



MAINLY CLEAR SKY

MAX 45°C | MIN 27°C

YESTERDAY
MAX 44.5°C | MIN 25.9°C

SUNSET
MONDAY
7.16 PM

SUNRISE
TUESDAY
5.23 AM

THOSE SEEKING REPORT CARD WILL GET BEFITTING REPLY: BJP

BJP candidate Sanjay Tandon takes a dig at Congress' Manish Tewari for his balance sheet remark. **P3»**



LS POLL 'LAST BATTLE' TO SAVE DEMOCRACY: TEWARI

Warns against the BJP's designs to replace the Constitution and turn India into dictatorship. **P3»**



JANHVI VISITS MOHALI TO PROMOTE MR & MRS MAHI

Talks about film and rigorous 150 days of training she had to undergo to play the role of a cricketer. **P4»**



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401-500 SEVERE
301-400 VERY POOR
201-300 POOR
101-200 MODERATE
51-100 SATISFACTORY
0-50 GOOD

BJP releases 'Sankalp Patra', old promises galore

CHANDIGARH, MAY 26
A majority of promises made by the ruling BJP during the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections have reappeared in their "Sankalp Patra" released by Union Minister for Housing & Urban Affairs and Petroleum & Natural Gas Hardeep Puri here today. It has a total of 68 promises. The party has also listed 38 achievements it had made in the past two terms of MP Kirron Kher. The long-standing issues, which were part of the previous two manifestos, include need-based changes in Chandigarh Housing Board houses and cooperative housing societies, housing scheme for 4,000 government employees, ownership



Union minister Hardeep Puri releases 'Sankalp Patra' in Chandigarh on Sunday. PRADEEP TEWARI

- SAFFRON PARTY LISTS 38 ACHIEVEMENTS**
- ₹550 cr world-class railway station (Work underway)
 - ICCC-monitored surveillance through 2,200 CCTV cameras
 - Central service rules for employees
 - BCCI recognition for UT Cricket Association
 - 24-hour water supply project (in progress)
 - Removal of Dadu Majra garbage dump
 - 270 km of new cycle tracks
 - Approval for Tribune flyover project, and others

- PROMISES CARRY FORWARDED FROM OLD PAPERS**
- Allowing need-based changes in CHB houses and cooperative housing societies
 - Policy on granting ownership rights to colony residents
 - Regularising violations in marla houses
 - Conversion of commercial property from leasehold to freehold
 - Development of area outside lal dora through land-pooling
 - Allowing transfer of property sold on GPA through legislative or administrative process
 - Removal of Dadu Majra dump
 - Amendments to building bylaws and reduction in penalty amount
 - 85% reservation in jobs for Chandigarh residents
 - Regular service for contract, outsourced workers
 - Revival of government employees' housing scheme by addressing price issue
 - Implementation of the Apartment Act to allow share-wise/floor-wise registry of property
- KEY POINTS IN NEW MANIFESTO**
- Metro project to be expedited
 - Pink bus service for women
 - Direct train to Ram Temple
 - Creator Incubation Centre

rights for colony residents, conversion of commercial property from leasehold to freehold, construction outside lal dora, clearing Dadu Majra dump, amendments to building bylaws and reduction in fine on account of violations, and regular service for contract and out-

sourced workers. The party candidate for the city Lok Sabha seat Sanjay Tandon said it was not that no efforts were made to resolve these issues, some have progressed to different levels in the said period. Tandon, who has been city BJP president, said, "Regarding constructions outside lal dora, the way of land-pooling will be adopted or water, electricity and other facilities will be provided to them on the humanitarian ground. "Regarding need-based changes, we did five things. But every time, new issue cropped up. Now, we will come up with a one-time settlement. For the transfer of property, the BJP had brought the Apartment Act in 2001, but it was withdrawn by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Should we show door to PM Modiji, khata khat: Priyanka

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, MAY 26
Addressing a rally at Ramlila Ground in Sector 27 today, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said, "Should we show door to Modiji, khata khat, khata khat, khata khat." Urging people to get rid of "liars", Priyanka Gandhi, who was in the city to support Congress candidate Manish Tewari, said they should vote for INDIA bloc to bring about a change in the country and also in their lives. Addressing the rally, which, the Congress claimed was attended by about 20,000 people, she countered the BJP's charge that the Congress was anti-Hindu. She said the philosophy of the Congress was based on the teachings of Gita, which teaches truth, love, harmony and non-violence. Referring to PM Modi's



Priyanka Gandhi Vadra with Manish Tewari, Pawan Bansal and HS Lucky at the rally in Sector-27. TRIBUNE PHOTO: NITIN MITTAL

claims that he never talked of Hindu-Muslim things and if he had, then he didn't deserve to be the Prime Minister. Priyanka Gandhi said he had finally admitted that he did not deserve to be the PM as all through these years he had only been talking Hindu-Muslim things and not the issues facing the country and its people. The Congress general secretary said Modi would always avoid talking about the pressing issues facing the country like unemployment, inflation and farmers' plight. Meanwhile, the BJP termed the rally a flop show citing that several seats remained vacant. In a press statement, BJP's media in charge Sanjeev Rana claimed, "It shows defeat of

FINALLY, BANSAL TURNS UP, AVOID SEEKING VOTES FOR TEWARI

Four-time MP Pawan Kumar Bansal, who has not joined Congress candidate Manish Tewari's campaigning, since his candidature was announce, today attended Priyanka's rally. The former Union minister also addressed the gathering, but did not sought votes for Tewari. However, he wished good luck at the conclusion of his speech. Yesterday, senior congress leader Jairam Ramesh had met Bansal. "Priyanka impresses one and all wherever she goes... I only want to say all promises made by this government could not be fulfilled. People know it and will give a reply. I give my best wishes to Manishji." Meanwhile, senior Congress and AAP leaders, including Mayor Kuldeep Kumar, were on the dais.

