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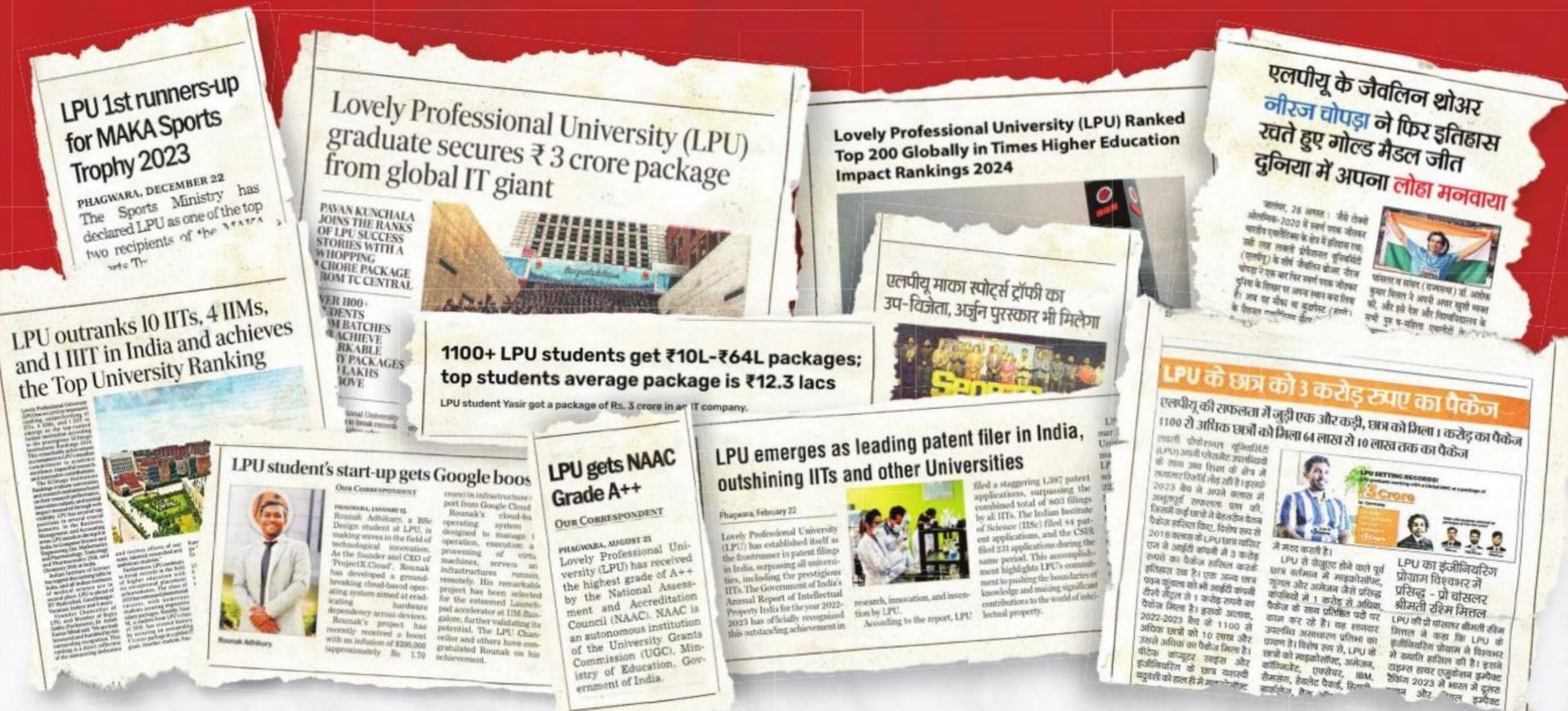
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GLOBE TROT



NATURE'S WRATH A portion of a highway washed away by raging Moesa river in rain-affected Lostallo, Switzerland, on Sunday. AP

Sino-French satellite launched into orbit
BEIJING A satellite developed by China and France, the most powerful yet for studying the farthest explosion of stars, was launched into orbit, Chinese state broadcaster CCTV reported. The satellite to study phenomena, including gamma-ray bursts, was lifted on Saturday by a Chinese carrier rocket launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Sichuan, CCTV said. REUTERS

'Onigiri', not world-famous sushi, Japan's soul food
TOKYO The word "onigiri" became part of the Oxford English Dictionary this year, proof that the humble sticky-rice ball and mainstay of Japanese food has entered the global lexicon. The rice balls are stuffed with a variety of fillings and typically wrapped in seaweed. Onigiri is "fast food, slow food and soul food," says Yusuke Nakamura, who heads the Onigiri Society, a trade group in Tokyo. REUTERS

Israeli strike on Gaza aid centre kills 8

CAIRO, JUNE 23
 Eight Palestinians were killed on Sunday in an Israeli air strike on a training college near Gaza City being used to distribute aid, Palestinian witnesses said, as Israeli tanks pushed further into the southern city of Rafah.

The strike hit part of an industrial college run by the UN Palestinian refugee agency UNRWA now providing aid to displaced families, the witnesses said. UNRWA and the Israeli military did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

"Some people were coming to receive coupons and others had been displaced from their houses and they were sheltering here. Some were filling up water, others were receiving coupons, and suddenly we heard something falling. We ran away, those who were carrying water let it spill," said Mohammed Tafesh, one of the witnesses. A Reuters photographer saw a low-rise building completely demolished and bod-



Palatians search for survivors outside the headquarters of United Nations Relief and Works Agency following an Israeli strike in Gaza City on Sunday. REUTERS

ies wrapped in blankets laid out beside the road, waiting to be taken away. "We pulled out martyrs [from beneath the rubble], one who used to sell cold drinks and another who used to sell pastries and others who distributed or received coupons," Tafesh said. "There are about four or five martyrs and 10 injured.

Thank God, the condition of the injured is good." More than eight months into Israel's war in the Hamas-administered Palestinian enclave, its advance is focused on the two areas its forces have yet to seize: Rafah on Gaza's southern tip and the area surrounding Deir al-Balah in the centre. Residents said Israeli tanks

had advanced to the edge of the Mawasi displaced persons' camp in the northwest of Rafah in fierce fighting with Hamas-led fighters, part of a push into western and northern Rafah in which they had blown up dozens of houses in recent days. Images of two Israeli tanks stationed on a hilltop overlooking the coastal area went

viral on social media, but Reuters could not independently verify them.

"The fighting with the resistance has been intense. The occupation forces are overlooking the Mawasi area now, which forced families there to head for Khan Yunis," said one resident, who asked not to be named, on a chat app.

The Israeli military said it was continuing "intelligence-based, targeted operations" in the Rafah area and had located weapons stores and tunnel shafts, and killed Palestinian gunmen.

The armed wings of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad movement said their fighters had attacked Israeli forces in Rafah with anti-tank rockets and mortar bombs and pre-planted explosive devices. Another strike killed two people in Nuseirat in central Gaza.

On Saturday, Palestinian health officials said at least 40 Palestinians had been killed in separate Israeli strikes in some northern Gaza districts. — Reuters

Hindujas to stay out of Swiss jail, says family

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 23
 The four Swiss-national members of the Hinduja Family, Kamal and Prakash Hinduja, Namrata and Ajay Hinduja, have not been subjected to any imprisonment, conviction, sentence or detention, a spokesperson for the family said in a statement.

"It may be noted that the case has no complainants left anymore and they had declared in the court that they were led into signing statements that they didn't even understand. They had neither intended to nor initiated such proceedings. All of them further testified that the four Hinduja family members treated them with respect, dignity and like family," stated the statement.

As per Swiss law procedures, said the statement, the lower court's judgement is effective and operative only after a final judgment by the highest adjudicating authority.

Ex-Bangladesh PM Khaleda Zia on 'deathbed'

DHAKA, JUNE 23
 Accusing PM Sheikh Hasina of a "personal political vendetta" against her political rival Khaleda Zia, a leader from her party BNP today claimed she is on her "deathbed" as she has been deprived of advance medical treatment abroad. A report in The Daily Star said Zia, 78, was rushed to a hospital here around 3:30 am on Saturday as she fell ill. Hasina's action is a result of "personal political vendetta," BNP leader Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir alleged. — PTI

France's far-right National Rally leading in Parl elections: Survey

PARIS, JUNE 23
 France's far right National Rally (RN) party and its allies are seen leading the first round of the country's parliamentary elections with 35.5% of the vote, according to a poll published on Sunday. The Ipsos survey - conducted for Le Parisien newspaper and Radio France on June 19-20 - showed the left-wing New Popular Front alliance in second place with 29.5% of the vote. President Emmanuel



People demonstrate against the French far-right National Rally party ahead of the parliamentary poll in Paris on Sunday. REUTERS

Macron's centrist alliance was seen in third place, winning 19.5% of votes. The RN is unlikely to win an absolute majority in the election that will take place in two rounds, on June 30 and July 7. — Reuters

Three killed in Ukrainian attack on Crimea with US-supplied missiles

MOSCOW, JUNE 23
 Russian officials said on Sunday that Ukraine had attacked the Russian-annexed Crimean peninsula with five US-supplied missiles, killing at least three people including two children and injuring 100 more. The Russian Defence Ministry said four of the US-delivered Army Tactical Missile System missiles, equipped with cluster warheads, were shot down by air defence systems and the

ammunition of a fifth had detonated in mid-air. Russian-installed authorities said missile fragments fell near a beach on the north side of the city of Sevastopol where locals were holidaying. About a hundred people were injured, said Mikhail Razvozhayev, the governor of Sevastopol. Television footage on Russian state television showed people running from a beach and some people being carried off on sun loungers. — Reuters

Post N Korea pact, Russia raises stakes with West over Ukraine

SEOUL, JUNE 23
 Behind the smiles, the balloons and the red-carpet pageantry of President Vladimir Putin's visit to North Korea last week, a strong signal came through: In the spiralling confrontation with the US and its allies over Ukraine, the Russian leader is willing to challenge Western interests like never before.

Putin's moves added to concerns in Washington and Seoul about what they see as an alliance in which North Korea provides Moscow with badly needed munitions for its war in Ukraine in exchange for economic assistance and technology transfers that would enhance the threat posed by Kim's nuclear weapons and missile programme. — AP



Mahant Raju Das, chief priest

Ayodhya chief priest loses security after spat with DM, SSP over loss in LSpoll

AYODHYA (UP), JUNE 23
 Police personnel deployed for the security of Hanumangarhi temple's chief priest Raju Das were recently removed after an argument between him and district officials during a meeting here called by two Uttar Pradesh ministers. Ayodhya District Magistrate Nitish Kumar, however, said the security was removed following complaints that he was misusing it to threaten people, particularly traders. The meeting

Admn claims he was threatening traders

was called by ministers Jai Veer Singh and Surya Pratap Shahi to review the BJP's performance in the Faizabad Lok Sabha seat, which it lost in the polls, and Das and Ayodhya Mayor Girish Pati Tripathi were also present there. District officials, including the magistrate and SSP Raj Karan Nayyar, were called later to the meeting to "give inputs on development work", a BJP source said. Party sources said the argument broke between Das and the officials after he blamed them for the loss of the BJP in the Faizabad Lok Sabha seat — made up of five Assembly segments with Ayodhya being one. Three armed police personnel were part of Das' cover, officials said. — PTI

Flight safety at risk, AAI to curb use of laser lights near airports

VIJAY MOHAN
 TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 23
 Taking a serious view of the increasing instances of commonly available lasers being aimed at aircraft in the vicinity of airports, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has stepped up efforts to mitigate the menace as it directly impacts flight safety. Laser beam or bright light interference can cause discomfort, disorientation and distraction for pilots, which can lead to hazardous situations during critical flight phases like take-off, approach, landing and emergency manoeuvres. In a communique issued recently to airport operators and air traffic services (ATS) providers across the country, the AAI has asked them to immediately report unauthorised laser illumination incidents through the established procedure in the Airport Information Management System. The information is also to



AAI and other government studies show the exposure of aircrew to laser illumination may cause hazardous effects that could compromise safety by adversely interfering with the ability of the aircrew to carry out their responsibilities. AAI circular

be immediately forwarded to the local administration and municipal authorities for taking appropriate action at their level in accordance with rules and regulations, as these government entities are entrusted to safeguard the safety and security of aviation operations affected by the acts of people and organisations within the vicinity of airports. "There has been a

significant increase of unauthorised laser illumination of aircraft as well as the proliferation and increased sophistication of laser devices available to the public and other parties," the circular states. "AAI and other government studies show the exposure of aircrew to laser illumination may cause hazardous effects that could compromise safety by adversely interfering with the ability of the aircrew to carry out their responsibilities," the circular adds. Different types of laser lights are commonly used by the public. Some are employed by commercial organisations for advertising, illumination, etc. or by people for celebratory activities or simply for fun. Pointing the laser at an aircraft can also be inadvertent or unintentional. Lasers can distract or startle aircrew. An unexpected laser or bright light could distract the pilot during night time operations. Further, as the light brightness increases, it starts to interfere with vision and the glare may make it difficult to see out of the windshield. Night vision starts to deteriorate and may be temporarily disrupted, with afterimages like a bright camera flash leaving temporary spots. Air Traffic Control regards a laser illumination incident as an in-flight emergency until the aircrew reports otherwise.

Under-construction bridge falls in Bihar, third in week

MOTIHARI, JUNE 23
 An under-construction small bridge collapsed in East Champaran district on Sunday in third such incident in Bihar in less than a week, officials said. No casualty was reported in the incident that happened in Ghorasahan block in Motihari, they said. The 16-metre-long bridge was being built over a canal by the state's Rural Works Department (RWD) to connect Amwa village to other areas of the block. It was being built at a cost of Rs 15 crore, they added. "The exact cause of the incident is not yet known. It is a serious matter and a departmental inquiry has been ordered. Strict action will be taken against those found guilty," Additional Chief Secretary of RWD Dipak Kumar Singh told PTI. "Senior officers of the district administration have reached the spot. A detailed report is awaited," he said. District Magistrate Saurabh Jorwal said the exact cause of



A portion of the bridge after it collapsed in Bihar's Motihari. PTI

the incident was being ascertained. "There are reports that a section of locals initially objected to the construction of certain pillars of the bridge. Police are also looking into the matter," he said. On Saturday, a small bridge collapsed in Siwan district. It was built over a canal, connecting the villages of Daraunda and Maharajanj blocks. Prior to that, on Tues-

day, a newly constructed bridge, about 180 metres long, had collapsed in Araria district. The state has been witness to several mishaps involving bridges, large and small, constructed over rivers and other water bodies. Though such incidents have not resulted in casualties, these have led to questions being raised on the quality of public works. — PTI

Maya reinstates 'immature' nephew as successor

LUCKNOW, JUNE 23
 Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati on Sunday declared nephew Akash Anand her successor and made him the party's national coordinator, reversing her own previous decision. In the middle of the Lok Sabha elections on May 7, she had termed Akash Anand immature and relieved him of the party post. After a national-level meeting at the BSP state office here, the party, in a statement, said it was handing Akash his former responsibilities back. "BSP's national president Mayawati has once again given Akash Anand a chance to



BSP chief Mayawati with her brother Anand Kumar and nephew Akash Anand (left) at the party office in Lucknow on Sunday. PTI

work in the party with full maturity. He will continue to hold all his posts in the party as before. That is, he will remain Mayawati's only successor along with being the party's national coordinator," the statement read.

Mayawati, a former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, said she was hopeful her nephew will emerge as a "mature" leader. "I am hopeful about him (Akash Anand) that now he will definitely emerge as a fully mature leader at every level in the interest of his party and movement. The people of the party will also now encourage him by giving him more respect and honour than before. So that now he can live up to all my expectations in the future," she said in a statement. The BSP chief had announced Akash as her "successor" in December last year. She revoked her deci-

sion after the third phase of Lok Sabha elections. Akash was booked in a case of violation of the model code of conduct for allegedly using "objectionable" language in an election rally in Sitapur. The BSP, which contested the Lok Sabha elections on its own, did not win a single seat of the 80 in UP this time, while emerging Dalit leader and Azad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) chief Chandrashekhar Azad won the Nagina (reserved) seat in Bijnor district. The BSP had contested the 2019 Lok Sabha elections in alliance with the Samajwadi Party and won 10 seats in the state. — PTI

18 Indians arrested for fishing in Lanka waters

COLOMBO, JUNE 23
 As many as 18 Indian fishermen were arrested for alleged illegal fishing in the island nation's waters by the Sri Lankan Navy and three fishing vessels were seized, a media report said on Sunday. The fishermen were arrested from the North Sea near Delft Islands during a search operation conducted Saturday night, news portal The News First reported. Navy spokesperson Capt Gayan Wickramasuriya said the arrested fishermen would be taken to Kankasanturai fishing harbour for further

legal proceedings. Last week, four Indian fishermen were arrested and their trawler seized by the Sri Lankan Navy for allegedly poaching in the island nation's waters. Before the latest incident, more than 180 Indian fishermen had been arrested and 25 of their trawlers seized in 2024 for alleged illegal fishing in the Sri Lankan waters. Most of these incidents happen in the Palk Strait, a narrow strip of water separating Tamil Nadu from Sri Lanka's northern tip, a rich fishing ground. — PTI



SMRITI HITS 90, BREAKS ODI RECORD FOR MOST RUNS BY INDIAN SPORT



SHAMBHU TRADERS PROTEST AGAINST FARM UNIONS PUNJAB



PAK DESPERATE AS END OF TERRORISM IS NEAR, SAYS L-G SINHA J&K



SHAH ASKS IMD STAFF TO UPGRADE FLOOD FORECAST SYSTEM BACK PAGE

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MONDAY | 24 JUNE 2024

CBI files FIR, sends teams to Bihar, Gujarat to probe NEET irregularities

Education Ministry complaint mentions 'certain isolated incidents' in few states

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 23
A day after the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was asked to investigate alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG exam, the probe agency on Sunday registered a criminal case based on a written complaint from the Ministry of Education.

The development came amid countrywide protests and litigation by students for a probe into paper leak claims. Special teams, formed by the CBI to investigate the matter on top priority, are on the way to Patna and Godhra where the local police have already been investigating cases related to the alleged NEET paper leak.

The Bihar police, who have been investigating the matter for over a month, claimed evidence collected by them suggested a paper leak. The CBI registered the case against unidentified persons under IPC Sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and 420 (cheating)



NEET-UG paper leak case accused in police custody in Patna. PTI

48% CANDIDATES GIVE RETEST A MISS
■ At least 750 (48%) of 1,563 candidates who were earlier awarded grace marks didn't appear for a retest on Sunday

UGC-NET CASE: CBI MEN ATTACKED IN BIHAR
■ 4-member CBI team probing UGCNET paper leak attacked by villagers in Nawada, Bihar, on Saturday evening

■ Conducted at seven centres following an SC order; grace marks were withdrawn after a major row was triggered

■ 4 persons held; team was looking for suspects in the village based on location of their mobile phone numbers

among others. It plans to take over the investigation from the police in the two states. Officials said the ministry

Paper leak trail leads cops to Jharkhand school

AKSHEEV THAKUR
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 23
The Economic Offences Unit (EOU) of the Bihar Police, which has been investigating the NEET-UG paper leak case in the state, has revealed that the epicentre of the racket might be a school in Jharkhand's Hazaribagh. It said a polybag and trunk in which question papers were sent to Oasis School in Hazaribagh were found tampered with.

