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PM MODI TO CHAIR NITI AAYOG MEET ON JULY 27 NATION



ADB RETAINS INDIA'S GROWTH FORECAST AT 7% BUSINESS

CJLED BENCH TO HEAR PETITIONS ON SCRAPPING MEET TODAY BACK PAGE



8 Indians rescued off Oman coast

NEW DELHI: Nine of the 16 missing crew members of oil tanker MV Prestige Falcon have been rescued by the Indian Navy's warship INS Teg. Of the nine, eight are Indian nationals while one is from Sri Lanka. MV Prestige Falcon had capsized about 25 nautical miles southeast of Ras Madrakah, Oman, on July 15. The Navy joined in the rescue effort on Tuesday. The search and rescue by Indian and Omani assets is being undertaken in challenging weather conditions as the area is experiencing rough sea and strong winds. **BACK PAGE**

'I'm not a terrorist', Kejriwal tells Delhi HC

NEW DELHI: Asserting that he was "not a terrorist", but the CM of Delhi, AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday assailed his arrest by the CBI in a corruption case linked to the excise policy "scam" and sought his release on bail, saying his arrest was not as per the law. Opposing Kejriwal's petition, CBI counsel DP Singh said terming the arrest an "insurance arrest" was unjustified. Justice Krishna, who heard the matter on a holiday on account of Muharram, reserved the order on Kejriwal's pleas challenging his arrest and seeking interim bail. **INSIDE**

10% job quota, easy loans for ex-Agniveers in Haryana

State announces reservation in police, forest guard, mining, warder posts

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JULY 17 Months ahead of the Assembly elections, the BJP government in Haryana today announced a 10 per cent reservation for Agniveers in the recruitment for constables, mining guards, forest guards and jail warders, besides quota in other posts.

The Tribune was the first to break this story in its July 11 edition, mentioning that the Haryana Government was planning to provide 10 per cent quota to Agniveers to stem criticism over the Agnipath scheme.

Addressing the media here, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said the government had also decided to give 5 per cent horizontal reservation for Agniveers in direct recruitment to civil posts in Group C and 1 per cent horizontal reservation in Group B and C posts. However, there will be an age relaxation of five years for the first batch of Agniveers," the CM said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

- ### THREE TO FIVE-YEAR AGE RELAXATION
- Age relaxation of 3 years for Agniveers in Group B, C posts
 - Relaxation of five years for the first batch of Agniveers
 - 5% horizontal quota in direct recruitment to Group C civil posts; it will be 1% in Group B
 - Interest-free loan of up to ₹5L for setting up business
 - Industrial units to get annual ₹60,000 subsidy for hiring an Agniveer at ₹30,000/month

Haryana likely to give job quota to Agniveers

CHANDIGARH, JULY 17 To stem criticism around the Agnipath scheme and woo the state's sizeable population associated with defence services, the Haryana Government is planning to give a 10 per cent reservation to Agniveers on the completion of their four-year service. Sources said the reservation, which was under active consideration of the government, could be tabled at a meeting of the Cabinet to be chaired by CM Nayab Singh Saini on Wednesday.

The Tribune report on July 11 on the Haryana job quota for Agniveers



K'taka pvt job quota Bill put on hold

AKSHEEV THAKUR TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 17 The Congress-led Karnataka Government on Wednesday put on hold a Bill directing private firms in the state to reserve jobs for Kannadigas.

The state Cabinet had on Tuesday approved the Karnataka State Employment of Local Candidates in the Industries, Factories and Other Establishments Bill,

Provides for up to 75% reservation for locals

2024, mandating 50 per cent reservation in management and 75 per cent in non-management jobs for locals in the private sector.

The move had drawn the ire of industry leaders and INDIA allies alike. After the uproar, CM Siddaramaiah in a post on X said, "The Bill

intended to be implemented to provide reservation for Kannadigas in private sector institutions, industries and enterprises is still in the preparation stage. A final decision will be taken after comprehensive discussion in the next Cabinet meeting."

The CM earlier deleted a post in which he said the state would mandate 100 per cent reservation for locals in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Army Chief briefs PM Modi, Shah after fresh firing in Doda

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 17 Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi today called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and also met Union Home Minister Amit Shah as the security forces intensified their combing operations after a fresh exchange of fire with terrorists in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir.

It is learnt that the security situation in J&K in the wake of the surge in terror attacks was discussed at the meeting with the PM though Army sources insisted it was pre-scheduled. General Dwivedi, who took over as the Army Chief on July 1, has earlier served as Northern Command chief.

The Army Chief also met Amit Shah, briefing him on the counter-terror operations in the state.

Four soldiers lost their lives in a terrorist attack on a search party in Doda on July 15. In the past three years, some 40 soldiers have lost their lives in the Jammu region. Since April 2023, at least 28 soldiers have been killed in terror-related incidents in J&K.

Meanwhile, the combing operations in the Jammu



Army men on Wednesday carry equipment in Desa village of Doda district, which witnessed an encounter with ultras on Monday. **PTI**

WON'T LET TERRORISTS ESCAPE: VILLAGE GUARDS

Village defence guards (VDGs), armed with .303 rifles, are helping the security forces in the Desa forest of Doda district in their search for the terrorists who killed four soldiers on Monday night. The VDGs have vowed not to let the terrorists leave the area. **INSIDE**

region were intensified after security forces and terrorists exchanged fire twice briefly within a span of four hours in the intervening night of July 16-17 in a forest area in Doda district. There are no reports of any casualties in the latest exchange of fire.

Taking advantage of the darkness, difficult terrain and thick foliage, the terrorists managed to slip away, officials said.

Troops of the Rashtriya Rifles and Special Opera-

tions Group of the Jammu and Kashmir Police had launched a joint cordon and search operation in the Desa forest belt, some 55 km from Doda town, late Monday evening following information about the presence of terrorists.

The Army is using drones to locate the terrorists hiding in the forests, but the dense foliage is hindering its task. The Army suspects that the terrorists could be former soldiers of the Pakistan army.

Ahead of byelections for 10 seats, UP BJP president calls on PM Modi, offers to quit

Yogi meets his ministers | Organisational changes in party's state unit likely

ADITI TANDON TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 17 Ahead of the crucial 10 Assembly bypolls in Uttar Pradesh, state unit president Bhupendra Choudhary met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday and offered to resign, it is learnt. Later, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the party's principal strategist for UP, also held parleys with Modi.

In Lucknow, Chief Minis-

ter Yogi Adityanath met Governor Anandiben Patel fuelling speculation of a possible state cabinet rejig with sources saying Yogi would stay the CM. A section in the party, however, said the CM met Patel in connection with the upcoming Assembly monsoon session.

Choudhary had last night met BJP president JP Nad- da and taken responsibility for the party's underwhelming show in the

recent Lok Sabha elections offering to step aside thereby paving the way for the state party unit revamp.

Sources said UP Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, a senior OBC face, could return to the party as the state chief with the BJP keen on fielding a Backward Class leader in the position after a poor show in the UP LS elections. The BJP won 33 of the 80 seats, as against 62 in 2019.

Choudhary assumed the charge as the UP party chief in August 2022 to ally Jats who were then cross with the saffron outfit. Maurya, who has been repeatedly saying "the party is bigger than the government" (he said this on Sunday and again today on X), was the BJP UP president in 2017, when the party won the Assembly polls. Yogi, meanwhile, signalled he was in the saddle by meeting top

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



The General Post Office in Amritsar is set to undergo restoration and conservation work. **VISHAL KUMAR**

Stamped with old-world charm, Amritsar GPO to get expert care

NEHA SAINI TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, JULY 17 The iconic landmark of the holy city — General Post Office (GPO) — is all set to undergo restoration and conservation work. Experts from the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), Punjab, will collaborate with their Delhi counterparts to initiate the work to mark the centenary year of the GPO's establishment.

BRITISH-ERA MARVEL

- Construction of the single-storey building in Amritsar was completed in December 1925
- It's a fine example of architecture and craftsmanship of British era
- The iconic building was declared a heritage structure on February 15, 1993

Set up as a local sub-post office, the Amritsar GPO was upgraded to a head office in 1894. The head post office was

shifted to its current premises, a single-storey structure located on the Court Road, in March 1926, although the building was completed in December 1925. It was declared a heritage structure on February 15, 1993.

The building is a fine example of architecture and craftsmanship of the British era with jack arch ceilings, archways, front porch with a grand doorway, skylights,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Fitness on mind, UGC bans pizzas, burgers in colleges

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 17 Lip-smacking junk food, including pizzas, burgers and samosas, will no longer be available in college canteens as the University Grants Commission on Wednesday issued a directive prohibiting the sale of unhealthy food in educational institutions.

Expressing concern over rising obesity among stu-

SHOWS CONCERN OVER RISE IN OBESITY AMONG STUDENTS

dents, the UGC said the consumption of junk food had an adverse impact on health. The new directive follows an Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) report in May, which said, "Ultra-processed foods tend to be excessively high in fats and can lead to obesity. They can hasten ageing and are associated with a higher risk of heart attacks, strokes and diabetes... lead to poorer overall health". The commission said good health was a fundamental privilege for humanity.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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Another Independent MLA may withdraw support to BJP govt

PRADEEP SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JULY 17

Miffed at the working of the Nayab Singh Saini-led BJP government, another Independent legislator from Prithla, Nayan Pal Rawat, is likely to withdraw support to the government. However, there is no immediate threat to the BJP government.

Rawat, who is supporting the BJP government from outside, is reportedly not happy with the working of the state government, especially the bureaucracy. He has gone on record alleging that the administrative officials were in league with the opposition parties.

When contacted, Rawat, while refusing to comment on the withdrawal of support to the BJP government, asserted that he would announce his future course of action tomorrow.

However, sources said Rawat was exploring political options in the run-up to the Assembly elections. A former BJP leader, Rawat won the 2019 Assembly elections from Prithla as an Independent candidate. He was expelled from the party for anti-party activities for a period of six years.



Nayan Pal Rawat

NO IMMEDIATE THREAT TO SAINI GOVT

In the House of 90, with an effective strength of 86, the BJP has 41 MLAs, the Congress 28, the JJP 10 and the INLD one. The BJP, with 41 MLAs, enjoys the support of the lone Haryana Lokhit Party while two of the JJP MLAs have openly supported it.

RAWAT EXPLORING POLITICAL OPTIONS

Nayan Pal Rawat, ex-BJP leader, who won as an Independent segment in Prithla Assembly in 2019, is exploring options in the Congress, INLD-BSP alliance, the JJP and AAP. He is unlikely to be taken back in the BJP.

The BJP, the sources said, was unlikely to take him back. The other options for him are the Congress INLD-

BSP alliance, JJP and AAP.

The three MLAs — Sombir Sangwan (Charkhi Dadri), Randhir Golan (Pundri), and Dharampal Gondar (Nilokheri) — had withdrawn support to the government and extended support to the Congress in the Lok Sabha elections.

In the House of 90, with an effective strength of 86, the BJP has 41 MLAs, the Congress 28, the JJP 10 and the INLD 1. The BJP, with 41 MLAs currently in the Assembly, enjoys the support of the lone MLA of the Haryana Lokhit Party while two of the JJP MLAs have openly supported it.

Kiran Chaudhry, one of the Congress MLAs, had recently switched to the BJP. The Congress' petition for the disqualification of Chaudhry was recently rejected by Speaker Gian Chand Gupta on 'technical grounds'.

The JJP has also petitioned the Speaker to disqualify two of its MLAs for 'anti-party' activities.

The opposition Congress and the JJP had repeatedly termed the Saini Government as the 'minority' government and urged the Governor to dismiss it and order fresh elections.

Shah for 'no quota', but Muslims already backward class in state

SUMEDHA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

GURUGRAM, JULY 17

A day after Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that OBC reservation won't be given to Muslims, the Congress has asked the Saffron party to get facts right. Various leaders have highlighted how Muslims, especially Meo Muslims, are part of the same backward class category from which CM Nayab Saini comes from and how the BJP in 2016 continued this classification which they "blame" the Congress for.

Deputy Leader of Opposition and Meo Muslim leader Aftab Ahmed has highlighted how 60 per cent of Muslims in Haryana already are part of backward class list and enjoy reservation. While the Congress is credited for it, the BJP endorsed it with the passage of 2016 reservation Bill under then Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar where various Muslim communities, including Meos, were listed in Backward Class A and Backward Class B categories.

"The Home Minister was talking in the national context. The implications of the same in the state are yet to be finalised and thus we can't comment



16 LAKH IN BC 'B'

- Muslim population estimated to be around 25 lakh in state
- Around 16 lakh are Meo Muslims and in BC 'B' category
- In BC 'A' list of 71 castes, 13 are Muslim communities

STATEMENT WAS IN NATIONAL CONTEXT

“The Home Minister was talking in the national context. The implications of the same in the state are yet to be finalised and thus we can't comment much on it.”

Sanjay Sharma, BPSPOKESPERSON

<< 60% of Muslim population in Haryana benefits from reservation.

much on it," said BJP spokesperson Sanjay Sharma. "This shows the bankruptcy of the BJP. They had a government here for 10 years and when the Home minister chose to address public all he could talk about was Hindu or Muslims rather than any developmental work. He should have talked of the reservation if any new community was being ben-

efitted but he chose to communalise the subject which is the characteristic of the BJP," said Ahmed. He dared state BJP leaders to announce removal of Muslims from backward class.

Of an estimated Muslim population of around 25 lakh, around 16 lakh are Meo Muslims. According to the 'Haryana Backward Classes (Reservation in Government Jobs and admissions in Gov-

ernment Jobs and Admissions in Educational Institutions) Bill, 2016, backward classes are divided into two categories. BC 'A' is an exhaustive list of 71 castes amongst which 13 are Muslim communities. Similarly, Meos are included in BC 'B' category along with Ahir/Yadav, Lodhi/Lodha/Lodhi, Saini/Shakya/Koeri/Kushwaha/Maurya, Gujjar, and Gosai/Gosain/Goswami.

BJP cut creamy layer limit, snatched OBC quota: Hooda

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JULY 17

A day after Union Home Minister Amit Shah accused the Congress of depriving other backward classes (OBCs) of reservation, former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda today said it was the BJP that had curbed reservation, welfare schemes for Dalits and backward classes ever since it came to power in the state.

"The BJP reduced the creamy layer limit from Rs 8 lakh to Rs 6 lakh to end the reservation of backward classes. Income from agriculture and salary were also added to it (creamy layer). As a result, lakhs of people from backward classes were deprived of reservation, and thousands of youth could not get government jobs and admission to government educational institutions. The Congress raised this issue in the Assembly, but the government did not listen," he said.

"The BJP government is now going to increase the limit of creamy layer to Rs 8 lakh to mislead OBCs in the elections. The government should seek an apology from the backward classes, not their vote," he added.

Ajay, Dushyant pep up JJP workers for elections

SIRSA, JULY 17

JJP national president Ajay Singh Chautala has told party workers that collective enthusiasm and strength will lead it to victory in the Assembly poll.

Addressing district-level officials and office-bearers of the party here today, Chautala drew inspiration from former

Deputy PM Chaudhary Devi Lal and underscored the importance of perseverance in political endeavours. Former Haryana Deputy CM Dushyant Singh Chautala also echoed similar sentiments in his speech, highlighting the JJP's commitment to all sections of society. — OC

Stopped from heading towards Ambala, farmers stage dharna on Hisar road

NEETISH SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMBALA, JULY 17

Hundreds of farmers today staged a dharna near Balana village on Ambala-Hisar road after the police stopped them from heading towards Ambala City. They were protesting after some farmer leaders and activists were detained by the Ambala police.

The SKM (non-political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha had given a call to gherao the SP's office to mark protest against the arrest of farm activist Navdeep Singh. However, after Navdeep was released on bail from the Central jail last night, the farmers had withdrawn their call to gherao the SP's office, but decided to hold a meeting for honouring Navdeep and carrying out a victory procession from Ambala to the Shambhu border.

However, since prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the BNS were imposed, several farmer leaders, including BKU (Shaheed Bhagat Singh) president Amarjeet Singh Mohri, Ranjeet Singh Raju, Jaswinder Singh and other activists, who



Farmers hold a sit-in on Ambala-Hisar road in Ambala on Wednesday.

had reached the grain market to see the preparations, were detained by the police.

Irked over the police action, a large number of farmers from Haryana and Punjab led by Sarwan Singh Pandher gathered on the Hisar-Chandigarh highway and started marching towards Ambala to get the detained farmers released.

Meanwhile, a heavy police force was deployed, dumpers were placed, and barricades were installed by the police to stop the farmers, following which the farmers sat on the

road. Meanwhile, commuters had a tough time as the traffic was diverted to other routes.

BKU (SBS) spokesman Tejveer Singh said, "The farmer leaders had come to see the preparations but the police had detained them following which we got together other activists and started the march towards Haryana. The BJP is trying to show in the Supreme Court that the farmers have been blocking the roads and creating nuisance while the road has been blocked by the government itself."

Later, a delegation of farmers held a meeting with Ambala SP Surinder Singh Bhorla and they agreed to take the procession towards the Shambhu border from the Ambala-Hisar road. After the meeting, the detained farmers were released. Farmer leader Sarwan Singh Pandher said, "Our only programme was to honour Navdeep Singh at the grain market and take out a victory procession towards the Shambhu border. We had no plan to hold protest against the state government. Now we are going to Shambhu with a victory procession from Haryana to honour Navdeep and other farmers there."

SP Surinder Singh Bhorla said, "The farmers had given the call to assemble at the grain market, but seeing the circumstances, prohibitory orders were imposed in Ambala. They were stopped and discussions were held with them. It was decided that the farmers will not violate the borders and they will go to the Shambhu border as decided in the meeting. The farmers were then released. Ample force was deployed to maintain law and order."

Sirsa MLA Kanda meets BJP's state election incharge

SIRSA, JULY 17

Haryana Lokhit Party supremo and Sirsa MLA Gopal Kanda today held discussions with Dharmendra Pradhan, BJP's election incharge for Haryana, in Delhi. They deliberated on the upcoming Assembly elections, with Kanda suggesting cooperation on several seats under the HLP-NDA pact.

Following the meeting, Kanda handed over his party's wish list to Pradhan. Speaking to reporters, Kanda emphasised that the Haryana Lokhit Party is a part of the NDA in the state and discussions centred around strategy for the upcoming polls. They also discussed potential constituencies and the possibility of joint contests, especially where HLP and BJP can collaborate effectively.

Kanda noted that their combined efforts on certain seats could yield distinct poll outcomes, highlighting the strategic significance of the alliance. When asked about Independent MLA Nayanpal Rawat, he said so far, there hasn't been any withdrawal of support from Rawat's end. — OC



Congress MP Deepender Hooda during the 'Haryana Mange Hisaab' campaign in Sonapat on Wednesday.

Once edu hub, Sonapat now haven for criminals: Rohtak MP

KARNAL, JULY 17

Rohtak MP Deepender Hooda on Wednesday said the previous Congress government had established various educational institutes in Sonapat with the aim of making it an education hub, but the BJP government had turned the district into a hub of crime and drug abuse.