RWAs discuss local issues with Tewari

Tandon skips event due to manifesto release

DEEPANKAR SHARDA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, MAY 26
Amid intense campaigning by candidates for the city LS seat, the Federation of Sectors Welfare Association Chandigarh (FOSWAC) has demanded solutions to local problems. The association held its monthly executive meeting at Peoples' Convention Centre in Sector 36 today. The event marked a "healthy debate", which was supposed to be attended by the BJP and Congress candidates. While the Congress



Congress candidate Manish Tewari addresses members of FOSWAC during a "healthy debate" in Sector 36. NITIN MITTAL

30-MINUTE POWER CUT
A long (for about 30 minutes) power cut welcomed Tewari soon after he reached the venue. The FOSWAC general secretary claimed that it might be "intentional" on the part of the local Engineering Department, as the area official was aware about Tewari's arrival here.

candidate Manish Tewari turned up for the event, the BJP's Sanjay Tandon could not make it due to the scheduled release of the party's manifesto.

Problems related to stray dog menace, dumping ground, CHB notices, lack of representation of FOSWAC in decision-making policies, direct mayoral elections and others were discussed during the 'healthy debate'. The also demanded a permanent nominated seat for its representative in the MC House. "The involvement of FOSWAC is important in all decision-making policies, especially in works related to the city's development. Their representation is equally important on all fronts," said Tewari. During a discussion on the Dadu Majra dump issue, Tewari said, "I have held

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OPEN HOUSE: HOW CAN POLITICIANS, WHO DO NOT MEET POLL PROMISES, BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE?

Election manifestos should be legally binding

Impose penalties | Review performance regularly | Residents should have right to recall candidates

Parties come up with their election manifestos before elections. It helps parties approach voters and apprise them of the work that they would pursue if they were elected. For a pragmatic and realistic election manifesto, it should be legally enforceable. This policy will make politics accountable and transparent. The sanctity of election manifestos needs to confirm their accountability to parties, and failure of promises must invite legal consequences in the form of restrictions on contesting elections or punitive punishment.

interests, ensuring that government actions benefit the public.
KARISHMA GANDHI

MAKE MANIFESTOS AND PROMISES BINDING
Broken promises have been a perennial feature of elections. A constitutional framework takes an hour to make election manifestos and promises legally binding. This approach would help in promoting accountability in the electoral space. This will go a long way in ensuring that politicians are not able to break the trust of voters after being elected.
CHARU MALHOTRA, MOHALI

REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR ELECTED CANDIDATES
It has become common practice for all candidates to lure voters with false promises. While filling out the nominations, candidates should prepare a list of tasks that they would work towards if elected. The list should be submitted to the Election Commission. A committee should be formed to review the elected candidate's progress towards his listed tasks. If the assessment is not satisfactory, he should be asked to resign and barred from contesting elections.
SON LDR MANJITSINGH JOHAR (RETD), CHD

RIGHT TO RECALL CANDIDATES
During every election, candidates may make a lot of promises in their manifestos; however, they forget them after the election. Moreover, they do not even visit the residents that they made all those promises to. In this situation, there is no law to hold them accountable. In this position, the 'Right to Recall' is the only option with a certain percentage of votes. If this is made, either in the Peoples Representation Act or in the Constitution, it is the best option to make the various political parties realise their commitments to fulfill.
SK KHOSLA, CHANDIGARH

CAMPAIGN ABOUT PARTY'S MANIFESTO
It should be compulsory for candidates to maintain a list of tasks they would undertake if elected. There should be a law that makes it compulsory for all candidates to interact with residents of their constituency every six months after being elected. Another measure that can be implemented is conducting regular door-to-door awareness campaigns about the party's manifesto and what percentage of it has been fulfilled.
SAKRITGULATI, CHANDIGARH

REPLACE MANIFESTO WITH LEGAL DOCUMENTS
Innocent voters get trapped by the various freebies and cash incentives that political parties offer during elections. All the manifestos should be made into legal documents with the signatures of candidates on them so that they have a legal duty to at least work towards the promises they made in the manifestos during elections.
SS ARORA, MOHALI

GOVT SHOULD IMPLEMENT ITS GUIDELINES FAIRLY
To ensure public trust, the government should implement its guidelines fairly and effectively. This demonstrates that the government follows through on its promises. Ultimately, all government decisions should prioritise the wellbeing of their citizens. Courts, too, serve the people's

