabhot Kaur, PCS,
Civil Judge (Sr. Division),
CL24012800 Batala.

COURT NOTICES

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of
Ms. Jaswinder Sheemar
Additional District and Sessions
Judge, Hoshiarpur.

1. Hem Lata Wd/o Jasvir Singh
resident of Village Berchha,
Tehsil Dasuya, District
Hoshiarpur, also resident of
House No. 11/33/2, Mukandpur
Road, Banga, District SBS Nagar
& Anr.

Versus
1. Parshotam Lal son of Bhajan
Lal, resident of Raipur Daba, PS
Mukandpur, District SBS Nagar
& Ors.

CNR No.:
PBHO01-010373-2023
Next Date: 27.05.2024

Publication issued to:
1. Parshotam Lal son of Bhajan
Lal, resident of Raipur Daba, PS
Mukandpur, District SBS Nagar.

In above titled case, the
defendant(s)/respondent(s) could
not be served. It is ordered that
defendant(s)/ respondent(s)
should appear in person or
through counsel on 27.05.2024
at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to
https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=hoshiarpur

Dated, this day of 01.04.2024.
Sd/-
Additional District and
Sessions Judge,
CL24012801 Hoshiarpur.

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
In the Court of
Ms. Jaskiran Sondh
Civil Judge (Junior Division),
Ludhiana.

State Bank of India
Vs.
Bhagwant Singh
CNR No.

PBLD02-012520-2023
Next Date:- 24.05.2024

Publication issued to:
Bhagwant Singh

S/o Nirmal Singh, R/o Village
Maherna Khurd, P.O.
Ahmedgarh, Teh. Malerkotla,
District Sangrur, 148021.

In above titled case, the
defendant(s)/respondent(s)
could not be served. It is
ordered that defendant(s)/
respondent(s) should appear
in person or through counsel
on 24.05.2024 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to
https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=ludhiana

Dated, this day of
16.04.2024.
Sd/-
Ms. Jaskiran Sondh
Civil Judge (Junior Division),
CL24012802 Ludhiana.

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)
In the Court of
Khusdeep Kaur
Civil Judge
(Junior Division), Nakodar

Surinder Singh
Vs.
Davinder Singh
Suit for grant of decree of
permanent injunction as
prayed for

CNR No.
PBJLA0-000717-2023
Next Date: 24.05.2024

Publication issued to:
Davinder Singh

983, Donnelly Street Milton
Ontario L9T0A1 Canada.

In above titled case, the
defendant(s)/respondent(s)
could not be served. It is
ordered that defendant(s)/
respondent(s) should appear
in person or through counsel
on 24.05.2024 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to
https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=jalandhar

Dated, this day of 18.04.2024
Sd/-
Civil Judge
(Junior Division)
CL24012803 Nakodar.

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
In the Court of
Ms. Shikha Goel
Principal Judge Family Court,
Moga.

Sukhminder Kaur Jassal
Vs.
Jasbir Singh Jassal
The plaintiff prays for divorce
on the ground of

CNR No.
PBMO01-005653-2023
Next Date:- 27.05.2024

Publication issued to:
Jasbir Singh Jassal

R/o Bhikhiwind, Amritsar,
Distt. Amritsar Sahib, now
residing at 44, ADELAIDE
ROAD, SOUTHALL,
MIDDLESEX UB2 5PX UK.

In above titled case, the
defendant(s)/respondent(s)
could not be served. It is
ordered that defendant(s)/
respondent(s) should appear
in person or through counsel
on 27.05.2024 at 10:00 a.m.

COURT NOTICES

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of
Sh. Rajvinder Singh
Addl. Principal Judge
Family Court,
Ludhiana

Munish Kumar
Vs.
Anju
CNR No.

PBLD01-005559-2023
Next Date: 24.05.2024

Publication issued to:
Anju

Spouse: Munish Kumar
Village Jasoh, P.O. Jhallan,
Tehsil Nadaun Hamirpur
(HP) 177301.

In above titled case, the
defendant(s)/respondent(s)
could not be served. It is
ordered that defendant(s)/
respondent(s) should appear
in person or through counsel
on 24.05.2024 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to
https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=ludhiana

Dated, this day of 23.02.2024.
Sd/-
Addl. Principal Judge
Family Court,
CL24012805 Ludhiana

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)
In the Court of
Sh. Amandeep Singh
Civil Judge
(Senior Division),
Tarn Taran

Next date, Purpose of case,
Orders and Judgments as well
as other case information is
available on
<http://districts.ecourts.gov.in>

Kuldeep Singh
Vs.
General Public
CNR No.

PBTT02-000936-2019
Next Date: 27.05.2024

Publication issued to:
General Public

Tarn Taran Punjab

In above titled case, the
defendant(s)/respondent(s)
could not be served. It is
ordered that defendant(s)/
respondent(s) should appear
in person or through counsel
on 27.05.2024 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to
https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=tamtaran

Dated, this day of 29.04.2024
Sd/-
Civil Judge
(Senior Division)
CL24012807 Tarn Taran.

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)
In the Court of
Sh. Sachin Yadav
Addl. Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.),
Chandigarh

Harvinder Kaur
Vs.
General Public
Probate Petition
CNR No.

CHCH02-001404-2024
Next Date: 18.07.2024

Publication issued to:
General Public

Chandigarh

In above titled case, the
defendant(s)/respondent(s)
could not be served. It is
ordered that defendant(s)/
respondent(s) should appear
in person or through counsel
on 18.07.2024 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to
https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=chandigarh

Dated, this day of
01.05.2024
Sd/-
Addl. Civil Judge
(Sr. Divn.)
CL24012814 Chandigarh.

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
In the Court of
Sh. Kirandeep Singh
Civil Judge
(Junior Division)-4,
S.A.S Nagar.

CNR No.
PBASA02-000433-2024
Next Date:- 24.05.2024

Harish Kumar
Vs.
General Public And Ors

Notice to:
Defendant No. 1 General
Public

In above titled case, the
defendant(s)/respondent(s)
could not be served. It is
ordered that defendant(s)/
respondent(s) should appear
in person or through counsel
on 24.05.2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Sam Pitroda

notnewto controversies

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 8

Former Congress leader Sam Pitroda is not new to controversies. Apart from his latest comments on the appearance of Indians and earlier on the defence of inheritance tax, Pitroda has stoked political storms in the past, putting the Congress on the defensive.

In January this year, the BJP termed the Congress "anti-Dalit" after Pitroda said that late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru contributed more to the drafting of the Indian Constitution than BR Ambedkar.

In June 2023, Pitroda had created a stir by asking if "Ram Mandir was a real issue".

"Temples are not going to create jobs," he had said.

In May 2019 on the eve of the 17th General Election, he had said in response to a question on the 1984 anti-Sikh riots: "Hua toh hua (what happened, happened)."

In the wake of the Pulwama attack also, Pitroda had questioned the veracity of the Balakot air strikes by the IAF "I do not know much about attacks. They happen all the time. An attack happened in Mumbai also. We could have then reacted and sent our planes, but that is not the right approach," he had said.

In April 2019, he urged the middle class "not to be selfish" and to "pay more taxes" to fund the then Congress poll promise of NYAY (minimum income) to the poor.

PM questions Rahul Gandhi's silence on Adani, Ambani

Cong hits back

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 8

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday questioned the recent Congress silence on Ambani and Adani, asking how many sacks and tempos full of black and stolen money had the "Congress prince" received from them.

Speaking at poll rallies in Telangana, the PM, in a first, raked up Rahul Gandhi's persistent attack on crony capitalism to ask why the former Congress president had suddenly fallen silent.

"What is the reason behind the Congress prince's overnight silence on Adani and Ambani whom he kept attacking for five years... Surely, the Congress has struck a deal with them," the PM said, inviting sharp reactions from the Congress that said the PM's comments signalled the anxiety of impending poll loss.