"The previous Congress gov-

ernment had established Rajiv Gandhi Education City with the idea of making Rai an educational hub. It had also set up the National Law University, Chhotu Ram University, Bhagat Phool Singh Women's University in Khanpur, NIFTEM, IIT and many other private universities, but the BJP has turned the hub of education into a hub of crime and drug

abuse. The BJP government has shut down not only schools, colleges, universities, but also DIETs built during our time," said Deepender on the third day of the Congress's 'Haryana Maange Hisaab' campaign in the Rai Assembly segment in Sonapat.

He took out a 'padyatra' from Ethnic India at NH-44 to Bahalgarh in Rai. — TNS

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JJP LEADER'S MURDER CASE

2 shooters among 3 nabbed following encounter in Hansi

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

HISAR, JULY 17
The Hansi police today arrested three criminals for their alleged involvement in murder case of JJP leader Ravinder Saini.

The arrested suspects had suffered bullet injuries during an encounter with the police near Umra village on the Hansi-Umra road in the district on Tuesday night.

The suspects, identified as Yogesh of Kharak Jatan in Rohtak, Sachin of Jind and Vikas of Pinjokra village in Bhiwani district, are among the conspirators of the murder. Yogesh and Sachin are shooters. The suspects were shot in the legs and have been admitted to the Civil Hospital in Hansi.

With the arrest of these three suspects, the police have arrested eight persons case so far. Two other shoot-



One of the suspects who got injured during the encounter in Hansi.

SERIES OF EVENTS

- July 10: JJP leader Ravinder Singh Saini shot dead.
- July 11: Vikas, who was in jail after being convicted in an attempt to murder case, was taken on a production warrant from jail. He is the 'main conspirator'.
- July 15: Four other alleged conspirators — Praveen, Ravinder, Ramesh, and Praveen — were nabbed from Gujarat. They are in five days' police remand.
- July 16: The Hansi police and STF arrested three persons, including two shooters, near Umra village after an encounter.

ers are yet to be arrested. Hansi SP Maqsood Ahmad said acting on a tip-off, the police had conducted search operations at night, and the suspects were found near Umra village on

the Umra-Hansi road. SP Ahmad said upon seeing the police, the suspects opened fire while trying to flee the spot. The police team encircled them, directing them to surren-

der. However, when the suspects continued with the firing, the police also retaliated. He said the suspects got shot in the legs, following which they were admitted in a hospital.

F'bad, G'gram residents demand closure of Bandhwari toll plaza

Say harassed by long waiting periods, huge traffic jams

BIJENDRA AHLAWAT

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDABAD, JULY 17

Daily commuters travelling between Faridabad and Gurugram have raised their concerns over the continuation of the Bandhwari toll plaza on the state highway between the two cities. Supervised by the state Public Works Department (PWD), the operations will continue at the plaza till May, 2026.

A spokesperson of a social media group, which advocates for the discontinuation of the plaza, said the operations at the plaza had not been shut despite an announcement having been made by the state government last year regarding its closure. The agency handling the functioning of the plaza had recently increased the toll charges up to 33 per cent.

Ankit Gupta, a vexed commuter, took to social media platform X (formerly Twitter) and said, "We have to daily face chaos at the Faridabad-Gurugram toll plaza despite paying up to Rs 60 (both ways) and getting stuck in the jam that could extend to 3 km." Tagging Union Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari,



Vehicles queue up at the Bandhwari toll plaza.

he appealed to him to ensure that the operations were discontinued at the plaza.

Anuroop Sehgal, another commuter, described it as a major hindrance for those travelling between Faridabad and Gurugram. He said they had had to daily wait in huge traffic jams. In addition, the commuters were forced to pay heavily as they had to spend over 90 minutes to cover the 30-km stretch between the two cities, he added.

Ujjawal Rawat, another commuter, said the people were paying to use a road which did not even have functional streetlights and was prone to a large number of accidents.

The delay in the implementation of the FASTag system had made it worse for the commuters, he added.

"Though the Bandhwari plaza was among the list of toll plazas that were announced to be closed in December 2023, its continuation had left the commuters high and dry," claims Varun Sheokand, another resident. Instead of closing it down, the agency concerned had increased the toll charges up to 33 per cent, he added.

PWD XEN Charandeep Rana said the Fast Tag system at the plaza was expected to be shortly introduced as the administrative approval had already been accorded for it.

6 policemen to be honoured for role during farm stir

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JULY 17

The Haryana Government has recommended six police officials for gallantry medals for their role during the farmers' agitation in February this year.

The farmers' unions had initiated a 'Delhi Chalo' agitation for a legal guarantee of MSP during which they were stopped at the Shambhu (Ambala) and Khanauri (Jind) borders by the Haryana Police.

IPS officers Sibash Kabiraj, Jashandeep Singh Randhawa and Sumit Kumar, along with HPS officers Narender Singh, Ram Kumar and Amit Bhatia have been recommended for gallantry medals.

It was DGP Shatruijeet Kapur who had recommended their names. Thereafter, the Haryana Government had sent their names to the Centre on July 2.

During the agitation, Kabiraj, who was posted as IGP Ambala range, Randhawa, who was SP Ambala, DSP Narender Singh and DSP Ram Kumar were chosen for their role at the Shambhu border. Sumit Kumar and Bhatia were chosen for their role at the Khanauri border. — TNS

App for recording students' attendance in colleges

RAVINDER SAINI

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, JULY 17

Parents of the college-going students will now be able to get status of their wards' attendance every month through SMS notification without visiting their wards' educational institutes.

The Department of Higher Education (DHE) is creating an online application for recording and managing attendance not only of students but also of faculty members. This application will, as per sources, come into effect from August 1.

"Besides parents, the application will keep updating higher authorities on the status of every student in all government col-



Students attending a lecture in a college.

leges across the state. At present, the students' attendance is noted down by teachers in their registers. Parents have to visit the colleges to get the status of their wards' attendance. The college authorities inform parents in case their attendance remains short or they remain absent for a

long time," said a DHE official. He said, "This application will enable college faculties to record student attendance daily. The faculty will maintain a register for uploading the application from August 1. The online application will allow faculty to record attendance

lecture-wise (number of scheduled lectures, number of lectures attended) starting from this academic session on a weekly basis, the sources said. The sources say at the end of each month, the system would automatically send SMS notifications to the parents so that they could know the attendance status of their wards, especially those whose attendance falls below the threshold. "The DHE has informed the principals of all government colleges in the state about the move by sending a communiqué in this regard. They have also been asked to adhere to the instructions strictly," the sources claimed.

Khattar calls for nationwide adoption of Haryana's power reform model

NEERAJ MOHAN

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 17

Union Power Minister ML Khattar has set his sights on revitalising power distribution companies nationwide, drawing on the successful reforms implemented in Haryana. Speaking at the launch of book 'Wired for Success' written by Haryana DGP Shatruijeet Kapur, he emphasised

Unveils book 'Wired for Success' written by DGP Shatruijeet Kapur

the need of reducing line losses to bring power companies out of financial distress.

"Like food and water, power is essential; everybody needs it. Therefore, there is a need to cut line losses, which we achieved in

Haryana," he said.

The book by Shatruijeet Kapur chronicles the journey of how Haryana's power distribution firms were brought from losses to profitability in just two years. Kapur, then appointed as CMD

of the power discoms, implemented measures that instilled a culture of bill payment among the people of Haryana, significantly reducing financial burden on the companies. "It was a challenging task as the people were reluctant to pay bills. This was the main reason behind line losses and financial burden on power distribution firms," said Khattar.

Gadkari reviews progress of highway projects in state

GURUGRAM, JULY 17

To accelerate the development of highway infrastructure in Haryana, several road projects related to the NHAI will now be expedited. A review meeting was held under the chairmanship of Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari. The meeting was also attended by CM Nayab Singh Saini and Union Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways Harsh Malhotra.

Among various projects that were discussed included the Kherki Daula Toll Plaza, new ring road for Kurukshetra, connecting Jewar International Airport with Faridabad-Ballabgarh Bypass from Mohana, Rohtak-Jind four-lane highway, Jind-Gohana four-lane highway, Delhi-Amritsar Expressway, Ambala-Kala Amb highway, and under

Bharatmala project, six-lane Ambala-Shamli highway of Bareilly-Ludhiana Corridor, Ambala and Kamal ring roads, four-lane Ismailabad-Ambala highway in Ambala-Kotputli corridor, and Pinjore bypass.

Saini said construction of projects that are more than 90 per cent complete will be finished in next three to four months. The CM also raised demand for a bypass in Kurukshetra to reduce traffic. Gadkari sought a feasibility report from the NHAI for the same. He discussed the plans to explore the possibilities of creating bird parks near the national highways. "Approximately four acres will be required for this. These bird parks will be established on a large scale, and the NHAI will be responsible for their development," said Gadkari. — TNS

Hit-and-run victims to get cashless treatment

CHANDIGARH, JULY 17

With the aim of providing assistance to the victims of road accidents in Haryana, a new scheme has now been started in the state on the lines of the Central Government.

Announcing this at a press conference here today, CM Nayab Singh Saini said under the scheme, such victims would be provided free cashless treatment facility and compensation in hit-and-run cases.

The expenditure will be borne from the Haryana Road Safety Fund and the order for payment of compensation will be issued within 15 days of submission of the report by the

Inquiry Commissioner. After this, the compensation will also be paid within 15 days. Meanwhile, farmers and small traders can now obtain permits related to soil utilisation online.

The CM said our farmers and small traders had been facing numerous problems due to complex departmental permissions and other processes related to soil for a long time.

A portal, kisan.mine-sharyana.gov.in, has been launched to resolve these issues, he said. He said for the next two months, farmers and small traders can obtain NOCs by visiting the respective mining officers. — TNS

PUNJAB POLICE HOUSING CORPORATION LTD.
POLICE COMPLEX, PHASE-VI, SAS NAGAR
TEL. NO. 4080111, 4080112 & FAX NO. 4080107
INVITATION OF BID (IFB)
SHORT E-TENDER NOTICE No. 16/2024-25 DATED 17.07.2024
Punjab Police Housing Corporation Limited, S.A.S. Nagar invites online bids for the work of SITC of Additional Items (IT) for Interrogation Rooms of 135 Nos. Police Stations in Punjab.
Closing Date & Time : 13.08.2024 Time 11:00 Hrs.
For details login to: eproc.punjab.gov.in
Note: Any Corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the above website only.
DPR/FP/35749 Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
PUNJAB URBAN PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
PUDA BHAWAN, SECTOR 62, SAS NAGAR
Tender Reference No.: 3418-24 Dated 17.07.2024
Divisional Engineer (HQ-2), PUDA SAS Nagar invites online bids for "Comprehensive maintenance of fire fighting and alarm system as per detail, scope of work, manpower and cost of material, tool and plants required to keep the system up to date at all time for the year of 2024-2025 (Period from 01.08.2024 to 31.03.2025)."
Closing Date & Time : 25.07.2024 at 11:00 AM
For details login to : https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
Note: Any corrigendum(s) to the tender notice shall be published on the above website only. DPR/FP/35772

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
The Assistant Engineer (Civil-II), PGIMER Chandigarh invites on behalf of the Director PGIMER, Chandigarh online Percentage rate bids from the enlisted contractors of appropriate class of CPWD/Department of Posts/BSNL/Railways/M.E.S./Chandigarh Administration/CHB/MC Chandigarh/State PWD/SUDA/PUDA/State Electricity Boards & Corporations dealing in Civil works or composite on Two bid system (Eligibility & Financial Bid) for the following works:-
NIT No.: PGM/Engg/A.E-II/Civil-II/2024/01. Name of Work: Providing and laying of concrete cricket pitch in Old Doctors Hostel Block, Sector 12, PGIMER, Chandigarh. Estimated Cost: Rs.1.03 Lakh. Earnest Money: Rs.2,000/-; Period of Completion: 1 Month. Last date and time of submission of bid: 24.07.2024 up to 4.00 P.M. Last date & time for submission of Original EMD or EMD exemption certificate for MSEMSME: 25.07.2024 up to 4.00 P.M. Date and time of opening of Eligibility bid: 26.07.2024 at 3.00 P.M.
The Original EMD or EMD exemption certificate for MSEMSME as scanned & uploaded shall be deposited physically by all the intending bidders in the office of A.E-II (Civil-II) as per above schedule failing which the bid shall be treated as invalid. The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website: www.eprocure.gov.in/eprocureapp, and official website of the PGIMER www.pgimer.edu.in. Press notice is also available on www.eprocure.gov.in. The Contractors are requested to get their firm registered on the website www.eprocure.gov.in/eprocureapp for participating in e-tendering process. For any technical information Contact (0172-2755860). Assistant Engineer (Civil-II) 01-7680

Mahatma Gandhi State Institute of Public Administration, Punjab
Institutional Area, Sector 26, Chandigarh - 160019, India
Phone: +91-172-2793589/91 | Fax: +91-172-2793589/90 Extn: 400
Email: helpdesk.mgsipa@punjab.gov.in | Website: https://mgsipa.punjab.gov.in
Notice Inviting e-Tender
[Ref. No. MGSIPA/E-174761/4851, dated 17.07.2024]
MGSIPA invites online bids for e-tender of the contract for "Housekeeping and Maintenance of Guest House" in MGSIPA
Closing date & time: 08.08.2024 (Thursday), 10.30 A.M.
Bidder should have three years' Experience
For details login to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in / mgsipa.punjab.gov.in
Note: - Any corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the above website only. MGSIPA reserves the right to scrap the e-tendering process at any stage without assigning any reason.
Sd/- Director General
DPR/FP/35771

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
Director State Transport-cum-Managing Director Punjab State Bus Stand Management Co. Ltd. (Punbus), Jeevandeep Building, First Floor Sector 17-A, Chandigarh.
Reference No. 2094/Purchase/PA-1 Dated: 17.07.2024
Online e-Tender is invited in two bid systems (Technical & Financial) from eligible Public Sector Oil Manufacturing Companies and Private Oil Manufacturing Companies to purchase of Oil & Lubricant for Punjab Roadways and Punbus Buses.
For more details, visit <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> and for any query please contact on 6283326697 or email at csppr@gmail.com
Pre-Bid Meeting & Time : 26.07.2024 at 11:00 a.m.
Closing Date & Time : 12.08.2024 till 09:00 a.m.
Opening of Technical Bid : 12.08.2024 at 02:00 p.m.
NOTE: Any Corrigendum(s) in the Tender/RFP Notice shall be published on the above website only.
DPR/FP/35760 Sd/- Managing Director PUNBUS.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL TEACHERS TRAINING AND RESEARCH
Deemed to be University under Distinct Category (Ministry of Education, Government of India)
Sector 26, Chandigarh
Advertisement No. 238/2024
Admission to Ph.D. Programmes for the Session 2024-25
NITTTR Chandigarh invites online applications for admission to Ph.D. (Regular and Modular) Programmes for the session 2024-25 in the following disciplines:
Applied Sciences (Physics & Mathematics) Electrical Engineering
Civil Engineering Electronics and Communication Engineering
Computer Science and Engineering Information Management and Emerging Engineering
Curriculum Development Mechanical Engineering
Education and Educational Management Media Engineering
Entrepreneurship Development & Industrial Coordination Rural Development
Last Date to Apply for: 20th August, 2024, (for those not having qualified GATE /NET etc.)
Ph.D. Admission: 27th August, 2024.
For detailed information, kindly visit the institute website: <https://www.nitttrchd.ac.in/core/phd.php> DIRECTOR

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)
NOTICE FOR APPOINTMENT OF MAK LUBRICANTS DISTRIBUTORSHIP
Bharat Petroleum is a Fortune 500 Public Sector Oil & Gas Company. We are the makers of MAK Lubricants - one of the top Lubricants brands in the country. MAK Lubricants are approved by leading vehicle manufacturers and has tie-ups with major OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturers) for Genuine Oils. Our range of lubricants includes automotive & industrial lubricants, greases, gear oils, brake fluids and coolants. We wish to appoint Primary Lube Distributors (PLD) and Industrial Lube Distributors (ILD), to cover the markets in the State of PUNJAB.
The detailed advertisement is available in our website www.bharatpetroleum.in. → Tenders → View Tender → Select Date From (18.07.2024) Due Date (08.08.2024) → Select Department: Lubricant-Distributorship → Choose a Tender Type: Press
Forms can be downloaded from the website which should be filled and submitted along with the application fees at respective territory offices, follow the instructions to apply as given in the website. Corrigendum, if any, will be published only in the website mentioned above.
Last date of submission of application : 08.08.2024 by 17:00 Hrs.
Contact details of the Territory manager:
Territory Manager (Lubes), Chandigarh - 9599698965/9643884128
Territory Manager (Lubes), Jalandhar - 7544008821/8800438892
Sd/- Joint Secretary, for Secretary, Chandigarh Sports Council
Energising Lives, Energising Naya Bharat

MILK'S WHOLESOME NUTRIENTS MAKES IT NATURE'S ENERGY DRINK
Amul Milk AMUL DOODH PEETA HAI INDIA

Ph / Fax: 0172 - 2646444
CHANDIGARH SPORTS COUNCIL
Sports Complex, Hockey Stadium, Sector - 42, Chandigarh — 160036
E-mail: csc_cfha@yahoo.com
CSC-UT-2024-25/Estt/SA-IC-II/1100 Dated: 17.07.2024
NOTICE FOR INDUCTION OF BOYS & GIRLS IN THE HOCKEY SPORTS DISCIPLINE UNDER CHANDIGARH HOCKEY ACADEMY
The Chandigarh Sports Council is going to conduct selection trials to select Boys & Girls at the following venues on the dates indicated against each-
Sr. No. Boys & Girls Age Height (cms) Dates of Selection Trials Venue & Time of Trials
1. Boys & Girls Born on or after 1.1.2007 165 cms for Senior Boys 5th August, 2024 and 6th August, 2024 Reporting time 8:00 A.M. at Hockey Ground, Sector -42, Chandigarh.
Born on or after 1.1.2010 160 cms for Junior Boys
Born on or after 1.1.2007 152 cms for Senior Girls 7th August, 2024 and 8th August, 2024
Born on or after 1.1.2009 142 cms for Junior Girls
Interested candidates can come for trials in proper kit with original Birth Certificate issued by the Competent Authority (Municipal Corporation/ Health Department/Municipal Council/Gram Panchayat) and two recently passport size photographs. No TADA etc. will be admissible for trials.
Note:- The detailed instructions of selection criteria and other instructions are available on the website of <http://sportsdept.chd.gov.in> and <http://chdpr.gov.in>. Any change of schedule shall be intimated on the same website. The interested candidates are advised to see the website regularly for any change. The Secretary, CSC has right to cancel the selection trials without giving any reason at any stage.
For any enquiry, please contact: 0172-2646444
Sd/- Joint Secretary, for Secretary, Chandigarh Sports Council

Merger of tech varsities in reckoning again

RAJMEET SINGH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JULY 17
The issue of proposed merger of Shaheed Bhagat Singh State University, Ferozepur, with Maharaja Ranjit Singh PTU, Bathinda, and Sardar Beant Singh State University, Gurdaspur. These universities were set up during the tenure of the previous Congress government.

