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**P**ROFESSIONAL  
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*Transforming Education Transforming India*



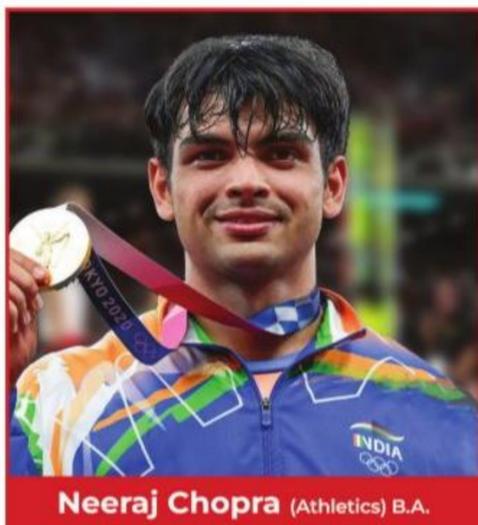
PARIS 2024



## 24 LPU STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE PARIS OLYMPICS 2024

### Globally, Second Largest Contingent after Stanford University (USA)

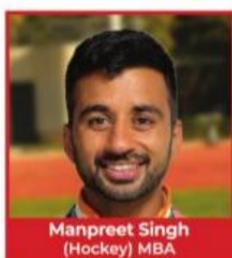
### 21% of the Indian Olympic Contingent is from LPU



Neeraj Chopra (Athletics) B.A.



Harmanpreet Singh (Hockey) B.A.



Manpreet Singh (Hockey) MBA



Saikhom Mirabai Chanu (Weightlifting) M.A.



Vinesh Phogat (Wrestling) M.A.



Anshu Malik (Wrestling) M.A.



Lovlina Borgohain (Boxing) B.A.



Hardik Singh (Hockey) B.A.



Jarmanpreet Singh (Hockey)



Gurjant Singh (Hockey) MBA



Mandeep Singh (Hockey) B.A.



Sukhjeet Singh (Hockey) B.A.



Paramjeet Bisht (Athletics)



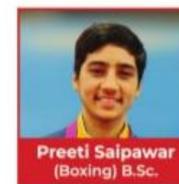
Kiran Pahal (Athletics) B.A.



Vikash Singh (Athletics)



Jaismine Lamboria (Boxing) BPE



Preeti Saipawar (Boxing) B.Sc.



Dhiraj Bommadevara (Archery)



Tarun Deep Roy (Archery)



Nisha Dahiya (Wrestling) M.A.



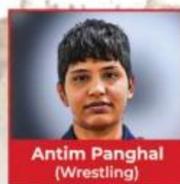
Arjun Singh (Shooting) M.A.



Balraj Panwar (Rowing) BBA



Samsheer Singh (Hockey) B.A.



Antim Panghal (Wrestling)

goIndia  
goLPU



**GLOBE TROT**



**CANNON SALUTES:** Royal Guards fire a series of cannon salutes during the celebrations to mark Thai King Maha Vajiralongkorn's 72nd birthday in Bangkok. REUTERS

**'Climate change causing change in rainfall'**

**MANILA:** Climate change is driving changes in rainfall patterns across the world, scientists said in a paper published on Friday, which could also be intensifying typhoons and other tropical storms. Taiwan, the Philippines and then China were lashed by the year's most powerful typhoon this week, with schools, businesses and financial markets shut as wind speeds surged up to 227 kph. REUTERS

**Venezuelans vote in highly charged election**

**CARACAS:** Venezuelans waited in line at polling stations and cast ballots on Sunday in the most consequential election in a quarter-century of socialist party rule, with President Nicolas Maduro confident of victory. Opposition leader Maria Corina Machado has been the star of the coalition campaign, even after a ban on holding public office forced her to pass the torch to candidate Edmundo Gonzalez. REUTERS

**SpaceX, NASA to launch Crew-9 mission**

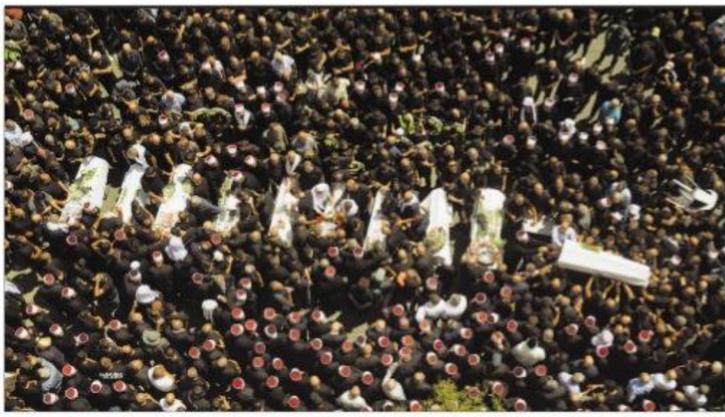
**WASHINGTON:** SpaceX and NASA said they plan to launch the space agency's Crew-9 mission to the International Space Station no earlier than August 18. The announcement comes a day after the Federal Aviation Administration cleared SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket to return to space following a rare mid-flight failure this month. REUTERS

# Rocket strike in Israeli-controlled Golan Heights kills 12, Tel Aviv vows response

**TEL AVIV, JULY 28**  
A rocket strike on Saturday at a soccer field killed at least 12 children and teens, Israeli authorities said, in the deadliest strike on an Israeli target along the country's northern border since the fighting between Israel and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah began. It raised fears of a broader regional war.

Israel blamed Hezbollah for the strike in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights, but Hezbollah rushed to deny any role. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned that Hezbollah "will pay a heavy price for this attack, one that it has not paid so far".

The Israeli military's chief spokesman, Rear Adm Daniel Hagari, called it the deadliest attack on Israeli civilians since the Hamas attack on October 7 that sparked the war in Gaza. He said 20 others were wounded. "There is no doubt that Hezbollah has crossed all the red lines here, and the response will reflect that," Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz told Israeli Channel 12. "We are nearing the moment in which we face an all-out war." Hezbollah



Mourners at the funeral of some of those killed in the rocket strike in Golan Heights. AP

**IRAN WARNS ISRAEL AGAINST 'NEW ADVENTURE' IN LEBANON**

**Dubai:** Iran warned Israel on Sunday against what it called any "new adventure" in Lebanon, in a statement issued by foreign ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanaani. Israeli authorities blamed Iran-backed Lebanese group Hezbollah for a rocket attack that hit a football ground in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights killing 12 people on Saturday, and vowed to inflict a heavy response. REUTERS

lah chief spokesman Mohammed Afif told The Associated Press that the group "categorically denies carrying out an attack" on the town of Majdal Shams. It is unusual for Hezbollah to deny an attack. The office of Netanyahu, who was on a visit to the United States, said he would cut short his trip by several hours, without specifying

when he would return. It said he will convene the security Cabinet after arriving. Far-right members of Netanyahu's government called for a harsh response against Hezbollah. But an all-out war with a militant group with far superior firepower to Hamas would be trying for Israel's military after nearly 10 months of fighting in Gaza. Footage aired on Israeli

Channel 12 showed a large blast in one of the valleys in the Druze town of Majdal Shams, in the Golan Heights, which Israel captured from Syria in the 1967 Mideast war and annexed in 1981. Some Druze have Israeli citizenship. Many still have sympathies for Syria and rejected Israeli annexation, but their ties with Israeli society have grown over the years.

**US DOES NOT WANT ESCALATION: BLINKEN**

**Tokyo:** US Secretary of State **Antony Blinken** said on Sunday he does not want to see an escalation of conflict on Israel's northern border after Israel accused Hezbollah of killing 12 children and teenagers in a rocket attack in Golan Heights. "I emphasize (Israel's) right to defend its citizens and our determination to make sure that they're able to do that," Blinken said. "But we also don't want to see the conflict escalate. We don't want to see it spread." REUTERS

The strike at the soccer field, just before sunset, followed earlier cross-border violence on Saturday, when Hezbollah said three of its fighters were killed, without specifying where. Israel's military said its air force targeted a Hezbollah arms depot in the border village of Kfar Kila, adding that militants were inside at the time. — AP

## Italian PM for reviving ties with China

**ROME/BEIJING, JULY 28**  
Italian Prime Minister **Giorgia Meloni** vowed on Sunday to "relaunch" cooperation with China, signing a three-year action plan during her first official visit to Beijing since taking office.

Meloni, who has led a right-wing government since 2022, made the announcement during a meeting with Chinese Premier **Li Qiang**, as Rome seeks to improve trade ties with Beijing after it exited President **Xi Jinping's** flagship Belt and Road infrastructure investment scheme last year. The Italian leader said her five-day trip was a "demonstration of the will to begin a new phase, to relaunch our bilateral cooperation". The action plan aims to experiment with new forms of cooperation, she added in a video shown Italy's RAI state television network.

The industrial cooperation memorandum signed by Italy and China "includes strategic industrial sectors such as electric mobility and renewables," Meloni said later in the day. Meloni, who sees Chinese investment as a way to spur Italy's anaemic economic growth, will meet Xi and China's top legislator, **Zhao Leji**, third in the leadership hierarchy. — Reuters

## Kamala calls herself underdog; 'evil, crazy liberal,' says Trump

**WASHINGTON, JULY 28**  
Vice President **Kamala Harris** cast herself as the "underdog" in the presidential race and called her Republican opponent **Donald Trump** "just plain weird," while Trump painted Harris as "evil," "sick" and "unhinged" as the rivals exchanged barbs from afar on Saturday.



Donald Trump and Republican vice-presidential candidate JD Vance greet each other at a campaign rally in Minnesota. AP

**HARRIS CAMPAIGN RAISES \$200 MN IN WEEK**

**Washington:** US Vice-President **Kamala Harris's** election campaign said on Sunday it had raised \$200 million in the week since she became a presidential candidate. "In the week since we got started, @KamalaHarris has raised \$200 million. 66% of that is from new donors. We've signed up 170,000 new volunteers," her deputy campaign manager **Rob Flaherty** posted on X. REUTERS

convicted felon and said her bid was about the future, while Trump, 78, wanted to return the country to a "dark past." Hours later, Trump unleashed a barrage of hyperbolic attacks at a rally in St Cloud, Minnesota, asserting that Harris would "destroy the country" and criticizing her on issues ranging from public safety to immigration. "If a crazy liberal like Kamala Harris gets in, the American dream is dead," Trump said, adding that Harris is "even worse" than Biden. The former president's speech made clear that his

## Putin warns US of Cold War-style missile crisis

**MOSCOW, JULY 28**  
Russian President **Vladimir Putin** on Sunday warned the United States that if Washington deployed long-range missiles in Germany then Russia would station similar missiles in striking distance of the West.

The US said on July 10 that it would start deploying long-range missiles in Germany from 2026. Putin warned the US that it risked triggering a Cold War-style missile crisis with the move. "The flight time to targets on our territory of such missiles, which in the future may be equipped with nuclear warheads, will be about 10 minutes. We will take mirror measures to deploy, taking into account the actions of the United States, its satellites in Europe..." — Reuters



**CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE EXPLODES, BECOMES LARGEST IN US**

Thousands of firefighters were battling a rapidly growing wildfire in northern California after the blaze more than doubled in size in a 24-hour span. The Park Fire had burnt more than 350,000 acres about north of the state capital city of Sacramento as of Saturday, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or Cal Fire. Cooler temperatures and more humid air were expected in the region, potentially helping efforts to slow the spread of the fire, which was 10% contained as of Saturday evening. The fire has destroyed 134 structures, the authorities said. The fire was the largest of dozens of active blazes across the country that have burnt more than 2 million acres, according to the National Interagency Fire Center. REUTERS

## British Sikh MP wants to boost Labour's India ties

**LONDON, JULY 28**  
**Jeevun Sandher**, one of Britain's newest members of Parliament elected in the Labour Party's landslide general election victory earlier this month, is determined to restore trust in politics and strengthen his party's connection with India and its diaspora communities. The British Sikh MP was elected from Loughborough in the East Midlands. "From a personal perspective, I am a

part of the Indian diaspora so I see it as a natural connection, for the Labour Party and the incoming Labour government," he said. "It is a hugely important strategic partnership for us, which is why (Foreign Secretary **David Lammy**) has gone out there to stress that it is an incredibly important partnership for us in the region and globally," he said. Sandher was born in Luton to parents who migrated from Punjab. — PTI

## 30 killed, 145 injured in clashes between two tribes in Pakistan

**FESHAWAR, JULY 28**  
At least 30 people were killed and 145 others injured in armed clashes between two tribes fighting over a piece of land in Pakistan's restive tribal district in northwest, officials said on Sunday. Officials said that heavy clashes started five days ago in Boshera village in Upper Kurram district, which has witnessed deadly conflicts among tribes and religious groups as

well as sectarian clashes and militant attacks in the past. Police said the tribal clashes left 30 people dead and 145 others injured in the last five days in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kurram district, bordering Afghanistan. Officials with the help of tribal elders, military leadership, police and district administration have brokered a truce between Shia and Sunni tribes in Boshera,

Malikhel and Dandar areas a short while ago, police said. However, firing is still continuing in some other parts of the district. An official said efforts were being made to reach a ceasefire in the remaining areas too. Clashes broke out between the two tribes over a land dispute four days ago. The clashes spread to other areas such as Peewar, Tangi, Balishkhel and Khaar Kalay. — PTI

## Mobile Internet restored in Bangladesh

**DHAKA, JULY 28**  
The mobile Internet connection was restored in Bangladesh on Sunday, 10 days after it was restricted by authorities across the country to stop the spread of fake news on social media amidst the deadly nationwide violence over reforms in the quota system in government jobs. Minister of State for Information and Communication Technology **Zunaid Ahmed Palak** announced that 5GB Internet will be given for free to all users for three days after the connection is restored, the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported. — PTI

# How El Chapo's son helped US arrest fabled narco chief 'El Mayo'

**NEW YORK, JULY 28**  
As a propeller plane on Thursday whirred towards the US-Mexico border to cross illegally, US agents raced to meet it at a small municipal airport near El Paso, Texas, and arrest two men who were part of Mexican drug trafficking royalty. The son of jailed former Sinaloa Cartel kingpin **Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman** planned to give himself up upon landing. The other passenger—legendary septuagenarian trafficker **Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada**—did not and was duped into getting on the plane by the younger man, according to two current and two former US officials

familiar with the situation. Zambada's arrest followed lengthy surrender talks between US authorities and El Chapo's son, **Joaquin Guzman Lopez**, the sources said. But many American officials had given up hope on Joaquin turning himself in, and were caught unaware when he sent a last-minute message that he would arrive with a kingpin US authorities had been chasing for four decades. "El Mayo was the cherry on top," said one US official, who declined to be identified because he was not authorized to speak publicly about the arrests. "It wasn't expected at all." Guzman Lopez had



Ismael 'El Mayo' Zambada is accused of being one of the most consequential traffickers in Mexico's history. REUTERS

convicted Zambada to board the plane by telling him that they were flying to see real

estate in northern Mexico, according to the two current and one former US officials.