Speaking in Telangana's Warangal, Modi said, "For the past five years, the Congress prince (read Rahul Gandhi) has been parroting one line. After his Rafale issue was grounded, he picked up a new line. For five years, he has been hurling abuses at Indian industrialists. First, he began by targeting five industrialists, and then zeroed down on Ambani and



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at an election rally in Karimnagar, Telangana, on Wednesday. ANI

'HOW MUCH MONEY RECEIVED'	'HOW DO YOU KNOW TEMPOS USED?'
“The prince (Rahul Gandhi) should declare how many bags of black money he has received from Ambani and Adani. ...how many tempos loaded with stolen money have come?” Narendra Modi, PRIME MINISTER	“Modi ji, are you anxious? Today, for the first time, you spoke of them in public. And you also know that they send money in tempos? Is it your personal experience?” Rahul Gandhi, CONG LEADER

then Adani," Modi said.

He added, "I want to ask the Congress prince from the land of Telangana. The prince should declare how many bags of black money he has received from Ambani and Adani. How much money has been received by the Congress, how many tempos loaded with stolen money have come? What deal has been struck for the Congress prince to overnight stop abusing Ambani and Adani? He will have to reply to the nation," Modi said in his latest

attack on the Congress and a rare jibe at industrialists.

Reacting to the PM, Rahul Gandhi in a video message asked how PM knew that Adani and Ambani sent money in tempos. "Is it your personal experience," Rahul asked the PM.

In the video the ex-Congress chief said, "Modi ji, are you anxious? Normally you speak of Adani and Ambani in private. Today, for the first time, you spoke of them in public. And you also know that they send money in tem-

pos? Is it your personal experience? Why don't you send ED and CBI to them for an inquiry?" Rahul Gandhi said.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the PM's remarks signalled his anxiety. "Times are changing. Friends are no longer friends. After completion of three phases of elections, today the PM has started attacking his own friends. This shows that Modiji's chair is shaking. This is the real trend of the result," Kharge said.



Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra at Raebareilly in UP. PTI

Priyanka asks PM to focus on core issues

NEERAJ MOHAN

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 8

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra launched a scathing attack on PM Narendra Modi and the BJP-led government, accusing them of fostering ties with industrialists and waiving their loans worth Rs 16 lakh crore.

Her statements came during a rally in support of her brother Rahul Gandhi, who is contesting from the Raebareilly Lok Sabha seat in Uttar Pradesh.

In response to the PM's comments made at a rally in Telangana, where he questioned why the Congress had ceased discussing the "Ambani-Adani" issue, Priyanka said, "Today he (Modi) is saying Rahul does not take the name of Adani, Ambani... He does so every day. He brings their truth in front of you every day."

She said the PM should focus on matters such as unemployment, inflation and women's safety, instead of engaging in irrelevant controversies. She challenged the PM to address these con-

cerns directly, asserting that only then would she consider his actions meaningful.

"PM Modi has been giving a lot of clarifications over the past few days. PM Modi calls my brother 'Shehzada' but he is 'Shehenshah'... He is giving clarifications because people are seeing that the entire country's property has been given to some billionaires," she added.

Priyanka emphasised the need for a shift towards substantive discussions on critical issues rather than relying solely on religious appeals for electoral gains. She highlighted the importance of engaging with the electorate on issues that directly impacted their lives.

She expressed gratitude towards the people of Raebareilly, underscoring the deep-rooted connection her family shared with the region.

She said the issue of electoral bonds exposed the BJP's claims of honesty. She urged the public to scrutinise the government's actions closely, emphasising the need for transparency in governance.

The Tribune INTERVIEW: MAHUA MOITRA, TMC LEADER

'Being hot-tempered is my weakness, truth my strength'

ONE OF the most keenly watched

contests in West Bengal in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections is the fight for the Krishnanagar seat, which has come into spotlight for being the constituency of Mahua Moitra.

Feisty Moitra, who was expelled from the Lok Sabha, has been fielded again by her party Trinamool Congress. She is facing challenge from BJP's Amrita Roy, daughter-in-law of the royal family of Krishnanagar, known locally as "Rani ma" (the queen).

In an exclusive interview with Shubhadeep Choudhury, Moitra says the attention bestowed on her by the BJP has helped her by giving her publicity.

Excerpts from the interview

■ The BJP seems to be taking the Krishnanagar fight seriously. Both PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have campaigned here. What's your take?

I have broken two unwritten rules of the BJP not to attack Modi ji and not to attack Adani. The PM has come here twice. Amit Shah has also been here. I believe Yogi (Adityanath) has also visited the constituency. I welcome them. Every time they come, it increases my vote share by 10 per cent.

■ If you win again, will there be any change in your parliamentary behaviour, or will you remain your same aggressive self?

I am a human being. I cannot change. I am there to do a job and I will continue the same way. The BJP expelled me from the Lok Sabha. I have gone to the Supreme Court against the decision. They were very sure that they had made it difficult for me to get the ticket again. But they do not know my boss (Mamata Banerjee). My boss first announced my candidature for the seat and kicked off her campaign for the LS elections from Krishnanagar. People of Krishnanagar also did not like the way their representative was treated by the BJP. As a result, many of those who did not vote for me in 2019, would support me this time.

■ You have been too aggressive on certain occasions...

Yes, I am hot-tempered. I am sometime quick to shoot off my mouth. This is one my weaknesses. On the other hand, my strength is truth. I actually do not fear anyone.

■ Do you think sharing your parliamentary login ID and password with someone was something that you should not have done?

I did nothing wrong. I can fight because I think I am morally correct. They have thrown the kitchen sink at me. Not only I have survived, I am going to come back with a bigger margin. I have not shared my email password. I have only shared a portal password. Half of the BJP MPs probably do not even know how to use a computer and they must be sharing their passwords with others too.

■ What do you think about your main rival and BJP candidate Amrita Roy, who is from the royal family and known as 'Rani ma'?

Why do you call her 'Rani ma'? Who is the king here of whom she is the queen? If I start calling myself Miss India, will you call me Miss India Mahua Moitra from tomorrow? We respect the Constitution. We only know Rani Rasmani, who is revered across West Bengal. No other queen exists for us.

I shared my portal password only and not that of my email



695 candidates in fray for 49 seats in Phase-V

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 8

A total of 695 candidates are in the fray across 49 constituencies spread over six states and two UTs in the upcoming

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD (IRRIGATION WING)

Corrigendum-2 NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
NIT No.: 07/2024-25

Tender ID 2024_BBMB_191514_1 NIT No. 07/2024-25 for the providing steel railing & gates around various parks at Beas Dam & their development that was scheduled to be opened on 08.05.2024 now the date of opening of the tender is here by extended up to 29.05.2024 due to lack of competition.

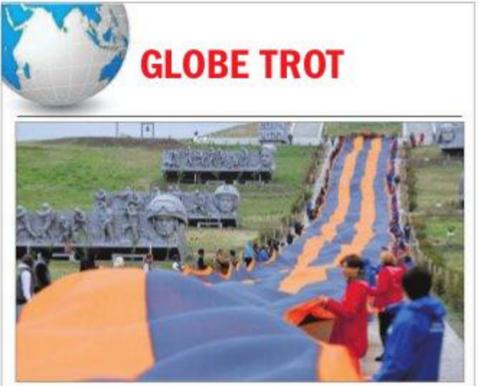
Add. Superintending Engineer, Pong Dam Divn. BBMB, Talwara Township
506-PR-Beas Dam-4 FOR YOUR BETTER TOMORROW SAVE ENERGY TODAY