ELECTION COMMISSION SHOULD OFFER SOPS
The Election Commission must come up with strong standard operating procedures (SOP) to curb the issue of unfulfilled promises after the election. All promises made should be part of a written manifesto. Any defaulting candidate or party should not be allowed to contest any future election.
VIJAY SHUKLA, CHANDIGARH



Supporters at the Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's rally on the Ram Leela ground in Chandigarh on Sunday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: NITIN MITTAL

NO DEVELOPMENT, NO VOTE FOR CANDIDATE
It seems that we have to go miles before any candidate can make the dreams of the city residents a reality. It's quite easy to fool people by distributing manifestos with big promises and never actually fulfilling them after being elected. That's why the educated ones never bother to cast their vote as they know that same scenario will be there as in the last elections.
SAVITA KUTHALA

STRINGENT ACTION AGAINST CANDIDATES
Before elections, politicians make grand promises to voters. However, a lot of times they fail to fulfil them. The Election Commission should take strict action against those politicians, who do not meet poll promises. This is necessary to ensure accountability for the poll promises. This step should be necessary to ensure the transparency of democracy.
ADISH SOOD, AMLOH

PEOPLE SHOULD VOTE WISELY
In a democratic setting, the role of the voters is of paramount importance. In a real sense, they are the kingmakers. If they act wisely, no falsifier can allure them

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK
The demand for a direct election and five-year term for city Mayor has resurfaced. Do you believe the one-year term should be replaced with a five-year tenure and that the Mayor be elected directly?
Suggestions in not more than 70 words can be sent to openhouse@tribunemail.com

by making fake promises. On the other hand, the manifestos of parties must be submitted to the Election Commission and brought under a legal framework to be held accountable. People need to be smart and stop voting for candidates that do not fulfil their promises.
SURINDER PAUL WADHWAN, MOHALI

LEGALLY BIND PROMISES MADE BY CANDIDATES
People listen to a candidate's pitch about various promises, and they vote for the person based on those promises. Once elected, promises are often broken. The law says verbal agreements and oral contracts are generally valid and legally binding as long as they are reasonable, equitable, conscionable, and made in good faith. If a politician makes a promise, then it should be treated as a verbal agreement.
SANJAY CHOPRA, MOHALI

BAN CANDIDATES FROM CONTESTING POLL
The Election Commission of India

should take the responsibility to check whether promises made by political leaders or parties are fulfilled or not. There should be a provision that, in case of failure, they should be barred from contesting in the coming elections or removed from the post within one year.
ABHILASHA GUPTA, MOHALI

RESIDENTS NEED TO BE SMARTER
Politicians in this country making false promises is not new. The residents need to be smart and stop getting impressed by the various false promises these candidates make while campaigning during elections. The next time such a candidate comes to them to ask for votes, residents of the city should show them the door.
OPINDER KAUR SEKHON, CHANDIGARH

'KRA' AUDIT FOR MANIFESTOS
Political manifestos should be transformed into Key Result Areas (KRAs) with clear, measurable,

and time-bound targets. A neutral agency, such as the Election Commission, should audit and publish annual progress reports on these targets. This transparency will enable voters to make informed decisions based on factual performance data, ensuring political accountability and fostering trust in the democratic process.
SHASHANK PARMAR, PANCHKULA

ORGANISE PUBLIC DEBATES WITH VOTERS
No party has ever fulfilled all the promises they have made to the people during elections. There is a need to have public debates where voters can ask questions and confront the probable candidates. One sided communication of promises through manifestos and speeches cannot make them responsible and accountable.
WG CDR (DR) JS MINHAS (RETD), MOHALI

MEDIA SCRUTINY FOR ELECTED CANDIDATES
Politicians failing to fulfil promises can be held accountable through transparency, media scrutiny, and public awareness. Regular reporting on progress and consequences for unmet pledges can pressure them to deliver.
PRITHVEE YAKHMI, CHANDIGARH

DEMOCRACY HAS BECOME A GAME OF CHANCE
The democracy of the country has become like a game of chance as the people keep voting for candidates hoping for a different result; however, they keep reaching the same outcome every time. The manifestos of various candidates should be converted into legal documents. This is the only way to hold themselves accountable.
CAPT AMAR JEET (RETD), KHARAR

EMPOWER VOTERS WITH A RIGHT TO RECALL
The Election Commission needs to empower voters with the right to recall politicians if the performance of the elected candidate is not satisfactory. It would be the best case scenario for the voters to critically and realistically evaluate all promises made by the candidates before the elections.
KUMAR GUPT, PANCHKULA

SOCIAL MEDIA GROUP TO TRACK PROGRESS
To ensure politicians are accountable for unmet promises, citizens can form watchdog groups to track progress on pledges. Public forums and social media can amplify accountability calls. Legal frameworks could mandate promise audits and non-compliance could lead to disqualification. Ultimately, voters have the power to vote out those who consistently fail to deliver, sending a strong message that actions must follow words.
SAHIBPREETSINGH, MOHALI

VOTER EDUCATION NEEDS ENHANCEMENT
Mandate pre-election contracts where politicians legally commit to key promises, facing fines or disqualification for non-fulfilment. Enhance voter education on political accountability tools and empower watchdog organisations to monitor and report on progress. Implement performance-based salaries for politicians, directly linked to their promise fulfilment. Facilitate community town halls for direct accountability and foster partnerships with media outlets for regular, in-depth analyses of politicians' performance against their promises.
GURPREET KAUR, MOHALI

