



NEW ARMY CHIEF TO TAKE CHARGE TODAY NATION

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SUNDAY | 30 JUNE 2024

## INDCREDIBLE

Men in Blue edge out South Africa in cliffhanger to clinch second T20 WC title



Skipper Rohit Sharma lifts the trophy after defeating South Africa in the T20 World Cup final at Bridgetown, Barbados. India won by seven runs. AP/PTI

BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS), JUNE 29

On an emotion-filled day, India ended their 11-year wait for a global trophy, overcoming South Africa, who choked at the end of the match by seven runs, to emerge champions in the T20 World Cup here.

It was India's second T20 World Cup victory after they had won it in 2007 under MS Dhoni in South Africa, and

Kohli announces T20I retirement | Bumrah player of the tournament



Virat Kohli, MAN OF THE MATCH

### PROUD OF CHAMPIONS

Champions! Our team brings the T20 World Cup home in style! We are proud of the Indian cricket team.

Narendra Modi, PRIME MINISTER

### EYES SHINE TOO

CHENNAI: India posted the biggest-ever total in women's Test cricket history by scoring 603 for six (declared) before SA fought through Sune Luus and Marizanne Kapp on day two of the one-off Test here. **INSIDE**

first title since winning the Champions Trophy in 2013. Star batter Virat Kohli,

who was an upcoming cricketer 17 years ago, made his first fifty of this

tournament in the final — a classy 76 off 59 balls with six fours and two sixes that

carried India to a competitive 176 for seven.

Then the Indian bowlers, led by Arshdeep Singh (2/20) and Jasprit Bumrah (2/18), worked their magic as they did throughout this tournament, limiting South Africa to 169 for eight to propel India to their second T20 World Cup win. There were pockets of fight from the Proteas, who were playing in their maiden World Cup final.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Today's issue is of 24 pages, including six-page Spectrum and four-page Delhi Tribune.

## Five Army men swept away in Ladakh river

Tank gets stuck while crossing Shyok

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

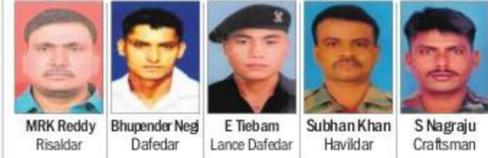
Five Army personnel lost their lives when they were swept away while trying to get a tank across the Shyok river in eastern Ladakh early on Saturday.

The accident occurred when a column of tanks was crossing the fast-flowing Shyok as a part of an exercise in the dead of the night, said sources, adding that the five

soldiers were in the last tank of the column that was to cross the river.

The Army uses T-72 tank as part of a drill to practise movement in exigency. Tanks have the ability to float in water while moving forward. In the past, key war-time movements have been done with tanks crossing rivers, including the well-documented crossing of the Meghna river in East Pakistan (now

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



MRK Reddy Risaldar, Bhupender Negi Dafedar, E Tiebam Lance Dafedar, Subhan Khan Havildar, S Nagraju Craftsman

## Delhi court sends Kejriwal to 14-day judicial custody

SAMAD HOQUE TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

A Delhi court on Saturday sent Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to 14-day judicial custody in a corruption case linked to the excise policy "scam" after the CBI chose not to seek his further police remand.

Kejriwal was produced before Vacation Judge Sunena Sharma by the CBI after the end of his three-day custo-



Arvind Kejriwal being taken to a court by CBI officials in Delhi. PTI

dial interrogation, following which the central agency

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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# BJP to go it alone in state, CM Saini to lead Assembly election campaign

RAVNEET SINGH  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PANCHKULA, JUNE 29

Home Minister Amit Shah, addressing party workers, today said that they should shun differences and fight together to ensure the party's victory. He said Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini would lead the BJP during the upcoming Assembly elections.

The party's announcement has come three months before the new government will be formed in the state. Beginning its election activities, the party made it clear that it would contest all 90 seats on its own.

The BJP had organised a gathering of over 4,500 workers, including executive body members, state, district and mandal-level office-bearers, ministers, serving and former MLAs and MPs and party candidates of 2014 and 2019, at Tau Devi Lal Stadium here.

Shah said Saini would lead the party during the poll, along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and would become the Chief Minister once the new state government was formed.

Union Education Minister and party incharge for state Assembly poll Dharmendra Pradhan held a

## Shun differences and fight together to ensure victory: Shah



press conference and said the party would not form any pre-poll alliance.

He said, "We are confident the BJP will form the state government for the third consecutive time. Peoples should evaluate 10 years of governance of both the Congress and the BJP and decide. Our focus is toward development of the state while our rivals want to work as mere roadblocks."

Questioned about dis-

gruntled leaders, including Union Cabinet minister MP Rao Inderjit Singh, he said the party was in touch with them. "Rao Inderjit is a senior leader. I met him just recently. We are working on resolving their concerns," he stated.

He said all newly inducted and old party leaders were equal. "All those who pledge allegiance to the party are considered equal. There is no

difference between old and new leaders."

Pradhan said the upcoming elections were a definite challenge for the party. "We consider all elections from panchayat to Parliament as a challenge. We will contest all 90 seats. Therefore, we are gathering all our workers and forming strategy."

Party leaders said they had been given a roadmap for the next three months. Assembly

Speaker Gian Chand Gupta said, "All party leaders will hold large-scale meetings right from the booth level to state level and the office-bearers will prepare for the elections."

Kurukshetra MP Naveen Jindal, all praise for OBC leader and CM Saini, said, "He has elevated himself from the worker level. We are positive he will lead the party to victory." Former state

## OLD, NEW LEADERS EQUAL: PRADHAN

Questioned about disgruntled leaders, including Union Cabinet minister MP Rao Inderjit Singh, Union Education Minister and party incharge for state Assembly poll Dharmendra Pradhan said the party was in touch with them. He said all newly inducted and old party leaders were equal. "All those who pledge allegiance to the party are considered equal. There is no difference between old and new leaders."

<< Union Home Minister Amit Shah being welcomed at Tau Devi Lal Stadium in Panchkula on Saturday. PHOTO: NITIN MITTAL

## Centre of excellence in forensic science to come up on 50 acres

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 29

Union Home Minister Amit Shah today proposed the establishment of a training institute at the Centre of Excellence in Forensic Science for training and laboratory testing facilities, which will be set up on about 50 acres in Haryana. He said the Centre would make all arrangements for its establishment.

He was speaking at an MoU-signing ceremony between the state government and the National Forensic Science University (NFSU), Gandhinagar, Gujarat, for the establishment of the centre of excellence for 'chinhit apradh' cases in Panchkula.

Shah suggested that Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini should pay attention towards the setting up a training institute. Additionally, a hostel should also be built so that police and judicial officers could be trained there. The centre would radically change the state's criminal justice system and emerge as a major training centre in North India, Shah said, adding that the state had decided to scientifically enhance the criminal justice system by partnering with the NFSU. He said the university had established its campuses in nine states,



To be set up with help of NFSU, Gandhinagar

and the Central Cabinet had recently passed a proposal to expand its campuses to 16 states.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister of Power, Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar said the conception of this centre was envisioned at Surajkund in 2022. There was only one forensic science lab in the state, but now four more were operational. The CM said due to the lack of resources, justice was delayed, but with the new technology, "we will be able to provide swift justice to victims".

Dr JM Vyasa, Vice-Chancellor, NFSU, said the establishment of the centre would enhance Haryana's forensic capabilities, benefiting the entire criminal justice system. Under PM Modi's vision, the university was helping to strengthen forensic capabilities in 92 countries.

## Selja raises concerns over pollution in Ghaggar

Urges authorities to take immediate action

OUR CORRESPONDENT

SIRSA, JUNE 29

MP Kumari Selja has raised concerns over the pollution in the Ghaggar, which serves as a lifeline for hundreds of villages in Sirsa. For the past 15 years, the river has been used to discharge various pollutants, including factory waste and hazardous chemicals. These pollutants are causing severe health risks to humans and dairy animals and making life unbearable for those living nearby.



Kumari Selja

During her recent visit to the Rania area, Selja stopped at the Ottu headworks and spoke to farmers, who expressed their worries about the increasing pollution in the Ghaggar. She assured them that addressing the river's pollution would be her top priority. Selja has written to Justice Prakash Shrivastava, chairman of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), Union Minister CR Patil of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, and Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.

She highlighted that the Ghaggar, originating from the

Shivalik hills and flowing through Himachal, UT, Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan, is often linked to the sacred Saraswati. The river's polluted water is affecting bird life, aquatic life around the Ottu Weir, and the quality of groundwater, posing significant health risks to humans and livestock. Poor-quality milk and water-borne diseases such as jaundice, diarrhea, typhoid, hepatitis, and malaria are prevalent in the area. She noted an increase in cancer and gastrointestinal diseases, attributing it to the river's pollution. Faulty sewage treatment plants (STPs) in several villages and towns along the Ghaggar belt are contributing to this issue. She called for inspections of these STPs to fix any faults.

In a press note, she said, ignoring this severe environmental threat could lead to irreversible pollution in the Ghaggar basin. Reports by a commission led by Justice Pritam Pal highlighted the gravity of the situation, but their recommendations have been ignored. Social organisations in Sirsa have raised these issues repeatedly but to no avail.



Anirudh Chaudhary, grandson of the late CM Bansi Lal, addresses workers. PHOTO: INDRESH

## Bansi Lal's grandson stakes claim to legacy

DEEPENDER DESWAL  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

HISAR, JUNE 29

Defection of Tosham MLA Kiran Choudhry to the BJP has triggered a fresh feud over the legacy of the late CM Bansi Lal, with his grandson Anirudh Chaudhry aspiring for Congress ticket from the Tosham Assembly segment.

A cricket administrator-turned-politician, Anirudh, who has served as treasurer of BCCI, told his supporters yesterday that he was aspiring for the ticket. Anirudh is son of Bansi Lal's elder son Ranbir Mahendra and is yet to make an electoral debut.

He said he was claimant to the ticket from Tosham as well as neighbouring Badhra Assembly segment. "The decision will be taken by the party, but I am prepared to

## Aspires for Congress ticket from Tosham

contest from any of the two seats," he said.

Asked if he would face his aunt Kiran, who was likely to be the BJP candidate from Tosham, he said, "Mazaa aa jayega. If India plays against Scotland, nobody is enthused, but it is exciting when India plays Pakistan," he said, quickly adding that he should be deemed as India. "I am not afraid of losing, but am confident of my victory," he said.

On Bansi Lal's legacy, Anirudh claimed that his father was the successor of his grandfather as per social tradition and the Hindu Succession Act.

## Deepender sounds poll bugle, takes out roadshow in Rohtak

RAVINDER SAINI  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, JUNE 29

Member of Parliament (MP) Deepender Hooda accompanied by local MLA Bharat Bhushan Batra on Saturday launched the party campaign for the upcoming Assembly polls by taking out a roadshow in the city. He also expressed gratitude to the people for electing him to the Lok Sabha by ensuring his victory with the highest margin in the state.

Interestingly, Deepender held a booklet of the Constitution in his hand during the show and assured the people the Congress had vowed to protect the Constitution and rights of the scheduled castes and other sections of the society. The MP garlanded the statue of Dr BR Ambedkar to pay him homage before starting the roadshow.

The roadshow began from Congress Bhawan, Ambedkar Chowk and reached Agrasen Chowk while passing through Subhash road, outer Quilla road, Bhiwani stand and railway road. He was accorded a warm welcome by people at various places. Enthused by public response, Deepender said he would live up to their hopes and expectations and would



MP Deepender Hooda takes out a roadshow in Rohtak on Saturday.

raise their issues prominently in the parliament.

"The BJP government has brought Haryana to the brink of destruction due to inflation, unemployment, corruption, crime and drug addiction. Haryana, which was number one in per capita income, per capita investment, law and order, the number of sports players, employment before 2014, has today become number one in unemployment, crime, drug addiction and corruption. The social progress index released

by the Government of India states that Haryana is one of the most unsafe states," Deepender pointed out.

He claimed there was a wave of change in favour of the Congress in Haryana, and this sentiment was clearly seen in the Lok Sabha election results. "The incompetent BJP government will have to be changed to take the state to new heights again. Only change of power will not work, we will also change the system," the MP added.



## Will address concerns of city dwellers, promises Hooda

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 29

Former Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda today reacted to the repeated demand of enhancement of land compensation from the city residents. He said the government should take cognisance of the burden on the people who are already suffering from recession, inflation and unemployment.

## Enhanced rural land compensation

"The BJP is continuously ignoring the pain of the people, but demands of city dwellers will be seriously considered after the formation of Congress government in the state," he said. Residents of Bahadurgarh Sector 2, 9 and 9A had come to submit a memorandum to Hooda. In a conversation with the traders on law and order, Hooda also reacted to the increasing crime. He said life of the common man has become miserable due to uncontrolled crime under the BJP government. "Incidents like firing, ransom, loot, robbery, murder, and rape have become a part of the daily routine of the people. In just four days, a total of Rs 9 crore has been demanded from three businessmen in Hisar alone," he said. "The business class is constantly facing threats, demands of ransom and firing. They have to pay ransom to the miscreants to save their lives," he said. "Protecting the lives and property of the people is the first responsibility of every government, but the BJP has proved to be a complete failure in fulfilling its responsibility and the government which cannot provide security to the citizens has no right to remain in power," he said.

## AAP starts poll-prep, training workers for public outreach programme

NITISH SHARMA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KURUKSHETRA, JUNE 29

Intensifying its preparation for the Assembly elections, the Aam Aadmi Party has started holding training sessions for party workers and leaders before launching its outreach programme 'Badlav Jansamvad' to strengthen its base.

The AAP is training its workers on how to approach the voters and issues to be raised during the programme. The party has divided each Assembly segment into four blocks which have been further divided into circles. The circle leaders will arrange a public outreach programme 'Badlav Jansamvad' in their respec-

tive villages and wards. However, before the Jansamvad, the village and ward secretaries of the party will hold door to door campaign to invite people for the Jansamvad, install party's flags, distribute pamphlets (carrying tagline Badlange Haryana Ka Haal, Ab Layenge Kejriwal) and party's posters.

AAP's Kurukshetra district chief Vishal Khubber, said "The circle in-charges will fix schedules and then leaders/ speakers and office-bearers will go for the Badlav Jansamvad in which they will make people aware of the wrong policies of the BJP government, work done by the BJP and Congress during their



AAP Kurukshetra district chief Vishal Khubber after a training session at Ladwa on Saturday.

regime and also tell people about the work done by the AAP in Delhi."

"The people of Haryana

have given equal opportunities to both BJP and Congress and we will request the people to give one

opportunity to AAP too," he added. "The leaders will sit among the people, inquire about the local issues and

seek their suggestions. These proposals from the people will be incorporated in the Assembly segment-wise manifestos the party has planned. During the Jansamvad, the AAP will also run its membership drive to strengthen the party's base," he added.

Through the pamphlets, the party is criticising the BJP government for inflation, unemployment, and poor law and order situation. The pamphlets contain the guarantees of the AAP, and detailed information about party's national convenor Arvind Kejriwal and work done by him.

AAP's state spokesman Sumit Hindustani, who held a training session in



THE TRIBUNE DEEP DIVE INTO CANAL IRRIGATION SYSTEM IN STATE PART-III

# Water scarcity increases dependence on tubewells

MANMEET SINGH GILL  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

TARN TARAN, JUNE 29  
Scrolling on his mobile while sitting under the shade of a neem tree near his tubewell, Balkar Singh is anxiously waiting for power supply to run the tubewell for irrigating his paddy fields in Bhalo Patti village.

It is ironic that a water-channel from Baserke Rajbaha, the canal minor from Buchar to Bhalo Patti — one of the several channels of the Upper Bari Doab Canal (UBDC) which brings water from the Ravi river — is just across the 8-ft wide unpaved road. But either it runs dry or the water level and speed are insufficient for irrigation.

The village is not just geographically the last village in the district on the Indian side with the international border with Pakistan, but seems last on the mind of the government.

“This low quantity of water — just in trickles — you are seeing in the canal minor now, has come after a decade and a half. And maybe, it won't be after a

Free power, cess waiver prompt farmers to draw underground water



A resident of Baserke village points to low water level in the minor on Saturday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: VISHAL KUMAR

few days or a week later,” Balkar, about 50, said in a matter-of-fact tone.

Inderpreet Singh of Baserke village said, “Our canal minor has a sanctioned strength of nearly 287 cusecs but the present discharge in it is merely of 150 to 175 cusecs.” Singh said. He pointed out the canal syphon built near his village was leaking due to poor maintenance. “Lot of water, which ideally

should go to the fields, is leaking from the drain below and flowing towards Pakistan,” he rued.

A drive on the 20 km ‘kuccha’ road alongside the canal minor reveals that Balkar is not an exception. There are over a hundred tubewells like his, in close proximity to the water channel in Punjab, also known as a land of five rivers. It paints an ironic picture that despite

the channels, the tubewells have to be operated, worsening the already depleted underground water. There are 79,409 tubewells in Tarn Taran district alone.

Though after government intervention this year, the water in this channel has reached its ‘tail’ but due to low level, it is of no use. “Actually, it has reached this far because most of the farmers are not using it as they

continue to pump the tubewells,” said Chamkaur Singh, a farm labourer working in the farthest fields alongside the border.

“Why wouldn't we use this water which comes down from the hills and has more nutrients,” he asked.

So long has been the wait that most of the farmers have demolished the ‘khaal’ (irrigation channel) in their fields. “With

no water running, the ‘khaals’ had become a home for snakes and rats,” said another farmer Sukhchain Singh. Farmers demolish the channels and use the additional land to sow crops.

The absence of canal water for irrigation has also caused havoc to the groundwater table. Even the farmers are forced to go for deeper and deeper borewells to draw water.

A section of the farmers

feels that free power for tubewells coupled with the decision to waive water cess had proven fatal for the canal irrigation system. “While the first made the farmers lethargic, the second left the government with no money to care for the upkeep of the canal system,” summed up Parshotam Singh, another farmer.

However recently, especially in the past year,

efforts have been made for reeling of defunct minors and reviving ‘khaals’.

A veteran farmer leader, Rattan Singh Randhawa, said, “The UBDC has a sanctioned strength of 9,000 cusecs. But due to its poor network, it is merely drawing half of this amount. We have been demanding remodelling of the canal and increase in sanctioned strength to 12,000 cusecs to meet the need of the agricultural sector.”

**DISTRIBUTARY RUNNING AT 110% CAPACITY: WATER DEPT**

Responding to the news report ‘Tail-end farmers grapple with severe water shortage’ published on June 29 in these columns, the Water Resources Department denied the claims. It said Panjwa distributary had been running continuously since April 2024 on “110 per cent to 114 per cent capacity” to irrigate command area and was closed on weekly rotational basis from June 22 to 28. As a long-term measure to improve irrigation facility in the area, the present government took the decision to construct another canal — Malwa Canal — parallel to the twin canals — Rajasthan Feeder and Sirhind Feeder — which will irrigate the area now under lift pumps. Hence, more water would be available for Abhar area from Sirhind Feeder, it said.

**LOW LEVEL RENDERS WATER USELESS**

“Though after government intervention this year the water in this channel has reached its ‘tail’ but due to low level, it is of no use. In fact, it has reached this far because most of the farmers are not using it as they continue to draw water from tubewells. Chamkaur Singh, FARM LABOURER

**CANAL BUILT BY SHAH JAHAN**

Baserke Rajbaha (canal minor) is part of the Upper Bari Doab Canal (UBDC) with seven branch canals, 247 distributaries and a huge network of minors. Spread over a length of 3,119 km, the UBDC network has a capacity to irrigate 5.73 lakh hectares. The canal was first built by Emperor Shah Jahan in 1693 for carrying water of the Ravi from Madhopur to Lahore. Improvements in the canals were made by Maharaja Ranjit Singh and an Amritsar branch was constructed.

**सांख्यिक सूचना**

इस पब्लिक नोटिस के माफत जन-साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि दविन्द कुमार निवासी मकान नं. 34 न्यू इन्दिरा कालोनी, सैनिक विहार, जण्डली, अम्बाला शहर से मृतक स्वर्गीय राम रतन पुरी पुत्र किशन चन्द्र पुरी के कानूनी वारिस की रिपोर्ट जारी करने हेतु एक प्रार्थना पत्र इस कार्यालय में प्राप्त हुआ है। प्रार्थी के प्रार्थना पत्र व संलग्न हल्फनामों व रिपोर्ट नगर पार्षद व सचिव नगर निगम, अम्बाला अनुसार मृतक राम रतन पुरी पुत्र किशन चन्द्र पुरी के निम्नलिखित कानूनी वारिस हैं:- 1. दविन्द कुमार-पुत्र, 2. रेखा रानी-पुत्री, 3. वीना देवी-पुत्री, 4. हरीश चंद्र पुरी-पुत्र, 5. ईश्वर चन्द्र-पुत्र। यदि इस बारे किसी व्यक्ति को कोई आपत्ति है तो वह तहसीलदार, अम्बाला शहर के कार्यालय में पब्लिकेशन के 30 दिन के अंदर-2 आपत्ति दर्ज करवा सकता है। यदि प्रार्थी द्वारा दी गई सूचना किसी भी समय गलत पाई जाती है तो प्रार्थी भारतीय दण्ड संहिता की धारा 177 व अन्य संबंधित कानूनों के तहत दण्ड का भागी होगा।

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T.A. No. 1353/2022 Date 22-04-2024

CANARA BANK

Versus Applicant

M/S KALAYAN BUNKAR HANDLOOM

CHANDERI & ORS. Respondent To,

Defendant

D1 M/s Kalayan Bunkar Handloom Chanderi Through Its Prop Mr. Shoab Khan S/o Mr. Sufair Khan D-1/197-A Gali No 1 Block-D Ratiya Marg Sangam Vihar New Delhi-62

D2. Mr. Shoab Khan S/o Sufair Khan D-1/197-A Gali No 1 Block-D Ratiya Marg Sangam Vihar New Delhi-62

Whereas the above named applicant(s) has / have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 20,70,336.84 (Rs. Twenty Lakhs Seventy Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Six and Paise Eighty Four Only) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 22-08-2024 at 10.30 A.M.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

All the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing or Physical and for that purpose:-

(i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the "Cico Webex" application/software;

(ii) Meeting ID and Password for the date of hearing case to be taken by Hon'ble Presiding officer/Registrar shall be displayed in the daily cause list itself at DRT Official Portal i.e. drt.gov.in.

(iii) In any exigency qua that the Advocates/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No. 23748478.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal this 22th day of April, 2024.

By order of the Tribunal

SECTION OFFICER, DRT-II, Delhi

## Drugs, drones & Pak-scripted addiction



RAVI DHALIWA

DGP Gaurav Yadav says stories claiming every third household located near the International Border (IB) is on drugs are “anecdotal.” They may or may not be anecdotal, but the fact remains that where there is some smoke, there has to be some fire.

Officers clandestinely admit that for every drone shot down, at least five fly back home undetected after dropping their baggage. A cat and mouse game is actually being played out in the skies of Punjab. Pakistani smugglers often send a drone which carries nothing but nevertheless has a high decibel level whirring sound. Actually, this drone, a decoy, is sent to deflect the attention of the security agencies. At the same time, another one is launched which quietly drops its payload without being noticed.

The modus-operandi adopted in some cases proves how ridiculous easy it has become to procure the drug. Smugglers often stand near the IB and use their Whatsapp number to send their location to their contacts in Pakistan. An hour or so later, a drone arrives and drops its baggage of heroin at exactly the same location from where the message had been sent. Money is exchanged through the hawala route. The scale and the high-end technology involved to transport the white powder into India means it is no longer the handiwork of gangsters. The involvement of state actors of Pakistan is too glaring to be missed.

Punjab Police have now established Village Defense Committees (VDCs) in border villages. Their job is to inform the cops any “whirring noise” in their villages.



Cops also plan to use Artificial Intelligence (AI). A Drone Emergency Response System (DERS) has already been launched. However, it is not that effective and more proactive and collaborative countermeasures are required.

Earlier, about three decades ago, when the border fencing had yet to come up, smugglers used to bend a long plastic pipe at certain angles and insert it through the fencing. A particular type of machine was then used from the Pakistan side to push the packets into Indian territory through the pipes. Tunnels too were used to bring the contraband into India. Smuggling through rivers was also done. This might sound a bit confusing because the river Ravi flows from India into Pakistan, then re-enters Indian territory from where it again flows into Pakistan. This zig-zag occurrence helped Pakistani peddlers to transport the drug into India using bottles.

Then in September 2020 came the arrival of the drone. This resulted in a deadly dance of drugs which has ultimately led to the destruction of lives and livelihoods of hundreds of youth.

The number of flights these flying machines have made since then remain in the realms of speculation. For every kg of heroin seized by the BSF and Punjab Police nobody knows for sure how many kilos have slipped into Punjab undetected and unnoticed.

Rakesh Kaushal, DIG (Border) confirmed that in the last six months nearly a hundred drones have been seized in the border districts of Gurdaspur, Tarn Taran and Amritsar. In 2023, forces seized 107 drones while from 2020 to 2022 just 53 drones were recovered. This clearly indicates the count is increasing with every passing day.

The drone cannot fly long distances. It flies close to the IB and nine times out of ten drops its payload near the fencing. That's reason enough why heroin use is so common in villages and small towns dotting the international border. Earlier, a drone carried a maximum payload of 5 to 10 kgs. This capacity has now increased to 15 kg as the machines have become technologically smarter than before.

The agencies often catch ‘carriers’ who are small-time smugglers adept in picking up the contraband from near the IB and hand it over to unidentified men stationed in nearby towns. The unidentified man comes on a two wheeler, because it is easy to drive through narrow streets in case he is chased by the cops, has his face covered with a cloth and does not carry a mobile. It is here where the trail goes dead because the carrier is unable to divulge details of these men. Carriers often get Rs 2 lakh to pass a one kg heroin packet to these faceless men. This packet is later sold for Rs 5 crore in the international market.

Till the agencies nab the faceless men, who in turn can lead them to the Dons of the trade, and till an antidote to the drones is developed, the battle against heroin will remain unsuccessful on this side of Punjab.

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## Six arrested with 8 kg heroin, 3 pistols, ₹30K drug money

PK JAISWAR  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, JUNE 29

A day after the seizure of 9.2 kg of heroin, the Punjab Police today seized 8kg of heroin and three pistols smuggled from Pakistan while apprehending six persons in two separate incidents.

DGP Gaurav Yadav and SSP Amritsar Rural Satinder Singh said following intelligence inputs, the Amritsar rural police arrested two drug peddlers travelling on a bike near a brick kiln in Bachiwind village. They were going to deliver the consignment to their forward link. They were identified as Gurbhej Singh

and Jaskan Singh, both residents of Manjh village.

“During search, the police seized 6kg heroin and three pistols including a 9mm Glock pistol and two pistols of .32 bore calibre from their possession,” said the DGP.

In the second incident, the police nabbed four drug peddlers when they were striking a deal near Nupur village. They were located by the police patrolling team. The police seized 2kg heroin from them. Among those arrested included a father-son duo – Balbir Singh and Akashdeep Singh – respectively; both residents of Kohali village here. They were striking a deal with

Philpus and Jobanjit Singh of Mulechak village when they were nabbed. Apart from seizing 2kg heroin, police teams have recovered Rs 30,000 drug money from their possession and impounded their scooter and motorcycle.

Two separate FIRs under NDPS Act were registered against them and further probes on to find their links to bust the entire nexus. “As per preliminary probe, the arrested persons in both cases were in touch with Pakistan-based smugglers, who were supplying drugs across the state after smuggling from Pakistan via drones,” said Satinder Singh, SSP.

## Cop dies of drug abuse

PK JAISWAR  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, JUNE 29

Rampant drug abuse has not even spared law-enforcing agencies if the death of a cop in Ajnala here today is anything to go by.

Gursewak Singh (24), a resident of Tedkalan village in Ajnala, was found

dead in nearby Kayampur village.

He was currently posted at Ludhiana and was on leave due to death of his aunt. Though the family members allege that he died due to drug abuse, the police said that the cause of death would be ascertained only after autopsy.

**REMEMBRANCE**

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Capt. Roopendra Singh Garcha

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# Govt urges 16th finance panel for liberal funds as salary, pension liability mounts

PRATIBHA CHAUHAN  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, JUNE 29

Faced with a high debt stress of over Rs 80,000 crore, Himachal has urged the 16th Finance Commission to grant liberal funds in view of the mounting pension liability of the state government due to the retirement of a large number of employees every year.

The expenditure on salary, pension and interest payment was 46.33 per cent of the total expenditure of the state government in 2023-24. The number of pensioners in the state at present is 189,466, which is expected to rise to 2,38,827 in 2030-31. This will result in an annual pension burden of around Rs 20,000 crore.

The annual salary and pension bill of the cash-strapped Himachal Government has mounted to Rs 26,722 crore amidst a grave financial crisis looming large in view of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) allo-

PENSIONERS' DATA				SALARY BURDEN	
Year	New addition	Total pensioners	Pension including NPS contribution (in crore)	Year	Pay projections (in crore)
2026-27	10,265	2,08,896	₹16,823	2026-27	₹20,639
2027-28	9,577	2,17,115	₹17,130	2027-28	₹22,502
2028-29	8,859	2,24,563	₹17,655	2028-29	₹24,145
2029-30	8,579	2,31,682	₹18,420	2029-30	₹26,261
2030-31	8,651	2,38,827	₹19,628	2030-31	₹28,354



cation from the Central Government coming to an end.

The restoration of the old pension scheme (OPS), one of the election guarantees of the Congress to employees, will aggravate the financial crisis in the coming years. "The salary continues to be the largest expenditure

component at 25.13 per cent of the total expenditure of the state in 2024-25," reads the memorandum submitted to the 16th Finance Commission, which visited the state early this week.

Interestingly, 60 per cent of the salary burden of the government employees is of the

Health and Education departments. Though a few regular appointments are being made in the government sector, due to the retirement of a large number of employees, the pension burden has been on the rise. The main reasons for this has been the grant of enhanced

retirement benefits, as per the Pay Commission recommendations, release of dearness allowance (DA) and increasing life expectancy.

The employees' ratio to the total population in Himachal is amongst the highest in the country while the state has a few revenue generating sources. At present, there are 2,42,877 state government employees and Rs 9,000 crore arrears are yet to be paid to them.

The financial health of the state becomes even more worrisome as the GST allocation to the state will end this year. The state will find it exceedingly difficult to foot the Rs 26,722 crore salary and pension bill as the Central GST allocation, which was Rs 1,293 crore in 2022-23, is going to end. The state government has tried to justify the hefty salary burden by stating that a huge investment has been made in the health and education sectors.

## Agniveer, vendor drown in Una, bodies found

OUR CORRESPONDENT

UNA, JUNE 29

Two persons, including an Agniveer, drowned in separate incidents in Una district today.

Bharat Singh (25), a resident of Panjawaar village, had gone for swimming in the Swan river in Hamboli village but drowned. His body was recovered by locals after several hours. He was an Agniveer and had joined the Army six months ago after training.

In another tragic incident, Pradeep Kumar (60), a resident of Barsar in Hamirpur district, drowned in the Gobind Sagar lake near Lathiani village in Una district. Pradeep, a vegetable vendor, accidentally slipped and fell into the lake while feeding fish. His body was recovered from the lake and handed over to the bereaved family after a post-mortem examination, said Bangana SDM Sonu Goyal.

## Five held for assault on tourists in Mandi

MANDI, JUNE 29

A woman and three men from New Delhi were injured in an attack by local youths near Parashar in the district on the evening of June 27. The six tourists, including three women, earlier had an altercation with the youths over giving a pass to their vehicle near Segal. The youths pursued the tourists, intercepted them near Parashar and attacked them. The police have arrested five suspects for the assault on the tourists.

According to the police, a woman and three men were injured in the incident. The tourists immediately

informed the police. However, they had relocated to Panarsa by the time the police arrived. With assistance from Aut police station, the tourists were safely escorted to Mandi, where they treated at the Zonal Hospital.