The matter came to light following the arrest of six accused from Deoghar in Jharkhand on Saturday. One of them, Baldev Kumar, alias Chintu, had received a PDF of solved questions on his phone on May 5, hours before the commencement of the exam. The police said Chintu was associated with the gang of Sanjeev Kumar, alias

Sealed polybag, trunk found tampered with; school staff quizzed

Lutan Mukhiya, the alleged prime suspect in the case.

"Mukhiya accommodated nearly 25 candidates at Learn Boys Hostel and Play School in Patna on May 4, a day before the NEET-UG exam. The school's printer was used to print the solved question paper," an official of the EOU said.

"After printing the paper, the candidates were taken to a location 2 km away from the school in taxis where they were made to memorise the answers. The candidates were unable to go through the entire paper due to a shortage of time," the official said. The

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18th Lok Sabha's 1st session begins today, likely to be stormy

ADITI TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 23
Acrimonious exchanges surfaced on the eve of the first session of 18th Lok Sabha commencing here from Monday with the Congress refusing to let go of its claim on the Pro tem Speaker's post and the ruling BJP hitting back with the "disruptive opposition" jibe.

The session will start with the newly elected MPs being administered the oath of office on Monday and Tuesday by Bhartruhari Mahtab, the Pro tem Speaker.

Just two days after Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju attacked the Congress for playing politics on the issue, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh again questioned the government on why Mahtab, a seven-term MP, was appointed while K Suresh, an eight-time Congress MP, was ignored.

"K Suresh, who is in his 8th term, should have been the Pro tem Speaker. But Mahtab of the BJP has been appointed on flimsy grounds

FUSS OVER MAHTAB AS PRO TEM SPEAKER

■ Cong's Jairam Ramesh targets NDA govt over picking Mahtab as Pro tem Speaker, calls move anti-Dalit

■ Nirmala Sitharaman counters attack, cites TN hooch tragedy where most victims were Dalits

that he has greater claim because this is his 7th consecutive term. Going by this argument, why was Ramesh Chandappa Jigajinagi, a BJP MP who is also in his 7th consecutive term, not considered? Is it because he is a Dalit like Suresh?" asked Ramesh, seeking to attack the move as anti-Dalit.

The BJP was quick to field Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to counter the anti-Dalit narrative. She took on the Congress, saying most of the victims in the Tamil Nadu hooch tragedy were Dalits and asking why Congress leaders were silent on the tragedy in the state ruled by their ally, the DMK. With the session's start set for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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CHANDIGARH | LUDHIANA | PATIALA

Kejriwal moves SC, challenges HC stay on bail

NEW DELHI, JUNE 23
Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday approached the Supreme Court against the Delhi High Court's stay on the trial court's order granting him bail in the excise policy case. AAP lawyers said they would seek urgent listing of the matter.

Last week, trial court Vacation Judge Niyay Bindu granted bail to the Delhi CM in the case observing that no money trail had been made out against him and he had no involvement in the activities related to the "proceeds of crime". The court opined he was not guilty. It refused the ED's request to postpone the process of filing a bail bond for 48 hours. The next

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2 CRPF men killed as Naxals blow up truck

SUKMA, JUNE 23
Two personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force's jungle warfare unit CoBRA were killed after Naxalites blew up a truck with an improvised explosive device (IED) in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district today, the police said.

The Naxal blast took place around 3 pm near Timmapuram village between Silger and Tekalgudem camps of security forces, over 400 km from the state capital Raipur, a senior police official said.

An advance party of the 201st unit of Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) had launched patrolling from Silger camp under Jagargunda police station limits as part of its 'road opening party' duty towards Tekalgudem, he said. The security personnel were on motorcycles while their luggage and rations were being ferried in the ill-fated truck, he said.

"Naxalites triggered an IED

blast targeting the truck that claimed the lives of constable Shailendra (29) of UP and driver Vishnu R (35) of Kerala," he said. After being alerted about the blast, more forces were rushed to the spot and the bodies were evacuated from the forest, he said.

Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai said in a message on X that the martyrdom of jawans would not go in vain.

"Received the sad news of the demise of 2 CoBRA soldiers in an IED blast triggered by Naxalites in Sukma district. I pray to God to rest the departed soul in peace and to give strength to their families," he said.

"Naxals are frustrated with the ongoing anti-Naxalite operation in Bastar region and have been committing such cowardly acts out of frustration. The martyrdom of the soldiers will not go in vain. We will not sit quiet until Naxalism is eliminated," the Chief Minister asserted. — PTI

HP HEALTH SCHEME MAY BE TWEAKED

■ The Himachal Government has proposed amendments to HIMCARE, which provides free health services to people

■ The Health Dept had, following an audit, detected loopholes, including over-billing, in the scheme

■ It was found that govt employees who claimed medical reimbursement were also availing scheme benefits in violation of rules

■ It was noticed that free diagnosis allowed under the scheme also led to its misuse

'Pushpak' aces final test



ISRO's reusable launch vehicle 'Pushpak' makes the third and final successful landing at Aeronautical Test Range in Chitradurga. BACK PAGE

Thousands of Indian workers left on roads as Kuwait evacuates dilapidated buildings

SUMEDHA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

GURUGRAM, JUNE 23
Amid Kuwait media reports of a massive crackdown on dilapidated and overcrowded buildings, thousands of Indian workers have been rendered homeless in the West Asian nation.

The crackdown comes in the wake of the Mangaf building fire on June 12 which claimed the lives of 49 Indian workers. The Kuwaiti authorities are now getting all unsafe buildings evacuated and penalising the owners

PUNJAB, HARYANA MEN FEAR DEPORTATION

■ Nearly 12,000 workers from Rajasthan, Kerala and Andhra have approached state governments for help

■ However, over 50,000 workers from Punjab and Haryana in Kuwait's Mangaf aren't reaching out to authorities out of fear of deportation

■ "I and around 100 others from Punjab came here with great difficulty and can't risk getting caught," said a worker from Bathinda who doesn't have valid travel documents

the Indian Embassy in Kuwait with the assistance of local authorities has started

setting up shelters for these workers, many of whom have also approached their respective state governments in India for help.

Speaking to *The Tribune*, a senior MEA official said, "The Kuwaiti authorities are reinforcing laws to make accommodations safe. We are closely working with them and setting up shelters for the affected Indians. During this course, we have come across many cases of workers who didn't have the documentation required to stay in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Mann shifted 10,000 cops as they voted for Cong, says Warring

JUPINDERJIT SINGH & RAJMEET SINGH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 23
Punjab Congress president Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, the MP-elect from Ludhiana, has alleged that Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann recently transferred 10,000 police personnel across the state because they voted for the Congress.



Amrinder Warring, PCC chief

Speaking on *The Tribune's* 'Decode Punjab' show, Warring said the CM took action against the cops to vent his frustration over the party's poor performance in the Lok Sabha elections, in which AAP won only three out of 13 seats.

"Being the CM and the Home Minister of the state, he should not say 'my police are involved in drugs'. What are you doing for two and a half years if you could not find out those involved in the drug trade?" he said.

Speaking about the fissures in his own party, in the context of the criticism he has been facing from senior leaders, Warring, once known for his aggression, said there was no place for anger in the political life. "I

'PARTY TO DECIDE MY WIFE'S CANDIDATURE'

"Survey reports say that my wife would have been a better candidate than me from Bathinda. I do not promote my wife as part of dynasty politics. But being my wife should not be a disadvantage for her. If she is capable, she has the right to be in politics. But it is for the party to decide on the candidature."

will visit every leader, despite the recent criticism from certain quarters against me, to talk to them," he said.

Warring, who defeated BJP's Ranveer Singh Bittu in the LS elections, insisted that he was not in the race to become the state's CM "as there are 6-7

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Duped by agents, 2 Punjab youths in Indonesian jail for a year

PK JAISWAR
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, JUNE 23
The family members of Gurmej Singh (22) of Gag-gomahal village and his cousin Ajaypal Singh (22) of Modhe village located near the International Border are a dejected lot today.

The two cousins have been languishing in an Indonesian jail for around a year now after being duped by immigration fraudsters.

They have been falsely implicated in a murder case and the government has not been able to ensure their safe return so far, they alleged.

Gurmej Singh's father Sahib Singh said the youths had been convicted in a murder case in Indonesia and sentenced to imprisonment for seven-and-a-half years.

"Cabinet minister Kuldeep Dhaliwal and MP Gurjit Auja had assured us that everything would be done to ensure their

Falsely implicated in murder case, says father of one youth

safe return, but to no avail so far," said Sahib Singh. He said he mortgaged his land and other property to send his son to the US. Ajaypal's father Sukhchain Singh also mortgaged his agricultural land for sending Ajaypal abroad.

The police have failed to make any breakthrough in the case even after over a year of registering FIRs.

Gurmej and Ajaypal reportedly came in contact with Charanjit Singh Sodhi of Delhi through Facebook. The agent convinced them that he could arrange their safe journey to the US for Rs 35 lakh each.

A payment of \$2500 (around Rs 2 lakh) each was made to the agent and the two cousins left for Delhi from Amritsar on May 5 last

year. Four days later, they boarded a flight to Indonesia. On reaching there, they were taken to a room by Charanjit Singh Sodhi's accomplice Sunny Kumar, who hails from Hoshiarpur, and his men. They took their documents, including passports, into their possession. The youths were tortured and forced to make misleading

calls to their families that they were safe and would soon start their journey to the US, Sahib Singh said. They demanded that the remaining amount of the deal be transferred to them immediately.

On May 13, however, a dispute arose between the agents over money. Taking advantage of the situation, the cousins managed to flee from there. They reached the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Gurmej and Ajaypal in the custody of the Indonesian police.



P'kula power consumers' issues to be heard today

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 23
Complaints of power consumers in the districts of Kurukshetra, Ambala, Panchkula, Kaithal and Yamunanagar under Panchkula zone related to financial disputes involving amounts between Rs 1 lakh and Rs 3 lakh will be heard on June 24 at the zonal consumer grievance redressal forum in Panchkula at the UHBVN headquarters, Vidyut Sadan, Industrial Plot-3 and 4, Sector-14, Panchkula, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, said an official spokesman of the Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited (UHBVNL).

Issues such as incorrect bills, electricity rates, meter security, faulty meters and voltage problems will be addressed. However, matters related to electricity theft, misuse of electricity and fatal or non-fatal accidents would not be considered, the spokesperson added. The spokesperson stated consumers must certify that their case is not pending in any court, authority or forum as cases already under consideration would not be reviewed during this session. — TNS

Real battle yet to be won, start preparing for state poll, Hooda tells party workers

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMBALA, JUNE 23
Former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda today called upon party workers to start preparing for the Assembly election and make sure that the party wins all four Assembly segments in Ambala.

While addressing the party workers in Ambala City on Sunday, Bhupinder Singh Hooda said, "I congratulate all for the victory in the Lok Sabha election and taking the right decisions. We have won the first battle, but the real battle is yet to be won. There will be Assembly election in three months. So, start preparing for the Assembly poll. The result of the Lok Sabha election has made it clear that the Congress government is going to be formed in Haryana, but the workers should not sit at home assuming that victory is certain."

"The party is in a strong position and you have to go door to door to make people aware of the failures of the BJP government and also tell the achievements of the Congress government. The government had promised to double the income of farmers, but while the input cost is increasing continuously, income has not



Former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda during a meeting with party workers in Ambala City on Sunday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

increased. The Opposition is strong and we will force the government to implement the Swaminathan report. In 10 years, BJP has given nothing to the people except fear, corruption, crime, drugs, unemployment and inflation. This government has even stopped the projects taken up during the Congress tenure," he added.

Hooda announced that free treatment up to Rs 25 lakh would be provided to the people of the state, elderly pension of Rs 6,000, old pension

scheme for employees, gas cylinder for Rs 500 and 300 units of free electricity. The former CM also announced to get an Industrial Model Township in Ambala.

Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee chief Udai Bhan said, "The time has come to take revenge for the atrocities committed by the BJP and teach a lesson to the BJP for its wrong policies. The CM has now started accepting that there are errors in Parivar Pehchan Patra and property

IDs. The government should be ashamed of it, tender apology and register FIR against the agency hired for the project.

Ambala MP Varun Chaudhry, Himmat Singh, Nirmal Singh, Jasbir Malour, Rajesh Mehta and several other Congress leaders were present on this occasion.

While interacting with mediapersons, Hooda said, "The BJP got halved in Lok Sabha and it will be wiped out in the Assembly election in Haryana. The Congress will

win the Assembly election with majority."

About Kiran Choudhry joining the BJP Hooda said, "Congress is in a strong position and the quitting of the party by one person wouldn't make any difference."

About Sirsa MP Kumari Selja's claims of wrong ticket allocation, the former CM said, "The decision regarding ticket is taken by the party high command and every senior leader should accept the decision of the high command."



INLD leader Abhay Chautala in Hisar on Sunday. PHOTO: ASHOK KUNDU

Ex-CM supported BJP during LS poll, alleges Abhay

HISAR, JUNE 23

INLD leader and Ellenabad MLA Abhay Singh Chautala attacked ex-Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, alleging that the former had fielded weak candidates in the Lok Sabha poll to benefit the BJP.

Addressing a press conference here today, Chautala alleged that Hooda was still hand in glove with the BJP. "Though the Rajya Sabha elections are due in Haryana, Hooda seems to be running away from the elections and is not inclined to field a joint candidate of the Opposition," he said. "It is a betrayal of the faith of people who wanted to defeat Narendra Modi in the Lok Sabha poll. But, still the BJP won five seats, which is a pointer of Hooda's proximity with the saffron party in the state," he said.

Says he had fielded weak nominees to benefit saffron party

The INLD MLA said the Congress was divided in factions in the state. He predicted that some key leaders might leave the party very soon.

Chautala said he would form a third front sans the Congress and BJP in the state ahead of the Assembly poll. "The INLD is preparing for the Assembly poll. We will form a third front in Haryana to defeat the BJP with the opposition parties minus the Congress," he said. When asked whether he would also take the JJP on board, he denied stating that the JJP had been an ally of the BJP in the recent past. — TNS

SEEKING BLESSINGS



BJP MP Naveen Jindal and his wife Shalu Jindal during their visit to the Golden Temple in Amritsar on Sunday. PTI

Ahead of poll, state politics getting Hooda-centric

RAVINDER SAINI

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, JUNE 23

With Tosham MLA Kiran Choudhry joining the BJP and the changing of the political arithmetic since the Lok Sabha poll, former CM and Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Hooda has, it seems, come to the centre of political affairs in the state as not only Opposition parties — BJP, JJP and INLD — but also his detractors within the Congress are leaving no chance to target him on some pretexts.

The BJP today sounded the bugle for the Assembly poll by organising a felicitation ceremony for its ministers and newly elected MPs in Hooda's stronghold Rohtak. All leaders, including CM Nayab Singh Saini,

present on the occasion focussed their address on decrying Hooda over various political issues.

"Everyone has his/her own agenda for carrying out verbal attacks on Hooda as the Congress has emerged stronger in Haryana in the Lok Sabha elections under his leadership. Four of the five newly elected Congress MPs, barring Selja, owe allegiance to Hooda's camp. The BJP leaders take Hooda on their radar as he is the strongest Opposition leader in the state. It will benefit the BJP if they manage to weaken Hooda in some way before the Assembly poll," said Jitendra Bhardwaj, a political observer.

He maintained this reason drove the BJP to choose Rohtak to sound the bugle

CONG CAME OUT STRONGER UNDER HOODA

“Everyone has their own agenda for carrying out verbal attacks on Hooda as the Congress has emerged stronger in Haryana in the Lok Sabha elections under his leadership. Four of the five newly elected Congress MPs, barring Selja, are aligned with the Hooda camp.”

Jitendra Bhardwaj, POLITICAL OBSERVER

for the Assembly elections in a bid to create a psychological pressure on him and his supporters.

The BJP's felicitation function of its ministers and MPs today was virtually a show of strength in Hooda's citadel. Moreover, the way that Hooda cornered the BJP government over the deteriorating law and order situation was also forcing it to train its gun on Hooda, he added.

"Apart from other burning issues like unemployment,

inflation, Agniveer etc, the rising crime graph is also another major issue in Haryana, which adversely affects not only the business community, but also the common man as gangsters sitting abroad are demanding extortion and also plotting criminal activities on non-fulfilment of demands. People have now started recalling the Hooda government when the police killed many criminals in encounters and maintained peace in

the state," said Ashok Kumar, another political commentator.

He maintained that besides BJP, the JJP and INLD leaders were targeting Hooda prominently as compared to other leaders as they know that as long as Hooda remains strong, their future appears to be bleak in the state. The vote bank of JJP and INLD is mainly farming communities, which stood united with the Congress in Lok Sabha poll just because of Hooda, he asserted.

Similarly, Hooda's detractors in the Congress — Kumari Selja and Randeep Surjewala — also do not forget to launch veiled attacks on Hooda when the question of Chief Ministership arises if the Congress comes to power in the state.

Selja: Better ticket allotment would have got Cong 8-10 seats

HISAR, JUNE 23

Giving a call for unity, the Congress MP from Sirsa, Kumari Selja, said the party has started preparations for the Assembly elections and workers should continue to highlight public issues.

Addressing a workers' meeting in her home constituency Uklaana on Saturday, Selja asserted that better ticket allocation could have got the party eight to 10 seats in the state.

She said either the high command and 'prabhari' did not have understanding of the ground situation or they did not take proper feedback. "We could have won eight to 10 seats instead of five," she said. — TNS

Woman strangles mother, brother in Yamunanagar

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

YAMUNANAGAR, JUNE 23

A woman and her son were allegedly murdered in Azadnagar Colony of Yamunanagar.

The police suspect that her daughter Kajal (22), with the help of accomplices, has strangled Meena (45) and Rahul (21) to death. In his statement, Nirmal Singh, in charge of Ram-pura police post, said he got information that a man and a woman had been killed in a house in Azadnagar Colony.

He said when they reached the spot, Kajal was present there. He said she told them that she had gone to the market at about 2 pm today.

When she returned, she saw Rahul's body lying in the drawing room and Meena's body in the bedroom, he added. He said that she also told them that someone had killed them after looting jewellery from their house. In his statement, Nirmal Singh said that it appeared that the bodies were about 7-8 hours old and Kajal was lying.

"Prime facie, it seems that Kajal, along with her friends, strangled her mother and brother," Nirmal said in his statement.

SP Ganga Ram Punia said, "Prima facie, the case appears to be related to a family property dispute."

42% candidates skip NEET-UG re-exam

Out of 494 students, 287 take retest at two centres in Jhajjar city

RAVINDER SAINI

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, JUNE 23

The allegations of irregularities cast their shadow over the re-examination of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance (NEET)-UG exam that was conducted at two centres — Kendriya Vidyalaya and DAV Public School — in Jhajjar city on Sunday as around 42 per cent candidates remained absent. However, tight security arrangements were put in place to prevent any external interference in the centres.