ADD LEGISLATIVE TIES TO CAMPAIGN PLEDGES
To ensure politicians fulfil their promises, introduce legislation that ties campaign pledges to measurable outcomes, with penalties for non-compliance. Establish independent oversight committees to regularly audit progress and publish transparent, accessible reports. Empower citizens with the right to initiate recall votes if significant promises are unmet.
GURDEV SINGH, MOHALI

PENALTIES FOR FALSE PROMISES
Politicians who fail to fulfil poll promises can be held accountable through legally binding contracts requiring them to achieve specific goals or face penalties, such as salary reductions or disqualification from future elections. Implementing citizen recall mechanisms and regular performance audits by independent bodies can also ensure accountability.
AMANJOT KAUR, MOHALI

REVIEW CANDIDATES' PERFORMANCE REGULARLY
Politicians failing to fulfil promises should face mandatory performance reviews by independent watchdogs, coupled with legally binding recall mechanisms. Implementing financial penalties tied to campaign funding and public transparency portals tracking promise fulfilment can increase accountability.
GAGANPREETSINGH, MOHALI

HOLD REVIEW MEETINGS DURING TENURE
The performance will be reviewed after three years and thereafter every year. The performance will be reviewed on the basis of the funds they have used for the development projects, jobs created, meetings attended at the Parliament, and other works such as the supply of clean water, schools, dispensaries and hospitals, among others.
NPSSOHAL, CHANDIGARH

EMPOWER VOTERS TO RECALL CANDIDATES
A mechanism should be in place to empower voters to recall their elected representatives if they fail to fulfil the promises made during their campaign. Voters should be aware and stop voting for candidates who forget their promises after elections.
BHARAT BHUSHAN SHARMA

Voters may present 12 documents to vote: DEO

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE
MOHALI, MAY 26
To help the of the district voters during the Lok Sabha Elections-2024, the Election Commission of India has recognised 12 additional official documents as proof of identity, in addition to the Election Photo Identity Card (EPIC), for voting on June 1. District Election Officer Aashika Jain said any of these documents may be presented by the voter as proof of identity at the polling station. District Electoral Officer said the ECI has issued directives stating that voters who do not possess an EPIC may use 12 alternative documents to establish their identity. She said voters without an EPIC can

still cast their votes if they possess any of the listed alternative documents: Aadhaar card, MGNREGA job card, bank or post office passbooks with photographs, health insurance smart card issued under the scheme of the Ministry of Labour, driving license, PAN card, smart card issued by RGI under NPR, Indian passport, pension documents with photographs, service ID cards (with photographs) issued by Central or state governments, public sector undertakings, or public limited companies, official identity card issued to MPs, MLAs, or MLCs, and Unique Disability ID (UDID) issued by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.

Is vaar 70 paar, says Punjab CEO on voting percentage

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE
MOHALI, MAY 26
Punjab Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Sibin C exhorted voters to go to polling booths on June 1, with enthusiasm and zeal to make the state achieve the "Is Vaar 70 Paar" target. Flagging off a walkathon from Bougainvillea Garden in Phase 4 on Sunday morning, CEO Sibin C said it aimed to raise awareness about the importance of active participation in elections as well as to promote a healthy lifestyle. He said the walkathon emphasised the importance of voting and green elections, with participants adorning green T-shirts and caps bearing the slogan "Our Mission - Green Election." CEO Sibin C planted a sapling in

Bougainvillea Garden to underscore the green election message. The CEO said that with only a week left, Mohali and all other districts were ready for voting. He said to increase turnout and attract more voters, SVEEP activities were in progress to raise awareness about voting rights. He said for aged voters and people with disabilities, a new initiative called 'Home Vote' (for those 85+ and PwD) has been launched. He added that the mobile phone app Saksham was helpful for obtaining transport facilities for elderly and PwD voters, as well as volunteer help and wheelchairs at polling booths. The CEO said women voters make up approximately 49 per cent of the state's elec-

torate, so special attention was given to them by arranging facilities such as crèches for babies, waiting areas, AC, coolers and fans to combat the heat, and toilets, among other facilities. He said Rapido has offered its services for transporting voters to the booths for free. **No campaigning 48 hours prior to polls, says DEO:** Issuing the restriction on electioneering for 48 hours (starting from May 30, 6pm) before the time for the close of the poll, District Election Officer Aashika Jain said, as per Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, no person shall convene, hold, attend, join, or address any public meeting or procession in connection with the election.