Additional SP Sagar Chander said the five accused would be produced in court tomorrow. He said, "The police have seized a car and a SUV used by the accused in the incident. A case has been registered at Padhar police station." He added, "The Mandi police reassure the public that those behind the attack on the tourists will be punished." — TNS

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DI-6849 Dean, Academic Affairs



Tourists enjoy foggy weather at the Ridge in Shimla on Saturday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: LALIT KUMAR

## Very heavy rain forecast over next three days

SHIMLA, JUNE 29

The Meteorological Department has issued an orange warning of heavy to very heavy rainfall for the next three days and very heavy rainfall with thunderstorms and lightning at isolated places.

For tomorrow, an orange warning of heavy rainfall has been issued for Kangra, Mandi, Shimla and Sirmour districts while a yellow warning has been issued for the remaining districts except Lahaul and Spiti. Similarly, an orange warning of rainfall has been issued for Una, Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi, Solan, Sirmour and Shimla districts for July 1 while a yellow warning has been issued for Chamba, Kullu and Kinnaur districts.

Furthermore, an orange warning of heavy rain has been issued for Solan, Shimla and Mandi districts for July 2 and a yellow warning for the remaining districts except Lahaul and Spiti.

As per the department, the rainfall could lead to localised flooding of roads, water-logging in low-lying areas and the closure of underpasses, mainly in urban areas, occasional reduction in visibility due to heavy rainfall, traffic disruption in major cities due to waterlogged roads, damage to kuccha roads, possibility of damage to vulnerable structures, localised landslides, mudslides, subsidence and damage to horticultural and standing crops in some areas.

Meanwhile, light to moderate rain accompanied with thunderstorms occurred at a few places in the state during the past 24 hours. Dharamsala received 54.2 mm of rain, Kasauli (39 mm), Baijnath (20 mm), Shimla (13 mm), Solan (10.2 mm) and Bhoranj (9.8 mm). The maximum temperature in Shimla was 24.8°C.

Bhuntar in Kullu was the hottest in the state at 37°C while Kukumseri village in Lahaul and Spiti district was the coldest at 10°C. — TNS

## BJP expels Saini for contesting Nalagarh bypoll as Independent

SOLAN, JUNE 29

The BJP today expelled Harpreet Saini, co-in-charge of media, Bharatiya Janta Yuva Morcha (BJYM), from the primary membership of the party for six years. Saini is contesting the Nalagarh byelection as an Independent candidate against the party's official nominee KL Thakur. He was expelled on the directions of state party president Rajeew Bindal.

Harpreet had also contested the 2017 Assembly election as an Independent candidate and bagged 5,443 votes. KL Thakur had lost the seat by merely 1,242 votes in 2017. The same story could repeat yet again as Saini has influence in some pockets where he could mar the BJP's prospects.



Harpreet Saini

Harpreet is the nephew of former Nalagarh MLA HN Saini, who had won three Assembly elections consecutively in 1998, 2003 and 2007. After HN Saini's demise in 2011, his wife had contested the byelection and lost to Congress candidate Lakhwinder Rana by a narrow margin of 1,599 votes. — TNS





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Shah mourns loss of five soldiers, says nation stands by their families

NEW DELHI, JUNE 29 Expressing condolences over the death of soldiers in a flashflood in Ladakh on Saturday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the entire country was with their families. Five Army personnel, including a junior commissioned officer (JCO), drowned when their T-72 tank sank due to flashfloods in the Shyok river near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Nyoma-Chushul area of Ladakh during an exercise early on Saturday. "I am saddened by the news of the accident during the military exercise in Ladakh. I express my condolences to the families of the brave soldiers who lost their lives in the accident. The whole country is with the families of the brave soldiers," Shah wrote on X. Meanwhile, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and party leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also expressed sorrow at the death of five soldiers. "Deeply distressed at the loss of lives of five Indian Army bravehearts... Our heartfelt condolences to the

families of the Army personnel who fell victim to this painful tragedy. In this hour of grief, the nation stands together in saluting the exemplary service of our valiant soldiers," Kharge said in a post on X. Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, said in a post on X: "While paying my humble tribute to all the martyred soldiers, I express my deepest condolences to the bereaved families. We stand with them in this hour of grief. The country will always remember their dedication, service and sacrifice." "My deepest condolences to the bereaved families. The country will always remain indebted to our brave soldiers and their families for this supreme sacrifice," wrote Priyanka. Army Chief General Manoj Pande and all ranks of the Indian Army expressed heartfelt condolences on the death of five soldiers who lost their lives on the incident. "Indian Army stands firm with the bereaved families in this hour of grief," an Army spokesperson said. — PTI

Chargesheet filed against ex-constable for ₹1.8-cr fraud

JAMMU, JUNE 29 The Jammu and Kashmir Police Crime Branch filed a chargesheet on Saturday against a former policeman for allegedly duping a woman of Rs 1.8 crore on the pretext of selling her a plot here, officials said. Jammu Crime Branch SSP Benam Tosh said a case in this regard was filed last year under various Sections of the IPC following a written complaint by the victim. Mohd Afzal Beg, who was a constable in the J&K Armed Police, allegedly indulged in real estate business illegally while he was in government service. He subsequently resigned from the 19th Battalion of the Indian Reserve Police in 2022, the SSP said. The SSP said a written complaint was received from the woman alleging that Beg sold her two kanals of land in Jammu's Sidhra area for Rs 2.25 crore and she had paid Rs 1.80 crore in advance. The woman claimed that she later found out that the land belonged to someone else and Beg refused to return the money, the official added. The case of cheating, fraud and forgery was proved against the accused and his wife. Beg was arrested from Srinagar, while his wife, who was apprehended, was granted bail, Tsh said. — PTI

13,000 visit Amarnath shrine on Day 1

OUR CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR, JUNE 29 More than 13,000 pilgrims visited the Amarnath cave shrine on Saturday, the first day of the annual pilgrimage in the south Kashmir Himalayas. As the annual Amarnath Yatra-2024 commenced on Saturday, the first two batches of pilgrims were flagged-off from the twin base camps at Baltal and Nunwan as they began their journey to the holy cave shrine, situated 3,880 m above sea level in the south Kashmir. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also conveyed his best wishes to all the devotees on the commencement of the holy pilgrimage. "My heartfelt best wishes to all the pilgrims on the commencement of the holy Amarnath Yatra. Associated with the darshan and worship of Baba Barfani, this yatra infuses immense energy in the devotees of Lord Shiva. I wish that all the devotees may prosper with his blessings. Jai Baba Barfani!" the Prime Minister wrote on X. The pilgrims began their journey towards the Amarnath cave via two routes: the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in the Anantnag district and the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in the Ganderbal district. Spiritual fervour marked the occasion as devotees as pilgrims were seen chanting religious hymns as they proceeded towards the holy cave of Lord Shiva. On Friday, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha had flagged-off the first batch of pilgrims for the annual Amarnath Yatra from the Bhagwati Nagar camp in Jammu. This year, approximately 3.5 lakh persons have already registered for the yatra. Comprehensive arrangements have been made to ensure the comfort and safety of all the pilgrims. Essential amenities, healthcare services, and robust security measures have been meticulously put in place at the base



Pilgrims en route to the Amarnath cave shrine from the Baltal and Nunwan base camps on Saturday. PTI



An SDRF employee provides oxygen to a pilgrim in Anantnag on Saturday. ANI

PM EXTENDS WISHES

My heartfelt best wishes to all pilgrims on the commencement of the holy Amarnath Yatra. Associated with the darshan and worship of Baba Barfani, this yatra infuses immense energy in the devotees of Lord Shiva. I wish that all devotees may prosper with his blessings. Jai Baba Barfani! Narendra Modi, PRIME MINISTER

ONGC SETS UP 200-BED FACILITIES

ONGC has set up two 100-bed hospitals at the twin Amarnath base camps. It has announced that the facilities would continue to operate post the annual yatra. ONGC said it had teamed up with the health and medical education department to bolster the region's healthcare infrastructure. Recognising the need for sustainable healthcare infrastructure, ONGC, under its CSR initiative, constructed permanent hospitals at Baltal and Chandanwar-Pahalgam. Each of these hospitals are equipped with 100 beds, lodging facilities for medical staff & intensive care units that would provide essential medical services to local communities. PTI

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Five Army men swept away in...

FROM PAGE 1 Bangladesh) during the 1971 war with Pakistan. In a statement on X, the Army's 14 Corps, headquartered at Leh, said the incident occurred while the tank crew was "de-inducting from a military training activity". "An Army tank got stuck in the Shyok river, near Saser Brangsa, eastern Ladakh, due to a sudden increase in the water level," the 14 Corps said. Rescue teams were rushed to the location, however, due to the swift current and the high water level, the rescue mission didn't succeed and the tank crew lost their lives, it added. The sources said even the rescue party in the boat had a narrow escape as the vessel capsized in the fast-flowing river. The five deceased personnel were from the Army's Armoured Regiment. They are Risaldar MRK Reddy, Dafedar Bhupendra Negi, Lance Dafedar Ekeidaung Tiebam, Hav Subhan Khan and Craftsman S Nagraju. The Shyok river is the key water body that runs past the Depsang plains near Daulat Baig Oldie airfield. The Shyok that descends from the eastern flank of the Rimo Kangri glacier is a tributary of the Indus. The sources said there was a sudden increase in the water level due to snow-melt. As the terrain does not have trees, the snow-melt rushes straight into the river in the valley. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh posted on X, "Deeply saddened at the loss of lives of five of our brave Indian Army soldiers in an unfortunate accident while getting the tank across a river in Ladakh."

INDIA bloc must take up Muslim issues, says NC's Ruhullah Mehdi

OUR CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR, JUNE 29 Claiming that the Muslim community had voted in a large number for the INDIA bloc in the recent General Election, National Conference MP Ruhullah Mehdi urged the Opposition alliance to address issues concerning Muslims. "The INDIA bloc partners speak freely about other minorities, but remain silent on Muslim issues. This needs to change. In the General Election, Muslims voted substantially for this alliance," Mehdi said. "Despite receiving support from the Muslim community, they don't speak for them. If the INDIA bloc

'Oppn leaders speak freely about other minorities, but remain silent on Muslims' issues'

doesn't speak for them, what is left for the Muslims? What institution and what hope is left for them to turn to?" he asked. In the recent Lok Sabha election, Mehdi had defeated Peoples' Democratic Party leader Waheed Ur Rehman Para by a margin of 1,88,416 votes. On June 26, during his inaugural address in the Lok Sabha following Om Birla's re-election as Speaker, Mehdi stressed the need to address issues concerning Muslims and the swift passage of bill that led to the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, in the Parliament. He expressed hope that the Speaker would uphold the Constitution and lead the House democratically. Mehdi also spoke about a past incident where a Muslim MP was called a "terrorist". Mehdi said, "You will be remembered for how you handled voices in the House that called an elected Muslim MP a terrorist, or if you allowed those voices to persist. If an elected MP is called a terrorist in this House, I wonder what is happening to other Muslims in the streets."

Indcredible

FROM PAGE 1 Heinrich Klaasen threatened India with a 52 off 27 balls but Hardik Pandya (3/20) snatched the crucial wicket to bring the game decisively in favour of India. But a large chunk of the credit should go to Kohli for anchoring the innings and pushing India to a fighting total. He completed his fifty in 48 balls, but the knock was what precisely India needed the early dismissals of skipper Rohit Sharma (9), Rishabh Pant (0) and Suryakumar Yadav (3), which had reduced India to a worrying 34 for three. — PTI

JKRTC plans expansion, operational enhancement

SRINAGAR, JUNE 29 The Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC), is planning to increase trip frequencies and prioritise profitable interstate routes on highways. In a meeting here today, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo said the JKRTC should enhance supervision over the fleet of vehicles in public service for increasing revenue collection. The JKRTC aims to optimise its fleet strength to match business opportunities, commercially utilise its assets and finalise the E-ticketing module. — OC

Delhi court sends Kejri to 14-day..

FROM PAGE 1 Meanwhile, Chaudhari had moved an application seeking to call upon the CBI to place on record the material, including the case diary, collected against the Delhi CM. He submitted that the application was moved to assist the court. During the hearing, the judge said the court must oversee the steps taken by the investigating officer (IO) during police custody, but the material related to the probe could not be disclosed to the accused. The court must satisfy itself about the need for remand, the judge said. Once police custody expires, the court had no choice but to remand the accused to judicial custody, the court said.

The accused could apply for bail as per procedure, but there was no provision requiring the court to reject the IO's application for judicial remand, the court added. Chaudhari stated that a submission was made before the Supreme Court stating that the investigation would conclude by July 3. He requested that the court to hold the IO accountable to this timeline, so he could argue the matter in any forum. The court said any failure to adhere to the stated timeline for concluding the investigation would provide grounds for seeking bail, but it would not prevent the granting of judicial custody.

CALENDAR

- June 30 2024, Sunday
Shaka Samvat 1946
Aashadh Shukla 9
Aashadh Purnimasa 17
Hijari 1445
Krishna Paksha Tithi 9, up to 12.20 pm
Aiganda Yoga up to 4.14 pm
Revti Nakshatra up to 7.34 am
Moon enters Aries sign 7.34 am
Panchak ended 7.34 am



# Bridegrooms Wanted

**SAINI**  
Saini Sikh girl, July 86/ 5'-1", M.A. B.Ed., M.Sc. (IT), working in PSPCL, Patiala. Seeks suitable match, no dowry, caste no bar. 94642-35668 (CL24028465)

**BACKWARD CLASSES**  
Hindu Nal girl 27, 5'-4", LLB, LL.M., Good Job. Seeks Suitable match, no dowry, caste no bar. 94642-35668 (CL24029631)

**DOCTOR/ENGINEER**  
Medico match for God MBBS pursuing MD (Anesthesia & Intensive Care) 1996 bom girl, height 5'-7", Panchula based Punjab family. Contact: 98881-14800. (CL24029595)

**PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED**  
Jat Sikh Sidhu girl, 4'-6", 10+2, Diploma Computer Accounts, 33 years, one eye artificial. Wanted only Jat Sikh, Govt. Call 7986040603, 8437641406 (CL24029765)

**RAJPUT**  
Punjabi Varma, November 1981, 5'-5", Graduated, unmarried, housewife forever. Sister married Richman. Daughters legal heirs generational assets millions. Businessman's status family. Normal marriage. Require: Rich Hindu family's bachelor boy, settled India/abroad, earning high income, occupying home. 94647-8538. (CL24027638)

Match for beautiful Saini Sikh girl 12.12.95/ 5'-3", Education Architect, working in Australian Company. IT Park Chandigarh. 99159-34051. (CL24029703)

Match for beautiful Himachal Rajput girl 33 years, 5'-4", Software Manager in reputed Multi National Company, Gurgaon, family settled in Tricity Chandigarh. Upper caste no bar. 96469-01156. janwalpipes@gmail.com (CL24029384)

Match for beautiful Himachal Rajput girl 33 years, 5'-4", Software Manager in reputed Multi National Company, Gurgaon, family settled in Tricity Chandigarh. Upper caste no bar. 96469-01156. janwalpipes@gmail.com (CL24029384)

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**MD/ MS/ DM/ MCH Doctor match for Kamboj Sikh Doctor girl doing MS (ENT) Aug. 1993/ 5'-4", preferred Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Chandigarh. 94171-47284. (CL24030012)**

**MCH/ MD, MD, MS/ upper business class match for beautiful fair Rangbaria Sikh girl 29 years, 5'-2", MD in Pathology reputed medium upper business class family, renowned Industrialist in Ludhiana. Caste no bar. Marriage bureau please excuse. Contact: 98727-33532. (CL24029771)**

**Required DM/ MD for Aggarwal OBS Gynec pursuing S.R. Ship 96 5'-1" from reputed business family. Upper caste no bar. (W) 70158-6454. (CL24029859)**

**MCH/ MD/ MS match for Arora Hindu girl, pursuing Fellowship in Head and Neck Oncology. 5'-3", 1995, 93503-07095. (CL24029863)**

**PQM for MDS (Endo) Hindu Khatri Manglik girl, 5'-2", June 1987. 94170-14266. (CL24029959)**

**DM/MD/MS/MBBS Jat Sikh match for our MD Medicine daughter 1994 born, 5'-2". Contact: 98554-96501. (CL24029964)**

**MCH, DM, MS, MD, Civil Services Judiciary, Gazetted Officer match for SR Anesthesia Sharma girl 34, 5'-4" Ht., upper castes welcome. Mobile 98154-50276, 94172-12011. (CL24029974)**

**Compatible Doctor MD match for a very pretty sharp-featured 29 yrs, 5'-3", MD (Pathology) Doctor local Khatri girl from Family of well established business. M: 98145-31541. (CL24029042)**

**Match for MD Psychiatry Aggarwal Goel beautiful girl, Jan 95, 5'-5", working 25 LPA, IAS/ IPS/ IAS/ MD, MS/ MCH, IAS/ IPS/ IAS, 97295-83387. (CL24029607)**

**Officer/ Doctor match for beautiful smart Garg girl, 5'-4"/ 1997 bom, doing MS Surgery, status family. Mob. No. 97921-50226, 70151-55115. (CL24029922)**

**Suitable medico/ IAS/ officer India/ abroad for MBBS Philippine, PG Dipl. UK, 29y Female, highly reputed Doctors family. 98533-42430. (CL24029743)**

**Civil Services/Judiciary/MD/MS/ MCH/ DM match for beautiful Ludhiana based 34.5"-3" Aggarwal girl, MS Surgery, Package 30+ lacs. Decent marriage, Aggarwal families only. 97790-21525. (CL24029815)**

**Beautiful, fair, Brahmin DR/ MD 5'-17" 32, Parents, Brother Doctor. Parents own hospital Chandigarh. 98788-64745, 98151-64745. (CL24029851)**

**MD, MS, DM, IAS, IPS match for (SC) Chamar girl, 5'-3", 1991, Radiologist. 94633-91426. (CL24029956)**

**Khatri Punjabi beautiful, slim girl, 5'-5", 25.8.1998, 3:15 am, Bathinda, BDS, MBA, Thumbay Hospital U.A.E open to settle India and Abroad. Parents Class-I Punjab Govt. Officers, resident Panchkula. 81465-89921, 81465-49921. (CL24029977)**

**MD, MS match for beautiful Gaur Brahmin MBBS girl, 5'-3", well reputed renowned Doctor's family. Contact: 98137-53000. (CL24025251)**

**Seeking well settled match for slim, beautiful SC girl, 1996 born, 5'-3", M.Sc Hons (Bio-technology), working in MNC (US based) at Mohali. Father ret'd. Sr. Medical Officer. Mother bank employee. Mohali based educated family. Caste no bar. NRI also preferred. Contact: 9872771155. (CL24028606)**

**Match for beautiful Sikh Ravidasia girl, bom Aug. 1992, 5'-3", MCA, private job. Father Govt. job, mother housewife, one brother unmarried. Only urban wear (boy), preferably Anandpur Sahib, Mohali, Chandigarh. Govt. job boy preferred. Contact: 98158-18589. (CL24029028)**

**Match for Ramdasia Sikh beautiful girl, 1998 born, 5'-2", Canada work permit. Patiala family. PR Canada preferred. 9872081361. (CL24029282)**

**Suitable match for SC Ravidasia convent school Teacher, July 1997, 5'-3". Tricity based employed from Nirankari or Radhaswami family preferred. 95014-65990. (CL24029411)**

**Match for beautiful Balmiki Chandigarh born girl, 5'-2", 22/05/1993, Master Degree (Mass Communication), occupation Pvt. job. 76968-86101. (CL24029420)**

**Canada Ramdasia girl 1995, 5'-3", M.Sc. (Hons.) Chemistry on work permit Canada, two brother, one in Canada and one in Govt. job for required equal quality PR boy. 99888-12321. (CL24029704)**

**Match for Ravidasia girl, Aug. 1994/ 5'-3", MSW, Own Business in Chandigarh, Mother Gazetted Officer. Father Class-I Officer. Preference for Veterinary profession. Tricity preferred. Contact Whatsapp 95179-88056. (CL24029708)**

**Ravidasia Sikh girl 25/ 5'-5", B.Ed (Science), M.Sc (Maths), seeks Army man or Canada/ America/ Newzealand/ Australian citizen boy. 82839-25068. (CL24029717)**

**Hindu Valmik girl 1.11.89, Ferozepur, 5'-4", BA, LLB. Preference Govt. job. Caste no bar. 94640-77670. (CL24029751)**

**Ravidasia Sikh girl, Oct. 1990, Manager in Govt. bank Ludhiana, requires equivalent match, 98037-79784. (CL24028006)**

**Match for Ravidasia girl from Pathankot Nov. 97 born/ 4'-11", B.Com., M.Com., B.Ed. 94691-32803. (CL24028186)**

**Canadian PR girl, 5', 1996, M.Tech, working IT Sector, Toronto. Seeks well settled match from Canada/ USA. Father Class-I officer, Mother homemaker. 81465-30877. (CL24028348)**

**Suitable alliance for Ravidasia Sikh Canadian citizen girl 1987/ 5'-3" Physiotherapist, required Canada PR, work-permit, Visitor, 94640-17475, 85560-00423, WhatsApp: 99156-65870. (CL24029022)**

**SM4 SBC girl 1997/ 5'-8", B.Tech, MBA (IIM), currently working in IT, Selected as PO SBI, Doaba preferred. WhatsApp: 94640-22400. (CL24029271)**

**Whentish Completion, 26 years, 5'-2". B.Com. Mazhbi Sikh girl doing Pvt job under C.A as an Account Assistant. Caste no bar, residence in Zirakpur Ph. M: 98722-09545. (CL24029308)**

**Govt employee suitable match for SC Hindu girl 1987, 5'-5", M.A, B.Ed. (Inspec) Punjab Police. Father (Ret'd), Mother Govt. employee. Residing Ludhiana. Contact: 98154-63444. (CL24029634)**

**NRI**  
Ramdasia Sikh Doctor parents seek Doctor/ Ph.D/ Engineer match for US based Daughter. 5'-5", 90 born, PhD in Bio-Engineering, working as Scientist in California. Only brother MBA. Caste no bar. 98141-78569. (CL24028000)

**Rangbaria 34, 5'-4", fair, slim, beautiful, Graduate girl, Canada on work permit and Australian citizen, divorced after few days. Seeks Canada/ Australia PR or citizen well educated working boy. Caste no bar. WhatsApp: +1-204-698-0396. (CL24028215)**

**SC Ramdasia girl Dec. 95, 5'-2", Study Visa, MS in Europe, early marriage requires NRI. 94163-02828. (CL24028259)**

**Professionally qualified match for Hindu beautiful PR girl, 5'-7", August 1994 born, B.E (ENC) Diploma in Business Management. Working in I.T. Company Canada. Parents retired from Public Sector and well settled in Panchkula. Caste no bar. Contact: 81467-59033. (CL24028855)**

**Kashyap Rajput girl 1999/5', Post Graduate Web Developer work permit Canada, well educated PR work permit boy in Canada. Contact: 73800-14810, 83606-26728. (CL24029036)**

**Rangbaria Sikh girl 27/ 5'-3", B.Pharmacy from India, Master Degree Public Health in Australia (Melbourne), job in Hospital. Required Australia PR boy. 94644-37173. (CL24029246)**

**Brahmin NRI girl 1996, 5'-4", B.Tech, PG-Diploma, working girl wanted well educated family, 93299-19354, 88151-01805. (CL24029444)**

**Suitable handsome educated boy required for Australian born Punjabi girl, Brahmin, 5'-5", 1990. Masters in Teaching RMIT Uni, Govt. job. 81461-03786. (CL24029619)**

**Australian citizen match for Khatri M.Tech, legally divorced 37/ 5'-3", permanent job Sydney Australian citizen girl, own house. WhatsApp +91-90448-38236. (CL24029770)**

**Suitable well-educated, well-settled match for Canadian citizen Tonk-khatri 1998 born, 5'-2", girl, working as an Accountant and studying as well. All family settled in Montreal (Canada). Preferably Canadian or USA only WhatsApp/Msg please with latest photo and complete biodata. +91-88726-94556. (CL24029809)**

**Rangbaria girl from Canada, 1990, 5'-6", preferred only well settled, vegetarian Canadian Sardar boy, 98555-45495. (CL24029890)**

**Aggarwal girl Jan. 1991, 5'-3", B.Tech, MBA, Canada (Ontario), (Canadian PR preferred). Upper caste no bar. 98156-44570. (CL24029773)**

**Engineer/ Doctor for beautiful Ramdasia Sikh girl 1991/ 5'-8", B.Tech- IIT, MS (USA), working as Engineer. Contact USA only Caste no bar. 1123contact@gmail.com (CL24029966)**

**Rangbaria girl 1981/ 5'-5", M.Tech., Green Card holder, working in USA. Cont. 78889-36783. (CL24023167)**

**Suitable match for Nai Sikh Canadian citizen, good looking girl, 30, 5'-5", BDS, Post-Graduate Healthcare. Contact: 76968-82160. (CL24027891)**

**Match from only America/ Canada settled Engineer, CA, or well qualified for Sikh Walia girl 5'-5", Oct '84 born, innocently divorced no kids, MS finance student working as manager. Plz send biodata & latest Pics at W/APP +1-9136029071. (CL24027892)**

**Match for July 1988, 5'-5", Medical Doctor, divorced US citizen family girl, preference professional boy. Email: jetandersapra@gmail.com WhatsApp +17184138890. (CL24029786)**

**Qualified match for BDS Canadian PR Valmiki girl, 1989, 5'-3", Preferred Punjabi family. 98766-01018. (CL24029796)**

**Match for very beautiful short term divorcee girl Khatri Canadian citizen Dental Hygienist 29/ 5'-4", good salary well settled in Calgary for boy well educated, well settled in Calgary Canada. Preferred only Malwa area, upper caste marriage bureau excuse. Bio-data send WhatsApp 70872-91816. (CL24029797)**

**US, Canadian strictly vegetarian, teetotaler, well settled match preferably Dentist Doctor wanted for beautiful Brahmin girl 28 year, 5'-5", Software Engineer in Toronto Canada. WhatsApp: 95921-09464. (CL24029834)**

**Match for July 1988, 5'-5", Medical Doctor, divorced US citizen family girl, Preference professional boy. Email: jetandersapra@gmail.com, WhatsApp: +17184138890. (CL24029858)**

**Saraswat Brahmin issuese divorcee girl 34, 5'-5", M.Tech. Canada PR, package 60K. 94789-62619. (CL24029860)**

**Canadian citizen Hindu Arora girl, 1993 born, 5'-6", Engineer, earning \$300000, looking Doctor, lawyer, businessman from Canada. 98550-39874. (CL24029921)**

**PQM for Himachal Rana Rajput girl, 07.02.1990, 06.20 am, Pathankot, 5'-1", Masters in Pharmacy and Graduate in Healthcare Leadership (Canada) on work visa. Match kundli. Upper caste welcome. Contact: 98147-07820, 78890-21501. (CL24029951)**

**Suitable match for Canadian PR, Balmiki SC girl, Sept. 1990, 5'-5", MBA, working as Manager Wal-Mart. Father retired Gazetted officer. Only Canadian PR/citizen preferred. Caste no bar. Contact: 9466979891. (CL24029965)**

**Gursikh working girl 1987/5'-0", M.Sc., B.Ed., husband expired, having 5 years son, Agr. land. 87083-45288. (CL24025666)**

**Match for widow SC Ravidasia girl, 1987 born, Graduate, ITI-Diploma. Educated family, caste no bar. 98889-99970. (CL24028262)**

**Required match for widow around 60, only serious minded person above 60 yrs. Contact: 83609-19941. (CL24030020)**

**Well educated issuese, 65 years widow needs retired life partner match. Call: 99883-80342, 91159-57342. (CL24029852)**

**Suitable match for widow Aggarwal lady 43 years, 5'-2", working. Having one boy 14 years. Caste no bar. 78143-04287. (CL24030036)**

**Suitable match for Hindu Tonk Kshatriya girl (Manglik), 24y/ years, 5'-3", Post Graduate. Caste no bar. Tricity preferred. Mobile 95921-17240, 98143-03372. (CL24028045)**

**Rajput girl 4.08.1996 Chd, 5.15 pm, Tricity boy preferred. 98883-69909. (CL24029693)**

**Brahmin girl, slim, smart 1990, 5'-7", Government service, Punjab. Post Graduate, teetotaler. Preferred Tricity. Contact 90568-32363. (CL24029825)**

**Bulandshahr based girl 35/ 5'-5", B.Ed, CTET, Teaching professional, Army background. Settled Panchkula. 97807-31380, 62834-94785. (CL24029944)**

**Medico/Non-Medico teetotaler match for beautiful purely vegetarian Saraswat Brahmin girl, 5'-6.5", 13.4.98, BDS. Doing practice. 84730-41346, 83603-00023. (CL24030014)**

**Brahmin girl 5'-2"/ 29, Postgraduate Yoga, Degree in Naturopathy. Tricity preferred. 79867-43074. (CL24030038)**

**Saraswat Brahmin non-manglik, vegetarian Punjabi girl, 1993/ 5'-3", B.Tech, working in MNC Gurgaon, 25 LPA. WhatsApp only 95307-95309. (CL24029379)**

**Brahmin 05.06.1991, 11 am, Chandigarh, 5'-7", Government job. Tricity preferred. 73407-52785. (CL24028016)**

**SM for Brahmin girl 24.02.1987, Rajpura, 5'-3", MBA, PR permanent job Canada. 98886-75886. Coming India soon. (CL24028069)**

**Brahmin girl, 1993, 5'-4", Punjab Government teacher, pursuing Ph.D. Preferred Govt. boy nearby Jalandhar. 8847365133. (CL24028153)**

**Punjabi Saraswat Brahmin girl, 25 October 1995, 10.10 pm, Patiala 5'-7". Working in USA based MNC Gurugram transferable Bangalore/ Pune. PG Mathematics and Data Science. CTC 25, well settled family, seeking Indian resident, teetotaler, born after 1993. Send bio-data after matching Kundli. Caste no bar. WhatsApp: 9792-30932. (CL24028336)**

**Saraswat Brahmin girl, 5'-4", Jan. 1996, B.Tech. Senior Software Engineer handsome package preferred only IT. 88722-99927. (CL24028854)**

**Match for unmarried Brahmin girl 1983, 5'-5.5", MCA, job CBSE School Jalandhar. Divorcee excuse. 9877461831. (CL24029045)**

**Match for Brahmin beautiful girl, few days marriage, legally divorced, 29 years, MBA Finance, 5'-1", Govt/ MNC preferred. Contact 94178-02721. (CL24029014)**

**Wanted employed match for beautiful Brahmin girl legally divorced issuese employed Chandigarh, Sept. 1987/5'-5", B.Sc. (IT). Upper caste no bar. 94177-03413. kghshama313@gmail.com (CL24029314)**

**Beautiful slim Punjabi Brahmin girl 89 born, 5'-3", Master in Fine Arts working MNC in Gurgaon. Vegetarian boy working in NCR. Preferred. 94177-23334. (CL24029646)**

**Extremely beautiful Brahmin girl 1997/ 5'-6", B.Com (Hons.) & Global Business Management from UK, reputed business family, upper caste no bar. Contact: 94160-27672. (CL24029711)**

**Sharma Manglik Non-Manglik girl 06.03.1993, 3:19 p.m., Faridabad, 5'-6", B.Com, M.Com, working in HCL Noida wants well settled serviceman/ businessman boy, preferred around Faridabad, Gurugram, Noida, Delhi. 72899-41413, 98738-44756. (CL24029722)**

**JAT SIKH**  
Jat Sikh Jalandhar born and American citizen, slim, smart beautiful girl, schooling from Dehradun, 1994, 5'-6", Degree in Bioscience from California University (USA), now working with Federal facility in DNA forensic lab. Well known family from Doaba. Preferred Medical, Engineering field matches from USA, India, Canada. 91691-03287. (CL24027889)