According to sources, 287 out of total 494 candidates re-appeared in both exam centres while 207 remained absent. The re-test was conducted for those who were given grace marks by the National Testing Agency (NTA) to compensate for time loss during the previous exam held on May 5.

The papers having wrong codes for the NEET-UG exam were distributed at two of three exam centres setup in Bahadurgarh town of Jhajjar district on that day. Around half-an-hour was allegedly wasted in the process of replacing papers at both the centres but the grace marks were allegedly awarded to candidates of one centre while those at the other centre were



NEET-UG candidates come out of an exam centre in Jhajjar on Sunday. PHOTO: SUMIT THARAN

deprived of them.

Later, the Supreme Court, while hearing the petitions alleging irregularities in the exams, had issued the directives for the withdrawal of grace marks and re-examination of 1,563 such candidates of the NEET-UG across the nation. Six of them who appeared in an exam centre in Bahadurgarh had scored 100 per cent and near to it with grace marks.

Earlier, Jhajjar Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shakti

Singh also visited the exam centres to take stock of security arrangements. While talking to the media, he said elaborate arrangements had been made in and outside of both the centres to prevent any possibility of external interference in the exams.

"Only examinees and those on exam duty were allowed to enter the centre. The NTA has deputed its staff there while the arrangement for drinking water and uninterrupted power supply

has been made by the district administration," the DC added. Some of those students whose test did not go well said the authorities should give them more time for the preparations.

On the other hand, those candidates whose exam went well said the test was easy and proper arrangements were made at the exam centre this time. Some of them hoped that they would score good marks this time as well.

Haryana Diary

List of ticket aspirants gets longer in Ambala City

Ambala: The list of aspirants seeking the Congress ticket for the Ambala City Assembly constituency is getting longer after the party performed well in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections. The aspirants have started holding meetings with their supporters, showing their strength and preparing the ground to stake their claim for the ticket. Elected members of the municipal corporation, former MLAs, youth Congress leaders and leaders holding various posts in the party belonging to the Hooda and Selja camps have started lobbying to secure the party ticket.

Kiran's Congress supporters in a tight spot

Mahendragarh: Tosham MLA Kiran Choudhry and her daughter Shruti Choudhry recently joined the BJP after quitting the Congress. However, this development seems to have put some of their supporters — who would never miss the opportunity to target the BJP — in an uncomfortable situation. They would also make tall claims regarding the formation of the Congress government in the state. After the mother-daughter switched sides, they are now finding themselves in a tight spot when supporters put this question to them: Who will form the state government now?

Speculation on more Cong leaders leaving party put to rest

Panipat: After Kiran Choudhry joined the BJP, speculations were rife about three more Congress leaders joining the party. However, these were put to rest after former Speaker Kuldeep Sharma attended the Congress workers' meeting in Sonapat on Friday and Samalkha MLA Dharam Singh Chhoker's brother attended a meeting in Panipat. Stating that they had been tortured by the Enforcement Directorate, Chhoker's brother said that he would continue to be a part of the Congress party. This came as a relief to senior party leaders, especially former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, as both leaders are considered to be his close aides.

Chacha-bhatija tussle lands INLD worker in trouble

Hisar: The political tussle between INLD leader Abhay Chautala and his nephew JJP leader Dushyant Chautala landed an INLD worker in a soup after Dushyant recently visited him to have tea at his residence in Rakhigarhi in Hisar. Apparently, the visit has infuriated Abhay, who arrived in Hisar on Sunday. Pointing at this party worker, who was standing just behind him on the stage, Abhay said villagers were not even allowing the JJP leaders to enter the village, and "this man invited Dushyant to his home for tea". "There is no need for such people in the party. Go to Dushyant and never come back to us," Abhay said.

Backward Classes quota increased to 27%

People will back BJP: Bishnoi

ASSEMBLY POLL

HISAR, JUNE 23

BJP leader and former MP Kuldeep Bishnoi today claimed that the BJP would form the government in the state for the third time in a row. Bishnoi, who visited his con-

stituency, Adampur, in the district today, said people of the state were satisfied and happy with the works carried out by the BJP government in the state. "The people will back the BJP government for the third time in the upcoming Assembly poll," he said. — TNS

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

GURUGRAM, JUNE 23

Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has announced an increase in the reservation for Backward Classes in Group-A and Group-B posts from 15 per cent to 27 per cent. He has also announced that the backlog of vacancies for Backward Classes in Groups A and B would be filled on priority by launching a special recruitment drive.

In addition, the annual income limit for the creamy layer would be raised from Rs 6 lakh to Rs 8 lakh. It would provide a significant benefit in employment to the people belonging to the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category.

He announced this while presiding over an event of the OBC Morcha Sarv Samaj Samrasta in Gurugram on Monday.

He said following the consideration of the Haryana State Backward Classes Commission, the increased limit of annual income would be implemented in state government jobs. Besides, similar to the Central Government, the



Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini being welcomed at an event in Gurugram on Sunday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

income derived from salary and agriculture sources would not be included in this limit, he said.

To ensure that the OBC youth receive employment opportunities smoothly, the CM announced that the 27 per cent reservation would also be implemented in the

recruitments done through Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam in the state.

CM Saini said it was a matter of pride that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was fully vigilant about protecting the interests of the OBC community. He said the OBC community was not being deprived of

their rights, and both the Central and state governments were continuously implementing various schemes to give full respect and recognition to the OBCs.

He further said over the past 10 years, the government had fulfilled its responsibility to benefit the OBC community

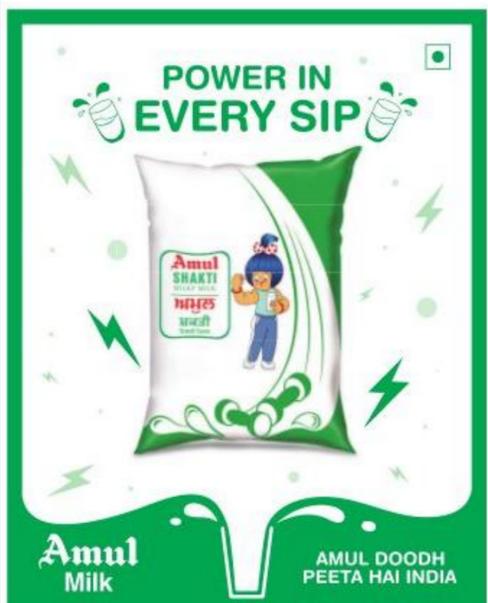
at every level in the state. PM Modi's vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas' had empowered people by connecting even the last person in society through various schemes, he said.

He said the Central Government had taken significant

steps for the overall development of the country's backward areas by declaring them aspirational districts. Nuh district was included in the Central Government's aspirational plan, wherein development schemes were being continuously provided to improve the socio-economic status of the society, he added.

The CM said the Haryana Government was providing scholarships for the education ranging from Rs 12,000 to Rs 20,000 to provide quality education to children belonging to the OBC. The government was also focusing on the skill development of the OBC community. Besides, PM Modi had also allocated a budget of Rs 13,000 crore under the Bhagwan Vishwakarma Scheme to provide training in 18 trades, which will also benefit the people of state, he said.

During the training, financial assistance of Rs 500 per day was being provided to the OBC trainees, and upon the completion of the course, a kit worth Rs 15,000 was also being given to help them begin their work, he added.



Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini presents a mace to Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in Rohtak on Sunday.

BJP sounds poll bugle; to focus on farmers, Dalits

SUNIT DHAWAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, JUNE 23

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) sounded the poll bugle for the upcoming elections to the state Assembly by exhorting party cadres to pull up their socks to secure a third consecutive term.

At a meeting of the local units' office-bearers held at the state BJP headquarters in Rohtak on Sunday, the party leadership shared a strategy to focus on the support of the farming community (primarily Jats) and Dalits, especially in the Assembly constituencies of the rural belt.

The BJP workers were told to popularise the steps taken by the BJP government for the welfare of the farmers and Dalits. As per party sources, feedback was also taken from the workers and office-bearers for the appointment of the state BJP president, and the name of former Haryana Finance Minister Capt Abhimanyu was touted for the post.

Earlier, at a ceremony organised to felicitate the party's elected MPs, the BJP leaders accused the Congress of indulging in nepotism, corruption and atrocities on the Dalits and farmers during its tenure.

"We have only 100 days left to prepare for the Assembly election. We have to leave this place with a firm resolve that we will not stop until the BJP government is formed for the third time in Haryana," said Union Education Minister and Haryana election in-charge Dharmendra Pradhan.

Thermendra Pradhan said the people of the state have not forgotten the atrocities on farmers, Dalits and other deprived sections of society

during the rule of Congress.

Launching a scathing attack on the Congress targeting former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda and his son and Rohtak MP Deepender Singh Hooda, Haryana election co-in-charge and former Chief Minister of Tripura Biplab Kumar Deb remarked that the people of Haryana had decided that no "baap-beta sarkaar", but a government of the sons of farmers and poor people would be formed in the state.

Former Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said in his address that the Congress had misled the people in the Lok Sabha elections and would adopt such tricks in the Assembly elections as well. "They can also come up with some new falsehood, but you have to be careful," he stated.

Chief Minister Nayab Saini said the country is moving ahead under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Haryana would also move strongly with him.

"The Congress has built its foundation with the help of lies, and it will collapse in the elections to the state Assembly and the BJP will come to power for the third time. Every BJP worker should expose the falsehood of the Congress before the people," said Saini.

Union Minister Krishan Pal Gurjar, BJP national secretary and former state president Om Prakash Dhankar, Member of Parliamentary Board Dr Sudha Yadav, Rajya Sabha MP Surendra Nagar, MP Dharambir Singh, MP Naveen Jindal, former Haryana Finance Minister Captain Abhimanyu, former Health Minister Anil Vij, senior BJP leader Ram Bilas Sharma, and former minister and new entrant to the party fold Kiran Choudhry were also present.



Tribute to the Great Warrior Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Ji on his Martyrdom Day

June 24, 2024

"बंदा सिंह बहादुर एक महान योद्धा थे। उनका जीवन हम सभी के लिए प्रेरणा है। मैं बाबा बंदा सिंह बहादुर को उनकी बहादुरी और बलिदान के लिए नमन करता हूँ।"

- नरेन्द्र मोदी



The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Delhi-Dhaka rapport

Neighbours boost ties under Chinese, US gaze

IN her second trip to India within a fortnight, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina held wide-ranging talks with PM Narendra Modi, underlining the commitment of both nations to bolster their ties. This was the first bilateral state visit by a foreign leader after the formation of the new BJP-led NDA government. The agreements signed by New Delhi and Dhaka covered a lot of ground — maritime cooperation and blue economy, railway connectivity, space sector, digital partnership, healthcare and defence production.

Describing India as Bangladesh's major neighbour and a trusted friend, she recalled the contribution of the government and the people of India to her country's liberation in 1971. Beyond the historical legacy, Modi and Hasina have developed a good rapport over the past decade. This has helped bilateral relations go from strength to strength. In November last year, when Hasina was under pressure not only from the Bangladeshi Opposition but also the US ahead of the national elections, PM Modi joined her in virtually inaugurating three infrastructure projects. This had given a major fillip to Hasina's poll campaign.

A key takeaway from last week's interaction was India's decision to send a technical team to Bangladesh for a mega project to conserve the Teesta river. China, which spares no effort in wooing or coercing India's neighbours, has been eyeing the estimated \$1-billion project amid New Delhi's reservations. Hasina's bonhomie with India will be put to the test next month, when she is expected to travel to China. India, meanwhile, is in no mood to walk a tightrope. In a fresh assertion of its independent foreign policy, New Delhi is engaging closely with Dhaka even though the US has been critical of the Hasina-led Awami League government over alleged human rights violations and electoral irregularities.

Exam mess

It's time to remove systemic flaws

LATE in the day, but the Centre has finally cracked the whip. The National Testing Agency (NTA) chief has been shown the door, the Central Bureau of Investigation has been tasked with the probe into the alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG examination and a committee constituted to suggest an overhaul of the examination system. The last-minute cancellation of the NEET-UG examination, though, underscores an unchanged component of the entire process — insensitivity. What could have been announced a day or two in advance was done just hours before the candidates were supposed to take the test. The inconvenience, hassle and mental trauma such decisions result in were hardly factored in. Earlier, the CSIR-UGC-NET examination was postponed and the UGC-NET cancelled a day after it was conducted. A relook at the testing procedures and a fresh start have been the need of the hour for some time, and this aspect is finally being addressed. Comprehensive recommendations that leave no scope for error and suggest absolute integrity must be on the agenda.

The decisions come on the eve of the commencement of the Parliament session. A resurgent Opposition is expected to take up the issue strongly. The Centre would do itself and the entire student community a favour by being transparent about the NTA mess. The issue has transcended political one-upmanship. Fixing inadequacies and regaining trust in the institutions is of paramount importance.

A larger question demands an informed debate: When a staggering 24 lakh students compete for a mere one lakh medical seats, what's apparent is the lack of opportunity and a failure to match aspirations. The issues of education and unemployment are the core challenges that confront the nation. Walkouts, sloganeering or sidestepping these matters won't help. Politicians across party lines must sit together, talk and work toward finding solutions. Everyone is affected.

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

LAHORE, TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 1924

Mahatma's ultimatum

IN a signed article under the heading 'The acid test' in the latest issue of *Young India*, Mahatma Gandhi gives an explanation of his position with regard to the several resolutions that he proposes to move at the forthcoming meeting of the All-India Congress Committee, which virtually amounts to an ultimatum to the Congress generally and to those who differ from him in particular. "If I am to become an efficient General," writes Mahatma, "I must have soldiers who would obey, who have faith in themselves and in their General and who will carry out instructions. My plan of action is always open and very definite. Certain well-defined conditions being fulfilled, it guarantees success. But what is a poor General to do when he finds soldiers who subscribe to his conditions and yet do not carry them out, maybe, do not even believe in them? The resolutions are designed to test the qualifications of the soldiers." The same idea is put in another and a still clearer form. "The soldiers," writes Mahatma, "are in the happy position of being electors of their own General. The would-be General must know the conditions of employment. I remain where I stood in 1920. Only my faith has increased with the years that have gone by. I have no faith in any other plan. I am, therefore, not available on any other terms, not because I am unwilling but because I am unfit. All the four resolutions, then, constitute my application for employment as the General and lay down my qualifications and limitations."

No light at the end of the N-tunnel

ICAN and SIPRI reports paint a grim picture on the global nuclear front



CUDAY BHASKAR
DIRECTOR, SOCIETY FOR
POLICY STUDIES

THE apocalyptic nuclear weapons and a parlous global security framework were in focus this month, with two major reports being released on the same day (June 17) — one by the ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) and the second by SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute). Their findings are both distressing and bleak.

The ICAN report reveals that the nine nuclear-weapon-capable nations (the US, UK, Russia, China, France, India, Israel, Pakistan and North Korea) collectively spent \$91 billion last year in modernising and increasing their respective arsenals. Assuaging a deep-seated strategic insecurity syndrome apropos of the adversarial 'other' is the common thread for all nine nations.

Predictably, the top three spenders are the US with \$51.5 billion, which is more than half of the global nuclear weapon-related spending in 2023, followed by China (\$11.8 billion) and Russia (\$8.3 billion). ICAN Director Melissa Parke noted that the nuclear powers collectively spent \$2,898 per second last year on these weapons and that these funds exceed what the World Food Programme estimates as necessary to end world hunger. She added that "a million trees could be planted for each minute of spending on nuclear weapons".

The reference to the number of trees that could be planted is particularly relevant in the context of the irreversible global warming and climate change exigency that



OMINOUS: China is in the middle of a significant modernisation and expansion of its nuclear arsenal. REUTERS

the world responds to in an effete and indifferent manner. India, which is reeling under a scorching summer and a dangerously low people-tree ratio, is among the most affected among large nations (in terms of total area and demography). This geo-physical trend may soon prove to be the most serious threat to human security globally. The recent heat-wave-related deaths during the Hajj pilgrimage are illustrative.

The SIPRI Yearbook 2024 is a comprehensive volume that provides an overview of developments in international security, weapons and technology, military expenditure, arms production and the arms trade as well as armed conflicts and conflict management, along with efforts to control conventional, nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. The nuclear chapter of almost 100 pages is a valuable summary of recent developments and trends in the nuclear domain over the last year. Authors Hans Kristensen and Matt Korda are to be commended for their due diligence in furrowing a tenaciously opaque domain, where facts, information, disinformation and political rhetoric abound.

The key findings of the SIPRI

A significant increase in the deployment of Chinese nukes would have significant implications for South Asian strategic stability.

nuclear survey are that the number and types of nuclear weapons in development have increased, as all nine nations deepen their reliance on nuclear deterrence to safeguard what they perceive as their core national interest. The most recent example is that of the Russia-Ukraine war, where Moscow has rattled its nuclear sabre to warn the US-led NATO about redlines, and in response, both NATO and the US have stated that they will enhance their nuclear readiness across the board.

The SIPRI nuclear overview indicates that in early 2024, the nuclear nine (N9) "possessed approximately 12,121 nuclear weapons, of which 9,585 were considered to be potentially operationally available. An estimated 3,904 of these warheads were deployed with operational forces, including about 2,100 that were kept in a state of high operational alert — about 100 more than the previous year."

While the US and Russia still account for 88 per cent of the total global arsenal, an instructive statistic has been highlighted by SIPRI in relation to China, whose nuclear arsenal "has increased significantly from 410 warheads in January 2023 to 510 by January 2024, with expectations of continued growth". It adds that China is in the middle of a significant modernisation and expansion of its nuclear arsenal over the next decade and "some projections suggest that China could potentially deploy at least as many intercontinental ballistic missiles as either Russia or the US in that period".

While China may be pitting itself against the US, a visible increase in the deployment of Chinese nukes (from the current

24) would have significant implications for South Asian strategic stability that would be of grave import to New Delhi.

During the Cold War, the nuclear missile contest was played out between the US and its allies (UK and France) and the then USSR from 1945 to 1991. After the 'scare' of the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, both sides warily moved towards a degree of credible, robust nuclear deterrence that was predicated on arms control agreements and MAD (mutually assured destruction). This geopolitical, steady-state plateau had an ironic anomaly, wherein a deep techno-strategic insecurity was assuaged by accepting MAD — and the acronym captures the apocalyptic sardonicism.

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the world has been getting divided into two competing nuclear weapon clusters: the US-led military alliance (with the UK and France) versus the Russia-China dyad having North Korea as a junior partner. The other three members of N9 — India, Pakistan and Israel — have not formally joined either cluster, though their geopolitical orientation is self-evident.

The bleakness referred to at the outset stems from the fact that since 2022, the world has drifted from reasonably robust deterrence to one of fragile fecklessness. The earlier strategic communication among the major powers and well-entrenched arms control and restraint agreements have steadily frayed.

The US is going through an intense domestic socio-political churn with the possibility of a second Trump presidency. Russia remains determined to prosecute its war in Ukraine, come what may, while Chinese belligerence over its territorial claims continues to be brittle.