BJP releases...

the Congress in 2007. We will again implement it." "With respect to the ownership rights issue in colonies, he said 85 per cent original allottees have sold their units. We will provide ownership rights to the colony dwellers. We will bring new provisions for the transfer of flats under the GPA. The employees' housing scheme of 2008, which was scrapped by the Congress in 2012, was revived by the BJP and in 2017, got it approved from the Cabinet. Though the employees later moved the court over high prices of the flats, but we will rationalise the rates. Likewise, we also worked on the Tribune flyover project. However, the issue also reached the court," added the BJP nominee. City BJP president Jatinder Pal Malhotra said, "Our Sankalp Patra has been based on the suggestions made by people." **Should we show...** the INDIA bloc is certain. People have no interest even in the

FROM PAGE 1

star campaigner of the Congress. Most chairs in the back rows were vacant." Disputing the BJP's claim, Tewari said, "It is all nonsense to say. In fact, there was so much rush that some people stood on chairs and many others reached near the dais leaving their seats to watch the Congress leader address the rally." **RWAs discuss...** numerous meetings with the past Governors on these issues. It not only creates problems with the people of Chandigarh but also troubles the people of Punjab who share borders with the city. There's always a solution to every problem, and various scientific methods can be used to tackle this problem. The BJP candidate (Tandon) claims to play a football match in the area - what were they doing in the past 10 years... waiting for him to learn football tricks and shoot a false 'promise'?" asked Tewari. While discussing allegations of local problems being referred to and ignored by the MHA, Tewari said the city needed undivided

attention. "Initially, Chandigarh was made a UT for five years. Given the political scenario and peoples' emotions, it continued to enjoy the same status. However, it came with its pros and cons. There's no problem with the allotment of the budget, but the main function of the MHA is to work on internal security. The city issues are a peripheral subject for the MHA until it's a crisis. There's a need to change the governance model of the city without changing its nature of being a UT," added Tewari. "In an interview, Tandon had said that an MP should be empowered to work wonders. Their MP stayed in power for 10 years, what other empowerment is he asking for? The residents are fed up with their false promises. Their manifesto lists fancy projects, but what efforts have they put into fulfilling their promises in past 10 years? He never turns up for debate, why is he running away from a healthy discussion on a public platform about the problems of the residents of Chandigarh," Tewari.

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Secretary, ICAI

Welder dies in lift crash at Mubarakpur

DERA BASSI, MAY 26
A 42-year-old welder died today after the lift of a factory in the focal point area of Mubarakpur fell from a height of 40 feet. Davinder Singh, a resident of Patiala, and his helper Varinder Singh

were repairing the shed of the Patiala Packers industrial unit. Workers said when the victim took the lift to come down, the cable of the lift snapped and the enclosure came crashing down, grievously injuring the victim. It

took some time to extricate him as the door of the lift had to be broken open. The police took the body and sent it to the mortuary of Dera Bassi sub-divisional hospital. Angry family members of the deceased and the

wife reached the Mubarakpur police post and protested against the alleged lapses with regard to the safety of the workers. They alleged delay on the part of the management in taking the victim to the hospital. — TNS

CREMATION
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Father
SHRI NARAIN DEV TRIKHA
5/0 Jhansi Ram Trikha
passed away peacefully on 25.05.2024.
"We miss him dearly and he will forever live in our memories."
CREMATION will be held today the **27th May, 2024 (Monday)** at Cremation Ground, Sector 25, Chandigarh at 4:00 PM.
---- GRIEF STRICKEN ----
RASHIMA, VIDYA KUMARI AND ENTIRE TRIKHA FAMILY
House No.36, Sector 15-A Chandigarh
Mobile: 98789 09936

Come June 4, those seeking report card will get befitting reply: Tandon

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MAY 26 In a sharp retort aimed at Congress candidate Manish Tewari, the BJP candidate for the LS seat in Chandigarh, Sanjay Tandon, said, "It's regrettable and surprising that Tewari, who has been hopping from one constituency to another, leaving behind a trail of neglect, is now demanding a report card from me." He made these remarks while addressing a gathering during his padyatra today.



BJP candidate Sanjay Tandon during a campaign in Sector 30, Chandigarh, on Sunday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Attributing Tewari's statements to frustration and fear of losing the election, Tandon said, "As he is tired of giving hollow speeches in his rallies, he has resorted to irrational statements in order to brush his past follies under the carpet."

He asserted that, "I want to remind Tewari that the people of Chandigarh know me and my work and have decided to endorse it on June 1 by voting for me." He emphasised that, "They are well aware of what I have done during the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite not hold-

ing any office, I have selflessly served my society, following my father's principles. Through thick and thin, I have always stood by my city's residents."

"Those seeking my report

card, will get their befitting response on June 4 when the discerning and educated electorate of the City Beautiful will vote for PM Modi's development model and my proven track record," he

asserted.

Criticising Tewari for leaving people in the lurch in his last two constituencies, Tandon stated that, "Tewari, with his vision clouded by arrogance, should first present his report card of the last 10 years to the city residents."

He added that, "He conveniently avoids answering what contributions he made during Covid-19. He evades accountability for abandoning one constituency after another and sidesteps questions about his intentions after this election."

Meanwhile, intensifying his election campaign, Tandon spearheaded foot marches in Sector 37, 38, 30, 40, Gwala Colony, Kurnhar Colony and Khuda Ali Sher.

Emphasising the importance of the 'double engine' government, Tandon exhorted the people of Chandigarh to vote wisely. He said as there was a BJP government coming again at the Centre, electing a BJP candidate would promise acceleration for the city's growth through the synergy of a double-engine government.

This LS election 'last battle' to save Constitution, democracy: Tewari

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MAY 26 Congress candidate from Chandigarh Manish Tewari during his campaigning today said that this election was going to be the last battle to save the Constitution and democracy in the country.