**Parents are seeking a suitable qualified match for their daughter, who was born in June 1994 and is 5ft 4inch tall, currently working as an Electrical Engineer in Calgary, Canada, after completing her Bachelor's degree in April this year. We are a Canadian citizen Jat-Sikh family and follow the Radha-Soami faith, we have equal faith in Shri Guru Granth Sahib ji. Only vegetarian and teetotaler families may contact us at +1-587-436-0964 or tashish.haha167@yahoo.com (CL24028048)**

**Beautiful Jat Sikh Canadian citizen, 1993 born, height 5 feet 7 inches, Chandigarh convent educated and University Graduate from Canada. Working as an Executive in MNC in Canada. Only girl belongs to educated and well off family. If suits you, please respond with detailed profile and photos at WhatsApp No. +14372556161. (CL24028629)**

**Suitable Doctor/Engineer/ Lawyer, well-educated and settled Canadian PR or citizen Jat Sikh match for beautiful Indian born Canadian citizen Jat Sikh Virk born 28 years, 5'-5", M.Sc. Degree holder from UBC. Preference to British Columbia. Marriage bureau please excuse. Call with full details. +7783-48615, +7783-96245. (CL24027648)**

**Seeking Jat Sikh match for beautiful Jat Sikh girl, 5'-7", 33, working as Engineer in USA. WhatsApp: +1 71650-87011. (CL24029224)**

**Jat Sikh beautiful girl 5'-6"/ 1988, MCA. Just completed ECE in Canada. 1 sister married 1 brother unmarried well settled in Canada. Seeking for well educated guy in Canada/ US/ India. 5062517631/ 9188475-49998. (CL24028005)**

**Suitable match for Punjabi Jat Sikh, Govt. Job, Chd. 1995/ 5'-5", MA, slim girl. Required well settled qualified boy. Preferred Govt. job. Mob: 96464-49091. (CL24028126)**

**Professionally qualified clean shaven match for beautiful, cultured girl, Oct. 89/ 5'-10" from status Jat Sikh family, Canada PR, M.Design working with reputed Tech MNC in Canada. Email: gk23match@gmail.com. (CL24028254)**

**Status match for beautiful daughter of senior Army officer from Mohali, 25/ 5'-9". Working in HR role in Gurgaon. Contact 81076-68983. (CL24028286)**

**Seeking clean shaven boy for Saini girl, 1986/ 5'-2", Assistant Professor. Service/ businessman Tricity preferred. 83602-03769. (CL24028454)**

**26/5'-5", B.Tech Software Engineer, PR, Jat Sikh girl wants suitable match. 95163-90117, 96443-90119. (CL24029043)**

**Seeking well qualified match for Australia PR Jat Sikh girl 1990/ 5'-3" BDS Punjab, Masters in Public Health from top Australian University. Presently working as Research Associate, Global Health Project with prestigious International Organization. Marriage bureau excuse. 89686-97166 WhatsApp. (CL2402**

Alliance invited for cultured, 91 born, 5-7' tall, beautiful, and slim Jat Sikh girl, Master's in Law. She possesses excellent administrative skills and having interest in business also. Hailing from high status, vegetarian family residing at farmhouse near Chandigarh. Seeking: Businessman, Officer or professionally qualified well-settled and responsible match from grounded family based India/ abroad. 88725-98888. (CL24023449)

Suitable match for beautiful Jat Sikh girl 1992/ 5'-5", B.Tech. & MBA, currently living in Canada. Preferred Canadian PR boy from well settled family. Contact: +14379746915. (CL24023515)

Suitable match for 25 years, 5'-5 1/2", fair Jat Sikh girl, B.Tech CSE, doing job in reputed IT company. Preferred location Tricity. Call after 3:00 pm. Contact: 84278-35259. (CL24025704)

Canadian match for Jat-Sikh Grewal girl, 1993, 5'-6", M.Com., B.Ed., in Canada on work permit. UR, contact: 94176-00083 (CL24027711)

Suitable Jat Sikh Officer/ Doctor match from Indian Air Force only for Jat Sikh girl 27, 5'-5", Flight Lieutenant (Air Force) in Technical Branch, Educated and Well Settled family of Punjab. WhatsApp only 94175-07753. (CL24027835)

Required qualified employed Jat Sikh boy 5'-8", for good looking B.Sc Nursing employed girl 1996/ 5'-7", Canada Hospital, small family from Amritsar, Gurudaspur Preferred. WhatsApp only 559 770 5038, 98140 84954 (CL24028065)

Suitable match for Jat Sikh Sidhu beautiful girl Jan. 98, 5'-3", BA, MA, Clerk govt. job, Chandigarh. Service case near Chandigarh only. 98780-28396. (CL24028073)

Jatt Sikh girl Sept. 1992, 5'-4", Doctor/ Issuseless, Govt Service Teacher (Regular). Seeks good job boy from Well Settled Family. 98782-90770, 94177-82263 (Bathinda). (CL24028084)

Jatt Sikh girl 1990, 5'-4", MA (English) and B.Sc. Nursing, regular Nursing Officer in PGI Chandigarh with one lac plus monthly salary and Canada PR. from Bamala. Prefer Govt. job boy in Chandigarh or Mohali with 7-10 acre land. 94652-33340. (CL24028274)

Suitable match for Tricity based Jat Sikh 26 yrs, 5'-7", B.Sc., LL.B. girl working in Govt. office 60000/- p.m. dual licensed Lawyer in India and Canada, rural and urban property, only two sisters. WhatsApp No. 94178-00378. (CL24029644)

Elite match for Jat Sikh Doctor MD (Gynaec) girl, 1995, 5'-4", S.R. - Govt. hospital. Highly status Doctor/ Businessman/ Officer. Upper caste welcome. WhatsApp: 98764-91897. (CL24028885)

USA Citizen Jatt Sikh girl 1994/ 5'-4", doing 3rd year of residency in internal medicine. Wants educated Jat Sikh boy USA/ Canada. WhatsApp +91-86993-91225. (CL24029621)

Jatt Sikh girl, March 93, 5'-5", Doctor (Ophthalmologist) in Punjab, seeks a well educated, professionally stable groom from a respectable family. 98370-47621. (CL24029645)

Alliance invited from tall, handsome, well versed Jat Sikh boy from reputed family for beautiful well educated Jat Sikh girl 31/ 5'-6", NRI also welcome. 98155 46505 (CL24029683)

PQM for Jatt Sikh girl, June 1992 born, 5'-5", officer MBBS, working as Medical Officer in P.G. Post. Only Jat Sikh Grade A, B Gazetted Officers and Doctors should contact. Chandigarh Tricity. Patiala preferred. 94178-44146 WhatsApp. (CL24029659)

Canada Citizen Jat Sikh Oct. 92, 5'-4", Business Administration and Accounting, working as Accountant. 98157-18937. (CL24029706)

Jatt Sikh 1993, 5'-5", beautiful, decent girl working in Central Govt. Group 'B' Official, Native Shriganganagar (Raj). Preference Govt. job Jat Sikh family only. State Rajasthan & Punjab. 82395-64536. (CL24029716)

Jatt Sikh Dhillon Canada PR girl, 1995, 5'-3", B.Tech. CSE, PG Diplomas 1. Cloud Computing, 2. Esthetics looking for equally qualified, non drinker, living in Canada boy. Prefer Morinda nearby area (50-60 kms) 84273-53399, +16475736533. (CL24029753)

Wanted equally qualified match preferably from British Columbia for Jat Sikh Canadian citizen girl, 28 years, 5'-4", did BSN from KPU Surrey, working as Registered Nurse with Vancouver Coastal Health, upper middle class family belongs to Ferropur. Phone 98727-00032. (CL24029754)

For Jat Sikh Doctor girl 29/ 5'-3", MBBS USA PR. Preferred doing Residency in USA. Call only Jat Sikh. 98552-77463. (CL24029808)

Jatt Sikh girl, Canadian citizen, 1992 born, height 5'-4", working as Nurse Practitioner in USA. Required MBBS, MD Doctor, Veterinary Doctor, Chartered Accountant, Lawyer or Engineer. Contact: 001-416-884-5486. (CL24029836)

Jatt Sikh Australian PR girl, 1997, 5'-6", B.Sc. Nursing, Diploma in Healthcare, required Indian/ NRI family. 62394-83097. (CL24029916)

Jatt Sikh, 1996, 5'-6", B.Tech. CSE, Senior Software Developer, required pure vegetarian, turbaned, Jat Sikh, Canada PR boy in IT. +9198156-79735. (CL24029869)

Jatt Sikh America PR girl, 1998, 5'-6", Master's in Computer Science, require a good family. Upper caste welcome. 98555-11185. (CL24029908)

Jatt Sikh Canadian work permit girl, 1998, 5'-6", Post Graduation in Agriculture Business Management, required Indian/ NRI family. 85449-57192. (CL24029914)

Jatt Sikh girl, 1997, 5'-7", M.Sc. (Biochemistry), Ph.D. required Govt. employee, Businessman or well educated boy. 90563-63382. (CL24029919)

Beautiful Jat Sikh girl Dec. 1995/ 5'-3", Chemical Engineer working in Reputed MNC. Needs suitable match with private job and agriculture land. 98766-73394, 62393-03900. (CL24029974)

Suitable match for Jat Sikh Sandhu girl, 1993, 5'-4", Software Engineer, package 7 Lac. 79733-12145. (CL24030040)

SIKH KHATRI/ARORA

Ludhiana base Gursikh Arora Dec. 1995, 5'-2", slim, beautiful Convent schooling Graduate, father Industrialist. 78143-73526. (CL24030042)

Wanted Gursikh match for 46 year unmarried educated girl. Issueless, divorcee also apply. Contact 88148-58058. (CL24030112)

PQM for smart well-travelled Sikh Arora girl 32, 5'-1", Postgraduate. Work from home for Foreign Company as HR Manager. Contact: +91-98141-21096. (CL24029599)

Suitable match for smart Sikh Arora educated girl MA, B.Ed., Jan. 1992/ 5'-2", upper middle class family, working in Pvt. Bank well educated and enlightened family required Tricity preferred. Call/ WhatsApp 98155-17179, 98141-31657. (CL24029651)

Required MDS/MD/MS Gursikh well settled boy for fair/beautiful, 5'-2", MDS (Prosthodontics), 27 yrs Arora Khatri. Father Central Govt. Officer Ludhiana. 98148-53516. (CL24029857)

Suitable match for beautiful Sikh Arora girl, 1995, 5'-2", B.Tech, MBA, working in MNC, well settled and IT professional preferred, Hindu Arora welcome. WhatsApp: 99888-70570. (CL24029873)

SIKH KHATRI

Suitable match for Arora Sikh girl 1995/ 5'-2", living in Brampton on PR file is in processing. Contact: 78379-56411. (CL24029251)

Suitable match for slim and fair Sikh Arora girl 27/ 5'-2", B.Com (Hons), Accountant job in Canada. Required well educated Sikh Arora PR boy in Canada. Preferred Jalandhar (Pb). 98789-16941. (CL24029996)

SIKH KHATRI

SM4 Very beautiful Sikh Khatri girl 1996, 5'-6", MBA. Looking for status family. Tricity preferred. 98147-01424, 98140-01424. (CL24028223)

Beautiful smart Sikh Walia girl, 1993 born, 5'-5", B.Com., MBA, doing job in Mohali, caste no bar. 98723-33444. (CL24029649)

Ambala based Sikh Khatri family invites alliance proposal for their beautiful daughter, 28/ 5'-5", B.Sc, MBA, Chandigarh/ Tricity based Gursikh family non-trimmer preferred. 94163-07157. (CL24029733)

Fair Gursikh Khatri girl 5', B.Tech, 27, Punjab Govt. regular service (Group B) preference Punjab Govt. employee. 94162-76357. (CL24029891)

Beautiful, 1992 born, MBA (HR), 5'-9", HR specialist in Healthcare. Tricity preferred. 98142-83100. (CL24029629)

Wanted Sikh boy for 5'-0", 29, M.Sc Physics, B.Ed, PSTET, CTET qualified. Parents are Govt. employees. Serviceman preferred. Contact: 98766-70498. (CL24029893)

Wanted well educated match for beautiful Sikh Khatri girl 29 yrs/ 5'-1", M.Com. done MIM from UK. Contact 78887-93201. (CL24029960)

CA/ Professor/ Doctor/ PCS/ IAS/ IRS match for Baniya (Singla Gotra) non Manglik Ph.D girl, working as a Professor at IIM, 1994 born, 5'-4", belongs to Punjab based family. Caste no bar. 62808-78939. (CL24029805)

Suitable Medicin/ non Medicin match for Aggarwal girl, 24/ 5'-2", MBBS, parents Doctors. Contact: 94616-10411, bandhamaal978@gmail.com (CL24028526)

Manglik match for Singla Aggarwal slim, 1995 born, 5'-5", M.Sc. Chemistry, B.Ed., issueless divorcee girl. 98766-36499. (CL24029632)

SM4 beautiful Garg girl 1997, 5'-3", Jileidar Irrigation, B.Sc Medical (Chemistry Hons.), B.Ed, M.Sc. PU Chandigarh. (Bureau excuse). 90565-40040. (CL24029728)

Qualified match for 28/ 5'-3", B.Tech., MBA, beautiful working girl, excellent package, decent marriage. 98962-55510. (CL24029745)

Non Manglik Mittal girl, 5'-1", 24.06.1996, 2.40 am Ladwa (Kurukshetra) Science Graduate, working J.P Morgan Hyderabad, package 25 Lakhs, job Switch NCR. Contact: 98134-41296. (CL24029778)

Professionally qualified match for Manglik Mittal girl, 19.07.1998, 7.29 am, Ludhiana, 5'-2", Cost Management Accounting. 98888-13187, 98888-15163. (CL24029791)

RAMGARHIA/DHIMAN

Match for Himachali Hindu Dhiman girl, August 1991, 5', B.Tech, Pvt. job in Chandigarh. 94170-92595. (CL24028384)

Patiaba based family seeks suitable match for Vishwakarma (Khatri) Hindu Manglik girl Dob 29.08.1997, Pob Chandigarh, Tob.05.00 am, Ht. 5'-3", Qualifications B.Sc. (Chemistry), MBA International Business from Symbiosis Pune Working as Data Analyst in MNC at Pune. Father Manager in SBI Mother Homemaker Sibling One younger Brother who working in Delhi/ NCR preferred Upper caste no bar. Please send Biodata at WhatsApp 98158-03012. (CL24028008)

Ramgarhia Dhiman Sikh girl, 1995/ 5'-4", Mohali, M.Ed, M.Com. working teacher. Tricity preferred. 98150-04439. (CL24028723)

28/5'-4", B.Tech. job at Airport, Australia PR, Ramgarhia Sikh girl needs suitable match. 86028-02132, 88788-65398. (CL24029054)

Match for Ramgarhia Dhiman girl, Sep 1985 born, 5'-3", B.Tech, MSc IT, MCA, Patiala. 95696-72074. (CL24028251)

Match 4 Sikhs Dhiman, 1992 born, 153 cm height, sweet natured slim Jageo Ghataura Architect girl on work visa in Canada. Willing to Canada may contact on WhatsApp No. 9465387712 with photo. Patiala based businesswoman family. (CL24028289)

Suitable match for Hindu Dhiman vegetarian, M.Tech, College Lecturer girl, 5'-1", July 94. Contact: 99966-44653. (CL24028707)

Dhiman girl 1989, 5'-3", working Central Govt. job MA, B.Ed. preferred Govt. employee, upper caste no bar. 78885-68841. (CL24029709)

Suitable match for educated Ramgarhia girl 11.1.1989, 3:23 am, Janmarg, 5'-2", preferred well educated cleanshaved well settled boy Ludhiana. 98145-76860. (CL24029764)

Ramgarhia Graduate working girl 1989, 5'-5", issueless divorcee prefer Newzealand Canadian other foreigner accepted, caste no bar. 98558-48979. (CL24029780)

Ramgarhia Kalsi/ Lotey girl 1991/ 5'-5", M.Com., required educated settled boy Ludhiana. 94651-93884, 94174-72881. (CL24029799)

Ramgarhia Sikh girl 1991/ 5'-2", Assistant Professor, seeks Australia/ Canada well settled boy. 99889-21332. (CL24029811)

Ramgarhia girl Nov. 88, 5'-6", Govt. job (Nursing Officer), 12+ Lac PA, Chandigarh. Required Govt. job or MNC boy. Tricity, Jat Sikh welcome. Marriage bureau excuse. 98148-12214. (CL24029984)

AGGARWAL

Aggarwal match for beautiful smart, fair, low Manglik, unmarried Gool girl, 5'-4", 3 August 1997, 2:23 am, Ambala, pursuing Ph.D Chemistry (last year on NIT. Parents Govt employee, brother IIT passout. 79883-38529, 94164-94700. (CL24029736)

Smart beautiful Aggarwal sisters 1996 and 1994 B.Tech MBA Gurgaon, Hyderabad. Decent marriage budget. 86993-72414. (CL24027896)

Match for Manglik Bansal girl, slim, 5'-3" born 07.03.90, 1:40 pm, B.Com, CA, CS, 38 Lacs, MNC Bangalore, Parents: Mohali. 62397-30418. (CL24028588)

Match for Chandigarh girl, 13.01.1991, 9:38 am, 5'-7", B.Tech, MBA, Working, package 10 lacs. Contact: 94170-55990. (CL24028722)

Suitable match for beautiful Garg girl 06-08-1997, 6:20 PM, Chandigarh 5'-2", B.Tech (IT), Package 20 LPA. Preferred business family from Tricity only. Contact 93161-31260. (CL24028884)

Highly rich Aggarwal girls 1997 and 1999 smart educated. Required big Industrialist. Decent budget. 86993-72414. (CL24028901)

Divorcee Garg beautiful slim girl Graduate 34/ 5'-4", (daughter 5 year) only Aggarwal. 99882-74208. (CL24029400)

Well qualified match Indian/ Overseas settled for Architect Singla girl German PR, height 5'-4"/ 02.12.94, 16:41, Decent marriage. Mob: 94174-93937. (CL24029615)

SM for very beautiful M.A. B.Ed. Teacher in Convent School Chandigarh, Garg girl, 27 yrs, 5'-6", Wanted professional CA, Lawyer, Gazetted Officer, settled in Tricity. 98149-08568. (CL24029843)

Bansal CA girl, fair, beautiful, 5'-6", 1994, preferred business family CA in practice in Tricity. 95013-67187. (CL24027921)

Suitable match for beautiful Interior Designer Garg girl, 10.08.1997, Ludhiana, height 5'-11" (180 cm), Ludhiana, +9197791-31452, +9183601-79812. (CL24028104)

Bansal, slim beautiful girl, 5'-1", 1740, 1992, Govt. employee, Vaishnu family, required high status businessman or Govt. employee, only Aggarwal. 95699-95642. (CL24028150)

Suitable match for Jindal beautiful girl, 27.03.1997, 5'-2", 9:07 pm Bathinda, M.Sc. B.Ed, working Science Teacher Punjab Govt. looking for vegetarian Govt. employee boy Resi-Mansa. 88375-75729. (CL24028174)

CA/ Professor/ Doctor/ PCS/ IAS/ IRS match for Baniya (Singla Gotra) non Manglik Ph.D girl, working as a Professor at IIM, 1994 born, 5'-4", belongs to Punjab based family. Caste no bar. 62808-78939. (CL24029805)

Suitable Medicin/ non Medicin match for Aggarwal girl, 24/ 5'-2", MBBS, parents Doctors. Contact: 94616-10411, bandhamaal978@gmail.com (CL24028526)

Manglik match for Singla Aggarwal slim, 1995 born, 5'-5", M.Sc. Chemistry, B.Ed., issueless divorcee girl. 98766-36499. (CL24029632)

SM4 beautiful Garg girl 1997, 5'-3", Jileidar Irrigation, B.Sc Medical (Chemistry Hons.), B.Ed, M.Sc. PU Chandigarh. (Bureau excuse). 90565-40040. (CL24029728)

Qualified match for 28/ 5'-3", B.Tech., MBA, beautiful working girl, excellent package, decent marriage. 98962-55510. (CL24029745)

Non Manglik Mittal girl, 5'-1", 24.06.1996, 2.40 am Ladwa (Kurukshetra) Science Graduate, working J.P Morgan Hyderabad, package 25 Lakhs, job Switch NCR. Contact: 98134-41296. (CL24029778)

Professionally qualified match for Manglik Mittal girl, 19.07.1998, 7.29 am, Ludhiana, 5'-2", Cost Management Accounting. 98888-13187, 98888-15163. (CL24029791)

Bansal very smart homely girl 10.6.1999, 5'-4", B.Tech., MBA, wanted high industrialist boy. 98772-30463. (CL24029807)

Aggarwal Manglik divorcee (short time) B.Tech., smart girl, 1991/ 5'-3", Kaithal. Preferred unmarried boy. Contact only Kaithal/ Chandigarh. 86074-81645. (CL24029839)

Singla girl M.Sc. Chemistry (PU Chandigarh), 15 Sept. 1997, 5'-5", Father Dec Writer, mother house wife, (Rampura Puh) required Govt job or reputed businessman boy. 77194-88802. (CL24029885)

SM for non manglik Hindu Khatri girl, 31, 5'-3", slim, MNC Gurgaon 25 LPA. Preference boy working in Gurgaon/ NCR. 98764-36328. (CL24028410)

Match for Arora girl Nov. 92, 5'-5", B.Tech. Working MNC Gurgaon package 21 lacs NCR working preferred WhatsApp/call 98143-34345. (CL24028482)

Seeking a suitable match from Chandigarh for our Khatri Arora accomplished daughter, an Assistant Professor (permanent) in a prestigious Chandigarh College. She is 27/5'-6", holds an MA, UGC NET qualification, currently pursuing Ph.D. Our daughter is extremely beautiful and hails from a highly educated, respected and status family. We are looking for an educated and well settled partner who values intellect, family values and compatibility. Should you be interested please contact- 98728-55512. (CL24028570)

B.Tech. girl working in MNC June 94 born, 5 feet 5 inches, 81469-43615. (CL24027820)

Chandigarh based high status business family, extremely beautiful, fair, slim, well educated girl, 5'-5", July/1990, working in US based Company at very Senior Level. Only high class family may contact 98783-74300. (CL24029482)

Compatible match for smart Post Graduate girl, 28 years, 5'-3", working in a reputed International School in Chandigarh. Tricity preferred. WhatsApp: 80540-74480. (CL24029618)

Well-established Ludhiana based Arora Business family looking alliance for 27/5'-2", highly qualified beautiful girl. 98156-00278. (CL24029819)

Suitable match for Hindu Khatri girl, 5'-3", 12 April 1996, 12:40 am, Chandigarh, B.Tech, MBA. Working in Mohali. Tricity preferred. 98785-30900. (CL24029962)

Mutually divorced issueless girl, teetotaler, March 1990, 5'-4", B.Arch. M.A., Interior Designing, Certified Yoga Trainer. Boy preferred from Australia or NCR Delhi, WhatsApp biodata: 87082-72105. (CL24028379)

Hindu Arora beautiful girl, M.Sc, B.Ed, March 1994, 5'-5", Physics teacher in reputed Chandigarh school. Upper caste welcome. Call: 9463087637, 94170-89475. (CL24028845)

Hindu Khatri Arora working girl, M.Com, B.Ed, 5'-1", 26/09/1990, 11:40 pm, Chandigarh. Father businessman. Vegetarian family. Tricity preferred. Contact: 94175-24071. (CL24029472)

Suitable match for beautiful Hindu Arora girl, 13.08.94, 2:13:38 Chandigarh, 5'-0", M.Tech (CS), working MNC Bengaluru, 30 LPA, WhatsApp 83606-68439. (CL24029732)

Suitable match 28.10.1994, 09:50 am, Ambala, 5'-4.5", B.Tech, Senior Software Developer in Gurgaon, 45-50 LPA + Stocks. Prefer Hindu family from Gurgaon, Noida. 79888-07624. (CL24029781)

Wanted equivalent match for Arora girl, MBA, Software QA Lead, 34, 5'-0", short marriage divorcee. Working in Gurgaon, package 32 Lac. Contact: 94667-30740. (CL24029816)

IT Sector match for 04.12.1992 Ambala born girl, 14:35, 5'-2", B.Tech. MS (A.I.), Manager/ ABP MNC London, 81000 GBP + Bonus. Willing to come India. Prefer Hindu family from India in London. Upper caste. (Matrimonial agents excuse). 94162-36907 (Kurukshetra). (CL24029861)

Match for very beautiful, Haryana Civil Services (Judge), Gaur Brahmin girl, 1976/ 5'-2", looks younger, Officer Rank accepted. Mobile: 97817-81524. (CL24029696)

62 year, 5'-5", Graduate, healthy, divorced Sikh lady. Looking for a well established teetotaler partner. Only message 83607-30488. (CL24025737)

Suitable match for Chandigarh born Khatri issueless Divorcee girl 1984, 5'-4", working in USA. 78892-30978. (CL24028561)

Mohali based Sikh Rajput Divorcee Girl 1992/ 5', B.Sc, B.Ed, Canada Visitor Visa 9814388614 (CL24028793)

Looking Groom for fair younger looking MBBS Cosmetologist, 1981, issueless Divorcee Canada PR. 99883-73173. (CL24029208)

Professionally qualified match for Arora girl (Issueless Divorcee), born 01.08.88, Moga, 4:25 PM, 5'-2", MBA, working in Bank at Mohali, Punjab. Preference issueless Khatri/ Arora. Contact: 78386-67152 (After 5 PM). (CL24029096)

Educated short time divorce girl 1993, 5'-4", B.Com., MBA, working Private Company, issueless girl. 78989-45723, 97700-14279. (CL24029437)

Divorcee Ramgarhia girl 1980, Height 5'-3", Civil Engg. Contact: 62398-43828. (CL24023215)

Sikh divorcee girl, 5'-4"/ 37, Govt. job (Punjab Civil Secretariat). Preferred Govt. job, Tricity. 98552-27322. (CL24027887)

Suitable match for Adh-dharmi issueless divorcee girl, 5'-6"/ May 83, Ph.D. Asst. Professor in reputed university near Chandigarh. Contact 98142-07864. (CL24027988)

Handsome match for very beautiful, Gursikh Khatri girl, 40, 5'-2", M.Sc., B.Ed., Pvt. job. 98140-07693 (CL24028057)

SM4 Ramfasia Sikh divorcee, no issue, 35, 5'-6", MCA girl, Software Engineer, Gurugram, package 30 lacs. Punjab based family. Contact: 9041552138. (CL24029941)

Manglik Non-Manglik, affluent beautiful Khatri girl, 25.10.97, 5'-5", MBA. Upper caste welcome. 76968-33300. (CL24029957)

Match for Punjabi Khatri girl 31/ 5'-2", M.Com. (faith in Christianity) Government employee. # 73408-17822. (CL24030015)

KHATRI/ARORA

Wanted suitable match from Bengaluru for Software Engineer, DoB 26.07.1992, 9:40 am, Yamunanagar. 98960-27920. (CL24029784)

Match for Arora girl, 23.03.1990, 10:30 am, Chandigarh, 5'-1", CA/ M.Com., working MNC Panchkula, Income ask directly. 94174-44735. (CL24028205)

Available/wanted HIG/MIG 38W, 39B, 43B, 44, 45, 47, 51A, 61, 63, Societies Cat-A/B Sector 48/ 49/ 50/ 51. HIG upper top Sector 38W, PSB Cat-A Sector 48/49A, Rajesh Estates 98140-12730, 98148-22730. (CL24028262)

Chandigarh kothies kanal 11, 10, 21, 22, ten marla 15, 27, 21, 35, 37, 38, 40, 42, eight marla Sector 20, 27, 38, 40, 43, 46, five marla 22, 23, 38, 40, 44, 46, Rajesh Estates 98140-12730, 98148-22730. (CL24028264)

Chandigarh freehold MIG second/ fourth Sector 63, MIG renovated first Sector 61, MIG ground renovated Sector 45C, MIG facing parker ground/second Sector 51A, Rajesh Estates 98140-12730, 98148-22730. (CL24028265)

10 Marla Sector 46, 8 Marla Sector 44, Ground Floor in Society 51-A, 98146-27106. (CL24028517)

Hot sale: Beautifully built duplex 3 bedrooms, drawing dining with servant room, car parking, on Garkhal Kinnu Ghat road, near Kasauli Club, price 2.75 Cr. Contact Col Ahluwalia 98765-58145. (CL24028533)

Chandigarh 2 kanal corner facing park old bungalow Sector 8, 18, 15, 27, 36, Sampark Estate: 98142-11400. (CL24029661)

More than 1 kanal almost new triple 2 side open, marbled bungalow Defence Sector @ 12.50, 85282-00580. (CL24029663)

Prime location 4 kanal residential plot and 6 kanal commercial location plot for sale (behind Rock Garden) under MC area (Chandigarh) contact only genuine buyers. Dealers please excuse. 98140-91214, 78145-01251. (CL24029665)

Plots 250, 350 & 500 sq. yards old rates including builtup floors 1865 sqft at DLF Hude Park Mullapur New Chandigarh. Please Call Bakshi 93161-33009, 98039-00039 theservicessortium@gmail.com (CL24029669)

Bhola Estates 98153-01547. All types of property sale purchase, Chandigarh, Mohali, Panchkula, New Chandigarh. Genuine deals. (CL24029671)

2.5 kanal corner house, 2 kanal Sector 36, 15. 98767-82699. (CL24029675)

139 gaj freehold showroom 2 side open Sector 28 Chandigarh, quiet office 50% share Sector 35A. 98767-82699. (CL24029678)

375 sq yds kothi for sale in a prime location in Model Gram, Ludhiana behind Feroze Gandhi market and District Courts, easy access to shops, transport and amenities. Attractive redevelopment potential, no dealers! Inspection only by appointment only, please contact: +919646396465. (CL24029747)

14 marla plot Sector 31, B-Road Panchkula going cheap BOB Estates 91154-32111, 98763-99096. (CL24029766)

Showroom triple storey Sector- 19, 38, 44, Showroom first and second floor Sector 18, 19, 31, Showroom first floor Sector- 7 (Inner Market) 20, 36, 40, Showroom second floor Sector 21, 22, 30, 35, 40, Chandigarh. Contact: 98551-22133. (CL24029827)

Satya Estates: 10 bedrooms resort in Kasauli, fully operational. Contact: 78142-17381. (CL24029894)

1 kanal shed Phase 9, Industrial Area, Mohali, B-Road, direct deal. Parkash Associates: 99888-00383. (CL24029896)

Dharamshala(Himachal) residential plots 11 1/2 marla, 6 1/2 marla in Kotwali Bazar, Gurudwara Road. Immediate sale. 98728-92299, 82186-00833. (CL24029898)

Builtup SCO for sale full florwise in MDC-5, Panchkula. 18x82 feet two side open huge parking best location facing main road. 98766-10099. (CL24029904)

1 kanal house Sector 18, 21 newly built Sector 34, 35, Chandigarh. Allied Realty: 98140-16644, 99411-66155. (CL24029961)

Chandigarh: Two bay show room ground floor & basement rented to bank, prime location. Allied Realty: 98140-16644. (CL24029963)

Office space 688 sq.ft. on Chandigarh - Ambala Highway, Zirakpur at fully operational Business Center, Security, Power Backup. Contact: Owner 98141-15875. (CL24029988)

Sector 51A, Chandigarh 2 BHK third floor single lane parking facing. 98140-42287, 97804-18830. (CL24030032)

Himachal Kasauli 4 BHK new apartment with servant quarter, lift hill top Sunny Valley below price. 85282-00580. (CL24030035)

Himachal Barogh independent new built 3, 4 BHK villas, Valley View Hill Top @ very reasonable price 2.5 to 3 Crore. 85282-00580. (CL24030037)