After the creation of two new universities, the issues of

their financial viability and the justification for having four technical universities in a small state like Punjab have not been addressed.

The four-member committee has reportedly proposed designating the campuses of new universities as that of the already existing ones. The government has been giving an annual grant of Rs 15 crore to the new universities since 2021-2022. It has been proposed that the grant should continue, even if the merger takes place.

3 arrested with 2.3 kg heroin

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ABOHAR, JULY 17
Three persons were held in the Sriganagar Sector with a heroin consignment, which was supplied via drone from across Pakistan border. They were produced in the court today and sent on seven-day police remand.

Police sources said, a joint team of Circle Inspector Surinder Kumar and CID (Border Intelligence) stopped a car at a naka near the underpass on Gajsinghpur Road yesterday. Three persons travelling in the car were identified as Jagjit Masih (28) and Patras Singh (25), both residents of Karian village and Vijay Singh Sunny (18) of Ladhe village at Ajnala tehsil in Amritsar district. As much as 2,325 kg of heroin, smuggled from Pakistan, was recovered from their possession.

Surinder Kumar said preliminary investigation indicated that the fourth co-accused, Jobanjot Singh, also of Ladhe village, had reportedly absconded with part of the heroin consignment but the picture would become clear after interrogating the arrested accused. According to the investigating team, it seemed to be part of the bigger consignment that was recently dropped by the drone.

After Jalandhar success, AAP picks Mann to replicate win in Haryana

To launch election campaign with Sanjay Singh, Sandeep Pathak today

RUCHIKA M KHANNA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JULY 17
After a big win in the Jalandhar West bypoll, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has been asked to help the Aam Aadmi Party in its Haryana poll campaign, to be launched on Thursday.

Mann, along with AAP general secretary (organisation) Sandeep Pathak and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh, will launch the party's campaign for the Haryana Vidhan Sabha elections, scheduled to be held later this year.

Earlier, Mann had also campaigned for the party's lone Lok Sabha candidate from Kurukshetra Sushil Gupta. With the party supremo Arvind Kejriwal incarcerated, the onus of leading the AAP campaign in poll-bound Haryana lies on these three leaders.

Talking to The Tribune, on the sidelines of the swearing-in ceremony of AAP's newly elected MLA from Jalandhar West, Mohinder Bhagat, the CM, who is also the Punjab unit president of AAP, said he would campaign in Haryana.

"If the elections to Dera Baba Nanak, Chhabwala, Barnala and Gidderbaha Assembly segments are held simultaneously with the Haryana bypoll, I will have to shuttle between the two states, though as Punjab CM, my attention and energies will be required more in Punjab," he said.



Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan administers the oath of office and secrecy to newly elected AAP MLA from Jalandhar West Mohinder Bhagat in Chandigarh on Wednesday.

CM TO TACKLE ISSUE OF LAND FOR HIGHWAYS

- CM Bhagwant Mann has decided to take the issue of delays in land acquisition for the national highways into his own hands
- He said he would talk to farmers and discuss their issues regarding compensation. The state government has taken two-month time from the Centre for resolving the issue
- The move comes after Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari pulled up state officials at a meeting in Delhi on July 15

"We have just come out of the model code of conduct that remained enforced since March, first for the Lok Sabha poll and then for the Jalandhar bypoll. I will utilise the time before the four byelections for formulating and implementing new people-oriented schemes, before I once again go to the voters seeking mandate for my government," he added.

If the success in the Jalandhar West bypoll was a personal victory for CM Bhagwant Mann, considering that he led the campaign from the front, he was graceful in his success, as he oversaw the swearing-in ceremony of Mohinder Bhagat here.

Dispelling all murmurs of a rift within the state unit of the party, Mann and Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan met

"warmly" and continued to chat in a light hearted manner for almost an hour, after the brief oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected MLA. The bonhomie between the CM and the Speaker drew everybody's attention as they continued to crack jokes and discuss various things.

Interestingly, none of the 14 ministers in the state cabinet were present at the ceremony held on the Punjab Vidhan Sabha premises. Only a few MLAs, including Dr Vijay Garg, Ajitpal Singh Kohli, Barinder Kumar Goyal, Narinder Sawna and Karambir Singh Ghuman, besides Deputy Speaker Jai Krishan Singh, were present on the occasion.

Form No. 3 [See Regulation-15 (1)(a)]/16(3)
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 2)
SCD 33-34-35, First Floor, Sector 17A, Chandigarh (additional space allotted on 3rd & 4th Floor also)

Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993.

Case No. OA/1713/2022
HDFC Bank Vs Surender Kumar and Others
Defendant No. 2.: Sanjay Kumar Son of Jai Singh Ward No. 13 Village Jahnal Tehsil Bhadra Hanumangarh, Rajasthan

WHEREAS, OA/1713/2022 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 13.05.2024. WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/notice on the said application under section 19(4) of the Act. (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 49,49,100/- (Application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the deft. are directed as under:-

- to show cause within thirty days of the service or summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
- to disclose Particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;
- you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the Application for attachment of properties;
- you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;
- you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and Properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 01/08/2024 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 14.05.2024

Sd/-
Signature of the officer Authorised to Issue Summons.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sub: Transfer of ownership in respect of constructed house No. 485, sector 7, Gurugram in respect of death of Sh. Ramesh Chander Sharma S/o Late Sh. Bhim sain sharma. Sh. Ramesh Chander Sharma was the joint owner with Satish Chander (brother) of the subject cited property and as per record Sh. Ramesh Chander Sharma was died on 17.11.2020 and has left following legal heirs of deceased regarding above said property. 1.Santosh Sharma (wife) 2. Renu Sharma (Daughter) 3. Deepika Sharma (Daughter) 4. Sweety Sharma (Daughter). Smt. Santosh Sharma W/o late Sh Ramesh Chander Sharma R/o House No. 485, Sector 7, Gurugram intends to apply for the transfer of the said property jointly in her favour being legal heir. If any person is having objection against the transfer of the house he/she can submit objections in writing to Estate Officer 1, sector 14 H.S.V.P. Gurugram alongwith supporting document within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. Otherwise the Estate Officer 1 may sanction mutation of the property as per H.S.V.P. Policy and may not entertain subsequent claim, if any.

Legal Heirs on behalf of Estate Officer 1, Sector 14 H.S.V.P., Gurugram

Form No. 3 [See Regulation-15 (1)(a)]/16(3)
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 2)
SCD 33-34-35, First Floor, Sector 17A, Chandigarh (additional space allotted on 3rd & 4th Floor also)

Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993.

Case No. OA/314/2024
HDFC Bank Vs Vishal Singh
Defendant No. 3.: Shah Mohammad Village Gudiya, 1 MKS-A, Khara, Tehsil Tibbi, District Hanumangarh, Rajasthan, 335526

WHEREAS, OA/314/2024 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 08.05.2024. WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/notice on the said application under section 19(4) of the Act. (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 94,61,977/- (Application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the deft. are directed as under:-

- to show cause within thirty days of the service or summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
- to disclose Particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;
- you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the Application for attachment of properties;
- you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;
- you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and Properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 02/08/2024 at 10:30A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 09.05.2024

Sd/-
Signature of the officer Authorised to Issue Summons.

UMMEED HOUSING FINANCE PVT. LTD
CIN: U65922HR2016PTC057984
Corporate office : Unit 809-815, 8th Floor, Tower - A, EMAAR Digital Greens Golf Course Extension Road, Sect-61, Gurugram (Haryana)-122002

DEMAND NOTICE U/S 13(2) SARFESI ACT

As the loan account became NPA therefore authorised officer of UMHFL has issued demand notice(s) 13(2) the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, to Borrower/Applicant/Guarantor/Mortgagor given in the table. According to the notice if the borrowers do not deposit the entire amount within 60 days, the amount will be recovered from auction of mortgage property/secured assets mentioned below. Therefore, the borrowers are informed to deposit the entire loan amount along with the future interest and expenses within 60 days from the date of demand notice, otherwise under the provision of 13(4) and 14 of said act, the authorised officer is taking possession for sale of the mortgage property/secured assets as given below. Borrowers to take note that after receipt of this notice in terms of 13(1) of the act, 2002, you are prohibited and restrained from transferring any of the secured assets by way of sale, lease or otherwise, without prior written consent of the secured creditor. Borrowers' attentions are attracted towards sec-13(8) RW rule 3(5) of the security interest (enforcement) Rule, 2002 Act that the borrower shall be entitled to redeem their secured assets upon the payment of the complete outstanding dues as mentioned below before the publication of auction notice, which thereafter shall cease to exist.

Name of Borrower/Applicant/Guarantor/Mortgagor	Description of Mortgage Property	Date and Amount of Demand Notice U/S 13(2)
(1) Amit Prashar S/o Avinash Kumar (Borrower) (2) Avinash Kumar S/o Vashno Dass (Co-Borrower) (3) Sukhvarsha W/o Avinash Kumar (Co-Borrower), All Above Residing At: H. No. 207B, Sector 79, Sas Nagar Mansa 140306, Abohar At. H. No. 1175 Progressive Society Sector 50B Chandigarh 160047. Also At: Old H. No. 1923 A And New 472 Sector 10 Doctor Kaifra Street Within Abadi And Red Line Within Nagar Council Kharar Tehsil Kharar District Sas Nagar 140301. Loan No. LXCHD016-17000090 & LXCHD016-17000092. Loan Agreement Date: 26.02.2017 & 26.02.2017. Loan Amt. Rs.113554 & Rs. 1519476	All that part and parcel of Residential Old H. No. 1923 A And New 472 Sector 10 Doctor Kaifra Street Within Abadi And Red Line Within Nagar Council Kharar Tehsil Kharar District Sas Nagar 140301. Loan No. LXCHD016-17000090 & LXCHD016-17000092. Dated 02.03.2017 Vaska Only As on 08-July-2024 + Further Interest And Other Charges From 09-July-2024	8/July/2024 Rs. 1094628 +1,379,888 Total Aggregate Rs. 2474516 Rupees Twenty-Four Lacs Seventy-Four Thousand Five Hundred Sixteen Only As on 08-July-2024 + Further Interest And Other Charges From 09-July-2024
(1) Sudeep Kumar W/o Kuldeep (2) Kuldeep S/o Indar Singh (Co-Borrower) All Above Residing At: H. No. 494 Village Gadh (139) Tehsil Hansi District Hissar Haryana 125033. Loan No. LXHS02919-20007357 & LXHS02420-21009992. Loan Agreement Date: 28-01-2020 & 27-11-2020. Loan Amt. Rs.450000 & 150000	All that part and parcel of Property of Plot No.1971 Dated 26.05.2022 Registered in the Sub-Registrar Office Nigadi District Kamal Haryana Boundaries As Per Technical Report D-11-06-2022. North- East-Property, South-Street-14' West- East-Property Raj Kumar, West-Property Dhyani Singh	8/July/2024 Rs. 12,96,909 Rupees Twelve Lacs Ninety-Six Thousand Nine Hundred and Nine Rupees Only As on 08-July-2024 + Further Interest And Other Charges From 09-July-2024
(1) Krishan Kumar S/o Isam Singh (Borrower) (2) Mamta Devi W/o Krishan Kumar (Co-Borrower) Both Above Residing At: Khera 26 Majora Rodan Karnal Tehsil & District Karnal Haryana 132157. Loan No. LXXRN0322-230017655. Loan Agreement Date: 25-Jun-22. Loan Amt. Rs.1300000/-	All that part and parcel of Property Measuring 1K 00M Out of 40K-12M Which Comprised Kherwa No. 222/1 Khera No.191 Khe 1 Situated at Khera Tehsil Nigadi District Kamal Haryana Vide Transfer Deed Vaska No. 1971 Dated 26.05.2022 Registered in the Sub-Registrar Office Nigadi District Kamal Haryana Boundaries As Per Technical Report D-11-06-2022. North- East-Property, South-Street-14' West- East-Property Raj Kumar, West-Property Dhyani Singh	8/July/2024 Rs. 11,48,363 (Rupees Eleven Lacs Forty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Three Rupees Only) As on 08-July-2024 + Further Interest And Other Charges From 09-July-2024
(1) Pratap S/o Atala, (Borrower) (2) Doli W/o Pratikumar (Co-Borrower) Both Above Residing At Village Chhapur Kalan At: Karsapur Road, Bank Colony, Haryana 132104. Loan No. LXKPT0222-230022670. Loan Agreement Date: 20-Feb-23. Loan Amt. Servant Amount of Rs.850000/- Disbursement Amt. Of Rs. 510000/-	Property Measuring Area 140 Sq.Yds. i.e 4 Marla 6 Sarsa Being 140/19360. Share Out of 20% Measuring 28 Marla 120 Sq.Yds. Situated in Kherwa Tehsil Nigadi District Kamal Haryana Vide Transfer Deed Vaska No. 1971 Dated 26.05.2022 Registered in the Sub-Registrar Office Nigadi District Kamal Haryana Boundaries As Per Technical Report D-11-06-2022. North- East-Property, South-Street-14' West- East-Property Raj Kumar, West-Property Dhyani Singh	8/July/2024 Rs. 5,41,503/- (Rupees Five Lacs Forty One Thousand Five Hundred Three Rupees Only) As on 08-July-2024 + Further Interest And Other Charges From 09-July-2024
(1) Shishpal S/o Siochand, (Borrower) (2) Dewaki S/o Siochand (Co-Borrower) (3) Reetu W/o Shishpal (Co-Borrower) (4) Siochand, S/o Sadhu Ram (Co-Borrower) All Above Residing At: 104 Near Water Works, Elenabad District Sirsa Haryana 1251. Loan No. LXKRS0221-220013007. Loan Agreement Date: 30-Sep-21. Loan Amt. Rs.1100000/-	All that part and parcel of Property of Plot No.19 (Southern Part) Bearing Municipal Plot No. 258/26/258/26 Measuring 02 Marla i.e 60 Sq.Yd. Comprising in Kherwa/Khatoni No. 68/89 Khasra No. 34/18 (80) Being 1/80 Share i.e 02 Marla Situated at Mauja Ratoli HB No.422. Now Known As Banded Vihar Colony Tehsil Jagadhri Yamuna Nagar. Boundaries As-North-West Part of Plot No.19 Southern Part East-Other S Plot West-Other S Plot 20 Wide	09/July/2024 Rs. 5,48,265 (Rupees Five Lacs Forty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Five Rupees Only) As on 08-July-2024 + Further Interest And Other Charges From 09-July-2024
(1) Naresh Kumar S/o Zile (Borrower) (2) Sunam W/o Naresh Kumar (Co-Borrower) Both Above Residing At: Vijay Nagar Near Bhaw Wall Gali Rohatk 124001 Also At: Sunar Kalan (101) Rohatk Haryana-124001. Loan No. LXROH03220-210009469. Loan Agreement Date: 29-Nov-20. Loan Amt. Rs. 1850000/-	All that part and parcel of House at Kila No. 1719 Rakha 7 Kana 9 Marla of 6140 Share Rakha Bakdar 6 Marla Measuring 173.33 Sq.Yd. Mouja Sunar Kalan Near Vijay Nagar Rohatk Bounded As East: Rasta, West: Property Narenda, North: Property of Other, South: Rasta	09/July/2024 Rs. 5,48,265 (Rupees Five Lacs Forty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Five Rupees Only) As on 08-July-2024 + Further Interest And Other Charges From 09-July-2024

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 05/08/2024 at 10:30A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 09.05.2024

Sd/-
Signature of the officer Authorised to Issue Summons.

Form No. 3 [See Regulation-15 (1)(a)]/16(3)
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 2)
SCD 33-34-35, First Floor, Sector 17A, Chandigarh (additional space allotted on 3rd & 4th Floor also)

Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993.

Case No. OA/311/2024
HDFC Bank Vs Bhagat Ram
Defendant No. 4.: Suresh Ward No. 09, 7-RP-B, Village Ranjeet Pura, Tehsil and District Hanumangarh, Rajasthan 335524

WHEREAS, OA/311/2024 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 08.05.2024. WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/notice on the said application under section 19(4) of the Act. (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 94,83,959/- (Application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the deft. are directed as under:-

- to show cause within thirty days of the service or summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
- to disclose Particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;
- you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the Application for attachment of properties;
- you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;
- you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and Properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 05/08/2024 at 10:30A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 09.05.2024

Sd/-
Signature of the officer Authorised to Issue Summons.

Form No. 3 [See Regulation-15 (1)(a)]/16(3)
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 2)
SCD 33-34-35, First Floor, Sector 17A, Chandigarh (additional space allotted on 3rd & 4th Floor also)

Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993.

Case No. OA/1435/2023
HDFC Bank Vs Nawab Singh

- Nawab Singh Son of Shri Kehar Singh R/o H.No. 3985 Dera Guniyana Road Nissing Tehsil Nissing District Karnal Haryana
- Bagel Singh Son of Kehar Singh H.No. 3985 Dera Guniyana Road Nissing Tehsil Nissing Karnal, Haryana
- Bagel Kaur W/o Sh. Kehar Singh H.No. 3985 Dera Guniyana Road Nissing Tehsil Nissing District Karnal Haryana
- Khushwant Singh Son of Nishan Singh H.No. 24 Block No. 9 Village Nissing Tehsil Nissing Karnal, Haryana

WHEREAS, OA/1435/2023 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 13.05.2024. WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/notice on the said application under section 19(4) of the Act. (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 57,53,573/- (Application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-

- to show cause within thirty days of the service or summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
- to disclose Particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;
- you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the Application for attachment of properties;
- you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;
- you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and Properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 05/08/2024 at 10:30A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 14.05.2024

Sd/-
Signature of the officer Authorised to Issue Summons.

Students' safety: Rights panel tells NHAI, Patiala DC to submit report

The Tribune IMPACT

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, JULY 17
Two days after *The Tribune* highlighted the plight of students of Government High School, Kheri Gandhean, in Rajpura tehsil, who follow a perilous daily journey across the busy four-lane Patiala-Rajpura highway (NH-64), the Punjab State Human Rights Commission (PSHRC) today took suo motu cognisance of the matter and asked the Project Director, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Patiala, and the Deputy Commissioner, Patiala, to submit their reports before the next date of hearing on September 2.

PSHRC Chairperson Justice Sant Parkash said the PSHRC has perused the detailed news clipping viral on social media under the headline "Maths not a problem, crossing highway hard to handle for Rajpura school-goers", indicating that the

Maths not a problem, crossing highway hard to handle for Rajpura school-goers



Students of Government High School, Kheri Gandhean, in Rajpura tehsil, Patiala, are facing a hard time crossing the busy four-lane NH-64 highway. The picture here shows the students crossing the highway.

busy NH-64 is a real challenge for the students of Kheri Gandhean school.