This is a bleak augury. The ICAN and SIPRI reports illuminate this arid landscape in an objective manner but underscore the grim reality that there is no light at the end of this tunnel.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The nuclear option is ultimately an example of the arrogance of power. —Joe Biden

The suspension that never happened

SATISH KUMAR SHARMA

PERHAPS no other government department can match the police in fixing accountability of its staff. Suspension from service is, therefore, a common occurrence here. Even senior officers are not immune from it.

JD Nagarwala, an IP (Imperial Police) officer who was part of the team that investigated the Mahatma Gandhi assassination case, became the Inspector General of Police (state police chief in those days) in Gujarat in the 1960s. He was also the president of the Indian Hockey Federation; he got a stadium built for the police in Ahmedabad, using police resources and manpower. The government suspended him for 'misusing government resources'. Now, while Nagarwala is long dead, the stadium not only hosts police events but is also used by schools, colleges and other organisations for sports and cultural activities — some misuse!

When I joined the IPS and became Superintendent of Police, I realised that the force I was heading had got used to harsh handling. Soft methods to discipline them did not work, in the short term, at least. I suspended subordinate officers whenever the situation required and had no qualms about it. But one incident taught me a lesson, after which I used this power very sparingly.

I was serving as Additional Commissioner of Police in Ahmedabad city when a murder took place in an area under my jurisdiction. A petty criminal had been stabbed to death in a drunken brawl among friends who had gathered in the evening in a corner of a school ground close to the police chowki.

Drinking in a group at a public place in a state with prohibition was in itself a serious matter, but what upset me more was the local people's complaint that criminals gathered there every evening for drinking and gambling and cops did nothing about it. On asking the officers, I did not get a satisfactory reply. So, I asked the Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) to fix the responsibility of the sub-inspector (SI) in charge of the chowki and send a report to me quickly so that I could take action.

The next day, the ACP brought his report to me. He was accompanied by the SHO of the police station concerned. I went through the report. It held the chowki SI prima facie responsible for negligence. I decided to place him under suspension. But the ACP said: 'Sir, please do not suspend him. Give him another chance. We will take steps to improve policing in the area and show you results.' I relented. I kept the report pending for further action.

Two days later, I received the ACP's call in the morning. He informed me that the chowki SI had died of a brain haemorrhage the previous night. He added: 'He was suffering from high blood pressure and had not taken leave despite the doctor's advice to take rest. Nor had he shared this information with any colleague.' I was too stunned by the news to thank the ACP for sparing me a major embarrassment and self-indignation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

India's balancing act

Apropos of 'Why Delhi is shaken and stirred' (*The Great Game*), the article has underlined the intricate geopolitical balance India is trying to strike following the recent Lok Sabha elections. Critical discussions with the US emphasise the importance of technology transfer and defence cooperation. However, lingering historical tensions and the controversy surrounding the alleged plot to kill a pro-Khalistan activist highlight the complexities of these alliances. India's engagement with Russia and other BRICS members underscores its multi-alignment strategy. Besides, resolving border disputes with China remains a formidable challenge. As India asserts its role as a stabilising power, it must adroitly steer these multifaceted relationships to maintain its global standing while addressing domestic political challenges effectively.

AMARJEET MANN, UNA

Shifting dynamics of global power

Delhi is shaken and stirred not just by the recent election results but also by the shifting dynamics of global power. PM Narendra Modi's political clout faces a serious test, and the Parliament session beginning today will reveal much about India's political trajectory. Amid all this, India's role as a stabilising force is under scrutiny. With Chinese troops at the LAC and tensions high, Modi's reluctance to engage in pleasantries is understandable. The meetings between NSA Ajit Doval and his US counterpart highlight the critical need for strategic alliances, especially in technology transfer. Yet, controversies like the alleged plot against Sikh separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun cast a shadow over bilateral ties. As India navigates its relationships with the US, Russia and China, every move is critical. Delhi must balance hard power and diplomatic finesse to maintain its position on the global stage.

GURDEV SINGH, MOHALI

Welcome move to replace NTA chief

Apropos of the news report 'NTA chief shunted out, CBI to probe NEET irregularities', the Centre has rightly removed National Testing Agency (NTA) Director General Subodh Kumar Singh and entrusted the probe into alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG to the CBI. The appointment of former Union Sec-

retary Pradeep Singh Kharola as the NTA chief is welcome. Laxity in the conduct of the NEET-UG examination has caused much embarrassment to the Central Government and left lakhs of aspirants in limbo.

UPENDRA SHARMA, BY MAIL

Credibility of tests at stake

With reference to the story 'NTA chief shunted out, CBI to probe NEET irregularities', these entrance exams are make-or-break events for lakhs of aspirants. Upholding the integrity of the exam and the credibility of the testing agency are the key to maintaining public confidence in the system. The use of AI-based proctoring or monitoring methods can help ensure fairness in competitive exams. Meting out stringent punishment to the miscreants who resorted to the use of unfair means in the tests can help set a strong precedent.

LALIT BHARADWAJ, PANCHKULA

Another hooch tragedy

The hooch tragedy in Tamil Nadu's Kallakurichi district has claimed around 50 lives and left more than 100 others hospitalised. The incident once again throws the spotlight on the sale of illicit liquor, which continues unabated. The bootleggers often lace the illicit liquor with poisonous methanol or some other lethal substance. The case points to a flourishing illegal alcohol trade that probably also involves politicians and law enforcement officials. The recurrence of such tragedies necessitates urgent measures to dismantle the networks of operatives. Ensuring public safety and bringing the culprits to justice are the need of the hour.

VJAYKUMAR HK, RAICHUR

Expenditure tax the way forward

Apropos of 'GST council meets, tweaks tax rates', the public would remain indebted to the panel for exempting services provided by the Railways to the public, such as the sale of platform tickets, the facility of retiring rooms/waiting rooms and battery-operated car services, from the GST. Almost all items of daily use are subject to the GST. Since the masses are currently paying both direct and indirect taxes, like excise duty and VAT, bringing in an expenditure tax would be a step in the right direction.

SK GUPTA, NEW DELHI

Swiss-led peace talks a flop as Russia left out



VAPPALA BALACHANDRAN
FORMER SPECIAL SECRETARY,
CABINET SECRETARIAT

DID the Swiss-mediated Burgenstock peace conference collapse because the organisers did not study how delicate peace negotiations are conducted? Did the conference fail because Russia was not invited?

In the past, the 1993 Oslo Accords temporarily halted Israel-Palestinian wars. Similarly, the 1998 Good Friday Agreement brought peace between Britain and the Irish Republican Army.

The Oslo process was started in 1992-93 by Terje Larsen, a Norwegian sociologist, and Yossi Beilin, a member of Israel's Labour Party government that had come to power in 1992. This had the backing of Israeli leaders and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasser Arafat.

Since the Israeli law banned contacts with the PLO, Larsen and Beilin set up a secret backchannel between two Israeli professors and three PLO leaders, including Ahmed Qurei. Their first meeting was held during January 1993 at the residence of then Norwegian Defence Minister Johan Jorgen Holst.

The US Department of State archive says "strict secrecy allowed the negotiators to discuss scenarios and potential concessions without incurring domestic political costs."

In May 1993, Israel decided to elevate the talks to the official level and sent then Director General of Foreign Ministry Uri Savir. In August that year, the Israeli and Palestinian chief negotiators initialled the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements (DOP) in Oslo. The formal signing ceremony was held at the White House in September, when Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO chairman Arafat 'shook hands'.

Although permanent peace remained elusive, the Oslo Accords were an important milestone in West Asian peace, like the 1978 Camp David Accords, brokered by US President Jimmy Carter, between Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, bringing peace between Egypt and Israel. Together with the DOP, the agreement also included 'Letters of Mutual Recognition', through which the PLO recognised the existence of Israel for the first time.

Israel also recognised the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Besides, Israel committed itself to withdrawing from parts of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and acknowledged the Palestinian right to self-rule in those territories under a Palestinian Authority.



FAILURE: The Swiss-mediated Burgenstock peace conference became a routine meeting to show solidarity with Ukraine, with 80 countries signing the resolution. REUTERS

Similarly, Senator George Mitchell, who was designated as a 'Special Envoy' by then US President Bill Clinton, had to toil between September 1996 and April 1998 to bring in peace in Northern Ireland, ending 30 years of violence. He had to overcome hostility from the 'unionists', who wanted Northern Ireland to remain with Britain, as they felt that President Clinton had imposed mediation efforts to their detriment.

It is said that they also opposed secret talks in a foreign place away from Belfast, as they wanted to avoid the possibility of being politically ambushed away from their home base. Mitchell's tactic was his infinite patience to listen to the opposing parties whose hostility to each other

A third-party mediator is always preferred since opposing parties would not like to sit across the table.

was so intense that there "was very little inclination to listen to the other side, let alone compromise with them," as he told an interviewer later.

The cardinal principle in all such negotiations is the secrecy of proposals put across by contending sides so that no embarrassment is caused to either of them by sending wrong signals to their constituents. The organisers should have studied an old CIA document (1992), 'Analytic Support for Peace Talks', released by its think tank, Centre for the Study of Intelligence, as a guide to sensitive peace negotiations.

True, Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis was quoted as saying by the media at the UN that several secret plans were being considered to

bring peace in Ukraine. He was also quoted by TASS in January telling the Davos conference that Russia should be invited. Why then was Moscow not invited? As a result, the conference became a routine meeting of support to Ukraine, with 80 countries signing the resolution. However, India, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Thailand, Indonesia, Mexico and the UAE chose not to sign, besides Brazil, which attended as an 'observer'.

It is not that Switzerland is not experienced in backchannel diplomacy. It looked after American interests shortly after the Islamic Revolution in 1979. *Gulf News* said in 2020 that the US and Iran had exchanged several messages through Berne after the US killing of Gen Qasem Soleimani in January 2020. It came hours after the American drone strike. Iran responded by condemning the attack through the Swiss. Similarly, America used Switzerland to talk to Cuba when they did not have diplomatic relations.

However, would this, by itself, qualify Berne to be an interlocutor unless it wins the confidence of both sides? History has many other instances of backchannel negotiations (BCNs) succeeding or at least reducing tensions. An Oxford University compendium quotes several instances, beginning with President Richard Nixon's secret approaches to the Soviet Union and Vietnam in the 1970s, Nelson Mandela's contacts with South African lead-

ers during the 1980s/1990s for ending apartheid and the 2016 Colombian agreement with the insurgent group FARC.

This compendium, like the CIA handbook, gives different stages in BCNs to be effective. The first stage is called 'pre-negotiations', which explores the desire of both parties to talk. They need to have trust in the negotiator country as it shares highly confidential information.

A third-party mediator is always preferred since opposing parties would not like to sit across the table. "These discrete communications ultimately allow parties to move away from unilateral, conflict-based approaches to a political problem and engage in a mutual exploration of their options before the start of formal peace talks," according to the compendium. None can do this type of negotiation with nearly 100 delegations participating, as we saw at Burgenstock.

The CIA document lists the initial difficulties of bringing the opposing parties to the face-to-face talks: "The opening session can take on the air of a battlefield without lethal weapons." It mentions several other problems, like both parties exaggerating their own strength for "vying for advantage". Another difficulty that it mentions is the efforts of "extremists on both sides who are determined to undermine the agreement". To sum up, BCNs are not as easy as arranging an international conference.

Views are personal

The exam system needs urgent course correction



BRAJESH KUMAR TIWARI
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, ATAL
SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT, JNU

THE Ministry of Education has cancelled the 2024 UGC-NET (University Grants Commission-National Eligibility Test) in view of a paper leak. The case is now under the purview of the CBI, which will conduct further investigation. The ministry has also handed over the case of alleged irregularities in the conduct of the 2024 NEET-UG (National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate) to the CBI. The NEET medical entrance exam is also under the scrutiny of the Supreme Court. In this year's NEET (UG), a record-breaking 23 lakh candidates had got themselves registered.

Meanwhile, Subodh Kumar Singh has been removed from the post of Director General of the National Testing Agency (NTA) amid the controversy over the NEET-UG and UGC-NET exams. In another significant development, the government has post-

poned the NEET-PG.

These cases of question paper leak are not isolated, but rather part of a long history of incidents. The IIT-JEE of 1997 and the All India Pre Medical Test of 2011 witnessed this menace. The phenomenon is seen in many states, regardless of which political party is in power. There is a high incidence of paper leak in India. As a result, numerous examinations have to be cancelled. According to media reports, over the past seven years, more than 70 examination papers have been illicitly disclosed in various states, resulting in adverse consequences for the professional prospects of over 1.7 crore individuals. Instances of leaked exam papers and answer keys are frequently shared on social media platforms such as WhatsApp, X (formerly Twitter) and Facebook.

The NTA need not be scrapped; only the examination system needs to be revamped. Each year, over 10 lakh candidates participate in the Civil Services examinations, yet the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) manages to conduct a secure examination. However, when it comes to online exams, there is a potential risk of leak due to the use of technology. The



BUST: Every exam that is scrapped wastes the money of students as well as taxpayers. ANI

likelihood of the threat intensifying is certain to rise amid the use of artificial intelligence (AI). Given these circumstances, AI is poised to become a significant menace. If the website of the Home Ministry can be compromised, it is reasonable to question why these exams cannot be similarly vulnerable to hacking. Every exam that is scrapped not only wastes the time and money of millions of students, but also consumes taxpayers' money. The NTA is exceeding its brief by repeatedly employing a trial-and-error approach in conducting these examinations. The agency was estab-

The practice of appointing members to recruitment commissions based on political connections must be ended.

lished in 2017. However, even after seven years, the scourge of paper leak persists. The NTA must take lessons from the UPSC.

The practice of appointing members to recruitment commissions based on political connections must be ended. Additionally, the examination commission should possess its own printing press or alternatively, the digital copy should be directly transmitted through a code lock system — 15 minutes prior to the examination — to the designated examination centre. The document ought to be printed and distributed among the candi-

dates. By employing this approach, the cost of question papers will undoubtedly be slightly higher compared to press printing, but they will be secure and impervious to leaks. It is imperative that the punishment for the paper mafia is administered promptly within a specified time-frame in a fast-track court, ideally within a month of the arrests. If any coaching institute is found to be involved, appropriate action should be taken against the individuals responsible and the institute should be shut down. The participation of external agencies facilitates unethical practices. From the initial creation of paper sets to their delivery to the examination centre, a large number of individuals are involved in the process. As a result, each person has a clearly defined responsibility within the hierarchy. Question papers undergo multiple stages involving drafting, printing and transportation before reaching the examination centres. It is imperative to prohibit the use of mobile phones by all persons involved. The majority of the examination centres are privately owned institutions, and a significant number of them do not meet the required stan-

dards. Examinations ought to be exclusively administered at government-approved facilities, with papers subject to constant surveillance and monitoring via CCTV cameras.

The leak of question papers for public examinations has a significant impact on public trust, besides causing a substantial financial burden on the state exchequer. The Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, also known as the anti-paper leak law, has come into effect. But the notification of the Central Government regarding the Act contains a lacunae that require an urgent resolution. The new legislation mandates a minimum prison sentence of three years; it should be increased to a minimum of 10 years. The severity of the punishment should align with the seriousness of the offence. There is no provision for conducting investigations within a specified time-frame. In addition to imposing an additional prison sentence for failure to pay a fine for an offence under the Act, the provision for confiscation of the offender's property should also be included. The candidate who engages in exploiting unfair methods should be disqualified from appearing in any subsequent examination.

Views are personal

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Of noble birth (4-7)
- Treated badly (3-4)
- Trainer (5)
- Pleasurable thrill (4)
- Autocratic (8)
- Transcend (6)
- Drawing instrument (6)
- Wide view of landscape (8)
- A slight quarrel (4)
- Loop with running knot (5)
- To attribute (7)
- Golf course caretaker (11)

DOWN

- A flowering shrub (5)
- Otherwise (4)
- Accounts book (6)
- Inhabited (8)
- Springy (7)
- Extremely pleased (7,4)
- A type of confectioner (11)
- Regain possession of (8)
- Frankness (7)
- Go on board (6)
- Self-possession (5)
- Highest point (4)

Saturday's solution

Across: 1 Ratify, 4 Scornful, 9 Corral, 10 Esoteric, 12 Lead, 13 Catty, 14 Cool, 17 Shot in the arm, 20 Spick-and-span, 23 Pity, 24 Putty, 25 Snub, 28 Intrigue, 29 Put out, 30 Gosamer, 31 Hybrid.

Down: 1 Reckless, 2 Tarragon, 3 Fray, 5 Cost the earth, 6 Rate, 7 Furrow, 8 Locale, 11 Haute couture, 15 Nippy, 16 Crude, 18 Open door, 19 Unabated, 21 Spying, 22 Status, 26 Lima, 27 Pury.

SU DO KU

SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

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

CALENDAR

JUNE 24, 2024, MONDAY

- Shaka Samvat 1946
- Aashadh Shaka 3
- Aashadh Parvishite 11
- Hijari 1445
- Krishna Paksha Tithi 3, up to 1.24 am
- Indra Yoga up to 11.51 am
- Ultrashadha Nakshatra up to 3.54 pm
- Moon in Capricorn sign

FORECAST

CITY	MAX	MIN
Chandigarh	39	29
New Delhi	40	30
Amritsar	40	29
Bathinda	39	27
Jalandhar	39	29
Ludhiana	41	29
Bhiwani	43	31
Hisar	41	28
Sirsa	41	31
Dharamsala	33	21
Manali	27	16
Shimla	27	18
Srinagar	24	17
Jammu	39	27
Kargil	27	13
Leh	24	10
Dehradun	34	24
Mussoorie	25	18

TEMPERATURE IN °C

CLASSIFIEDS

SITUATION VACANT

King Edward Public School, Chandigarh Road, Tutumazara, Hoshiarpur Affiliated to CBSE requires experienced: PGT- English, Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Salary (15000-30000) TGT- Mathematics, English, Computer, Hindi 15000-20000 PRT, NTT (8000-12000) Athletics, Basketball Coach part time (7000-10000). Fluency in English must. Free lodging boarding. Post your resume or send an Email: kpsresume@gmail.com, must mention post applied for. Contact No. 98141-26954. Principal (CL24025932)

A.N.M. International School, Tahlial, Una (H.P.) Aff. to CBSE upto +2, Aft. No: 630222. Invite appreciations for following posts: Physical and Health Education:- M.P.Ed (Preference will be given to candidate with game Basketball & Athletics), PGT Commerce- M.Com. B.Ed., TET qualified, Music and Dance Teacher, Judo Karate Instructor. Salary no bar to deserving candidate. Email your resume at: anninternational@gmail.com or submit in office before 27 June, 2024. For detail Contact: 98051-03349. Principal. (CL24027817)

PROPERTY FOR SALE

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Showroom 17/ 34/ 35 two bays, low auction, attractive returns, Chandigarh. Jett Associates- 96468-09090. (CL24025952)

2 Kanal corner, 6-4 kanal old free hold residential properties Chandigarh. Jett Associates 96468-09090. (CL24025953)

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3 BHK Flat, Sandwoods Opulencia Apartments, Modern Facilities, Club, Sector 110. 7009955794 (CL24027815)

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Available for Lease 1674 sq.ft. first floor in Jagraon at Basant Market near Bus stand for MNC, Bank, Insurance, Exhibition etc. Contact 70094-98560. (CL24027056)

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Gurjeet Kaur (Old Name), Wife of Inderjit Singh, Residing at House No. 105, Lawrence Road, Amritsar 143001, Punjab, shall henceforth be known as Gurjeet Kaur (New Name), vide an affidavit sworn before The Notary Public at Amritsar on 19.06.2024 have changed my name from Gurjeet Kaur to Gurjit Kaur. (CL24027016)

COURT NOTICES

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of Sh. Hem Amrit Mahi Addl. Civil Judge (Sr. Division), Jalalabad Satinder Singh Vs. Sandeep Kumar Goyal CNR No. PBFZB0-000751-2019 Next Date: 24.07.2024 Publication issued to: Ramneet Sodhi

Father: Kulvinder Singh Street No. 1, Aggarwal Colony, Jalalabad, Tehsil Jalalabad, Distt. Fazilka.