CHANDIGARH

10 marla facing park prime location ample parking confirm deal Sector 33 Shankar Associate 99966-61837. (CL24029608)

Chandigarh Sector 38, 633 sq. yards plot/ annexe ample parking, Harman Properties 99150-01900, 98722-55755. (CL24029638)

Chandigarh Sector 35 one kanal duplex 5 bedrooms bungalow taste fully built. Harman Properties 99150-01900, 98722-55755. (CL24029639)

Chandigarh 10/ 12 marla corner/ Broad/ facing park Sector 8, 15, 16, 18, 27, 28, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38. Confirmed bargains Harman properties 99150-01900, 98722-55755. (CL24029642)

Chandigarh 8 marla old & brand new house in Sector 38 & 40. Contact Harsh Estates 98159-44009. (CL24029822)

Chandigarh 10 marla brand new house with lift, ultra modern amenities, ample parking in Sector 15, 21 for sale. Subhash Mangat & Co. 98155-70278, 98726-65556. (CL24028089)

Chandigarh 10 marla good location house for sale in Sector 15, 21, 27, Subhash Mangat & Co. 98155-70278, 98726-65556. (CL24028090)

Chandigarh 1 kanal plot (joda) for sale in Central Sector, can be sold individually also, maximum cheque preferred. Subhash Mangat & Co. 98155-70278, 98726-65556. (CL24028091)

Chandigarh 14 marla livable house for sale in Sector 16, Subhash Mangat & Co. 98155-70278, 98726-65556. (CL24028092)

Chandigarh 7 marla three storey kothi Sector 35-D, Contact Marwaha 204 Phase 3B1, Mohali. 98140-38566, 98145-03193. (CL24028332)

Available Cassia 1725 ground floor in Omase New Chandigarh. Contact 81960-03800. (CL24028351)

Hot sale: 5 marla 3 storey livable house Sector 8, Chandigarh, price 3.8 Cr. Genuine purchaser contact Col Ahluwalia 98765-58145. (CL24028538)

New Chandigarh: Plots/ SCOs available in ECO City/ DLF, at very affordable prices. Aakash Gupta: 98887-76226. (CL24028856)

221 sq yards, three side open, corner house with huge green belt (200 sq yards) one kanal house feeling. Top class construction, North East facing, big park in front of the house, clear title, ready for possession. Sector 27-D, Chandigarh. Contact Bronest 98558-09314, 62836-13275. (CL24029493)

Showroom triple storey with basement free hold, on Chandigarh/Kalka Highway, NAC Manimajra, full or by part. 98140-09586, 90415-52929. (CL24029630)

One kanal, beautiful built-up Duplex House, facing North West, Sector 13, NAC Manimajra Chandigarh. 95921-63555. (CL24029742)

Chandigarh Two Bay SCO Sector 22-C, First/Second Floor best location. Contact 94141-12887. (CL24029831)

Chandigarh 10 Marla facing park Sector 21, 14 Marla Sector- 16, Kity Estates-99881-01191. (CL24029872)

3 Bay SCO in Chandigarh suitable for Hotel/ MNC/ Jewellers/ Clothes brand for sell or rent. Goel Infra 94172-77775, 98770-17775. (CL24029925)

Hot Sale: 10 marla 3 storey good location, beautifully built Sector 15-A. Presently on lease with one Lakh monthly rent. Genuine purchaser contact Col Ahluwalia 98765-58145. Dealers excuse. (CL24030052)

Chandigarh 7 marla Sector 32-D, Triple storey, freehold. All cheque also acceptable. Call 99883-99999. (CL24029623)

Wanted residential, commercial, industrial properties in around Chandigarh. For early payment. Call 99883-99999. (CL24029625)

Available freehold first floor (30% share) of SCO Sector 21-C, Chandigarh. 89680-01001. (CL24029673)

2.5 kanal corner house, 2 kanal Sector 36, 15. 98767-82699. (CL24029675)

139 gaj freehold showroom 2 side open Sector 28 Chandigarh, quiet office 50% share Sector 35A. 98767-82699. (CL24029678)

375 sq yds kothi for sale in a prime location in Model Gram, Ludhiana behind Feroze Gandhi market and District Courts, easy access to shops, transport and amenities. Attractive redevelopment potential, no dealers! Inspection only by appointment only, please contact: +919646396465. (CL24029747)

14 marla plot Sector 31, B-Road Panchkula going cheap BOB Estates 91154-32111, 98763-99096. (CL24029766)

Showroom triple storey Sector- 19, 38, 44, Showroom first and second floor Sector 18, 19, 31, Showroom first floor Sector- 7 (Inner Market) 20, 36, 40, Showroom second floor Sector 21, 22, 30, 35, 40, Chandigarh. Contact: 98551-22133. (CL24029827)

Satya Estates: 10 bedrooms resort in Kasauli, fully operational. Contact: 78142-17381. (CL24029894)

1 kanal shed Phase 9, Industrial Area, Mohali, B-Road, direct deal. Parkash Associates: 99888-00383. (CL24029896)

Dharamshala(Himachal) residential plots 11 1/2 marla, 6 1/2 marla in Kotwali Bazar, Gurudwara Road. Immediate sale. 98728-92299, 82186-00833. (CL24029898)

Builtup SCO for sale full florwise in MDC-5, Panchkula. 18x82 feet two side open huge parking best location facing main road. 98766-10099. (CL24029904)

1 kanal house Sector 18, 21 newly built Sector 34, 35, Chandigarh. Allied Realty: 98140-16644, 99411-66155. (CL24029961)

Chandigarh: Two bay show room ground floor & basement rented to bank, prime location. Allied Realty: 98140-16644. (CL24029963)

Office space 688 sq.ft. on Chandigarh - Ambala Highway, Zirakpur at fully operational Business Center, Security, Power Backup. Contact: Owner 98141-15875. (CL24029988)

PANCHKULA

14 marla plot 467 East facing park near market 6 MDC for sale. Contact: 90412-63038. (CL24028059)

10 Marla triple storey corner liveable house prime location in prime sector. Contact: Param Real Estates 98786-39991. (CL24028101)

14 marla old/livable house facing park in prime Sector. Contact: Param Real Estates 98786-39991. (CL24028105)

1 kanal duplex facing park east corner another single storey in prime Sector. Param Real Estates 98786-39991. (CL24028107)

14 marla double storey kothi, NAC, Manimajra, Chandigarh. Ten marla at Panchkula. 98880-09586. (CL24028322)

Panchkula: All sizes of houses, plots and floors available at reasonable rate. Aakash Gupta: 98887-76226. (CL24028833)

Panchkula: 14 marla duplex house, Sector 4. Just like new. Very reasonable price. Aakash Gupta: 98887-76226. (CL24028844)

12 marla, newly built floors, corner, side park and North facing, extra ordinary work with lift with servant room & store. All floors available at Amravati Avenue. Confirmed with Bronest: 98558-09314. (CL24029496)

Panchkula kanal triplex bungalow (Tajmahal), marvellous, lift, swimming pool, 6 bedrooms, (servant), All size floors, lift. 94170-03412. (CL24029721)

One Kanal, beautiful built-up duplex house, facing park, facing East, Sector 9, Panchkula 95921-63555. (CL24029737)

14 Marla, corner, new triple storey house, facing East, in front of B-Road, Sector 16, Panchkula 95921-63555. (CL24029739)

7 marla corner basement, triple storey Sector 28, plot 4 marla Sector 27, plot 6.5 marla corner Sector 25, plot kanal B-Road Sector 31. Golden Property 92167-16263. (CL24029828)

1 Kanal facing park Sector- 12. 1 Kanal Sector- 6 & 8. Contact: 99881-01191. (CL24029874)

Beautifully well maintained triple storey one kanal semi furnished luxury house for rich taste buyers on B-Road Sector 21. Dealers may not apply. Genuine buyers may contact 98726-65556. (CL24028091)

Panchkula: 14 marla Brand new kothies Sector-4 M.D.C. 8 Marla Sector-17. Showroom Sector-14. 98770-77747. (CL24029699)

SCO site for sale in MDC-5 Panchkula. 165 sq. yards two side open ample parking excellent location facing main road. Maps approved. 98766-10099. (CL24029899)

10 marla double storey kothi, North facing, Sector-15, Panchkula, very reasonable price. Owner going abroad. Dhruv Properties 98551-65590. (CL24029915)

3 bedroom Apartment 3 balconies with files, store room, modular kitchen and wardrobes, gated security 24/7. 1460 Sq. ft. 2nd floor, Motia Royal City on Chandigarh Ambala highway: 98100-52346, 98159-89100. (CL24028249)

3+1 BHK Swastik Vihar Mansa Devi Sector 6, Arya 98769-37605. (CL24029980)

MOHALI

Mohali- 10% marla, brand new ultramodern house, B-Road, Phase- 10. (Only genuine buyers). Contact Empire Estates: 98159-50922. (CL24027849)

Mohali- Sohana: 19 marla (54'X88') corner, 3 showrooms site for high rental Hotel, PG big store etc. Royal Castle 98767-60000, 98140-70362. (CL24028281)

Durali Industrial Sector- 101: LOI/ 275, 550 Gaj Industrial, 200, 100, 60 Commercial. Best investment. Royal Castle 98767-60000, 98140-70362. (CL24028283)

IT-City 82-A, Mohali: Available 20 sq. yard, booth site opposite Manav Rachna School Block. 93160-37544. (CL24028386)

54x90 SCO Jubilee Junction, Sector 66, Airport Road, Mohali, Double height Call 99888-99831. (CL24029347)

16 marla (400 yd) B-Road Sector 71, Luxurious fully furnished triple storey house (lift, Mini theatre, Jacuzzi, Silent gen set etc). Direct deal. Call 99888-99831. (CL24029368)

One kanal Second floor sale, Sector-69, Mohali. Six rooms attached washroom, OTIS Lift 70870-81937. (CL24028075)

First, second floor with roof rights, A-Road, park, East, semi commercial, 130 yards kothi, block C, Aerocity. Owner: 98158-48100. (CL24028897)

Extraordinary location Corner built-up showroom No 174 huge parking TDW Sector 117 Mohali adjoining huge park facing Airport Road. 93161-34231. (CL24029301)

Deal of the day- Commercial shop, 6% up to rental 85000/-, on main Chd.- Ambala Highway. (Best for CA's, IT company, restaurant) 98159-50922. (CL24029328)

SCO 15x45 good rental income builtup front side corner near to Airport road Sector- 117, Mohali. 98760-52353, 98888-92353. (CL24029740)

Buy property 35 lacs, SOHO with lift possession in 3 months with rental income, registry case near Airport road. Goel Infra 98770-17775. (CL24029923)

For sale HIG independent Sector 48 Mohali, opposite Beverly Gold Avenue. Goel Infra 94172-77775, 81467-82133. (CL24029931)

For sale advance booking, 3 BHK floors facing park construction linked payment plan, in Aerocity. Goel Infra 94172-77775, 81467-82133. (CL24029933)

Mohali 1 kanal brand new duplex ultra-modern with lift north east also plot corner B-Road. Dealers excuse. 97736-21236. (CL24029935)

1 kanal East facing park plot in prime location another plot Sector Mansadevi Panchkula 98786-39991. (CL24028099)

JPLI Industrial 82 Mohali 530 sq.yds. Plot for sale entry from B-Road Rare availability. 98155-00428. (CL24028257)

Available 300 sq. yards plot in Omase Phase 2, New Chandigarh. Contact 81960-03800. (CL24028337)

1 kanal (528 sq.yds) industrial plot Phase- 1 leasehold transfer case contact: Safeways Real Estate Booth No.- 6, Sector-44-C. Ph- 98786-30748. (CL24028698)

20 Gaj Booth Site IT City Sector-82 A. Mohali. Top location. Contact: 97798-70009. (CL24027002)

Sunny Endeavour-Plot -10160, Size- 139 Sq. yds for sale at Sector-125. Call: 81469-30437. (CL24028731)

One kanal plot, facing park. Entry from A-Road, Sector 66B, IT-City, Mohali. Owner: 98158-48100. (CL24028878)

8 marla plot B-Road, direct entry from A-Road, 66B, IT-City, Mohali. Owner: 98158-48100. (CL24028886)

300 sq. yard plot Eco City 1 New Chandigarh. Genuine buyer preferred. 99888-91991. (CL24029005)

10 Marla Plot, Facing Park, Sector 23, Panchkula : 95921-63555 (CL24029215)

Rental property JPLI Sector 82. Showroom, industrial building, and Plots, Gilco and MK Technology industrial Plots JK Associates 99883-87874. (CL24029397)

Decent plot 12.5 marla A-Road corner 28 Sector. Special for Doctor, CA. 98784-46952. (CL24029865)

400 sqyds plot 25% builtup on B-Road near airport chowk. Goel Infra 81467-82133, 98770-17775. (CL24029935)

1 Kanal Sector-82 Alpha IT City, Mohali, Plot No. 1120 East facing. Anmol Empire: 98157-70500. (CL24029954)

LOI 275, 550 sq yard industrial and 60, 100, 200 sq yard Commercial. Sector 101, Durali Mohali. Anmol Empire: 98157-70500. (CL24029947)

Aerotropolis- Residential LOI, 100 gaj Block-A, 200 gaj Block-B. Anmol Empire: 98157-70500. (CL24029952)

2 Kanal Industrial Plot 100 feet road Sector 101, Alpha Mohali. Anmol Empire: 98157-70500. (CL24029954)

Own corner Plot for sale 1555 sq. yards in Aerocity Mohali Block-C. immediate action better. Contact: 95010-14978. (CL24029967)

Ultra Prime location plot 5 acres HSIDC Gurgoan free hold Vemas Property Consultant 94172-50388, 98888-76044. (CL24030021)

KHARAR

8 marla latest designed Duplex on main 60' road Sector-124 Old Sunny Enclave. 99143-27641. (CL24029091)

ZIRAKPUR

Zirakpur specialist: Sale purchase-plots, kothis, flats, showrooms, lands (all kinds of properties). 98766-10603, 88723-77393. (CL24021685)

3 bedroom Apartment 3 balconies with files, store room, modular kitchen and wardrobes, gated security 24/7. 1460 Sq. ft. 2nd floor, Motia Royal City on Chandigarh Ambala highway: 98100-52346, 98159-89100. (CL24028249)

PROPERTY WANTED

1 Kanal house wanted new build/ good condition/ plot. Contact 76962-24244. (CL24028528)

Wanted residential, commercial, industrial properties in around Chandigarh. For early payment. Call 99883-99999. (CL24029626)

PLOT FOR SALE

Mohali: 16 Marla on 150 ft. 79-80 dividing road East Facing Sector-79. Suitable for Doctors, Lawyers, Realtors. 98767-60000. (CL24028292)

Mohali LT. 500 Gaj Corner Industrial Rate available Plot near 100 Feet University Road, Sector 101-A. Royal Castle 98767-60000. (CL24028294)

Available plot 200 sq.yd. corner and 250 sq.yd. on 100 ft Road in JPLI. Sector 94, Mohali. Contact: Super Properties 99881-51739, 99881-42013. (CL24029139)

Jubilee Parklane, Sector 120, Mohali 105-150 yd plots, 3 BHK independent flats with lift. Gated township 3 mins from Max Hospital. Mohali Registry. Bank loan available. Call 99888-99831. (CL24029327)

Plots in Amuliyab by ALC Group Chandigarh Kurali (bypass road). Plots in other newly launched projects also available. Call: 99888-99831. (CL24029447)

IT 66B: 12 Marla Facing Park North East, 8 Marla Corner 25% built Side B-Road, 8 Marla Facing Park East Facing reasonable price. Orbit Estate 8968799143, 7831960006. (CL24029476)

IT 66B Mohali:- 4 Marla on 80 feet B-Road front 32 ft. Bero. Orbit Estate - 7831960006. (CL24029481)

IT 82A Mohali: 1 Kanal, Facing East / North, Adjustable cheque. Direct Deal. Orbit Estate: 7831960006, 8437681291. (CL24029494)

Sector-88-89 Mohali: 1 Kanal Corner Facing Park, 4 & 12 Marla Facing Park. 8 Marla B-Road. Orbit Estate: 9915534500, 8728883540. (CL24029495)

### HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG OFFICE ORDER

The advertisement for filling up the post of Para Pump Operator, Para Fitter and Multipurpose Worker were invited vide this office advertisement No. EE-JSDA-EA-I-Engagement of P.O., Fitter & Multipurpose Worker/2023-13913-29 dated 01.02.2024 & published in the Giriraj w.e.f. 07.02.2024 to 15.02.2024 is hereby cancelled due to some administrative reasons. The revised date for filing of these posts shall be invited separately.

**Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti Division, Anni,  
Distt. Kullu (HP).  
(01904-253339)**

Endst.No.EE-JSDA-EA-I-Engagement of P.O., Fitter & Multipurpose worker/2024-1775-94 Dt.-28.06.2024 DPR/HP/456

### TENDER NOTICE

Himachal Pradesh Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Board, invites online Tenders for Expression of Interest for conducting statutory Audit from the Chartered Accountants firms. Desirous Firms and Company may download the Tender documents from the site <http://bcowc.hp.nic.in> from 15.06.2024 to 15.07.2024 upto 3:00 PM.

**Sd/- Secretary-cum-CEO  
H.P.B.O.C. Workers Welfare Board  
Khalini, Shimla-2 (H.P.)**

DPR/HP/122

### HIMACHAL PRADESH HORTICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKETING AND PROCESSING CORPORATION LTD. (A Government Undertaking)

**NIGAM VIHAR SHIMLA-171 002, H.P.**  
Phone: 0177-2623823, 2623836, 2623832, 2623835, Fax: 0177-2623834, Email [hpmcshimla@live.com](mailto:hpmcshimla@live.com)

#### e-TENDER NOTICE

**ONLINE OFFERS INVITED FOR TRANSPORTATION AND HANDLING OF 35 KG BAGS AND 16 KG PVC CRATES OF APPLE UNDER MIS 2024.**

Online offers are invited from interested Transporters and Truck Operator Unions (Regd.) for the transportation of culled apple in 35 Kg. bags and 16 kg PVC crates along with its handling. The culled fruit apple to be procured by HPMC under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS-2024) likely to commence w.e.f. 20.07.2024 to 31.10.2024. HPMC will procure "C" grade apple at different Apple Collection Centers in apple growing areas of the State and the same is to be transported to the Fruit Processing Units of HPMC at Parala (Theog), Parwanoo (District Solan), Jarol (Sundernagar, District Mandi) and designated auction site at Parwanoo or other suitable location. The last date of online receipt of e-tender is 12.07.2024 up to 11:00 AM. The online bid will be opened on the same day in the presence of the parties or their representatives at 3.00 PM. The bid document details are available online on the website <https://hptenders.gov.in> or can be obtained from HPMC Head Office Nigam Vihar Shimla -2 on any working day between 10.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. The bid document is also available on our website <https://hpmc.in> for public use. The bidder will be required to register on the website, which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the certifying authorities. HPMC reserves the right to accept or reject at any stage all or any particular bid without assigning any reasons thereof.

**Managing Director**

### HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) (E-PROCUREMENT MODULE)

The Executive Engineer, Chamba Division, HPPWD, Chamba, H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system, from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Cost of Tender Form (Rs.)	Class	Completion Period
1	Construction of Link road from Rajnudi to Gal Km. 00 to 1/500 (SH- Formation cutting at Km. 07/50 to 1/500)	24,43,852/-	48,87,71/-	500/-	D&C	Two Months
2	Construction of Linkroad to Village Charanjai Km. 00 to 1/750 (SH- Construction of 3.00 Mtrs Span RCC culvert at Rd.0/800)	8,54,876/-	17,50,00/-	350/-	D&C	Two Months

**KEY DATES:**

- Starting Date for Downloading: 29/06/2024 at 10.00 A.M.
- Deadline for Submission of Bid: 08/07/2024 at 11.00 A.M.
- Date of Technical Bid Opening: 08/07/2024 at 11.30 A.M.

The undersigned has right to extend or cancel the bids without declaring any reasons there-of.

The Bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website [www.hptenders.gov.in](http://www.hptenders.gov.in)

**On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh  
Sd/- Executive Engineer,  
Chamba Division, HPPWD, Chamba, Pin - 176310,  
Tel. 01 899-222229, E-mail: ee-cha-hp@nic.in**

DPR/HP/462

### NORTHERN RAILWAY Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement System

Dy. Chief Materials Manager, N.Rty. Store Depot Mech. Workshop, Amritsar for and on behalf of President of India, invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:-

S.N.	Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Due date
1.	62245067C	Supply, Installation, commissioning & Proving out of one set of Rotary Screw Air Compressor	1 Nos.	06.08.2024
2.	62245172A	Hydraulic double column Guillotine Shearing machine (13x3100mm)	1 Nos.	31.07.2024

NOTE: Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). The firm, who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class III digital certificate from certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act 2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted.

Tender Notice No. 9/2024-25 Dated: 29.06.2024 1974/2024

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

### NORTHERN RAILWAY OPEN TENDER NOTICE

Open tender through E-tendering is invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, Northern Railway Ambala from the willing contractors for following work on railway website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) up to 15:00 hrs. on the date of closing shown against the work and will be opened thereafter.

Open Tender No.	Name of work: Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Reading, Analysis and 1 year O&M of Power Quality Meter complying to IEC 61000-4-30 Class A at Anandpur Sahib, Butari, Chaheru, Dasuya, Ghaggar, Kuruli, Maisarkhana, RCF Kapurthala, Rajpura, Sahnewal, Sujaurpur, Kup, Dhablan, Handiaya TSS.	Date of Closing/ Opening: 22.07.2024
ETRU-1-02-2024-25		Approx. Cost: ₹49,74,200.00
		Earnest Money: ₹99,500/-
		Completion period: 04 Months
		Validity period: 60 Days

Cost of tender form: NIL for Downloading from IREPS, portal, ₹3,000/- For obtaining hard copy from Sr.DEE/TRDU/UMB office.

- Tender(s) are required to upload scanned copies of all related eligibility documents including PAN/GSTIN as per conditions.
- Tender(s) should have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate to participate in E-Tendering of Works Tenders.
- All Taxes i.e. GST/BCOWWS, Income tax etc. are applicable as per extant rule.
- For details, please log on IREPS website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).

No.: ETRU-1-02-2024-25 Dated: 28.06.2024 1975/2024

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

### HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) (E-PROCUREMENT MODULE)

The Executive Engineer, Tissa Division, HPPWD Tissa, H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the percentage Rate bids, in electronic tendering system, from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Cost of Tender Form (Rs.)	Class	Completion Period
1	Construction of Lader to Cheeh road (SH- Providing 4.00 mtr span culvert at Rd 6/390 along with wing walls.)	2023328.10	40000.00	500.00	C/D Class	3 Months
2	Restoration of damages due to laying of OFC on Chamba Tissa road Km 32/250 to 48/0 (SH- Improvement of curves by formation cutting between Rd 40/350 to 42/085 & 40/170 to 40/410)	2660557.36	53000.00	1500	C/D Class	3 Months
3	Construction of Shalun to Padrudu road (SH- Providing 4.00 mtr span culvert at Rd 0/195 along with wing walls.)	2428733.00	49000.00	500	C/D Class	3 Months
4	M/T & C/D work to Village Vedyani KM 0/0 to 1/600 (SH- C/o 900mm dia Hume Pipe culvert at Rd 0/855 & 1/080 along with wings Walls.)	990058.70	19810.00	350.00	D and C	3 Months

**KEY DATES:**

- Starting Date for downloading: 02-07-2024 at 10.00 A.M.
- Deadline for submission of Bid: 10-07-2024 at 11.00 A.M.
- Date of Technical bid opening: 10-07-2024 at 11.30 A.M.

The undersigned has right to extend or cancel the bids without declaring any reasons there-of.

The Bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website [www.hptenders.gov.in](http://www.hptenders.gov.in)

**On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh  
Sd/- Executive Engineer,  
Tissa Division, HPPWD, Tissa, Pin - 176316,  
E-mail: ee-tis-hp@gov.in**

DPR/HP/471

### HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG ENGAGEMENT NOTICE

In continuation to Jal Shakti Division Palampur office advertisement No. 5486/2023-dated 04/02/2024 & Jal Shakti Division Thural office advertisement No-5475/2023-24 (Classified) applications from desirous Himachali Bona-fide candidates on prescribed Proforma were invited for filling up 56 Nos. posts of various categories (i.e 18 nos. of Para Pump Operator, 7 of Para Fitter and 31 nos. of Multipurpose Workers) under Jaisinghpur Constituency by Jal Shakti Division Palampur & Thural. As Jal Shakti Division Jaisinghpur has now been re-notified vide Secy. JSV to the Govt. of H.P. vide notification No. JSV-A-(A)-1-1/2022 dated 7th March, 2024 and these posts has now been transferred to this division and a clarification has also been received from the O/o the Engineer-in-Chief vide letter No. JSV-ES-III-D.W. Manpower- Vol.-VI/2022 - 416-495 dated 26.04.2024 w.r.t reservation of posts for Schedule Caste & Schedule Tribe, OBC and E.W.S categories, the applications are once again invited for filling up the available posts under Jal Shakti Division Jaisinghpur. Candidates who have applied against earlier advertisement No. 5486/2023-dated 04/02/2024 (Classified) in JSV division Palampur and advertisement No-5475/2023-24 (Classified) Jal Shakti Division Thural need not apply again however they are required to submit the SC/ST/OBC category certificate duly signed from competent authority and Income & asset certificate and Non SC/ST/OBC certificate (in case candidates who have submitted BPL certificate) for EWS signed by the competent authority if they wish to get the benefit of reservation under these category in the office of Jal Shakti Division Jaisinghpur. The applications/documents must reach to the office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Jaisinghpur before 5.00 P.M. on and before 10-7-2024. The revised distribution of available posts in Jal Shakti Division Jaisinghpur is as

Sr. No.	Name of Post	Number of Posts	Category wise posts	Essential Qualification
1.	Para Pump Operator.	18	S.C :- 03 S.T :- 03 O.B.C.- 00 E.W.S.- 02 U.R.- 10	The candidate should have a minimum qualification of matriculation (10th) with ITI certificate in the trade of electrician/Wireman/ Diesel Mechanic/ Pump Mechanic/ Motor Mechanic/ Pump Operator cum Mechanic/Mechanic (Motor Vehicle) Pump Operation-cum-Mechanic/Pump Operation and Maintenance from a recognized ITI or matriculation (10th) with certificate in above cited trades under Skill Development scheme of the Government. The candidates who belong to SC/ST/OBC/EWS category must submit their category certificate duly signed by the competent authority.
2.	Para Fitter	07	S.C :- 01 S.T :- 00 O.B.C.- 01 E.W.S.- 00 U.R.- 05	The candidate should have a minimum qualification of matriculation (10th) with ITI certificate in the trade of Fitter/Plumber from a recognized ITI or matriculation (10th) with certificate in above cited trades under Skill Development scheme of the Government. The candidates who belong to SC/ST/OBC/EWS category must submit their category certificate duly signed by the competent authority. All candidate must ensure to submit their 8th standard mark sheet.
3.	Multi Purpose Worker.	31	S.C :- 06 S.T :- 01 O.B.C.- 05 E.W.S.- 03 U.R.- 16	The candidate should have a minimum qualification of middle pass (8th) and its equivalent from school duly recognized by the State Government. The candidates who belong to SC/ST/OBC/EWS category must submit their category certificate duly signed by the competent authority. All candidate must ensure to submit their 8th standard mark sheet.

**Age Limit: - 18 to 45 Years as on 10.07.2024.**

The number of posts may increase or decrease depending upon Vacancy position as per the requirement of Jal Shakti Vibhag.

The selected candidates can be posted at anywhere under the jurisdiction of this Division.

The selected candidates will be given monthly remuneration fixed by the Govt.

**Documents to be attached with application forms:**

Attested/ self attested copies of (i) Legitimate proof of age (ii) Proof of BPL Family in case of BPL candidate issued not later than six months (iii) Proof of Education and Technical qualification (iv) Certificate of Bonafide of Himachal (v) Certificate and experience (if any) of the related field of JSV/ HPPWD/CPWD/ PSUs issued by the competent authority OR Outsourcing agency providing services in HP Jal Shakti Vibhag (vi) category certificate (SC/ST/OBC/EWS) (vii) Income Certificate issued not older than six months. (viii) 8th standard mark sheet for candidate applying for the post of multi Task worker.

For other desired qualifications, experience details and detailed selection criteria can be had from <https://www.hpiph.org> OR at Notice board of JSV Division Jaisinghpur.

**General Instructions: -**

- It shall be the responsibility of the candidates to submit all requisite documents mentioned above as shortlisting / eligibility shall be done in case the application received are much more than that the numbers of post.
- The shortlisted candidates based on the eligibility criteria fixed by the Government will have to undergo skill/ physical Test. The final merit list will be prepared based upon the submitted documents and Skill/ Physical Test.
- If a candidate wants to apply for more than one post, separate application for each post needs to be submitted.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be called for Skill/ Physical test separately.
- The original certificates / testimonials will be seen at the time of evaluation
- The Experience certificate issued by any outsource agency of JSV shall be duly countersigned by AE/ EE concerned
- Terms and conditions of employment, the detail of evaluation criteria, experience and other detail can be had from the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Jaisinghpur, Distt. Kangra or through email id [eejsvjaisinghpur@gmail.com](mailto:eejsvjaisinghpur@gmail.com)

**Note: -Candidate applying for Multipurpose workers shall compulsorily attached detailed marks sheet of middle standard and in the event of non issuing of the same by the concerned Education Board the detailed marks certificate from the principal of the school needs to be attached. Evaluation criteria and shortlisting (if necessary) is based upon marks obtained in the Middle standard and not of any other standard even if higher qualification is obtained.**

**Executive Engineer,  
JSV Division, Jaisinghpur  
Telephone No- 01894-299401**

### GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF TRAINING Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (https://www.msde.gov.in) ADMISSION NOTICE-2024-25

Admission to courses under Craft Instructor Training Scheme (CITS) at National Skill Training Institutes (NSTI), Women, Panipat for the academic session 2024-25 will be made through All India Common Entrance Test (AICET), scheduled to be held on 21.07.2024. Applications are invited for Computer Based Test (online) on [www.nimionlineadmission.in](http://www.nimionlineadmission.in) from the eligible candidates w.e.f. from 15.06.2024 to 05.07.2024 to appear in the entrance test at various centers across the country. For more details: [www.nimionlineadmission.in](http://www.nimionlineadmission.in). The details about the courses being offered at NSTI(W), Panipat can be seen at official website: <https://nstiwpnipat.dgt.gov.in> DI-5844

### GOVERNMENT COLLEGE OF ART Chandigarh Administration Sector 10-C Chandigarh (Tel. 0172-2740309) (Affiliated with Panjab University and Approved by AICTE) ADMISSION NOTICE

Admission Forms for the session 2024-25 for Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in the field of Applied Art, Painting, Graphics (Print-Making) & Sculpture courses and Advance Diploma in Fine Arts for Divyang (ADFAD) of Two Years duration will be received online alongwith non refundable application fee of Rs. 500/- on College website [www.gcart.edu.in](http://www.gcart.edu.in) till 12.07.2024, 12:00 (Midnight).

For any further information regarding sanctioned intake, eligibility, date of interview, admission procedure, academic calendar etc. visit college website [www.gcart.edu.in](http://www.gcart.edu.in)

**PRINCIPAL**

### HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer Thalot Division HPPWD, Thalot on behalf of Governor of H.P. re-invites the online bids on percentage rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD
1.	Construction of GSSS at Deon Distt. Mandi HP (SH- Construction of building Portion, site development, W.S. & S.I and rain water harvesting system).	Rs. 3,68,32,000/-	Rs. 7,37,000/-

Cost of Tender: Rs. 5000/-  
Time Period: Twelve Months  
Eligible Class of Contractor: Class "A & B"

Starting date of downloading bid : 25.06.2024 at 5.00 p.m.  
Deadline for submission of Bid : 03.07.2024 at 10.00 a.m.  
Date of opening of Bid at : 03.07.2024 at 11.30 a.m.