"These elections will decide whether we will be having more such elections or will we be having a permanent dictatorship as is obvious from the intentions of the current government at the Centre," he said.

Addressing a public meeting in Shaheed Udham Singh Bhawan here, Tewari warned against the BJP's designs to replace the Constitution and turn India into dictatorship. He appealed to the people to ensure that the BJP was defeated everywhere to save democracy.

The senior Congress leader observed that it would be difficult to imagine what it means as people in India are used to democracy and had not had any autocratic experience. He said it was because of leaders like Pt Jawaharlal Nehru and Dr Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar that Indians were enjoying



Congress candidate Manish Tewari greets people at Maloya in Chandigarh on Sunday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

democracy, which is now being threatened by the RSS and the BJP, which never accepted the Constitution.

"I don't wish that people of this country should realise the value of democracy only after it is lost," he said while emphasising that these elections come as a last chance to save the Constitution and democracy in the country.

He observed that if the Constitution was replaced, every

right that it guaranteed would also go. More so, he said, the reservations would be the first casualty as the BJP and the RSS have repeatedly said that they want the reservations to end.

Earlier in the morning, Tewari carried out a padyatra in Raipur Kalan and Makhan Majra areas. Interacting with people, he spelt out his agenda for Chandigarh and also listed the Congress' guarantees for

the masses. He particularly mentioned the doubling of the free ration and Rs 8,500 monthly assistance to every poor family in the country.

He also addressed a teachers' rally organised by the chairman of the teachers' cell, Chitransh Singh. He agreed to the demands of the teachers, promising that he would ensure to get these resolved immediately after the elections.

St Stephen's score 11-0 win over Sandhu FC

CHANDIGARH, MAY 26

Vipunu netted three goals as St Stephen's School, Sector 45, logged an 11-0 win over Sandhu FC during the ongoing Chandigarh Youth (U-15) League at the Sector 46 Sports Complex. Vipunu netted the first goal in the second minute, followed by a goal each in the 41st minute and 54th minute. Jasgun (52nd, 53rd), Navdeep (6th), Aarav (13th), Nodit (55th) and Bir Partap (56th) also scored a goal each. In the dying minutes, one of the Sandhu FC players scored an own goal.

De-Himalayan FC defeated Saffron Arrows FC 3-1. The winning team found the breakthrough in the third minute through Harman,

who doubled the lead. Rohit netted the third goal in the 20th minute. Vivan pulled off one for the Saffron Arrows in the 49th minute.

In the U-13 category Delhi Public School defeated Saffron Arrows FC 5-2. Arush Verma (7th, 41st) and Dixit (43rd, 49th) scored a brace each for the winning side. Ranvijay Rana (23rd) also chipped in with a goal for the school team. Dipanshu (third) and Harnoor (20th) scored a goal each for the Saffron FC.

Blue Star FC defeated Velocity FC by a solitary goal by Himanshu in the 48th minute. Agrim netted three goals as Spail Villa FC recorded a 5-3 win over Liberty FC. —TNS



First-time voters take part in a walk on Sunday. PRADEEP TEWARI

March for first-time voters

CHANDIGARH, MAY 26 A foot march was taken out from the Rock Garden to the Sukhna Lake to create awareness among young voters who are going to vote for the first time.

This programme was held by Vote for Nation organisation. On this occasion, new voters were told about the importance of voting and an appeal was made to participate in the festival of democracy.

Vote for Nation convener

Rajeev Kumar said, "There was a lot of enthusiasm among the youth during the foot march. They have pledged that they will participate in the great festival of democracy on June 1 and vote."

According to Kumar, the youth in Chandigarh have been motivated to ensure that more and more people participate in the voting process and the voting percentage remains as high as possible. —TNS

Cong yet to apologise for Op Blue Star: Hardeep Puri

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MAY 26 Union Minister for Urban Housing, Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Puri, who was here in the city today for campaigning, said that even after 40 years of Operation Blue Star, the Congress was yet to apologise properly at the holiest shrine of the Sikhs, Golden Temple.

Addressing a press conference at Kamalam, Sector 33, here on the occasion of the release of the BJP manifesto for the city, Puri said the Congress was responsible for the Sikh massacre which took place after the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1984. He said the Congress had been describing it as anti-Sikh riots, whereas this was a massacre

and not a riot as two sides are involved in a riot. In the massacre, only one community i.e. the Sikhs were targeted. Puri ridiculed the Congress promise of putting Rs 1 lakh in the bank account of a woman member of every family. "This will be a drain of around Rs 32 lakh crore and is practically impossible to implement," he said.

"AAP's scheme of supply-

ing 300 units of free electricity was also part of the same culture about which Prime Minister Narendra Modi had frequently spoken. Modi believes that good governance is good politics," added Puri.

He further said Chandigarh was among the top cities of India, and it must be represented in the Parliament by a person of the calibre of Sanjay Tandon.

Amid ongoing infighting in COA, rival factions call for show of strength

Elected few months back, treasurer revolts, joins other group

DEEPAKAR SHARDA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MAY 26 An end to the infighting in the Chandigarh Olympic Association (COA) seems nowhere in sight with the two self-proclaimed factions calling for a show of strength recently.

Both factions, which are non-active as far as organising sport events is concerned, but active in claiming their stakes in the COA, recently met and discussed their future course of action.