ਜਨਤਕ ਨੋਟਿਸ

ਇਸ ਜਨਤਕ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਅਸੀਂ ਜਨਤਕ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਮਿਤੀ 21.11.2023 ਨੂੰ ਗੈਰਾ ਪਤਨੀ ਮਲੀ ਕਾਲ, ਵਾਸੀ ਪੀਓਬੀ, ਬਾਟਾ ਡੇਰਾ, ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਬੁਢਲਾਡਾ, ਬਿਹਾਰ ਹਾਲ ਵਾਸੀ ਨੇੜੇ HDFC Bank, ਪੰਜ ਦਾ ਮਕਾਨ, ਹੋਬੜਾ, ਬਾਟਾ ਲਾਡਵਾਲ, ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਅਤੇ ਲਲਿਤਾ ਦੇਵੀ ਪਤਨੀ ਹਰਦੇਵ ਪਾਸਵਾਲ, ਪਿੰਡ ਹੋਬੜਾ ਨੇ ਇਕ ਬੱਚੀ ਲਛਮੀ (ਲੁਸੀਕਾ) ਉਹ ਕਰੀਬ 7 ਮਹੀਨੇ ਨੂੰ ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਬਾਲ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਯੂਨਿਟ, ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਨੂੰ ਪੁਲੀਸ ਦੀ ਮੌਜੂਦਗੀ ਵਿਚ ਹਵਾਲੇ ਕੀਤਾ ਅਤੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਦੱਸਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਕਿ ਬੱਚੀ ਦੇ ਮਾਤਾ-ਪਿਤਾ (ਜੋਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਰਾਮ ਲਿਵਾਸ) ਬੱਚੀ ਨੂੰ ਜਨਮ ਦੇ ਕੇ ਲਾਵਾਰਿਸ ਹਲਾਤ ਵਿਚ ਉਕਤ ਔਰਤਾਂ ਕੋਲ ਛੱਡ ਗਏ ਸਨ। ਇਸ ਸਮੇਂ ਬੱਚੀ ਬਾਲ ਡਰਾਈ ਕਰੋਟੀ, ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਦੇ ਹੁਕਮਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਹੋਮਲੈਸ ਏਜੰਟਸ ਵਿਚਲਫਰਨ ਹੋਮ, ਚੇਰਾਹਾ ਵਿਚ ਰੱਖੀ ਗਈ। ਇਸ ਬੱਚੀ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਜੀ.ਐੱਚ. ਨੰ. 08, ਮਿਤੀ 21.11.2023 ਨੂੰ ਬਾਟਾ ਲਾਡਵਾਲ, ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਵਿਖੇ ਦਰਜ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਬੱਚੀ ਦੇ ਮਾਂ ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਬਾਲ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਅਫ਼ਸਰ, ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਨ ਅਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਨਾ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਸੂਰਤ ਵਿਚ ਇਸ ਬੱਚੀ ਸਬੰਧੀ Central Adoption Resource Authority, New Delhi ਦੀਆਂ ਅਫ਼ਸਰਾਂ ਰੋਜ਼ਨਾਮਨ, 2022 ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਅਫ਼ਸਰਾਂ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਕਾਰਵਾਈ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ। (ਜੇ. ਐੱਚ. ਐੱਚ. ਐੱਚ. ਬਟਾ ਦੀ ਕਾਰਵਾਈ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ)

ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ:
ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਬਾਲ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਅਫ਼ਸਰ
ਸਮਾਜ ਡਰਾਈ ਕੋਪਲੇਕਸ
ਨੇੜੇ ਗਿੱਲ ਨਗਰ, ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ
ਫੋਨ ਨੰ. 0161-5126456

DPR/IB/34043



REMEMBERING WW II: Participants hold a giant St George's Ribbon during a ceremony marking the 79th anniversary of the victory over Nazi Germany in World War II in Donetsk. REUTERS

Court bans 'Glory to Hong Kong' protest anthem
HONG KONG: Hong Kong's Court of Appeal on Wednesday granted an application by the government to ban a protest anthem called 'Glory to Hong Kong', overturning a lower court judgment that had rejected such a ban because of its possible "chilling effects" on free speech. The ruling comes amid what critics say is an erosion in Hong Kong's rule of law and individual rights. REUTERS

200-year-old Garrick Club to admit women finally
LONDON: London's elite Garrick Club voted to allow women to join for the first time since being founded in 1831, responding to growing public pressure to end its archaic all-male setup. After a vote, female members approved by the Garrick's admissions process can have a place at one of the British establishment's top tables. It boasts King Charles as a current member. AP

US: Paused bomb shipment to Israel over Rafah concerns

WASHINGTON, MAY 8
The US paused a shipment of bombs to Israel last week over concerns that the country was approaching a decision on launching a full-scale assault on the southern Gaza city of Rafah against the wishes of the US, Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin said Wednesday. The shipment was supposed to consist of 1,800 2,000-pound (900-kg) bombs and 1,700 500-pound (225-kg) bombs, according to the official who spoke on the condition of anonymity. The focus of US concern was the larger explosives and how they could be used in a dense urban setting like Rafah where more than 1 million civilians are sheltering after evacuating other parts of Gaza amid Israel's war on Hamas, which came after the militant group's deadly attack on Israel on October 7. Austin confirmed the



TEL AVIV SAYS KEY GAZA CROSSING REOPENED, BUT UN SAYS NO AID YET

■ The Israeli military said on Wednesday it has reopened its Kerem Shalom crossing into Gaza after days of closure, but the UN said no humanitarian aid has yet entered in the area
■ The Kerem Shalom crossing was closed over the weekend after a Hamas rocket attack killed four Israeli soldiers nearby, and on Tuesday, an Israeli tank brigade seized the nearby Rafah crossing

weapons delay, telling the Senate Appropriations Defence subcommittee that the US paused "one shipment of high payload munitions." "We're going to continue to do what's necessary to ensure

MUST PROTECT CIVILIANS

"We've been very clear from the beginning that Israel shouldn't launch a major attack in Rafah without accounting for and protecting the civilians who are in that battlespace. Lloyd Austin, US DEFENCE SECY

<< People receive food cooked by a charity kitchen in Rafah. REUTERS

TEL AVIV SAYS KEY GAZA CROSSING REOPENED, BUT UN SAYS NO AID YET

The pausing of the aid shipment is the most striking manifestation of the growing daylight between Israel PM Benjamin Netanyahu's government and the Joe Biden administration. — AP

PUBLIC NOTICE

Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Ltd., Panchkula.
Versus
M/s Rajiv Rice Mill, Village Ayalki, District Fatehabad and others.

Whereas the undersigned has been appointed as sole Arbitrator in the above mention case by the Competent Authority. Notices were sent to the respondent M/s Rajiv Rice Mill, Village Ayalki, District Fatehabad at the given address through register post but no acknowledgement has been received.

However Sh. Pardeep Jindal S/o Sh. Rajiv Kumar House No. 501, Gyani Jail Singh Nagar, Ropar attended the Arbitration proceedings on behalf of respondent M/s Rajiv Rice Mill, Village Ayalki, District Fatehabad once or twice. Moreover, Sh. Anubhav Singla Advocate also appeared on behalf of M/s Rajiv Rice Mill, Village Ayalki, District Fatehabad on same dates. Now on the last three/four dates none has appeared on behalf of M/s Rajiv Rice Mill, Village Ayalki, District Fatehabad.

Public Notice is hereby given to **M/s Rajiv Rice Mill, Village Ayalki, District Fatehabad** as substituted service to appear through their legal hair or through advocate/counsel before the undersigned on **31.05.2024 at 11:00 A.M.** in the office of **Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Ltd., Bays No. 15-20, Sector 4, Panchkula**, otherwise ex-parte proceeding shall be initiated.

Given under my hand
Place: Panchkula Date: 26.04.2024
Sd/- RAJEEV SHARMA (IAS, Retd.)
ARBITRATOR.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDERING

OPEN TENDER NOTICE No. NIT-06/2024-25 Dated 07.05.2024

Open tenders through e-tendering are invited on behalf of President of India by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/G, Northern Railway, Ambala from the willing contractors for following work upto 15.00 hrs. on the date of closing shown against the work and will be opened thereafter.

S.No.:	1	Tender No.	30-Elect/T-14/2024-25
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Name of Work: Electrical Work in connection with upgradation/modernization of both goods sheds at AMBALA CANTT (UMB) & DHULKOT (DKT) in the section of Sr. DEN-1/UMB & Upgradation / Modernization of Goods Shed at RAJPURA (RPJ). (kauli siding).