- The rates beyond the limit over +5% will be rejected besides this the Additional Performance security will have to borne @ 20 % & 30 % for unbalanced bid in case the rates is lower than 10 % but upto 20 % & lower than 20 % upto 30 % respectively. The tender will be accepted beyond the limit of -30 % also.
- Only scanned copy of original documents as uploaded on the tender website are required for technical & financial evaluation. The original documents shall be required only from the successful bidder before issue of letter of award.
- The participants should have the work done of similar nature & sufficient machinery as required in bid document.

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website [www.hptenders.gov.in](http://www.hptenders.gov.in).

**On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh  
Sd/- Executive Engineer,  
Thalot, Division HP.PWD,  
Thalot Distt. Mandi.  
Phone No. 01905- 293767  
No./PW/TL/DAB/Tender/2024.1539-48 Dated: 06.06.2024 DPR/HP/458**

### SOCIETY FOR PROFESSIONAL, VOCATIONAL AND ADD-ON COURSES (Regd.- 4331C/H/R/C dt.12-11-2009) At Govt College Dharamshala HP 176215 (gdcstc123@gmail.com)

Society for professional, vocational and add-on courses (SPVAC) at Government College Dharamshala HP 176215 invites application/biodata with a complete set of supporting documents from candidates possessing requisite academic qualification as well as fulfilling the latest eligibility criterion laid in by the university grant commission for various UG & PG courses/papers/subject teachers of different program.

During the session 2024-25, some highly qualified and eligible candidates, may get an opportunity to deliver few lectures related to UG/PG subjects such as English, Maths, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Management and Computer-based papers in BBA, BCA, B.Tech(CSE), Bio.Tech, B.Voc, MBA, MCA, etc. courses being managed by the SPVAC in the College Campus. Any related detailed information in this regard can be sought and ascertained from the SPVAC-office or telephonically at 01892225394.

The said assignment will be purely on temporarily basis as a stop-gap arrangement in the interest of students. The person will be entitled only for the basic remuneration as decided by the society executives depending upon the viability of funds or as directed in SOPs/guidelines issued in this regard, from time to time, by the higher authorities. All interested can submit the latest biodata, by 5th July 2024, through aforementioned email address of the society or personally in the society office in this campus. The experienced, qualified and eligible candidates will be preferably allowed to appear for walk-in interview in the office of Chairman of Society, on any working day, upto 12th July 2024.

**Sd/- Chairman  
SPVAC At GC Dharamshala**

DI-5869

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER HP.PWD KANGRA

Sealed percentage rate tenders on form 6 & 8 are invited by the Executive Engineer, Division, HP: PWD, Kangra on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh from the approved and eligible contractors/firms enlisted in HPPWD in the appropriate class for the work mentioned below on 06.07.2024 up to 11-00 A.M. and will be opened on the same day at 11-30 A.M. in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representatives. The tender forms can be obtained from his office on cash payment (non refundable) on any working day from 04.07.2024 to 05.07.2024. The applications for issue of tender forms accompanied with enlistment letter/renewal letter and the earnest money in the shape of FDR duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Kangra Division, HPPWD, Kangra.

The conditional tenders and the tenders received without earnest money will summarily be rejected. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 20 days.

**Work No.1:-** Restoration of Rain Damages on Gabli Thehar, Baidi, Mehama to Trembla Road from km. 0/00 to 10/00 (SH-C/O Breast wall in C.C. 1:4:8 at RD 8/690 to 8/714) Estimated cost: Rs. 498631/- Earnest Money Rs. 10000/- Time Limit Three Months Cost of tender 350/-.

**Work No.2:-** Restoration of Rain Damages on link Road Mehama to Trembla Road from km. 0/00 to 10/00 (SH-C/O R/Wall in C.C. 1:4:8 at RD 8/690 to 8/700) Estimated cost: Rs. 246490/- Earnest Money Rs. 5000/- Time Limit Two Months Cost of tender 350/-.

**TERMS & CONDITIONS:-**

- The contractors/firms should be registered as or/dealer under GST Act 2017.
- The intending contractors/firms shall have to produce the copy of latest enlistment and renewal enlisted in HPPWD
- If any of the date mentioned above happened to be Gazetted Holiday the same shall be processed on next working day.
- The contractor should quoted the rates of all the items in the tender both in figures and in words failing which tender is likely to be rejected.
- The Contractor/firms can obtain the tenders form without application, if they submit the copy of enlistment and earnest money in shape of FDR at the time sale of tender forms.
- The Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/application or all tenders without assigning any reason.

DPR/HP/473 **HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK**

### HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer, Kalpa Division, HPPWD, Kalpa, District Kinnaur (H.P.) on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system, from the eligible class of Contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Eligible Class of Contractor	Time
1	M/T of Old H.T. road (Porlion PWD Rest House Roghi to Bus Stand) Km. 29/360 to 31/660 (SH- P/L G-I, G-II, G-III and pre-mix carpet from Km. 29/360 to 31/660 and protection work)	95,89,563/-	1,92,000/-	C Class	Six Months
2	C/O Link road from Rungchampo to Sharakip via Thorog in G.P. Kalpa Km. 0/00 to 1/500 (SH- Providing and laying G-III and pre-mix carpet from Km. 0/00 to 1/500 and protection work)	47,17,605/-	95,000/-	D Class	Six Months
3	C/O Paving near Regional Hospital at Reckong Poo in District Kinnaur, H.P. (Poo Kalpa CP road between RD. 2/745 to 2/813 (SH- C/O R/Wall in R/R. Masonry at RD. 2/745 to 2/813)	37,84,184/-	76,000/-	D Class	Three Months
4	C/O Modular Kitchen in Regional Hospital at Reckong Poo in District Kinnaur, H.P. (SH- P/L Kota stone flooring, tile flooring, Cupboard, painting and distemping etc.)	7,07,591/-	145,000/-	D Class	Three Months
5	S/R to Regional Hospital at Reckong Poo in District Kinnaur, H.P. (SH- Repair of stair case of Block-A, Painting distemping, providing railing in ramp and repair of O.T. thereof)	12,58,138/-	26,000/-	D Class	Three Months
6	Balance work for the C/o 2 Nos. T.II family qtrs. for Police department at Police Qtrs. in Distt. Kinnaur (H.P.) (SH- Providing Masonry work, wood work, steel work, flooring and plastering work etc.)	20,95,299/-	42,000/-	D Class	Three Months
7	C/O 54.88 Mtr. (180 Feet) Span Bailey bridge over Holdo Nallah on Skibba Ripa road at RD. 1/600 in District Kinnaur, H.P. (SH- C/O C/O Side shed abutment)	89,35,528/-	1,79,000/-	C Class	One Year
8	C/O Rain Shelter on Poo Kalpa C.P. road at RD. 4/725)	5,55,681/-	12,000/-	D Class	Three Months

Starting Date for Downloading Bid: 03.07.2024 (for each)  
Deadline for Submission of Bid: 10.07.2024 (for each)  
Date of Opening of Technical Bid: 11.07.2024 (for each)

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website [www.hptenders.gov.in](http://www.hptenders.gov.in)

**Sd/- Executive Engineer,**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified that the Haryana Backward Classes Commission, Chandigarh has received a Representation from the Faquir Community entered at Sr. No. 21 of the Haryana State List of Backward Classes Block-A, Schedule I for adding two other sumames ALV/SHAH to their caste 'Faquir' mentioned at Sr. No. 21 in the Haryana State List of Backward Classes, Block-A, Schedule-I.

Hence the views/opinion/memorandum is hereby invited from the interested prominent persons/various groups/organizations and individuals and social thinkers/public with suggestions/objections. Views can be submitted before the Commission within Fifteen days from the publication of this notice either by speed post in the name of Member Secretary, Haryana Backward Classes Commission, SCO No. 20-27, 2nd Floor of Jeevan Deep Building of Life Insurance Corporation, Sector 17-A, Chandigarh — 160017, or by E-mail on [backwardcharyna@gmail.com](mailto:backwardcharyna@gmail.com). Such views can also be given personally before the Commission.

**Sd/- (Vivek Padam Singh, HCS)  
Member Secretary,  
Haryana Backward Classes Commission**

PRDH/1243/11/108/2025/26994/C/3/1/4

### GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG "NOTICE INVITING TENDER"

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Solan invites tender notice on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors/firms for the following work through offline process:

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Esti- mated Cost	Earn- est Money	Time of Completion	Cost of Form	Last Date of Sale of Tender Form Divisional Office up to	Opening Date of Tender
1.	R/M of LWSS Kothi Deora, Tehsil & Distt. Solan, H.P. (SH- Providing skilled/ unskilled labour), Six month job.	4,07,553/-	8,200/-	Six months	250/-	08.07.2024 up to 5.00 P.M.	09.07.2024 at 3.30 P.M.
2.	R/M of LWSS Haripur Patta Broury, LWSS Jaldi, LWSS Doshi Nainatan, Tehsil & Distt. Solan, H.P. (SH- Providing skilled/unskilled labour), Six month job.	4,93,405/-	9,900/-	Six months	250/-	-do-	-do-
3.	R/M of LWSS Chaybar Patti, Tehsil & Distt. Solan, H.P. (SH- Providing skilled/ unskilled labour), Six month job.	4,93,405/-	9,900/-	Six months	250/-	-do-	-do-
4.	R/M of LWSS Gadhog Khas and DWSS Solan from Giri River (Dharon Ki Dhar) Tehsil & Distt. Solan, H.P. (SH- Providing skilled/unskilled labour), Six month job.	4,93,405/-	9,900/-	Six months	250/-	-do-	-do-
5.	R/M of LWSS Guthan/Salogra and GWSS Nandal, Tehsil & Distt. Solan, H.P. (SH- Providing skilled/unskilled labour), Six month job.	4,93,405/-	9,900/-	Six months	250/-	-do-	-do-
6.	R/M of LWSS Patti Kolan, Tehsil & Distt. Solan, H.P. (SH- Providing skilled/unskilled labour), Six month job.	4,07,553/-	8,200/-	Six months	250/-	-do-	-do-
7.	R/M of LWSS Kurgal, Tehsil & Distt. Solan, H.P. (SH- Providing skilled/unskilled labour), Six month job.	4,93,405/-	9,900/-	Six months	250/-	-do-	-do-
8.	R/M of LWSS Damrog and LWSS Olay Marjholi, Tehsil & Distt. Solan, H.P. (SH- Providing skilled/ unskilled labour), Six month job.	4,93,405/-	9,900/-	Six months	250/-	-do-	-do-
9.	R/M of LWSS Dawandhar, LWSS Lagwasan, LWSS Tikari Tananji, Tehsil & Distt. Solan, H.P. (SH- Providing skilled/unskilled labour), Six month job.	4,33,210/-	8,700/-	Six months	250/-	-do-	-do-
10.	R/M of various GWSS under JSV Section Jaunaji, Tehsil & Distt. Solan, H.P. (SH- Providing skilled/unskilled labour for various GWSS in Village Rehaid, Chagon, Kanah Bajnat, Dahar, Nehar Kalan), Six month job.	4,93,405/-	9,900/-	Six months	250/-	-do-	-do-
11.	R/M of various GWSS under JSV Section Kumarhatti, Tehsil & Distt. Solan, H.P. (SH- Providing skilled/unskilled labour), Six month job.	4,93,405/-	9,900/-	Six months	250/-	-do-	-do-
12.	R/M of LWSS Koron Kainthi, Tehsil & Distt. Solan, H.P. (SH- Providing skilled/unskilled labour), Six month job.	4,07,553/-	8,200/-	Six months	250/-	-do-	-do-
13.	R/M of LWSS Gayana, Tehsil & Distt. Solan, H.P. (SH- Providing skilled/unskilled labour), Six month job.	3,94,724/-	7,900/-	Six months	250/-	-do-	-do-
14.	R/M of various LWSS under JSV Section Chambaghat, Tehsil & Distt. Solan, H.P. (SH- Providing skilled/unskilled labour), Six month job.	4,9					

# WB Governor demands White Paper from Mamata govt on state finances

SHUBHADEEP CHOUDHURY  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose, who is having a running feud with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, on Saturday demanded a White Paper on the state finances from the government.

While generally Opposition parties demand White Paper from the state government on various matters, including finances, this could be the first instance in the history of independent India of a Governor asking for a White Paper from the state government that is officially headed by him.

Trinamool Congress (TMC) sources said the reason behind Bose's new found interest in finances could be BJP's unease with the welfare plan run by the Mamata Banerjee-led government that brought rich dividends for the party in the recently held General Election.

Bose, who met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi today, posted a statement on X saying the Governor was expected to play the role of a watchdog on the finances and other aspects of the state administration as mandated in Article 167 of the Constitution.



Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman interacts with West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose in New Delhi. ANI

He posted to send a critical analysis of the financial management of the state to the Chief Minister (CM) with a direction to the CM to place it before the Council of Ministers.

According to the statement, Bose and Sitharaman discussed at length about the emerging role of Governor in the federal setup. Bose, in adherence to the concept of "Rajyapal Vikas Ke Rajdoot", proposed to undertake periodic monitoring of the implementation of development projects in the state, especially those coming under centrally sponsored schemes.

Bose also talked to her about the need of implementation of income-generating economic development programmes for people working in the fisheries sector. A detailed action plan for the development of fisheries was handed over to Sitharaman by Bose.

## 'CONTEMPLATING' DEFAMATION SUIT

West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose, who met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi on Saturday, posted a statement on X saying the Governor was expected to play the role of a watchdog on the finances and other aspects of the state administration as mandated in Article 167 of the Constitution.

Bose also met Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal; he is reportedly contemplating filing a defamation case against Mamata for her comments against him

# Lt General Upendra Dwivedi takes over as Army Chief today

## Four of seven commands to get new heads

As Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi is scheduled to take over as the Chief of the Indian Army on Sunday, it will trigger a series of changes and new incumbents will take over five top posts in the Army.

The changes are triggered by the vacancies arising due to the promotion of Lt Gen Dwivedi, who is the present Vice-Chief of the Army. He has been appointed as the next Chief replacing General Manoj Pande whose tenure, which was extended by a month, ends on June 30.

On July 1, four of the seven commands of the Army will have new commanders and the Army Headquarters in New Delhi will get a new Vice-Chief. Army commanders and the Vice-Chief are the eight senior-most military commanders after the Army Chief.

## Will replace Gen Manoj Pande



Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi

Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani, present Central Army Commander, will be the next Vice-Chief, replacing Lt Gen Dwivedi. Earlier, Lt Gen Subramani has commanded the Ambala-based 2 Strike Corps tasked westwards.

The new Central Army Commander will be Lt Gen Lieutenant General Anindya Sengupta. He is presently the Chief of Staff, Northern Command.

In the past, he commanded the 14 Corps based at Leh tasked to man Eastern Ladakh and the Line of Actual Control (LAC). As the Central Army Commander, he will, among other areas, be responsible for taking care of the LAC in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

The Southern Command of the Army headquartered at Pune will also get a new commander Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth, present Commander of the Jaipur-headquartered South-Western Command, will be moved to the Southern Command.

Lt Gen Manjinder Singh will be new South-Western Commander. He is presently heading the Army Training Command (ARTRAC) headquartered at Shimla. Lt Gen Devendra Sharma, the present Chief of Staff of the Army's Western Command headquartered at Chandimandir, is being moved to ARTRAC, Shimla.

# India moots more member states for 'Colombo Process'

NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

Chairing its first meeting of the "Colombo Process", India has suggested the broadening of membership by including new countries. The meeting was conducted at the permanent representative level in Geneva late evening at the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Headquarters.

The Colombo Process is a regional consultative process comprising 12 countries from Asia, which primarily serve as countries of origin for migrant workers. The forum facilitates the exchange of best practices on managing overseas employment.

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, The Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam are the member states.

Bahrain, Italy, Kuwait, Malaysia, Qatar, South Korea, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are the manpower destination countries.

Muktesh Pardeshi, Secretary (Consular, Passport, Visa and Overseas Indian Affairs) in the Ministry of External Affairs, emphasised India's commitment to advancing the objectives of the Colombo Process and enhancing collaboration among member states.

He presented an outline of the action plan for the next two years. An MEA press note said India's priorities for Colombo Process included "broadening the membership by including new member states and observers". — TNS

# After Delhi, part of canopy collapses at Rajkot airport

RAJKOT, JUNE 29

A portion of a fabric canopy erected at the pick-up and drop area of the Rajkot International Airport collapsed on Saturday after heavy rain, officials said. Nobody was injured in the incident, they said.

The accident, which comes days after similar incidents in Delhi and Jabalpur, gave the opposition Congress an opportunity to target the ruling BJP.

In a post on X, the Rajkot airport authorities said water accumulation was observed on the city side of the canopy at the terminal building at 11.40 am due to heavy rain. "As we came to know about it, we gave the information to the civil works department and the area beneath was cordoned off," said the Rajkot International Airport in the post.

The international airport is located at Hirasar, about 30 km from Rajkot city.

## Opposition slams Central Government



A portion of the canopy that collapsed at the Rajkot International Airport on Saturday. PTI

"Around 11.55 am, more water accumulated on the canopy amid heavy rain, due to which the canopy fabric got torn and fell. No casualties were reported in the incident. The airport civil team is removing the (damaged) canopy," they added. The opposition Congress criticised the Narendra Modi government over the Rajkot canopy incident.

The PM had inaugurated the new airport 11 months ago and its canopy had collapsed, said Gujarat Congress president Shaktisinh Gohil.

"If in 11 months, the canopy collapses then it proves that corruption is at its peak and is being carried out without any fear. At that time (of accident), no one was underneath the canopy. Had someone died, then who would have been responsible," he asked. A cab driver waiting for some passengers at Terminal 1 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi died when a portion of a canopy covering the departure area collapsed on parked cars amid heavy rain on Friday. Six persons were also injured in the incident. "I urge BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take cognisance of such matters when he is speaking about a corruption-free administration," Gohil said.

# 12 Naxalites surrender in Chhattisgarh

BIJAPUR, JUNE 29

Twelve Naxalites, including a couple carrying a reward of Rs 6 lakh on their heads, surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Saturday, the police said.

They surrendered in front of senior police and CRPF officials here stating that they were disappointed by the atrocities committed by Maoists on tribals and the "inhuman" and "hollow" Maoist ideology, district superintendent of police Jitendra Kumar Yadav said. The surrendered Naxalites were provided instant assistance of Rs 25,000 each, the official said, adding that they would be provided benefits as per the Surrender and Rehabilitation Policy of the government. — PTI

# No clear winner, Iran hardliner Jalili, reformist Pezeshkian to vie for prez post in July 5 runoff

DUBAI, JUNE 29

Iran will hold run-off presidential elections on July 5 to replace late hardline President Ebrahim Raisi, an official said on Saturday. The decision came after the initial vote saw the top candidates not securing an outright win. These elections will pit reformist candidate Masoud Pezeshkian against the hard-line former nuclear negotiator, Saeed Jalili.

Mohsen Eslami, the election spokesman, announced the result in a news conference carried by the Iranian state television. He said out of 24.5 million votes cast, Pezeshkian got 10.4 million while Jalili received 9.4 million. Parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf got 3.3 million. Shiite cleric Mostafa Pourmohammadi received over 2.06 lakh votes.

The Iranian law requires the winner to get more than 50 per cent of all votes cast. If not, the race's top two candidates will advance to a runoff a week later. There has been only one run-off presidential poll in Iran's history — in 2005, when hard-liner Mahmoud Ahmadinejad bested former President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. Eslami acknowledged the country's Guardian Council would need to offer formal approval, but the result did not draw any immediate challenge from contenders in the race.



Iranian presidential candidates Masoud Pezeshkian and (right) Saeed Jalili

As has been the case since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, women and those calling for a radical change have been barred from running, while the vote itself will have no oversight from internationally recognised monitors.

There had been calls for a boycott, including from imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize laureate Narges Mohammadi. Mir Hossein Mousavi, one of the leaders of the 2009 Green Movement protests — who remained under a house arrest

due to the death of an unnamed defendant. Ramon Fonseca, who co-founded now defunct law firm Mossack Fonseca alongside German national Jurgen Mossack, died in May after being hospitalised since early April. Mossack Fonseca entered the spotlight in 2016 after leaked confidential documents exposed accounts that were housed in tax havens and linked to individuals including former Argentine President Mauricio Macri, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Argentine football star Lionel Messi.

— had also refused to vote with his wife, his daughter said.

There has also been criticism that Pezeshkian represents just another government-approved candidate. In a documentary on the reformist candidate aired by state TV, one woman said her generation was "moving towards the same level" of animosity with the government that Pezeshkian's generation had in the 1979 revolution.

Raisi, 63, had died in the May 19 helicopter crash that also killed the country's foreign minister. He was seen as a protégé of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and a potential successor.

Still, many knew him for his involvement in the mass executions that Iran had conducted in 1988, and for his role in the bloody crackdowns on dissent that followed protests over the death of Mahsa Amini. — AP

# Biden acknowledges age, debate debacle, but vows to beat Trump

NORTH CAROLINA, JUNE 29

President Joe Biden on Friday said he intended to defeat Republican rival Donald Trump in the November presidential elections, giving no sign of dropping out of the race after a feeble debate performance that dismayed his fellow Democrats.

"I know I'm not a young man, to state the obvious," an ebullient Biden said at a rally one day after the head-to-head showdown with his Republican rival. It is being widely viewed as a defeat of the 81-year-old president.

"I don't walk as easy as I used to, I don't speak as smoothly as I used to, I don't debate as well as I used to," he said, as the crowd chanted "four more years".

"I would not be running again if I didn't believe with all my heart and soul that I could do this job. The stakes are too high," Biden said. His verbal stumbles and occasionally meandering responses in the debate have heightened voters' concerns that he might not be fit to serve another four-year term and prompted some of his fellow Democrats to wonder whether they could replace him as their candidate for the November 5 elections.

Campaign spokesperson Michael Tyler said there were no conversations taking place about such possibility. "We'd rather have one bad night than a candidate with a bad vision for where he wants to take the country," he told reporters aboard Air Force One.

The campaign held an "all hands on deck" meeting on Friday to reassure staffers that Biden was not dropping out of the race. Though Trump, 78,



Democratic nominee President Joe Biden and Republican candidate Donald Trump

## TRUMP TARGETS VIRGINIA VOTERS

At an afternoon rally in Chesapeake, Virginia, Trump told supporters that he had a "big victory against a man looking to destroy our country". "Joe Biden's problem is not his age," Trump said. "It's his competence." Trump's advisers said they thought the debate would bolster their chances in Democratic-leaning states, including Virginia, which have not backed a Republican presidential candidate since 2004. Beforehand, some Trump supporters said they were struck by Biden's poor performance.

put forward a series of falsehoods throughout the debate, the focus afterward was squarely on Biden, especially among the Democrats.

Hakeem Jeffries, the Democratic Party leader in the United States House of Representatives, avoided answering directly when asked whether he still had faith in Biden's candidacy. "I support the ticket. I support the Senate Democratic majority. We're going to do everything possible to take back the House in November. Thank you, everyone," he told mediapersons.

Some other Democrats likewise demurred when asked if Biden should stay in the race. "That's the President's decision," Democratic Senator Jack Reed told a local TV station in Rhode Island. However, several of the party's most senior figures, including former Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, said they were sticking with Biden. "Bad debate nights happen. Trust me, I know. But these elections are still a choice between someone who has fought for ordinary folks his entire life and somebody who only cares about himself," former Democratic President Barack Obama wrote on social media platform X.

# 9 killed in Nepal landslides

KATHMANDU, JULY 29

Landslides triggered by heavy rainfall in Nepal's mountainous districts killed at least nine persons on Saturday, officials said.

According to Nepal's National Disaster Rescue and Reduction Management Authority, the landslides buried houses in three separate areas in the country's mountainous region, which is about 250 km west of Kathmandu.

Among the deceased were five members of the same family — a couple, their daughter-in-law and two grandchildren, including an eight-month-old girl.

## Eight-month-old among dead

They were killed while asleep as a landslide hit their house at Malika village in Gulmi district.

Two more people were killed in the neighbouring Baglung district and another two in Syangja district, officials said. The monsoon, which that began earlier this month in Nepal, usually triggers landslides in the mountainous areas of the country, causing deaths and damage until September. — AP

# 28 acquitted in Panama Papers, 'Operation Car Wash' scandals

PANAMA CITY, JUNE 29

A Panamanian court has acquitted 28 persons who were charged with money-laundering under cases linked to the Panama Papers and "Operation Car Wash" scandals, the country's judicial branch said in a statement. However, it did not provide names of the people who were acquitted.

Judge Baloisa Marquinez ordered that precautionary measures be lifted against all the defendants. The Judge added that one criminal process was now cancelled

due to the death of an unnamed defendant. Ramon Fonseca, who co-founded now defunct law firm Mossack Fonseca alongside German national Jurgen Mossack, died in May after being hospitalised since early April. Mossack Fonseca entered the spotlight in 2016 after leaked confidential documents exposed accounts that were housed in tax havens and linked to individuals including former Argentine President Mauricio Macri, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Argentine football star Lionel Messi.

Marquinez, who ordered fines of \$100 each on 10 witnesses, who did not comply with summons, said evidence collected from Mossack Fonseca's servers did not comply with the chain of custody. Regarding Operation Car Wash, a massive anti-corruption probe that originated in Brazil, Marquinez ruled that it could not be determined that money from illicit sources had entered Panama from Brazil with the purpose of concealing crimes. — Reuters

# TOTAL ECLIPSE

India post record-breaking total, South Africa fight back on Day 2

**CHENNAI, JUNE 29**  
India posted the biggest ever total in the history of women's Test cricket by scoring a mammoth 603/6 declared before South Africa fought valiantly through Sune Luus and Marizanne Kapp on Day 2 of the one-off Test here today.

The hosts resumed the day at the overnight score of 525/4 with skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and Richa Ghosh beginning the proceedings.

Playing her fifth Test, the India skipper raised her maiden half-century in the long format, scoring 69 of 115 balls while Richa (86) also got her career-best knock of 86 to extend India's domination. They added 143 runs for the fifth wicket.

At 576, the Indians broke the record of the highest team total in the women's Test cricket, bettering the previous record held by Australia, who had posted 575/9 declared against South Africa in Perth this February.

However, at 593, the stand was broken after Hammanpreet was trapped LBW by Tumi Sekhukhune.

Just 10 runs later, Richa departed after being trapped leg-before by Nonkululeko Mlaba, and the Indian captain declared the innings.

South Africa put up a spirited fight with top-order batter Luus (65) and Marizanne (69 not out) as they finished the day at 236/4, trailing by 367 runs.

Delmi Tucker remained the most successful South African bowler with figures of 2/141, while Masabata Klaas was the most economical of all.

The Proteas began on a convincing note with the bat and



Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, who scored her maiden half-century in Tests, and Richa Ghosh posted 143 runs for the fifth wicket. PTI



remained safe at 29 for no loss at the lunch break.

However, the hosts struck after the break, with Sneha Rana trapping captain Laura Wolvaardt leg-before for 20 with a delivery that surprisingly kept low, the partnership lasting 33 runs.

In came Luus to join Bosch, and the pair made the most of the batting friendly wicket. The duo added 63 for the second wicket, but Rana broke the stand by removing Bosch for 39.

As Kapp joined Luus, South Africa were 106/2 at the tea break. In the day's final session, the two batters brought up their respective half-centuries and took the partnership to 93 runs before Luus was trapped leg-before by Deepti Sharma, with the score reading 189/3. The stand was Proteas' best third-wicket partnership in the format. — PTI

INDIA 1ST INNINGS				SOUTH AFRICA 1ST INNINGS			
S Verma run out (Jafta)	205	L Wolvaardt lbw b Rana	20				
S Mandhana c Dercksen b Tucker	149	A Bosch c Sharma b Rana	39				
S Shubha c Jafta b de Klerk	15	S Luus lbw b Sharma	65				
J Rodrigues c de Klerk b Tucker	55	M Kapp not out	69				
H Kaur lbw b Sekhukhune	69	D Tucker c Ghosh b Rana	0				
R Ghosh lbw b Mlaba	86	N de Klerk not out	27				
D Sharma not out	2	Extras: (B 14, NB 2)	16				
Extras: (B 16, LB 6)	22	Total: (4 wickets, 72 overs)	236				
Total: (6 wickets, 115.1 overs)	603d	FOW: 1-33, 2-96, 3-189, 4-198					
FOW: 1-292, 2-325, 3-411, 4-450, 5-593, 6-603		Bowling	O	M	R	W	
		Renuka Singh	7	0	22	0	
		Pooja Vastrakar	9	2	32	0	
		Sneha Rana	20	2	61	3	
		Rajeshwari Gayakwad	16	3	50	0	
		Deepti Sharma	15	3	40	1	
		Harmanpreet Kaur	3	0	9	0	
		Smriti Mandhana	2	0	8	0	

**“The opponent batters are also out there to bat, and the pitch was helping them. They have played really beautifully, especially how they have taken control of the innings. Sneha Rana, INDIA OFF-SPINNER**

**603**

India's total against South Africa is the highest team total in women's Test cricket, bettering the 575 by Australia against South Africa earlier this year

**5**

India batters with 50-plus scores, the joint-most in an innings in women's Tests

**5.23**

India's run rate — it is the first time any team has scored at five or more runs an over during a 250-plus total

**80**

80 Fours hit by India — the most in a women's Test innings, surpassing 78 by Australia against SA in 2024

## Rana did channel bowling, relied on variable bounce to grab wickets

**CHENNAI, JUNE 29**  
Senior India spinner Sneha Rana depended on channel bowling to get three wickets on the second day of the one-off Test against South Africa but also benefited from the variable bounce due to considerable deterioration of the Chepauk track.

The 30-year-old off-spinner finished second day with figures of 3/61, which included the prized wickets of the Proteas' opening pair, skipper Laura Wolvaardt (20) and Anneke Bosch (39) along with Delmi Tucker (0).

“My plan is simple — do channel bowling and use more of your stock balls. We saw videos of their top four-five batters and planned against them,” Rana told reporters. “There was not enough turn initially on this track, and we had to use our



Sneha Rana was the pick of the bowlers with 3/61. PTI

fingers and hard grip quite a lot. But, as the wicket kept deteriorating, we saw more

(variable) bounce and turn. There is always a challenge with the wickets, and we are always prepared for it.”

She was also the star in the previous Test against Australia last December in Mumbai, where she took seven wickets overall. “It's been an amazing feeling so far. I tried to pick up from where I had left off (against Australia), aiming to play with the same focus,” she said.

### India's off-spinners praised

South African all-rounder Sune Luus praised the Indian off-spinners Rana and Deepti Sharma for having bowled beautifully. “The two (Indian) off-spinners bowled exceptionally well. They were hitting the spots, and we didn't know whether to go back or forward or stay put,” she said. — PTI



Virat Kohli (76) pulled level with Pakistan's Babar Azam for most half-centuries in the T20s — 39 — as India posted 176/7 and restricted South Africa to 169/8 to win the T20 World Cup final. AP/PTI

### BRIEFLY

#### BUCHAREST Pragg lets Gukesh off the hook on a day of draws

Praggnanandhaa missed out on becoming a joint leader at the Superbet Classic chess tournament after settling for a draw against compatriot D Gukesh in the third round here. Gukesh continued to be at the top of the tables along with Fabiano Caruana of United States who drew a keenly contested game against Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan. With both leaders on two points, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Praggnaandhaa, Alireza, Wesley So, Giri and Nepomniachtchi share the third spot on 1.5 points apiece.