The US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the two agencies who carried out the operation, scrambled agents from their local El Paso offices and barely reached the airport by the time the private plane was landing, according to a fifth source, a US official who declined to give further details on the arrests. One worker at the Dona Ana County International Jetport, near El Paso, told Reuters he saw a Beechcraft King Air plane land on Thursday afternoon on the runway, where federal agents were already waiting. "Two individuals got off the plane

... and were calmly taken into custody," said the man. The unexpected arrest of El Mayo, in his late 70s, and the way he appears to have been betrayed by Guzman Lopez, who is about 38 years old, has jolted the Mexican drug trafficking world, triggering fears of a bloody fissure in the Sinaloa Cartel between the two families that control the group's biggest power bases. Zambada is accused of being one of the most consequential traffickers in Mexico's history, having co-founded the Sinaloa Cartel with "El Chapo" Guzman, who was extradited to the US in 2017 and is serving a life sentence

in a maximum security prison in Colorado. Reuters could not determine why Guzman Lopez betrayed his father's long-time partner, though the four current and former sources said it was likely due to his desire to obtain a more favourable plea bargain deal from US authorities and help his brother, **Ovidio**, who was arrested and extradited to the United States in 2023. His lawyer, **Frank Perez**, said on Friday Zambada did not come to the US voluntarily. On Saturday night, Perez said Guzman Lopez had "forcibly kidnapped" in Mexico and brought him to the US against his will. — Reuters



**SC PULLS UP MoD OVER DELAY IN RESOLVING PENSION ANOMALY** **NATION**



**₹1-CRORE DRUG MONEY SEIZED IN AMRITSAR; TWO ARRESTED** **PUNJAB**



**TERROR GROUPS IN TOUCH WITH PAK-BASED HANDLERS: INTEL J&K**

**RESUME 'HAR Ghar TIRANGA' CAMPAIGN: PM IN MANN KI BAAT** **BACK PAGE**



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MONDAY | 29 JULY 2024

## MANU WINS BRONZE, HEARTS

In Gita, Krishna tells Arjuna 'you focus on your karma and not on its outcome'. Only that was running in my head. — Manu Bhaker

Becomes first Indian woman shooter to claim an Olympic medal by bagging the bronze in 10m air pistol event

REPORT INSIDE

PARIS 2024 MEDAL TALLY	
INDIA	00 00 01 01

## Jaishankar, Blinken discuss Ukraine war, regional issues

Bilateral relations progressing steadily, says EAM

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 28

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday held "wide-ranging" talks with his American counterpart Antony Blinken against the backdrop of an unease in India-US ties following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Russia. During the meeting, the US mentioned the importance of realising a just and enduring peace in Ukraine, consistent with the UN Charter. This comes after the US called on India to use its good offices with Moscow to end the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Jaishankar and Blinken are in Tokyo to attend a meeting of foreign ministers of the four-nation grouping Quad or Quadrilateral coalition.

US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said, "Secretary Blinken underscored the importance of realising a just and enduring peace for Ukraine consistent with the UN Charter."

## 'Can't forget PM's security breach in Punjab'

Anurag says no state has been discriminated against in Union Budget



Hamirpur MP Anurag Thakur in Chandigarh. NITIN MITTAL

**SANDEEP RANA**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JULY 28

Hamirpur MP Anurag Thakur on Sunday said the nation would never forget that PM Narendra Modi's security was compromised by the Punjab Government during his visit to the state in February 2022.

He was addressing a press conference here after a meet-

ing on the Union Budget. On Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann's charge of discrimination against the state in the Budget, Thakur said, "No state has been discriminated against. I want to tell the Punjab CM, who often fights with the state Governor, that he should not indulge in cheap politics."

Without any break in his sentence, Thakur said, "During the visit of PM Modi, the

## Tax clearance certificate not for all: Govt

NEW DELHI, JULY 28

After social media outrage over a Budget proposal making it mandatory to get tax clearance certificates for going abroad, the government on Sunday clarified that the proposed amendment is not for all. Only those accused of financial irregularities or having substantial tax arrears need such clearance.

**ONLY MEANT FOR THOSE WITH DUES, HIGH-VALUE DEFAULTERS**

The Finance Ministry, in the Finance Bill, 2024, has proposed to add the reference of the Black Money Act, 2015, to the list of Acts under which any person should clear his liabilities to obtain the tax clearance certificate.

"The proposed amendment does not require all the residents to obtain the tax clearance certificate," the ministry said in a statement.

As per Section 230 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, every person is not required to obtain a tax clearance certificate. Only certain persons, in respect of whom circumstances exist which make it

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## Delhi coaching centre deaths spark outrage, owner arrested

Murder, claims BJP, AAP hits back | Protesting students detained

**NEERAJ MOHAN**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 28

A day after three IAS aspirants drowned after flooding in the basement of a coaching centre in Delhi's Rajinder Nagar, leaders of both the ruling and opposition parties indulged in a political slugfest on Sunday, accusing each other of negligence.

The Delhi Police registered an FIR and formed multiple teams to probe the incident. The owner and the coordinator of the Rau's IAS Study Circle have been arrested and booked for culpable homicide among other charges.

Students held a protest in Old Rajinder Nagar here, demanding action against those responsible for the deaths and compensation for their families. A scuffle erupted between the students and police, after which a few protesters were detained.

The incident has handed the BJP ammunition against the AAP-led Delhi Government as it gears up to raise the issue in both Houses of Parliament on Monday in a bid to shift the focus from the standoff over NEET-UG



Security personnel stand guard outside the coaching institute in New Delhi on Sunday. MANAS RANJAN BHUI

paper leak controversy.

BJP's New Delhi MP Bansuri Swaraj said, "I will raise the issue in the Lok Sabha." She urged the Delhi Police to file FIRs against various state departments and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, blaming them

for the deaths. Terming the deaths as "murder", BJP's Delhi unit president Virender Sachdeva alleged, "Local residents had urged AAP MLA Durgesh Pathak multiple times to get the drain cleaned. This is very sad-denning." He demanded the

resignation of Education Minister Atishi and suspension of local officials. He called for Rs 1 crore compensation for the families of the deceased students.

AAP, however, sought to blame the BJP over the incident, CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## Education in tatters, 28 Gurdaspur schools sans teacher, basic infra

**RAVI DHALIWAL**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

GURDASPUR, JULY 28

The standard of education in government schools located near the International Border (IB) has slid to abysmally low levels — a development that is slowly leading to a complete decay of the system.

Out of 90 primary schools near the IB, 28 have no teacher. This does not end here. There are 35 schools which are functioning with just one teacher.

As far as senior secondary and high schools are concerned, a total of 40 posts of principal and headmaster are lying vacant. Nobody knows when the vacancies will be filled.

Having a "myopic vision", the department is offering temporary solutions to permanent problems. Like sending tutors from adjoining schools on a day-to-day basis to fill in the gaps in "teacher-less" schools, instead of recruiting a fresh lot of educators. Chemistry teachers are



PICTURE OF NEGLECT: A dilapidated classroom of a border school.

being asked to take Punjab language classes because vacancies of Punjab teachers have not been filled for

the past several years.

"The policy makers should understand that for poverty

## BBMB mulls mini dams at Bhakra, Pong reservoirs

**VIJAY MOHAN**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JULY 28

The Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) is exploring the prospect of constructing "mini dams" on the periphery of reservoirs at the Bhakra and Pong dams that will enable generation of several thousand MW of additional green power to meet the ever-growing demand for electricity.

**WILL AUGMENT GENERATION OF GREEN POWER**

"We have prepared a feasibility report in this regard and four/five viable spots at each dam have been identified where such mini dams, called pumped power storage plant (PSP), can come up," a senior BBMB official said. "This will be taken up with the stakeholders, including the Power Ministry and state governments, to discuss the way forward," he said.

The PSP requires constructing dams and reservoirs at a height above the main reservoir. It could be an

## New appointment may help reset Mann-Guv ties

CHANDIGARH: The appointment of a new Punjab Governor may bring some respite from the love-hate relationship between outgoing Governor Banwarilal Purohit and CM Bhagwant Mann. New Governor Gulab Chand Kataria is expected to take oath on July 31. Mann said he would be rolling out the red carpet for the new Governor. "I spoke to him this morning to congratulate him on his appointment as the Governor of Punjab. I assured him of my full cooperation and I hope we work together," he said. **INSIDE**

## Chandigarh college etches its name on India's architectural landscape



A team of the Chandigarh College of Architecture with President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

**ADITI TANDON**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 28

Le Corbusier's Chandigarh this week etched its name on India's architectural landscape with a team of faculty and students from the Chandigarh College of Architecture (CCA) concluding a prestigious project capturing flooring patterns British architect Edwin Lutyens designed for the abode of the Viceroy, now the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The two-volume work, "Interpreting Geometries: The Flooring Patterns of the

Produces first repository of exquisite flooring patterns Lutyens designed for Rashtrapati Bhavan



**THOSE BEHIND THE FEAT**

**Faculty:** Principal Sangeeta Bagga, Saumya Sharma, Shilpa Sood, Vipendra Thakur well-versed in conservation, material and building techniques | **Six PG students:** Madhur Manan, Indranil Mitra, Ashwathy Nair, Heena Lakhani, Karan Arora and Yogesh Makkar.

Rashtrapati Bhavan', is the first repository of intricate flooring designs at the majestic building, and was presented to President Droupadi Murmu on Friday.

While the first volume examines 22 spaces and

decodes 31 patterns across the ceremonial areas of the Rashtrapati Bhavan, a three-storied, H-shaped building; the second covers floor patterns across the building's intimate spaces — family and guest wings apart from the Presi-

dent and Cabinet secretariat. Speaking to *The Tribune* about the work, CCA principal Sangeeta Bagga, who led the project, said the Rashtrapati Bhavan was a much-written about national heritage, but there was no work about its flooring.

The CCA had bagged the project among 470 institutions and the work was formally commissioned after Bagga's reconnaissance survey of the site in September 2021.

The first volume describes the design philosophy and inception of the Rashtrapati

Bhavan in Raisina Hill, its unique flooring and features multiple architectural floor pattern drawings apart from interpretation sketches to understand the designs.

"The second volume undertakes a comprehensive analysis of the intricate geometrical flooring patterns that adorn the 340 rooms of Rashtrapati Bhavan. It interprets design principles, materials and their functional roles in the building's layout, explores the mathematical ratios and relationships within floor patterns

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# BJP's OBC leaders raise bogey of Cong 'role' in Jat quota stir

PRADIP SHARMA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JULY 28

Senior Other Backward Classes (OBC) leaders of the BJP today again raised the bogey of 2016 Jat quota agitation and Congress' role in it, a development which is seen as part of the Jats versus non-Jats narrative of the saffron party in the run-up to the October Assembly elections.

The OBC leaders — Rajya Sabha member Ram Chander Jangra, Deputy Speaker of Haryana Assembly Ranbir Singh Gangwa, Haryana OBC cell chief Kanan Dev Kamboj and Mayor of Yamunanagar Municipal Corporation Madan Chauhan — took potshots at the Congress for its alleged role in triggering the Jat quota riots that led to large-scale damage to the life and property, including vandalisation of the house of former Finance Minister Capt Abhimanyu in Rohtak.

They also went to the extent of playing the purported audio of Virender Singh, a confidant of former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, to underscore the alleged role of the Congress in triggering vio-



BJP's Rajya Sabha member Ram Chander Jangra (2nd from right) addresses mediapersons in Chandigarh on Sunday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

## NEED TO REMIND VOTERS OF MATTER

When asked why the BJP was raking up the Jat quota riots after eight years and before the Assembly elections, Rajya Sabha member Ram Chander Jangra said 'certain things' needed to be reminded to the electorate at the right time. "We will forget Lord Rama if we do not stage Ramilla every year," he quipped.

ence during the Jat quota agitation. "The Congress tried to vitiate the atmosphere of communal harmony in the state through its questionable role in the riots," Jangra alleged.

When specifically asked as to why the BJP was raking up the Jat quota agitation after

## BHUPINDER HOODA OWES EXPLANATION

The Congress has launched 'Haryana Mange Hisaab' campaign to divert attention from its own shortcomings. It is Hooda who owes an explanation for acts of omission and commission in his rule.

Ranbir Gangwa, HARYANA DEPUTY SPEAKER

over eight years, Jangra asserted that 'certain things' needed to be reminded to the electorate at the right time. "We will forget Lord Rama if we do not stage Ramilla every year," he quipped.

He, however, refuted allegations that the BJP wanted to

go to the Assembly polls on the non-Jat plank, claiming that the party was working in the spirit of 'sab ka saath, sab ka vikas' by taking 36 biradaris (communities) on the road to development.

The Congress has launched "Haryana Maange Hisaab" campaign against the BJP government to divert the attention of the people from its own shortcomings, asserted Gangwa. "It is Hooda who owed an explanation to the people of Haryana for various acts of omission and commission during his 10-year regime. We will go the voters on the basis of our 10 years' development in the state," he said.

Saying that the BJP government provided compensation worth crores of rupees to victims of the Jat quota agitation, Kamboj alleged that regionalism, casteism and goondaism ruled the roost during Hooda's regime. "The BJP government, first under Manohar Lal Khattar and now under Nayab Singh Saini, instilled transparency in administration besides doing equitable development across the state," Kamboj claimed.

# BJP gov't biased against Dalits: Hooda

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

HISAR, JULY 28

Stepping up attack on the BJP government, former Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda has said the BJP has been continuously curbing the reservation and rights of the Dalits and Backward Classes ever since it has come to power in the state.

Addressing Guru Daksha Prapatti Maharaj Jayanti in Azad Nagar locality, which is part of Nahwa Assembly segment, Hooda alleged that the BJP was suffering from anti-SC and OBC mentality.

"This is the reason why BJP is eliminating permanent government jobs through privatisation and skill corporation. Along with this, the education system is being handed over to private hands by closing government schools. Reservation of SC-OBC will automatically end, if government jobs and government educational institutions are abolished," he said.

Hooda said the Congress and backward society complement each other. "The Congress is out of power only when the Backward Classes move away from the Congress. When the Congress is out of power, the backward society has to bear the biggest loss because all other parties attack the rights of the Backward Classes," he said.



Ex-CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda in Hisar on Sunday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

## PROMISES PLOTS, HOUSES FOR POOR

Former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda promised 100 sq yd plots and two-room houses for the poor, SCs and OBCs, free treatment scheme up to ₹25 lakh, pension of ₹6,000 to the elderly and old pension scheme benefits to employees.

"The BJP also targeted this segment when it came to power as the creamy layer ceiling was reduced from Rs 8 lakh to Rs 6 lakh to end the reservation of the Backward Class. Along with this, agricultural and salary income was also added to it. Whereas the Congress government had separated agricultural and salary income from creamy layer, so that the society could get the full bene-

fit of reservation," he said.

The former CM said the BJP increased the creamy layer ceiling back to Rs 8 lakh to get votes in the elections. "Why has the BJP not apologised till now for the anti-Backward Class decision? Due to this decision of the government, thousands of children from the Backward Classes were deprived of admission to MBBS, engineering and other courses and thou-

sands of youth could not get government jobs in the past 7 years. Who will compensate for their loss?" he questioned. "Not only this, this government has completely abolished the reservation of the SC-OBC by implementing Kaushal Rozgar Nigam. There is neither reservation, nor merit or transparency in this contract system of the BJP. Under this policy, all future recruitment will be done through the Kaushal Nigam and indirectly reservation will be abolished automatically. That is why 2 lakh permanent jobs are lying vacant in the state and a backlog of thousands of OBC posts has been created, but the BJP does not want to fill it," he stated.

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Hooda announced that after the formation of Congress government, this backlog will be cleared and permanent recruitment will be made on the vacant 2 lakh posts by giving the benefit of reservation. "All jobs will be given on the basis of merit by eliminating paper leak and recruitment mafia. The creamy layer limit will be increased from Rs 8 to Rs 10 lakh," he promised.

Hooda also promised 100 sq yd plots and two-room houses for the poor, SCs and OBCs, free treatment scheme up to Rs 25 lakh, pension of Rs 6,000 to the elderly and old pension scheme benefits to employees.

# BJP set to make a hat-trick by returning to power: Badoli

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PAIDWA/ FARIDABAD, JULY 28

State BJP chief Mohan Lal Badoli has expressed confidence that his party will return to power for the third time in the state.