While the faction of NS Thakur, who claims to be the general secretary of the COA, conducted its annual general meeting, the other one led by Amrinder Bazaz, who claims to be the president of the COA, organised an interactive session with their affiliated units.

Surprisingly, both factions claimed to have support of over 12 local sports associations.

During the meeting of the Thakur-led group, its president Dr Anmol Rattan Sidhu announced to donate Rs 10 lakh to the association. It was also decided to celebrate Olympic Day on June 23 and to organise state games in October—an announcement which the COA have been making for 18 years now. It was also decided that the



One of the factions of the Chandigarh Olympic Association at a meeting held in Chandigarh recently.

COA would have its own Olympic Bhavan in the city.

As per the meeting notice, the COA was to choose vice-presidents and executive members. However, no intimation was provided on this. Some officials maintained that forms/proforma had already been filled during this meeting and the process for the same had been started.

Meanwhile, the other group met on the similar lines and the meeting was presided by Ranjan Sethi, who is still the treasurer of the COA. The

group decided not to attend any meeting called by Thakur.

Arms-in-arms a few months back, differences between the COA office-bearers (treasurer and others) emerged recently when some notices were issued to various sports associations over non-compliance of the National Sports Code. The meeting, which occurred on the same day at two different venues, was said to be attended by 22 sports associations each, whereas there are nearly 30 sports units affiliated to the COA.

Thakur group claims 'affiliation' to IOA

The faction led by Thakur has claimed to be affiliated to the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). The IOA website mentions Thakur's group as its affiliated unit, but the group failed to provide the IOA's affiliation letter. The members claimed that they have the IOA affiliation letter and it will be made public (if needed) in the court. Besides, the treasurer has now revolted and joined the other group.



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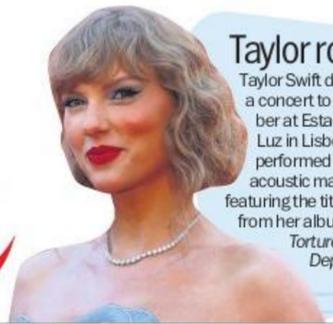
'NOT JUST EMOTIONS'

Actress Sunny Leone, who hosts the dating reality show *MTV Splitsvilla X5* said on the latest episode of the show that contestants have to strike a balance between their emotions and the game. *MTV Splitsvilla X5: ExSqueeze Me Please* is available on MTV and JioCinema.



Taylor rocks

Taylor Swift delivered a concert to remember at Estadio da Luz in Lisbon. She performed an acoustic mashup featuring the title track from her album *The Tortured Poets Department*.



CHANDIGARH | MONDAY | 27 MAY 2024

Never say die

Mahima Chaudhary takes part in a breast cancer awareness programme in Ludhiana

SHIVANI BHAKOO

Mahima Chaudhary cares! And she shows it through her initiative called Ribbon of Care which aims at creating awareness about breast cancer. Mahima, who recently visited Ludhiana to attend an event called The Balancing Act, organised by the Ludhiana chapter of FICCI Flo, talked about how she battled the dreaded disease and came out stronger.

Mahima was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2022. She recalled how she went into depression after doctors revealed the nature of her ailment. "I was in the hospital during one of the chemotherapy sessions and I got a call from Anupam Kher. He was offering me a role in a film but I sounded low. When he asked me, I told him about my disease. Initially, he did not take me seriously. But when I sounded serious, he told me to go for the role even if I had lost my hair. He was so supportive. He is a real friend."

Remembering how tough it was for her when people used to troll her for not looking her glamorous self, she says she was grateful to those real friends who would think nothing of her baldness or looks. "We need that kind of a support system while battling this dreaded disease," she said. The trick, she said, was to not give up hope. "We all struggle at some point. When the storm is over, we surprise ourselves thinking how did we manage?"

Mahima, who had a successful stint in modelling before she entered Bollywood and delivered hits like *Pardes*, *Daag*, *Dil Kya Kare* and many more, danced to some hit numbers.



If Mrs Mahi was Punjabi

Patiala suit, gutt and jutti — Janhvi Kapoor lived it up as a Punjabi kudi as she promoted her film *Mr & Mrs Mahi* in Mohali

SHEETAL

WHEN in Rome, do as the Romans do. Janhvi Kapoor spelled it out for us quite literally as she arrived at CP67 Mall in Mohali on Saturday evening dressed in a neon yellow and pink Patiala suit to promote her upcoming film *Mr & Mrs Mahi*.

"Aap logon ke liye saj dhaj ke aayi hum mein aaj," she told the crowd that gathered there to catch a glimpse of her. She wanted to look like a Punjabi kudi and hoped that they liked her desi avatar.

The *Bawaal* actress even braided her hair and wore Punjabi jutti to complete the look. She promptly posted her picture on Instagram and captioned it as, 'If Mrs Mahi was a Punjabi kudi'.