#### FORT WORTH (USA) US Open: Malvika shocks Kristy to enter semifinals

India's Malvika Bansod stunned Scotland's Kristy Gilmour 10-21 21-15 21-10 in a thriller to advance to the women's singles semifinals of the US Open Super 300 here. In the men's singles, Priyanshu Rajawat lost 21-15 11-21 18-21 to fourth seed Lei Lan Xi. Second seed Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopchand lost 17-21 21-17 19-21 to Japanese sixth seed Rui Hirokami and Yuna Kato to also end their campaign in the last eight round.

#### ROME Sharma lies tied-seventh in Italian Open golf

Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma fired 68s in his first two rounds to be tied-seventh in the Italian Open on the DP World Tour here. The Indian star, who is headed to the Olympic Games in August, had five birdies against two bogeys in the second round. AGENCIES



Avinash Sable won the men's 3,000m steeplechase, while national record holder Tajinderpal Singh Toor, whose participation was initially in doubt, won the men's shot put event. TRIBUNE PHOTOS: VICKY



## Kushare jumps and grabs another gold

### DEEPANKAR SHARDA TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**PANCHKULA, JUNE 29**

It seems Sarvesh Kushare just can't stop winning. The high jumper has been jumping higher and higher in his Paris Olympics qualification quest, each win getting him closer to the goal.

Fresh from winning the Qosanov Memorial athletics meet in Kazakhstan's Almaty, Kushare had arrived at the National Inter State Senior Athletics Championships here with high hopes. Last month, Shankar won the men's high jump event at the USATF Throws Festival in Tucson, with a season best-equaling effort of 2.23m.

The fact that he was pitted against national record holder Tejaswin Shankar meant he had to deliver again. And Kushare did so, bagging the



Sarvesh Kushare jumped 2.25 meters to win gold.

gold medal with a jump of 2.25 meters as Shankar (2.21m) finished second-best. In the process, he bettered his season's best mark of 2.23m finish achieved in Almaty.

However, Kushare needed to surpass the qualifying mark of 2.33m to gain a direct entry into the Games. This performance, though,

could still help him break into the top-32 in the rankings to keep his Olympic dreams alive.

“I am happy with the finish here. My ranking was on the fence and earning qualifying points was essential here. I will now wait for the final list,” said Kushare.

While the event started under humid conditions, the

weather changed as the evening progressed. “The initial hour was good, however, clouds hovering over the stadium made the wind strong. I could have performed better if the weather had remained the same. But, we are trained for such conditions,” said the Army man.

While talking about the future of India in high jumping, the Maharashtra-based athlete was confident that an Indian could win an Olympics medal in the discipline. “A lot has changed over the years. We are getting better technically with each passing day and we are also targeting exposure by participating in international events. So, the future is going to be good and there will be no surprises, if an Indian high jumper wins an Olympics medal in future,” he added.

## Two for Vinicius, four for rampant Brazil

**LAS VEGAS, JUNE 29**

Vinicius Junior scored two first-half goals to lead Brazil to a 4-1 victory over Paraguay and put his team in position to advance out of Group D in the Copa America.

Savinho also scored a first-half goal for Brazil and Lucas Paqueta scored on a penalty kick in the second half. Omar Alderete scored Paraguay's goal. There were plenty of tense moments with five yellow cards and a red handed out. Andres Cubas was sent off for a red card in the 81st minute, forcing Paraguay to play the last part of the match down a man. Yellow cards were handed to Brazil's Wendell, Junior and Paqueta and Paraguay's Fabian Balbuena and Hernesto Caballero.

The victory was quite a response for the Selecao Canarinho, who opened the tournament Tuesday with a scoreless draw against Costa Rica despite outshooting their opponent 18-2.



Brazil's Vinicius Junior exults after scoring a goal against Paraguay. AP/PTI

With four points, Brazil are two behind group leaders Colombia, who defeated Costa Rica 3-0 earlier Friday. A victory or tie by Brazil against Colombia on Tuesday ensures one of the

group's two spots in the knockout stage. Brazil also have a six-goal differential advantage over Costa Rica, so a loss likely won't keep out the nine-time Copa America champions.

Brazil coach Dorival Junior made a bold and controversial move by deciding not to start Raphinha. The move, with national team legend Neymar watching from the stands, clearly paid off. — AP

## England's love-hate relationship with coach Southgate

**DUESSELDORF, JUNE 29**

Gareth Southgate was credited with making England fans fall back in love with their national football team. Now many are turning on him. Despite England advancing unbeaten to the Round of 16 at the European Championship, criticism has been fierce.

“I would have got rid of him before this tournament,” said Charlie O'Shea, a 32-year-old England fan from London, who traveled to Germany for the tournament.

The team isn't “really gelling,” said O'Shea, wearing a retro blue England shirt. “I think he needs to pick players that actually fit together in terms of the system ... and I don't think he's got the personality to actually do that,” he said. “When he's in the changing room when it's not going well, are you



Gareth Southgate has come under fire for his team selection. REUTERS

going to listen to Gareth Southgate? No.”

The reactions toward Southgate are in stark contrast to previous tournaments when England fans serenaded him to a reworking of the 2001 hit “Whole Again” by British girl band Atomic Kitten, changing the words to

“Southgate you're the one.”

The vest he wore at the 2018 World Cup became one of the iconic symbols of the tournament and his team was a penalty shootout away from winning the last Euros — losing to Italy and missing out on England's first trophy since the 1966 World Cup. — AP

### TODAY ON TV

ONE-OFF TEST  
INDIA WOMEN VS SA WOMEN  
SPORTS 18 9:30AM  
EUROS  
ENGLAND VS SLOVAKIA 9:30PM  
SPAIN VS GEORGIA 12:30AM (MON)  
SONY SPORTS

# JD(U) leaders to meet Modi over special status for Bihar

Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Kumar Jha appointed party's working president

AKSHEEV THAKUR  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**NEW DELHI, JUNE 29** Advocating special status for Bihar, Janata Dal (United) leader Ashok Chaudhary today said the party leaders, including Nitish Kumar, Sanjay Jha and Lalan Singh, along with others, would meet PM Narendra Modi and put forth their demand.

"A special status and a special package for Bihar are our old demands, and these are still there. Our leaders in both the Houses, including Lalan Singh and Sanjay Jha, will meet the Prime Minister and put forth their point strongly," Chaudhary said while speaking to reporters here.

A national executive meeting of the Janata Dal-United (JD-U) held here decided to appoint Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Kumar Jha as the party's working president. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar will continue to be the national president.

Jha, who took oath as a Rajya Sabha member in April this year, is said to be close to Kumar. "He is close to the CM (Nitish Kumar). He also played an important role in



Bihar CM Nitish Kumar with Lalan Singh at the JD(U) meet. ANI

### OUR OLD DEMANDS

"A special status and a special package for Bihar are our old demands, and these are still there. Our leaders in both the Houses, including Lalan Singh and Sanjay Jha, will meet the Prime Minister and put forth their point strongly."

Ashok Chaudhary, JD(U) LEADER

### WILL NITISH WALK THE TALK, ASKS JAIRAM

Hours after BJP ally JD(U) passed a resolution reiterating its demand for special category status for Bihar, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh asked if Chief Minister Nitish Kumar would actually walk the talk on the issue. He also questioned NDA partner Telugu Desam Party for not pressing for the special category status for Andhra Pradesh. PTI

JD(U)'s alliance with the BJP "I am deeply obliged to the Bihar CM. He has given me a huge responsibility. He has transformed Bihar. We will contest the Jharkhand Assembly poll as well," Jha said.

The meeting also analysed the recently concluded Lok Sabha election results and strategies for the Bihar Assembly poll in 2025. The JD(U) contested 16 seats and

won 12 in the recently concluded LS poll. According to party insiders, the JD(U) may push the demand for contesting on more seats in the Assembly election. JD(U) secretary general KC Tyagi said it was announced in the meeting that the party would remain part of the NDA.

"No matter what one writes. We will remain part of the NDA. There is no question of

going anywhere else. We will go to the Supreme Court to seek a stay on the Patna High Court verdict on the state government's reservation policy. We will continue to fight for the special status and an economic package," Tyagi said.

Party leaders present in the meeting also sought strict action against culprits in NEET paper leak case. (With agency inputs)

## NEET-UG case: CBI nabs journalist in Jharkhand

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

The CBI on Saturday arrested a Hazaribagh-based marketing professional working with a Hindi newspaper in the NEET-UG paper leak.

The CBI sleuths identified the arrested accused as Jamaluddin Ansari. His brother, Salauddin Ansari, also works in the same media outlet.

According to the CBI officials, both the brothers were interrogated and later, Jamaluddin was arrested.

The CBI team also questioned the other 13 accused in Patna's Beur jail. The 13 were arrested by the Bihar Police in the last one month.

Moreover, the District Sessions Court in Panchmahal, Gujarat, granted the custody of four accused to the CBI.

## Fresh NEET-PG date will be out by July 2: Pradhan

RAVNEET SINGH  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PANCHKULA, JUNE 29

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan today said the National Board of Examinations (NBE) will announce the revised dates of NEET-PG examinations by Tuesday. He held a press conference in Panchkula on the sidelines of Home Minister Amit Shah's meeting with party leaders in the state when he said the government is also open to hold discussion on the matter.

Pradhan said the matter of National Eligibility-cum-Entrance test-Post Graduate (NEET-PG) examinations has already been addressed by President Droupadi Murmu



Dharmendra Pradhan

in the joint sitting of the Parliament. He said, "The President has herself expressed her stand on the NEET-PG exam and stated that no lapses will be tolerated in relation to paper leaks."

The NBE had postponed the NEET-PG on June 22, a few hours before the exam was scheduled to be held on June 23.

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## 'Constitutional morality' a means to preserve India's diversity: CJI

KOLKATA, JUNE 29

Espousing the importance of implementing 'Constitutional morality' in Indian jurisprudence, Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandra-

chud on Saturday insisted on the commitment of courts to ensure diversity, inclusion and tolerance.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the two-day East

Zone II Regional Conference of the National Judicial Academy, the CJI also focused on the importance of technological advancements in the justice delivery system. The CJI

elaborated on the notion of 'Constitutional morality' as a restraining factor on the state that should derive from the Preamble values of the Constitution. — PTI

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Filing complaints directly with the RBI Ombudsman may lead to rejection.

For more details, visit <https://rbikehtahai.rbi.org.in/ios>  
For feedback, write to [rbikehtahai@rbi.org.in](mailto:rbikehtahai@rbi.org.in)

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# MRF CONGRATULATES TEAM INDIA ON AN AMAZING VICTORY.

Team India wins the ICC Men's T20 2024 World Cup at The Kensington Oval in Bridgetown in Barbados.  
Well played Team India.

## KYA BAT HAI!



NSD director's solo show 'Gunno Bai' wins over audiences, in China too

ARTS PAGE 3



Two snow leopards and their mother are the stars of Kibber village in Spiti valley

REFLECTIONS PAGE 5

CHANDIGARH | 30 JUNE 2024

SONIA WIGH

IN 1799, at the age of 19, Ranjit Singh conquered Lahore and began his campaign to bring the diverse *mists* of Punjab under his control. Over the subsequent four decades of his rule, the Maharaja resisted strong aggressors, including the Afghans and the British, as well as created an enduring legacy as a powerful warrior, astute statesman, and flamboyant monarch of a cosmopolitan empire. This legacy is highlighted and celebrated by the exhibition, 'Ranjit Singh — Sikh, Warrior, King', at the Wallace Collection in London. The exhibition (on till October 20) has been co-curated by Wallace Collection's director, Dr Xavier Bray, and scholar of Sikh art, Davinder Toor.

Scholarly research on Ranjit Singh demonstrates how his court is of value for the cosmopolitan, eclectic and syncretic space it fostered for an ethnically and religiously diverse population. It also shows the remarkable stability of the state, centralised institutionalised mechanisms, diligent record-keeping, and managing European incursive intents. All these aspects are explored through five sections of the exhibition: 'Prelude to Power', 'Masters of War', 'The Lahore Durbar', 'Firangis' and 'Legacies'.

The opening section, 'Prelude to Power', has a map of the subcontinent highlighting the extent of the Sikh empire at the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, which orients the viewer's perspective from the get-go. Comprising mostly paintings from the Toor collection, this section addresses the key moments of the making of the Sikh politico-religious edifice in the 18th century. By juxtaposing the paintings of Guru Arjan Dev expounding on the *Adi Granth* with another of a heavily armed Guru Hargobind holding a hawk, the curators cleverly project the making of the Sikh warrior tradition in the 18th century, or as Purnima Dhanan has shown, how 'sparrows became hawks'.

The most substantial section in the exhibition is 'Masters of War'. It consists of arms and ammunition, full-body armour, paintings depicting the Sikh martial form, and even a *dastar bunga*, a towering version of the turban preferred by the Nihangs. It is in this section that the curators display objects directly referencing the 'Sikh' martial body. For instance, the steel 'turban helmet' explains how space was made in a traditional helmet (*taup*) for the Sikh turban and top-knot — a cultural-bodily marker, especially as they were worn by the exclusive, elite, 800-strong dragoons within the general Sikh forces. The section also engages with Ranjit Singh's relations with the Marathas — another political force as powerful and capable of encroachment as the British with whom the Maharaja signed a treaty of 'perpetual friendship' instead.

The curators then turn towards the space within which Ranjit Singh received all his visitors, friends and foes: 'the Lahore Durbar'. Through a curious blend of paintings, fabrics, manuscripts and medals, this section offers a range of perspectives of looking at the cosmopolitan court created by Ranjit Singh. The visitor will be able to see the impressive 'Golden Throne of Maharaja Ranjit Singh', borrowed from the Victoria and Albert Museum. For anyone interested in the transformation of cities, the 'Panoramic View of the Walled City of Lahore' (1845) makes for fascinating viewing. Taking up an entire wall, the painting captures the essence of the city of Lahore, from the 'mosque of Shah Jahan' dominating the right corner to the 'haveli of Sardar Ahluwalia' on the left. The visitors' eyes will be immediately drawn to the journal of Frances Eden, sister of the Governor-General of India, who sketched two views of the Koh-i-Noor diamond, prized possessions of Maharaja Ranjit Singh — now in the British royal treasury. Ironically, the diary is framed by a fabulous emerald girde of Maharaja Sher Singh, 'lent' by His Majesty the King.

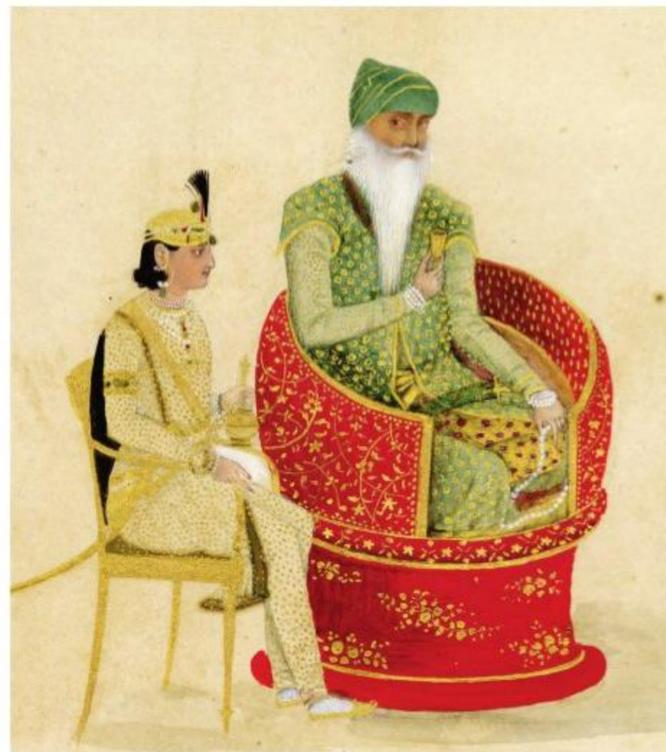
The story of Ranjit Singh is equally a story of strong women who supported and helped create the Sikh edifice celebrated by the exhibition. The recent spate of work by Anshu Malhotra, Priya Atwal and Radha Kapuria has highlighted how the actions of women — from machinations of individual queens safeguarding the empire to everyday feminine interactions — shaped the Sikh social order. Yet, the women are curiously short-changed here. Their presence is limited to two portraits of Rani Mahtab Kaur, and Maharani Jind Kaur — whose jewellery is also showcased, almost as though that was the extent of their contribution. It was interesting, however, to read about how Maharani Jind Kaur's personal jewels and possessions were captured by the British and only a small portion was returned after protracted negotiation by Duleep Singh, to be eventually retailed by Fraser and Haws. Apart from the famous loss of Koh-i-Noor, it was at this moment when the his-



# Ranjit Singh's WORLD

An exhibition in London explores the Maharaja's reign and its cosmopolitan, syncretic value

The Maharaja's throne on display at the exhibition titled 'Ranjit Singh — Sikh, Warrior, King' in London. © Cassandra Parsons & the Trustees of the Wallace Collection.



Maharaja Ranjit Singh (1799–1839) with his favourite, Raja Hira Singh (1816–1844), attending as a cup-bearer, c 1835–1838. © Toor Collection.



Turban-helmet, probably Lahore, Punjab, 19th century. © The Trustees of the Wallace Collection.

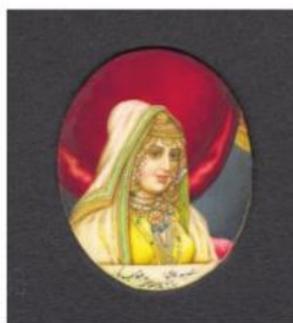


Sword associated with Maharaja Ranjit Singh, Awadh, late 18th or early 19th century. © The Trustees of the Wallace Collection.

tory of loot and coercive acquisitory practices that have led to staggering displays of 'South Asia collections' (or worse, 'Oriental collections') in Western museums was rendered visible. Ironically, the only painting where women feature predominantly is the one depicting 'The Cremation of Maharaja Ranjit Singh with Four Queens and Seven Maidservants'. The painting was meant to depict the act of *sati* (self-immolation) by the four high-born Hindu Rajput wives of the Maharaja. The plaque accompanying the painting acknowledges that the act of *sati* was condemned by the third Sikh Guru and banned by the British, but even the audio accompanying the painting does not note how this act was a way of symbolising kingship, borrowing from the Rajput traditions.

In fact, there is also a subtle tension in the exhibition between acknowledging the links of the Sikh empire under Ranjit Singh with the Timurid-Mughal empire and establishing it as the enemy responsible for the emergence of Sikh martyrdom. The exhibition displays objects belying the profusion of Persian documentation, liberal usage of Persian script in the administration, and adaptation of Persianate (and even Rajput) forms of kingship by the Sikh rulers — and shies away from exploring the connection.

Much of what we know of Ranjit Singh's court comes from European travel accounts. The section on 'Firangis' showcases not only the visitors but also those employed by Ranjit Singh to compete and outsmart competitors like the East India Company. The paintings of Ranjit Singh commissioned by European officers offer



(By Rattan Singh) Rani Mahtab Kaur (1782-1813), Lahore or Delhi, c 1810-1830. © Toor Collection.



(By Alfred Dedreux) 'Ranjit Singh Baadour, Roi de Lahore' (Ranjit Singh the Brave, King of Lahore) commissioned by General Ventura, Paris, c 1837. © RMN-Grand Palais (musée du Louvre), Stéphane Maréchal.

an insight into how he was visualised by European officers in Sikh service. An 'Ornamental Letter of Credence' from King Louis Philippe I of France to Maharaja Ranjit Singh not only underscores his political relevance in the shifting alliances of the 19th century, but also the necessity to cultivate him as a 'dearest friend' by other powerful monarchs of the time.

My favourite piece from the whole exhibition is in the last section, 'Legacies'. The 1870s painting titled 'The Golden Temple of Amritsar and the City Beyond' attributed to Bishan Singh immediately transports you to Hamandir Sahib. The vivid colours and the vibrant hues used to render the everyday lives of the pilgrims to the sacred site fill you with euphoria. To anyone who has been to the Golden Temple, the skill of the painter is so fine that one can almost hear the cacophony of the scene, the coolness of the water as the devotees take a cleansing dip, the conversations while getting ready, and the warmth between a child and his mother holding a toy. It makes one yearn for home.

At some point, I thought the exhibition was struggling with the unenviable burden of being the first and different. The exhibition is extremely important inasmuch as it's the first attempt to historicise the life of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and bring his substantial achievements to the public through an impressive series of artefacts. And yet, it seems to be geared towards the Sikh diasporic community or those with prior knowledge of the subcontinent and its history. I wonder how much a non-specialist would take from it. They will remember Ranjit Singh, but the nuances of what is in the

material might be difficult to grasp, especially as the cast of characters that populated his world is not fully sketched out. Maybe a helpful timeline of the Sikh faith and empire could have accompanied the map at the beginning of the exhibition, or a list of *dramatis personae* to better contextualise the material would have been helpful.

While some of the plaques describe the contents in the display cases, there is little attempt to transcribe and translate the non-English material. This would render some articles incomprehensible to the non-specialist viewer beyond just being objects. Even the articles that are in English would need palaeographic skills to read. For instance, the 'True copy' receipt marking the formal transfer of the famed Koh-i-Noor diamond from the Sikhs to the British elicited much interest in the viewers when I was visiting the exhibition, but they struggled to decipher the script and the content.

For me, all the elements of the exhibition came together in the 'Sword Likely to Have Belonged to Maharaja Ranjit Singh', with intricate scenes of kingship and piety, zoomorphic symbols as well as inscriptions on the knucklehead in Gurmukhi calligraphy (from the 'epic narrative on life of Krishna') which the audio tells us reads: 'May the cauldron and the sword flourish in the world, grant your protection so that no other can kill me.' By emphasising that feeding and protecting the unfortunate is the highest virtue for a Sikh, the exhibition connects our past and present — to the heart of Sikhi and Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

— The writer is a British Academy postdoctoral fellow at the University of Cambridge

# An illustrious diplomat who was a class apart

RAMU DAMODARAN

**M**UCHKUND DUBEY passed away on June 26, the 80th United Nations Charter Day. He was 12 when that foundational document was signed by 51 countries, including his still not Independent own. Less than three years earlier, his father had been imprisoned during the Quit India movement, he had awaited his return in the family's single-room home, in today's Jharkhand, on whose wall was written, in Sanskrit, "Do not come in my way. I can hear the fear in this terror-stricken world."

The resolve to help assuage that fear led him to the Indian Foreign Service and the United Nations, as a delegate and an international civil servant. The breadth of possibilities he saw in fresh ideas was vast, as was his impatience when they were narrowed. In a memorable intervention at the United Nations in 1985, as Chair of the preparatory committee for the conference on disarmament and development, he said, without the least indication of irony, that the committee "has been able fully to discharge its mandate. In fact, it has gone beyond that mandate and made a series of recommendations on other vital aspects of the preparation for the conference".

Nor did he acclimatise to laziness and custom in drafting. As a UN delegate in the Sixties, faced with an Eastern European proposal that "men and women should be equally entitled to maternity leave", he suggested (a half century ahead of his time; it was a word determined by the UN in 2022) that it should be "parental" and not "maternity". (Drawing rapping rapier response from the Soviet delegate, the redoubtable Madam Flutseva, that it was astonishing that the land of Indira Gandhi and Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit should be represented by so chauvinist a male.)

That diplomacy demands anonymity of face, he proved wrong, aided by the Shakespearean actor mobility of his features. When he laughed, each nuance of his face's cheer burst into good humour that was the little boy he once was in Jasdih. When he approved, his eyes and lips mellowed into gentle, gnostic grace. And when he was angry, every element of expression seethed. As did his writing on the world he lived in, where "the major powers that have exercised hegemony in the world order since the Second World War, along with their allies, started a concerted, planned and coordinated effort to weaken the United Nations and whittle down its role and functions".

He saw that role as that of conscience, and arbiter of grievance and fear. Nations should feel free to approach it, nations that had nothing to hide should welcome the opportunity to state publicly their position in response. Not everyone agreed, nor will agree. When he headed the Foreign Office division dealing with Bangladesh, he accepted that country's placing on the agenda of the United Nations

First Committee (dealing, of all things, with global security and disarmament), in 1976, the sharing of the Ganga's waters at Farakka, and the subsequent UN resolution which "urged India and Bangladesh to negotiate on this issue seriously with a view to finding a speedy solution". Discussions with Dhaka did lead to an agreement with a concession that, in his phrase, "was regarded as a great achievement for Bangladesh. For India, it meant getting out of the way a recurring problem in dealing with one of our most important neighbours".

My only opportunity to work directly with him was at the Harare non-aligned summit in 1986. He supervised our dealings with international organisations in the Ministry of External Affairs. I was a three-month-old cub in our delegation in New York. He invited me to dinner the first evening. As I reached to open my menu, he placed his hand on mine and said, "Leave it to me. Pretend you're having dinner with Shankar Bajpai," a reference to the legendary goudam of the Foreign Service. The 'tiger fish cutlets' he ordered were as light as our initial conversation, buoyancy in every bite.

Suddenly, the tenor changed. "Have you ever watched tango?" he asked. I cautiously admitted I had. "It's like international relations," he continued. "You dance with one partner and think you have one partner alone. Then you look around the room and see so many couples, but all are in coordinated movement, moving clockwise or counterclockwise. And you are part of that much, much larger dance."

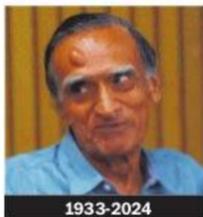
"Nations," he continued, "are persons. Not people. Each with her own likes, faiths, prejudices. And the qualities of warmth, of compassion, of understanding, that make us who we are."

The restaurant had thinned and, declining dessert, we returned to our rooms. Our day was to begin early the next morning when the disarmament committee was to meet, with Dubey presiding and I in India's seat — at least metaphorically, since there were no signs with country names.

It worked well, with a constant flurry of notes from him on the podium, to me in the hall, with instructions on what I should say, gamely carried by an agile Zimbabwean conference aide. Until a new aide came in. "Give it to the Indian man," Dubey instructed. The aide looked around, zeroed in on his destination and handed the note to Pakistan's delegate, Munir Akram.

Akram unfolded the paper and read it, a slow smile unexpectedly gentling his features. His eyes met the anxious Chair's. He slowly refolded it, gave it to the Pakistan aide sitting behind him and asked that he bring it to me. A nation had become a person.

— The writer is non-resident Senior Fellow at Centre for Economic and Social Progress, New Delhi



1933-2024  
A tribute to former Foreign Secretary Muchkund Dubey

Khawaja Khizr's tomb symbolises the composite culture the Bhakti and Sufi movements nurtured

ALKA RAZA

**T**HE tomb of Khawaja Khizr at Sonapat in Haryana is not on the tourist map of Delhi-NCR. It comes up rarely in conversations of heritage enthusiasts. Yet, the historical landmark, built during 1522-1524 by Ibrahim Lodhi, has a lot of a significance attached to it. Considered the last monument of the Lodhi dynasty era, what also makes it special is the structural composition — built with *kankar* blocks, red sandstone and Lakhauri bricks.

Khawaja Khizr was revered as a Sufi saint. A spiritual leader of the Lodhi period, he had renounced court life in search of the 'real meaning of life'. It was the time when the Sufi and Bhakti movements were at their peak. He was frequently consulted on matters of importance by nobles and royals of the time.

I first visited the tomb in January 2019 in a quest to locate the centuries-old trees by the pond in Jatwara, a historical locality in the city of Sonapat. The 500-year-old tomb is surrounded by lush green gardens, next to a pond and many 'heritage trees'.

Reaching this 16th-century monument through the busy, narrow streets of Jatwara village is an experience. Completely hidden by the semi-urban structures, the road, which has all kinds of shops, ends suddenly, and the *maqbara* of Khawaja Khizr rises like a phoenix. A beautiful, picturesque heritage building greets you to take you back to an era gone by — the Lodhis of Delhi Sultanate!

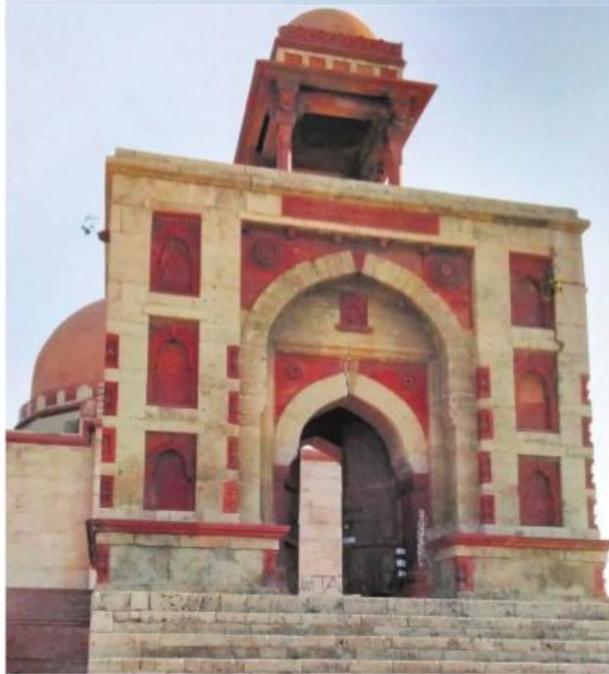
According to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), not much is known about this tomb of Indo-Islamic architecture. Built in honour of Khawaja Khizr, it stands on a high platform and is reinforced with square projections at the corners. A flight of steps leads to the gateway, which consists of two arched openings on either side of a central passage decorated with panels, recessed arches, mouldings, lotus medallions and inscriptions.

A *chhatra* is located on the top of the gateway. The main structure is square in plan, with four openings on all sides, except the western wall where a *mihrab* is located. The ceiling of the chamber is decorated with floral designs executed in blue, yellow, green and dull red colours. The burial chamber is surmounted by a hemispherical dome, resting on an octagonal low drum, crowned by a final sitting over an inverted lotus flower.

According to the Persian inscriptions on the tomb, Khawaja Khizr was the son of Darya Khan Sarwani, an influential noble in the court of Sikandar Lodhi.

For many decades, the residents of Jatwara and nearby areas have been taking care of this lesser-known heritage of Haryana. They never fail to offer flowers, food and light incense and

## Sonepat's hidden treasure



The 500-year-old monument is dedicated to Sufi saint Khawaja Khizr. PHOTOS BY THE WRITER



Threads tied for seeking blessings.

Khawaja Khizr wants me to come back and pay my regards in a more appropriate manner!

The Bhakti and Sufi movements of medieval India played a crucial role in creating a composite culture, and the legacy can be seen to this day. The *dargah* is frequented by people of different faiths, travelling from far and near distances, like a family I met from Kashmir, especially to pray for good health. I was also greeted by local women during my recent visit to the Khawaja Khizr complex, which is becoming a social space to meet, exercise and do yoga. Needless to say, young cricketers were also making good use of the complex.

According to the ASI, a part of the boundary is being re-constructed, and hopefully then, this monument will be better taken care of. One wish I do have — that a heritage festival is organised on the lawns of the tomb so this site gets the recognition it deserves.

— The writer is ex-chairperson of XLRI Centre for Gender Equality and Inclusive Leadership, Jamshedpur

### CAPTION CONTEST 1465

HIMANASHU MAHAJAN



Entries invited to suggest a caption for the photograph. It should only be in English, witty, not exceeding 10 words, and reach Spectrum, The Tribune, Chandigarh, 160030, by Thursday. The best five captions will be published and awarded ₹300, ₹250, ₹200, ₹150 and ₹100, respectively. Each caption must be accompanied by a clipping of the caption contest and its number. Photocopies or scans of the caption photo won't be accepted. Online subscribers should attach an epaper clipping at captionpics@tribunemail.com or a scanned copy of the e-paper clipping. Please mention the pin code and phone number in your address.