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 24.07.2024 at 10.00 a.m.

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

Dated, this day of 05.06.2024.

Sd/- Addl. Civil Judge (Senior Division), Jalalabad

CL24027505

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of Gurmehab Singh Civil Judge (Jr. Division), Phillaur. Canara Bank a body corporate constituted under the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act 1970 carrying on the business of Banking having its Head Office at Canara Bank Building, 112, J.C. Road, Bangalore having among other branches at Nagar, Tehsil Phillaur, District Jalandhar through its Manager Mr. Surinder Pal age 56 years.

Vs. Rakshvir Kaur W/o Kashmiria Singh R/o Village Kadiana, Tehsil Phillaur, District Jalandhar.

CS/465/2020 CNR No. PBJLB0-000304-2020 Next Date: 23.07.2024

The plaintiff prays for recovery of amount of Rs. 969102 Publication issued to:

1. Rakshvir Kaur W/o Kashmiria Singh R/o Village Kadiana, Tehsil Phillaur, District Jalandhar, 2. Harneek Singh S/o Jagat Singh R/o Village Kadiana, Tehsil Phillaur, District Jalandhar.

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 23.07.2024 at 10.00 a.m.

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

Dated, this day of 03.05.2024. Sd/- Civil Judge (Junior Division), Phillaur.

CL24027526

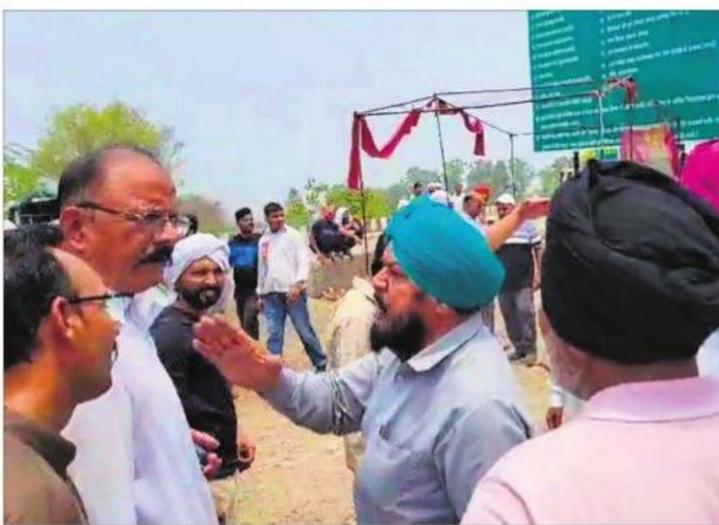
Shambhu locals, shopkeepers protest blocking of highway by farmer unions

Threaten to block roads if dhama not lifted, raise slogans against state government

AMAN SOOD
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, JUNE 23 Hundreds of residents, traders and shopkeepers from nearby villages today reached the dharna site of the farmer unions at Shambhu and protested against blocking of the national highway for the past over four months leading to financial losses and adding to the woes of commuters. On the other hand, farmer unions have said they were "BJP-sponsored agents", many of whom are "involved with the mining mafia".

Facing inconvenience, residents of villages near Shambhu had last week requested the farmer unions to vacate the national highway. Residents from nearby villages in Punjab and Haryana, along with shopkeepers from Ambala, today reached Shambhu and entered into an argument with the farmer union members and leaders after their attempts to urge farmers to lift the dharna from the site fell on deaf ears. Residents said they had to make a detour for their day-to-day works owing to the ongoing protest, consuming more time and resources. "We had welcomed them with open arms on February 12 in addition to opening our houses for them and also served them langar. But instead of understanding our problems, they are terming us BJP



Local residents and farmers argue with each other at the Shambhu border protest site on Sunday.

MANY PATIENTS DIED FOR WANT OF EMERGENCY CARE

“Many patients have lost their lives while the injured in road accidents or pregnant women have to use the long route to reach nearby hospitals. Instead of Ambala, which is just 15 minutes from our villages, we have to travel an hour to reach Rajpura or other places for health emergencies. Local residents

ATTEMPT TO DESTABILISE OUR PEACEFUL DHARNA

“It is another attempt by the Centre and the state government-sponsored people to destabilise our peaceful dharna. We are only sitting on the highway while the Haryana cops have raised blockades by placing boulders and wired fencing. Sarwan Singh Pandher, GENERAL SECRETARY OF PUNJAB KISAN MAZDOOR SANGHARSH COMMITTEE

workers and goondas,” said Mintoo of Rajgarh village.

“We have requested the farmers many times. Our trade is suffering and two residents from our nearby vil-

lages have died due to delay in treatment as the farmers are least concerned about the hardships faced by us,” said Bahadar Singh of Ramnagar village. “We went only to talk

to them but they termed us mining mafia or hooligans. The Punjab Government is sleeping and not acting against these unions, which have completely blocked

entry and exit through the highway,” he said.

The residents appealed to the farmer unions to immediately clear the highway at Shambhu as the unmetalled roads would not be motorable during the monsoon season that is likely to start in the next few days. “We will block the highway also, and if need be, would answer the farmer unions in the same language they understand if the blockade is not lifted in three days,” said villagers.

While reacting to the developments, general secretary of the Punjab Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee Sarwan Singh Pandher, who is leading the union dharna at Shambhu, termed the agitators who entered their dharna site as “BJP agents” backed by the “AAP government and the mining mafia”.

The police said nearby residents had reached the dharna site to talk to farmer union members where the two factions entered into a heated argument. “We intervened to calm things down and the villagers left the spot. No case has been registered as no complaint has been received,” said Shambhu SHO Amanpal Virk. Meanwhile at Ambala, Bhartiya Kisan Union (Shahed Bhagat Singh) president Amarjeet Singh Mohri accused the BJP of sending its people to create disturbance in the agitation.

State suffers 870 MW generation loss as two thermal units trip

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

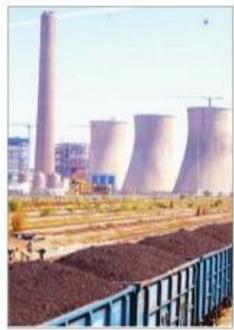
PATIALA, JUNE 23

Despite moderate rain in parts of Punjab, the power demand is heading north, given the paddy transplantation season in the state. Adding to the woes of the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL), two thermal units — one each at Talwandi Sabo thermal power plant and Ropar thermal plant — have tripped pushing the PSPCL in a tight spot.

The snags in the two units resulted in 870 MW thermal generation loss on Sunday and is likely to continue for three more days posing a serious threat of power cuts on domestic and other consumers. Officials say that while the Talwandi Sabo unit tripped due to hydrogen leakage in the generator, the Ropar unit tripped due to boiler leakage.

Meanwhile, despite Sunday being an off day, the power demand of the state was around 15,300 MW. It is drawing 9,850 MW from the northern grid and the PSPCL's own generation is around 5,400 MW, down by approximately 1000 MW and it is relying on buying more power to meet the rising demand.

“After thunderstorm and light rain on June 19, the maximum demand of 16,078 MW had come down by 4,000 MW. The power demand on the next two days was 15,343



MW and 14,756 MW, respectively,” said a senior PSPCL official. The coal stock at state thermal plants at Lehra Mohabbat, Ropar and Goindwal are for 21, 14 and 17 days, respectively.

As per the latest weather update, the hot and humid weather with an increase in day temperature (up to 45°C) is on cards for next four days resulting in rise in power demand further. Moreover, office and commercial establishments will be open on Monday, thus pushing the demand.

“Till date, the PSPCL has been managing the power demand due to the prior arrangements. However, the demand will increase for next five days due to rising temperature and paddy transplantation season,” said All India Power Engineers Federation spokesperson VK Gupta. “As it rains, the demand will ultimately decline to the respite of the PSPCL,” he added.

IMD issues two-day heatwave alert in state

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 23

The weather department has warned about heatwave conditions prevailing in parts of Punjab and Haryana on June 24 and 25, which are expected to abate thereafter. A rise in maximum temperature by 2-3°C is expected in Punjab during the next three days and no large change is likely thereafter, a bulletin issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Sunday stated.

Yesterday's highest maximum temperature recorded in Punjab was 42.9°C at Samrala, while today the lowest minimum temperature was 26.4°C at Pathankot.

The average maximum temperature in the state was above normal by 3°C while the average minimum temperature was above normal by 2.3°C, the IMD said.

58L animals vaccinated

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 23

Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries Minister Gurmeet Singh Khuddian said more than 58 lakh animals had been vaccinated against foot and mouth disease (FMD) and haemorrhagic septicaemia (HS) in the state, while directing the department officials to inoculate total livestock population of 65,47,407 (comprising 25,31,460 cows and 40,15,947 buffaloes) against the contagious diseases before June 30.

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Gurdaspur MP-elect braces up to take up old challenges

RAVI DHALIWAL
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

GURDASPUR, JUNE 23

Congress MP-elect from Gurdaspur Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa is bracing himself up to face this border constituency's numerous challenges many of which, in fact, have been hanging fire for the past several decades.

He said the problem pertaining to the ever-increasing threat of drones being pushed in by Pakistani state and non-state actors requires a highly pragmatic approach. “These contraptions carry payloads of the dreaded heroin. The fine particles of this white powder are responsible for causing devastation and destruction of local youth in a big way,” he said.

Randhawa agreed that the problem has assumed Kafkaesque proportions. “It is high time the scourge is nipped in the bud,” he said. The MP said he plans to convene a meeting of the security agencies to find a resolution once he was in the saddle.

Reviving the 160-year-old one world famous Dharwal Woollen Mills is out of question as its controlling authority — the Textiles Ministry — claims “it has outlived its utility.” The MP will have to decide what to do about the mill's prime land lying in a state of disuse.

His agenda: Fighting drug menace and setting up a medical college



He will have to talk to the industrialist lobby to see if a big-ticket project, like setting up an employment generating railway component manufacturing unit, is a practical solution. A lot of emotions are attached with the mill as it has provided livelihood to generation after generation of residents.

Bringing in a medical college-cum-hospital is also on his agenda because there is no such institution in the entire constituency. Randhawa said he knew that nearly 1,600 acres of prime panchayat land was lying vacant in Kalanaur, right on the

Gurdaspur-Dera Baba Nanak highway.

However, there is a catch. Randhawa is an Opposition MP. Hence, he will have to work extremely hard to revive old units or bring in new ones particularly those requiring intervention of the BJP-led government.

In the eventuality of a war, the Army at Tibri cantonment will be using a part of the Gurdaspur-Mukerian road to move equipment and manpower to its designated destination of Dera Baba Nanak, 35 km away. This road needs to be converted into a four-lane one.

APARNA BANERJI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JALANDHAR, JUNE 23

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, who held a series of meetings with his party workers and leaders ahead of Jalandhar (West) bypoll, today said: “The state government will run for two days in a week from Jalandhar.” The bypoll is scheduled for July 10.

The Chief Minister first met with ministers, MLAs, MPs and functionaries at a hotel in Jalandhar. Later, he held a meeting with around 400 booth workers from Jalandhar (West) at a local resort. He also visited Dera Baba Pargat Nath and another dera in Nakodar in the evening.

Mann reiterated that he would be shifting his base for two days in a week to his newly hired house in Jalandhar. He added that his family would also campaign along with him in Jalandhar (West). Speaking to party leaders at the meeting, the CM said he hadn't hired the house just for Jalandhar (West) bypoll, but to ensure better connect with the people.

Sources said: “The CM pointed out that he was doing this for the convenience of the people. Those coming from Amritsar and Gurdaspur should not travel 250 km to meet the CM.” The CM



Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann addresses party's block chiefs ahead of Jalandhar (West) byelections on Sunday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

said he would be shifting shortly. On the occasion, AAP also disbursed kits to booth in-charges, which included stickers, flags and banners. The party has also launched a poster of the campaign — “AAP di sarkar, AAP da MLA”.

AAP would soon start “Jam Samvad” programme of its candidate Mohinder Bhagat, who would visit 15 booths per day. Sources said the CM had asked his party workers, MLAs and ministers not to issue any

controversial statement on social media platforms and they should only stick to promises which were achievable.

Cabinet Ministers Harjot Singh Bains, Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, Harpal Singh Cheema, Balkar Singh, Lal Chand Kataruchak, Baljit Kaur, MP-elects Gurmeet Singh Meht, Hayer and Malvinder Singh Kang, MLA Raman Arora and Harchand Singh Barsat, among others were also present.

Hours after complaint to minister, 2 inmates of observation home land in hospital

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDKOT, JUNE 23

Hours after several inmates of Faridkot-based observation home (jail for juveniles) complained of poor living conditions to a minister during her visit, two of the complainants were admitted to Guru Gobind Singh Medical College and Hospital with “multiple injuries”.

The duo had suffered injuries after two groups of inmates “clashed” with each other, said the management of the observation home.

On Saturday evening, Dr Baljit Kaur, Minister for

Social Security, Women and Children Development, had made a sudden visit to this observation home.

During her meeting with the inmates, the juveniles alleged that they were not being provided bedsheets and proper food. “We are forced to use the blankets in place of bedsheets, which are highly uncomfortable to sleep during summer,” they had allegedly stated.

Sources in the observation home said the minister took a serious note of the complaint and directed the Superintendent to submit a report within a week regarding the mat-



Minister for Social Security Dr Baljit Kaur during her visit to the Faridkot observation home on Saturday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

ter. She also asked the official to organise a medical camp to ensure the health and safety

of the juveniles. Sources said the complaint to the minister led to a scuffle. However, the

management at the observation home claimed that the complaint had nothing to do with the fight.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, an official said, “The inmates clash with each other quite often.”

SHO Sukhdarshan Singh said, “After receiving a complaint from Raj Kumar, Superintendent, Observation Home, Faridkot, we have initiated probe into the matter.”

Though the Superintendent declined to comment about the lack of bedsheets, sources said the bedsheets were not provided to the inmates purposely as the

inmates may use them to hang themselves, which would land officials in big trouble. “Blankets can't be used for this purpose,” said the sources.

The management of the observation home said they were even against the use of ceramic floor and wall tiles.

“There is always a threat that some inmates might remove these tiles and use these as an improvised weapon,” said the sources. The state has four observation homes in Faridkot, Ludhiana, Hoshiarpur and Jalandhar. The observation home in Faridkot houses around 80 inmates.

Over 5,000 teachers to be recruited soon: Minister

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, JUNE 23
The recruitment process of more than 5,000 teachers will start next month, Education Minister Rohit Thakur said today.

Addressing a gathering at the inauguration of the newly constructed school building at Government Senior Secondary School, Nandpur built at a cost of Rs 1.62 cr, he reiterated the state government's commitment to provide quality education to the students living in the remote areas of the state and enumerated the concrete steps taken in this direction.

He said the Nandpur area was known for high quality apple production and unprecedented efforts were being made to repair the roads in the area with a view to deliver apples to the markets on time.

"All the unpaved roads of Nandpur panchayat and surrounding areas are being metalled, besides new roads are also being constructed



Education Minister Rohit Thakur at a press conference. FILE

so that more and more people have access to the main road," he said. The Education Minister also remembered former Chief Minister Late Virbhadra Singh on his birth anniversary and paid tributes to him.

He also attended the closing ceremony of the cricket tournament held in Mandhol where he was the chief guest and said he had an emotional connect with Mandhol and would not let

any shortcomings in development of the area.

While congratulations the teams, Thakur said playing any sport was an important part of life which not only gave physical strength but also strengthened a person mentally. "The youth of Himachal are making a mark in international sports like cricket, so it is very important to have such sports competitions regularly," said the minister.

Jaswan Pragpur hospital bed capacity will be upgraded to 100, says Sukhu

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DHARAMSALA, JUNE 23

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today inspected the under-construction Dadasiba Civil Hospital under Jaswan Pragpur Assembly constituency of Kangra district. He gave directions to the officers to complete the work of the project in time. The Chief Minister said that in the first phase, this hospital was being built with 50 beds and in the second phase its capacity would be increased to 100 beds.

The Dadasiba Civil Hospital falls on the border of Dehra Assembly constituency which is facing byelections. He said this was the main government health institution of Jaswan area and provided services to the people of this area, hence deficiencies in the hospital would be removed. About 50 per cent construction of the hospital had been completed and Rs 3.61 crore was required to complete the

remaining construction work, which would be provided by the state government soon.

He further said specialist doctors of gynaecology, orthopaedics, surgery and anaesthesia as well as lab technicians would be deputed here. The state government would make the hospital an ideal health institution.

The Chief Minister said the construction work of the hospital had been going on at a slow pace for the last five years and there was a need to speed it up. The state government was giving special preference to providing better facilities in all the health institutions of the state and positive steps were being taken in this direction.

He said that in the recent Cabinet meeting, it was decided to fill 200 posts of medical officers in the Health and Family Welfare Department. Apart from this, 22 posts of Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor will be



CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu inspects the construction of Dadasiba Civil Hospital. KAMALJEET

POSTS IN MEDICAL COLLEGES TO BE FILLED

- The CM said the government has decided to fill 200 posts of medical officers in the Health and Family Welfare Department.
- Eight posts of Emergency Medical Officer will be filled in Dr Rajendra Prasad Medical College, Tanda.
- 22 posts of Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor will be filled in various medical colleges of the state.
- Five posts of Assistant Professor will be filled in Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru Medical College, Chamba.

filled in various medical colleges of the state.

The Chief Minister said the state government was also making efforts to improve emergency health services.

Eight posts of Emergency Medical Officer will be filled in Dr Rajendra Prasad Medical College, Tanda. Five posts of Assistant Professor will be filled in Pandit Jawa-

har Lal Nehru Medical College, Chamba, so that people can be provided facilities by making trauma centres functional in both these medical colleges.

Left homeless last monsoon, Dalit basti residents in Mandi fear the worst again

DIPENDER MANTA

MANDI, JUNE 23

As the monsoon approaches, residents of the Dalit basti in Hiyun ward under Taniyar gram panchayat are fearing the worst grappling with difficult living conditions after last year's monsoon left them homeless. Last year, on August 13, torrential rains triggered a landslide that rendered the basti unsafe, forcing 11 families to evacuate immediately. Exacerbated by bureaucratic delays and administrative neglect and unfulfilled promises of support from the state government, the situation remains grim.