Speaking at the party's functions held at Paidwal and Faridabad during his first visit to these districts on Sunday after his appointment as the state unit president, Badoli said the party was unlikely to face any major obstacle or hindrance in the upcoming Assembly elections and would return to power for the third consecutive time. He said the party secured lead in as many as 46 Assembly segments against 42 segments of the Congress party in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections.

He said the party enjoyed the support of the majority of the voters in the state and this would ensure a clear mandate or victory of the party for the third time. He said the BJP rule in the state for the past about 10 years had been full of achievements as the government had addressed the issues of all segments of the society in a fair manner.

Describing the criticism of the opposition parties



State BJP chief Mohan Lal Badoli at an event in Faridabad.

regarding the issue of ignoring the interests of Haryana in the Union Budget this year, the BJP leader said this was an attempt to mislead the people as any projects regarding the roads, rail and industry in the neighboring states would also benefit the residents of Haryana.

Regarding the recent ED raids against some of the leaders of the Congress party, he said the wrongdoers would be subject to inquiries and probe and there was nothing wrong in it. He said many more such leaders may face action if all the irregularities committed

in the past get unearthed.

Interacting with party leaders and workers earlier, Badoli asked them to work hard to ensure the return of the BJP to power. He said the focus would be on booth management. Regarding the selection process of the candidates for the upcoming elections, Badoli said all aspirants were well aware that the names of the candidates would be finalised by the party parliamentary board. He said the party's manifesto would be prepared after taking suggestions from the public and the party workers.

# Stay united to overthrow saffron party: Selja to workers

DEEPENDER DESWAL  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

HISAR, JULY 28

Apparently seeking credit for the victory of three out of five Lok Sabha seats bagged by the Congress in Haryana, Sirsa MP and former Union Minister Kumari Selja today thanked the people for ensuring win of Hisar MP Jai Prakash besides the party's win in Sirsa and Ambala parliamentary constituencies.

Addressing the workers' meeting in Barwala Assembly constituency in Hisar district on the second day of her Congress Sandesh Yatra today, Selja said, "We won five seats in Haryana out of 10 seats. Of these five seats won by the Congress, I am thankful to you that you helped win Jai Prakash from Hisar besides Sirsa and Ambala," she said.

Selja's statement is significant as by thanking people for victory in these three Lok Sab-

## Promises legal guarantee on MSP, employment for youth



Sirsa MP Kumari Selja at a Congress workers' meeting in Barwala town of Hisar on Sunday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

ha constituencies, she was indirectly staking claim for the victory for herself. While she is a resident of Hisar, she was a candidate from Sirsa (reserved), she also went to campaign for the Congress candidate Varun Mulana in Ambala (reserved).

However, Selja gave a call to the Congress workers to stay united to overthrow the BJP. "Time for change has come. The people of the state have suffered a lot under the misrule of the BJP for the past 10 years," she said.

The former Union minister

said the state has become number one in unemployment. "When youth asked for jobs, they were beaten with sticks. When farmers and sarpanches made some demands before the BJP government, they were cane-charged. This has been going

on for 10 years. Farmers are still sitting on the roads, but not a word has been said for them by the BJP," she alleged.

She took a dig at Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini for the fiasco in Fatehabad when he named six works approved by the previous Congress government, stating that nothing has been done in the name of development, and the BJP leaders are counting the works done by Congress.

Selja said the BJP has worked to divide society by playing caste politics. "We want everyone to walk together, and the one who is left behind should be heard first so that Haryana can progress," she said adding that the BJP changed the CM, but this will not change anything because the BJP's policies are anti-people. She also promised legal guarantee for the MSP, hike in the wages of labourers and more jobs for the youth.

# In 'Mann Ki Baat', PM mentions handloom industry of Rohtak

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JULY 28

Under the leadership of Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, the Haryana Government has taken several significant steps for women development and empowerment. Initiatives for gender equality, 50 per cent reservation in Panchayati Raj institutions, uplift through self-help groups, and steps to improve the sex ratio have marked significant progress in women's empowerment.

Many women are actively contributing by joining self-help groups. They made significant contributions in the handloom industry, sewing, embroidery, and other handicrafts. Prime Minister Narendra Modi acknowledged this fact on his popular radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat'. During the programme, he mentioned the handloom industry

## PRaises WOMEN SELF-HELP GROUP

PM Narendra Modi said over 250 women associated with the 'Unnati Self Help Group' were now trained in block printing and dyeing.

The PM emphasised these women had created a new identity with their confidence and hard work, and their efforts had proven that if women worked unitedly, they could overcome any challenge and become self-reliant.

in Rohtak district of Haryana and particularly praised the women of the 'Unnati Self Help Group', which had taken steps towards economic self-reliance through their hard work and dedication.

Modi said over 250 women associated with the 'Unnati Self Help Group' were now trained in block printing and dyeing. This training has not

only enhanced their skills but has also empowered them economically. These women are supporting their families by creating magic with colours on fabrics and have become a source of inspiration in society.

The Prime Minister emphasised how these women had created a new identity with their confidence and hard work and their efforts have proven that if women work unitedly, they can overcome any challenge and become self-reliant.

The Prime Minister said the efforts of the 'Unnati Self Help Group' were not only promoting the handloom industry but also making a positive contribution to the local economy. He encouraged women from other districts across the country to join similar groups and bring about changes in their lives.

# My father first raised issue of Ahir regiment in Parl: Inderjit

RAVINDER SAINI  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, JULY 28

Union Minister Rao Inderjit Singh has said youth would have to come forward to keep the principles alive in politics. The political torch would have to be handed over to young leaders.

Rao stated this while addressing public meetings in Kosli and Jatusana towns in Rewari district on Sunday. He pointed out that his family had been in politics for nearly a century and the people's love for the family was still intact. The minister also appealed to the leaders sitting on the dais to end mutual disputes and unite for the betterment of the region.

"My father had raised this issue in Parliament for the Ahir Regiment when he was in power. I too had supported the community's demand by going to the dharna in Delhi despite being a part of the government. Many other people from the community have been Defence Minister but they did not raise the voice for the Ahir Regiment," the minister claimed.

Rao maintained that when he was the Minister of State for Defence, the leaders used to talk about shifting the Sainik School to some other place from Rewari, but he got the Sainik School built in Rewari itself. Kosli played an



Union Minister Rao Inderjit at a public meeting in Rewari.

important role in constructing the Sainik School as the maximum number of soldiers in the region was from here, he added.

Speaking on the ongoing dispute between Kosli and Bhakli villages, Rao said both the villages should maintain brotherhood. "I am ready to mediate to resolve the issue between the two villages. This issue should be resolved by forming a committee of the village and nearby villages," he suggested.

Rao said his family had always suffered political losses for raising the voice of the public. "His father Rao Birendra Singh was removed from the Cabinet when he raised the voice of this region and Hindi-speaking people against the then Kairo Singh government," he informed.

Rao pointed out that former MLA Vikram Singh was made a minister in the state government and faced the allegations of corruption, but to date, no investigation had been done in this regard. "Whoever stays with Inderjit is declared corrupt," claimed Rao, adding that he would become a lawyer of this area and raise its demands in front of the state government.

Aarti Rao, daughter of Rao Inderjit, said she had been getting the love of the people of Kosli since childhood. "When her father started politics, the people of this area were the first to give their blessings. People here have shown their political strength to the parties. In the coming days too, we have to take political decisions with unity," she added.

# AICC national secy Ashish Dua in race for Gurugram ticket

SUMEDHA SHARMA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

GURUGRAM, JULY 28

Ashish Dua, presently the national secretary of the All-Indian Congress Committee (AICC) and incharge Maharashtra, is in the race for the party's candidature from Gurugram. With Raj Babbar having left a mark in Punjabi population and urban pockets in Gurugram, the party plans to bank on tried and tested mantra; and with Dua fitting the bill, he is being considered as the frontrunner for the post.

Dua, 57, a Gurugram resident and mechanical engineer, is believed to be close to Gandhis and has been vocal about the civic crises in Gurugram. He is more active in national politics. He was a contender for the ticket in 2019 also, but Sukhbeer Kataria was given the chance. Kataria lost by a huge margin to BJP's Sudhir Singla. Sources claim that facing a dearth of strong party leader in city since 2014, the Congress is looking for a fresh face that not just fits the community equations, but manages to click with the urban population that has been a decisive factor in the Lok Sabha elections.

"Gurugram is big issue for us. After Dharambir Gaba we have



Considered close to Gandhis, is party observer in 15 states

not had a strong mass leader from the city. Even in the Lok Sabha, we had to get Raj Babbar who managed to rattle the BJP with minimal time for the campaign. The Punjabi community and urban voters of condominiums and sectors struggling with civic woes emerged our supporters. We need to now bank on this stronghold. The party will conduct ground research and then decide the candidate," said a senior leader of AICC.

Dua is believed to be close to Sonia and Rahul Gandhi. Besides being the incharge from Maharashtra, he is a party observer for 15 states. Speaking to *The Tribune*, he said: "I have filed my application and the rest is party's decision."



Govt. of Haryana



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**I, Pardeep Kumar s/o Sh. Veerchand Goel r/o #66, Sector 8, Panchkula-134109 (Haryana) have changed my name to Pardeep Kumar Goel.** (CL24039568)

**I, Sanskar Sharma s/o Anil Kumar R/o H.No. 320/11, V.P.O. Purana Bazar, Teh. Sunder Nagar, Distt. Mandi H.P. declare that I have changed my name from Sanskar to Sanskar Sharma Affi No. IN-HP20621508227969W.** (CL24039665)

**I, Murari Lal Ramavat s/o Ram Chand r/o Street No. 2, Sunder Nagri, Abohar have changed my name to Murari Lal Sharma.** (CL24039711)

**I, Swadesh Ramavat w/o Murari Lal Sharma r/o Street No. 2, Sunder Nagri, Abohar have changed my name to Sudesh Sharma.** (CL24039712)

## COURT NOTICE

**(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)**  
In the Court of Ms. Krishnanuja Mittal Additional Civil Judge (Senior Division), Fatehgarh Sahib. Iqbal Singh Vs. Gurjotinderjit Singh

CNR No.: PBF02-001395-2022  
Next Date: 23.08.2024

Publication issued to: Gurjotinderjit Singh :- Iqbal Singh, Vill. Bhaini Kalan, Teh. and Distt. FGS.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 23.08.2024 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to: [https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district\\_notice&district=fatehgarhsahib](https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=fatehgarhsahib)

Dated, this day of 23.07.2024.

Sd/- (Pritpal Singh)  
Additional Principal Judge Family Court, CL24039553 Gurdaspur.

## COURT NOTICES

**(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)**  
In the Court of Sh. Arun Gupta District and Sessions Judge, Fatehgarh Sahib Bhinder Kaur Versus Surjit Kaur

CNR No.: PBF01-001524-2023  
Next Date: 04.09.2024

Appeal against the Judgement Dated 23.01.2023 passed by the Court of Ms. Ekta Sedha, PCS, learned Civil Judge (Junior Division), Khamanon Publication issued to: 1. Surjit Kaur daughter of Raj Karan alleged wife of Kaka Singh resident of Village Jakhan, Tehsil Dhuri, District Sangrur. 2. Surinder Kaur alleged daughter of Kaka Singh, resident of Village Jakhan, Tehsil Dhuri, District Sangrur. 3. Karnail Kaur wife of Baldev Singh daughter of Arjan Singh resident of Village Kotla (Bharri), Tehsil Samrala, District Ludhiana now deceased through her LRs: a) Surinder Kaur (daughter) wife of Balraj Singh, resident of Village Majra, Tehsil Khanna, District Ludhiana. b) Kuldeep Kaur (daughter) wife of Gurinder Singh, resident of Village Kotla Bhari, Tehsil Samrala, District Ludhiana. c) Baldev Singh (husband) resident of Village Kotla Bhari, Tehsil Samrala, District Ludhiana.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 04.09.2024 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to: [https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district\\_notice&district=fatehgarhsahib](https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=fatehgarhsahib)  
Dated, this day of 20.07.2024.  
Sd/- District and Sessions Judge, CL24039548 Fatehgarh Sahib

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**(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)**  
In the Court of Sh. Manpreet Sohi, PCS, Civil Judge (Junior Division), Jagraon

Versus Maninder Singh  
CNR No. PBLD80-000214-2024  
Next Date: 10.09.2024  
Suit for recovery Rs. 3,65,264/-

Publication issued to: 1. Maninder Singh s/o Hardev Singh s/o Sher Singh, 2. Pargat Singh s/o Hardev Singh s/o Sher Singh, both resident of H.No. 32/4 Village Rauwal, Tehsil Jagraon, District Ludhiana.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 10.09.2024 at 10:00 a.m.

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Dated, this day of 12.07.2024.

Sd/- Manpreet Sohi, PCS, Civil Judge (Jr. Division), CL24039550 Jagraon.

**(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)**  
In the Court of Sh. Pritpal Singh Additional Principal Judge

Family Court, Gurdaspur Poonam Mehra Versus General Public  
CNR No. PBGD01-001311-2024  
Next Date: 22.08.2024  
GW/8/2024

Publication issued to: General Public

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 22.08.2024 at 10:00 a.m.

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Dated, this day of 23.07.2024.

Sd/- (Pritpal Singh)  
Additional Principal Judge Family Court, CL24039553 Gurdaspur.

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Sd/- Additional Civil Judge (Senior Division), Fatehgarh Sahib. CL24039545

## Portal for new beneficiaries to apply for plots

**KURUKSHETRA, JULY 28**  
Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini today said the government will soon launch a portal to help the new eligible beneficiaries apply for plots.

He was addressing a gathering on the occasion of Abhinandan Samaroh organised by Valmiki Sabha and Maharishi Valmiki Ashram Society in Kurukshetra.

The Chief Minister said, "The government will give plots to all eligible beneficiaries for which a portal will soon be launched. The beneficiaries will just have to apply on the portal and all of them will get the plots." Saini highlighted the development works carried out in Kurukshetra over the past 10 years. — TNS

## Death of youth in Russia: Surjewala slams Centre, BJP govt for inaction

**PARVEEN ARORA**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**KARNAL, JULY 28**  
The family members of Ravi, a youth of Mator village in Kaithal, who was allegedly killed on the Russian warfront, along with families of five others from the same village who are missing, met Rajya Sabha MP Randeep Surjewala today. Surjewala lambasted the Union and the state governments for their inaction. He accused the government for not taking the issue seriously despite it being raised on April 7.

He alleged that the BJP government has failed to bring back Haryana youth

## DECEASED WENT TO RUSSIA ON JAN 13



Ajay, brother of Ravi, said his brother along with five other youths of the village went to Russia on January 13 this year for a job. He said they were in touch with him for some days, but he was later sent on the frontline. They had no communication with him after March 12.

## FAMILY ASKED TO PROVIDE FATHER'S DNA

The embassy of India in Moscow, which has confirmed the death of Ravi in Russia, in reply to Ravi's brother Ajay's mail, has asked them to provide the DNA of his father, as their mother had passed away in 2018. The embassy has assured to send the mortal remains to India after the confirmation of DNA test.

stuck in Russia to India. "We had written to External Affairs Minister S Jais-

hankar on April 7, seeking the return of eight youth of Haryana, including six

from Mator village in Kaithal district, one from Tohana in Fatehabad, and one from Sambli in Karnal district, but no help was provided by the government," Surjewala said.

The MP also slammed Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and the BJP government for being "mute spectators" to the plight of the youth stuck on the Russian battleground.