Approx. Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 10289339.26	Bid Security (Rs.)	Rs. 201500.00
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Period of Completion	04 Months	Date of closing & opening	29.05.2024
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S.No.:	2	Tender No.	30-Elect/T-15/2024-25
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Name of Work: Electrical Work in connection with Upgradation/ modernization of goods shed at KIRATPUR SAHIB station, MORINDA & KURALI station & BHARATGARH over Ambala Division.

Approx. Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 7574868.86	Bid Security (Rs.)	Rs. 151500.00
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Period of Completion	04 Months	Date of closing & opening	29.05.2024
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S.No.:	3	Tender No.	30-Elect/T-16/2024-25
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Name of Work: Electrical work in connection with Improvement to Officer Rest House at Railway Station Ambala of SSE/W/UMB under ADEM/UMB. Raising and Extension of existing Low-level platform with standard High level platform at Mustafabad station on Saharanpur-Ambala station in the section of SSE/W/L/SRE under ADEM/SRE & upgradation of rolling stock maintenance facility at Electric loco shed, Saharanpur over Ambala Division.

Approx. Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 2275150.28	Bid Security (Rs.)	Rs. 45500.00
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Period of Completion	03 Months	Date of closing & opening	29.05.2024
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1. Tenderers are required to upload scanned copies of all related eligibility documents including PAN/TIN/GST as per conditions. 2. The required Bid Security will be acceptable On-line payment through Net Banking/ Payment Gateway only well before & upto 15.00 Hrs of closing date & time of tender. 3. Tenderers should have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate to participate in e-Tendering of works tenders. 4. For detail, please log on IREPS website WWW. IREPS. Gov. in. 5. GST will be levied as per GST Act, 2017.

1389/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTH ZONE CULTURAL CENTRE, PATIALA

(Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

(Providing Food)

North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala organizes cultural programmes from time to time at various places in its member States i.e. Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhnad and the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Chandigarh, in which artists representing various cultural regions across the country perform.

Tenders (in two parts) - Part I - Technical Bid & Part II - Price Bid are invited at <https://www.gerpegov.com/MOC> for providing food to minimum 50 artists/participants invited for various programmes/activities from reputed firms/agencies having working experience of National level cultural shows with proven track record, capable of managing the affairs in a flawless manner with a fail proof approach and having valid Food Safety Certificate. The number of persons and number of days can vary at different times.

The tenders which includes Technical Bid and Price Bid be addressed to the Director, North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala and should be uploaded upto 05.00 pm on 05/06/2024 at <https://www.gerpegov.com/MOC> which will be opened 06/06/2024 day at 02.00 pm. The Technical bid will also include Documentary proof in support of their working experience. Income Tax return for the last 3 years, Regd. No., GST No., Pan No. etc. The price bids of only those firms/agencies would be opened who would qualify on scrutiny of the technical bid. The firms/agencies have to deposit Rs. 50,000/- (Rs. Fifty thousand only) as Earnest Money along with tender. Undersigned reserves the right to accept/reject all or any tender without assigning any reason.

Price bid form and other tender related information will be available on website <https://www.gerpegov.com/MOC> and www.culturenorthindia.com only. For further inquiries may contact at Phone No.: 0175-2211429, 2202918.

Sd/- DIRECTOR

India becomes first country to get over \$100 bn in remittances: UN

SANDEEP DIKSHIT
THE HINDU NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 8
India received over \$111 billion in remittances in 2022, which was the largest in the world, according to the latest report from the UN International Organisation for Migration.

The report noted that migrant workers who were sending these huge sums were vulnerable to financial exploitation, workplace abuse, unsafe working environment and xenophobia.

India-UAE, India-US, India-Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh-India were among the top 10 international country-to-coun-



Received over \$89 bn from expats in 2021

try migration corridors, the report said. The leading country for outbound migration, India was the 13th as the destination country for immigrants (44.8 lakh).

The final figures confirm the World Bank's prediction made in December 2022 that India will be the first country in the

world to receive \$100 billion from remittances. Though remittances to the rest of the South Asian countries declined by 10 per cent, they rose by 12 per cent in India's case, it had said. Speaking a few weeks later, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had welcomed the prognosis. "India was well above the rest, receiving more than \$111 billion. Mexico was the second-largest remittance recipient in 2022, a position it also held in 2021 after overtaking China, which historically had been the second-biggest recipient after India," said the World Migration Report.

HC accepts plea of Imran's wife, shifts her to Adiala jail

ISLAMABAD, MAY 8

In a major legal victory for Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi, a high court here on Wednesday ordered the former first lady's transfer from her private residence, designated as a sub-jail, to the Adiala jail where the ex-premier is incarcerated.

Bushra Bibi, 49, had been incarcerated at Banigala, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder's mansion in the suburbs of Islamabad, after conviction in two cases while Khan, 71, was kept at the high-security Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi.

She had petitioned the Islamabad High Court against the decision to keep



Ex-PM incarcerated in same prison

her at Banigala while seeking repatriation to Adiala jail. In its order, the court announced the notification to declare Banigala, a sub-jail, "null and void" and ordered the former first lady be shifted to the Adiala Jail. — PTI

33 pro-Palestine protesters held at US university

WASHINGTON, MAY 8

The police using pepper spray cleared a pro-Palestinian tent encampment at George Washington University and arrested dozens of demonstrators on Wednesday just as city officials were set to appear before hostile lawmakers in Congress to account for their handling of the 2-week-old protest.

The House Committee on Oversight and Accountability cancelled the hearing after the crackdown. The DC police said "there has been a gradual escalation in the volatility of the protest" at George Washington. They said 33 arrests were made, including for assault on a police officer. — AP

BUSINESS

USD \$	EURO €	POUND £	JPY ¥	YUAN ¥	CAD C\$	AUD A\$	SGD S\$	HKD HK\$	BSE 45.46 73,466.39	NSE 0.00 22,302.50	GOLD ₹72,270 Mumbai	SILVER ₹85,000 Mumbai
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RBI discusses ways to widen UPI ecosystem with stakeholders

MUMBAI, MAY 8

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday discussed with banks and other stakeholders ways to scale up the UPI ecosystem, expand products and foster innovative payment solutions. UPI (Unified Payments Interface) is an instant real-time payment system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to facilitate inter-bank transactions through mobile phones.

Das held a meeting on Wednesday with major stakeholders in the UPI ecosystem — banks, NPCI, third-party application providers and technology service providers

'GOOGLE WALLET' LAUNCHED IN INDIA

Tech giant Google on Wednesday launched the Google Wallet app for Android users in India, allowing them to securely store essentials like movie or event tickets, boarding passes, metro tickets, corporate badges, and digitise documents

The wallet comes as a complementary service to existing payment app Google Pay, a top official said



many payment app, Google Wallet is specifically tailored for non-payment use cases," Ram Papatia, GM and India Engineering Lead, Android at Google, said

— to discuss potential strategies for further expanding the reach of UPI, the Reserve Bank said in a statement. "There were wide-ranging

discussions on various aspects to widen and deepen the adoption and usage of UPI. The stakeholders shared their valuable inputs

Govt to finalise state mining index soon

NEW DELHI, MAY 8

The government is likely to soon finalise a framework for a state mining index which would serve as a tool for stakeholders and ensure ease of doing mining business, an official said on Wednesday.

A state mining index would boost cooperative federalism as well as competition among states, Mines secretary V L Kantha Rao said at a workshop on State Mining Index here.

Principal secretaries, directors and other officials from 26 states participated in the workshop to discuss and finalise the indicators and sub-indicators of performance which form part of the index framework and methodology. Post consultations and feedback from states, a framework of the state mining index will



Framework to ensure ease of doing business

be finalized and released in July 2024 for actual ranking to take place in April next year, Kantha Rao said.