### SELECTED ENTRIES FOR CAPTION CONTEST 1464



JUNE 23 ISSUE (SEE PHOTO)

Bull dozed — Daljit Kaur, Chandigarh

Guarded parking — Inderjit Kaur Anand via epaper, Manimajra

Bullish tenant: parking on the house — Mahima via epaper, Chandigarh

Freebies with market risk — Ashwani Kalia, Ferozpur city

Brief respite from the usual bullying — Rajiv Sharma via epaper, Amritsar

# Bhindi from another world

RAHUL VERMA

**A** NEPHEW who runs a restaurant in the United States introduced me to Creole-Cajun food, an interest that I later honed with the books of James Lee Burke. It helped me answer a riddle that had been plaguing me for long. I had often wondered what "Jambalaya" and a crawfish pie and a *filé gumbo* referred to in the song "Jambalaya". I knew "Jambalaya" was a Creole-Cajun rice dish, and crawfish was seafood. But just what was *filé gumbo*?

I learnt that 'gumbo' is a stew prepared mostly with okra. *Filé* is a powder made with the dried and ground leaves of the Sassafras tree. The word 'gumbo', of West African origin, translates into a veggie we know well — 'bhindi'. 'Gumbo' is also the name of the dish, in which okra or 'bhindi' stars, along with seafood and other tasty morsels.

The British called it *lady's fingers*, and the Americans know it as okra. For us, it's 'bhindi' in Hindi and other northern Indian languages, possibly derived from the Sanskrit *bhinadaka*.

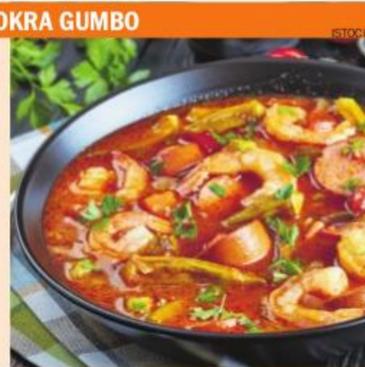
'Bhindi' is cooked in India in so many ways. We have it 'karkuri', deep fried after dusting it with some 'besan' — or stuffed with *masalas*. We cook it soft with onions, or flavour it with mustard paste. It adds taste and flavour to 'sambhar' and meat dishes. Some even like to eat it boiled, with salt and mustard oil. 'Poriyal' is another popular dish, prepared with 'urud dal', 'channa dal', and spices.

What interests me is that okra is much loved in other parts of the world, too. Southeast Asia and East Asia have some interesting okra dishes. Myanmar is known for its okra-and-egg curry, while China has different kinds of dishes, including stir-fried okra. Japan's okra *ohitashi* is a delicious salad. For this, okra is chopped, put in boiling water and blanched. It is then put in cold water, drained, and transferred to a flat dish. A sauce is prepared by heating *mirin*, Japanese

### SHRIMP AND OKRA GUMBO

INGREDIENTS	
Bhindi/okra (chopped)	4 cups
Tomatoes (chopped)	1 cup
Onion (chopped)	½ cup
Celery (chopped)	2 tbsp
Bell pepper	½ cup
Garlic (minced)	1 tbsp
Salt	To taste
Red chillies	To taste
Shrimps	1 kg
Chicken broth	4 cups
Water	1 cup
Oil	For cooking

**METHOD**  
Sauté the chopped okra in oil in a heavy-bottom pan. Brown for 45 minutes or so, adding water to ensure it doesn't stick to the pot. Add the onions, then the bell pepper, celery and tomatoes. Cook till the veggies are soft and brown. Add garlic and



cook some more. Add salt and chillies. Add the cleaned and deveined shrimps, and stir now and then until the shrimps are cooked. Add the broth and the water. Let the broth simmer for 20 minutes on low heat. Serve in bowls with cooked rice.

soup stock, and light soy sauce. This is poured over the okra while still hot. You let it rest, and then serve it as salad.

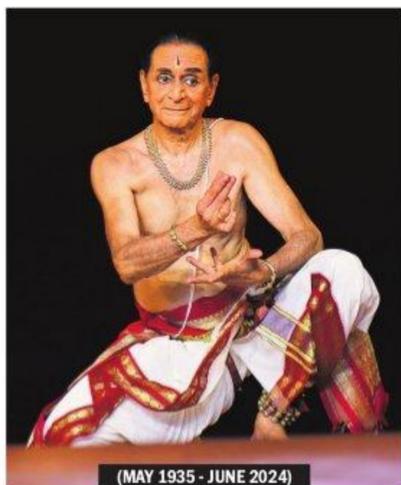
Food writer Madhur Jaffrey mentions in one of her books a Malaysian dish called 'Sambal bendi', prepared with a paste of dried prawns (soaked in water and then drained) shrimps, shallots, red chillies, garlic and salt. She fries some okra, takes them out, and fries the paste. The okras are added back, and then cooked with some water. She adds black pepper and cooks it for five more minutes, and then finishes with lemon juice.

You will find okra in Africa, too. Nigeria has an okra soup prepared with pounded okra, bell pepper, chillies, onions, goat meat, shrimp and spinach. The Ethiopian *bamya elicha* is simple to cook. In a pot, sauté chopped onions (1.5 cup,

chopped tomatoes (2 cups), 2 tsp of chopped garlic and 2 tsp of chopped ginger. Add ½ tsp cardamom powder to it, and then 4 cups of chopped okra. Cook on low heat, uncovered, until done. Mix in chillies and salt and then cook for another five minutes.

Louisiana's 'gumbo' has all kinds of delicious stuff — from chicken, shrimp and prawns to Andouille sausages. And, of course, there is okra to give body and a certain consistency to the dish.

I love 'bhindi' cooked in various ways. And I love it for the humour it evokes. Did you hear about the man who went to buy 'bhindi', and waited patiently while the vegetable seller kept sprinkling water on the pods to make the veggies look green? Finally, the customer said, respectfully: "Once the 'bhindi' regains consciousness, will you please give me a kilo of it?"



(MAY 1935 - JUNE 2024)

CV Chandrasekhar was a rare Bharatanatyam dancer trained in North India. PHOTO COURTESY: SUNIL AWMADAM

## Ambassador of Bharatanatyam

SREEVALSAN THIYYADI

THE pine trees at Mussoorie reminded young CV Chandrasekhar of the hill-slopes in Shimla where he grew up as a child. The lanky artiste had just reached the Himalayan range, travelling 2,500 km from Madras. The metropolis was where the Tamil-origin boy learned Bharatanatyam, on the cusp of the country's Independence, at the nascent Kalakshetra, where the classical dance was gaining fresh identity. Now in the Garhwal town that gave him a job, language was no issue. Chandrasekhar was fluent in English and Hindi his colleagues and students spoke at the boarding school. After all, Delhi was mostly where he had lived till age 10.

At Mussoorie's Manav Bharati, Chandrasekhar taught dance along with a couple of other subjects. This lasted just a year. Varanasi became his next stop, with Chandrasekhar enrolling for a PhD in botany. A "misunderstanding" with the guide led him to discontinue research. That gave Bharatanatyam a full-fledged practitioner. At age 27 in 1962, he married a dancer-lawyer, Jaya Chandrasekhar, too, was cosmopolitan: born in Bombay, raised in Kanpur and ancestral Tamil Nadu, before shifting to the national capital.

For the couple, artistic life bloomed around Kashi. Chandrasekhar worked at Banaras Hindu University, while Jaya's official tryst was with Rajghat Besant School on the outskirts of the ancient city. The family harmony showed in their penchant for co-opting North Indian aesthetics into Bharatanatyam. The husband and wife were getting exposed to Hindustani classical in a big way. The silken quality of the *khayal* concerts prompted Chandrasekhar to employ those *ragas* as background scores. He selected themes that suited the literary tastes upcountry. Soon, CVC and Jaya became the ambassadors of Bharatanatyam across the Ganga-Yamuna belt.

In any case, Chandrasekhar was exposed to Hindustani music as a kid in Delhi even as he learned the fundamentals

Long teaching stints upcountry earned CV Chandrasekhar eclecticism and gave the dance form new ornamentations

of Carnatic. In 1945, when the Grand Trunk Express took him down south, his aspiration was to become a vocalist. Kalakshetra was studied with Carnatic maestros such as Mysore Vasudevacharya and Budalur Krishnamurthy.

Yet, the poetry sculpted by human movements lured Chandrasekhar into Bharatanatyam. After the first year, he became a dance student. A while later, Dagar brothers Moinuddin and Aminuddin happened to stay briefly in Kalakshetra. Chandrasekhar was enticed by the grandeur of their *dhrupad*. His capacity to converse in Hindi led the teenager to be the favourite errand boy for the titans all through their three months at Adayar. Their reposeful *alaap* and *pakhavaj*-assisted invocations found resonance in Chandrasekhar during his 30s at Varanasi. When he danced on stage, Jaya sang. And vice versa. The partnership gifted Bharatanatyam with 20 milestone productions.

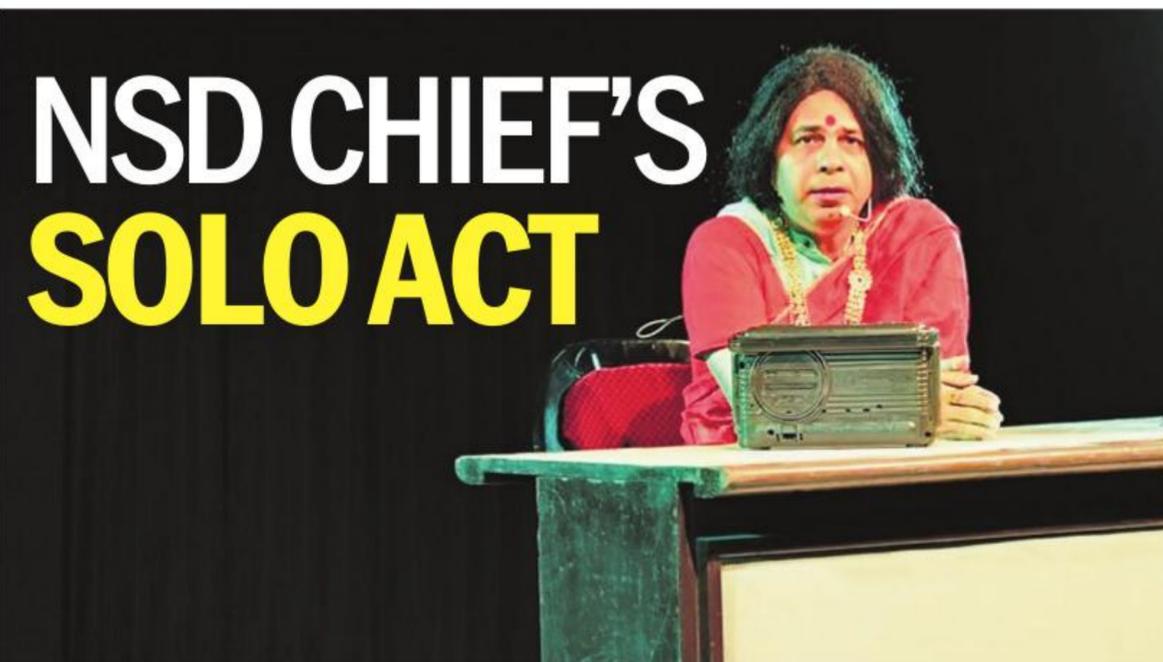
Their works evolved also in the country's west, as CVC and Jaya shifted to Gujarat, concluding Chandrasekhar's 25 years of BHU association from 1964. For 12 years from 1980, MS University in Vadodara became his creative studio. From Bhojpur to now Gujarati, the linguistic change prompted Chandrasekhar to experiment in a spectrum of subgenres. "Any art keeps changing, however slowly and subtly," he used to say.

For CVC, thorough knowledge of the ancient *Natya Shastra* treatise was not important to imbibe the spirit of classical dance. Towards the end of the century and aged 65, Chandrasekhar chose to return to Madras, which had by then got renamed. At Chennai, he set up Nrithyasree. His mentor and Kalakshetra founder Rugmini Devi Arundale (1904-86) was no more; so were chief *gurus* K Saradambal and Dandayudhapani Pillai. The Bharatanatyam repertoire had grown multifold since the second half of the 20th century. Chandrasekhar would fondly recall his nine years (1945-54) in Kalakshetra, which also let him undergo college education.

"I was into my fourth year of dance, when *athai* (Rugmini Devi) suggested the idea of my debuting on stage," the Padma Bhushan awardee would say. Excited but cautious, he presented the *Todi-raga varnam Rupamu joochi* as the centrepiece on the campus in 1950. A lot of buffs and scholars had turned up for the show, curious about the rare sight of a boy dancing. Those were days when the males largely remained tutors for girls doing Bharatanatyam.

Staying engaged had been "very important" for CVC. As danseuse-actress Vjayanthimala notes, Chandrasekhar, who died on June 19, maintained "highest standards, never compromising".

National School of Drama director Chittaranjan Tripathy shares his vision for the institute and why his solo show 'Gunno Bai' continues to win over audiences, now in China too



## NSD CHIEF'S SOLO ACT

MAIHIKA KAUL

IT'S been almost six months since Chittaranjan Tripathy became director of the National School of Drama (NSD). An ex-student of India's premier theatre training institute, Tripathy continues to have mixed feelings about his role as the NSD head. "NSD has a golden legacy," he says. Stepping into the shoes of some of the famous directors of NSD (Ebrahim Alkazi, BV Karanth, Ratan Thiyam, Ram Gopal Bajaj) can be burdensome. Tripathy is also overwhelmed — this is his moment to contribute to his alma mater and give it fresh direction.

Tripathy hopes to be the "Renaissance man" — looking for inspiration from *Natya Shastra*, the ancient Sanskrit text focused on drama, music, dance and other performing arts. The treatise offers the building blocks of theatre, he declares. It establishes the timelessness and prowess of Indian theatre. He believes that the NSD ignored this Indian treasure all these years and now the drama school has imbibed its rich heritage and aesthetics. Tripathy is also excited about opening regional repertoires; introduce more meaningful partnerships with organisations and individuals outside the NSD; start a BEd programme in theatre, and invest in the scholarship of child psychology and theatre education. In the turbulent world of Artificial Intelligence, he dreams of creating a niche for Artistic Intelligence.

Originally from Odisha, Tripathy studied sociology before joining the NSD. One of his most successful productions has been *Taj Mahal Ka Tender*, a satire challenging the political history of humans and corruption in a government system.

He also learnt music, an art he hopes the NSD will excel in and eventually stage some musicals.

Tripathy's recent success, *'Gunno Bai'*, a solo presentation, is a theatrical exploration of a man (Ghanshyam Pathak) who comes to Delhi to study and become an IAS officer. The city is harsh. His father is a fugitive connected to a suspected case of caste violence. Ghanshyam has to take a series of tuitions to survive and there is no time to prepare for an examination. The narrative arc of *Gunno* is similar to thousands of aspirants who spend precious years of their lives trying to crack the civil services or other competitive exams. Many do not even qualify for the first round of an all-India exam as poverty and exploitation prevent them from achieving their dreams.

But Tripathy's *Gunno Bai* is not a failure.

He does not make it to the civil services, but becomes famous for his music and rhetoric. During a walk at the India Gate lawns, he discovers the appeal of a man performing while dressed in a *scarf*. People shower the performer with money, and *Gunno* cracks the formula to earn a living with ease. He now dresses often in feminine attire — part eunuch, bit of a man and bit of a woman. No more sleeping empty stomach and lamenting why he ran away to Delhi. Instead, this young man from a village in Bihar gains popularity after a leading newspaper features him reciting Kabir and other established poets. He soon becomes the go-to person if you want to listen

to great poetry or have philosophical discussions. *Gunno* is now part of the Page 3 circuit!

A large part of the solo show blends music, poetry and humour but is actually a satire on our times, where the quest for goals is blinding and often breaks the human spirit. Tripathy has written the play and also composed all the songs. If the production budget is promising, he says he is assisted by a group of musicians for the stage performance. But, on a shoe-string budget, Tripathy is a one-man army, travelling with all props and dresses in a suitcase, with only a local tabla player to assist. Of course, this time he stages a shorter version of the play for the audience.

*'Gunno Bai'* has already had 100 shows, including a recent one at the Central Academy of Drama in Beijing in May. After every performance, Tripathy faces similar comments and queries: "Is this your story?" "I know someone who faced a similar struggle."

Tripathy says the play relates to the experiences and emotions of several people. And this, he adds, is the key to its success both within India and abroad. The story of a village boy in search of a dream that does not materialise, but exposes him to the harsh and tragic realities of life and forces him to negotiate his space, identity and survival, is indeed a compelling narrative.

For Tripathy, theatre is a means towards a larger goal of social transformation. The world is a stage and he is playing many parts.

Tripathy wants to open regional repertoires of the NSD.

## From the fringes, another gem

*'Lakshmanrekha'*, about a man who revived his village's water sources, has received two IDPA awards

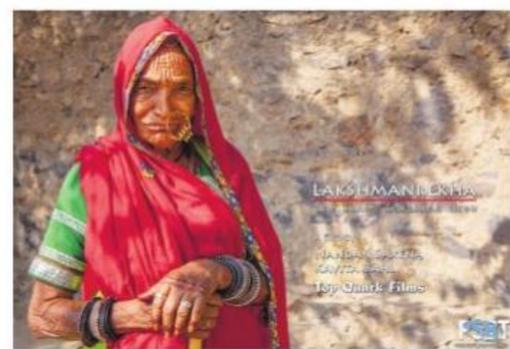
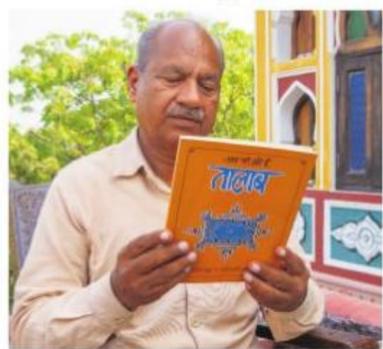
RENU SUD SINHA

VETERAN documentary makers Kavita Bahl and Nandan Saxena picked up yet another award recently for their latest project, *'Lakshmanrekha'*, that tells the story of a school dropout who revived his village's water sources in the deserts of Rajasthan using traditional methods. It received two Indian Documentary Producers Association (IDPA) Awards 2024 — silver award in the environment and wildlife category and gold for cinematography.

With three National Film Awards to their name, awards are not something new in their 30-year journey. "But to be recognised and awarded by your peers feels special," says Kavita.

Their oeuvre of nearly 40 documentaries has always focussed on people living on the fringes and how traditional wisdom has kept them as well as their ecosystems alive.

For these former journalists,



these cinematic stories from the ground are a continuation of the people's journalism they practised in their 'previous life', as Nandan calls it. "We didn't choose our films, the films chose us."

Their first film, *Agraria: The Sons of Fire*, was about the Adivasis of Chhattisgarh, while *'Cotton for My Shroud'* dealt with the issue of farmer suicides in Vidarbha. "Cotton... only focussed on the men. But what happened to the women who were left behind? *'Candles in the Wind'* told the stories of widows of Punjabi farmers dealing with the burden of their husbands' debts, taking care of children, ageing parents and the chemically-abused fields," says Kavita.

"We shot in Mansa, Sangrur and Bathinda, where maximum suicides had taken place. Despite hardships, these resilient women were re-negotiating the rules of engagement with courage and dignity," recalls Nandan about the documentary, which also won the National Award.

"After *'Candles...'*, we were exploring a topic for our next documentary. We had met Anupam Mishra, an eminent environmentalist and Gandhian, many times and read his book, *Aaj Bhi Khare Hai Talab*, a seminal work on water harvesting based on traditional methods. We wanted to make a film on his inspiring work. He directed us, instead, towards Lakshman Singh," says Kavita.

Motivated by Mishra's book, a resolute but

simple man had turned drought-hit Lapodia, a village near Jaipur, into an oasis with his unorthodox idea of filling the dry ponds by harvesting rainwater. *'Lakshmanrekha'* documents Singh's unrelenting efforts — how he convinced the villagers to join him in digging shallow pits or *chaukas* that slowed the surface runoff of rainwater, maximising ground water recharge. When the crops eventually flourished, nearly 60 more villages adopted this *chauka* system. A sheepish government, initially unconvinced and indifferent, adopted the system for 700 villages.

Most of the projects of these independent filmmakers, who have also made documentaries for Prasar Bharti, United Nations Development Programme, Al Jazeera English and the Public Service Broadcasting Trust, are a labour of love and majorly self-funded. "Sometimes, the grants only recover travel expenses," says an undeterred Nandan. The self-taught duo has been holding filmmaking workshops to generate funds. But funds or not, work on their next documentary, *'Whispers of the Desert Wind'*, has already started.

"We are also venturing into feature films. Two scripts are ready and one of them is based on the legend of Meera," says Nandan. These stories may become movies in the coming years, but making documentaries will remain their first love. As Nandan puts it simply, "It is our life."

*'Gunno Bai'* is a theatrical exploration of a man who comes to Delhi to become an IAS officer.

(L) Lakshman Singh, the inspiration behind *'Lakshmanrekha'*, and a poster of the award-winning documentary.

«Nandan Saxena and Kavita Bahl with IDPA awards for their documentary *'Lakshmanrekha'*.

# Guru, the evolution of a species

MRINAL PANDE

I HESITATED somewhat before agreeing to review this rather sombre-sounding door stopper of a book, 'Gurus and Media'. Despite the introduction beginning in a somewhat ponderous Shashi Tharoor-esque style, one will be pleasantly surprised by the various perspectives on the Vedic concept of a *guru* and how it has mutated and grown and produced so many avatars. The volume is a carefully-chosen collection of 13 papers by Indian and western scholars. They got involved in a joint effort at bridging the gap between the original concept of a *guru* and, over time, its various forms visible in the media and popular visual culture today. They help the readers understand how an original concept of a *guru*, as a fountainhead of learning imparted verbally by the teacher to his disciples, was able to mesh almost seamlessly with the audio-visual media and produced the multifaceted popular concept of a *guru*.

The writers investigate the mutating *guru* iconographies by combining arthistory, films and even important work done on the caste system to help locate a hidden, troubled history between various *gurus* like Dronacharya and Kautilya and their non-caste disciples. It is interesting to see them join some puzzling dots to show how India's political systems over thousands of years have chosen to patronise and help sustain ancient Brahminical hierarchies in learning. Also, how in the secular State created by Baba Sahib Ambedkar's Constitution and with reformers like

Periyar, the pre-democratic concept of *guru* is being given a new political spin that reshapes it to match the Sangh's dream of a Hindu Rashtra, yoked to the Brahminical version of Hindutva and the *guru*.

The etymology of the word '*guru*' stretches back to the Proto-Indo-European root '*gwere*' (Patrick SD McCartney and Diego Lourenco). In Sanskrit, *guru* means the heavyweight. But across time and space in India, it has had many avatars. Central to all is the act of handing down knowledge. Arko-tong Longkumer's essay on 'The Sonic Guru' should also interest ethnographers and music lovers. The sound and appearance that singer Guru Mashangva uses encompass a whole culture, rituals, politics, tradition, geography and identity of a people.

The present leadership, authors David Landau and Nina Rageth feel, aims to project a traditional version of *Raj Guru*, a king and *guru* in one, heading a Brahminical version of a Bharat full of ancient wisdom and religious thought where cows, *gurus* and mothers are venerated. The goal, ultimately, is to sell to Indians a whole new exercise in nation-building and globally to tap a rich market in a world full of anxieties and stress. Yoga tourism to toys and dolls to western disciples of Indian *gurus* like Tagore, Vivekananda and Gandhi are all being promoted in a big way. As *gurus*, the new India offers not merely spiritual *gurus* living in the Himalayas, but also master craftspeople, traditional dancers, musicians, multiple-language media and market-savvy *gurus*.

Given the ambition to market the *guru* as a



**GURUS AND MEDIA: SOUND, IMAGE, MACHINE, TEXT AND THE DIGITAL**  
Edited by Jacob Copeman, Arko-tong Longkumer, and Koonal Duggal.  
UCL Press.  
Pages 482. ₹5,894

**Perspectives on Vedic concept of a guru and how it has mutated and produced many avatars**

commodity, the methodologies for first ensuring the *guru*'s presence among global disciples are also being subjected to a major change in outfits, speaking patterns and language used for profundities he/she may utter. Hindu *gurus* and Hindu nationalism have a long history: Vivekananda, the Ramakrishna Mission, Tagore and Gandhi all shared a strong agenda of religious reform and social transformation so that India could free itself

of colonialism and its deep sense of inferiority to the white man. Early association between the governing body of the BJP, the RSS, and its crafting of a militant Hinduism is part of that historical yatra. Modi's orchestration of this *guru* image and using a pliant media has helped the Sangh create a Hindu-dominant society and polity, which is an organic development of the genre. This has, in turn, guaranteed his indispensability to the father organisation.

Here is where the book makes some interesting points: to see the evolution of a *guru* is to see continuity in the innovations, how they may be rooted in the socio-economic and, lately, political needs on the ground. Particularly interesting is Amanda Lucia's paper ('Flooding the Web, Media Strategies of Nityananda's Digital Empire'). The insights could well apply to controversial *gurus* such as a churning has been throwing up: Asaram Bapu, Ram Rahim and Baba Ramdev. There are regular reports on how a *guru*'s manipulative performance while disseminating specialised knowledge and historical perspective may be actually a dangerous tool for political manipulation of simple trusting folk and creating vote-banks. The messages such *gurus* send out for mass consumption vastly compromise the moral and spiritual registers of real received wisdom, while making the devoted followers believe in the concept of *guru* as an embodiment of divinity.

Trust is the keyword. Srirupa Bhat-tacharya and Jacob Copeman and Koonal Duggal's papers underscore how a *guru* can simultaneously be many things to many

people. He is different from the *pujari* or temple priest as a teacher and trusted counsellor. Most Indian homes display photographs or busts of sectarian *gurus*, slick cosmopolitan *gurus* like Sadhguru and Sri Sri, high-profile tech and market *gurus*, and disciples can choose from the vernacular or Anglophone among them.

The media becomes a double-edged sword. It acts as an asset for the *guru* to draw disciples, gather more power and offerings, but the media also gives space when scandals involving *gurus* have been highlighted, leading them to jail from where they continue to exercise clout and are routinely released on bail to help political parties win elections.

Market-led development and liberalisation have brought much prosperity to a part of the Indian middle class. These *gurus* are popular among them and are called to bless them and hold *satsangs*. Performance and theatricality seem to be essential for a successful *guru*. Many frequently fly abroad to bless disciples, give lectures. All live glamorous lives in well-appointed *ashrams*.

The *guru* today thus needs to be seen as a meta person: more than human but also, all too human. David Landau and Nina Rageth deal with a powerful politician's shape shifting into a *guru* during the Covid-imposed isolation of the public overexposed to the media. And how this created a brand new image for a *neta* as an ascetic *guru*, who would meditate in caves and on sea shores.

What effect *guru*dom and its various successful representatives are going to have on a secular State only time will tell.

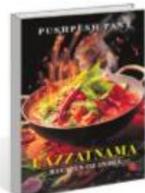
## Chronicles of culinary legacy

FOOD historian and critic Pushpesh Pant is back with yet another book on Indian foods and recipes. 'Lazzatnama' is a cuisine-based chronicle of the diverse culinary landscape of the country.

The book, divided into nearly 25 sections such as rice, breads, meat, snacks, sweets, chutneys, *mittas* and drinks, etc, categorises recipes from the same genre or having the same ingredients. Some are staples from various regions and communities, while some are delicacies reserved for festivals.

Based on his experienced palate, he has picked up many representative recipes/dishes from the North, South, East and West of India. Many are seasonal; others utilise hyperlocal elements/ingredients. All sections begin with a short note about that particular dish, tracing its lineage. The brevity of interesting facts and anecdotes, however, leave you asking for more. In the Preface, Pant admits to 'many glaring omissions' because of the magnitude of our gastronomic heritage. He regrets not being able to adequately explore the vibrant food traditions of the Northeast, but promises a separate book on recipes from the region soon.

The book has a variety of recipes, some simple, some requiring a long list of ingredients, based upon Pant's decades of research, "tasting field work" and association with renowned chefs. — TNS



**LAZZATNAMA: RECIPES OF INDIA**  
by Pushpesh Pant.  
Rupa.  
Pages 272.  
₹395

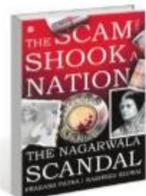
## Mother of all scams of 1970s

GEETU VAID

LIVING in a world where online scams, frauds and political corruption are painfully common, one may underestimate a more than five decades old case of ₹60-lakh fraud committed on the country's biggest bank by a caller 'impersonating' the Prime Minister and her secretary. But the sheer dare, audacity and absurdity of the act is what makes the Nagarwala scam of 1971 worth a "revisit".

On May 24, 1971, the chief cashier of SBI's Parliament Street branch flung into action after getting a call from the Prime Minister's secretary, directing him to deliver ₹60 lakh to a courier for a secret mission in East Pakistan. With the PM herself coming on phone to issue directions, a gullible Ved Prakash Malhotra set out on the 'mission' with a trunk-full of 100-rupee notes. After delivering the cash to the person concerned, he was in for a rude shock on being told that no such instructions had come from the PM's secretariat. This is the starting point of the whole episode that snowballed into a major political controversy that kept on reverberating in the corridors of power for the next decade.

Though the money was recovered soon and the 'mastermind', former Army officer Rustom Sohrab Nagarwala, confessed and was sentenced in one of the fastest trials in the history of our country, conspiracy theo-



**THE SCAM THAT SHOOK A NATION - THE NAGARWALA SCANDAL**  
by Prakash Patra, Rasheed Kidwai.  
HarperCollins.  
Pages 262. ₹399

ries were rife as several questions remained unanswered. The 'in custody' death of Nagarwala and accident of the main investigating officer, DK Kashyap, too, added fuel to the simmering fire of suspicion.

The authors have presented a clinical and objective account of the daring heist and the subsequent investigations by different agencies. They have tried to catch the multiple strings of the scandal through in-depth research of police records, files from National Archives and the report of the Justice Jagannathan Reddy Commission set up in 1978.

Breaking the narrative into different chapters to furnish the details of investigations, they have also put in perspective the political scenario of the time. The witness accounts of Indira Gandhi and Morarji Desai, and exploring the Sanjay Gandhi angle further puts things into perspective for the 21st century reader.

Important insights are also offered into the personalities of Nagarwala and bank cashier Malhotra to give readers enough room to 'house' their own opinion and to ascertain if they should be categorised as victims or villains.

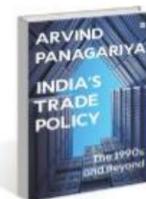
What was the role of the bank and the cashier? Was the trial a cover-up? Whose money was it and for whom was it meant? Was it a whim or a planned operation? The foreign hand? The barrage of questions raised and scoured in different chapters indeed becomes overwhelming, more so because most of these remain unanswered as one is sucked into the whirlpool of intrigue, conspiracy and political wrangling.

It is worth a read for the current generation brought up on a heavy dose of scams and corruption. But for those looking for clear-cut answers, the authors remind them of Winston Churchill's words to describe Russia's intentions in striking a Nazi-Soviet pact at the beginning of WW-II as "a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma". Ironically, the concluding remark of Justice Reddy in his report also said that the investigations had further deepened the enigma wrapped in the heart of the mystery.

The story, the case, the investigation, the lapses, the unsolved areas and the final conclusion — through it all, the authors have remained true to their promise of bringing an objective analysis of this "mother of all scams" of the 1970s.



**BACKFLAP**



**INDIA'S TRADE POLICY: THE 1990s AND BEYOND**  
by Arvind Panagariya.  
HarperCollins.  
Pages 360. ₹599

Economist and chairperson of the Sixteenth Finance Commission Arvind Panagariya has closely observed the Indian economy over decades and written extensively about it. His writings from 1989 to the present day provide an overview from when liberalisation started to where it has reached.



**BROKEN THREADS: MY FAMILY FROM EMPIRE TO INDEPENDENCE**  
by Mishal Husain.  
HarperCollins.  
Pages 298. ₹499

In 'Broken Threads', broadcaster Mishal Husain weaves an intricate family web that catches all the hope, optimism, disappointment and tragedy of the birth of Pakistan and Independent India in 1947. The meticulously researched book is dedicated to her mother.