She talked about the film and the rigorous 150 plus days of training that she had to undergo to play the role of a cricketer. Janhvi shared, "I like to put in my cent per cent effort to anything that I do. It has been inculcated by our parents that there's no shortcut to hard work. I know that the outcome of a project is beyond my control. So, I do what is in my control, which is putting my blood, sweat and tears into it." Janhvi says Punjab has that 'ghar wali feeling' which she first felt when she was filming for *Good Luck Jerry* here. "I stayed in Chandigarh, Patiala and some other places during the shooting of *Good Luck Jerry*. *Ghar jaisa hai mere liye Punjab*. I was looking forward to interact with the fans in Mohali."

After playing a cricketer, Janhvi is now full of respect and love for players. "I know how much of hard work, dedication and passion one needs to be a sportsperson. This film brought me close to my

father Boney Kapoor. Earlier, I never ever sat with him when he watched cricket matches. I didn't understand the game then. But after this film, my father and I watch cricket matches together. I have found a new way of bonding with him." However, "It's not a story of a cricketer or has any connection with any real-life cricketer. Rather, it's a story about one's dreams and how one needs an understanding partner or people around to fulfil those dreams." Rajkumar Rao will be seen as her supportive husband. It will release on May 31. After attending the promotional event, Janhvi rushed to Pal Dhaba in Chandigarh to taste some local cuisine. She again posted a picture of her sipping lassi.

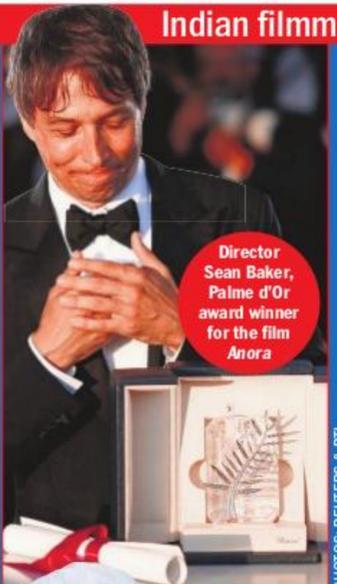
TITLE STORY

"We wanted a name which could work for both the husband and wife. While we had locked Mr and Mrs, the Mahi part came much later. Something like Navjot Singh Sidhu and his wife Navjot Kaur. Mahi happens to my favourite Indian cricket player, MS Dhoni's nick name," says director Sharan Sharma.



PHOTO: VICKY

Indian filmmaker Payal Kapadia makes history with Cannes Grand Prix win for *All We Imagine As Light*, Bollywood celebrates



Director Sean Baker, Palme d'Or award winner for the film *Anora*



Payal Kapadia poses with the Grand Prix prize for *All We Imagine As Light*



Director Mohammad Rasoulof, Special Jury Award winner for the film *The Seed of the Sacred Fig*



Director Coralie Fargeat, Best Screenplay award winner for the film *Substance*



Director George Lucas accepts an honorary Palme d'Or award from Francis Ford Coppola



Director Jacques Audiard, Jury Prize award winner for the film *Emilia Perez*

'India's year at Cannes'

Filmmaker Payal Kapadia made history at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival as her drama *All We Imagine As Light* clinched the prestigious Grand Prix Award. The film, marking Kapadia's directorial debut, secured its place in cinematic lore as the first Indian film in three decades and the first ever by an Indian woman director to grace the festival's main competition. Receiving thunderous applause, the film's screening garnered an eight-minute standing ovation.

Set against the backdrop of a bustling city, *All We Imagine As Light* is the story of Prabha, a nurse, whose life takes an unexpected turn when she receives a mysterious gift from her estranged husband.

All We Imagine As Light

stands as an Indo-French collaboration, co-produced by Petit Chaos from France and Chalk and Cheese Films from India.

The film marks the feature film debut of Payal Kapadia. Before this, she won the Golden Eye award at Cannes for her documentary *A Night of Knowing Nothing*.

INDIA SHINING

It was a triple feat for Indian talent at Cannes with Payal Kapadia's *All We Imagine As Light*, *Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know* by FTII student Chidananda S Naik, and Anasuya Sengupta of *The Shameless* fame winning major awards in each of the three competitive sections of the prestigious gala.

The 77th edition of Cannes Film Festival concluded on Saturday evening.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Members of the Indian film industry have been beaming with joy ever since they learnt about Payal winning the Grand Prix Award.

Actor-director Farhan Akhtar took to Instagram and wrote, "Heartiest congratulations #PayalKapadia and team #alweimagineaslight .. first Indian film to win the Cannes Grand Prix."

Kiara Advani also extended heartfelt greetings to the team of *All We Imagine As Light*. "Congratulationssss," she wrote.

Aditi Rao Hydari also gave a shout out to *All We Imagine As Light* film. "At a very perplexing time in history where only the noise from my incredible county seems to get amplified, here is an independent film by a first time director that wins the Grand Prix honour at @festivaldecannes. Please

take a moment and let us all stand and applaud this monumental achievement. This is the crowning glory of the fight for good Cinema in India. It may happen again, but not without the impact of #Payalkapadia's spectacular achievement. So proud, so grateful. My love and congratulations to the entire team! India in all her glory, and on Her own terms... What a moment," Aditi wrote on Instagram.

Talking to X, filmmaker Shekhar Kapur wrote, "Payal Kapadia's *All We Imagine As Light* won the Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival! .. what an honour for her and her team. It seems to be India's year at Cannes. This is the 3rd, but the biggest award to Indian Cinema this year." — ANI & PTI