The index would serve as a tool for stakeholders of the mining sector to understand different aspects related to the ease of doing mining business within a state, he said, making a plea to states to help in data collection efforts. — PTI

Possibility of 8% growth in FY24 quite high: CEA

NEW DELHI, MAY 8

Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran on Wednesday said there was a high possibility of GDP growth touching 8 per cent in FY24 on the back of robust growth registered during the three quarters of the last financial year.

India's GDP grew by 8.4 per cent in the third quarter ended December 2023. In the second quarter, the GDP growth was 7.6 per cent while 7.8 per cent in the first quarter. "If you look at the trajectory of growth in the first three quarters, the possibility that the growth rate touches 8 per cent is quite high," he said — PTI

Auto sales up 27% in April on robust demand

VIJAY C ROY
THE HINDU NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MAY 8

On the back of robust demand, auto sales saw a growth of 27 per cent on-year in April, as per the Federation of Automobile Dealers Association (FADA).

FADA's latest data show two-wheeler sales picked up 33 per cent year-on-year (YoY), while three-wheeler sales increased 9 per cent YoY. Tractor sales also grew 1 per cent year-on-year and commercial vehicles experienced a modest growth of 2 per cent. The passenger vehicle segment achieved a 16 per cent YoY growth. The two-wheeler segment saw a notable growth due to



ALL SEGMENTS SHOW POSITIVE GROWTH

Category	April 2023	April 2024	Increase (%)
Two-wheeler	12,33,763	16,43,510	33.21
Three-wheeler	73,310	80,105	9.27
Passenger	2,89,056	3,35,123	15.94
Tractor	55,857	56,625	1.37
Commercial	88,663	90,707	2.31

improved supply and the increasing demand for 125cc models. The PV category

experienced double-digit YoY growth, supported by enhanced model availability

Sharesocial media details, Sebitells investmentadvisers

NEW DELHI, MAY 8

Market regulator Sebi on Wednesday came out with a standardised periodic reporting format for submission of information by investment advisers (IAs) pertaining to their activities, whereby they also need to disclose their social media handles.

Under the new format, investment advisers have to disclose details of their social media handles, bank accounts used for receiving advisory fee, etc. for half-yearly periods ending on September 30 and March 31 of every financial year, Sebi circular stated. — PTI

Head & Sharma above

SRH get their noses in front in playoffs race as Head and Abhishek obliterate LSG

HYDERABAD, MAY 8
The remorseless domination of Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma, who carved lightning fast fifties, helped Sunrisers Hyderabad mount the fastest chase of a 160-plus target en route their convincing 10-wicket win over Lucknow Super Giants in the IPL match here today.

Chasing a modest target of 166, Head (89 not out, 30 balls, 8x4, 8x6) and Sharma (75 not out, 28 balls, 8x4, 6x6) toyed with LSG bowlers, finding boundaries and sixes at will to canter home in just 9.4 overs.

"Nice to get 360 and get to the parts of the ground I have not been to. Dan and Pat have asked me to play that way. We want to maximise the powerplay. It is not going to work every time but we want to go for it," said Head.

The win propelled SRH to the third position in the standings with 14 points from 12 games, while LSG are struggling at the sixth spot with 12 points from the same number of matches.

The result also meant that five-time champions Mumbai Indians, currently ninth with eight points from 12 matches, are out of the playoff race.

The dance of destruction by Head and Sharma even left the legendary Sachin Tendulkar gushing.

"A destructive opening



Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma slammed 14 sixes and 16 fours in a 167-run partnership. PTI

IPL STANDINGS

T	P	W	L	NRR	PT
KKR	11	8	3	1.453	16
RR	11	8	3	0.476	16
SRH	12	7	5	0.406	14
CSK	11	6	5	0.700	12
DC	12	6	6	-0.316	12
LSG	11	6	6	-0.769	12
RCB	11	4	7	-0.049	8
PBKS	11	4	7	-0.187	8
MI	12	4	8	-0.212	8
GT	11	4	7	-1.320	8

*Read under Teams, Played, Wins, Losses, Net Run Rate, Points

BRIEF SCORES

- **LSG:** 165/4 in 20 overs (Poooran 48*, Badoni 55*; Bhuvneshwar 2/12) vs **SRH:** 167/0 in 9.4 overs (Head 89*; Abhishek 75*)
- Tuesday's result**
- **DC:** 221/8 in 20 overs (Fraser-McGurk 50, Porel 65; Ashwin 3/24) vs **RR:** 201/8 in 20 overs (Samson 86; Kuldeep 2/25, Khaleel 2/47, Mukesh 2/30)

partnership would be an understatement tonight. Had these boys batted first, they would've scored 300," Tendulkar posted online.

The Head and Sharma show came after SRH bowlers started brilliantly before losing the plot a bit.

Ayush Badoni (55 not out

107
Number of runs scored in the powerplay. In all T20 cricket, only seven times have 100 or more been scored in the powerplay. SRH have the top two scores, both this year

off 30 balls) and Nicholas Pooran (48 not out off 25 balls) stitched crucial 95 runs off 55 balls for the unbeaten fifth-wicket stand to guide LSG to 165/4. But Head and Sharma took any hint of competition out of the match once they bludgeoned 107 runs in the powerplay.

"Thanks to the management for the faith they've shown in me, the environment is clear for the batters so I went to enjoy myself. All the credit to Travis, the way he starts, first two or three balls goes to the boundaries. So I just react to the ball," Sharma said. —PTI

Woman employee accuses senior officials of leaking personal details

AIFF HARASSMENT CASE

VINAYAK PADMADEO
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 8

A woman employee who had filed a sexual harassment complaint against a colleague working for the All India Football Federation (AIFF) has alleged that she is being targeted again.

The senior functionary has written a letter to the football body's Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) detailing all that has been done to tarnish her image after confidential details, including her resume and offer letter, were released to a media website.

In a fresh complaint filed on Tuesday, the employee alleged that three influential staffers — name and rank not disclosed to hide the identity of the complainant — are involved in leaking her personal details to the website. On Wednesday, she filed a complaint with the police near her residence and is also likely to file another in Dwarka, where the AIFF house is located.

In February, she had complained that a male employee, who is said to be close to the AIFF bosses, touched her inappropriately and despite her verbal complaints no action was taken against him. In fact, the ICC met in March to deal with the complaint.

Had filed a complaint in Feb, now her personal details including offer letter, resume leaked

However, no action was taken after the victim did not file an official complaint on assurances that she would be safeguarded.

However, the latest incident in which her private and confidential details were leaked out from within the office has once again shown how little is being done to safeguard women in workplaces.

The video about her confidential details was released on May 4 and the complainant alleges that despite several attempts by her to get the AIFF secretariat — now being run by acting secretary general Satyanarayan Muthyalu — to launch an internal enquiry, nothing has been done so far.

"...Despite of all this, the ASG (acting secretary general) has not called any enquiry, me being a women employee of AIFF being harassed continuously. I requested the ASG today to take action and get my video deleted by today evening, no action has been taken by him so far. He is giving me false hopes that we will do something, will talk to the advocate etc. I do not believe that, after such breach of confidentiality and disrespect of

a woman at workplace and all across the social media demands such a long time and decision making to file a case or talk to a lawyer," the woman employee wrote in her complaint.

However, Satyanarayan told The Tribune on Wednesday that they have lodged a complaint in this matter. "We filed a complaint with the cyber cell on Tuesday as a lot of confidential details have been leaked out, which is a serious breach of privacy," he said.

In the complaint, the employee has pointed out reasons why the AIFF is unsafe for women.

"...We feel unsafe in such an organisation, where personal and confidential data can be released, anything can happen, including leaking of any private pictures from washrooms, where all the male cleaning staff is cleaning the women washrooms, being recently hired by admin dept, with no female cleaner staff. I also feel unsafe and threatened outside the office by these people for whatever has been happening. I am being targeted internally and being harassed continuously being a woman employee," she wrote

BRIEFLY

LONDON
Northamptonshire sign pacer Siddharth Kaul
Indian pacer Siddharth Kaul has been signed by English county side Northamptonshire. Kaul will feature in the fifth-ranked team's upcoming three County Championship Division 2 contests. It will be the 33-year-old Punjab-born pacer's maiden outing in the English domestic circuit. To date, Kaul has bagged 284 First-Class wickets in 83 matches at an average of 26.45, including 13 four-wicket hauls and 16 five-wicket hauls.