"We kept knocking the doors of the Modi government and Saini government, but they did not act and in the meanwhile a youth from Haryana died. The news of Ravi's death is heart-breaking. It's an example of the

BJP government's incompetence towards the youth." Surjewala questioned the government's responsibility, asking whether the Haryana Government had no role in bringing back the mortal remains of Ravi and ensuring the safe return of the other missing youths.

Surjewala also accused the BJP of glorifying the visit of PM Narendra Modi to Russia, claiming that the PM had discussed the issue of return of the youth to India with President Vladimir Putin during his recent visit to Russia, but no result has come out of it and we only got the news of Ravi's death," he added.

## Manu's family ecstatic at her shot to Olympic fame



Family members of Manu Bhaker celebrate at Goriya village in Jhajjar on Sunday. SUMIT THARAN

**RAVINDER SAINI**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**JHAJJAR, JULY 28**  
The moment shooter Manu Bhaker entered the top three in the 10-metre air pistol event in Paris Olympics today, her grandmother, uncle, aunt and other family members, who were watching the proceedings live, at the ancestral house in Goriya village of the district broke into thunderous applause.

The family was so confident about Manu winning a medal that they had already made the arrangement for laddoos in advance. Manu's parents, who currently reside in Faridabad, visit the village regularly due to her practice.

When *The Tribune* team visited her house in Goriya village today, her family members were glued to the TV. They would cheer the shooter by clapping as soon as she hit a good shot.

"Manu could not win a medal in the Tokyo Olympics as her pistol malfunctioned. She would have definitely made the country proud in the last games, had it not been for her pistol," said an elated Baljeet Singh, Manu's uncle.

Mahendra Singh Bhaker, another uncle of the shooter, said: "Manu is a golden girl. We are hopeful that she will prove this by clinching gold in her next two events. However, winning a bronze in the Olympics is also a great achievement."

Manu's grandmother Daya Kaur said she was glad by the medal-winning performance

## HER STRUGGLE FOR LICENCE 7 YEARS AGO

Olympic Bronze medalist Manu Bhaker had to struggle for over two months to get a licence for her pistol from Jhajjar district administration over seven years ago. At that time, she had to go abroad to participate in an international shooting championship. Manu's father Ram Kishan Bhaker also tweeted the CMO and the then Sports Minister. The case was also highlighted by the media. After more than two months, finally their efforts bore fruit and the young shooter succeeded in getting the licence.

## ₹4,500 HER FIRST CASH AWARD

Manu got ₹4,500 as her first cash award for winning gold in the shooting championship held in Mahendragarh in 2016. She won the medal just after 15 days of practice. Her mother Sumedha Bhaker, a housewife, said Manu kept this cash award safely for a long time. Manu's father Ram Kishan Bhaker is a marine engineer, his brother is pursuing LLB. To assist Manu, her mother had to leave the job of school principal.

## MANU STARTED SHOOTING IN 2016

Manu started pistol shooting in April 2016 at her Universal Senior Secondary School in her Goriya village, where a manual shooting range has been established. In her first national games in 2016, she won a gold in the team event, but she created a record by clinching 15 medals, including 11 gold, in the national games held in Kerala in 2017. The rest is history.

men as well as the support extended by the shooting federation and others.

"A large number of youth from Haryana practise shooting at various places. Manu's achievement will not only boost their morale, but also raise the popularity of the game in the state. Besides shooting, Manu has also played karate, skating and boxing in her childhood. She also won medals at the state and national level in all these games. Since shooting is a more transparent game than others, perhaps that is why Manu has been playing this game for a long time," said Ram Kishan.

## Mid-day meal workers demand pay revision, retirement benefits

**TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE**

**FARIDABAD, JULY 28**

Hundreds of members of the Haryana Mid-Day Meal Workers' Union staged a demonstration here today to highlight their grievances over the non-acceptance of their long-pending demands. Education Minister Seema Trikha who reached the protest site was handed over a memorandum of demands. The protesters had threatened to lay siege to the house of the minister this morning.

Union general secretary Sarbati said the protest had been part of the ongoing agitation over their long-pending demands. She further said the state government had failed to redress the grievances of around 30,000 mid-day meal workers employed in the government primary schools.

Sarbati added that the union

## MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED TO EDU MINISTER

The Haryana Mid-Day Meal Workers' Union on Sunday handed over a memorandum of demands to Education Minister Seema Trikha. The union's demands include the revision of minimum wages to ₹26,000 a month, which is paid all 12 months, retirement benefit of ₹5 lakh and enhancing the retirement age to 65, besides the uniform allowance of ₹2,000 per year.

affiliated to the Centre of Trade Union had submitted a memorandum seeking the revision of minimum wages to Rs 26,000 a month, which is paid all 12 months, retirement benefit of Rs 5 lakh and enhancing the retirement age to 65, besides the uniform allowance of Rs 2,000 per year.

CITU state president Surekha said the mid-day meal workers were getting a paltry amount of Rs 7,000 and that also not on time, resulting in financial hardship to them and their families. All-India State Government Employees' Federation national president Subhash

Lamba said their demands had been justified and the protest was perhaps the last option for the employees who had been at the receiving end due to faulty policies. He said the Education Minister supported the demand for the payment of the wages for 12 months, but failed to express support for the revision of salary.

However, Mid-Day Meal Workers' Union president Saroj Dujana said the matter would be discussed in a state-level meeting of the association next week in which the further plan of action would be chalked out.

## Haryana Diary

## Hooda, Selja loyalists walk tightrope

Two Congress veterans Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Kumari Selja recently organised programmes in two Assembly segments in Hisar district. While the former Chief Minister was the chief guest at Daksh Prajapati Jayanti Sammelan held in Nalwa segment, the Sirmu MP addressed a meeting of party workers in the Barwala segment. However, loyalists of the respective leaders made sure they didn't attend the functions of the other faction. In a display of their loyalty, even local leaders avoided being seen in the rival group's event. During a press conference in Hisar, Hooda was asked about Selja's programmes and whether the two leaders would share the stage. However, Congress state chief Udai Bhan took the question and replied that "Selja is the general secretary of the party and Hooda was also working to strengthen the party. Who has the problem with this?"

## Garbage issue raises stink in Parl

By raising the garbage and poor cleanliness issue related to Faridabad and Gurugram cities in Parliament, senior Congress leader and MP Kumari Selja has not only given political fodder of attack to the Opposition, but has also put the ruling party and its supporters in a kind of embarrassing situation.

"Though the BJP has three ministers from Haryana in the Modi Cabinet, the sorry state of affairs of civic amenities in the two metropolitan cities, which are major revenue contributors of the state, could further erode the ruling party's voters base in the upcoming Assembly elections," say political analysts.

## Uneasy times for ticket-seekers

The political chessboard for the upcoming Assembly Elections in the state has been laid. All parties are busy in planning for the elections in their own way. Ticket aspirants in all parties are also occupied in preparations and leaving no stone unturned to stake claim on the ticket for the Vidhan Sabha elections. But the new entrants are a challenge for them as well as for the selectors. Recently Vijay Jain, former BJP

## councillor joined the Congress in Panipat

Gramin Assembly constituency, increasing the tension of ticket aspirants. Similarly, in the Samalkha Assembly constituency, the entry of Manmohan Bhadana, who is a son of former minister Kartar Bhadana, has also created a stir in the BJP camp. Before it's decided who gets the ticket, there will definitely be some fireworks for sure. The Assembly elections are going to be interesting this time.

## Show of strength at Cong yatra

Congress ticket aspirants, belonging to Sirmu MP Kumari Selja faction, yesterday showed their strength at various locations during the Congress Sandesh Yatra-2 held in Ambala City in view of the upcoming Assembly elections. About eight welcome points were distributed among local party leaders from Agarsen Chowk to Jagadhri Gate to welcome the yatra and show their strength. Even during the address of Birender Singh and Kumari Selja, supporters of the aspirants kept raising slogans in support of their respective leaders. A Congress leader said the aspirants had deployed their supporters in large numbers at various points to get the attention of Kumari Selja. Every leader has the right to stake claim but the leaders know who are actually working on the ground.

## Prominent Dalit face in HSSC

With the appointment of Master Amar Singh as a member of Haryana Staff Selection Commission (HSSC), Yamunanagar district has again got representation in the commission. Earlier, Bhopal Singh Khadri from the district became the chairman of the HSSC. However, he stepped down from the post in March 2024. According to political observers, the state government would have had two motives behind appointing Amar Singh. First, the Yamunanagar district has got representation in the HSSC and second, there will be an opportunity to appease the Dalit community through his appointment. Master Amar Singh, who is a Haryana government teacher, is at a senior position in the RSS and is also a prominent Dalit face in the state.

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## The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

## Step towards peace

Jamaat-e-Islami eyes political resurgence

THE announcement by the Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir (JeI-J&K) of its intention to return to the political mainstream, provided the ban imposed on it is lifted, marks a significant moment in the region's tumultuous history. The socio-religious party, which has been a key force in Kashmir for decades, has now expressed its readiness to re-engage with electoral politics. Senior JeI-J&K member Ghulam Qadir Lone has underscored the party's commitment to serving the people and operating within the democratic framework. This shift from a banned entity with alleged militant links to a political contender indicates a strategic recalibration, possibly influenced by the changing geopolitical dynamics and internal pressures within Kashmir.

Allowing the JeI-J&K to re-enter the political arena could have profound implications. It may provide a legitimate platform for the party's substantial support base, reducing the appeal of militancy by offering a peaceful means to pursue political objectives. This move could also signify a broader strategy by the government to integrate disenfranchised groups into the democratic fold, thereby stabilising the region.

However, this transition is fraught with challenges. The legacy of the JeI-J&K's affiliations with militant groups and its pro-Pakistan stance raise concerns about its commitment to India's sovereignty and democratic principles. Also, there is the risk of rifts emerging within the party and a potential backlash from hardline elements opposed to this political shift. Despite these constraints, the party's climbdown could be a step towards peace and stability in Kashmir. As the region stands at a critical juncture, the actions of both the JeI-J&K and the government will be pivotal to shaping the political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

## Agnipath row

Govt must thoroughly review the scheme

THE Agnipath scheme has been under intense scrutiny ever since it was launched two years ago. From time to time, retired defence officers have voiced concerns over the scheme for short-term recruitment into the armed forces, flagging issues such as inadequate retention — only 25 per cent of the Agniveers will be absorbed in the permanent cadre — and manpower shortage. Recent incidents of Agniveers reportedly being involved in criminal activities are worrisome, even as questions remain over the prospects of recruits after they are released from service. Some veterans have even stated that the time-tested recruitment system should not have been tinkered with.

Apart from the disagreement within the military community, Agnipath has become a bone of contention in the political arena. In his address on Kargil Vijay Diwas last week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi not only stoutly defended the scheme but also accused the Opposition of playing politics over the recruitment process. Asserting that Agnipath was aimed at making the forces younger and fitter, he trashed the claims that the scheme was launched to save pension money. Led by the Congress, several Opposition parties have demanded that the scheme be scrapped. Notably, some allies of the ruling BJP, especially the Janata Dal (United), have sought its comprehensive review.

The government cannot afford to let things drift as the lack of consensus will have a bearing on the combat preparedness of the armed forces. Several BJP-ruled states have announced reservation or preference for former Agniveers for jobs in uniformed services like the police. However, this may not be enough to silence the naysayers. The Centre must be receptive to the feedback and take pains to remove the scheme's shortcomings. An inflexible attitude can be counter-productive, as shown by the year-long protests that followed the enactment of the three Central farm laws (which were eventually repealed). At stake are national security and the morale of the troops. Political grandstanding must take a back seat.

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

## The Tribune.

LAHORE, TUESDAY, JULY 29, 1924

## Hakim Ajmal Khan's statement

IT must be admitted that beyond certain general observations permeated by a true spirit of nationalism, there is nothing in the greater part of Hakim Ajmal Khan's statement on the Delhi riots which can be said to be of immediate practical value. The one thing which the public is most anxious to know on the morrow of such happenings is, who or what was immediately and directly responsible for them? Where the happening is a communal one, the first question that is invariably asked is, which community was the aggressor in the case or was more to blame? Hakim Sahib's statement scrupulously avoids answering the question. It has much, almost everything, to say about the "pre-disposing causes", so far as those causes were general. They were "sectarian intrigues, narrow, selfish prejudices born and bred in a general atmosphere of mutual distrust and suspicion and of mischievous machinations of interested individuals and parties". The evil, says the statement, had been in existence for long and was growing worse day by day, when Hakim Sahib, who had been away from Delhi since April on account of his daughter's illness and his own bad health, visited the city during the last week of June. To quote from the statement, "I considered it my duty to warn the responsible leaders and workers of both communities that unless these objectionable and inflammatory publications were forthwith effectively curbed, a breach of the peace and the breaking of heads was inevitable. The warning, with all its serious implications and the advice offered, I am extremely grieved to say, was not listened to."

## Shifting realities of India-US ties

Seeing Delhi as a strategic ally and also criticising its alleged human rights violations is contradictory



**G PARTHASARATHY**  
CHANCELLOR, JAMMU CENTRAL UNIVERSITY, & FORMER HIGH COMMISSIONER TO PAKISTAN

EYEBROWS were raised in the Western world over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Moscow at the invitation of Russian President Putin just when the NATO alliance was meeting in Washington to take decisions on the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Like his past visits to Russia, this one was successful in addressing a number of issues — most importantly, energy and defence cooperation. The trip came weeks after the US Department of State published a report on alleged human rights abuse in India. The report described India as a country where human rights were violated routinely. It asserted that Manipur had been shaken by instances of rape, armed conflict and assaults, accompanied by the destruction of homes, shops and places of worship.

The US report noted that activists and journalists in India had reported violence in the northeastern state. This can happen in any democracy when sections of the people take to arms. Media coverage of such happenings is not new in India. The media is free to cover incidents across India. The Modi government predictably deployed security forces to enforce curfews in response to the growing violence in Manipur. The Supreme Court has also intervened over the developments in Manipur, calling for effective measures for restoration of peace.

The violence in Manipur,



**MOOT POINT:** It remains to be seen whether Kamala Harris, if she wins the presidential race, will focus on the strategic ties that have taken the US-India relationship to a new high. PTI

which is located near the border with China, has largely ended. There has been criticism of the government's policies in Manipur by the Opposition. Such issues are resolved within the framework of the country's Constitution, with the active participation of the Opposition and often the involvement of the Supreme Court. The US report on the developments in India, however, appears one-sided, unrealistic and undiplomatic. It can only be described as an ill-advised effort, set to lead to a downward spiral in the India-US relationship.

The main question for India now is whether Kamala Harris, if she wins the presidential race, will follow the confused and somewhat less-than-friendly path of her mentor Joe Biden or focus on the strategic ties that have taken the US-India relationship to a new high. One can only hope for a new beginning in India-US ties.

Interestingly, *The Wall Street Journal* has noted: "Democrats are newly energised as they rally behind Kamala Harris for President." One has to take note of the growing readiness

One has to take note of the growing readiness and confidence of the Democratic Party to confront Trump in the presidential elections.

and confidence of the Democratic Party to take on former President Donald Trump in the presidential elections.

The US Administration's major attention in the coming months will be on the Russia-Ukraine conflict; the Western world, led by Biden, continues to pour in money, arms and ammunition to the Ukrainian government. According to a German institute, the US and the European Union have

pledged or provided "more than \$380 billion" in military, financial and humanitarian aid to Ukraine since 2022. The impact of the Ukraine conflict is being felt across Europe. Even Azerbaijan has supplied bombs to the conflict zone via Sudan. Not to be left behind, Pakistan has also reportedly provided Ukraine with Kamikaze drones, man-portable air-defence systems and surface-to-air missiles. One wonders how long this conflict will continue, with the loss of lives mounting. This is a war that will go on, unless Trump, who has opposed US involvement, is elected President. Trump has left no doubt that he is not interested in spending US taxpayers' money on the conflict in Ukraine.