**SKY HIGH: THE UNTOLD STORY OF INDIGO**  
by Tarun Shukla.  
HarperCollins.  
Pages 231. ₹699

When IndiGo entered the low-cost airline business in India in 2006, the market already had many strong players. Today, IndiGo is the largest airline in the country. What did it do differently and right? 'Sky High' recounts a story of patience, planning and persistence.

## Iconic Indian homes in diverse idioms

RAJNISH WATTAS

THE book is a lavishly illustrated compendium of select houses designed by architects both new and experienced, across the length and breadth of India, sited in diverse geographies. The rich anthology, curated by Gauri Kelkar, includes "hill-side holiday homes, modern apartments in large metros, beachy villas opening out to views of the rolling surf..." manifesting myriad architectural imaginations at work.

In any architect's repertoire, residential design is the most challenging and most fascinating of projects. A house is many things to many people — it's an intersection of a client's needs, aspirations, site attributes, budget and the architect's interpretation of these factors realised by his creativity.

Each work in this book is preceded by a short biography of the architect, followed by details of the house explained through sketches, text and photographs. Most projects are vacation houses located at scenic settings. They are free from stifling bylaws and controls, otherwise constraining creativity in urban areas. How architects turn them into opportunities is the real challenge.

The abiding influence of master architects of the 20th century is hard to miss. Many of these houses are reflections of Frank Lloyd



Three Court House at Alibaug, designed by RMA Architects.  
PHOTO BY RAJESH VORA



**20x20: TWENTY ARCHITECTS X TWENTY ICONIC HOMES OF INDIA**  
by Gauri Kelkar.  
Roll Books.  
Pages 362. ₹3,995

Wright's low-slung Prairie houses with their hallmark sweeping horizontal lines and cantilevers, such as the Robie House built at Chicago in 1909. His iconic Falling Waters house (1935) near Pittsburgh also resonates with its site and structure unity. Another visible influence is the use of large glass walls, maximising inside-outside communion, inspired by Mies van de Rohe's Farnsworth House, located outside Chicago.

The select architects challenge their own unique imaginations, ingenuity and design sensibilities.

Located at a hill slope in Kerala, the

Ledge House by boutique architectural practice Wallmakers is literally a daring cliffhanger of a house! Tucked into the hill with just its tip jutting out precariously, it demonstrates built form and nature unity.

Similarly, RMA Architects' Three Court House at Alibaug, Maharashtra, has an introverted plan that revolves around three courtyards, separating yet connecting the distinct zones of the house. A low, sweeping horizontal skyline of the house clothed in local stone with contrasting dabs of colours punctuates the facade.

There are houses in dense urban settings, too. Matharoo Associates' Cut Rold House is reminiscent of the beton brut concrete facades of Le Corbusier, with shuttering patterns left unpainted on the walls and ceilings. Ruggedness becomes the statement. Similarly, Black Perch House by Studio Sangath in Ahmedabad is another example of creativity in the tight city fabric. There are organic houses made with local materials and in vernacular traditions in the dry cold desert region of Ladakh by Field Architects, and by Abin Design studio in Bengal.

Finally, any anthology will remain a subjective choice of the curator. However, the discerning eye of Kelkar unearths homes to cherish. The volume would enrich both the professional architect's library as well as that of a layman who appreciates beautiful homes.

# Dark spots on whites



GOOD SPORT  
ROHIT MAHAJAN

**M**ANISH MISHRA, his yellowing cricket whites, grimy gloves, pads and bats lying by, grins at you — but no one grins back at him because he's dead. The photograph suggests that he may have been happy once, but he chose the death considered most disgraceful — death by his own hand. He had found the answer to the eternal question — to be or not to be. He wasn't going to be thwarted, so the night he hanged himself, he dragged the bed across the door in his tiny second-floor room in the small house he shared with over 20 family members in Lucknow. Researching stories of cricketers who'd died by their own hand 15 years ago, Mishra's absolute determination to defy help struck one as particularly sad — he didn't want to be saved.

Mishra, you'd never know, was a cricketer who played for Uttar Pradesh. Cricket didn't kill him — he killed himself because of marital discord and poverty and difficulties at work. But cricket defined his life, and he was scarred as a failure, for his talent was good enough for only a fourth-class job in the Railways.

Did David Johnson, who played two Test matches for India, think that he'd failed in cricket? Did he reach the conclusion that Mishra did in Lucknow? Johnson died after falling from the balcony of his fourth-floor

apartment in Bengaluru. Police suspect it was suicide; the trigger seems to have been depression, debt, hallucinations, loss of income — but underlying it all seems to be frustration at being a failed cricketer. "Sometimes, he wished he could have played, you know... more... so that we could have had a better life," his wife said. When he 'fell' to his death, Johnson's wife had to borrow money for the ambulance; he had dreamt of a life of a star cricketer and saw genteel penury at the end — own apartment, a pension from BCCI, but with no money at all.

Uttar Pradesh's Obaid Kamal, who came close to playing for India, swears he was haunted by a 'chudail' when he had fallen into particularly hard times — one night in Chandigarh, outside his window was an old woman: "She was glancing at me, like a mother busy with chores glances at her sleeping child."

## Massive gulf between superstars and those who fail is a distinct Indian trait

In his worst days, Kamal contemplated suicide; he was saved by the words his mother had uttered when he was a child — "suicide is *haram*", a sin that won't be forgiven."

The underbelly of cricket is dirty. Corruption and favouritism mar selection, and players can be destroyed by an antagonistic coach or captain — a batsman can be ordered to play slowly or to attack wildly, and this could later be held against him; a bowler might not be given the ball when the conditions are helpful, and asked to bowl when the batsmen are set — and failure would be held against him. Kamal, for instance, said that when he played for Punjab

and lost the confidence of his coach/captain, he was asked to bowl only from the end which didn't offer pacers such as him assistance. Every cricketer knows there's grave injustice in cricket, every failed cricketer carries a heavy burden of injustice on his soul.

Kamal or Mishra would have given their left hands to play just one Test — but one always wants more, doesn't one? Johnson played two Tests and that's far too few; it's unjust that a player who's deemed good enough to play for the country is dropped after just one match, as Johnson was, and that was an abiding complaint.

British writer David Frith, whose seminal book *The Silence of the Heart* details death by suicide of over 150 cricketers, says that cricket "is unique in its propensity to take over a man's psyche" and, thus, cricketers are more vulnerable to depression than other sports persons. He writes that the suicide rate among British cricketers is nearly double the national average. Winter gloom could be a factor in Britain; the massive gulf between the superstars and those who've failed is an Indian trait.

Due to the stigma and secrecy, it's difficult to accurately compute figures of Indian cricketers who died by suicide, but many famous ones have said they did contemplate it — men such as Parveen Kumar, Mohammed Shami, Robin Uthappa, to name three.

Dodda Ganesh, Johnson's teammate for Karnataka, hit rock bottom after being dropped from the Indian team. Four years ago, he wrote: "I was dropped in 1997. And I did not step out of my house for a month... For me, it was the end of the world... It was a dagger through my heart to see bowlers who'd picked much lesser wickets than me being rewarded with the Indian cap." To those battling depression, Ganesh had some advice: "Live for your loved ones." Mishra and Johnson may have reached the conclusion they had none.

# The two pillars of McLeodganj



RAAJA BHASIN

**T**HERE have been repeated moments across history when people have had to leave their homes as a result of manmade scourge. Here is the result of one such. This, by fate, circumstance and event, has also bestowed an aura of sanctity upon a crowded hill.

Long before McLeodganj (Upper Dharamsala) became a smart city and a trash-maker's paradise, NN Nowrojee had a shop at the entrance to the *bazaar*. Even in the late 1990s, the shop lived in a world of its own and its owner, the affable Nauzer Nowrojee, carefully preserved a legacy that went back to the mid-19th century.

Placards of JB Mangaram's biscuits, cutouts endorsing Vimto, tins of Craven A cigarettes, all belonged to a time long gone. It was at the end of the Anglo-Sikh wars in 1849 that the lands that were to become the twin towns of Dharamsala and McLeodganj were absorbed into British India. When the Great Uprising of 1857 had come to an end, Nowrojee's ancestors moved up from Punjab to McLeodganj in 1860, with the British army. As the place steadily grew, for close to a century, the establishment of Nowrojee and Son were the primary purveyors of a variety of goods to the residents of the area.

NN Nowrojee belonged to the fifth generation. With the end of the colonial rule in 1947, many of the area's European residents emigrated and most left the keys of their properties with the man they had grown to trust and like. For a couple of decades, Nowrojee kept watch over the bungalows in his charge and was often called the 'unofficial custodian of McLeodganj'.

When His Holiness the Dalai Lama was compelled to leave Tibet and came to India, he began searching for a place for himself and his people. Seeing something fall into place, Nowrojee supposedly wrote to the Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru, and suggested that the Dalai Lama take a look at McLeodganj. Soon after he had sent off that fateful missive, three large Landmaster cars drove up to his shop — and this was a time when a solitary vehicle in McLeodganj would have attracted attention. The men in the cars are believed to have gone up to the now rather nervous Nowrojee.

"Did you write a letter to the Prime Minister?" asked one.

"Yes," replied Nowrojee, as he recounted to me in 1996.

"We are from the government," said one of the now very-obvious sleuths.

They took a look at McLeodganj and returned to wherever they had come from. Then, the Dalai Lama himself came to inspect the place in 1960 and approved it. His Holiness, thus, became perhaps the most prominent of dignitaries that have made Himachal Pradesh their home.

Next came the issue of security. On July 11, 1963, a comprehensive set of

standing orders was prepared by the SP of Kangra. In the normal course of things, a set of these orders was sent to the DIG, CID, of Punjab, as Kangra was still a part of that state.

These standing orders noted that His Holiness had taken up residence at a house known as 'Swarg Ashram' and noted: "In view of the widespread sympathy for the Dalai Lama and the present strained Sino-Indian relations, it is necessary that proper security arrangements for the person of the Dalai Lama should be made."

The basis for these standing orders were the 'Rules and Instructions for the Protection of the Dalai Lama when in Residence and on Tour' that had been formulated by the Intelligence Bureau and had been received by the SP, Kangra, in 1960.

## When the Dalai Lama came to India, NN Nowrojee supposedly wrote to PM Nehru and offered the vast estates he was looking after

A noting by hand on the file observed that rooms to be occupied by His Holiness were to be searched by the Private Secretary or by the Confidential Secretary. All mail and parcels were to pass through the hands of the Security Officer before being handed over to the Private Secretary — who, in turn, was expected to open these before handing them over to His Holiness. A special note was to be made of persons who were granted interviews with His Holiness. Not unexpectedly, the officer was told to be extremely vigilant as once a visitor passed the Enquiry Office, he could move unchallenged right up to the security cordon. An unarmed constable was detailed on duty both day and night by this point.

This section of the file ended with the observation that "it is particularly necessary for the Enquiry Office staff to be polite, courteous and tactful in their dealings with visitors". It added that they should abstain from entering into an argument that could lead to an embarrassing situation. As 'Swarg Ashram' was surrounded on all sides by woods, for safety, an outer cordon was marked on the ground and was divided into four patrolling beats, each with an armed constable.

Today, the issues of security and the world's political contours are somewhat different. Yet, as the years have gone by, in more ways than one, Himachal and McLeodganj have come to be closely associated with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The man who was supposedly responsible for bringing him there, Nauzer Nowrojee, passed away on October 24, 2000. The shop has also gone. His Holiness, the second pillary, constantly challenged yet gently firm, unwaveringly wise and compassionate, still stands tall.

# Selecting the first Army Chief



LT GEN BALJIT SINGH (RETD)

**A**T the end of World War II, there emerged approximately 20 "native" Indian Army officers in their forties, most of whom had led infantry battalions and a few tank squadrons, with utmost courage and distinction, over seething battlefields in Europe, Africa, Middle East, South Asia and South-east Asia. All of them except one were scions of elite feudal families or progeny of royalty, who were granted King's Commission on graduation from the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, or the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, both in the UK. But the lone and in time the towering exception was a child of destiny, born into a modest but proud household in the erstwhile Coorg state (present-day Kodagu), who never left the shores of India till drafted for service in WW-II.

On the night of his birth (January 28, 1899), his maternal grandmother had in a dream "heard the sound of horses' thundering hooves and drum beats... She was convinced that the newborn was destined to be a great military man". Be that as it may, the child, KM Cariappa, born and schooled at Mercara village in Coorg, next joined the Presidency College, Madras. Soon after, he qualified for the first batch of teenagers to enter the 'Temporary School for Indian Cadets' at Daly College, Indore, in 1918. On grant of Commission as 2nd

Lieutenant in the Indian Army on December 1, 1919, he aggregated two decades of baptism under fire across the wayward North West Frontier. Concomitantly, he also burnt the midnight oil to become the first Indian to graduate from the Defence Service Staff College, Quetta, and by April 1942, on promotion to Lt Colonel, was placed in command of 17 Rajput battalion, becoming yet again the first Indian to attain that benchmark!

During the course of WW-II, he served in the operational logistics branch, first at HQ 10 Indian Infantry Division in Iraq and Syria, and later at HQ 26 Indian Infantry Division in General Slim's 14th Army in Burma. It was in this latter appointment that he imbibed the spirit of the 14th Army's dictum: 'We shall tackle the impossible immediately, the difficult later!' In recognition of his services, Lt Col Cariappa was Mentioned-in-Dispatches thrice, followed by the Order of the British Empire on April 5, 1945.

In the run-up to Independence, when it was decided to expose one Army officer and three bureaucrats to hone the politico-military duality paradigm of the higher defence strategem at Imperial Defence College, London, in 1946, here again Brigadier Cariappa was the chosen one. He was to put that learning to good use as shortly the subcontinent was driven into another savage war over J&K in October 1947.

As Pakistan had the advantage of the first mover, the Indian Army's initial response was found inadequate to the challenge and the fall of Ladakh seemed imminent. Maj Gen Cariappa, who at the time was overseeing the Army Reorganisation Committee, was promoted to command the newly created Western Command in January 1948 (once again, the first for an Indian!), charged to conduct the J&K war.

As was the General's wont, the very next day he was at Srinagar, providing inspiring leadership with a resolve that "we will not allow Gen Tariq to capture Leh. We have got to stop this and we will stop it... we have decided to take tanks up the Zoji Pass, a kind of operation which has never been done before." The rest is history.

The end of the J&K war on January 5, 1949, provided the much-anticipated moment for the Army to have an Indian C-in-C as the tenure of Gen FR Roy Bucher was about to terminate. The choice appeared obvious as among the distinguished pack of about 20, Lt Gen Cariappa stood out. Yet, "there were two other names that were proposed. The first was Lt Gen Maharaj Rajendrasinhji of the Cavalry, brother of the Jam Sahib of Nawanagar. The second was Lt Gen Thakur Nathu Singh of Dungarpur... That stated, it must go to the eternal credit of both General officers, who insisted that the honour of being India's first C-in-C should rightly be 'Kipper's' because he was the seniormost Indian officer" — this was placed on record by Air Marshal KC Cariappa (ret'd) in his father's biography.

The Government of India had not been lacking in grace as evidenced from Sardar Patel's letter: "...your record of achievements inspires our confidence in your ability to lead your men at such a critical period of the country's history and I can assure you that we on our part will extend to you all goodwill and cooperation."

So, on January 15, 1949, a ramrod straight man, along with a boy not yet in his teens and a seven-year-old girl were perhaps the first visitors at the Gandhi Samadhi. After dropping his children home, Gen KM Cariappa walked into the appointed high office sans any ceremonial trappings or Guard of Honour!

# The Siblings, and their many adventures

KULBHUSHANSINGH SURYAWANSHI

**S**OLITARY, ghostly, shy, alone, hard-to-see, and even lonely, are some of the words that are often used to describe the snow leopard. But, the Siblings, as the two snow leopards of Kibber came to be known, were none of that.

Kibber is an idyllic village tucked on a rocky knoll at an elevation of 4,200m in the Spiti valley. To the north of it is the summit of Mt Kanamo, standing just 5m short of 6,000. To the south of it is the wide 'U-shaped' valley formed by the Spiti river. For the past 25 years, this village has been the epicentre of research on snow leopards and community-led efforts to conserve this species. Thanks to these efforts, Kibber is today one of the best places in the world to see snow leopards. This year, the stars of the show were the Siblings, or Chunu and Munnu, as some of the local people and tourists had started calling them.

The first time I saw the siblings was in February last year. That winter was mild, and temperatures barely dipped below -15°C.

There was little snow on the ground. My good friend, Prasenjeet Yadav, was filming for the BBC and I was playing an advisory role, given my 15 years of experience working in the region. The Siblings were then only a year old. We would see them almost every day. They spent most of their days sleeping under an overhanging rock or on a ledge high above a cliff. Their mother, also sleeping nearby, was always vigilant.

One evening, at around 4 pm, the mother and the Siblings twitched their ears, and all the tourists and filmmakers clicked away, which was the most exciting thing that had happened all day. Then, they woke up and stretched like house cats, and excitement built up in their audience. A cub walked a few steps and hunched down to poop, and only cats can look cute while pooping. I made a mental note to go down to that spot later and get a sample for genetic analysis.

A half-frozen stream flowed past the three snow leopards. We watched them from a cliff high above. Across a bed in the river, on a small grassy meadow, a herd of ibex were grazing in the golden light of the evening sun. We could see the



Two snow leopards, Chunu and Munnu, and their mother are the stars of Kibber village in Spiti valley

ibex and the snow leopards, but the ibex could not see the snow leopards. The mother, however, seemed to know

about the ibex, and she started walking deliberately and carefully towards them. She could not have seen them because of the bend in the cliff along the river. She either heard them or knew that they grazed there at that time. The Siblings followed her with equal care and attention. I was impressed with the discipline the cubs were exhibiting. As they got closer, the mother got into stalking mode, and the cubs followed.

This was the most important thing they would have to learn if they had to survive in the wild.

Tension built up, and we all watched it from across the bank from an overlooking cliff, as if watching a nail-biting cricket match from the high stands.

Now, the mother was within 30m of three big male ibex. With their scimitar-shaped horns, these goats are formidable prey even for a veteran snow leopard mother. The Siblings stayed back and watched their mother. I wondered how she communicated to them that they need to stay back now.

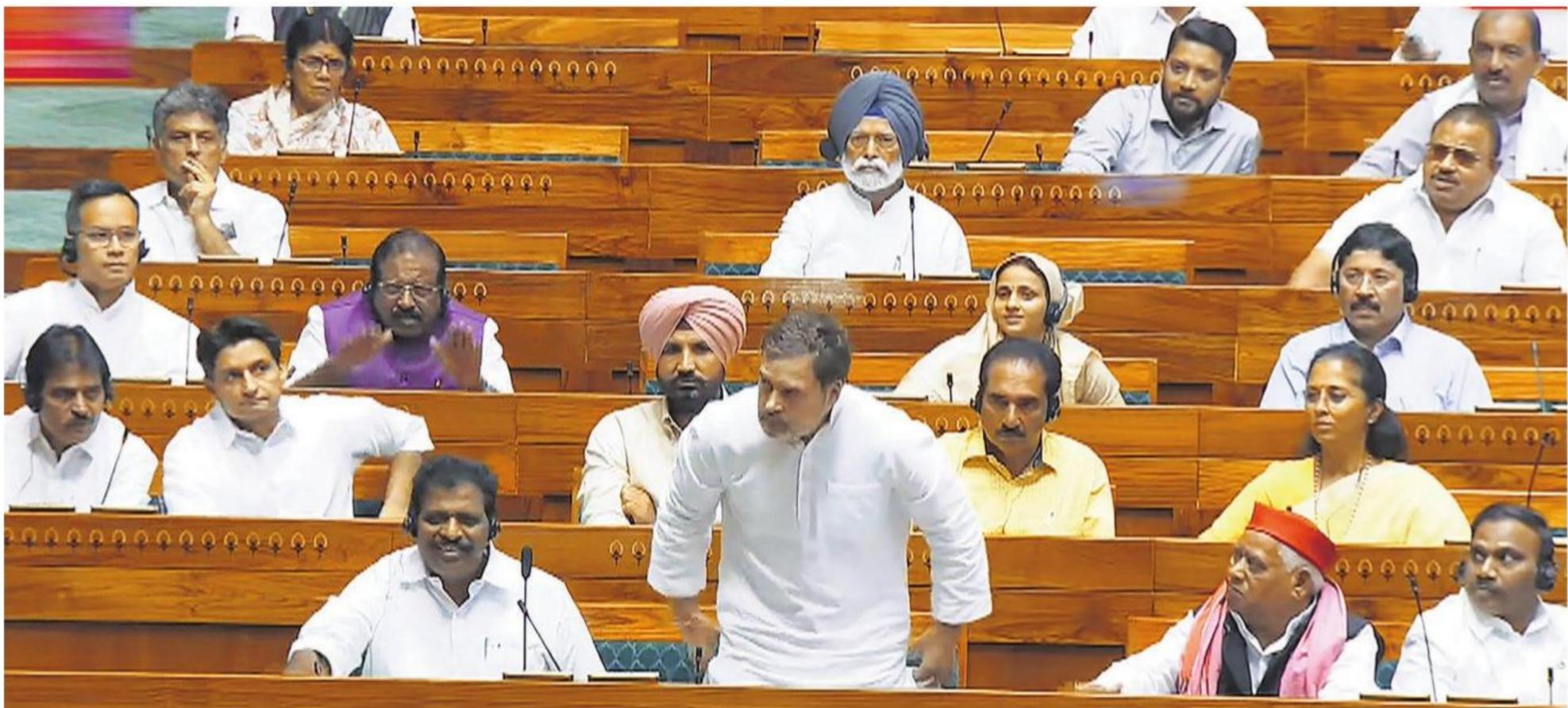
She got closer, 20m; the cubs were watching, and all of us were holding our breath.

The attack could come any moment now. This was going to be more spectacular than the cheetah coursing down an impala in the Serengeti. Now, 5m, and the ibex have still not seen her, she is only one leap away from making a kill. She is being careful to avoid those big horns of the ibex which can cause a serious injury.

And just the moment when we expected her to commit to the leap, the Siblings got impatient and started chasing the rest of the ibex herd in the open meadow which was still 40m away from them. The element of surprise was lost. There was chaos, 25 ibex running around and two year-old snow leopards bounding ungainly after them. The mother sat glum.

It was outrageous that the cubs had spoiled her hard work because of their impatience. After the dust had settled, the Siblings approached their mother with tentative steps. I was expecting her to reprimand them, but she was their mother after all. She licked them clean and the three walked away into the dusk that was spreading over the mountains.

— The writer is director of the India Programme of the Snow Leopard Trust



Rahul Gandhi's elevation as Leader of the Opposition, the first to occupy the post in 10 years, is a booster shot for him personally and the Cong, but he will be tested on both fronts — how he takes on the Modi govt and keeps the INDIA bloc intact

SHUBHADEEP CHOUDHURY

# LEADING THE NEW OPPOSITION

ON June 8, after the Congress Working Committee passed a resolution urging Rahul Gandhi to take up the post of Leader of the Opposition (LoP), he refrained from agreeing to the proposal there and then, saying he would think about it. This gave rise to speculation that Rahul was once again trying to evade responsibility. Names of various MPs, from the competent Gaurav Gogoi to some uninspiring veteran leaders, started doing the rounds. Just ahead of the inaugural session of the 18th Lok Sabha, it was announced that the Gandhi scion would take the plunge — a small step in the estimation of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance perhaps, but a giant leap for Rahul Gandhi personally and the Congress. His leadership skills will be put to test at once on how he takes the INDIA (Indian National Development Inclusive Alliance) bloc along.

The Lok Sabha has a Leader of the Opposition after 10 years. There's palpable enthusiasm and hope in the Congress rank and file that the BJP's favourite whipping boy could turn out to be a thorn in its flesh.

Rahul had sprung another surprise earlier by not taking off for a foreign trip soon after the seven-phase Lok Sabha elections got over and the results were announced. The former Congress president has often drawn criticism for going missing at crucial junctures. Rahul stayed put in the country after a hard-fought election campaign spread over nearly two months.

The 18th Lok Sabha, unlike the two previous Lok Sabhas, has an impressive presence of Opposition members. The INDIA bloc has 234 members (and has the support of three Independent MPs) in the 543-member House to NDA's 292. The numerical strength got reflected when a voice vote was taken for the Speaker's election. The sound of the Opposition MPs' "nays" quite matched the "ayes" from the treasury benches. Pro tem Speaker Bhartruhari Mahtab could promptly announce the verdict in favour of the NDA nominee only because he knew that the number of NDA MPs in the House was more than their INDIA counterparts.

NK Premachandran, Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP) MP from Kollam in Kerala, says the BJP can already sense the changed atmosphere in the House. "It is fearful of the large presence of Opposition MPs, signs of panic are visible," he claims. "They had Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla make a reference to the Emergency just to give the impression that nothing has changed. But the reality is different and the BJP cannot ignore it by pretending that there is nothing amiss," he adds.

## HE IS NOT TAKEN SERIOUSLY: BJP



"Rahul Gandhi is not taken seriously by members of his own party, not to speak of Opposition leaders. The Congress has been going downhill and has now hit rock bottom. Rahul as LoP does not augur well for the Opposition... every party learns something from results, we are reviewing ours."

Samik Bhattacharya, BJP'S MEMBER FROM WEST BENGAL

### 'KEEP THE FAITH'



"Congratulations to the new Leader of the Opposition @RahulGandhi. May you always keep the faith. God bless... Om Birla Ji is NDA

Speaker candidate. Hope he realises that with 234 of us this time, his 'Naw Baiithiye' won't be as easy to implement"

TMC MP Mahua Moitra on X

### 'MATTER OF GREAT JOY'



"Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has been elected as the Leader of Opposition. It is a matter of great joy that the Opposition parties will benefit from a personality with unwavering loyalty to the Constitution and the values of democracy. Congratulations to him and best wishes for future endeavours."

NCP(SP) MP Supriya Sule on X



Sonia Gandhi, Akhilesh Yadav and Faizabad MP Awadhesh Prasad in Parliament. PTI & ANI

In the past two Lok Sabhas, the Congress lacked the numbers to stake claim to the post of LoP. This time, having 99 MPs (98, with Rahul Gandhi giving up his Wayanad seat in favour of Rae Bareilly), the Congress, the largest Opposition party, was eligible to claim the post.

### ROLE CALL

The person holding the post of Leader of the Opposition is party to crucial appointments like those of the chiefs of the Enforcement Directorate, Central Bureau of Investigation and the Central Vigilance Commission. Analysts say Rahul donning the role of LoP would fuel talk of comparisons with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but with very different connotations than in the past, when any such conversation inevitably favoured PM Modi and lampooned Rahul. Not anymore, they point out.

"Age is not on Modi's side. Rahul has this advantage over him," feels John Brittas, the CPI(M) Rajya Sabha member from Kerala. Though any talk of PM Modi's retirement, when he crosses the age of 75, was firmly dismissed by Amit Shah during the election campaign, the party's lower-than-expected seat tally has fuelled speculation that the prospect of Modi leaving

space for a relatively younger person is no longer just an Opposition fantasy.

### STATURE GROWS

First the two editions of his 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', then the turnaround in the Lok Sabha election results and now becoming Leader of the Opposition, Rahul Gandhi has grown in stature. The BJP's favourite moniker for him — 'Pappu' — seems to have lost its currency. There is now much reduced resonance to the memes and jokes portraying him as an immature politician who lacks seriousness.

Narendra Pani, political analyst and a professor at the Bengaluru-based National Institute of Advanced Studies, feels Rahul as LoP would create a link between demands raised outside Parliament and inside it. "He has created a pro-equality narrative with the help of his yatras. Now that he is the LoP, one can expect that the agenda of the yatras would be taken up forcefully inside the Lok Sabha also," Pani says.

The challenges Rahul faces are many, the biggest being finding common ground within the INDIA bloc and acting as a bridge. The Congress fumbled at the very start by not intimating the bloc constituents in advance about Rahul accept-

ing the post of LoP. Shortly before Congress general secretary KC Venugopal made the announcement about Rahul being made the LoP, a meeting of the INDIA bloc parties was held at Congress president and Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge's residence to discuss the alliance's strategy for the Speaker's election. Even though the Congress had already taken the decision to appoint Rahul as the LoP and Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi had communicated the decision to Pro tem Speaker Mahtab, the alliance partners were not informed about the decision.

"This is the problem with the Congress. There is often a communication gap. They could have easily told us about the decision, which was announced shortly after our meeting got over," a floor leader of an Opposition party said.

The Congress' propensity to not take its partners into confidence was also cited as the reason for the early hiccups from the Trinamool Congress camp. The TMC was upset about not being informed about the Congress' decision to field KSuresh in the election for the Speaker's post.

The issue of not keeping the alliance part-

ners in the loop is likely to get addressed with Rahul taking over as LoP, the alliance partners hope. "We think Rahul Gandhi will be mindful about the point of view of smaller parties and pay attention to what they say," opines Premachandran, the sole member of RSP in the Lok Sabha and a member of the INDIA bloc.

### MAKING PRESENCE FELT

Gaurav Gogoi, the Congress MP from Jorhat in Assam, feels Rahul is the "natural leader" and his appointment as the Leader of the Opposition only amounted to formalising the position. "The two yatras and other campaign strategies devised by Rahul Gandhi proved very useful in the elections," Gogoi adds.

On the mood of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Gogoi, who was Deputy Leader of the Congress in the last Lok Sabha, said, "We are upbeat and robust. We will force the government to take up existential issues like unemployment and price rise."

Awadhesh Prasad, the Samajwadi Party MP who sprang a surprise by defeating the BJP nominee in Faizabad, feels Rahul is the most competent person to lead the Opposition. "I congratulated him. He has passion. He will be able to keep the nefarious designs of the Modi government in check. We are all part of the INDIA bloc and we are one," Prasad adds.

Dayanidhi Maran of the DMK and Akhilesh Yadav of the Samajwadi Party are among the top Opposition leaders who would like to make their presence felt in the current Lok Sabha. While Sudip Bandyopadhyay is the leader of the Trinamool Congress in the Lok Sabha, all eyes will be on Mahua Moitra, the firebrand TMC MP from Krishnanagar in West Bengal.

Moitra, who was expelled from the last Lok Sabha following a complaint by a BJP MP, has made a triumphant return, vowing not to back down in her tirade against Prime Minister Modi.

While the irregularities in the NEET examination will be a rallying point for the Opposition in both Houses of Parliament, the recent train accident in West Bengal and the soon-to-be-implemented new criminal codes are other issues that the Opposition is likely to take up strongly in the ongoing session. Many Opposition parties, including the Congress and TMC, have demanded a review of the new laws.

### IMPACT IN RAJYA SABHA

The upbeat mood of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha is likely to make an impact in the Rajya Sabha too. Manoj Kumar Jha, leader of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) in the Rajya Sabha, promised fireworks in the Upper House. "Just wait and see," he said when asked about the Opposition's action plan. On the Biju Janata Dal's decision to act as an Opposition party in the Rajya Sabha, Jha said even occasional aid coming from any quarter during stand-offs would be a good thing.

Sasmit Patra, leader of the BJD, claimed the party had always been in the Opposition. "I do not know how the word spread that we were supporting the BJP," Patra said. He, however, admitted that their seating plan in the Rajya Sabha chamber got changed after it was announced that BJD would act as an Opposition party.

Other Opposition parties brush aside the Naveen Patnaik-led party's claim. "They supported the BJP on key issues in the past. Let's see what they do," a CPI(M) MP said.

और सभी न्यूज़ पेपर मैगजीन प्राप्त करने के लिए सर्वप्रथम इस टेलीग्राम ग्रुप को ज्वाइन करें नीचे दिए लकि पर क्लिक करके ज्वाइन टेलीग्राम

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