NEW DELHI
Naruka placed 20th, veteran Mairaj 76th in World Cup
Skeet shooter Anant Jeet Singh Naruka was the best Indian on show, placed 20th, with a score of 72 after three rounds of qualifying at the ISSF World Cup in Baku. Sheeraz Sheikh and Mairaj Ahmad Khan, a veteran shooter with more than 25 years of experience, shot scores of 67 and 63 to be placed 67th and 76th, respectively. In women's skeet, Raiza Dhillon, Maheshwari Chauhan and Ganemat Sekhon finished with identical scores of 69 to be 13th, 15th and 19th, respectively.

Paris calling but can wrestlers answer?

ISTANBUL, MAY 8
The immensely-talented Aman Sehrawat and the experienced Deepak Punia will be followed keenly when they take to the mat to lock the freestyle quotas for Paris Olympics at the World qualifiers beginning here tomorrow.

It is the last event to secure spot for the Paris Games.

There were high hopes that U-23 world champion Aman would qualify for the Games either at the World Championships or the Asian qualifiers in Bishkek, but both the chances were lost.

While Aman (57kg) bumped into a strong opponent in Gulomjon Abdullaev in the quota-deciding bout in Bishkek, both Worlds silver medalists Deepak (86kg) and Sujeet Kalkal (65kg) could not reach Bishkek on time after being stuck in Dubai due to flash floods.

Now, it's a do-or-die situation at Istanbul where the two finalists in each category will be awarded the quotas. A third quota will be given to the wrestlers who emerge



Aman Sehrawat and Deepak Punia will compete in the last Olympics qualifying event in Istanbul. FILE

winner in the bout between the two bronze medalists.

The tournament will begin with Greco-Roman style and followed by women's and freestyle on the last two days of the four-day qualifying competition.

None of the Indian men's wrestlers has so far won a quota and drawing a blank will be a huge embarrassment for the country that took some major strides in international wrestling before the protest against former WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh

halted the progress.

Endurance has always been the strong point of the Indian wrestlers but their preparations have suffered in the absence of national camps and competitions due to the protest. Usually, the Indian wrestlers tire their opponents out but for that to happen, it is important to stretch the bout to full six minutes. It's a strategy that Bajrang Punia and Ravi Dahiya have employed although the latter has always been aggressive and finishes the bout in a jiffy.



"If the bouts lasts full distance, Aman can beat any wrestler, so managing the first three minutes are crucial. He was obviously very disappointed for what happened in Bishkek," said coach Praveen Dahiya, who trained him for four years before being shifted out of Chhatrasal Stadium.

"There was no national camp for some time and because of that the sport has suffered. It has impacted the preparations adversely, then change in coaching staff also affects," he added. —PTI

Neeraj to compete in India for first time in 3 years

NEW DELHI, MAY 8
Olympics and world champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra will compete at home for the first time in three years after confirming participation in the National Federation Cup to be held in Bhubaneswar from May 12 to 15.

The 26-year-old is expected to travel to India from Doha after opening his season in the first leg of the prestigious Diamond League series on May 10.

"As per entries @Neeraj chopra1 and Kishore Kumar Jena will compete in domestic competition starting May 12 in Bhubaneswar," the Athletics Federation of India posted.

Chopra's coach Klaus Bartonietz also confirmed that his ward is taking part in the Bhubaneswar event.

As per the schedule that came out today, the men's javelin qualifying round will be held on May 14 and the final will take place on May 15. —PTI

Nikhat savouring a round of leisure

NEW DELHI, MAY 8
A long-cherished Olympics debut just about three months away, two-time world champion boxer Nikhat Zareen has hit "energy-saving mode" ahead of her date with destiny.

So, she is off social media, embracing solitude, devouring sweets on her cheat days and binge-watching Netflix magnum opus 'Heeramandi'.

Zareen, who is a medal favourite in the 50kg category, believes activities that might sound like leisure to many, are actually legitimate ways to ensure that she has a calm frame of mind ahead of the Games beginning in Paris on July 26.

"Honestly, the feeling that I am going to be an Olympian soon hasn't sunk in yet. As days are passing, the nervousness is increasing. But I always train my brain to focus on a good performance," she said.



Nikhat Zareen has hit energy-saving mode in her training. FILE

Her 2022 season was nothing short of sensational as she remained undefeated and would be hoping to hit similar peak in Paris.

"Every competition brings with it a degree of nervousness. You have expectations from yourself and the people around you also do. "Basically, I have hit energy-saving mode, indulge my sweet tooth on cheat days, do grocery shopping, listen to music, it helps me stay calm," she said. —PTI

TODAY ON TV

IPL
PUNJAB VS BENGALURU
STAR SPORTS 7:30PM

EUROPA LEAGUE
LEVERKUSEN VS ROMA
ATALANTA VS MARSEILLE
SONY SPORTS 12:30AM (FRI)

KUALA LUMPUR
Malaysian football on guard after attacks on players
A Malaysian international footballer has been splashed by acid and two other top players were attacked within a week by unknown assailants, in a rare outbreak of violence targeting athletes in the country. AGENCIES

TODAY ON TV
IPL
PUNJAB VS BENGALURU
STAR SPORTS 7:30PM

EUROPA LEAGUE
LEVERKUSEN VS ROMA
ATALANTA VS MARSEILLE
SONY SPORTS 12:30AM (FRI)

Nadal ready to slay on clay

ROME, MAY 8
Rafael Nadal's claycourt form is slowly rounding into shape.

Not that nearly invincible shape that the tennis world grew accustomed to over the past two decades. But a shape that the 22-time Grand Slam champion is starting to feel good about as he prepares to play what will likely be his final French Open.

"It's a good moment, even if the results are not what (they) used to be," Nadal said at the Italian Open today. "But I am increasing my feeling, my level. ... I want to keep going."

The 37-year-old Nadal, who has indicated that this will be his final year on tour, has played only nine matches this year due to a hip injury that required surgery.

But he's coming off his most encouraging performance of the year, having put together three straight wins at the Madrid Open last week before losing in straight sets to 31st-ranked Jiri Lehecka in



Rafael Nadal's game is rounding into form just in time. REUTERS

Oly medal at par with Majors: Gauff

ROME Coco Gauff was denied the chance to compete at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 after testing positive for Covid and the American says winning a medal at the Paris Games would be on a par with Grand Slam success for her this year. "For me, the Olympics is a top priority. I'd say equal to the Grand Slams," Gauff said. REUTERS

the fourth round.

Before Madrid, he won only one match in Barcelona.

"The line is going up, without a doubt," Nadal said, making a gesture with his hand to demonstrate his improvement. "Happy to be today where I am because one month ago it was almost impossible to think that I will be able to play in Barcelona, then in Madrid, and now being here in Rome. ... Things are happening." —AP

Mbappe's mission fails as Dortmund beat PSG to enter final

Yellow (wonder) wall



Borussia Dortmund's Mats Hummels heads in a goal against PSG. REUTERS

"Extremely proud. I'm very happy," coach Edin Terzic said. "We beat a team like PSG two times and we again kept a clean sheet. We started really well and kept them away from the goal." Dortmund are on course for their second UCL trophy. —AP

35
Aged 35 years and 143 days, Borussia Dortmund's Mats Hummels is the oldest German ever to score a goal in a UEFA Champions League knockout match

44
PSG had 44 shots over the two legs of this semifinal — it's the most shots a team has had without scoring in a two-legged Champions League tie on record (since 2003-04)

56% disease burden in country due to unhealthy dietary habits

AKSHEEV THAKUR

NEW DELHI, MAY 8 In India, 56.4 per cent of the total disease burden is due to unhealthy dietary practices, stated the Dietary Guidelines for Indians developed by the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR-NIN), Hyderabad. It also said healthy dietary habits could reduce a substantial proportion of coronary heart disease and hypertension, and prevent type 2 diabetes.