There are, however, serious challenges ahead if Harris chooses to continue the Biden policy of pouring in money and armaments into a seemingly unending conflict. While Russia may be willing to cede some territory it has taken over, it will never agree to a settlement without retaining a firm control of its access to the

sea, which it has historically controlled. The Russian military intervention in Ukraine started only after it became evident that Ukrainian President Zelenskyy was joining the US in measures which would compromise Russia's territorial integrity and national security.

India certainly has no interest in getting drawn into the rivalry and ambitions of European powers. But it cannot afford to turn the other cheek when a foreign power seeks to promote a propaganda barrage against it. New Delhi has, after all, been dealing with a ruler (Biden) in Washington, who, as Vice-President, had chosen to travel all the way from Islamabad to Rawalpindi to call on a Pakistani four-star General.

The US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, meanwhile, commenced his reference to human rights from the days of his July 2021 visit to India. He had then said: "There are few relationships in the world that are more vital than the one between the US and India. We are the world's two leading democracies and our diversity fuels our national strength... Both of our democracies are works in progress. Sometimes that process is painful. Sometimes it's ugly. But the strength of democracy is to embrace it."

It is not clear how Harris will run the State Department if she becomes President. One hopes that the people in Washington realise that there is a contradiction between referring to India as a strategic ally on the one hand and then criticising its alleged human rights violations in official documents on the other.

Interestingly, Harris has moved ahead with campaigning against Trump, whose candidate for Vice-President is 39-year-old Senator JD Vance; the latter's wife is Indian-origin Usha Vance. We are headed for interesting times as the election gathers steam.

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

A great democracy must be progressive or it will soon cease to be a great democracy. —Theodore Roosevelt

## The myriad ways of destiny

SATISH KUMAR SHARMA

WITH Joe Biden finally bowing out of the US presidential race, Kamala Harris has declared her candidature for the top post. Of the 49 vice-presidents the US has had till now, 15 went on to become the President. There are many instances when destiny went out of the way to make a winner of the most unlikely candidate.

Mary Todd was a young woman living in Springfield, Illinois, in the 1830s. It is said that one day, she declared to someone proudly, 'My husband will be the President of the US.' The boast was not entirely an empty one because one of her suitors was Stephen A Douglas, a brilliant lawyer, orator and politician with a bright future. But as things turned out, Mary married Abraham Lincoln, a lesser-known lawyer. Destiny, however, proved Mary right when Lincoln won the 1860 presidential election in a four-way contest in which Douglas was also a contestant.

Gerald Ford's rise to presidency was even more curious. In 1973, he was a Congressman looking forward to retirement when Spiro Agnew resigned from vice-presidency. To fill the vacancy, then President Richard Nixon appointed Ford as his VP. Not long afterwards, Nixon resigned as a result of the Watergate scandal. So, within eight months, a Congressman rose to become the US President without contesting any election.

Closer home, Narasimha Rao had packed his bags to leave New Delhi around April 1991 because Rajiv Gandhi had denied him the ticket to contest the General Election. But within two months, the situation changed dramatically in his favour and he became the Prime Minister who served his full term despite the Congress being short of the majority.

In the early 1990s, when I was serving as an IPS officer in Gujarat, we had a DGP who was kind to young officers and was not averse to opening his heart before a junior. One day, he confided in me, 'God has been very kind. You know there was no chance of my becoming the DGP of the state.'

When I asked him how it had happened, he said he belonged to the first batch of the IPS in Gujarat after the state was carved out of the state of Bombay. There were four officers senior to him in service but younger in age in the state. Seniority used to be sacrosanct in those days. So, it was nearly impossible for him to reach the top. But as luck would have it, of the four officers ahead of him, one quit and took up a job in the private sector, another got his cadre changed and yet another resigned and joined politics.

I asked him what happened to the fourth officer senior to him. The DGP became grim. He said, 'His case was very unfortunate. A few years into service, he got fed up with the police job. He resigned and tried his luck in business. He succeeded initially but later suffered heavy losses. He went into depression and committed suicide.'

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Key sectors given short shrift

With reference to 'Health & education are nobody's baby' (*The Great Game*); it is unfortunate that despite several recommendations by experts across the world for investing more in the key sectors of health and education, the government continues to give them short shrift. For years, India has been one of the lowest spenders in the world on health. Further, funding for education as a share of the GDP has only gone down. While it is easy to point fingers at the ruling dispensation and Opposition parties for the neglect of the sectors, the mainstream media also bears responsibility for its failure to adequately highlight the poor state of healthcare and education facilities in the country.

CAPT AMAR JEET (RETD), KHARAR

## Health, education get sidelined

The government's neglect of the health and education sectors is glaring (*The Great Game*). Despite all the grandstanding on national security, the Budget reveals a stark truth: health and education are not high on the list of priorities of our decision-makers. The paltry increase of 1.9 per cent in the Health Ministry's budget is not enough to ensure the elimination of tuberculosis by 2025 or facilitate universal child immunisation. Besides, the allocation for the education sector remains well below the global benchmark of 4 to 6 per cent. Both the ruling regime and the Opposition are to blame for the sorry state of affairs. India deserves better than this. All political parties must prioritise health and education.

AMANJOT KAUR, MOHALI

## PM played politics over Agnipath

A war memorial stands as a solemn reminder of the valour and sacrifice of our martyrs. It is a place for citizens to honour those who laid down their lives for the nation. PM Narendra Modi was wrong to bring up the controversial Agnipath recruitment scheme during his address on the 25th anniversary of the Kargil Vijay Diwas. His politically charged remarks on the sombre occasion were uncalculated. PM Modi's defence of Agnipath, which has been met with opposition from several quarters, shifted the focus from the sacrifice of our martyrs. Our leaders must learn to refrain from playing politics with the

memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for the country.

LT COL GURPARKASH SINGH VIRK (RETD), BY MAIL

## Drowned in a coaching centre

It is shocking that three students drowned in the basement of a UPSC coaching centre in Delhi's Old Rajinder Nagar on Saturday after it was flooded following heavy rainfall. Coaching centres are being run from basements illegally. It also raises questions about the failure of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi to desilt the drains. Strict action must be taken against those responsible for the avoidable tragedy. This kind of grave negligence must not go unpunished.

RAMESH GUPTA, NARWANA

## Steps to simplify tax system flawed

The reduction in long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax on property and gold and the removal of the indexation benefit seem like flawed efforts to simplify the tax system. A better approach would be to give the sellers and buyers a choice between two tax options: 20 per cent with indexation and 12.5 per cent without it. This would prevent the sellers from demanding extra cash to cover taxes, check the use of black money and help those with moderate means secure property loans. The owners of inherited property would not benefit from the policy changes, despite their long-term investment in maintenance. Further, the new policy might push the middle class to trade property more frequently to avoid the LTCG tax of 12.5 per cent. Adjusting income tax exemptions and slabs for inflation would create a more fair and effective tax structure.

K KUMAR, PANCHKULA

## Stop youth from going astray

Most youngsters these days seem to lack discipline. They remain glued to their phone screens for much of the day. They often stay up past midnight and wake up late in the morning. This not only adversely affects their academic performance but also takes a toll on their physical and mental health. The onus is on their parents and teachers to ensure that the youngsters mend their ways. The need of the hour is to engage them in productive activities.

LYSHA KAUSHAL, FARIDKOT

Letters to the Editor, typed in double space, should not exceed the 200-word limit. These should be cogently written and can be sent by e-mail to: [Letters@tribunemail.com](mailto:Letters@tribunemail.com)

# IPKF did the job in Sri Lanka despite heavy odds



**MAJ GEN ASHOK K MEHTA (RETD)**  
FORMER GOC, IPKF (SOUTH)

It was exactly 37 years ago (July 29, 1987) that the India-Sri Lanka Accord was signed; under its mandate, the Indian Peace-Keeping Force (IPKF) was formed and Operation Pawan was launched. It took the Sri Lankan security forces another two decades to end the civil war.

Last week, the country celebrated 25 years of the Kargil 'skirmish', the official term used for the limited campaign that was launched to throw out Pakistani intruders — at an avoidably high cost. The war was fought during the BJP-led government's term; it exposed major deficiencies in intelligence and higher defence management that triggered off the biggest defence reforms through the Kargil Review Committee report. But India's first out-of-area force projection, masked as a pacifying force to subdue a deadly guerrilla force (LTTE), has been consigned to oblivion. IPKF veterans have been urging the government for the past few years that they be permitted

to 'officially commemorate' the sacrifice of 1,172 brave-hearts (and 3,000-odd wounded) at the National War Memorial with the authorised panoply of ceremonial honours. Their pleas have fallen on deaf ears; as a former GOC, IPKF (South), I am adding my voice to theirs.

On a visit to Colombo some years ago, I met the then Sri Lankan Army Commander, Gen Hamilton Wanasinghe, who told me: "Your boys did a splendid job. Our task was made easier as you had broken the back of the LTTE despite your mission getting mired in domestic politics of Colombo and New Delhi. Thanks to the IPKF we managed to defeat LTTE in 2009, even then not without Indian assistance."

On May 14, 2024, the Ministry of Home Affairs extended by five years the ban on "a disintegrated LTTE". It is instructive to recall the deeds and dilemma of the IPKF, which, despite a mission-creep mandate and the absence of strategic guidance (armed with a British tourist map), achieved its military and political objectives.

After initial setbacks in Jaffna following LTTE supreme Prabhakaran reneging on the Delhi agreement, the IPKF, which constituted the military component of coercive diplomacy, succeeded in creating a security environ-



**PEACE ENFORCERS:** The IPKF was formed under the mandate of the India-Sri Lanka Accord, which was signed on July 29, 1987. FILE PHOTO

ment conducive to holding the first-ever provincial as well as parliamentary and presidential elections in the merged northeastern region, enabled by the 13th amendment of the Sri Lankan Constitution. Restoring the democratic process in insurgency-riddled provinces entailed systematic marginalisation of the LTTE, including pushing its members into the jungles. Taking over security duties in the north-east, the IPKF freed the Sri Lankan security forces to eliminate Marxist JVP (Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna) rebels in the south. By

A grateful Sri Lanka has raised a war memorial honouring the gallant Indian soldiers who shed their blood for its security.

degrading the LTTE's capability and motivation, the IPKF prevented the creation of the Eelam (separate homeland for the Tamils), thereby protecting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Sri Lanka. All this was done despite the severe handicap of a regime change in Sri Lanka and India. Then President Jayewardene was replaced by Premadasa, who had engineered a secret deal with the LTTE to evict the IPKF. He served a notice on the IPKF to vacate Sri Lanka, a move that was endorsed by then Prime Minister VP Singh, who

succeeded Rajiv Gandhi.

This double jeopardy represented a clear failure of coercive diplomacy and political intelligence. But conveniently, the IPKF was made the scapegoat. The Sri Lankan imbroglio required a political antidote, and as PM Narendra Modi recently told Russian President Vladimir Putin: "The solution to any war does not lie on the battlefield". Op Pawan was the first triservice campaign with a joint command and overall force commander. In their new book on the IPKF, Valiant Deeds - Undying Memories, Col Atul Kochhar and Col Ravi Nair recall the gallantry and bravery of the force. One Param Vir Chakra and 98 Vir Chakras, besides other medals, were won by the force consisting of four infantry divisions (70,000 personnel) supported by the artillery, a tank regiment, special forces, paramilitary forces, combat helicopters, the IAF and the Navy. A grateful Sri Lanka has raised a war memorial honouring the gallant Indian soldiers who shed their blood for its security.

A group of committed veterans has been waging another battle in the corridors of South Block, calling for recognition of Op Pawan

as an honourable and successful military campaign where Indian peacekeepers became peace enforcers. The performance of soldiers is measured by acts of valour and gallantry, which are commemorated regardless of victory or defeat. The British-led campaign in Gallipoli during World War I was an acclaimed fiasco. Yet, Australia and New Zealand (Indian units were also involved) commemorate it on April 25 annually. The US honours its brave soldiers who fought in Vietnam on March 29; Russia, Ukraine and Belarus commemorate the Afghanistan expedition on February 15. And the list goes on. Op Pawan was a military success, even though there was a political and diplomatic failure. In India, the wars of 1971 (liberation of Bangladesh) and 1999 (Kargil) are officially commemorated and celebrated.

IPKF veterans recently wrote to the Service Chiefs and the Minister of State for Defence and have received the reply: "the matter is under consideration". They want 'official recognition' and declaration of July 29 as the date of commemoration, besides an enlisted bugler to play the Last Post in memory of their fallen comrades. Operation Pawan was definitely neither a minor operation nor just a skirmish.

# Stagnation impeding Railways' efforts to address new challenges



**SARABJIT ARJAN SINGH**  
FORMER GM, RAILWAYS

The political justification for merging the railway budget with the Union Budget in 2017 was ostensibly to streamline the financial framework of the government. It was expected to improve financial planning and the allocation of resources across different sectors. It would potentially lead to the synchronisation of railway policies with other infrastructure sectors, resulting in the coordinated development of transport infrastructure, which is crucial for holistic economic development.

To what extent these objectives have been achieved is still an open question, but it has made the Railways a full partner in the infrastructure development initiative. This has led to the investment of ever larger sums in the Railways, with the objectives of enhancing freight growth, infrastructure upgrades and safety enhancements.

As part of this infrastructure development initiative, this year's railway budget has a capital expenditure allocation of Rs 2.62 lakh crore, the highest ever. It is nearly 0.8 per cent of the GDP. A similar sum was

provided in last year's budget. These allocations are significantly above the Rs 28,174 crore provided in the 2013-14 budget. Such large investments should have shown up in an increase in the market share of the Railways, but that has not happened. Nor has the situation improved in the passenger sector. Waiting lists still remain, and coaches continue to be overcrowded even though the passenger market share of the Indian Railways (IR) is falling. The railway budget makes no mention of how these issues, especially the steady erosion of market share, will be addressed.

Why the huge investment has not shown up in a rise in the market share of the IR is a bit of a mystery. On the other hand, when it comes to roads, a similar level of investment is visible in a larger and improved road network. In the 1950s, the market share of the Railways stood at 85 per cent. It was, however, clear that this was nothing but the concomitant outcome of the undeveloped road network and would start shrinking as the economy grew and the road network expanded. Based on the experience of some developed countries, it was felt that the Railways should move to holding on to 40 to 50 per cent of the share by evolving appropriate marketing and network development strategies. To enable the Railways to maintain a market share of 40 to 50 per cent, the incremental loading growth rate had to be about 1.5 per cent above the economic



**LIFELINE:** The Railways, the main mode of transport after Independence, has helped build the economy. ISTOCK

growth rate. If the Railways had been able to achieve this, its market share would have stabilised around 40 to 50 per cent. This change should have taken place in the 1990s. But it did not, and the growth continued to be 1.5 per cent lower than the economic growth rate, resulting in a steady decline in the Railways' market share.

In 2001, it was around 36 per cent. And today, it is hovering around 25 per cent. And it seems that the government, despite pumping in huge amounts, is unable to reverse the trend. This is quite a serious issue because, in order to reduce logistic costs and carbon emissions, the Railways needs to move to at least 40 per cent of the in-land freight demand by 2030. This is a huge challenge for the reason that the consolidated in-land freight demand forecast for 2030 is 8,220 MMT (million

Without a vision, the Railways cannot determine which of the past methods and rules it should retain and which it should jettison.

metric tonnes). And if the Railways is targeted to move 45 per cent of it, the IR will have to ramp up its capacity to moving 3,700 MMT from the current 1,539 MMT by 2030. This requires the IR to grow by 15.7 per cent CAGR (compound annual growth rate). This is a tall order. The budget documents give no clue on how the IR proposes to achieve this or why the huge capital expenditure fails to increase the market share.