"It is further mentioned that despite repeated requests, the highway authorities have not installed any signboard, speed-breakers or pedestrian overpasses to ensure students' safety.

The order further reads that a copy of the order, along with the copy of the news item, be sent to the Project Director, National Highways Authority of India, Patiala, and the DC, Patiala, through e-mail and by post for the above said compliance.

Meanwhile, school Principal Naib Singh was called at the

District Education Department office and was asked to submit the list of requirements for ensuring students' safe journey to the school. The Principal was also asked to submit the record of the memorandums submitted by him and the panchayats of the respective villages in the past seeking safe corridor for students.

Harman Singh Sidhu, member of the Road Safety Councils of Punjab and Chandigarh, and the Global Alliance of NGOs on Road Safety has lodged a complaint with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and termed it as a violation of children's right of compulsory education.

CMO asked to submit report on outbreak of diarrhoea

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JULY 17
The Punjab State Human Rights Commission (PSHRC) today has taken suo motu cognisance of a news item — "After Patran, diarrhoea outbreak in Patiala; 1 dead, 31 cases detected" — published in these columns. The Chief Medical Officer of Patiala has been asked to submit a report on diarrhoea outbreak by October 4 — the next date of hearing in this matter.

Chairperson Justice Sant Parkash asserted that the PSHRC had perused the news item, indicating diarrhoea outbreak in Patiala city, with Udham Singh Nagar reporting 31 such cases and a death.

"It is also indicated in the news that 50 cases of diarrhoea were recorded in Patran as well. The commission takes suo motu cognisance of the matter and calls for a report from the Chief Medical Officer, Patiala," directed Justice Parkash.

UMMEED HOUSING FINANCE PVT. LTD
CIN: U65922HR2016PTC057984
Corporate office : Unit 809-815, 8th Floor, Tower - A, EMAAR Digital Greens Golf Course Extension Road, Sect-61, Gurugram (Haryana)-122002

DEMAND NOTICE U/S 13(2) SARFESI ACT

As the loan account became NPA therefore authorised officer of UMHFL has issued demand notice(s) 13(2) the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, to Borrower/Applicant/Guarantor/Mortgagor given in the table. According to the notice if the borrowers do not deposit the entire amount within 60 days, the amount will be recovered from auction of mortgage property/secured assets mentioned below. Therefore, the borrowers are informed to deposit the entire loan amount along with the future interest and expenses within 60 days from the date of demand notice, otherwise under the provision of 13(4) and 14 of said act, the authorised officer is taking possession for sale of the mortgage property/secured assets as given below. Borrowers to take note that after receipt of this notice in terms of 13(1) of the act, 2002, you are prohibited and restrained from transferring any of the secured assets by way of sale, lease or otherwise, without prior written consent of the secured creditor. Borrowers' attentions are attracted towards sec-13(8) RW rule 3(5) of the security interest (enforcement) Rule, 2002 Act that the borrower shall be entitled to redeem their secured assets upon the payment of the complete outstanding dues as mentioned below before the publication of auction notice, which thereafter shall cease to exist.

Name of Borrower/Applicant/Guarantor/Mortgagor	Description of Mortgage Property	Date and Amount of Demand Notice U/S 13(2)
(1) Sudeep Kumar W/o Kuldeep (2) Kuldeep S/o Indar Singh (Co-Borrower) All Above Residing At: H. No. 494 Village Gadh (139) Tehsil Hansi District Hissar Haryana 125033. Loan No. LXHS02919-20007357 & LXHS02420-21009992. Loan Agreement Date: 28-01-2020 & 27-11-2020. Loan Amt. Rs.450000 & 150000	All that part and parcel of Property of Plot No.1971 Dated 26.05.2022 Registered in the Sub-Registrar Office Nigadi District Kamal Haryana Boundaries As Per Technical Report D-11-06-2022. North- East-Property, South-Street-14' West- East-Property Raj Kumar, West-Property Dhyani Singh	8/July/2024 Rs. 12,96,909 Rupees Twelve Lacs Ninety-Six Thousand Nine Hundred and Nine Rupees Only As on 08-July-2024 + Further Interest And Other Charges From 09-July-2024
(1) Krishan Kumar S/o Isam Singh (Borrower) (2) Mamta Devi W/o Krishan Kumar (Co-Borrower) Both Above Residing At: Khera 26 Majora Rodan Karnal Tehsil & District Karnal Haryana 132157. Loan No. LXXRN0322-230017655. Loan Agreement Date: 25-Jun-22. Loan Amt. Rs.1300000/-	All that part and parcel of Property Measuring 1K 00M Out of 40K-12M Which Comprised Kherwa No. 222/1 Khera No.191 Khe 1 Situated at Khera Tehsil Nigadi District Kamal Haryana Vide Transfer Deed Vaska No. 1971 Dated 26.05.2022 Registered in the Sub-Registrar Office Nigadi District Kamal Haryana Boundaries As Per Technical Report D-11-06-2022. North- East-Property, South-Street-14' West- East-Property Raj Kumar, West-Property Dhyani Singh	8/July/2024 Rs. 11,48,363 (Rupees Eleven Lacs Forty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Three Rupees Only) As on 08-July-2024 + Further Interest And Other Charges From 09-July-2024
(1) Pratap S/o Atala, (Borrower) (2) Doli W/o Pratikumar (Co-Borrower) Both Above Residing At Village Chhapur Kalan At: Karsapur Road, Bank Colony, Haryana 132104. Loan No. LXKPT0222-230022670. Loan Agreement Date: 20-Feb-23. Loan Amt. Servant Amount of Rs.850000/- Disbursement Amt. Of Rs. 510000/-	Property Measuring Area 140 Sq.Yds. i.e 4 Marla 6 Sarsa Being 140/19360. Share Out of 20% Measuring 28 Marla 120 Sq.Yds. Situated in Kherwa Tehsil Nigadi District Kamal Haryana Vide Transfer Deed Vaska No. 1971 Dated 26.05.2022 Registered in the Sub-Registrar Office Nigadi District Kamal Haryana Boundaries As Per Technical Report D-11-06-2022. North- East-Property, South-Street-14' West- East-Property Raj Kumar, West-Property Dhyani Singh	8/July/2024 Rs. 5,41,503/- (Rupees Five Lacs Forty One Thousand Five Hundred Three Rupees Only) As on 08-July-2024 + Further Interest And Other Charges From 09-July-2024
(1) Shishpal S/o Siochand, (Borrower) (2) Dewaki S/o Siochand (Co-Borrower) (3) Reetu W/o Shishpal (Co-Borrower) (4) Siochand, S/o Sadhu Ram (Co-Borrower) All Above Residing At: 104 Near Water Works, Elenabad District Sirsa Haryana 1251. Loan No. LXKRS0221-220013007. Loan Agreement Date: 30-Sep-21. Loan Amt. Rs.1100000/-	All that part and parcel of Property of Plot No.19 (Southern Part) Bearing Municipal Plot No. 258/26/258/26 Measuring 02 Marla i.e 60 Sq.Yd. Comprising in Kherwa/Khatoni No. 68/89 Khasra No. 34/18 (80) Being 1/80 Share i.e 02 Marla Situated at Mauja Ratoli HB No.422. Now Known As Banded Vihar Colony Tehsil Jagadhri Yamuna Nagar. Boundaries As-North-West Part of Plot No.19 Southern Part East-Other S Plot West-Other S Plot 20 Wide	09/July/2024 Rs. 5,48,265 (Rupees Five Lacs Forty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Five Rupees Only) As on 08-July-2024 + Further Interest And Other Charges From 09-July-2024
(1) Naresh Kumar S/o Zile (Borrower) (2) Sunam W/o Naresh Kumar (Co-Borrower) Both Above Residing At: Vijay Nagar Near Bhaw Wall Gali Rohatk 124001 Also At: Sunar Kalan (101) Rohatk Haryana-124001. Loan No. LXROH03220-210009469. Loan Agreement Date: 29-Nov-20. Loan Amt. Rs. 1850000/-	All that part and parcel of House at Kila No. 1719 Rakha 7 Kana 9 Marla of 6140 Share Rakha Bakdar 6 Marla Measuring 173.33 Sq.Yd. Mouja Sunar Kalan Near Vijay Nagar Rohatk Bounded As East: Rasta, West: Property Narenda, North: Property of Other, South: Rasta	09/July/2024 Rs. 5,48,265 (Rupees Five Lacs Forty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Five Rupees Only) As on 08-July-2024 + Further Interest And Other Charges From 09-July-2024

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 05/08/2024 at 10:30A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 14.05.2024

Sd/-
Signature of the officer Authorised to Issue Summons.

Border no bar: HC affirms quota benefits for reserved category migrant candidates

SAURABH MALIK

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Rift in UP BJP

Party top brass struggling to curb discord

ALL is not well with the BJP in Uttar Pradesh, which is rightly regarded as the all-important state in political and electoral terms. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath caused a flutter during the state party unit's working committee meeting on Sunday when he said that 'shifting of votes and overconfidence' had hurt the BJP's prospects in UP in the recent Lok Sabha elections. The fissures were plainly visible when Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya said at the meeting that the party organisation was always bigger than the government. Adding to the intra-party intrigue, Maurya met BJP president JP Nadda in New Delhi on Tuesday. Another key stakeholder is state party chief Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary, who has held separate meetings with Nadda and Prime Minister Narendra Modi this week.

The primary reason why the saffron party fell short of a majority in the Lok Sabha this time was its below-par performance in UP. It won just 33 seats (down from 62 in 2019) as the Samajwadi Party-Congress alliance surged ahead with 43 seats in the state that sends 80 members to the Lower House. A big shocker for the BJP was its defeat from Faizabad parliamentary constituency in Ayodhya district, where PM Modi had inaugurated the Ram Mandir in January. The PM himself won the Varanasi seat by around 1.52 lakh votes, nowhere near his victory margin of 4.79 lakh votes in the 2019 polls.

With 10 Assembly seats in the state set to witness byelections in the coming months, the party high command is struggling to bring Yogi, Maurya and Chaudhary on the same page. Once seen as an understudy to PM Modi, Yogi now finds his stature diminished due to the recent electoral setback. Considering the spirited resurgence of the SP-Congress combine, the BJP will only cede more ground if it doesn't put its UP house in order on priority.

Educational deadlock

Punjab, Centre must resolve differences

THE Punjab education sector has been caught in the crosshairs of the ongoing political feud between the Bhagwant Mann-led AAP government in Punjab and the BJP-led regime at the Centre. The recent setbacks in both higher and school education systems underscore the urgent need for a resolution to safeguard the future of students and the welfare of teachers and other staff. A significant blow was dealt recently when the President of India returned the Punjab Universities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2023. This Bill, passed during a special Assembly session in June last year, sought to replace the Governor with the Chief Minister as the Chancellor of state-run universities. The President's refusal to clear the Bill has left the administrative structure of Punjab's higher education in limbo.

Compounding this issue is the Centre withholding Punjab's share of over Rs 500 crore under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. This crucial funding, meant for upgrading the public school infrastructure, has been halted because of the state's withdrawal from the PM Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) scheme. Punjab says that it has done so as it already has its own comparable schemes, like 'Schools of Eminence', 'Schools of Brilliance' and 'Schools of Happiness', which would be linked with the National Education Policy. The impasse has stalled vital upgrade of school infrastructure, impacting the quality of education. The Centre must ensure a fair distribution of funds.

The state and Central governments need to resolve these disputes on priority. It is imperative that educational institutions receive the necessary support and resources to operate effectively, fostering a stable and conducive learning environment. The ongoing political tussle threatens to undermine the state's long-term developmental goals, underscoring the need for a more collaborative and less adversarial approach to governance.

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

LAHORE, FRIDAY, JULY 18, 1924

Common programme

NO newspaper has oftener or more consistently pleaded for a common political programme for the whole of the party of self-government in India than ourselves. It is, therefore, with peculiar interest that we have read the article which Mahatma Gandhi has written in the current issue of *Young India*. The opening lines of the article are a clear statement both of its genesis and of the Mahatma's views on this vitally important subject. "Friends have asked me," he writes, "to suggest one universal programme in which Rajas, Maharajas, No-changers, Pro-changers, Liberals, Independents, practising lawyers and all others could join without reserve. I am asked to suggest such a programme with the conditions that it must be effective and swift enough for the attainment of Swaraj. The most effective and swiftest programme I can suggest is the adoption and organisation of *Khaddar*, the promotion of Hindu-Muslim unity and the removal of the Hindus of untouchability. It is my unalterable belief that if these three things are achieved, we can establish Swaraj without the slightest difficulty. I further believe that if all the parties wholeheartedly work on the programme, it can succeed within one year." Before we examine the suggestion itself, it may not be out of place to say a word regarding the method by which the Mahatma has sought to arrive at a common programme. The method he has followed is the method of elimination instead of being what we for ourselves have always held that it ought to be, the method of coordination and integration.

Budget must aim for inclusive development

Policymakers would do well to maintain the steep rise in capital expenditure



SUSHMA RAMACHANDRAN
SENIOR FINANCIAL JOURNALIST

THE first Budget of the new government is being prepared in the backdrop of continuing tensions in the geopolitical arena. The Russia-Ukraine war and the Israel-Hamas conflict show no signs of abating. The domestic economy may be growing in a sustained manner at around 8 per cent, but the outlook may alter, depending on the stability of the external environment. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman must be hoping that global oil prices would remain subdued and that Western economies emerge from recessionary trends that have affected export growth. Keeping international ocean lanes free from strife will also be critical to avoiding an undue rise in costs of inbound or outbound trade. Clearly, the external headwinds have the potential of playing spoilsport with the India growth story. It is, therefore, essential that the Budget keep the focus on strengthening key sectors like infrastructure and services while supporting agriculture and the rural economy in equal measure.

On the infrastructure front, policymakers would do well to maintain the steep rise in capital expenditure recorded over the past few years. The 2024-25 Interim Budget scaled down the earlier 30 per cent rise in capex to about 16.9 per cent, but a higher increase is warranted, given the vast infrastructure gap in the country. Though this may not create a huge number of skilled jobs immediately, it will undoubtedly have a long-term impact on employment creation. The fact that the Reserve Bank of India has transferred Rs 2.11



PRIORITY: Job creation is bound to be high on the government's agenda. PTI

lakh crore to the Central Government exchequer gives it considerable cushion to continue in this direction during the current fiscal as well.

The Budget will also need to move towards creating an easier climate for private investment, which has been lagging behind the public sector. While policies already in place — such as the production-linked incentive schemes — will give a boost to manufacturing, procedures need to be further streamlined. The regulatory environment has certainly come a long way since the 1991 economic reforms. But comparisons with the past are no longer relevant. Comparisons now need to be made with other emerging economies. Countries like Vietnam and Indonesia are offering simpler and easier investment regimes, an attraction for multinationals to set up base there. India, in contrast, is not looking so appealing.

Domestic investors have to contend with higher capital and logistics costs. Yet, the main hurdle for both domestic and foreign investors remains the plethora of clearances needed to set up new projects. These issues are now largely at the level of the

Social welfare policies are clearly welcome in the short term, but they must make way for sustainable development in the long run.

states or even local municipalities. Bringing the ease of doing business down to this level needs to be part of next-generation reforms.

An indication that this is already being considered lies in the economic statement issued with the 2024-25 Interim Budget in February. It referred to improving governance at the block, district and village levels. A one-time loan to states, amounting to Rs 75,000 crore, was also offered for growth and development-oriented reforms. The focus areas were identified as health, education,

skilling and land acquisition.

The only snag in this plan is that not all states will cooperate despite the availability of loans to carry out reforms. BJP-ruled states are bound to comply with directives from the Centre, but the same response may not be forthcoming from other states. The aim of kickstarting next-generation reforms may, thus, be only partially successful. At the same time, some states, especially in the southern region, already seem to have streamlined regulatory processes. The result is that investors are making a beeline for them. For instance, tech giants like Apple and Microsoft are locating new projects primarily in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Policies adopted by these states need to be studied and replicated in others.

In this context, budgetary provisions need to be made for the critical segment of education and skilling. While job creation is bound to be high on the government agenda, the fact is that many sectors are facing a shortage of skilled personnel. There is also a mismatch between the type of education and the specific skills needed by the industry. Long-

term policy prescriptions should be formulated to resolve this issue but, in the short run, the upcoming Budget can provide adequate allocations for skilling institutes.

In addition, education needs to be given greater attention. This is a country with excellent higher education institutes like the IITs and IIMs, but primary and secondary education are in a dismal state. Here, too, the Centre and the states need to work together to ensure that our large, youthful population is well equipped to enter the workforce.

The Finance Ministry also needs to give more support to services like travel and tourism, both in terms of their contribution to the GDP as well as employment creation. The hospitality industry is seeking infrastructure status for hotels to enable it to access better financing options and attract more investment. This sector is rebounding strongly from the Covid-induced collapse, but some targeted support would expand employment opportunities.

As for the agricultural policy, there is an urgent need to establish agro-linked industries in rural areas. Along with incentives to set them up, systems are needed to be established so that farmers can access retail markets in a more direct way. The creation of more income generation avenues as well as basic infrastructure in rural areas must be taken up on an urgent basis. Otherwise, the urban-rural divide will continue to widen in the coming years.

The new government, thus, has an enormous task ahead as it prepares the Budget, even though GDP growth has reached moderately high levels over the past two years. It needs to ensure that growth is inclusive so that all segments of society can reap the benefits. The recent elections have shown that aspirations are rising all over the country. Social welfare policies are clearly welcome in the short term, but they must make way for sustainable development in the long run.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The ultimate resource in economic development is people. —Peter Drucker

Myriad hues of life in Heritage Street

RAMESHINDER SINGH SANDHU

WATCHING the hustle and bustle of daily life from the large windows of a fast food joint on the Heritage Street in Amritsar has become a Sunday morning ritual for me. The eatery is located merely steps away from the Jallianwala Bagh and the Golden Temple. I usually take the same centre table, which affords me a perfect vantage point. With a cappuccino in hand, I get ready for showtime, putting my phone away.

The street is lined with an array of tourist shops, and there's always a flood of visitors — some coming and some departing — all depicting the many hues of fashion. There are families, newly wed couples, large tourist groups and even solo travellers, whose faces tell many stories.

There's always someone to distract them — usually beggars or street vendors selling pens, fridge magnets, handkerchiefs, toys and more. Interestingly, most of them don't give up till they have sold you something. Employees of small hotels nearby also turn up and open their colourful brochures with pictures of the rooms. With a diary in hand, some also do bookings or calculations and end up leading the to-be guests directly to the hotel, maybe for a quick look or instant check-in. Many ignore them, but that doesn't make them lose their zeal.