Over the past 10 months, except for two families, all res-



The dilapidated Dalit basti at Dharampur in Mandi. JAI KUMAR

idents have been living in rented accommodations around Tihra, paying monthly rents ranging from Rs1,500 to Rs 3,000. Shockingly, the debris from last year's landslide triggered by heavy rains

still litter the area, posing a severe hazard as the monsoon rains loom once again.

Former Zila Parishad member Bhpender Singh lamented the apathy of local authorities and politicians

towards the plight of these families. "The government had announced rent, ration, and land for housing, but bureaucratic hurdles have left these promises unfulfilled," he stated. Despite assurances of action, no funds have been disbursed for rent, leaving families in financial distress.

"Efforts to relocate the basti to a safer location have not materialised, while promises made six months ago have not been kept. The onset of another monsoon season has intensified fear among residents, who feel abandoned by both the administration and their elected representatives," he asserted.

Issuing a warning to the authorities, Singh

declared a hunger strike starting June 30 if the unpaid rents of the affected families are not settled and if concrete plans for relocation and rehabilitation are not initiated. He underscored the urgent need for the administration to act responsibly and prioritise the welfare of these marginalised families.

SDM Dharampur Joginder Patiyal said, "I have referred cases of these affected families to the state government. As soon as we get funds, the amount will be disbursed among the affected families. Besides, we are in the process of providing them land at a safe place under Dharampur subdivision."

Amendments proposed to HIMCARE scheme

RAVINDER SOOD

PALAMPUR, JUNE 23

The state government has proposed certain amendments to one of its most popular schemes — HIMCARE, which provides for free health services to people, to make it more transparent, people friendly, besides plugging loopholes detected in the past one and a half years.

The government would also ensure that payments to private nursing homes under the scheme are released in time.

Information gathered by The Tribune revealed the state Health Department on the directions of Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu had recently conducted a complete audit of the scheme

LOOPHOLES DETECTED IN AUDIT

- Health Department had conducted an audit of the scheme by medical experts of the Indira Gandhi Medical College, Shimla.
- During the audit, a number of loopholes like overbilling were detected.
- State government employees, who claim medical reimbursement from the government, were also availing HIMCARE benefits.
- Free diagnoses allowed under the scheme had also led to its misuse.

through medical experts of the Indira Gandhi Medical College, Shimla. During the audit, a number of loopholes in the schemes like overbilling by some nursing homes have been detected. It has also come to light that the state government employees, who claim medical reimbursement from the government, were also availing HIMCARE benefits in violation of the rules. It was noticed that free diagnoses allowed under the scheme

had also led to its misuse. Sources said that Principal Secretary, Health, M Sudha Devi had prepared a detailed note, which would be presented before Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and a final approval would be accorded by the state Cabinet before a notification is issued.

At present, there are over 31 lakh HIMCARE card holders in the state, who have been availing the benefits of the scheme.

Negi: Forest Rights Act to be implemented in tribal districts

SHIMLA, JUNE 23

Revenue and Tribal Development Minister Jagat Singh Negi today said that the state government would implement the Forest Rights Act-2006 in tribal districts with immediate effect. Addressing a public meet-

ing in gram panchayat Nako in Kinnaur, the minister said that the Forest Rights Act would be implemented with immediate effect in the tribal districts to ensure that the deprived and neglected sections get its benefit without any

delay. "Strict action will be taken against those officers and employees who do not work within the stipulated time limit," he said.

The minister said that the gram sabha has the right to provide land under the Forest Rights Act-2006. — TNS

GRAM PANCHAYAT ASSANKALAN BLOCK PANIPAT (DISTRICT PANIPAT)

Open Auction (Tender Notice)

Intimation for general public regarding open auction for sale of 3831 cacaulyptus trees in Village Assankalan is going to be held on **25/06/2024 Day Tuesday at Main Chopal Time : 11:00 AM**. Security amount for Rs.10,00,000/- will be deposited through demand draft / cash in favour of Sarpanch Gram Panchayat Assankalan. Demand Draft / cash will has to be deposited before the auction. Remaining terms and conditions will be announced at the time of auction.

Sd/- Sarpanch Gram Panchayat Assankalan Block Panipat Distt. Panipat

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਰਕਾਰ

ਸਿਹਤ ਤੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਭਲਾਈ ਵਿਭਾਗ

ਇੰਫੋਨਲੋਟ ਨੋਟਿਸ

ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਡਰੀਦਕੋਟ ਅਧੀਨ ਆਮ ਆਦਮੀ ਕਲੀਨਿਕ ਅਧੀਨ ਮੌਜੂਦਾ ਅਫ਼ਸਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਇੰਫੋਨਲੋਟ ਲਈ ਇੱਕ ਯੋਗ ਉਮੀਦਵਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਦਫ਼ਤਰ ਸਿਵਲ ਸ਼ਹਜਨ, ਡਰੀਦਕੋਟ ਵਿਖੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਰਸਾਏ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਵਾਕ-ਇਨ-ਇੰਟਰਵਿਊ ਵਿਚ ਪਹੁੰਚਣ ਵਾਸਤੇ ਸੱਦਾ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇੰਫੋਨਲੋਟ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਵੇਰਵਾ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਹੈ:-

ਪੇਸ਼ਾ ਦਾ ਨਾਮ	ਇੰਫੋਨਲੋਟ ਵੀਜ	ਵਾਕ-ਇਨ-ਇੰਟਰਵਿਊ ਦੀ ਮਿਤੀ, ਸਮਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਸ਼ਹਜਨ
ਮਿਡੀਕਲ ਅਫ਼ਸਰ (ਐਮ.ਬੀ.ਬੀ.ਐਸ)	50- ਰੁਏ ਵੇਚੇ ਗਏ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਮਹੀਨੇ ਲਈ ਅਤੇ ਰੋਜ਼ਾਨਾ ਘੰਟੇ-ਘੰਟੇ 50 ਮਹੀਨੇ ਦੀ ਯਕੀਨੀ ਗਾਰੰਟੀ ਸਮੇਤ	ਮਿਤੀ: 03.07.2024 ਨੂੰ ਸਵੇਰ: 10.00 ਵਜੇ, ਦਫ਼ਤਰ ਸਿਵਲ ਸ਼ਹਜਨ ਡਰੀਦਕੋਟ ਵਿਖੇ

ਵਧੇਰੇ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਲਈ ਜਿਵੇਂ ਕਿ ਵਿਦਿਅਕ ਯੋਗਤਾ ਇੰਫੋਨਲੋਟ ਲਈ ਨਿਯਮ ਅਤੇ ਸ਼ਰਤਾਂ ਆਦਿ ਲਈ saridkot.nic.in 'ਤੇ ਪਧਾਰੀ ਇਸ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਵੀ ਸੋਧ-ਕੋਰੀਕੋਰਮ ਵੈੱਬਸਾਈਟ 'ਤੇ ਜਾਰੀ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ।

DPR/PB/34811 **ਸਹੀ/- ਸਿਵਲ ਸ਼ਹਜਨ, ਡਰੀਦਕੋਟ।**

SBI

The latest interest rates for 'Retail Domestic Term Deposit' Below Rupees Three Crores with effect from 15.06.2024 (All figures in % per annum)

Tenor	RATE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC	RATE FOR SENIOR CITIZEN
7 days to 45 days	3.50	4.00
46 days to 179 days	5.50	6.00
180 days to 210 days	6.25	6.75
211 days to less than 1 year	6.50	7.00
1 Year to less than 2 years	6.80	7.30
2 years to less than 3 years	7.00	7.50
3 years to less than 5 years	6.75	7.25
5 years and up to 10 years	6.50	7.50*

The specific tenor scheme of '400 days' (Amrit Kalash) at Rate of Interest of 7.10% w.e.f. 12-April-2023. Senior Citizens are eligible for rate of interest of 7.60%. The Scheme will be valid till 30.09.2024. *Including additional premium of 50 bps under 'SBI We-care' deposit scheme.

The latest interest rates for 'Domestic Term Deposit' of Rupees Three Crores and above with effect from 15.06.2024 (All figures in % per annum)

Tenor	RATE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC	RATE FOR SENIOR CITIZEN
7 days to 45 days	5.25	5.75
46 days to 179 days	6.25	6.75
180 days to 210 days	6.60	7.10
211 days to less than 1 year	6.75	7.25
1 Year to less than 2 years	7.00	7.50
2 years to less than 3 years	7.00	7.50
3 years to less than 5 years	6.50	7.00
5 years and up to 10 years	6.25	6.75

Deputy General Manager (RCWM)

GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE

E-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender (Online tenders) are invited from the manufacturers or their sole authorized distributors/sole agents for the purchase of following items:

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Equipment/ Tender ID/ Ref. No.	Quantity	Department	Earnest Money (in Rupees)	Due Date of Receipt of EMD & Bid	Due Date of Opening of Tender
1.	Chlorhexidine Hand Rub (coloured) with dispenser. Contains Chlorhexidine gluconate solution IP 2.5 percent v/v equivalent to chlorhexidine gluconate 0.5 percent w/v plus isopropyl alcohol IP 70 percent, v/v, 500 ml bottle. 2024_GMCH_80365_1 GMCH/PH-PRO/599-MED/2/2024	35000 bottles	Pharmacy	112000/-	08.07.2024	09.07.2024
2.	Inj. Antisnake venom serum 10 ml vial IV 2024_GMCH_80356_1 GMCH/PH-PRO/20-MED/2024	3600 vials	Pharmacy	46780/-	08.07.2024	09.07.2024
3.	Anti-Haemophilic Factor VIII Recombinant (monoclonal purified nanofilter) 500 IU 2024_GMCH_80358_1 GMCH/PH-PRO/528B-MED/2024	1200 vials	Pharmacy	214200/-	08.07.2024	09.07.2024
4.	Total Parental Nutrition (TPN) (Infusion)- Triple chamber bag with each bag containing amino acid solution with all essential and non-essential amino acids 1000 ml (+/- 20ml) 2024_GMCH_80754_1 GMCH/PH-PRO/2024	650 packs	Pharmacy	111610/-	08.07.2024	09.07.2024

TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Equipment/ Tender ID/ Ref. No.	Quantity	Department	Earnest Money (in Rupees)	Due Date of Receipt of EMD & Bid	Due Date of Opening of Tender
5.	Inj. Heparin 25000 IU vial IV 2024_GMCH_80370_1 GMCH/PH-PRO/111-MED/2024	5500 vials	Pharmacy	42675/-	15.07.2024	16.07.2024
6.	Inj. IVIG 5gm (100ml) 2024_GMCH_80367_1 GMCH/PH-PRO/589-MED/2024	350 vials	Pharmacy	106575/-	15.07.2024	16.07.2024
7.	Tab. Hydroxy Chloroquine 200 mg 2024_GMCH_80369_1 GMCH/PH-PRO/MED-432/2024	96000 tablets	Pharmacy	13100/-	15.07.2024	16.07.2024
8.	Tablet Deferasirox 500 mg 2024_GMCH_80368_1 GMCH/PH-PRO/MED/3-673/2024	45000 Tablets	Pharmacy	20100/-	15.07.2024	16.07.2024
9.	Inj. Vecuronium Bromide 10mg/vial (IV) 2024_GMCH_80360_1 GMCH/PH-PRO/359-MED/2024	15480 vials	Pharmacy	45260/-	15.07.2024	16.07.2024
10.	Sevoflurane 250 ml (Inhalation anaesthesia) 2024_GMCH_80357_1 GMCH/PH-PRO/206-MED/2024	1460 bottles	Pharmacy	275940/-	15.07.2024	16.07.2024
11.	Inj. Oxycotin IP 5 IU/ml, 1ml amp (SC, IM, Slow IV) 2024_GMCH_80191_1 GMCH/PH-PRO/173-MED/2024	56000 amps	Pharmacy	18200/-	16.07.2024	17.07.2024
12.	Inj. Carboplatin 450mg (IV) 2024_GMCH_80119_1 GMCH/PH-PRO/552-MED/2024	1000 vials	Pharmacy	68000/-	16.07.2024	17.07.2024
13.	Human Anti-Haemophilic factor IX (plasma derived) 1200 IU 2024_GMCH_80335_1 GMCH/PH-PRO/622-MED/2024	60 vials	Pharmacy	32054/-	16.07.2024	17.07.2024
14.	Inj. Oxaliplatin 50 mg (IV infusion) 2024_GMCH_80351_1 GMCH/PH-PRO/516-MED/2024	2500 vials	Pharmacy	28613/-	16.07.2024	17.07.2024
15.	Cap Ferrous fumarate plus Folic Acid (elemental iron 100 mg plus 1.5 mg folic acid) 2024_GMCH_80409_1 GMCH/PH-PRO/MED-88/2024	1080000 caps	Pharmacy	33300/-	16.07.2024	17.07.2024
16.	Inj. Normal Saline 3 ltr. Pack (Irrigation fluid) 2024_GMCH_80461_1 GMCH/PH-PRO/168-Med/2024	3750 bottles	Pharmacy	16360/-	16.07.2024	17.07.2024
17.	Tab. Propranolol long acting/SR 40 mg 2024_GMCH_80460_1 GMCH/PH-PRO/MED-480/2024	150000 tablets	Pharmacy	13450/-	17.07.2024	18.07.2024
18.	Lignocaine Jelly 2 percent, 30 gm tube 2024_GMCH_80466_1 GMCH/PH-PRO/MED-335/2024	25400 tubes	Pharmacy	15000/-	17.07.2024	18.07.2024
19.	Hydroxyethylstarch (130/0.4) 6 percent w/v, 500 ml 2024_GMCH_80541_1 GMCH/PH-PRO/464-Med/2024	1800 amps	Pharmacy	27000/-	17.07.2024	18.07.2024
20.	Inj. Vancomycin 1 gm IV infusion 2024_GMCH_80693_1 GMCH/PH-PRO/389-Med/2024	3165 vials	Pharmacy	14630/-	17.07.2024	18.07.2024
21.	Tab. B Complex (Thiamine 10 mg, Riboflavin 10 mg, Pyridoxine 3 mg, Niacinamide 45 mg, Calcium pantothenate 50 mg and Cyanocobalamin 15 mcg) 2024_GMCH_80692_1 GMCH/PH-PRO/Med-234/2024	785000 tablets	Pharmacy	22000/-	17.07.2024	18.07.2024
22.	Well Type Ionization Chamber along with Electrometer 2024_GMCH_80758_1 GMCH/PH-IPA-V/3/42	01 No.	Radiation Oncology	70000/-	15.07.2024	16.07.2024

Terms & Conditions:

- Tender documents for the above item can be obtained from website.
- The Competent authority reserves all rights to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason.
- Tender Document of GMCH, after duly signed & stamped, along with original brochure of the manufacturer and EMD, in the shape of FDR/DD/Bankers Cheque/bank Guarantee, (separate for each item), must be submitted in physical form, in the office of Procurement Branch, Room No. 228, Block-D, First Floor, GMCH, Sector 32, Chandigarh on or before the dates as noted against each item by 1400 hours on any working day. Tenders without submission of EMD and Tender Document in physical form shall be rejected straightway.
- The tenders must be submitted online on or before the dates as noted against each item by 1400 hours. The bid guarantee and technical bid will be opened on due date for Sr. No. 1 to 21 at 1100 hours and for Sr. No. 22 at 1500 hours. No tender shall be accepted in physical form.
- Opening of Price Bid to be intimated to all the qualified bidders separately.
- The tenderer can approach the Computer Programmer-cum-Nodal Officer, e-tendering, GMCH-32, Chandigarh on any working day, in case any query/clarification regarding e-tendering process (Ph. No. 0172-2601023-27 Extn, 2112) or (Ph. No. 0172-2740641) of IT Dept., U.T., Chandigarh.
- The information regarding these tenders are also available at the following websites:-
<http://gmch.gov.in>
<http://etenders.chd.nic.in/nicgep/app>

Medical Superintendent,
For Director Principal,
Govt. Medical College Hospital, Chandigarh.

SECTOR 32, CHANDIGARH

Pak desperate because end of terrorism near: L-G Sinha

OUR CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, JUNE 23 Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Manoj Sinha on Sunday said terrorism was breathing its last breath, which had made "our neighbour", the "exporter of terror, desperate".

"The recent terror acts are sign of our enemy's desperation. Our aim is the complete elimination of terrorism. We must hunt down terrorists and their aides who are harbouring them," the L-G said.

Sinha attended the attestation-cum-passing out parade of the 16th BRTC batch of the J&K Police at Subsidiary Training Centre (STC), Talwara, Reasi. A total of 860 new constables of border battalion completed their rigorous training today at the STC. An oath was administered to the passing out cadets for performing their duties with dedication and honesty.

Speaking on the emerging threats of drug trafficking, cybercrime, and radicalisation, the L-G emphasised the need to ensure a high level of motivation and professionalism in the police to keep a step ahead of the adversaries. Sinha congratulated the



L-G Manoj Sinha felicitates a J&K policeman at the Subsidiary Police Training Centre in Reasi on Sunday. ANI

AIM TO COMPLETELY ELIMINATE TERROR

"The recent terror acts are sign of our enemy's desperation. Our aim is the complete elimination of terrorism. We must hunt down terrorists and their aides who are harbouring them." Manoj Sinha, J&K LG

passing out cadets of the battalion for becoming an integral part of the J&K Police.

"The Subsidiary Training Centre at Reasi is an esteemed institution dedicated to training and imparting policing values and professional skills to meet the challenges of terrorism and enforcement of law and order. I am confident that

these brave personnel will discharge their duty with utmost responsibility, sensitivity and dedication and carry forward the rich legacy of J&K Police," Sinha said.

Paying tributes to brave hearts, the L-G lauded the J&K police for its valour, sacrifice and selfless service to the nation. "J&K Police have

always shown high level of professional excellence under extremely challenging circumstances. Since several decades, this elite police force is working with dedication to preserve the integrity and security of our country and kept the wheels of J&K's progress moving," he said.

Reiterating the resolve of the administration, police and security forces to root out terrorism from J&K, Sinha asked the new recruits to work as a force multiplier in neutralising terror threats.

"I have great faith in the police, Army and our security agencies. They are not only responsive to ensuring the safety and urgent needs of citizens, but also effectively tackling terrorism in cyberspace," he said. The L-G also commended the police for its civic action programmes. "We are committed to the modernisation of the police force and the welfare of the police and security personnel and their families," he added.

Speaking on the occasion, J&K DGP RR Swain extended his best wishes to the new recruits and asked them to work with honesty and dedicate themselves to the service of the people.

1 militant killed in Uri gunbattle

OUR CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR, JUNE 23

The Army on Sunday said one militant was killed in an ongoing anti-infiltration operation in the Uri sector along the Line of Control (LoC). The operation, which had commenced on Saturday, was still in progress, according to the Army.