The problem of falling market share seems to be perennial. It has been declining since the 1960s, suggesting that the Railways has some broad structural problems that need to be fixed. In a way, these have been recognised. The IR is one of those organisations that has been the subject of study by numerous committees and commissions before and after Independence. The first one was the Robertson committee

of 1902. And the last one in the series of panels was the 2014 Bibek Debroy committee on railway reforms. Where do we go from here? It is one of those difficult questions, especially when so many expert committees have not been able to find an answer to get the IR out of the rut. This does not mean that all is lost. But it does bring home the need to re-look at what the IR has been doing right and what it is getting wrong.

The IR, the main mode of transport after Independence, has helped build the economy. It is still capable of doing so, provided its structure is adapted to confront the novelty of the new technologies and the resultant complexities. It is clear that there has been a drift that has led to stagnation because of a lack of vision on how to address the novelties.

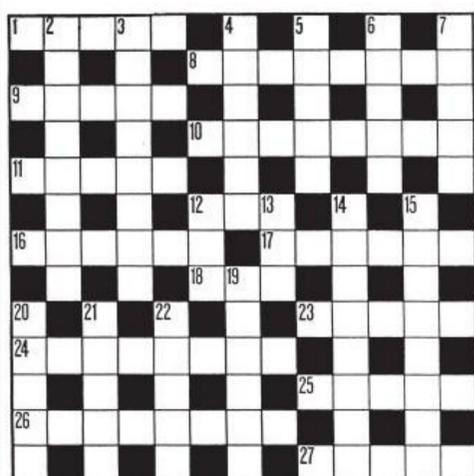
Without a vision, the Railways cannot determine which of the past methods and rules it should retain and which ones it should jettison to become the premier mode of transport of the 21st century.

This lack of vision is perhaps one of the reasons why the Railways has not been able to address the issues, restraining it from playing its due role in the economic development of this country and raising the market share. What should this vision centre on? It should focus on changing the rule structure of the organisation. After all, it is rules, formal and informal, as Nobel laureate Douglas North puts it, that constrain human behaviour.

And these rules evolve in accordance with the intentionality of those who make them. Intentionality is the product of social learning and how it shapes the structural foundation of the organisation and its capacity to adapt to changing circumstances.

The IR suffers from various instabilities. They come from the very short tenures of the board members and the constant change in ministers, which is inevitable in a democratic system. A new minister brings in his or her own intentionalities, which have an impact on how the rules are interpreted. It may explain why the market share has been eroding. The current Railway Minister, Ashwini Vaishnaw, is confronted with the problem of addressing the endless novelty of issues arising from the increasing complexities of the IR's evolving technical and market environments. These problems will only mount as new technologies like AI (artificial intelligence) bring in fresh complexities. He is already facing that problem with new signalling systems, which have led to accidents. Besides, many decision-makers do not even understand the 'true' nature of these issues. A challenge for the minister, hence, is to bring in new decision-makers, who have a better understanding. How he addresses these issues will determine, to a great extent, how successful he will be in reversing the trend of the falling market share.

## QUICK CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- 1 Move aimlessly (5)
- 8 Maintain momentum (4,2,2)
- 9 Find pleasure in (5)
- 10 To label at a lower price (4,4)
- 11 Persian Gulf state (5)
- 12 Beseech (3)
- 16 Highly ornamented (6)
- 17 An imagined perfect state (6)
- 18 Route (3)
- 23 Robust (5)
- 24 Not intervening directly (5-3)
- 25 Desire eagerly (5)
- 26 Accelerate (4,2,2)
- 27 To guide (5)

### Saturday's solution

Across: 1 Foursquare, 6 Gall, 10 Model, 11 Cut across, 12 Guidance, 13 Baton, 15 Notably, 17 Trade, 19 Hideous, 21 Radiate, 22 Sauna, 24 Colombia, 27 Artichoke, 28 Trial, 29 Earn, 30 True to type.

Down: 1 Fume, 2 Undoubted, 3 Solid, 4 Uncanny, 5 Retreat, 7 Aloft, 8 Los Angeles, 9 Scabbard, 14 On the stage, 16 Buoyancy, 18 Unanimity, 20 Succour, 21 Relieve, 23 Utter, 25 Motto, 26 Clue.

### DOWN

- 2 To desert (3,3,2)
- 3 Right across the spectrum (4,1,2,1)
- 4 To slander (6)
- 5 Very large nail (5)
- 6 Characteristic spirit (5)
- 7 Disburse (5)
- 12 Gesture of respect (3)
- 13 Make fun of (3)
- 14 Would you like (3,5)
- 15 Imagination (5,3)
- 19 Concern (6)
- 20 Pursuit (5)
- 21 Theatrical bucker (5)
- 22 English royal racecourse (5)

## SU DO KU

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

HARD

## SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

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

## CALENDAR

### JULY 29, 2024, MONDAY

- Shaka Samvat 1946
- Shravan Shaka 7
- Shravan Parvishle 14
- Hijari 1446
- Krishna Paksha Tithi 9, up to 5.56 pm
- Ganda Yoga up to 5.55 pm
- Bhumi Nakshatra up to 10.55 am
- Moon enters Taurus sign 4.45 pm

## FORECAST

SUNSET:	MONDAY	19-18 HRS
SUNRISE:	TUESDAY	05-40 HRS
CITY	MAX	MIN
Chandigarh	35	29
New Delhi	36	28
Amritsar	33	30
Bathinda	37	30
Jalandhar	35	29
Ludhiana	35	28
Bhiwani	36	28
Hisar	37	27
Sirsa	38	30
Dharamsala	29	20
Manali	29	19
Shimla	25	17
Srinagar	32	22
Jammu	32	26
Kargil	38	20
Leh	34	16
Dehradun	33	25
Mussoorie	23	18

TEMPERATURE IN °C

# Kangra tea farmers allege losses, say forced to resort to distress sale

LALIT MOHAN  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DHARAMSALA, JULY 28

Tea farmers of Kangra are suffering losses as they say there is lack of demand for their produce from exporters in Kolkata market. Sources here said Kangra tea, which fetched an average price of Rs 400 per kg last year, was getting price from Rs 150-200 per kg now. The farmers are alleging that they were forced to resort to distress sale as the exporters, who used to be the primary buyers of Kangra tea, are not willing to buy it due to reduced demand in international market.

Amanpal Singh, manager of a tea estate, the biggest tea garden of Dharamsala, said that this year exporters were not buying Kangra tea. Many lots of tea were lying unsold in warehouses of Kolkata. Tea farmers are being forced to sell their produce in distress at prices ranging from Rs 150 to Rs 200 per kg. Crash in prices had doubled the losses this year. Initially, the farmers suffered due to loss of production because of lack of rain and high temperatures in the months of



Workers pluck leaves at a tea garden in Dharamsala on Sunday. PHOTO: KAMAL JEET

May of June and now due to crash in prices.

KG Butail, another leading tea farmer from Palampur region of Kangra, said that the Kangra tea cannot sustain without government support. The state government does not allow any other activity on land of tea gardens in Kangra but also does not support the tea farmers of the state. "We had given suggestions to the government that they should be provided warehouse facility in Kangra for keeping their produce. Presently, since no

warehouse facility is available for tea in the state, the farmers are forced to sell their produce to warehouses in Kolkata. The farmers had also demanded that the state government should help them sell their produce locally to the tourism department and at other government outlets. However, till date no support has come from the state government," he said.

Abhimanyu Sharma from the Tea Board of India office in Palampur said that prices of Kangra tea had crashed due to changed internation-

## RUE LACK OF GOVT SUPPORT

- Farmers say that tea, which fetched ₹400 per kg last year, was getting price from ₹150-200 per kg this year.
- Exporters are not willing to buy due to reduced demand in international market.
- Farmers rue of lack of support from the state govt
- Tea board has suggested state government to help farmers sell their produce

## PRODUCTION HIT BY LACK OF RAINS

“Prices of Kangra tea have crashed due to changed international scenario and poor demand in international market. The farmers suffered double loss as tea production was reduced by about 20 per cent due to high temperature and lack of rains in May and June. The state government has been urged to support the tea farmers for selling their produce locally.”

Tea Board of India official

al scenario and poor demand in international markets. He said this year the farmers suffered double loss as tea production was reduced by about 20 per cent due to high temperature and lack of rains in the months of May and June.

Abhimanyu said the state government had been urged that it should support the tea farmers for selling their produce locally. A suggestion has been made that the state government should have an outlet in Golden Temple complex in

Amritsar for helping farmers sell their tea to devotees coming there. Besides, it can also be sold in temples of Himachal, he said.

According to experts, the production of Kangra tea has fallen to just 8 lakh kg per annum against 17 lakh kg per annum recorded in 1998. The said production is just .01 per cent of the total 90 million kg production tea in the country. Though the tea has its own Geographical Indicator (GI) that is also recognized by the European Union the farmers growing it are suffering losses.

# Govt initiatives 'resulted in improved tourist footfall'

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, JULY 28

A little over one crore tourists have visited the state in the first six months this year. The number is more than the tourist footfall in the corresponding period in 2022, when 86.42 lakh tourists visited the state.

Attributing the increase in tourist footfall to the successful initiatives and promotions by the Sukhu government, a government spokesperson says the current government has development robust infrastructure for the tourism industry.

“Road network and air connectivity are being strengthened. The expansion of Kangra Airport is underway, while heliports are being constructed in every district headquarters to ensure better air connectivity. The construction work on five heliports has already started. The Sanjauli heliport would be made functional shortly to ensure better air connectivity to Shimla,” said Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu.

As per the tourism depart-



“The expansion of Kangra Airport is underway, while heliports are being constructed in every district headquarters to ensure better air connectivity. The construction work on five heliports has already started. The Sanjauli heliport would be made functional shortly to ensure better air connectivity to Shimla.”

Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, CHIEF MINISTER

ment's data, 89 lakh tourists visited the state in the first half of 2018, 99.57 lakh in 2019, 22.04 lakh in 2020, 19.75 lakh in 2021, and 86.42 lakh in 2022. “The Congress government has prioritized tourism development, recognizing its crucial role in strengthening the state's economy. New tourist destinations are being developed in Chandratal, Kaza and Tandri of Lahaul-Spiti as well as Rackchham, Nako, Chango and Khab of Kinnaur district. Additionally, a Sky Walk Bridge will be constructed in the popular tourist spot Hassan Valley near Kufri,” said the spokesperson.

Aiming to attract nearly five crore tourists annually in the hill state, the government is promoting adventure tourism, reli-

gious tourism, and rural tourism to offer visitors a memorable experience.

In the 2024-25 Budget, the Chief Minister has outlined its vision for a prosperous and 'self-reliant' Himachal over the next 10 years, with a key focus on making the state a premier tourist destination. According to the spokesperson, Kangra district has been declared the Tourism Capital of the state through substantial infrastructure developments.

Additionally, water tourism activities are set to begin at Gobind Sagar reservoir in Bilaspur district and Androuli in Una. In a bid to promote tourism in the Pong Dam area, the government plans to boost hot air ballooning activities, aimed at bolstering the local economy.

# CPM condemns state govt's decision to hike bus fare

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, JULY 28

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) has condemned the state government's decision to hike bus fares from a minimum of Rs 5 to Rs 12, which is a 145 per cent increase, and demanded its rollback.

The CPM has also lambasted the decision to hike 50 per cent increase in school bus rental fee by the Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC), as well as the rise in rates for subsidised Yellow Card, Smart Card, and Samman Card schemes.

In a press statement issued here, CPM district secretary Sanjay Chauhan said due to

the absence of railway lines in the state, public bus service remains the sole means of transportation in both rural and urban areas. Therefore, any hike in bus fares would disproportionately affect various segments of society, especially farmers, labourers, students, employees, women and youth.

“The government justifies the hike by claiming that it is necessary to support the HRTC, but this reflects a policy of privatisation in the transport sector, leading to continuous reductions in bus numbers and routes in the public sector, while private operators are granted permits primarily on profitable routes,” he said.

“The substantial increase in bus fares, particularly in urban areas like Shimla, which is already struggling with severe traffic problems, is anticipated to have a significantly adverse impact. Hiking bus fare might encourage people to prioritise private vehicles for school, office and other purposes. This will only worsen the traffic and pollution problems in the town,” said Chauhan.

He added that privatisation of transport services has not yielded favourable results globally and many countries are now transitioning from private to public sector operation, even offering free transport services in several cities.

# Flash flood devastates Miyar valley of Lahaul-Spiti

35 families affected, shifted to safer places; irrigation canals, school building damaged

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MANDI, JULY 28

In a recent incident of flooding at Karpat Nallah in the remote Miyar valley of tribal district Lahaul and Spiti, nearly 13 hight of agricultural land belonging to local villagers was heavily silted last evening, resulting in significant crop damage. The flooding occurred suddenly, prompting villagers to evacuate swiftly to safer places.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Udaipur, Keshav Ram, stated that the affected villagers were relocated to safer areas. Fortunately, no loss of life was reported nor major property was damaged. In response to the crisis, a relief and rescue team was immediately sent to the spot. The administration has ensured that all 35 affected families are provided arrangements for food and accommodation.

Lahaul and Spiti MLA Anuradha Rana today visited Karpat village to inspect the extent of the damage. She noted that



The structure badly damaged by the flash flood; and (R) MLA Anuradha Rana visits Karpat village in Miyar valley in Lahaul and Spiti on Sunday.

while the primary losses include damage to agricultural land and crops, some government infrastructure was also affected. MLA Rana assured that compensation for the agricultural losses would be arranged promptly.

“Immediate relief steps have been initiated, includ-

ing the provision of relief shelters, ration material and water supply. The administration will soon conduct a survey to look into the reasons of the flash floods. This assessment will guide future preparation and action needed to prevent similar incidents,” the MLA assured the affected people.

According to SDM Keshav Ram, the estimated damage to property was around Rs 2.5 crore. The flooding has caused substantial damage to infrastructure, including four irrigation canals, a veterinary dispensary building, public toilets and a primary school building. A detailed evaluation of the

damage to other government property is currently underway.

“The authorities were at the site today, working to address the immediate needs and concerns of the affected residents and to assess and mitigate the impact of the flooding,” the SDM said

# Wet spell likely to continue till Aug 3

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, JULY 28

Light to moderate rain occurred at many places and heavy rain at isolated places over the state during last 24 hours. Jogindernagar received the highest rainfall (90mm), followed by Dhaulakuan (70mm), Naina Devi (60mm), Palampur (60mm), Saraban (40mm).

As per the forecast issue by the weather department, the precipitation is likely to continue over the next six days in the state till August 3.

On August 1 and 2, the intensity of the precipitation is likely to increase further. Accordingly, the department has issued orange alert for these two days for heavy to very heavy rain at isolated places.

Due to the latest spell of precipitation, a car was buried in a landslide at Panthaghati in Shimla last night. The car was parked on the roadside when the incident happened.

There has been no large



People use umbrellas to protect themselves during rain at the Ridge in Shimla on Sunday.

change in minimum and maximum temperatures during the last 24 hours. Average minimum and maximum temperatures

were above normal. Overall, the state has so far sustained damage of around Rs 411 crore in the monsoons season. The maximum

damage has been reported by the PWD, which is around Rs 172 crore, followed by the horticulture sector worth around Rs 139 crore.

# NHAI urged to build flyovers at villages on Manali highway

MANDI, JULY 28

The residents of Dadour and Nagchala in Mandi district have urged the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to construct flyovers on the Kiratpur-Manali four-lane road, which passes through both villages.