The street photographers, however, are the most successful in attracting clients, from young couples to family groups. They wander with their latest equipment, and just one or two words get them going. They know the perfect spots for the best shots. They demonstrate one pose or the other to the couples, promising to make their pictures more engaging and romantic. It's intriguing to note how some customers exude confidence and others shyness. After all, everyone is different. Worth admiring is the confidence and enthusiasm of these photographers — usually in their twenties or thirties — some of whom also stand out for their attire.

It's amusing when sellers of *kulfi* and chilled *lassi* suddenly turn up; both items are sold out quickly. Within minutes, the young and the old get busy savouring the goodies. Dogs sit around, enjoying the treat in their imagination and, at times, they do get lucky. Many can be seen relishing *golgappas* even around 9 am — such is the fascination for them. Souvenir shop owners keep beckoning customers, announcing attractive deals.

Amid all this activity, there are many who are seated around me, glued to their phones, missing out on the 'live exhibition' and its many surprises. That's why I can't wait for the next Sunday morning to take the same table. Roy Thurston, an American artist, said, "The most satisfying and basic art experience is looking — pure, unmediated observation and sensation." Absolutely true.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Review counter-terror approach

Apropos of the editorial 'No let-up in J&K terror'; there has been a rise in the number of terrorist attacks and terrorism-related incidents in the region in recent months. Jammu, which remained mostly untouched by terrorism until recently, has recorded an alarmingly high number of casualties. This has raised questions about the effectiveness of the current strategies and the need for a re-evaluation of the approach to counter-terrorism and internal security. Following the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, there was a glimmer of hope that peace would last in J&K. But with the region slipping back into the cycle of terror and violence, the hope appears to be dimming.

GREGORY FERNANDES, MUMBAI

Intelligence compromised

When militants get away with killing four soldiers, including an officer, in an operation launched by the security forces, it indicates a systemic failure. Jammu and Kashmir DGP RR Swain has blamed regional politics in the Valley for Pakistan's infiltration into the Kashmiri civil society. It is apparent that intelligence about the operation had been compromised. This calls for a review of the 'hot pursuit' strategy. Besides, all efforts at creating a 'unified command' since the early days of terrorism have come to naught. With the J&K Lieutenant Governor receiving more powers, the situation is unlikely to change.

LT COL GS BEDI (RETD), MOHALI

Time for America to reflect

The brutal attempt on Donald Trump's life must be condemned in the harshest terms. It throws the spotlight back on the gun culture prevalent in the US. Four US Presidents have been assassinated in the past while they were in office. America is always quick to lecture the rest of the world on human rights, intolerance, the plight of minorities and democracy. Yet, it harbours Khalistani terrorists on its soil. It is time for Washington to reflect on which direction it is heading.

SHAM MURARI SHARMA, CHANDIGARH

A shot in the arm for Trump

The assassination attempt on former US President Donald Trump has sent shockwaves across the US and the world. The episode carries huge consequences. Trump's message to 'fight, fight, fight!' has already become a rallying cry for his supporters. Notably, the shootout came at a time when Joe Biden's viability as a candidate was under the scanner. The incident is set to shake up the presidential campaign. Trump, who often portrays himself as a political martyr, will surely benefit from the attack electorally. How Biden gets his campaign back on track will be closely watched.

DILPREET KAUR, CHANDIGARH

Vance the right choice

Donald Trump's decision to pick Senator James David Vance as his running mate may be the shot in the arm his campaign needed. Once a vocal critic of Trump, Vance has transformed into his most ardent defender. Their personal affinity and shared populist ideology could energise the Republican voter base. Vance's youth, military background and Yale Law School credentials make him an excellent V-P candidate. His connection with White working-class voters and his potential to attract Silicon Valley donors are assets for the party. This ticket may be the most formidable of our lifetime. Love him or hate him, Trump's V-P pick could reshape the political landscape.

SARGUNPREET KAUR, MOHALI

Indians take over the world

From US Vice-President Kamala Harris to Usha Chilukuri, the wife of Donald Trump's running mate, women of Indian origin have been taking over the world. It just adds to the pantheon of Indian women who have brought laurels to the country. Astronauts Sunita Williams and late Kalpana Chawla, former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley, business executive Indra Nooyi and Akshata Murty — the list of Indian-origin women attaining success in the West keeps growing. It is a matter of great pride for our country.

SQN LDR KK SHARMA (RETD), NANGAL

Address ethical concerns to optimise AI use



AMAL CHANDRA
AUTHOR AND COLUMNIST

INDIA is at a pivotal juncture in its technological evolution, with artificial intelligence (AI) rapidly advancing in sectors like healthcare, agriculture, education and finance. Government initiatives such as the National Strategy for AI (NSAI) and NITI Aayog's efforts highlight India's ambition to be a global AI leader. The 'AI For All' initiative aims to democratise AI, ensuring inclusive growth and accessibility for all citizens. Collaborative efforts between government bodies and private sector companies are fostering a robust environment for AI innovation and application.

A robust policy framework is crucial for sustainable AI development. The Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019, emphasises safeguarding citizens' data, addressing surveillance, data misuse and ethical AI use. Given AI systems' handling of vast personal data, stringent data protection laws are central to ensuring secure data handling and prevent breaches. Ethical AI development must align with guidelines promoting fairness, transparency, accountability and bias avoidance. Regulatory sandboxes can facilitate supervised testing of AI solu-

tions by startups and researchers, encouraging innovation while upholding ethical standards. Addressing algorithmic bias is essential to ensuring fairness and inclusivity in AI applications. Frameworks for ethical AI use that promote fairness, accountability and transparency can build public trust. It involves educating people about AI's benefits and potential risks.

India faces challenges pertaining to technological infrastructure, data availability and a skilled workforce. These challenges present opportunities for upskilling and education initiatives to build AI expertise. Investment in AI infrastructure, like data centres, cloud computing and high-speed Internet, is crucial. Encouraging AI research through grants, scholarships and collaborations between academia and industry can drive innovation. Building public trust in AI involves transparent communication about its benefits and risks and addressing fears of job displacement due to AI automation. Global collaborations, learning from the EU's AI strategy and OECD AI Principles enhance India's AI policies. Leveraging AI boosts India's global tech competitiveness. A balanced regulatory approach fosters innovation aligned with public interest and ethics. Incentives for AI research, development and startup investments nurture a vibrant innovation ecosystem, supporting AI-driven startups and SMEs (small and medium enterprises).

AI can tackle major societal



BENEFICIAL: In healthcare, AI enables early diagnosis, personalised treatment and efficient delivery. ISTOCK

challenges. In healthcare, it enables early diagnosis, personalised treatment and efficient delivery, improving outcomes. In education, AI-driven tools offer personalised learning and adaptive technologies, revolutionising the landscape. For environmental sustainability, AI helps monitor resources, predict natural disasters and mitigate the impacts of climate change, optimising energy, agriculture and waste management for more sustainable practices.

In agriculture, AI-driven precision farming boosts productivity, optimises resources and supports farmers with predictive analytics. In healthcare, AI improves diagnostics and treatment recommendations. Public-private partnerships with tech giants like Google, Microsoft and IBM foster AI research, training and capacity-building, keeping India at the forefront of AI innovation.

India is actively advancing

AI through initiatives like the NSAI by NITI Aayog, promoting AI research, development and deployment in healthcare, agriculture, education, smart cities and infrastructure. The 'AI For All' initiative aims to democratise AI, enhancing literacy and capacity-building. Practical applications, such as the Aarogya Setu for Covid-19 contact tracing and health updates, highlight AI's real-world impact.

A balanced AI policy involves creating a regulatory environment that fosters innovation while protecting the public interest. Developing and enforcing ethical standards for AI development and deployment are crucial. Ensuring AI systems are designed with fairness, accountability and transparency is essential to building public trust. Comprehensive data protection laws are critical to safeguarding personal information and promoting best practices for

India's unique demographic and socioeconomic context provides a fertile ground for AI applications.

data security and privacy, preventing data breaches and misuse and ensuring responsible AI use.

Inclusive and participatory policy-making is essential for effective AI policies. India's AI landscape is grounded in substantial data and real-world examples, highlighting its transformative potential. For instance, AI-driven initiatives like the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission aim to integrate digital health infrastructure with AI capabilities to improve patient outcomes and streamline healthcare services. Accenture predicts that AI could add \$957 billion to India's economy by 2035, underscoring the economic imperative of robust AI integration.

India's unique demographic and socioeconomic context provides a fertile ground for AI applications. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research collaborates with IBM to use AI for crop yield prediction, pest control and weather forecasting, significantly aiding farmers in the decision-making process. AI-driven precision farming techniques, as per the Ministry of Agriculture, can increase crop yields by up to 30 per cent, showcasing the tangible benefits of AI adoption in this sector.

In the field of education, AI-powered platforms like Vedantu have revolutionised learning by providing personalised education experiences. These platforms leverage AI algorithms to tailor educational content to individual learning styles and paces, improving student engage-

ment and performance. The market size of Indian online education, driven by AI advancements, crossed \$5 billion in 2023, highlighting rapid sector expansion.

AI's deployment in urban development is exemplified by initiatives such as the Smart Cities Mission, under which AI manages traffic, enhances public safety and improves urban planning. Surat's AI-driven integrated traffic management system uses data analytics and machine learning to optimise traffic flow, reduce congestion and enhance road safety, resulting in a 12 per cent reduction in traffic delays and a 20 per cent improvement in emergency response times.

NITI Aayog is partnering with C4IR India to create ethical AI frameworks addressing bias, accountability and transparency. This collaboration aims to deploy AI technologies respecting human rights and promoting social equity. For example, AI-based predictive policing systems in Hyderabad and Delhi were piloted with protocols to prevent discriminatory practices and ensure data privacy. Partnerships with countries like Japan, the US and Israel have facilitated knowledge exchange and technological advancements. India's journey towards AI excellence involves a comprehensive and multifaceted approach. By integrating AI into various sectors, establishing robust policy frameworks, addressing ethical and societal concerns and fostering innovation through collaboration, India can harness the full potential of AI.

India needs a strategic approach to hybrid warfare



RK ARORA
EX-COMMANDANT, BSF

IN the evolving landscape of modern warfare, India must adapt to the concept of hybrid warfare to strengthen its defence and deterrence strategies. Hybrid warfare, characterised by a blend of conventional weapons, irregular tactics, cyberattacks and other unconventional methods, requires a nuanced and resilient approach to effectively counter the multifaceted threats from its adversaries. According to NATO, hybrid threats combine military and non-military as well as covert and overt means, including disinformation, economic pressure, deployment of irregular armed groups and the use of regular forces. "Hybrid methods are used to blur the lines between war and peace, and attempt to sow doubt in the minds of target populations. They aim to destabilise and undermine societies... the speed, scale and intensity of hybrid

threats have increased in recent years," observes the US-led alliance.

The cornerstone of India's strategy should be resilience. Leveraging its inherent strengths, India can put adversaries at a disadvantage and fortify its strategic stance against hybrid threats. Eschewing the traditionally rigid distinctions between conventional and irregular warfare, India's approach should recognise the continuum of conflict, integrating various methods and modes of warfare.

India's western border with Pakistan is a significant area of concern. Pakistan has been accused of engaging in hybrid warfare tactics, including sabotage, terrorism and cyberattacks, particularly in regions like Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab. Recent incidents underscore the gravity of the threat. In a deadly encounter in Doda, four Army soldiers, including a Captain, were killed earlier this week, bringing the total number of personnel killed in the region to 48 over the past 32 months. The joint operation by the Army and the Jammu and Kashmir Police highlights the persistent danger of cross-border terrorism. The Army has claimed that a



PAK HAND: Cross-border terrorism remains a persistent threat for security personnel in J&K. PTI

number of measures have been instituted to enhance synergy between various agencies, such as joint training with the J&K Police and Central Armed Police Forces and "a robust intelligence-sharing mechanism between the Army, the police and other intelligence agencies".

The rise of narco-terrorism and the use of drones for cross-border insurgency reflects the evolving nature of this hybrid conflict. Pakistan's support for proxy forces, terrorist organisations and drug cartels poses a severe threat to India's security. The blending of advanced military capabili-

Leveraging its inherent strengths, India can put adversaries at a disadvantage and fortify its strategic stance against hybrid threats.

ties with irregular tactics has been a persistent issue, necessitating preparedness to deflect these 'wars in the shadows' while enhancing collective defence capabilities.

On the northern front, India's relations with China present a different set of challenges. China's strategy includes psychological, political and legal tactics — collectively known as the 'three warfares' — to achieve its geopolitical goals. The Chinese investment in the United Front Work Department to influence the Chinese diaspora and foreign communities, along with the use of front organisations, exempli-

fies its hybrid warfare strategy. Beijing's increasing use of commercial security operations to protect its interests abroad, coupled with its blurred tactics and quasi-military forces in the maritime domain, underscores its innovative approach to hybrid conflicts. The likelihood of indirect and proxy Chinese intervention is a growing concern, particularly as China expands its influence across Asia and beyond.

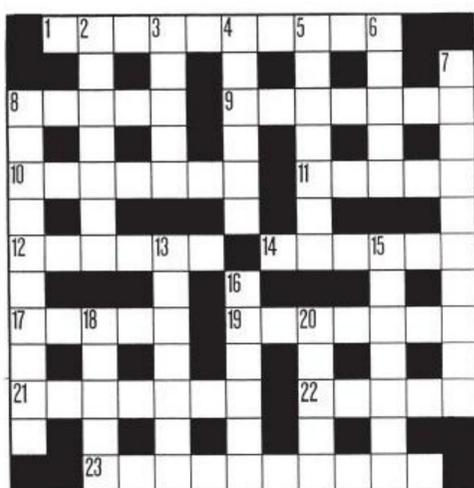
The insurgency landscape within India also demands attention. The spate of terror attacks in the Jammu region and the continued unrest in Manipur highlight the internal challenges. Additionally, the Naxal insurgency in central India remains a significant threat, with numerous attacks on security forces and civilians. In response to the rising terror incidents, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has reviewed the security situation, discussing counter-terrorism efforts with top officials. The situation in Punjab is also concerning, with increased activities of narco-terrorism and drone infiltrations from Pakistan necessitating a robust response.

To effectively counter these hybrid threats, India must integrate hybrid warfare into its defence strategies. This involves over-

coming natural disadvantages and leveraging India's strengths, interests and values. India's strategic approach should emphasise resilience, with border guarding forces and Army personnel equipped to handle advanced technologies and hybrid threats. The ongoing conflicts in Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur and other regions underscore the need for a robust and adaptive defence strategy. India must be prepared to counter both direct and indirect threats from Pakistan and China, utilising a comprehensive approach that includes conventional military capabilities, irregular tactics and cyber defence.

As India navigates the complex landscape of hybrid warfare, it is crucial to adopt a flexible strategy. By integrating hybrid warfare into its defence framework, leveraging its strengths, and preparing for the diverse threats from Pakistan, China and internal insurgencies, India can enhance its security and maintain stability in the region. This strategic shift, while challenging, is essential for safeguarding India's national interests and ensuring its sovereignty in an increasingly hybrid conflict environment.

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- The largest portion (5,5)
- Made a fool of (5)
- Protest bitterly (7)
- Having no brand name (7)
- Fashionable elegance (5)
- Chop apart (6)
- A summary (6)
- Imposing display (5)
- Describe graphically (7)
- Warhorse (7)
- Surface shine (5)
- Down-to-earth shrewdness (5,5)

DOWN

- Encroach (7)
- Lowest point (5)
- Inform (6)
- Counsellor (7)
- One of Bronte sisters (5)
- Bashful amorous glances (6,4)
- Virtually no prospect (4,6)
- Traveller (7)
- Eager to know (7)
- Thinly scattered (6)
- Arrive at (5)
- Scoundrel (5)

Yesterday's solution

Across: 1 Imbibe, 4 Squirm, 9 Stomach, 10 Aspen, 11 Ditto, 12 Combine, 13 For the birds, 18 Cry wolf, 20 Peace, 22 Ample, 23 Ecuador, 24 Lessen, 25 Adroit.

Down: 1 Inside, 2 Boost, 3 Bear out, 5 Qualm, 6 Implied, 7 Monkey, 8 Chicken feed, 14 Olympus, 15 Impound, 16 Scrawl, 17 Ferret, 19 Obese, 21 Audio.

SU DO KU

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

V. HARD

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

CALENDAR

JULY 18, 2024, THURSDAY

- Shaka Samvat 1946
- Aashadh Shaka 27
- Shravan Parvishte 3
- Hijri 1446
- Shukla Paksha Tithi 12, up to 8.45 pm
- Shukla Yoga up to 6.13 am
- Brahma Yoga up to 4.44 am
- Jyeshtha Nakshatra up to 3.25 am
- Moon enters Sagittarius sign 3.25 am

FORECAST

CITY	MAX	MIN
Chandigarh	35	26
New Delhi	36	29
Amritsar	37	29
Bathinda	39	29
Jalandhar	36	30
Ludhiana	36	27
Bhiani	37	31
Hisar	35	28
Sirsa	37	28
Dharamsala	29	19
Manali	29	20
Shimla	23	17
Srinagar	32	19
Jammu	35	27
Kargil	32	18
Leh	30	13
Dehradun	30	24
Mussoorie	24	17

TEMPERATURE IN °C

PM to chair NITI Aayog meeting, Punjab's multi-crore dues high on Oppn agenda

States ruled by INDIA bloc partners likely to seek review of new criminal laws

ANIMESH SINGH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 17
The Punjab Government's long-pending demand of release of pending amount of the Rural Development Fund (RDF) worth Rs 6,500 crore from the Centre is among the key issues likely to come up during the meeting of the NITI Aayog's governing council, to be chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 27. The theme of the meeting will be the ways to achieve the goal of 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

According to sources, buoyed by its increased presence in the Lok Sabha after the General Election, Chief Ministers of nine INDIA bloc-

ruled states, including Delhi, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, are likely to pressure the government to review the three criminal laws, which came into force on July 1.

Significantly as the governing council meeting is attended by the CMs and L-Gs, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's absence will be in sharp focus, as he is currently in jail in connection with the Delhi excise policy case.

The sources said the CMs of the opposition-ruled states are likely to seek a response from the PM as to how the goal of 'Viksit Bharat' will be achieved by 2047, especially if the states' dues are not released on time by the Centre. With ample representation of



MANN RAISED ISSUE

■ The AAP-led Punjab Government has frequently raised the issue of non-release of the Rural Development Fund to the state
■ Last year, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had alleged that the Centre was "unnecessarily harassing" the state by stalling the release of dues

opposition-ruled states, the meeting may witness stormy scenes. The INDIA bloc-ruled states are Punjab, Himachal

Pradesh, Delhi, Karnataka, Telangana, Jharkhand, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

The AAP-led Punjab Government has been consistently raising the RDF issue with Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann having even alleged last year that the Centre was "unnecessarily harassing" the state by stalling the release of the pending amount.

He had alleged that despite the state government having completed all formalities, the Centre was deliberately not releasing the funds to it. He has in the past also hinted at the possibility of moving a court to seek the release of RDF dues.