Expressing concern over malnutrition and obesity, ICMR-NIN discouraged the consumption of packaged foods and foods containing excess oil, salt, sugar and added colours. It also linked the use of excessive use of mobile phones with obesity.

"Inadequate and improper sleeping habits, along with excessive use of mobile phones, is strongly associated with weight gain in childhood, adolescence and adulthood," it said. The guidelines discouraged the intake of pizza, cookies, 'samosas' and pastries, which have higher content of oil, sugar and fat.

"About 25 per cent of Indians are either overweight or obese. Unhealthy, highly processed, high fat, sugary and salty food items have become more affordable and accessible than the healthier alternatives. Consume adequate quantities of nuts, oil seeds, fatty fish and restrict cooking oils to 25 gm to 30 gm per day," it said.

Report links consumption of processed food, excessive use of mobile phone with obesity, diabetes



CUT SALT, CONSUME VEGGIES

- Ensure provision of extra food and healthcare during pregnancy and lactation
- Ensure exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months and continue breastfeeding till two years and beyond
- Start feeding homemade semi-solid complementary foods to the infant soon after six months of age
- Guarantee adequate and appropriate diets for children and adolescents both in health and sickness
- Eat plenty of vegetables and legumes
- Be physically active and exercise regularly
- Restrict intake of high fat, sugar, salt and ultra-processed foods

The guidelines say there is a tendency to gain weight mostly around 20 years of age, and among women after childbirth because of less physical activity and excess calorie intake. "Obesity is also rapidly increasing among children and adolescents and therefore, one should be watchful during these periods. Regular yoga and physical activity are essential. Increase the consumption of fruits, vegetables

and legumes. Prefer whole grains and millets over refined grains/ultra-processed foods," it said.

In order to maintain appropriate weight and waist circumference, the guidelines recommend that one must include fresh vegetables in every meal and consume whole grains, pulses and beans. Sugar, processed products, fruit juices and saturated foods should be

avoided, it said.

"Weight reduction should be gradual. Weight reduction diets should not be less than 1000 Kcal/day and should provide all nutrients. A reduction of half a kilogramme body weight per week is considered safe. Approaches of rapid weight loss and use of anti-obesity drugs should be avoided," it recommended.

"The dietary habits of Indians have undergone significant changes over the past few decades, leading to an increase in the prevalence of non-communicable diseases. Problems of undernutrition continue to persist. I am pleased that these guidelines have been made relevant to the changing food scenario in India with addition of practicable messages and suggestions on handling food safety, choosing minimally processed foods, importance of food labels and physical activity," said Dr Rajiv Bahl, secretary, Department of Health Research and Director General, ICMR.

The guidelines have been drafted by a multi-disciplinary committee of experts under the chairmanship of Dr Hemalatha R, Director, ICMR-NIN.

"Through the dietary guidelines, we emphasise that the most logical, sustainable, and long-term solution to all forms of malnutrition is ensuring the availability, accessibility, and affordability of nutrient-rich foods while promoting consumption of diverse foods," said Dr Hemalatha.

All 398 forest fires in Utkhand man-made, apex court told

SATYA PRAKASH

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 8 Five persons have been killed in 398 forest fire incidents in Uttarakhand, where 388 criminal cases have been lodged against 60 persons, the state government told the Supreme Court on Wednesday.

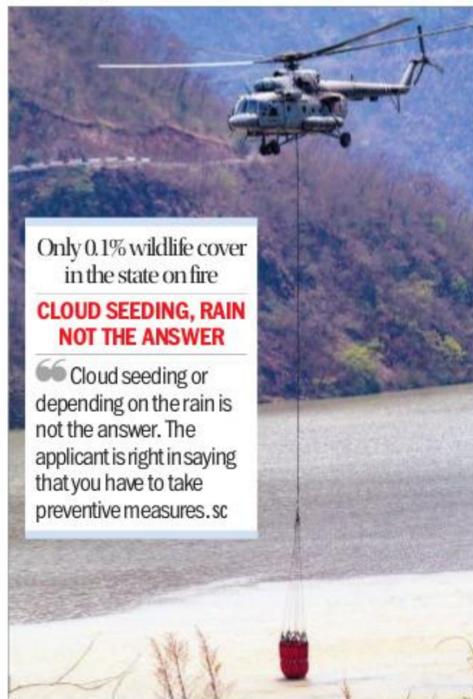
Maintaining that all forest fires were man-made, Deputy Advocate General of Uttarakhand, Jatinder Kumar Sethi told a Bench of Justice BR Gavai and Justice Sandeep Mehta that only 0.1 per cent of the wildlife cover in the state was on fire due to such incidents.

"People say 40 per cent of Uttarakhand is on fire. Only 0.1 per cent of the wildlife cover was on fire. And all this was man-made. Since November, we have had 398 fire incidents, all man-made," he said.

Presenting a status report on the issue, he informed the Bench about measures taken by the state government to put out forest fires. Indian Air Force helicopters were pressed into service to douse the fires, Sethi told the Bench, which described forest fires as a "serious problem".

Hundreds of fire incidents have occurred in Uttarakhand since November last year, damaging about 1,145 hectare forests.

To the court's specific queries about human and animal casualties caused by forest fires, the counsel said five persons were killed. But he could not give any figure regarding the death of animals and promised to get the information sought by the



Only 0.1% wildlife cover in the state on fire
CLOUD SEEDING, RAIN NOT THE ANSWER
"Cloud seeding or depending on the rain is not the answer. The applicant is right in saying that you have to take preventive measures. sc

court. He said forest fires were not peculiar to Uttarakhand and were reported from various parts of the world.

Commenting on a suggestion made by one of the applicants, the Bench said, "Cloud seeding or depending on the rain is not the answer. He (applicant) is right in saying that you have to take preventive measures."

It posted the matter for further hearing on May 15.

One of the lawyers said the state government was painting a "very rosy picture" even as media reports claimed the

entire state machinery needed to tackle forest fires was busy in poll-related work. "The state of affairs is pathetic. People who go to douse the fires do not even have proper equipment," the lawyer alleged.

Another counsel pointed out that forests were covered with pine trees and that's the reason behind the fires.

"The British may have introduced them (pine trees) but now their produce is being used by the country. We cannot eliminate these trees. And they cannot grow in the lower reaches," the Bench noted.

Sailor who trained Mukti Bahini seeks grant of special pension

VIJAY MOHAN

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MAY 8 Over half a century after a Navy sailor was decorated with the Maha Vir Chakra for gallantry for his role in the 1971 Indo-Pakistan war, he has sought special pension along with consequential benefits with effect from the date of his discharge from service in 1972.

In a petition filed before the Chandigarh Bench of the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT), 80-year-old Chiman Singh, then a Leading Seaman, has sought quashing of the order issued by the authorities to deny him special pension. He has averred that the denial was contrary to the law settled by the Supreme Court, which has been implemented by the authorities in the case of other similarly placed soldiers.

He had enrolled in the Navy in June 1961 and trained as a clearance diver, a super specialist cadre in the diving branch. He served till December 1972 till the expiry of the term of engagement and was discharged as a non-pensioner.

The petition states that from April 1971 to December 1971, Chiman was a part of the training squad specially deputed to train Mukti Bahini naval commandoes and a few deserters from Pakistan's newly acquired French submarine at Plassey, Agartala, Tura and some other secret location for underwater operations deep inside East Pakistan.

IN BRIEF

CBI busts bribery racket, 2 docs held

NEW DELHI The CBI on Wednesday busted a bribery racket at Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital here, resulting in the arrest of nine individuals, including two doctors. Dr Parvathagouda and Dr Ajay Raj of the Cardiology Department allegedly demanded bribes from medical equipment suppliers for allowing the use of their products.