According to the locals, since the construction of the four-lane road, several accidents have taken place at Nagchala and the Dadour Chowk, resulting in loss of life and property. Therefore, they have urged the NHAI to build flyovers in these villages.

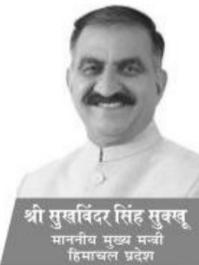
BR Kaundal, a social activist, said the Dadour Chowk connected roads from all sides. One road led to Nerchowk, while the other led to Baggi. Besides, the other two roads led to Mandi and Kiratpur. After the construction of the four-lane road, the movement of vehicles had increased manifold, and it had become risky for people to cross it, he added. — TNS

## विजली कनेक्शन एवं अन्य विजली सम्बंधित सेवाएँ ऑनलाइन अब और सुविधाजनक

समय बचाएं और घर बैठे आसानी से विजली कनेक्शन प्राप्त करें

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- बिजली आपूर्ति सम्बंधित किसी भी जानकारी व शिकायतों के लिए टोल फ्री नं० 1800-180-8060 या 1912 पर सम्पर्क कर सकते हैं।



# Terrorist groups in touch with each other, Pak handlers: Intel

## Coordinate to launch combined ops against security forces

ARJUN SHARMA

JAMMU, JULY 28  
While security forces continue search operations in the forest areas of the region to eliminate the ultras who have infiltrated from Pakistan, intelligence agencies have unearthed that separate groups of terrorists moving upper reaches of the Jammu division often communicate with each other, directly or indirectly.



BSF personnel stand guard near the International Border in Jammu.

**HIGH-FREQUENCY DEVICES**

- Intel agencies have found that some of the groups of these ultras have high-frequency communication devices
- They also use communication apps on cellphones of OGWs whenever they meet them.
- The communication is mostly done with Pak-based handlers in other areas for coordination among these groups.

Workers (OGWs) whenever they meet them. The communication is mostly done with Pakistan-based handlers who further contact terrorists in other areas for coordination among these groups.

The intelligence agencies have arrested several OGWs in the recent times. Details from their cellphones revealed that ultras were using mobile applications for communication. So, they remain undetected by the agencies. The apps are deleted from mobile phones after being used by ultras.

"Due to the sophisticated means of communication, the

security forces are not able to detect the movement of these terrorists. Years ago when terrorists used to have mobile or satellite phones, their location was revealed. However, with the advancement of technology and reach of Internet even in the rural areas of J&K, they remain invisible to the forces," said a senior official in the Rajouri police.

The agencies have also found that more than one group was present during an ambush on a bus of pilgrims on June 9 in Reasi and attack on two Army vehicles on July 8 in Billawar of Kathua. Over three terrorists were present

the spot during these attacks indicating that it was the handiwork of more than one group who separated after the attack and apparently went in different directions. Nine pilgrims were killed in the Reasi attack, while five soldiers died in the Kathua attack.

"These terrorists are communicating directly or indirectly with each other with help of Pak handlers. They seem to be highly trained in remaining disguised in forest areas. It is clear that they have local support due to which they have been able to sustain for long time," a source in the Army intelligence said.

# Joint search ops launched in Poonch, Reasi

JAMMU, JULY 28

Security forces have launched joint search operations in the border and mountainous areas of Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch and Reasi districts after receiving information about suspicious movements, officials said on Sunday.

The forces are on high alert and have urged residents to report any suspicious activities in their localities.

The officials said a massive joint search operation was initiated early Sunday in several areas along the Line of Control (LoC) near the Salotri-Mangnar forward area of Poonch district.

They added that there was intelligence about the suspected movements along the LoC, following which thorough searches involving a substantial number of Army, CRPF, and Special Operations Group (SoG) personnel were launched covering various areas.

Similarly, in Reasi district, police and security forces launched a cordon and search operation in the Dadoya area of Poni after a woman reported seeing two suspicious individuals on the outskirts of the village, officials said. — PTI

# Valley reels under intense heatwave

## Sees hottest July day in 25 yrs; Srinagar records 36.2°C

SRINAGAR, JULY 28

Kashmir has been reeling under intense heatwave with several places in the valley recording their highest July temperature in 25 years on Sunday.

According to the meteorological office here, Srinagar city recorded a high of 36.2 degrees Celsius on Sunday. This was hottest July day since July 9, 1999 when the mercury had settled at 37 degrees Celsius.

The hottest July day in Srinagar was recorded on July 10, 1946 with mercury rising to 38.3 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund and Kokernag towns in south Kashmir also recorded their hottest July day on Sunday. Qazigund noted a maximum temperature of 35.6 degrees Celsius, beating the previous high of 34.5 degrees Celsius recorded on July 11, 1988.

In Kokernag, the mercury



A dried-up portion of the Jhelum on a hot summer day in Srinagar. REUTERS

### MET PREDICTS RAIN

■ The Met has forecast spell of rain at isolated places of the Kashmir valley over the next 24 hours, which is expected to bring down the mercury.

rose to 34.1 degrees Celsius, against the previous or 33.3 degrees Celsius recorded on July 3 this year.

The mercury in this south Kashmir town had touched 33 degrees only once earlier

on July 8, 1993. The Met has forecast spell of rain at isolated places of the Kashmir valley over the next 24 hours, which is expected to bring down the mercury. — PTI

# Govt scraps auction of J&K lithium mine

NEW DELHI, JULY 28

The government has scrapped the auction of three critical mineral blocks, including a lithium mine in Jammu and Kashmir, under the third tranche of sale of mines due to a lower-than-required number of bidders.

The auction is a part of the government's push towards cleaner alternatives and self-reliance in critical mineral supplies.

The three blocks are Salai-Haimna Lithium, Titanium and Bauxite (Aluminous Laterite) Block in Jammu and Kashmir, Muskania-Gareriola-Barwari Potash block in Jharkhand and Kurunjakulam Graphite block in Tamil Nadu.

The auction was annulled as per the mineral auction rules have not been received", according to a notice by the Mines Ministry.

The ministry, on March 14, put on sale seven critical mineral blocks in the third round of auction. The blocks that received less than three bids in the first tranche were notified under this round.

These seven blocks pertain to critical minerals such as Glaucanite, Graphite, Nickel, PGE, Potash, Lithium, and Titanium and are spread across the states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. — PTI

# Three bodies found in Dal Lake identified, probe underway

SRINAGAR, JULY 28

The bodies of a woman and two children recovered from the Dal Lake in Srinagar city have been identified, said officials on Sunday. The police said the bodies recovered were of a mother and her two children and they belonged to the Ramban district of Jammu division. The bodies were retrieved from the foreshore area of Dal Lake on Saturday evening following which the police initiated further proceedings.

"They were residents of the Gool area in Ramban district. Preliminary investigation suggests that this could be the case of suicide by drowning, but a conclusion will be made once the probe is completed," said the officials. — IANS

# J-K Congress discusses Assembly poll strategy

SRINAGAR, JULY 28

The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee met here on Sunday to discuss the forthcoming Assembly elections in the Union Territory.

Tariq Hamid Karra, chairman of the committee, said the meeting also addressed whether to contest the Assembly elections in an alliance or not.

Committee meeting, which is in progress, has been called to discuss and deliberate the issues pertaining to the Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir and the issues of people that need to be addressed through the poll manifesto," he said.

"There was a mood for alliances in the Parliamentary elections. Today, we are discussing whether we

should continue the alliance and, if yes, in what form. Some people, who were rejected in the Parliamentary elections, have also approached us. We are deliberating all aspects," Karra said.

The Congress leader said the party had formed manifesto committees. The committees had been tasked to identify the issues of people that need to be addressed.

"We will be giving guarantees, which are workable. We will not talk about anything that we cannot do. Some people are making promises just for the sake of popularity," he said.

On the increase in terror attacks in the Jammu region, Karra said it was unfortunate and a matter of concern.

"Tall claims of the government and the LG administration have fallen flat. These

attacks in Jammu, which was hitherto militancy-free, are unfortunate and a matter of concern," he said.

Karra said the government must revisit its policy on how to deal with the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and its people.

"We have been saying this for the past 10 years that jingoism is not going to work. The government needs to revisit its policy," he said. — PTI

FROM PAGE 1

# Jaishankar, Blinken discuss Ukraine war, regional issues

Gurpatwant Singh Panun in New York. It is not immediately clear whether PM Modi's visit to Russia and the murder-for-hire plot figured in the Jaishankar-Blinken talks. One of the accused Nikhil Gupta was arrested in the Czech Republic and deported to the US a few weeks ago.

In a post on X, Jaishankar said Blinken and he had a wide-ranging dis-

ussion on regional and global issues. "Great to catch up with Secretary Blinken in Tokyo today," he said.

"Our bilateral agenda progresses steadily. Also had a wide-ranging discussion on regional and global issues. Look forward to attending the Quad FFM (foreign ministers' meeting) tomorrow," Jaishankar added.

Earlier in Tokyo, Jais-

hankar started his visit by unveiling a bust of Mahatma Gandhi. "Bapu's achievements continue to inspire us to this day and his message of peace and non-violence is timeless. His principles are even more relevant today when the world sees so much conflict, tension and polarisation," said Jaishankar. The minister thanked local Mayor Takeshi Saito.

# Tax clearance certificate..

necessary to obtain a tax clearance certificate, will be required to obtain such a certificate.

The ministry said that the Income Tax Department through a 2004 notification has specified that the tax clearance certificate might be required to be obtained by persons domiciled in India only in certain circumstances.

These include — where the person is involved in serious financial irregularities and his presence is necessary in the investigation of cases under the Income Tax Act or the Wealth Tax Act and it is likely that a tax demand will be raised against him, or where the person has direct tax

arrears exceeding Rs 10 lakh outstanding against him, which have not been stayed by any authority.

The IT Department said that a person could be asked to obtain a tax clearance certificate only after recording the reasons for the same and after taking approval from the Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax or Chief Commissioner of Income Tax.

Such a certificate is required to be issued by the income tax authority, stating that such person has no liabilities under the Income Tax Act, or the Wealth Tax Act, 1957, or the Gift Tax Act, 1958, or the Expenditure Tax Act, 1987, it added. PTI

# Chandigarh college etches..

and demonstrates the fusion of simple and complex patterns through basic shapes like squares, circles and triangles in various configurations for flooring patterns," Bagga says.

It took the team frequent visits of the Rashtrapati Bhavan since 2021 to accomplish the project. They often worked beyond sunset hours as mapping of floors was possible only after the official timings at the President's house.

"The work involved rolling up of floor coverings, including carpets, and removing furniture to capture a complete floor geometry with an aerial picture or spreading a trace sheet to actually draw a floral geometry by sitting on the floor," Bagga explains.

The second volume also contains four seminal writings to contribute to historical scholarship about the design philosophy and the socio-cultural climate in which work of Lutyens was set in India. It starts with Bagga's lead essay which uses a historical lens to gaze at the construction of New Delhi, King George V's decision to relocate the British Empire's capital to a central and secure location; the collaboration between Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker in designing the new capital with Lutyens focusing on the Viceroy's House and Baker on the secretariats.

Asked whether the Rashtrapati Bhavan design was purely colonial, the team said no. "It has the influence of Indian architectural elements,

including Hindu, Buddhist and Mughal motifs. Lutyens combined European and Indian traditions, deploying grids and geometric symmetry to create the layout of Lutyens' Delhi, showcasing a fusion of modernity and tradition," CCA students Anav Sharma and Sidhant Madan, say.

The President's secretariat hosted the CCA team at Peacock Apartments, a set of stylish, fully-furnished service apartments equipped with a small kitchenette each, a gym around the corner, a swimming pool and a restaurant. These apartments were added to the Rashtrapati Bhavan estate in July 2014 for the use of senior officers, aides-de-camp to the President and special visitors.

# Education in tatters, 28 Gurdaspur..

stricken kids, education is a bridge between poverty and riches, misery and hope," said Harjinder Singh Wadala Banger, president of the Democratic Teachers Front (DTF). This union keeps a close watch on the working of schools.

Teachers off the record admit that schools of all the four border area education blocks — Kalanaur, Dorangla and Dera Baba Nanak (1 and 2) — are in a shambles.

The Kalanaur senior secondary school, designated as a smart school, is symptomatic of the condition of all border schools. The post of Principal here has been lying vacant for the past more than three years. There are nine senior secondary schools which are functioning without Principals. Here, lecturers are acting as Principals.

Teachers claim a wrong precedent is being set because a lecturer has to teach his subject to classes. When he is forced to sit on the Principal's chair, he is bogged down by files pertaining to administrative work.

On the face of it, the

### KIDS COMING FOR FREE MEAL

■ The free midday meal scheme is boosting student numbers. By a conservative estimate, 80 per cent of children do not come to study. They, in fact, come to consume the midday meal. Hunger is the force that drives them to school, unmindful of the distance

enrolment aspect in primary schools looks good. But scratch the surface a bit and it becomes clear that it is only the free midday meal scheme that is boosting the numbers.

By a conservative estimate, 80 per cent of children do not come to study. They, in fact, come to consume the mid-day meal. Hunger is the force that drives them to school, unmindful of the distance.

"Poor parents do not like the idea of their kids going to school. However, when we tell them their children will get free food once a day, the arguments cease. Instead of sending kids with their fathers to do labour the next day, mothers themselves bring their children to schools," said a primary teacher.

The government, instead of extending a helping hand, is adding to the chaos by

burdening teachers with non-teaching activities. They are often designated as Booth-Level Officers (BLO) following which election-related work is forced upon them. They also have to attend to other tasks like keeping a record of the midday meal process, attending to directives sent by the District Education Officer (DEO) and deleting votes from the voters list. At times when floods ravage the area, they are put on damage-assessment duty.

Teachers unions have been vehemently protesting that tutors should be exempted from such duties. Instead, unions insist, such duties should be assigned to non-teaching employees.

A senior education officer said the department was aware of all these problems. "We are in the process of streamlining the entire system," she said.

# BBMB mulls mini dams at Bhakra, Pong reservoirs

existing rivulet providing some water inflow or a gorge that can provide a suitable head to run turbines. Water from the main reservoir is pumped into the reservoir, which then flows back through the turbines.

The mini dams may range in size up to 100 ft in height and 400 ft in length and one such dam may be able to generate up to 1,500 MW depending upon the available head and number of turbines that can be installed. In comparison, the

Bhakra Dam, which is 741-foot high and 1,700-foot long, has an installed capacity of 1,325 MW.

According to BBMB officials, at times when the power demand is low, surplus power can be used to pump up the water to higher reservoirs, thereby creating an "energy storage just like a giant battery". When the demand increases, this stored energy can instantly generate electricity. The start-up time for a PSP is 75-120 seconds as compared to six-10 hours for a thermal plant.

"Traditionally, PSPs are power intensive as electricity is consumed to pump water up to the higher reservoir, but the use of solar power can offset this cost," the official said. Though established to generate hydropower, the BBMB has recently forayed into solar power generation and is in the process of setting up floating and ground-mounted solar plants at its reservoirs and project offices.

The BBMB officials said though the PSPs were tech-

nically viable, there were several associated issues such as willingness of the state governments concerned, allocation of land, participation of other technical and commercial entities, environmental factors and funding that would have to be addressed. The BBMB's estimation for PSPs around Bhakra and Pong is about Rs 6,000 crore.

PSPs are not new to India and eight such projects are already running in central and southern India with a com-

bined installed capacity of 4,745 MW. Several other projects in various parts of the country are also in the pipeline.