Meanwhile, a meeting of resident commissioners of all states will be held on July 18,

where the agenda and preparations for the July 27 governing council meeting will be discussed. Thursday's meeting will be chaired by the think tank's vice-chairman Suman Bery.

A vision document is being prepared for India to become a developed economy of \$30 trillion by 2047, the 100th year of its Independence.

In 2023, the Aayog was given the task of consolidating the 10 sectoral thematic visions into a combined vision for 'Viksit Bharat' plan. The vision encompasses various aspects of development, including growth, social progress, environmental sustainability and good governance, among others.

'I'm not a terrorist', Kejriwal tells HC

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 17

Asserting that he was "not a terrorist", but the Chief Minister of Delhi, AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday assailed his arrest by the CBI in a corruption case linked to the excise policy 'scam' and sought his release on bail, saying his arrest was not as per the law.

"It is unfortunately an insurance arrest. I have effectively three release orders in his favour (in the ED case) under very stringent provisions... These orders show that the man is entitled to be released. He would have been released, but for this insurance arrest," senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi told Justice Neena Bansal Krishna on behalf of Kejriwal.



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal. FILE

'INSURANCE ARREST'

It is unfortunately an insurance arrest. I have three release orders in his favour under very stringent provisions... He would have been released, but for this insurance arrest.

Abhishek Manu Singhvi, SENIOR ADVOCATE

On June 2. On June 26, Kejriwal was arrested by the CBI in a corruption case linked to the excise policy scam. He has challenged his arrest by the CBI before the high court.

Probe agencies alleged that irregularities were committed while modifying the excise policy and undue favours extended to licence holders.

The Supreme Court had on July 12 granted interim bail to Kejriwal in a money-laundering case linked to excise policy 'scam' even as it referred certain legal issues arising out of his petition against arrest under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act to a larger Bench. (With PTI inputs)

Govt seizes slain gangster Atiq's ₹50-cr property

PRAYAGRAJ, JULY 17

Slain gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed's property worth about Rs 50 crore, allegedly brought using money earned from criminal activities, has been transferred to the government.

District Government Advocate (Criminal) Gulab Chandra Agrahari said Atiq had bought 2.377 hectares of land in the name of a mason Hoobalal from the earnings of crime. While registering the land in the name of Hoobalal, Atiq had said that if needed, he would get the land registered in his name.

Agrahari said the property was attached by the Police Commissioner Court under the Gangsters Act and three months were given to file a reply. But no evidence was presented by the party concerned as proof of ownership of the land. — PTI

State polls: BJP leaders for strategy change

ADITI TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 17

Two top BJP leaders on Wednesday made "provocative" statements in respect of minorities raising questions on whether the party was recalibrating its strategy in the wake of below-par Lok Sabha poll performance and looming elections in key states.

Addressing the West Bengal BJP executive meeting, Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly Suwendu Adhikari called for an end to "sabka saath sabka vikas" approach, a remark he later eschewed. "Sabka saath sabha vikas" is PM Narendra Modi's slogan to describe the BJP-led NDA government's governance model. "I had spoken about nationalist Modi and you had said 'sabka saath sabka vikas'. I will not say this anymore. Instead we will now say — jo hamarey

WANT TO TONE DOWN 'SABKA SAATH' PITCH

Forget 'sabka saath'... minority morcha not needed. Suwendu Adhikari

Rising Muslim population... matter of life and death. Himanta Biswa Sarma

If in power, Cong would give quota to Muslims in Haryana. Amit Shah

saath, hum unke saath. Stop this 'sabka saath sabka vikas'. Minority morcha is not needed," Adhikari said at the meeting.

At a separate event in Assam, CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, flagging concerns around changing demography, said, "The Muslim population in the state was 12 per cent in 1951. Today, it is 40 per cent. This is a major concern. This is not a political matter for me. It is a matter of life and death."

After an uproar over his statement, Adhikari took to X, saying the remarks had been misrepresented.

"My statement is being taken out of context. I am clear that those who are nationalists, stand for this nation and Bengal, we should be with them. Those who don't stand with us, work against the interests of the nation and Bengal, we need to expose them. Also, like Mamata Banerjee, we shouldn't divide people in majority and minority and see them as Indians. I embody in letter and spirit, PM's call for 'sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas, sabka prayas'," he said.

During the Lok Sabha election campaign, Modi had faced the Opposition's wrath for using "ghus-pethiye" and "those with more children" remarks at a

rally, although he later clarified he was only questioning Congress' appeasement policies and not speaking about the Muslims.

In Haryana on Tuesday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah repeated the party line of not allowing any Backward Class quota for the Muslims and warned, "If the Congress comes to power in Haryana, it would give reservation to the Muslims like it did in Karnataka."

With top leaders making these statements, it appears the BJP could be returning to attempts at majority consolidation with an eye on upcoming Assembly elections in Haryana, Delhi and Jharkhand and later in West Bengal and Assam in 2026. In Bengal, the BJP has much to worry about having lost three Assembly bypolls where it had sitting MLAs who switched over to the TMC and won with bigger margins than before.

After crackdown, Assam sees 81% dip in child marriages

AKSHEEV THAKUR
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 17

Owing to the Assam Government's stringent action against child marriages under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006, and the POCSO Act, 2012, there has been a reduction in such cases by 81 per cent since 2022, says a report released on Wednesday.

In 2023, Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma launched a

state-wide drive against child marriages under the PCMA and the POCSO Act, stating that marrying a minor girl was not only against the law, but it also breached the fundamental rights of a girl child and was dangerous to her health. This brought down child marriage cases in 20 districts of Assam from 3,225 in 2021-22 to 627 in 2023-24.

In 2023, 3,015 arrests were made in cases involving child marriages in Assam.



A report on child marriages being released in Delhi. MR BHUI

"The drive against child marriage has resulted in reg-

istration of 5,225 FIRs under the PCMA and the POCSO Act. The CM announced that the police will retrospectively arrest those involved in child marriage in the past seven years," says report titled 'Towards Justice Ending Child Marriage' by a team of the India Child Protection. The report was released by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) on Wednesday.

Early this year, the Assam

Cabinet repealed the age-old Assam Muslim Marriages & Divorces Registration Act. This Act contained provisions allowing marriage registration even if the bride and groom had not reached the legal ages of 18 and 21, respectively, as required by the law. "Across India, civil society organisations have successfully prevented 14,137 child marriages in 2023-24 by using legal interventions," it says.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice

Sr. DEN-H/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date- 06.08.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information log on to www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Bid System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
15.07.2024 / 22:25 Hrs	23.07.2024	06.08.2024/ 15:00 Hrs

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender
1.	140-2024-25-JAT-DRM-FZR	Provision of 03 Nos. Deep Borewell including pipe line and pumphouse at Jammu under ADEN/JAT.
		Advertised Value (Rs.) Earnest Money Validity of Offer Period of Completion
		2,00,97,339.31/- 2,50,500.00/- 60 Days 06 Months

Similar nature of work :- "Construction/Boring of deep tube wells/ Ranney Wells".

Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. Tender Notice No:- 140-2024-25-JAT-DRM-FZR Dated: 16.07.2024 2171/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

TENDER NOTICE

Haryana Civil Secretariat, Sector-1, Chandigarh

Sealed tenders are invited by Under Secretary (General) Govt. of Haryana, in Haryana Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh from the eligible firms/company/contractors for the work detailed as under:-

Description of work:-
Full Service Maintenance Agreement (FSMA) for Xerox Photostat Machines in Haryana Civil Secretariat, Sector-1, Chandigarh till 31.03.2025.

Terms & Conditions:-

- Tender form can be obtained from the office of Administrative Officer Branch, Room No. 39 at 5th floor in Haryana Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh, during office hours.
- The Under Secretary (General) to Government Haryana reserves the right to reject/accept the tender without assigning any reason.

Name of Work	Amount of Earnest Deposit Money	Cost of tender form	Date of issue of tender form	Last Date of receipt of tender form	Date of Opening of tender form	Time limit
Full Service Maintenance Agreement (FSMA)	Rs. 50,000/-	Rs. 100/-	19.07.2024 to 09.08.2024	09.08.2024	12.08.2024 at 12:45 PM in the O/o US (G) Room No. 50, 5th Floor, Haryana Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh	Till the period of 31.03.2025

Dated, Chandigarh, the 17 July, 2024

Sd/- (Sanjeev Kumar)
Under Secretary (General)
to Govt. of Haryana.

PRDH/1016/11/4/1/2025/2792/31/4

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) in Rupees	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/ EMAIL
1	PANCHAYATI RAJ KURUKSHETRA	SHAMSI PUR (KATCHI PHIRNI) 5.21838.14 CONSTRUCTION OF PHIRNI FROM H/O BHAJAN SINGH TO SHAMSHANGHAT AT VILLAGE SHAMSIPUR, BLOCK THANESAR, DISTT. KURUKSHETRA + 5 WORKS	15.07.2024 30.07.2024	58.02 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9896224357 prexeeng.kr@hry.nic.in
2	PANCHAYATI RAJ SONIPAT	CONSTRUCTION OF BALMIKI CHAUPAL AT VILLAGE SANDAL KALAN NIWADA BLOCK SONIPAT + 12 WORKS	CLOSING DATE 22.07.2024	78.17 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416391006 prexeeng.sn@gmail.com
3	PANCHAYATI RAJ JHAJJAR	67.16-CONST. OF SUB HEALTH CENTRE AT VILLAGE DABODA KHURD, BLOCK BAHADURGARH + 2 WORKS	15.07.2024 22.07.2024	164.57 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416721433 prexeeng.jr@hry.nic.in
4	PANCHAYATI RAJ SONIPAT	CONSTRUCTION OF PCVAT VILLAGE NAKLOI, BLOCK KHARKHODA	CLOSING DATE 25.07.2024	12.62 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416391006 prexeeng.sn@gmail.com
5	PANCHAYATI RAJ SONIPAT	CONST. OF BIRSHAW PANA CHAUPAL AT VILLAGE GHARWAL (VAGY) + 21 WORKS	CLOSING DATE 29.07.2024	250.26 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416391006 prexeeng.sn@gmail.com
6	PWD B&R PALWAL	SPECIAL REPAIR BY PROVIDING 30MM BC ON H.L BRIDGE TO BAGHPUR KALAN (ID 3613) FROM RD 0 TO 0.65KM, RD 0.684 TO 2.30KM, RD 2.355 TO 2.60KM UNDER CM ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 27377 DT. 12.04.2023) IN PALWAL DISTRICT. (WITHOUT GST)	CLOSING DATE 22.07.2024	40.54 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9466219169 pwd-eeep-palwal@hry.nic.in
7	HARYANA INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION HIPA PLOT NO. 76 SECTOR - 18 GURUGRAM	STATIONARY AND OTHER ITEMS	11.07.2024 02.08.2024	40000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9999330686 rekhad@hipa.in
8	PWD B&R AMBALA CANTT.	CONST. OF THE PROPOSED A STADIUM AT VILLAGE THOL IN DISTRICT KURUKSHETRA (PDG, INTERNAL AND ESTATE E ONLY) AND 01 OTHER	17.07.2024 23.07.2024	16.69 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0171-2630877 pwd-eeed-ambala@hry.nic.in
9	DIRECTORATE OF STATE TRANSPORT HARYANA CHANDIGARH	PURCHASE OF 18 NOS. FULLY BUILT UP DIESEL ENGINE SUPER LUXURY AC BUSES MEETING LATEST BS VI EMISSION NORMS WITH AMC FOR TEN YEARS	11.07.2024 05.08.2024	29 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01722710371 dtpcnldr@gmail.com
10	PANCHAYATI RAJ SONIPAT	CONSTRUCTION OF IPB STREET FROM H/O SULEMAN TO H/O RANDHEER AT VILLAGE PIPLI KHERA BLOCK MURTHAL GP	CLOSING DATE 22.07.2024	16.59 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9818043960 vpmaman2011@gmail.com
11	PANCHAYATI RAJ ROHTAK	AJAB CONSTRUCTION OF B/WALL AND GATE AND SHED IN STADIUM AT VILLAGE AJAB UNDER HGVS SCHEME 2024-25 + 17 WORKS	15.07.2024 30.07.2024	427.70 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01262254150 prexeeng.roh@hry.nic.in
12	DIRECTORATE OF STATE TRANSPORT HARYANA CHANDIGARH	HIRING AGENCY/ FIRM FOR DEVELOPMENT, INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF COMPUTERIZED AUDIO - VISUAL PASSENGER INFORMATION (PIS)	18.07.2024 12.08.2024	90 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01722710371 dtpcnldr@gmail.com
13	HEALTH DEPARTMENT HARYANA PANCHKULA	NON BIOWASTE MANAGEMENT (GENERAL WASTE)	19.07.2024 03.08.2024	50000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2562199 gh6pkil@gmail.com
14	HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT HARYANA PALWAL	SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF ALUMINUM THERMAL NET FOR DIFFERENT PROTECTED STRUCTURES (NVP, INH, WALKING TUNNELS) AT IHDC, HODAL (PALWAL) FOR THE YEAR 2024-25	18.07.2024 05.08.2024	16251/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8816915260 ihdchodai@gmail.com
15	PANCHAYATI RAJ BHWANI	4732 COMPLETION OF SHIV DHAM AT VILLAGE LALAWAS, BLOCK KAIRU + 18 WORKS	12.07.2024 19.07.2024	166.98 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01664243927 prexeeng.bhw@hry.nic.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

PRDH/11/2025/300/27920/31/4

LIFE HARYANA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

C-11, Sector 6, Panchkula
Ph. 0172-577870-73, Fax No. 2581201
E-mail: hspcbcoordination@gmail.com Website: hspcb.org.in

NOTICE FOR PUBLIC HEARING

It is for the information of concerned that M/s Shree Shyam Waste Management Private Limited, Bhwani has proposed Integrated Municipal Solid Waste Management Project for Bhwani Cluster (Bawani Khara, Bhwani, Charkhi Dabri and Loharu) at Bhwani Haryana and going to conduct Public Hearing for obtaining Environmental Clearance.

The project proponent mentioned above has applied to the Haryana State Pollution Control Board for conducting the Public Hearing for obtaining Environmental Clearance as per EIA notification dated 14th September, 2006 for the proposed project. Accordingly, the Public Hearing for the above said project has been fixed on **22.08.2024 at 11.00 A.M.** at the site.

Copies of executive summary of the project report and EIA study report, submitted by the project proponent, are available in the Head Office of the Board and on the website of the Board i.e. <https://hspcb.org.in/> as well as in the following offices, which can be perused during office hours, on any working day:-

- Deputy Commissioner, Bhwani.
- Chairman, Zila Parishad, District Bhwani.
- Executive Engineer, Municipal Council, Bhwani.
- Joint Director, District Industries Centre, District Bhwani.
- Regional Officer, Bhwani, Haryana State Pollution Control Board, SCF-32, Sector 13, HUDA, Bhwani.

Notice is hereby given to all concerned to file suggestions, views, comments and objections, if any, on the above said proposed project, to the Chairman, Haryana State Pollution Control Board, C-11, Sector 6, Panchkula as well as Regional Officer, Bhwani, Haryana State Pollution Control Board at SCF-32, HUDA, Bhwani i.e. within 30 days of the publication of this notice. Besides, a Public Hearing will also be held on the Date, Time & Venue mentioned above at the proposed site of the project, which can be attended by any person including Environmental Groups, bona fide residents and others, located at the project site/sites of displacement/sites likely to be affected. Oral/Written suggestions, if any, can also be made during the Public Hearing.

No TA/DA will be admissible for attending the Public Hearing.

Pardeep Kumar, IAS, Member Secretary

PRDH/1209/11/1/4/2/2025/27906/3/31/4

REGARDING 7D THEATRE AMC

There is a 7D Theater at Punjab State War Heroes Memorial and Museum, Amritsar. This 7D theatre has 72 Seated and 14 Minutes 7D Show about Saragarhi is projected. Interested companies for AMC of this theater may send their Quotations to this office as soon as possible.

After the release of this advertisement, the interested companies can come to this office on all other working days except Monday to respect the work and give their Quotations.

Sd/- General Manager,
PSWHMM, Asr.

DPR/Pb/35682

REGIONAL FOOD RESEARCH & ANALYSIS CENTRE
An Autonomous Organization of Department of Horticulture & Food Processing
Udyan Bhawan Campus, 2 Sapru Marg, Lucknow-22601 (U.P.)

HOW TO EARN MONEY & DEVELOP BUSINESS IN FOOD TECHNOLOGY & CLOUD KITCHEN

FEES: Rs. 2,500/- (ONLINE) Date: 20th & 21st July, 2024
Time: 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

CONTENTS: How to start a cloud kitchen. Difference between cloud kitchen and normal restaurant kitchen. License and registration. Kitchen equipment, new material and packaging systems. Staff requirement and job roles. Implementation of the project. Budgeting and costing. Software and web solutions. Digital Marketing. Customer support and future expansion. Integration with online portals and Zomato and Swiggy. Pre-requisite to enter Food Business. Food safety and Food quality to be followed in industry. Food entrepreneurship. Possible food businesses. Certifications needed. Mandatory rules to be followed. Food business operations. Food processing technologies. Fruit, vegetable, meat, fish, poultry, dairy and dairy products. Bakery, Namkeen and confectionery. Packaging technology. Laboratory testing for food and water. Branding and marketing of food products.

M.: 9811047670, 9599713406
E-CERTIFICATE WILL BE AWARDED. Website: www.rfac.gov.in

LIMITED SEATS

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
Regd. Office: PSEB, Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001
CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813, Website: www.pspcl.in
Add. SE, DS Division Model Town, PSPCL, Patiala
Contact Number: 96461-15384

Tender Enquiry No. 01/2024-25 Date: 19.07.2024

Assistant Engineer, DS Sub Division Civil Lines, Officers Flat No. 26 Near 23 No. Phatak PSPCL, Patiala invites Open Tenders for hiring of official vehicle for the official use of Assistant Engineer, DS Sub Division Civil Lines Patiala. For detailed NIT & tender specifications, kindly visit DS Division Model Town, Patiala by 10 a.m. dated 05.08.2024 and same shall be submitted up to 05.08.2024 at 02 p.m.

Note: Corrigendum and amendment, if any, will be displayed on office Notice Board not to be published in Newspaper.

C 447/24 DPR/Pb/35767

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
GREATER MOHALI AREA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
PUDA Bhawan, Sector 62, SAS Nagar

BIDS INVITED FROM CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT FIRMS FOR CALCULATION OF PROFITABILITY OF PLOTS/FLATS

Greater Mohali Area Development Authority intends to invite bids from Chartered Accountant Firms based in tricity (Mohali, Panchkula and Chandigarh) for calculation of profitability of plots/flats in various sectors/schemes under Jurisdiction of GMADA for the Financial Year 2023-2024. The bids must be raised within 7 days from the date of publication of this advertisement.