Brainstorming on theatre commands

NEW DELHI Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan will chair a two-day (May 9-10) conference — Brainstorming for change — on establishing theatre commands, and jointness and integration of armed forces. The CDS and the three service chiefs will review the progress made in multiple domains and ideate on the necessary reforms. **NS**

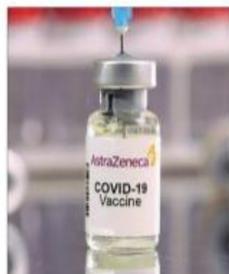
Stopped producing anti-Covid vaccine in Dec 2021, says SII

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 8 Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII) on Wednesday said it had stopped manufacturing its anti-Covid-19 vaccine Covishield in December 2021 after British-Swedish pharmaceutical manufacturer AstraZeneca announced it was withdrawing its vaccine against Covid, Vaxzevria, due to "commercial reasons" as the demand for it decreased globally.

The SII manufactured the Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine under the brand name Covishield.

"With India achieving high vaccination rates in 2021 and 2022, coupled with the emergence of new mutant variant strains, the demand for previ-



ous vaccines diminished significantly. Consequently, since December 2021, we have stopped the manufacturing and supply of additional doses of Covishield," an SII spokesperson said in the statement.

At least 170 crore Covishield doses have been administered since January 2021. AstraZeneca on Tuesday

said it was proud of the vaccine, but it had made a commercial decision. It said the rise of new coronavirus variants meant the demand had shifted to newer updated vaccines.

"According to independent estimates, over 6.5 million lives were saved in the first year of use alone and over three billion doses were supplied globally. As multiple variant Covid-19 vaccines have since been developed, there is a surplus of available updated vaccines. We will now work with regulators and our partners to align on a clear path forward to conclude this chapter and significant contribution to the Covid-19 pandemic," AstraZeneca said in a statement.

Don't use threat to recover GST, SC tells Centre

NEW DELHI, MAY 8

The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Centre to not use "threat and coercion" during search and seizure operations against traders for the recovery of GST and instead persuade them to clear the dues voluntarily.

A Bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna, MM Sundresh and Bela M Trivedi, which is examining various provisions of the GST Act, said there was no provision under the law which empowered the authorities to exert force for payment of outstanding dues. "Ask your department that the payment should be voluntarily and there should not be use of any force. You have to give three-four days to alleged offender to consult and clear liability," the Bench told Additional Solicitor General SV Raju. — PTI

India 'restores' diplomatic visa for Trudeau's rival

NEW DELHI, MAY 8 South Block's ties with Ottawa are at an all-time low, but it is wooing political rivals of Justin Trudeau's party in other provinces, much like it invited the political rivals of US President Joe Biden and Texas Governor and Republican Greg Abbott for Republic Day celebrations.

The Canadian province of Saskatchewan has announced that the Indian Government has formally approved full diplomatic accreditation for the province's Managing Director of the Saskatchewan India office. His visa was among the 41 withdrawn by India late last year after a diplomatic spat over the murder of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

"It is solely because of Saskatchewan's strong bi-lateral

relationship with India that this significant accreditation will be granted. With more than 25 per cent of all Canadian trade with India originating from Saskatchewan, it is vitally important that our two jurisdictions continue our strong relationship independent of the challenges that exist at the national level," said Trade and Export Development Minister Jeremy Harrison in a statement.

Saskatchewan's exports to India in the first two months of 2024 have increased by 600 per cent, year-over-year. In particular, export of lentils has skyrocketed, leading to stabilising of retail rates in the Indian market. In contrast to Trudeau suspending trade talks with India, Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe has led several trade missions to India. — TNS

Wear ironed clothes, help reduce carbon emission: CSIR

ANSHITA MEHRA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 8 Boldly championing environmental sustainability, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has launched a 'Wrinkles Achhe Hai' campaign, urging its personnel working in extensive network of laboratories across India to embrace ironed attire on Mondays until May 15.

This unconventional initiative to save the environment has garnered significant attention and support. It seeks to raise awareness about energy conservation and combat the carbon emission associated with everyday routines, particularly ironing clothes. Literally meaning 'Wrinkles are good,' the campaign serves as a powerful reminder of the substantial carbon footprint linked to traditional ironing practices. Issued on May 3, the Council of Sci-



SAVING 1,25,000 KG OF CARBON EMISSION

"We are saving nearly 1,25,000 kg of carbon emission every Monday through the 'Wrinkles Achhe Hai' campaign," Prof Chetan Singh Solanki, IIT, Bombay

entific and Industrial Research circular said ironing clothes results in the emission of significant amounts of carbon dioxide, a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. By encouraging individuals to forgo ironing for one day a week, the campaign aims to reduce carbon emission and promote environmental sustainability.

Professor Chetan Singh Solanki of the IIT, Bombay, a prominent advocate of the initiative, emphasised its potential impact. "We are saving nearly 1,25,000 kg of carbon emission every Monday through the

campaign," he said. Prof Solanki highlighted the simplicity of the action, noting that by refraining from ironing one pair of clothes, an individual could save up to 200 gm of carbon emission.

The professor of the esteemed institute expressed optimism about the widespread adoption of the campaign, envisioning millions of people contributing to fight against climate change.

"The initiative aims to remind everyone about the importance of saving energy, protecting the environment and spreading awareness about climate change," Solanki said.

भारतीय खेल प्राधिकरण/SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
राष्ट्रीय उत्कृष्टता केंद्र/NATIONAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
धर्मशाला, जिला कांगड़ा (हि.प्र.)/DHARAMSHALA, DISTRICT KANGRA (HP)

SPECIAL SELECTION TRIALS FOR VOLLEYBALL DISCIPLINE (GIRLS)

SAI NCOE Dharamshala is conducting special selection trials for girls for Residential basis in Volleyball discipline as per the detail mentioned below:-

Dates: 15th to 16th May 2024	Age Group: up to 21 years as on trial date (Relaxable based on International/National Achievement/Potential).
(Reporting time is on 15.05.2024 at 08:00 a.m.)	
Documents required to be submitted at the time of reporting in original along with the self attested photo copies (2 each): Date of Birth Certificate (Govt. Document), Aadhar Card, Sports Achievement Certificate (As per the desired sports performance), Educational Qualification Certificate, Passport size photograph (4).	
Desired Sports Performance (Between 2020 to 2023)	
Represented India in Recognized championship/Up to 3rd place in National Level Competition organized by VFI, SGFI, AIU, Khelo India Games/National Level participation recognized by VFI, SGFI, AIU, Khelo India Games/State Level position/participation in recognized tournaments/Preference will be given to the participants having extraordinary height and jumping ability. For any further information, kindly contact: 9816107438, 8708553893	
Note: No Boarding and Loading will be provided to the participants during the selection trials.	

No. SAI/NCOE/DMA/Selection Trials/24-25/ (Rakesh Jassal)/Centre Incharge)

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल.-33004/99 REGD. No. D.L.-33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

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असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY

भाग-II --- खण्ड 3-उप-खण्ड (ii)
PART-II---Section 3 - Sub-section (ii)
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 1730| नई दिल्ली, शुक्रवार, अप्रैल 26, 2024/वैशाख 6, 1946
No. 1730| NEW DELHI, FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024/VAISAKHA 6, 1946

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 26th April, 2024

S.O. 1822(E).—In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/two lane with paved shoulder/four laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of NH22 in the stretch of land from Km. 129.05 to Km. 156.507 (O/o DC Shimla) in the district of SHIMLA in the state of HIMACHAL PRADESH, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section (1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, SDM (C) Shimla (Rural) in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling NH22 in the stretch of land from Km. 129.05 to Km. 156.507 (O/o DC Shimla) in the district of SHIMLA in the state of HIMACHAL PRADESH.

District: Shimla
https://egazette.gov.in
https://bhoomirashi.gov.in
Publication Date: 26th April, 2024
https://egazette.gov.in/WriteReadData/2024/253904.pdf
Note: The physical copy of this notification is also available at the office of CALA/PIU/PMU/RO/ED and Landowners may also see the notification there.

[F. No. 1108/2/2012/LA/PIU-SML/3A] ABHAY JAIN, Dy. Secy.

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