"One terrorist has been killed in the ongoing anti-infiltration operation that was launched on June 22 in the Uri sector; operations are continuing," the Army's Srinagar-based Chinara Corps posted on X.

The anti-infiltration operation started at Gohallan in Uri, close to the LoC in the wee hours on Saturday after Army personnel noticed suspicious movement of infiltrators.

"Based on specific intelligence inputs, an anti-infiltration operation was launched in the Uri Sector Contact was established with infiltrating terrorists and operations are in progress," the Army had written on X on Saturday.

The infiltration bid was foiled at a time when Kashmir is witnessing a spurt in gun battles. On June 20, the Army and the police said two militants were killed in the Hadipora village of Radiabad. They were active for a long period of time and were also able to speak Kashmiri.

Chinese equipment for Pakistan army ending up with terrorists

SRINAGAR, JUNE 23

Encounters with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir have led to the seizure of highly encrypted Chinese telecom gear "Ultra Set", an equipment used by the Pakistan army that has ended up in the hands of terror groups, an official said.

This has also raised concerns over undetected infiltrations from across the Line of Control and terrorists potentially residing in the outskirts of cities and villages, the official added. The seizure of mobile handsets used by foreign terrorists, primarily from Pakistan and its occupied Kashmir, indicate that terror groups are receiving training, weapons and ammunition from state actors in Pakistan, said an official aware of the matter.

These specialised handsets, exclusively customised by Chinese companies for the Pakistan army, were seized after a gunfight in the intervening night of July 17-18 last year in the Sindhra top area of Surankote in Jammu's Poonch district and on April 26 this year after an encounter at the Check Mohalla Nowpora area of Sopore in Baramulla.

While four foreign terrorists were killed in the Surankote encounter, two were gunned down in Sopore. The "Ultra Set" handsets, which have



A securityman keeps vigil after an encounter in Bandipora. FILE

'STATE ACTORS ACROSS LoC TRAINING ULTRAS'

■ Beijing has been actively enhancing the defence capabilities of the Pakistan army along the LoC for quite a while now
■ The seizure of mobile handsets from terrorists indicates that terror groups are receiving training, weapons and ammunition from state actors in Pakistan, an official said

also been found in the south of the Pir Panjal region, combine cell-phone capabilities with specialised radio equipment that does not rely on traditional mobile technologies like Global System for Mobile (GSM) or Code-Division Multiple Access (CDMA).

The device operates on radio waves for message transmission and reception, with each "Ultra Set" linked to a control station located across the border, the official said and added that the two "Ultra Sets" cannot reach out to each other.

They said Chinese satellites are used to carry these mes-

sages that are compressed to bytes from the handset to the master server in Pakistan for its onward transmission. This is yet another help being extended by China to its key ally Pakistan, the official said.

Beijing has been actively enhancing the defence capabilities of the Pakistan army along the LoC for quite a while now. This support includes the construction of steelhead bunkers, provisioning of unmanned aerial and combat aerial vehicles, installation of encrypted communication towers and laying of underground fibre cables. —PTI

Apni Party demands release of jailed Baramulla MP-elect

OUR CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR, JUNE 23

In a significant political development, the Apni Party today called for the release of jailed Baramulla MP-elect Engineer Rashid. The Apni Party criticised the perceived "step-motherly" treatment of Kashmiris, urging New Delhi to begin treating the people of Jammu and Kashmir at par with the rest of the country.

"Why disparity in the treatment of two public representatives? Aam Aadmi Party's Sanjay Singh was released earlier this year to take oath as Raja Sabha member. Rashid, despite getting a huge public mandate, isn't being given any relief so far to take the oath as MP?" Apni Party chief Altaf Bukhari said.

"When will this step-motherly treatment to Kashmiris be over? When will New Delhi start treating people of J&K at par with the rest of the country?" he asked.

The Apni Party is frequently



DISPARITY IN TREATMENT

Why disparity in the treatment of two MPs? AAP's Sanjay Singh was released to take oath as Raja Sabha member. Despite getting a huge mandate, Rashid isn't being given any relief. Altaf Bukhari, APNI PARTY CHIEF

labelled as the B-team of the BJP by traditional parties such as the NC and PDP in Kashmir. Formed after the abrogation of Article 370, the Apni Party mostly comprises former PDP leaders. The party, however, refutes any affiliation with the BJP. Its founder, Altaf Bukhari, was also a member of the PDP before he left to establish the new party.

Engineer Rashid had failed to secure interim bail on June 22, with a special court adjourning the matter until July 1. The court requested the NIA to file a response to his plea and inform the court about when he could take his oath as an MP. The newly elected Lok Sabha members are scheduled to take their

oath on June 24, 25 and 26. In the recent Lok Sabha poll, the Apni Party had extended its support to Sajad Lone in Baramulla. Despite this, Engineer Rashid, running as an independent candidate from Tihar Jail, won from Baramulla. The Apni Party's support for Lone did not even help him secure second position.

Rashid defeated NC's Omar Abdullah by an impressive margin of 2,04,142 votes, garnering 4,72,481 votes compared to Abdullah's 2,68,339. Sajad Lone ended up in the third place with a total of 1,73,239 votes. The Apni Party's move to seek his release is seen by many as a reach-out attempt by the party to Rashid.

Mann shifted...

FROM PAGE 1
other capable leaders". Everyone must follow the party line, he added.

Warring took on the detractors who have been asking him to allow someone else to take the responsibility of the Congress in Punjab. "This has to be decided by the party. If the party feels appropriate that I should give up that responsibility, there is no problem. I am loyal to the Congress and Rahul Gandhi. After God, I have full faith in Rahul. But if asked to keep the responsibility, I will not say no," he said. Admitting that keeping senior Punjab leaders united in the run-up to the 2027 Assembly elections was a challenge, he expressed the confidence that he would be able to meet it, having learned from the mistakes made in the 2022 elections.

On dissonance in the party, he said that certain leaders who have 'big egos' feel he was not listening to them. "But I will try my best that all are taken into confidence and all decisions are taken collectively," he said. "It's difficult to ensure that no one speaks against the party, or somebody would not raise any issue on any platform that could embarrass the party," he said, adding: "It is internal democracy that allows leaders to speak their heart out. It is a healthy sign. But the party line has to be followed."

For full interview, log on to www.tribuneindia.com

After 5 decades of dispute, construction of Buddhist monastery begins in Kargil

ARJUN SHARMA

JAMMU, JUNE 23

Setting an example of communal harmony in Ladakh, the Muslim community has welcomed the allotment of land for the construction of a Buddhist monastery in Muslim-dominated Kargil. The land was entangled in a dispute for over five decades.

A "bhumi puja" (ground-breaking ceremony) was held for the 'Gompa' (monastery) in the presence of social and political leaders of the area recently. During his meeting with L-G Brigadier BD Mishra (Retd) on Sunday, Ladakh MP Haji Hanifa Jan said the long-pending demand of the Buddhist community had been fulfilled as land had been provided for the construction of the Gompa at Kurbathang in Kargil.

Hanifa said providing land



Community elders and politicians at the ground-breaking ceremony of the monastery in Kargil. TRIBUNE PHOTO

for the monastery at Kargil demonstrated communal harmony in its true sense.

Muslim leaders, including Mohd Jaffer Akhoo, who is the Chief Executive Councilor of Kargil Hill Council, and Kacho Mohd Feroz, executive councillor of the council,

along with Buddhist leaders were present at the ceremony.

Akhoo said the step would take communal harmony further and Buddhist and Muslim communities would not face any hindrance for developmental works in the region. The construction of the Gom-

pa was lingering on for the past five decades as locals were earlier objecting to the construction of a monastery in old town area. However, a decision was taken to allot a land in Kurbathang (new town area) through LAHDC, Kargil, in 2022.

The controversy started when the then government had in 1969 modified the 1961 order regarding the construction of a monastery in Kargil town, stating that a structure only for commercial or residential purpose could be built at the site. Activist Sajjad Kargili said Ladakh's people had set an example resolving a long-standing issue through negotiation. He urged the Ladakh Buddhist Association to assist in the construction of an Imam Bargah in Zanskar, allocate land for an Eidgah in Leh and support the renovation of the mosque in Bodh Kharbu.

Thousands of Indian workers left..

FROM PAGE 1

country. Wherever manageable, we are working on their rehabilitation but those without proper documents will face deportation."

Sources said 400 workers, a majority of them from Rajasthan, face deportation due to reasons such as visa expiry and lack of documents. Nearly 5,000 workers from Rajasthan and 7,000 from Kerala and Andhra Pradesh have approached their state governments and NGOs for assistance.

Following the devastating fire in Mangal on June 12, the Kuwaiti authorities had ordered evacuation of dilapidated buildings. The power supply to these overcrowded buildings, flouting housing norms, is reportedly being snapped. A majority of these buildings were inhabited by Indian workers, who are now being forced to sleep on roads.

Meanwhile, workers are claiming that they have been barred from sharing videos on social media and are being threatened with arrests by their agents. They turned to the Indian Embassy for alternative accommodation as after the

fire, rents in the area trebled.

While there are over 50,000 workers from Punjab and Haryana in the Mangaf area, they are not reaching out to authorities for help. "I along with around 100 men from Punjab came here with great difficulty and can't risk getting caught and deported. Our recruitment agent has warned us against putting out any video or speaking to anybody. We send money home, but have now been evicted from our "unsafe" building. We are paying a store owner to sleep in his porch at night," said Dayal Singh (name changed) from Bathinda.

"It's like living in slums in India. Eight of us lived together in a room to cut expenditure and send money home. We are not educated but somehow managed to get here through agents. My building owner has been fined for overcrowding. We are now on the streets and looking for accommodation," said Surjit, a carpenter from Fatehabad in Haryana.

"The electricity supply to our building was cut without notice. Homeless, we are now using sleeping bags on road-

sides. With the high demand for accommodation, the rentals have hiked and are unaffordable," said Bakhtawar Meena from Bainswara.

Meena's wife here has sold off her jewellery to arrange for her husband's stay in Kuwait. She claims that he cannot go to work leaving his belongings on the street.

The Rajasthan government is in touch with the MEA over the issue. Kuwait has a population of nearly 42 lakh, of which 21% (10 lakh) are Indians, comprising 30% of the workforce. Indian carpenters, masons, electricians, construction labourers, factory and domestic workers and food delivery agents constitute nearly a fifth of Kuwait's workforce.

For years, the illegal conversion of property spaces has been a pervasive issue in Kuwait. Basement parking areas have been transformed into warehouses, while ground-floor open spaces have been converted into housing units and shops, all in the pursuit of additional income.

Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister is personally leading the drive to check the buildings housing foreign workers.

CBI files FIR, sends teams to Bihar, Gujarat..

isolated incidents" occurred in a few states during the conduct of the examination. "The FIR states the NEET-UG 2024 was conducted by the NTA on May 5 at 4,750 centres in 571 cities, including 14 cities abroad, with over 23 lakh candidates appearing for the exam. The complaint alleges certain isolated incidents occurred in a few states," the CBI said in a statement.

The Ministry of Education has requested the CBI to conduct a comprehensive investi-

gation into the entire gamut of alleged irregularities, including conspiracy, cheating, impersonation, breach of trust and destruction of evidence by candidates, institutes and middlemen. The ministry has also requested the CBI for an investigation into the role of public servants, if any, connected with the conduct of the examination and also into the entire gamut of events and the larger conspiracy.

The CBI is also investigating the UGC-NET exam

paper leak issue and had registered a criminal case against unknown persons in the case on June 20.

The allegations of irregularities sparked protests in several states, litigation and a political slugfest, with the opposition parties accusing the government of toying with the future of students.

Many aspirants have approached the Supreme Court, seeking directions to the CBI and ED to investigate the alleged irregularities. The

petition has also sought a direction to the Bihar Police to expedite the investigation in the case and file a report before the apex court.

In a separate matter, the Supreme Court sought responses from the Centre, NTA and others on various petitions, including those seeking cancellation of the NEET-UG 2024 and a court-monitored investigation. The SC also halted proceedings on similar petitions in various high courts. (With PTI inputs)

Kejriwal moves...

day, the ED moved an urgent petition in the Delhi HC challenging the bail order. A Single Judge of the HC heard the matter the same day.

After hearing both sides, the Bench reserved its order on the ED's application. Vacation Judge Sudhir Kumar Jain of the Delhi HC ordered that till the pronouncement of the order, the operation of the bail order would stand stayed. The judge added that it would take 2-3 days to pronounce the order. — TNS

18th Lok Sabha's 1st session begins...

showdowns, Mahtab will be administered the oath as Pro tem Speaker by the President on Monday, following which he will administer the oath to the panel of MPs appointed to assist him during the oath-taking of new MPs. These MPs

include Congress' K Suresh and TMC's Sudip Bandopadhyay.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and top ministers will take oath among other new MPs on the first two days. On June 26, the Lok Sabha Speaker will be elected,

with Mahtab among the frontrunners.

On June 27, the President will address both Houses of Parliament followed by a discussion on her address and a reply to this debate by PM Modi next week. The session will end on July 3.

Paper leak trail leads cops...

police have seized the taxis and arrested the drivers.

During investigation, burnt question papers were found at the play school. These were verified with the original paper provided to the police by the NTA on June 20. "We had also asked the NTA to provide

details of the booklet number on the burnt paper and traced it to Oasis School in Hazaribagh. We are questioning the principal and teachers," the official said, adding the EOU might conduct brain mapping and narco-analysis test on the six accused.

Looking to add insult to injury

Near perfect India take on under pressure Australia in final Super 8 game

GROS ISLET, JUNE 23
India will be out to derail Australia's T20 World Cup campaign when they take on their shocked and under-pressure opponents in their final Super 8 game here tomorrow.

A third straight win for India will not only make them the group toppers and send them to the semifinals, it will also substantially threaten Australia's chances of progressing through to the semifinals following the unexpected loss to Afghanistan.

Australia don't have the destiny in their own hands and will be keenly tracking Afghanistan's final game against Bangladesh.

India, who have had to endure heart-breaking defeats at the hands of Australia in major ICC events, would like to see a pre-mature exit of their strong rivals.

On fine-tuning their game ahead of the knock-outs, India don't need to do much having ticked all boxes in their back-to-back wins against Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

Both Rohit and Virat Kohli played innings of substance against Afghanistan, while Shivam Dube, who had not been able to perform his role, answered his critics with a crucial knock.

Rishabh Pant has been getting dismissed off reverse hit often and it is something he would like to correct. The biggest positive for India in



Kuldeep Yadav has taken little time to come up with match-winning contributions. ANI

this tournament has been the all-round effort of Hardik Pandya, who has now come to the party with the bat to complement his incisive spells.

Kuldeep Yadav has taken little time to come up with match-winning contributions and he would be relied on for wickets in the middle overs.

With the team playing three Super 8 games with as many days of travel in

between, the management will be tempted to rotate players but is unlikely to do so. India, who arrived in Saint Lucia on Saturday night, chose not to train ahead of the Australia game considering the hectic travel involved.

Smart batting

India have found their batting template for the World Cup, skipper Rohit said

after the team beat Bangladesh. A string of attacking cameos powered India to their highest total in what has been a low-scoring tournament so far.

"I thought we played really well today, adapted to the conditions," Rohit said.

"Overall, we were clever with the bat and we used the conditions really well with the ball. Only one player got fifty but we still got to 196. In T20, you don't need that many

19-11
India's win-loss record against Australia in T20s. The head-to-head record in the T20 World Cup is 3-2 in India's favour

“Overall, we were clever with the bat and we used the conditions really well with the ball. Only one player got fifty but we still got to 196. In T20, you don't need that many 50s or 100s.”

Rohit Sharma, INDIA CAPTAIN

For any spinner around the globe, the length matters a lot. And especially in this format, you have to read what the batter is trying to do, be more aggressive. When they try to attack you, if you have a proper plan and you are bowling better lengths, you have maximum chances of getting the batter out.

Kuldeep Yadav

50s or 100s. You can put pressure on the opposition in other ways. And all our batters tried to do that from the start. That's how we want to play going forward, of course while respecting the conditions too," he added.

"We have a lot of experience in our squad and I back the players to make those decisions. With Hardik in form, that puts us in very good stead going forward," Rohit said. — Agencies

Stun Oz to avenge ODI WC loss, keep semis hopes alive

KINGSTOWN, JUNE 23
Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran shared an opening stand of 118 before Gulbadin Naib took over to drive Afghanistan to a 21-run win over Australia and keep alive their hopes of reaching the T20 World Cup semifinals.

A win for Australia would have sent the 2021 champions and India into the last-four, but even a second hat-trick in as many matches from Pat Cummins was not enough to keep their unbeaten record at the tournament intact.

Half-centuries from Gurbaz and Zadran helped the Afghans rack up 148/6 in their 20 overs, before their bowlers dismissed the Australians for 127 on a tricky track.

Naib, who was named the Player of the Match, claimed 4/20 and Naveen-ul-Haq bagged 3/20, but it was the third century partnership of the tournament from Gurbaz and Zadran that laid the foundation for a win that also kept Bangladesh alive.

Afghan avengers



Afghanistan's players celebrate their victory against Australia. PH

1
It is Afghanistan's first win against Australia in six attempts. They lost all previous meetings against Australia, including four in ODIs

1
Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran became the first pair to stitch three century partnerships for any wicket in a T20I series or tournament



“It's a big moment for our nation and our people. I have no words, but thanks to the fans who supported us.”

Gulbadin Naib, PLAYER OF THE MATCH

1
Pat Cummins became the first player to take two hat-tricks in T20 World Cups. He is also the first to bag hat-tricks in successive T20 matches

"I can sleep better now, I think," Khan said. "That game kept coming in my mind ... Maxi, the way he played that night, took the game away from us and I didn't sleep the whole night.

Tonight, because of the happiness I won't be able to sleep. That's how happy the whole team is and the whole country is. It's a massive win for us, as a team, as a nation." — Reuters

BRIEFLY

LAGOS (NIGERIA)
Sreeja wins double gold in WTT Contender

Paris Olympics-bound Sreeja Akula became the first Indian paddler to win a WTT Contender Singles title when she defeated Ding Yijie of China 4-1 in the final. Sreeja also returned with a second gold as she along with Archana Kamath got the better of compatriots Diya Chitale and Yashaswini Ghorpade 3-0 (11-9 11-6 12-10) in the women's doubles as India ended their campaign with three gold and one silver.

SANTA CLARA (USA)
Venezuela edge out 10-man Ecuador in Copa America

Venezuela struck twice in the space of 10 minutes in the second half to come from behind and earn a 2-1 victory over Ecuador in the Copa America on Saturday, getting their Group B campaign off to a winning start. Mexico scraped out a 1-0 victory over Jamaica in their Group B opener in Houston, but their joy at making a winning start was tempered by what appeared to be a potentially tournament-ending injury to captain Edson Alvarez.