For detailed scope of work and terms & conditions visit www.gmada.gov.in

Additional Chief Administrator (F&A)

DPR/Pb/35757

Tender Notice Reference No. 24/PWSSB D-1/BT1 DATE: 17.07.2024

The Department of **PUNJAB WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD** on behalf of CEO, PWSSB, EE, Punjab WS & Sewerage Divn. No. 1, Bathinda invites online bids for the followings works from the eligible bidders as below:-

Sr. No.	Name of the Work	App. Cost
1	(A) Prov. & laying RCC NP-3 S&S Pipe inside HDPE lining, UPVC pipe sewer, Const. of MPS, Pumping Machinery, Rising Main & all other works contingent thereto at Kot Shamir, Distt. Bathinda (Under SBM-02) (As per DNIT)	935.19 Lakh
	(B) Const. of 2 MLD Cap. STP cum 6 KLD FSTP at Kot Shamir, Distt. Bathinda based on suitable Proven sustainable Biological technology on turnkey basis including O & M for 60 months after stabilization period 3 months (Under SBM-02)	Lumpsum

8th Attempt
Closing Date & Time : 12.08.2024 up to 17:00 Hrs.
Pre Bid Meeting (O/S SE PWSSB Bathinda) : 29.07.2024 at 11:00 AM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid : 13.08.2024 at 11:00 Hrs.
For details logon to : www.eproc.punjab.gov.in

Note : Any corrigendum (s) to the tender notice shall be published on the above website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Pb. WS & Sew. Divn. No. 1,
Bathinda.

DPR/Pb/35764

HARYANA INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, GURUGRAM
NOTICE

Haryana Subordinate Accounts Services (SAS) Part-I & Part II Examination (Local Audit Department Only)

HIPA invites online applications from the eligible candidates working in Local Audit Department for Haryana Subordinate Accounts Services (SAS) Part-I & Part II Examination (Local Audit Department Only). All eligible candidates are requested to see the hipa website i.e., <https://hipaco.in/public/en/exam> for filling the online form for Part-I and Part-II (LAD Only). The online form will be available from **16.07.2024 (09:00 a.m.) to 25.07.2024 (07:00 p.m.)**

Sd/- Assistant Director (Admin),
HIPA, Gurugram.

INSTRUCTION FOR FILLING THE ONLINE APPLICATION FORM FOR LOCAL AUDIT DEPARTMENT ONLY

General Instructions: Please read the instructions carefully before filling the form:

The online form will be available from **16.07.2024 (09.00 a.m.) to 25.07.2024 (07:00 p.m.)**

Link (S. No 07-10): <https://hipaco.in/public/en/exam>

- Bank Account details for Payment: Rs. 3000/- (RTGS/Paytm/Google Pay etc.) as per details given below. The details of Transaction id fill up online in the receipt details).
Name of Bank: Punjab National Bank
Account Name: Haryana Institute of Public Administration A/C No: 08892010030260
Account type: Saving
IFSC Code: PUNB0088910
Branch Address: SCF-62, Sector-17, Gurugram
- Experience as on Closing Date of Application: (only SAS-Part I) Local Audit Department only
 - No experience required in case of Resident Audit Officer/Senior Auditor.
 - Service must not be less than one year in case of Auditors.
 - Service must not be less than three years in case of Junior Scale Stenographer, Steno-Typist and Clerk.
 - Details regarding exam are available on HIPA website and Local Audit department website

The last date for submission of application form will be **25.07.2024 (07:00 p.m.)**. For any query, please contact email id: devendras.hipa@gmail.com. No application will entertain after last date i.e. **25.07.2024 (07:00 p.m.)**.

Sd/- Examination Branch,
HIPA, Gurugram.

PRDH-1148/11/21/2025/27908/31/4

DIRECTORATE OF SPORTS, PUNJAB
Yuva Bhawan, Sec. 42-A, Chandigarh
Public notice

For the recruitment of Supervisors for Sports Nurseries, the interview has been scheduled from 23/07/2024 to 26/07/2024 at DSO, Sports Complex, Sector-78, SAS Nagar. The details of eligible candidates and interview schedule has been uploaded on the website www.pbsports.punjab.gov.in. Accordingly, the eligible candidates should report at specified place and time.

Sd/- Director,
Sports, Punjab.

DPR/Pb/35776

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Board/Corp./Auth.	Name of Work/Notice/Tender	Opening Date Closing Date (Time)	Amount/EMD (Approx.) in Rupees
1	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL DABWALI	REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF STREET LIGHT AT MC MANDI DABWALI FOR 1 YEAR	15.07.2024 25.07.2024	48 LACS

WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/CORP/AUTH: <https://etenders.hry.nic.in>

NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/E-MAIL: 7015438905
secymcdabwali@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT:
www.haryanaprocedure.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

PRDH/13/2025/40/27899/31/4

Punjab Heritage and Tourism Promotion Board
Plot No. 03, Sector 38-A, Chandigarh,
Ph: 0172-5042965, 5042952

Expression of Interest for selection of Taxi Operators

Punjab Heritage and Tourism Promotion Board invite expression of interest for selection of Taxi Operator for providing cars on Monthly Basis/Annual Basis, Local/Outstation Duty (on call basis, as and when required).

The details regarding category of vehicles and terms & conditions can be obtained from this office on any working day between 9.00 am to 5.00 pm from 18.07.2024 to 25.07.2024.

The offers may be made by 26.06.2024 up to 2.00 PM alongwith requisite documents, which will be opened on same day at 4.00 pm in the office of Punjab Heritage and Tourism Promotion Board.

Sd/- CEO, PHTPB.

DPR/Pb/35742

PUNJAB MANDI BOARD
Kisan Bhawan, Sector 35-A, Chandigarh

TENDER NOTICE FOR SUPPLY OF PAINTINGS/ SCENARIOS WITH FRAMES FOR KISAN BHAWAN

Tenders are invited for supply of paintings/Scenarios at Kisan Bhawan, Sector 35-A, Chandigarh. Details of terms & condition are available on the Punjab Mandi Board website mandiboard.nic.in. Tender documents can be dropped in Box upto Dated 29.07.2024 (12.00 PM) at Store Branch, Ground Floor, Punjab Mandi Bhawan, Sector 65-A, SAS Nagar. Tender will be opened on 29.07.2024 at 03.00 PM in Committee Room No. 117, First Floor, Punjab Mandi Bhawan, Sector 65-A, SAS Nagar. For any information and clarification may contact on No. 96460-16163 or e-mail@ chiefop.pmb@punjab.gov.in

Joint Secretary

DPR/Pb/35739

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Board/Corp./Auth.	Name of Work/Notice/Tender	Opening Date Closing Date (Time)	Amount/EMD (Approx.) in Rupees
1	HSAMB GURUGRAM	SPECIAL REPAIR OF LINK ROAD FROM VILLAGE BUDHERA TO GURGAON (BADLI ROAD) FARRUKH NAGAR ROAD (ID NO. 1187 AND 1202) IN BADSHAHPUR CONSTITUENCY, DISTT. GURUGRAM	13.07.2024 29.07.2024	EMD 2.63 LACS

WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/CORP/AUTH: <https://etenders.hry.nic.in>

NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/E-MAIL: 9416384454
xenggurugram.hsamb@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT:
www.haryanaprocedure.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

PRDH/13/2025/40/27888/31/4

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Board/Corp./Auth.	Name of Work/Notice/Tender	Opening Date Closing Date (Time)	Amount/EMD (Approx.) in Rupees
1	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL FATEHABAD	CONSTRUCTION OF HALL IN SH. RAM SEVA SAMITI REG ANAJ MANDI IN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL FATEHABAD + 5 WORKS	12.07.2024 23.07.2024	23.53 LACS

WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/CORP/AUTH: <https://etenders.hry.nic.in>

NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/E-MAIL: 9467743676
municipalouncilfatehabad@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT:
www.haryanaprocedure.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

PRDH/13/2025/40/27897/31/4

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Board/Corp./Auth.	Name of Work/Notice/Tender	Opening Date Closing Date (Time)	Amount/EMD (Approx.) in Rupees
1	UHBVN	LUMP-SUM CONTRACT FOR SWEEPING AND CLEANING & SECURITY (INDOOR & OUTDOOR) COMPLEX OF 03 FLOOR OF SE (OP) CIRCLE UHBVN JHAJJAR, XEN (OP) DIVISION UHBVN JHAJJAR BUILDING INCLUDING 02 NO SDO JHAJJAR WITH YARD & PATH.	CLOSING DATE 23.07.2024	Rs. 590/- (TENDER FEE) & EMD 20000/-

WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/CORP/AUTH: www.uhbvn.org.in, NIT No. 02/JR/2024-25

NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/E-MAIL: 9354726544
xenopjhaajar@uhbvn.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaprocedure.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

PRDH/13/2025/40/27893/31/4

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001
CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website: www.pspcl.in

TENDER ENQUIRY No. 02/24-25

Hiring of one No. vehicle (Mahindra Genius/Bolero/Tata 207/408 (double door) or equivalent in price) for the office of AE (op.) Sub-Division PSPCL Ferozeshah under City Division Ferozpur for one year. (The vehicle should not more than 4 years old).

Last date & time for sale of Tender Doc: **05.08.2024, 05:00 P.M.**
Last date and time for receipt of Tenders: **06.08.2024, 12:00 Noon**
Opening of tenders: **06.08.2024, 01:00 P.M.**
Cost of tender document: **Rs. 1180/-**

Detailed NIT/specifications/terms and conditions may be downloaded from PSPCL website (www.pspcl.in).

Corrigendum, if any, will not be published in newspaper, as such the website may be visited regularly for update.

C 445/24 DPR/Pb/35758

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB TENDER/ RFP FOR Works

TENDER Notice Reference No. MCJ/OM/2024-25/04 and 37/CE/WS/G Dated 16.7.2024

THE DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL CORPORATION JALANDHAR INVITES ONLINE BIDS FOR:- 08 Works related to Workshop Branch under O&M for Procurement of various Machinery/Vehicles. (Detailed RFP/Work will be Mentioned on Website)

Closing Date & Time :-
FOR Sr. No. (1-6) 19.07.2024, 14:00 p.m. up to 05.08.2024, 14:00 p.m. & FOR Sr. No. (7-8) 19.07.2024, 14:00 p.m. up to 09.08.2024, 14:00 p.m.

Pre Bid Meeting held at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Complex, nr Nehru Garden Children School, Municipal Corporation Main Office, Office of Superintending Engg., 2nd Floor, Room No. 62 on 25.07.2024 at 12:00 Noon

For details Logon to:- eproc.punjab.gov.in

Note: Any Corrigendum(s) to the Tender/RFP Notice shall be published on the above website only.

As per Govt. letter Refer. No. JDDLD/PRU/DLG/2021/1018-23 Dt. 13.05.2021

DPR/Pb/35750 Sd/- Corporation Engg.

Former rivals Haley, DeSantis back Trump in show of unity

MILWAUKEE, JULY 17
Donald Trump's former leading rivals for the Republican presidential nomination, Nikki Haley and Ron DeSantis, offered full-throated endorsements of his candidacy at the party's convention, a display of unity three days after Trump survived an assassination attempt.

Indian-American Haley, who had described Trump as unelectable and unfit for office during her campaign, nevertheless urged her supporters to vote for him over Democratic President Joe Biden "for the sake of our nation."

"You don't have to agree with Trump 100% of the time to vote for him," the former UN ambassador and South Carolina governor said, after taking the stage to a mixture of cheers and boos.

DeSantis, the conservative Florida governor whose campaign sputtered early in the year, received a warm welcome from the crowd as he attacked Biden as too old for the job.

Trump smiled and applauded from his box in the arena, where he sat alongside the running mate whose selection he unveiled



Donald Trump applauds at the Republican convention in Milwaukee, and (right) Nikki Haley. REUTERS

PRESIDENT BIDEN IS 'ALL IN'

In his first campaign speech since the assassination attempt, President Joe Biden told Black voters in Las Vegas that he was "all in" for his reelection campaign, again dismissing calls from some Democrats to step aside. He said he was glad Trump had not been seriously injured but assailed his record in office. Biden has called for less heated rhetoric. REUTERS

REPUBLICANS SHIFT THEIR GAZE TO NATIONAL SECURITY

The third day of the Republican National Convention will kick off on Wednesday with Republicans — led by the newly nominated Donald Trump and his running mate, JD Vance of Ohio — shifting their focus to issues of national security and foreign policy. Republicans are expected to focus on Democratic President Joe Biden's handling of the ongoing crises in Europe and the Middle East. AP

on Monday, US Senator JD Vance, himself a former fierce Trump critic who has become a staunch supporter. Many of the Tuesday evening's speeches — centered on the theme of law and order — were infused with Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric, with speakers angrily denouncing Biden's southern border policies as putting the country's security at risk. Trump was vowed to crack down on illegal immigration and pledged to launch the largest deportation effort in US history. — Reuters

UK announces legislation aimed at 'national renewal'

LONDON, JULY 17
Britain's new Labour Party government promised to calm the country's febrile politics and ease its cost-of-living crisis as it set out its plans for "national renewal" at the grand State Opening of Parliament on Wednesday.

Stabilising the UK's public finances and spurring economic growth were at the centre of Prime Minister Keir Starmer's legislative agenda,

announced in a speech delivered by King Charles III.

"My government will seek a new partnership with both business and working people and help the country move on from the recent cost of living challenges by prioritising wealth creation for all communities," the king said in a speech to hundreds of lawmakers and scarlet-robed members of the House of Lords. — AP

Israel pounds Gaza, tanks advance in Rafah; 9 dead

CAIRO, JULY 17
Israeli forces hit areas in the central Gaza Strip on Wednesday, killing at least nine Palestinians, according to health officials, while Israeli tanks carried out a limited advance further into Rafah in the south.

Over the past 24 hours, Israeli strikes have killed at least 81 Palestinians and wounded 198, the Gaza health ministry said. The

ministry does not distinguish between militants and civilians in its casualty count.

In an Israeli airstrike around midnight on a house in Al-Zawya in Gaza, eight people were killed. In Rafah, two people were killed in another airstrike.

The Israeli military said troops were "continuing precise, intelligence-based operational activity in the Rafah area". — Reuters

BUSINESS

USD \$	EURO €	POUND £	JPY ¥	YUAN 元	CAD C\$	AUD A\$	SGD S\$	HKD HK\$
₹83.58	₹91.37	₹108.71	₹0.53	₹11.51	₹61.07	₹56.21	₹62.32	₹10.71

Markets remained closed on Wednesday on account of Muharram

Salaried class demands reduction in tax rates, hike in standard deduction

BUDGET EXPECTATIONS

VIJAY C ROY
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JULY 17
Expectations of stakeholders, especially salaried taxpayers, from the first budget of the Modi 3.0 government are immense given the current inflation level. They are hopeful that when Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presents the Union Budget 2024 on July 23, there will be some relaxation for them in terms of taxes. *The Tribune* spoke to taxpayers to know their budget expectations.



Boost twin engines of growth
The budget must prioritise the twin engines of growth: rural India and the middle class. The government's focus on providing incentives to these sectors is imperative for giving a push to the consumption which has shown signs of recovery but remains below its potential.

A government initiative in this year's budget can potentially unlock significant economic value. "Adjusting the tax slabs, particularly expanding the 20% tax bracket for the

middle-income range, could act as a catalyst for consumption. This will help increase the disposable income of the middle class as well, leading to growth in both spending and savings," said Manish Kohari, Co-Founder and CEO, ZFundz.

The old tax regime offers a spate of tax deductions which include loan payments, insurance premium, tax saving investments such as provident fund, tuition fee and medical expenses. These deductions are substantial and bring the tax liability down for many who opt for it over the new tax regime where deductions are very few. One key expectation is the Section 80C deduction limit increase from the current Rs 1.5 lakhs to possibly Rs 2.0 lakh.

Increase HRA exemption
The salaried class putting on rented premises expects that the government should allow higher house rent allowance (HRA) exemption to offset rising rental costs. This would reduce taxable income and increase affordability for those living in rented accommodations.

More relief on home loans
Citizens are of the view that the government should increase the tax exemption limit on both the principal amount and interest paid on home loans.

They shared that amid substantial rise in property value over the last couple of years, the current Rs 2 lakh tax rebate on housing loan interest should be enhanced to a

minimum of Rs 5 lakh. Such a step will boost demand for residential properties.

This scheme, expired in 2022, should be revived to incentivise first-time buyers of affordable homes across cities. This will once again invigorate demand in this segment.

Rectify ESOP regulations
The new age tech employees expect announcement on ESOPs (Employee Stock Ownership Plans). These are employee incentives that companies use to attract, reward, and retain talent.

"ESOPs also enable employees to become shareholders and benefit from the company's growth. Most of the new generation companies give part of company stake as ESOPs to senior employees, who work as well as promoters, but end up losing 40% value vis-a-vis promoters who can enjoy long-term capital gains (LTCG) advantage on equity. This situation needs to be rectified to enable them to earn higher margins," said Swati Saxena, Founder & CEO - 4Thoughts Finance, a wealth management firm.

ADB retains India's growth forecast at 7%

NEW DELHI, JULY 17
The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Wednesday maintained India's GDP growth forecast at 7 per cent for the current financial year, citing that a rebound in agriculture is expected given above-normal monsoon projections.

The ADB forecast comes a day after the International Monetary Fund revised upward its GDP growth projections for India to 7 per cent compared to 6.8 per cent projected in April.

The Indian economy is on track to grow by 7 per cent in

FY2024 (ending 31 March 2025) and 7.2 per cent in FY2025, as projected in ADO April 2024, said the July edition of the Asian Development Outlook (ADO). The Indian economy logged a growth rate of 8.2 per cent for the financial year ended March 2024. — PTI

Small stocks reap big gains

NEW DELHI, JULY 17
Smaller stocks have emerged as markets' favourites so far this year. Till July 16, the BSE midcap gauge has jumped 29.81%, while the smallcap index has surged 27.24%. — PTI

BRIEFLY

NEW DELHI
Bawa signs off with bronze at World Junior squash
 India's Shaurya Bawa signed off with a bronze medal after going down 0-3 to Egyptian top seed Mohamed Zakaria in the boys' singles semifinals of the World Junior Squash Championships in Houston. Bawa lost 5-11 5-11 9-11 to last year's runner-up Zakaria in a 41-minute contest. Bawa is only the second Indian male after Kush Kumar (in 2014) to reach the semifinals of the event.

PARIS
Carapaz climbs solo to stage victory on Tour de France
 Richard Carapaz of EF Education-EasyPost climbed solo to victory on Stage 17 of the Tour de France, a 178km ride from Saint-Paul-Trois-châteaux to Superdevoluy on Wednesday. Carapaz, who has also won stages on the Giro d'Italia and Vuelta a España, finished 37 seconds ahead of Jayco Alula's Simon Yates to claim his first win on the Tour de France, with Movistar's Enric Mas third, nearly a minute behind. His attack in the mountains, about 13km from the finish, helped the Olympic champion breeze to victory but there was a battle in the general classification behind him as Slovenia's Tadej Pogacar retained his yellow jersey.

Ministry clears 117-member contingent

Number of athletes down from 119 at Tokyo Olympics

NEW DELHI, JULY 17
 India will be represented by 117 athletes at this month's Paris Olympics after the Sports Ministry cleared the final contingent that also features 140 support staff and officials, of which 72 have been approved at "cost to the government" to meet the "requirements" of the travelling sportspersons.

The Games will run from July 26 to August 11. The contingent is on expected lines with London Olympics bronze medal-winning former shooter Gagan Narang as the chef-de-mission. Narang is also a vice-president in the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).

"The permissible limit for stay of support personnel in the Games Village against accreditation as per norms of the Paris Organising Committee for the 2024 Olympic Games is 67 including 11 IOA Contingent Officials, which includes five Medical Team Members," stated a letter from the Ministry to IOA president PT Usha, explaining the ratio of support staff allowed as per the size of the contingent.



"For catering to the requirements of the athletes, additional coaches and other support staff numbering 72 have been approved at cost to the Government and arrangements for their stay have been made in Hotels/in locations outside the Games Village," it added. Athletics will make for the

biggest group in the contingent with 29 names (11 women and 18 men), followed by shooting (21) and hockey (19). The shooting contingent consists of 11 women and 10 men. Table tennis will be represented by eight players, while badminton (7) will feature seven competitors, including two-time Olympic

medalist PV Sindhu. Wrestling, archery and boxing will have six representatives each, followed by golf (4), tennis (3), swimming (2), sailing (2) and one each for equestrian, judo, rowing and weightlifting. Tokyo Olympics silver medalist Mirabai Chanu is the lone weightlifter in the contingent and will compete in women's 49kg category.

Curious case of a missing Olympics aspirant

NEW DELHI: Shot putter Abha Khatua had decided to pursue her Olympics dream despite a family tragedy recently but the national record holder is missing from India's Paris-bound contingent and there is no clear answer as to why her name has been knocked off the list. Khatua left the country for Spala in Poland, the base for India's Olympics-bound athletics contingent, on July 11 along with her other teammates. But the very next day, she was not there in the list of track and field participants published by World Athletics. The 29-year-old, who made the Paris Games cut through the world rankings quota, eventually did not figure in the Indian contingent of 117 approved by the Sports Ministry. There is no word yet on whether her name has been dropped owing to injury, a doping violation or any other technical issue. Repeated attempts to reach her have been unsuccessful and the officialdom has decided to stonewall queries around her absence. An Athletics Federation of India official merely said that the body was not aware of any issue with her. When contacted, a World Athletics official also refused to comment on the issue. Before leaving India on July 11, Khatua revealed that she would make her Olympics debut despite the death of her sister-in-law (brother's wife) recently.

<< Track & field athletes will make for the biggest group with 29 names, followed by shooting (21) and hockey (19).

In Tokyo Olympics, India was represented by a 119-member contingent, and the country logged its best-ever performance of seven medals, including the historic javelin throw gold by Neeraj Chopra. Chopra will be there in Paris to defend his medal. In a bid to avoid doping embarrassment in Paris, the government has asked

the IOA and concerned federations to take appropriate measures. "The IOA, SAI, National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) and concerned National Sports Federations may take appropriate measures for conducting the dope tests. IOA may also ensure fitness of the team/individual sportsperson prior to their departure," it said. — PTI



Kapil Dev at a press conference in New Delhi on Wednesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: MUKESH AGGARWAL

Express yourself in Paris: Kapil

NEW DELHI, JULY 17
 Former India skipper Kapil Dev today advised Olympics-bound Indian athletes to express themselves fearlessly at the mega-event starting July 26 and hoped that the country would hit the double-digit mark on the medals tally. India is looking to better the seven-medal count it logged in Tokyo. "I can't really say for anybody but I can just wish them all the luck and hope we win more medals this year and that's important," Kapil, who is also the president of the Professional Golf Tour of India, said. "My advice to all Indian athletes would be to go and express yourself. I cross my finger and why not if we believe it (double-digit medal haul) will happen." — PTI

NEW DELHI
Shah likely to take over as ICC chairman this year-end

All eyes will be on BCCI secretary Jay Shah during the four-day ICC Annual Conference in Colombo, starting on Friday, where there might be serious discussions about when he will take over from New Zealander Greg Barclay as the chairman of the global body. The ICC conference that starts with the board meeting on Friday is expected to be dominated by losses to the tune of more than USD 20 million incurred by the global body for hosting T20 World Cup games in the United States of America.

MADRID
Real Madrid extend Modric's contract until the end of 2025

Real Madrid extended Luka Modric's contract on Wednesday, bringing the Croatia midfielder back for a 13th season with the club. Madrid said it and Modric agreed to extend the player's contract until June 2025. One of Madrid's captains, Modric didn't play as often as a starter this season, but is expected to have a greater role in Carlo Ancelotti's midfield after the retirement of Toni Kroos. He has won 26 titles with Madrid, the most in club history. AGENCIES

Salukvadze set for 10th Games

PARIS, JULY 17
 Nino Salukvadze will become just the second athlete to compete at 10 Olympic Games when she steps up to the mark in Paris and the Georgian shooting great says that by reaching the milestone she will have fulfilled her father's last request.

Salukvadze's dream Olympics debut came as a 19-year-old at the 1988 Games in Seoul, where she won gold in the 25m pistol and silver in the 10m events for the former Soviet Union. Barcelona, Atlanta, Sydney, Athens, Beijing, London, Rio and Tokyo — she has not missed an Olympics since. Salukvadze completed her medal set by winning 10m bronze in Beijing, this time for Georgia, and the 55-year-old will match Canadian equestrian Ian Millar's record of 10 Olympics appearances when she competes in Paris. "Ten Olympiads — it's my whole life," Salukvadze said from Baku where she is in the final stages of her Olympics preparations.

"After the first Olympics, I couldn't even imagine I'd compete in 10 Olympics. I



Shooter Nino Salukvadze made her Olympics debut as a 19-year-old at the 1988 Games, winning one gold for the former Soviet Union. FILE

will have to write a whole book (to explain my longevity), but the euphoria I experienced after winning forced me to train hard every day." That book will surely have a chapter devoted to her father Vakhtang, who coached her right from the start. Her Rio experience, where she and Tsotne Machavariani became the first mother-son duo to compete at the same Olympics, would also feature prominently in it. But there were times when it seemed the Tokyo Olympics would be the end of

her story. "After Tokyo, I'd decided to give up," she said. "But my father, who was 93, told me, 'There are only three years before Paris, and maybe you try to win the quota...' I thought my father had never asked for anything and this might be his last request. So I gathered all my strength and agreed. Today, despite the fact that my father passed away, I am happy that I fulfilled this request." Her son put the pressure on, too. "Also, my son threatened me: 'If you surrender, I will also surrender...'" — Reuters

Mayor swims in Seine to prove water purity

PARIS, JULY 17
 Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo finally swam in the River Seine, fulfilling a promise to try to convince doubters that its waters will be clean enough to hold Olympics swimming events. Hidalgo took the plunge around 10am on a glorious summer's day, with visitors crowding on nearby bridges to catch a glimpse of her after several postponements due to heavy rain and doubts about water quality.

Hidalgo, clad in a wetsuit and goggles, was joined in the Seine by Tony Estanguet, the head of the Paris Olympics Organising Committee, among others. At first she paddled and then swam front crawl with her face in the water. "We have worked very, very hard and then you go down into the water and it seems natural," Hidalgo said. "The water is very, very good, a little bit cool."

The triathlon and marathon swimming legs of the Olympics, which run from July 26 to Aug. 11, are due to be held in the Seine.

According to the most recent July 12 Seine water quality bulletin, based on the



Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo swims in the Seine. REUTERS

Eau de Paris water analysis, the water quality would be suitable for swimming in six out of seven days at the Olympics swimming sites.

Decisions on whether to run Olympics events will be taken the night before, and early that same morning, with a technical committee including athletes, international federation, regional authorities and Meteo

France making the call. "The first athletes are arriving tomorrow, and so this is a very important message that, finally, the Seine is swimmable, and the triathlon and swimming events can be held here," Estanguet said.

Paris has been working on cleaning up the Seine so that people can swim in it again, as was the case during the

1900 Paris Olympics. Former Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac in 1988 promised he would swim in the Seine "in the presence of witnesses", but his plunge never materialised. The city has built a huge storage basin capable of holding 46,000 cubic metres of waste water before it flows through a tunnel to a treatment plant. — Reuters

Tiger still hungry for Major glory

BRITISH OPEN GOLF

TROON (SCOTLAND), JULY 17
 Tiger Woods is playing all four majors for the first time since 2019, which at the start of the year would have been cause for great optimism.

The results paint a different picture. He set a Masters record by making his 24th consecutive cut at Augusta National. And then he was gone by the weekend at the PGA Championship and the U.S. Open. He hasn't broken par since a 69 in the second round of the 2022 PGA Championship, and he needed that simply to make the cut.

His performance is starting to raise questions of how much longer he will play — how much longer he should play — to avoid lasting memories of a great champion slapping it around. Leave it to Colin Montgomerie to put those thoughts into words found in a Times of London interview ahead of the British Open, when he said at one point, "What the hell is he doing?"

The entirety of what Montgomerie told the Times: "I hope people remember Tiger as Tiger was, the passion and the charismatic aura around him. There is none of that now. At Pinehurst he did not



Tiger Woods during a practice round. REUTERS

seem to enjoy a single shot and you think, 'What the hell is he doing?' He's coming to Troon and he won't enjoy it there, either."

Woods already has enjoyed one aspect of his stay at Royal Troon. That came Tuesday when he was asked about Montgomerie's comments. Woods relishes a chance to push back on criticism, particularly when the source is someone known for never winning a Major. "Well, as a past champion, I'm exempt

until I'm 60," Woods said, speaking to his time at the British Open. "Colin's not. He's not a past champion, so he's not exempt. So he doesn't get the opportunity to make that decision. I do."

It brought up memories of an Open tradition some 20 years ago. Stewart McDougal was the press officer at the time, and he would ask Open champions who came into the press center to sign the table. At the end of the week, McDougal auctioned

off the table for charity. Montgomerie came in one day, saw all the signatures on the table and reached for pen. "I'm sorry, Colin," McDougal told him. "It's only for Open champions."

The questions are fair enough, but there is something to be said about golfers being able to decide when their time is done. And given all that Woods has done in the game, it's probably not the best idea to show him the door. — AP

Indian flavour at Royal Troon

TROON (SCOTLAND), JULY 17
 Shubhankar Sharma will be the only Indian passport holder teeing off at the 152nd Open Championship even as several Indian-origin players, including Akshay Bhatia, would aim to hold aloft the Claret Jug at the oldest Major over the weekend.

Last year Sharma finished tied-eighth at Royal Liverpool for the best-ever finish by an Indian at the British Open. Apart from Sharma, the other Indian touch at Liverpool was Sahith Theegala, who missed the cut.

However, this time around, there is a strong Indian flavour in the field, including Theegala, one of the most exciting young stars, Bhatia, the left-hander who defied the popular norm of playing college before turning pro, and Aaron Rai, whose habit of wearing gloves on both hands turns head in the field.

The trio of Theegala, Bhatia and Rai, all have Indian blood in them, though the first two represent the United States and the third is now an Englishman.

Theegala's parents grew up in Hyderabad before



Shubhankar Sharma will tee off for the fourth time at golf's oldest Major; BELOW: USA's Sahith Theegala is world No. 11. FILE



making US their home, where their son became a fine golfing prospect as he swept all prestigious awards at the collegiate level. Now, he is world No. 11 and on the doorsteps of a

new milestone of being the top-10 player in the world. Bhatia chose a different path. Bypassing college golf after a chat with Phil Mickelson, the golfer, whose parents came from

North India, went to mini Tour events before winning on the Korn Ferry and finally making his way into the main PGA Tour.

Bhatia has now won twice on the PGA Tour and Mickelson speaks glowingly about this left-hander who has often said that his idol is 'Lefty', the man who has six Majors and now plays on the Liv Golf League.

Bhatia, who earned his way into the Masters by winning a week before the first Major of the year, finished T-35 at Augusta, but missed the cut at PGA. He was then T-16 at the US Open.

He has been a consistent performer this year. He has one win, two other top-10s and seven more finishes in top-20 out of a total of 20 starts. After starting the year in 110th place in the world, he is now 26th and climbing.

And finally, Rai. The Wolverhampton lad's parents grew up in Kenya and their parents were born in India. Rai speaks fondly of his visit to India for the 2018 Hero Indian Open where he finished tied-ninth. Rai has been in the top-7 in his last three starts on the PGA Tour even as he searches for his first win. — PTI

CJI-led Bench to hear petitions seeking scrapping of NEET today

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 17 The Supreme Court will on Thursday hear petitions seeking scrapping of the NEET-UG 2024 examination for alleged paper leak and other malpractices.

The matter will be taken up by a three-judge Bench led by CJI DY Chandrachud, which had on July 11 deferred the hearing on the ground that the Union of India and the National Testing Agency (NTA) had filed their replies but some of the advocates had not got e-copies of the replies. The Bench had posted the matter for hearing on July 18 to enable the parties to peruse the replies.

The top court will also take up petitions filed by the NTA seeking the transfer of cases pending in high courts on the

1 LAKH SEATS TO BE FILLED

Around 24 lakh students took NEET-UG exam on May 5. Nearly 1 lakh seats are to be filled in over 700 govt & pvt institutions



alleged paper leak to the SC. Highlighting several 'red flags' in the examination, the top court had earlier made it clear that it would order a retest, if it's found the irregularities were widespread. It had also directed the CBI to submit a status report on the probe into the alleged paper leak.

The Centre has asserted that there was no indication of mass malpractice or local set of candidates being benefited. The NTA has also said that Telegram videos alleged-

ly showing photos of leaked question papers were fake and manipulated.

Citing a technical analysis of the NEET-2024 data carried out by experts from IIT-Madras, the Centre has told the Supreme Court that there was no indication of mass malpractice or local set of candidates being benefited.

In an affidavit filed in response to petitions seeking scrapping of the NEET-UG, the Union Ministry of Education asserted that there was

"very less likelihood of mass malpractice".

Citing the results of the analysis done by experts of IIT-Madras, the Centre said, "The analysis shows there is neither any indication of mass malpractice nor a localised set of candidates being benefited and leading to abnormal scores."

It said, "There is an overall increase in the marks obtained by students, specifically in the range of 550 to 720. This increase is seen across cities and centres. This is attributed to 25 per cent reduction in syllabus. In addition, candidates obtaining such high marks are spread across multiple cities and multiple centres, indicating very less likelihood of mass malpractice."

Both the Centre and the NTA have opposed scrapping the examination.

India is a 'strategic partner': Pentagon

WASHINGTON, JULY 17

India is a "strategic partner" of the US and Washington is keen to continue developing that partnership, the Pentagon has said.

Pentagon Press Secretary Pat Ryder made the remarks at a press conference in Washington on Tuesday when asked about the US-India military-to-military relations following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

recent meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"India is a strategic partner, and we look forward to continuing to develop that partnership," he told reporters in response to a question.

Modi was in Russia for two days from July 8-9 for the 22nd India-Russia annual summit that has been watched closely by the West amidst the raging Ukraine conflict. — PTI

'Pitch Black' in Darwin



IAF Su-30MKIs in action during the first week of 20-nation Exercise Pitch Black, hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force in Darwin. ANI

3 Hmar ultras killed in Assam

SILCHAR (ASSAM), JULY 17

At least three suspected Hmar militants were killed and three cops were injured in an encounter in Assam on Wednesday, officials said. The deceased were part of a group preparing to carry out "subversive activities" along the Assam-Manipur border areas. — PTI

Eight Indians rescued from capsized oil tanker off Oman

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 17

Nine of the 16 missing crew members of oil tanker MV Prestige Falcon have been rescued by Indian Navy's warship INS Tej. Of the nine, eight are Indian nationals and one is from Sri Lanka.

The Indian Navy had pressed its long-range maritime surveillance aircraft, the Boeing P8I, and a warship to locate the 16-member crew, including 13 Indian nationals and three Sri Lankans, who were on board an oil tanker that capsized two days ago off the coast of Oman.

Indian government officials added that the search for the remaining crew members would continue in the area.

The Comoros-flagged oil tanker MV Prestige Falcon capsized 25 nautical miles (some 42 km) southeast of Ras Madrakah in Oman in the evening of July 15.

Sources said an Indian Navy warship deployed in the region and was undergoing an 'operational turn around' at a port in west Asia, was sailed



The merchant vessel is reported to have a crew of 16, including 13 Indians and three Sri Lankans. FILE

out at short notice to render assistance. Search and rescue efforts are progressing in coordination with Oman. The sea condition is rough with strong winds. The Boeing P8I has specific radars and area sensors that it carries.

Distress call on July 14

The capsized Comoros flagged vessel, MT Falcon Prestige, transmitted a distress call around 10 pm on July 14 off the coast of Oman.

A source said the Indian Embassy in Oman is in constant touch with the Omani authorities. The Indian warship was carrying out an

operational turnaround in the area from where it was directed on July 15 to carry out search and rescue missions. The warship had located the capsized oil tanker on July 16 morning.

The Maritime Security Centre said in a post on X, "A Comoros-flagged oil tanker capsized 25 NM southeast of Ras Madrakah. SAR Ops initiated with the relevant authorities." The tanker was heading to the Yemeni port of Aden, as per the shipping data by LSEG. The vessel is a 117-metre-long oil products tanker built in 2007, LSEG's shipping data showed. (With agency inputs)

Smuggling bid at B'desh border foiled, 1 arrested

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 17

The Border Security Force (BSF) has arrested an Indian smuggler with nine gold bricks and 21 gold biscuits near Bangladesh border, as he attempted to smuggle them by throwing the con-

signment over the fence.

Following a tip-off, the BSF jawans arrested the smuggler with the consignment. The seized gold weighs approximately 7.87 kg.

The arrested person has been identified as Mathur Das (name changed) of Gede village (North Majherpada).

CAPF, canine squad in France for Olympics venue security

NEW DELHI, JULY 17

Ten specially trained Indian CAPF and special commando force dogs are in France to provide a counter-terrorist and anti-sabotage security cover to various venues of the Paris Olympics slated to open next week, official sources said on Wednesday.

The 10 Indian K9 (canine) teams will undertake sniffing and patrolling duties at various venues that will hold events for the Paris Olympics. They have been given a special 10-week training for this first-ever kind of collaboration of canine squads between the Indian



CRPF dogs Vast and Denby with their handlers. PTI

and French government, an officer said. A second officer said the handlers of these 10 canine teams have undertaken

refresher physical training. The squad includes five-year-old CRPF canine Vast and three-year-old Denby. — PTI

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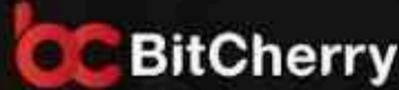
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