HALLE
Sinner beats Hurkacz to win first title on grass

Italian world No. 1 Jannik Sinner won his first grasscourt title by edging his doubles partner Hubert Hurkacz 7-6(8) 7-6(2) in the Halle Open final. The win marks the 22-year-old Australian Open champion's 14th singles career title. Jessica Pegula knocked out top seed and fellow American Coco Gauff 7-5 7-6(2) in a rain-interrupted semifinal clash and went on to beat Anna Kalinskaya 6-7(0) 6-4 7-6(3) in the final to win the Berlin Open. AGENCIES

Recurve archers win two bronze medals



Bhajan and Dhiraj won the mixed team bronze. WORLD ARCHERY

ARCHERY WORLD CUP

ANTALYA, JUNE 23
Recurve archer Dhiraj Bommadevara secured two bronze medals — one in individual and another in mixed team with Bhajan Kaur — as India ended their campaign with four medals in the World Cup Stage 3.

India could have added another but Ankita Bhakat, eyeing a maiden World Cup medal, narrowly lost her semifinal to eventual gold

medalist and top seed Yang Xiaolei of China. She eventually ended up losing her bronze medal match as well.

The third-seeded mixed team of Dhiraj and Bhajan produced an excellent performance to rally past Mexico 5-3 (35-38, 40-39, 38-37, 38-38) and clinch a bronze.

Dhiraj, who qualified as No. 3 seed, added another in the individual section when he defeated ninth-seeded Marco Nespoli of Italy 7-3 (28-27, 29-28, 27-28, 28-28, 30-29). — PTI

Smriti misses third ton but India complete sweep

BENGALURU, JUNE 23
Smriti Mandhana waltzed to a characteristically elegant 90 to form the crux of India's six-wicket win in the third and final women's ODI against South Africa, marking their 3-0 series sweep.

Mandhana, whose innings came off 83 balls, had efficient support casts in Shafali Verma (25), Priya Punia (28) and Harmanpreet Kaur (42) as India went past the target of 216 without exerting themselves much.

The hosts made 220/4 in 40.4 overs after South Africa were restricted to an underwhelming 215/8 despite skipper Laura Wolvaardt's solid 61.

Though she failed to make a third hundred on the bounce, the knock underlined the way Mandhana dominated this ODI series, scoring 343 runs at



Mandhana scored 343 runs at an average of 114 in the series. PH

an average of 114.33.

The 27-year-old was once again composed in the middle, and played some typically graceful shots around.

Earlier, the Indian bowlers showed an unbending will to restrict South Africa to 215

after the visitors raced to 102 without loss in 19.5 overs.

Brief scores: South Africa: 215/8 in 50 overs (Wolvaardt 61, Brits 38; Deepti 2/27, Reddy 2/36); **India:** 220/4 in 40.4 overs (Mandhana 90, Harmanpreet 42). — PTI

Bajrang's lawyer calls suspension arbitrary

VINAYAK PADMADEO
THE HINDU NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 23
A day after the NADA provisionally suspended Bajrang Punia for the second time in two months, his lawyer has called the fresh notice arbitrary. Bajrang has been asked to respond to the latest suspension by July 11.

Bajrang's counsel Vidhusphat Singhania, who was instrumental in getting his provisional suspension revoked last month after the anti-doping disciplinary panel (ADDP) deemed that the NADA had erred in not formally charging Bajrang, said the fresh notice was strange as his replies are all available on record.

"While Bajrang is in receipt of the NADA notice suspending him again and asking for his response, it is quite strange that they, despite athlete submission being available on record with NADA

have chosen not only to ignore it, but unlike any quasi-judicial authority, even to comment on its merit while again imposing the provisional suspension. This conduct of NADA is arbitrary," Singhania told *The Tribune*.

Asked when a response is likely to be filed for the latest suspension, he said that they would do it soon. "Like I had said our response is all there but now perhaps all those replies have to be compiled as one. We will file the reply very soon," he added.

In March, Bajrang had refused to comply with the dope collection officer stating that NADA was yet to respond to his earlier charge of expired sample collection kits. The dope collector officer's report had stated that the Olympics medalist left despite being told that the refusal would lead to a notice for anti-doping rule violations.

De Bruyne leads from front to get Belgium firing again

COLOGNE, JUNE 23
Belgium's fearsome forward line needed only 73 seconds to finally come alive at Euro 2024 on Saturday but almost 80 minutes later they were still trying to deliver the knockout blow on Romania.

Then the masterful Kevin De Bruyne took matters into his own hands with his 28th goal for his country to totally change the feel of the night.

A granite-jawed Romania side had absorbed the kind of first-half pummeling that would have seen the towel being lobbed into the ring had it been a boxing match.

Edward Iordanescu's men were rocking when recalled Yuri Tielemans blasted Belgium in front in the second minute but somehow stayed on their feet, repelling raid after Belgium raid as De Bruyne conducted the attacking ensemble.



Kevin De Bruyne sealed Belgium's win with a poacher's goal. REUTERS

When Romelu Lukaku fired home from De Bruyne's stunning pass just past the hour, only for VAR to deny him for the third time in two games, Belgium's raucous fans must have feared the worst. They were spared

an agonising climax though as De Bruyne turned poacher supreme — racing on to an old-fashioned hoof forward from keeper Koen Casteels and burying a clinical shot past Florin Nita to seal a precious three points. — Reuters

'Pitch invaders security concern'

DORTMUND: Portugal boss Robert Martinez expressed concerns about players' security after several spectators got onto the pitch to seek a selfie with Cristiano Ronaldo during and immediately after Portugal's 3-0 win over Turkey on Saturday. Portugal captain Ronaldo posed for a selfie with a young boy with around 20 minutes left to play, but five others later made it on to the pitch in an apparent attempt to take a picture with a visibly unhappy Ronaldo.

Man of the Match Bernardo Silva brushed off the incidents, saying it was "the price we pay for being so recognised in the world of football and having a player like him (Ronaldo) with us". Martinez, however, said the pitch invasions left the players exposed and should have been prevented by security staff. "It's a concern because today we were lucky that the intentions of the fans were good," he said. "...but you can understand that there is a very, very difficult moment if those intentions are wrong." — REUTERS



Cristiano Ronaldo posed for a selfie with a young boy with around 20 minutes left to play, but others later made it on to the pitch in an apparent attempt to take a picture with a visibly unhappy Ronaldo. REUTERS



TODAY ON TV

T20 WORLD CUP
WEST INDIES VS SOUTH AFRICA GAM
INDIA VS AUSTRALIA 8PM
STAR SPORTS

EUROS
SPAIN VS ALBANIA
CROATIA VS ITALY
SONY SPORTS 12:30AM (TUE)

Jaishankar, Puri pay tribute to Kanishka bombing victims

NEW DELHI, JUNE 23

Union Ministers S Jaishankar and Hardeep Singh Puri paid homage to over 300 victims of the Air India 'Kanishka' flight bombing, commemorating the 39th anniversary of the terrorist attack on Sunday. In a post on X, External Affairs Minister Jaishankar expressed his condolences, stating, "Today marks the 39th anniversary of one of the worst acts of terrorism in history. Pay my tribute to the memory of the 329 victims of AI 182 'Kanishka' who were killed on this day in 1985. My thoughts are with their families. The anniversary is a reminder why terrorism should never be tolerated."

Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, also took to X, sharing images of his tribute. He remarked, "My homage to 329 victims of Air India 'Kan-

ishka' Flight 182. This dastardly bombing on 23 June 1985 remains one of the most reprehensible acts of terror committed against India (sic)."

EAM in UAE for bilateral talks

The EAM on Sunday arrived in Abu Dhabi to hold wide-ranging talks with his United Arab Emirates counterpart Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan. He visited the iconic BAPS Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi before the meeting with Al Nahyan, where the two leaders are expected to deliberate on the overall situation in Gaza besides bilateral relations.

"Blessed to visit the BAPS Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi today. A visible symbol of India-UAE friendship, it radiates a positive message to the world and is a true cultural bridge between our two countries," Jaishankar posted on X soon after the visit to the temple. — Agencies



Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri pays tribute to the victims.

Upgrade flood warning system: Shah to officials

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 23

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday directed the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Central Water Commission (CWC) to complete the process of recalibrating all equipment used in flood forecast and said efforts should be made to upgrade forecast system of water levels of rivers for enhanced flood management.

Shah, in a high-level meeting with officials from Jal Shakti, Earth Science Department, Environment, Railways, road transport highways, also reviewed the preparations to deal with Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) which was the major reason behind floods in Himachal Pradesh last year.

Over 30 people have died in Assam due to floods. Officials have also been instructed to conduct a detailed study of the recent floods in Sikkim and Manipur and submit a report to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Shah also directed them to ensure that floodgates of all major dams are in good condition. In the meeting, he said the flood monitoring centres of the CWC should be in accordance with our requirements and of international standards.

He also reviewed long-term measures to formulate a comprehensive and far-reaching policy to mitigate the menace of floods in the country.

Shah emphasised on opti-



Home Minister Amit Shah chairs a meeting in New Delhi; and (right) a view after a cloudburst in Itanagar on Sunday. PTI/ANI

SUGGESTS USE OF ISRO DATA

■ The Union Home Minister said at least 50 large ponds should be created in the northeast to divert water of the Brahmaputra to help tackle floods and promote agriculture, irrigation and tourism

■ Shah also emphasised on optimum use of satellite imagery provided by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for flood and water management

imum use of satellite imagery provided by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for flood and water management.

"Non-perennial rivers are prone to more soil erosion and siltation, resulting in floods. Efforts should be made to upgrade the forecast system of water level of rivers for better flood management," Shah said.

He said natural drainage systems should be an integral

part of the designs of road construction to deal with inundation of roads.

In order to avert flooding in the northeast regions, Shah said at least 50 large ponds should be constructed so that the water of the Brahmaputra could be diverted and stored in those ponds. He said this will help in developing agriculture, irrigation and tourism in those areas at a low cost and

also help in tackling the floods, and it will eventually benefit the local economy.

Instructions have also been given to the officials of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to take appropriate precautionary measures to prevent incidents of forest fire.

Uttarakhand and Andhra

Pradesh have recorded more than 1,000 incidents of forest fires since March. He directed the officials to create fire lines, remove dry leaves and conduct mock drills from time to time with local residents and forest personnel.

The NDMA has been instructed to prepare a detailed manual to deal with incidents of forest fires.

Shah also emphasised on the need to integrate weather,

rainfall and flood warning related apps developed by various departments so that their benefits could reach the targeted population. He directed that the IMD's alerts regarding lightning strikes should be disseminated to the public on time through SMS, TV, FM radio and other mediums.

Cloudburst in Itanagar triggers landslides

ITANAGAR: A cloudburst on Sunday morning triggered several landslides and a flood-like situation in Itanagar, officials said.

Though Arunachal Pradesh has been witnessing heavy rains over the last few weeks, the situation improved in the past two days. Also, there was no forecast for rain on Sunday, they said.

Following the cloudburst, which happened around 10.30 am, landslides were reported from various parts of Itanagar and its adjoining areas, while a flood-like situation was witnessed in several stretches of the NH-415, an official of the Disaster Management Department said.

Many vehicles were stranded on the highway, the lifeline for people of the state capital, he said.

The district administration asked people not to venture into rivers and landslide-prone areas. People were advised to move to safer places in view of the heavy rains, officials said.

The district administration has set up seven designated places as relief camps, they said. — PTI



Suraj Revanna held for alleged sexual abuse of party worker

KARNATAKA, JUNE 23

JD(S) MLC Suraj Revanna — the brother of former MP Prajwal Revanna who is facing allegations of sexually abusing several women — was arrested on Sunday on charges of "unnatural offences" against him, police sources said.

He was booked on Saturday for allegedly sexually abusing a party worker a few days ago and has been booked under different sections of the IPC, including "unnatural offences". Suraj was questioned at CEN police station here overnight, before he was arrested, the sources said.

A 27-year-old man had complained to the police that Suraj Revanna, the eldest son of Holenarasipura MLA HD Revanna, sexually abused him at his farmhouse in Ghanikada on June 16. Based on the complaint, the Holenarasipura police registered a case against the JD(S) MLC. He has been sent to 14-day judicial custody. — PTI

Hat-trick for Pushpak: RLV aces final landing test, paves way for orbital re-entry missions

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 23

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) achieved its third consecutive success in the Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) Landing Experiment (LEX) today. The third and final test in the series of LEX was conducted this morning at the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) in Chitradurga, Karnataka.

The RLV LEX-03, which followed the RLV LEX-01 and LEX-02 missions, re-demonstrated the autonomous landing capability of the RLV under more challenging release conditions than LEX 02 (cross range of 500 m against 150 m for LEX-02 and more severe wind conditions).

The winged vehicle, named 'Pushpak', was released from an Indian Air Force Chinook Helicopter at an altitude of over four km. From a release point 4.5 km away from the runway, Pushpak



ISRO's Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) Pushpak during its landing test on Sunday. PTI

autonomously executed cross-range correction manoeuvres, approached the runway and performed a precise horizontal landing at the designated place on the runway.

Due to the vehicle's low lift-to-drag ratio aerodynamic configuration, the landing velocity exceeded 320 kmph,

compared to 260 kmph for a commercial aircraft and 280 kmph for a fighter aircraft. After touchdown, the vehicle velocity was reduced to nearly 100 kmph using its brake parachute, after which the landing gear brakes were employed for reduction in speed and coming to a halt on

the runway. Pushpak utilises its rudder and nose wheel steering system to autonomously maintain a stable and precise ground roll along the runway.

The mission simulated the approach and landing interface and high-speed landing conditions for a vehicle

returning from space, reaffirming ISRO's expertise in acquiring the most critical technologies required for the development of an RLV.

Through this mission, the advanced guidance algorithm needed for longitudinal and lateral plane error corrections, which is essential for the future orbital re-entry mission, has been validated. The RLV-LEX uses multi-sensor fusion, including inertial sensor, radar altimeter, flush air data system, pseudolite system and NavIC. ISRO Chairman S Somanath congratulated the team for their efforts in maintaining the success streak in such complex missions.

Space Congress from June 26

Policymakers, administrators of space agencies from different countries, and entrepreneurs would gather here for the three-day India Space Congress that will begin from Wednesday. — PTI

Japan sanctions Indian firm over Russia links

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 23

The Indian company that has been sanctioned by Japan for allegedly violating western sanctions on Russia is Si2 Microsystems Private Limited. The firm is based in Bengaluru. It designs and assembles integrated circuits for use in commercial, military and space industries.

Japan had announced its intention at the mid-June G20 meet in Italy to sanction companies from at least four countries, including India, over the Ukraine conflict issue. Two days ago the Japan Foreign Office said Tokyo was sanctioning 11 companies from five countries. Sources said most of these companies were sanctioned by the European Union in February.

Japan opted for the US line of all its allies unitedly imposing sanctions on companies that conduct technology trade with Russia. Tokyo said

BASED IN BENGALURU

The firm is based in Bengaluru. Japan had announced its intention at the mid-June G20 meet in Italy to sanction companies from at least four countries, including India, over the Ukraine conflict issue.

the other 10 companies are from China, the UAE, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

Japan had last imposed sanctions on government entities after India conducted the 1998 nuclear tests. These were gradually lifted and both sides even signed a civil-nuclear deal.

Reports said Si2 Microsystems worked for ISRO, GE and IBM. They added the firm had partnership with the Ministry of Electronics and IT and the IIT-Madras to develop high-end chips.

Japan and India are part of the Quad alliance along with the US and Australia.

Sitharaman demands CBI probe into hooch tragedy

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 23

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday condemned the Tamil Nadu hooch tragedy and asked why the Congress, the ruling DMK's ally, was silent on the issue.

She also demanded a CBI probe into the tragedy in which 56 people have died and over 200 people are in hospital in a critical stage. Most of the deceased are from the Scheduled Caste, Sitharaman said today.

"I am shocked by the incident. I condemn the incident. But I am even more shocked that the Congress has not

uttered a word against this. In a state which doesn't have prohibition, where licensed liquor is available from shops which are run by the government of Tamil Nadu, called 'Tasmac'. Despite this, illicit and completely chemical liquor is served to people in the heart of the city in Kallakurichi," the FM said.

Sitharaman also targeted Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi. She said, "Where are Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi? Don't they have any sympathy for the people living in Tamil Nadu?" she asked demanding the matter to be referred to the CBI.

13-yr-old sent bomb threat email 'for fun'

NEW DELHI, JUNE 23

The Delhi Police on Sunday apprehended a 13-year-old boy for allegedly sending an email to the Delhi Airport falsely claiming that a bomb had been planted in a Dubai-bound flight.

Police officials said the boy had sent the mail "just for fun" after being influenced by the news of another teenager who made a hoax bomb threat call a few days ago.

The incident occurred on Monday when a complaint was registered regarding a bomb threat on a Dubai-bound flight on June 18, the official added.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (IGI Airport) Usha Rangnani said, "The boy told the police team that his parents had given a mobile to him for study purposes through which he sent the email and later deleted his ID." — TNS

Vishnu sculpture found in Maharashtra

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR, JUNE 23

An intricate and detailed 'Sheshshayi Vishnu' sculpture has been found during excavation work carried out by the ASI in Sindkhed Raja town in Maharashtra's Buldhana district, an official said on Sunday.

It was found at a depth of 2.25 metres when a team of experts, during the conservation work of Lakhujji Jadhavrao's Chhatra, spotted some stone alignments and then reached a temple base on further digging, Superintendent Archaeologist of Nagpur Circle Anun Malik told PTI.

"After the saba mandap was exposed, we decided to check the depth of the temple, during which we found a sculpture of goddess Laxmi. Later, a huge sculpture of Sheshshayi Vishnu in its entirety was revealed. It is 1.70 metres in length and 1 metre in height. The width of the sculpture's base, which is yet to be exposed,



The sculpture of Sheshshayi Vishnu unearthed in Maharashtra. PTI

may be 30 centimetres," Malik said.

"It is made up of a chlorite schist rock. Such sculptures

saging his feet while sitting on a cushion. Samudraman-thana is depicted in this sculpture and jewels of Samudraman-thana like Ashwa, Airavat are also seen on the panel," he said.

The detailed and meticulously carved panel showing Dashavatara, Samudraman-thana and Lord Vishnu reclining is the peculiarity of this sculpture, he added.

Iconography expert Saili Palande-Datar said the rock is schist stone, which is soft as compared to locally found basalt rock.

"Such sculptures were found in Marathwada earlier but they were in basalt rock. The sculpture of the donor couple (between Sheshnaag and Samudraman-thana) is also carved prominently on this panel, which is its peculiarity. In the future, when an art museum is established in Maharashtra, this sculpture will be one of its masterpieces," she said. — PTI

Punjab, Bengal with India due to Mookerjee's efforts: Nadda

NEW DELHI, JUNE 23

BJP president JP Nadda on Sunday said Punjab and Bengal were part of India due to the efforts made by late Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee.

Remembering the Jana Sangh stalwart on his death anniversary, Nadda said the Muslim League had made up its mind to claim entire Punjab and Bengal at the time of Partition. "It was Dr Mookerjee and his public campaigns that ensured Punjab and Bengal stayed with India."

Nadda said Mookerjee's mother had urged then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to order a probe into her son's suspicious death in police custody while he was touring to oppose Article 370 and permit system in Jammu and Kashmir. "No probe was ordered. This shows the level of democracy in those days," he said. — TNS