The Central Electricity Authority has estimated the pumped storage hydro potential in India to be about 103 gigawatt. In 2023, the Ministry of Power had issued guidelines to promote development of PSPs in the country. Worldwide, the installed PSP capacity is around 175 gigawatt, with China, Japan and the US being the top three.

# Delhi coaching centre deaths spark outrage..

saying though it was in power in the municipal body for 15 years, it neglected the city's drainage system. "Our government has been in power for the last one year and we are working on the drainage. I do not want to get into any blame game. I want that there should be an impartial investigation and strict action taken against

those responsible," Rajinder Nagar MLA and MCD in-charge Durgesh Pathak said.

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, while expressing condolences to the victims' families, refrained from directly targeting the AAP government. "This tragedy is a grim reminder of the need for a strict enforcement of safety regula-

tions. My heart goes out to the bereaved families," he said in post on X.

BJP MP Anurag Thakur questioned, "What has AAP done to Delhi? In the National Capital, three promising youths drowned in a basement. Arvind Kejriwal has brought Delhi to this state. Is this the city of lakes that AAP envisioned?"

# 'Can't forget PM's security breach..

government that is implementing it," he claimed.

On Mann boycotting the Niti Aayog meeting, Thakur said, "He should not play politics on matters related to country's development and skip crucial meetings." He alleged the AAP government in Punjab had claimed that it would implement the MSP even if the Centre didn't. "Where have the

claims gone now?" he said.

Taking on the Delhi Government, the MP said, "AAP wanted to make Delhi a city of lakes. Where have the lakes vanished? Three IAS aspirants died due to drowning in the basement of a coaching institute there. What are they doing about safety of the city residents?"

# 7-time MLA to replace Akhilesh as LoP in UP

LUCKNOW, JULY 28 The Samajwadi Party (SP) on Sunday appointed seven-time MLA Mata Prasad Pandey as the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly.

Pandey, 82, will replace SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, who resigned as MLA from the Karhal seat in Mainpuri after he was elected to the Lok Sabha from Kannauj. Akhilesh Yadav has appointed Pandey, SP MLA from Itra in Siddharth Nagar district, the LoP in the Assembly, a party leader said.

At a meeting held earlier at the SP headquarters here, the party MLAs had authorised Akhilesh Yadav to choose the LoP. The SP also

## Post fell vacant after SP chief won LS poll from Kannauj

appointed Kamaal Akhtar as the chief whip and Rakesh Kumar, alias RK Verma, as the deputy whip in the Assembly, a party release said. "Heartily congratulations and best wishes to senior SP leader Shri Mata Prasad Pandey ji on being elected as the LoP in UP Legislative Assembly!" Akhilesh Yadav wrote on X in Hindi.

He said Pandey's "rich experience" would benefit all SP MLAs, Assembly speaker, Chief Minister and all his ministers and MLAs. — PTI

# India accounted for 11.6% of global hepatitis cases in 2022: WHO

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 28 According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), India accounted for 11.6 per cent of the world's hepatitis cases in 2022. The country, which was second to China in terms of the viral hepatitis burden, registered 2.98 crore hepatitis B cases in 2022, while the number of hepatitis C infections stood at 55 lakh.

There are five main strains of the hepatitis virus, referred to as types A, B, C, D and E. While they all cause liver disease, they differ in various important ways, including the modes of transmission, severity of the illness, geographical distribution and preventive methods.

Marking the World Hepatitis Day on Sunday, Union Health Minister JP Nadda said, "This day serves as a powerful reminder to urgently address and end the viral hepatitis as it is a major public health concern. It calls upon all nations to combat these infections, raise awareness and intensify actions to eliminate them as a public health threat."

The objective of the National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme in India is to eradicate hepatitis by 2030. Under the programme, free drugs and diagnostics are offered for hepatitis B and C and the management of hepatitis A and E.

# Edu reforms in focus at PM-BJP CMs' meeting

ADITI TANDON

NEW DELHI, JULY 28 The National Education Policy (NEP), expectations from state governments with respect to fulfilment of its key goals and strengthening of examination processes were key areas of focus during the high-level review meeting chaired by PM Narendra Modi with CMs of BJP-ruled states here on Saturday.

Thirteen CMs of the BJP-ruled states and all 15 deputy CMs of the party were present in the meeting. Speaking about the outcome of the deliberations, Vinay Sahasrabudhe, in-charge of the BJP's Good Governance Cell, said the PM called for community participation in advancing the goal of developed India by 2047 and saturation coverage of government schemes.

The PM asked the chief ministers and their deputies to deploy social media tools in widespread dissemination of government schemes targeting four key pillars of Viksit Bharat - women, youth, farmers and poor. It is learnt that PM Modi also mentioned several Union Budget takeaways for marginalised segments and the middle class and asked colleagues to amplify the message to counter the "negative" opposition narrative. A major part of the discussions



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP chief JP Nadda during the Council of Chief Ministers' meeting in New Delhi on Saturday.

## 13 CMs, 15 DEPUTIES TAKE PART IN DISCUSSIONS

Thirteen CMs of the BJP-ruled states and all 15 Deputy CMs of the party were present in the meeting. Speaking about the outcome of the deliberations, Vinay Sahasrabudhe, in-charge of the BJP's Good Governance Cell, said the PM called for community participation in advancing the goal of a developed India by 2047 and saturation coverage of government schemes.

was devoted to implementation of the NEP, which has been lagging in opposition-ruled states. BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh has taken the lead in NEP implementation, with Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Sunday making a presentation of outcomes expected from state CMs on the NEP and the timelines for the same.

In the midst of the paper leak controversy, the leaders also discussed the need for robust examination processes and plug loopholes, if any. "The Education Minister spoke about the role of state governments in the implementation of the NEP and

the expectations from them," Sahasrabudhe said. The meeting also saw CMs making presentations on good governance best practices. UP's village secretariat plan was detailed by CM Yogi Adityanath. The Assam Government's model of filling up government vacancies, Tripura's Aamar Sarkar (my government) initiative and Bihar's strategy to deal with illegal miners were also discussed and hailed.

"Some special initiatives of Haryana and Maharashtra governments were also mentioned," said Sahasrabudhe.

# SC raps MoD over delay in resolution of military pension anomalies

VIJAY MOHAN

CHANDIGARH, JULY 28 The Supreme Court has taken a serious view of the Defence Ministry's delay in resolving pension anomalies of retired officers of the rank of Captain in the 'One Rank One Pension' (OROP) scheme.

In orders passed this week, the apex court observed that it was inclined to enhance the pension by 20 per cent in addition to imposing exemplary costs if the ministry continued to seek more time from the court and delayed implementation. The case is now scheduled to come up for hearing on July 30.

The genesis of the issue is the OROP introduced in 2015 when the pensions of current retirees was fixed as the pension of past retirees. As there was no proper data for the ranks of regular Captains and Majors since the minimum current rank of retirement on

attainment of pensionable service is Lieutenant Colonel, there were certain anomalies in the pension tables for Captains and Majors.

Thereafter, a 'One Man Judicial Committee' (OMJC) appointed by the Defence Ministry had recommended the resolution of this anomaly in 2016 but no decision was thereafter taken by the ministry on it. Later, the Kochi and Chandigarh Benches of the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) had directed the ministry to resolve the anomaly based on the OMJC recommendations in a time-bound manner.

However, rather than implementing the judgment, the Defence Ministry challenged the decision of the AFT in the SC. Despite multiple opportunities granted by the SC to take action on resolution of the anomaly, the ministry failed to resolve it, leading to the strong observations by the SC.

The apex court observed that it was inclined to enhance the pension by 20% in addition to imposing exemplary costs if the ministry continued to seek more time from the court and delayed implementation.



FILE PHOTO

### ਸੁਨਹਿਰੀ ਮੋਕਾ

ਹਰ ਆਮ ਤੇ ਖਾਸ ਨੂੰ ਸੁਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਵਧਤਰ ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਪੀਸਦ ਸ਼ਾਪਿੰਗ ਕੰਪਲੈਕਸ ਦੀ ਦੁਕਾਨ ਨੰ. 07, 10 ਨੇੜੇ ਰੇਲਵੇ ਪੁਲ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੁਰਾਣੇ ਅਤੇ ਖੋਖਾ ਨੰ. 01 ਨੇੜੇ ਚੀਗਰਾ ਰਸਪਤਾਲ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੁਰਾਣੇ ਨੂੰ ਖੁੱਲ੍ਹੀ ਬੋਲੀ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਕਿਰਾਏ 'ਤੇ ਦੇਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਨਿਲਾਮੀ ਮਿਤੀ 14.08.2024 ਨੂੰ ਸਵੇਰੇ 11.30 ਵਜੇ ਵਧਤਰ ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਪੀਸਦ ਵਿੱਚ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ। ਹਰੇਕ ਬੱਲੀਕਾਰ ਨੂੰ 10000/- ਰੁਪਏ ਬਤੌਰ ਸਕਿਊਰਿਟੀ ਬੱਲੀ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਹੋਣ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਜਮ੍ਹਾਂ ਕਰਵਾਉਣੇ ਹੋਣਗੇ। ਬੱਲੀ ਪ੍ਰਵਾਨਗੀ ਕਰਨ ਦਾ ਅਧਿਕਾਰ ਗਤਿਰ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਪਾਸ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ।

ਸਹੀ - ਉਪ ਮੁੱਖ ਆਯੁਕਤਾਰੀ ਅਵਸਰ, ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਪੀਸਦ, ਵਿੱਚ ਪੁਰਾ

DPR/Ph/36057

### GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

Tender Notice No. PED/2024-25/08

Online bids are invited for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Grid Connected Rooftop/Ground Mounted Solar Power Plants of cumulative capacity 20 MW.

Starting Date of e-Tender	: 30.07.2024
Date of Pre-bid Meeting	: 12.08.2024 at 12:30 p.m.
Closing Date and time of e-Tender	: 30.08.2024 up to 05:00 p.m.
Date & Time of Opening of Bids	: 02.09.2024 at 04:00 p.m.

For details login to : [eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://eproc.punjab.gov.in)

NOTE: Any corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the website only.

DPR/Ph/36070 Director, PED/2024-25/08

### Government of Himachal Pradesh JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG "NOTICE INVITING TENDER"

The Assistant Engineer, Jal Shakti Sub-Division Khundian invites following tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following work through offline process:-

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest Money	Time completion
1	Restoration & rain Damages to LWSS Charambu including disposal of in Tehsil Khundian Distt. Kangra (HP) (Job-No-1) (SH:- Repair of Pump House at 1st stage.)	137077/-	2741/-	Three months
2	Restoration & rain Damages to LWSS Charambu including disposal of in Tehsil Khundian Distt. Kangra (HP) (Job-No-2) (SH:- Repair of Pump House at 2nd stage.)	136721/-	2734/-	Three months
3	A/R & M/O LWSS Ghama, Lhas, Ropa in Tehsil Khundian Distt. Kangra (HP) (SH:- Clearance of silt/Malwa in check Dam 15 mtrs length, 30 mtrs width and 3 mtrs height)	134513/-	2690/-	Three months
4	A/R & M/O LWSS Ghama, Lhas, Ropa in Tehsil Khundian Distt. Kangra (HP) (SH:- C/O Chamber)	187946/-	3758/-	Three months
5	Restoration & rain Damages of Tip Thalakan (1st Stage) in Tehsil Khundian Distt. Kangra (HP) (SH:- Supply of Erection of submersible pumping machinery with other allied accessories).	142350/-	2847/-	One month
6	A/R & M/O LWSS Khundian in Tehsil Khundian Distt. Kangra (HP) (SH:- Rewinding of 40 HP motor Set No-1 and P/F of Starter etc.)	140258/-	2805/-	One month
7	A/R & M/O LWSS Lahru Buchhwai 2nd stage in Tehsil Khundian Distt. Kangra (HP) (SH:- Repair of 90 HP SKB make Pump Set No-II and Repair of Starter).	127169/-	2543/-	One month
8	A/R & M/O LWSS Buchhwai in Tehsil Khundian Distt. Kangra (HP) (SH:- Repair of 75 HP motor Set No-I).	142405/-	2848/-	One month
9	A/R & M/O LWSS Surani in Tehsil Khundian Distt. Kangra (HP) (SH:- Repair of 25 HP Pump Set No-I and P/F of starter, copper cable etc.)	130685/-	2614/-	One month
10	Restoration & rain Damages of LWSS Lahru Buchhwai in Tehsil Khundian Distt. Kangra (HP) (SH:- C/O RCC jacking of sector storage tank at VIII, Baroglahar (Galu)	187743/-	3755/-	Three months

Last date of submission of tender:- 05.08.2024 up to 11.30 a.m.  
Last date application of tender from this Sub-Division Khundian:- 03.08.2024 up to 4.00 p.m.

Assistant Engineer, Jal Shakti Sub-Division Khundian.

DPR/HP/1100

### HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG \*CORRIGUNDUM\*

In Continuation of the previous Advertisement No. 2610-25 dated 08.07.2024 from the Jal Shakti Division Rampur, applications were invited from desirous Himachali bona fide candidates for 40 posts in various categories (11 Para Pump Operators, 04 Para Fitters, and 25 Multipurpose Workers). A clarification has been received from the Engineer-in-Chief's office vide letter No. JSV-ES-III-DW-Manpower-Vol-VI/2022-416-495 dated 26.04.2024, and further necessary direction conveyed by the Additional Chief Secretary (Jal Shakti) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh vide office letter No. IPH(A) 2 (B)15/2018 dated 16.07.2024 regarding the reservation of posts for SC, ST, OBC, and EWS categories. As a result, applications are now invited again for these available posts. The Candidates who have already applied do not need to apply. However, they must submit SC/ST/OBC category certificates signed by the competent authority, as well as income and asset certificates. Additionally, non-SC/ST/OBC candidates who have submitted BPL certificates should also submit EWS certificates signed by the competent authority, if applicable, to avail of reservation benefits. The deadline for submitting applications/documents to the office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Rampur is 05:00 P.M. on or before August 8th, 2024. The updated revised distribution of available posts is as follows:

Sr. No.	Name of Post	Number of Posts	Category wise Posts	Essential Qualification
1.	Para Pump Operator	11	S.C.-02 S.T.-01 O.B.C.-01 E.W.S.-01 U.R.-6	The candidate should have a minimum qualification of Matriculation (10th) with ITI certificate in the trade of Electrician/Wireman/Diesel Mechanic/Pump Mechanic/Motor Mechanic/Pump Operator-cum-Mechanic/Mechanic(Motor Vehicle)/Pump Operation and Maintenance from a recognized ITI or Matriculation (10th) with certificate in above cited trade under Skill Development scheme of the Government.
2.	Para Fitter	04	S.C.-01 S.T.-00 O.B.C.-01 E.W.S.-00 U.R.-02	The candidate should have a minimum qualification of Matriculation (10th) with ITI Certificate in the trade of Fitter/Plumber from a recognized ITI or Matriculation (10th) with certificate in above cited trades under Skill development scheme of the Govt.
3.	Multipurpose Workers	25	S.C.-06 S.T.-01 O.B.C.-05 E.W.S.-03 U.R.-10	The Candidate should have a minimum qualification of middle pass (8th) and its equivalent from school duly recognized by the State Govt. All candidate must ensure to submit their 8th standard mark sheet.

Age Limit:- 18 to 45 Years.  
The number of posts may increase or decrease department upon Vacancy position as per the requirement of Jal Shakti Vibhag.  
The selected candidates can be posted at anywhere under the jurisdiction of this Division.  
The selected candidates will be given monthly remuneration fixed by the Govt.  
Documents to be attached with application forms:  
Attested/Self-attested copies of (i) Legitimate proof of age (ii) Proof of BPL Family in case of BPL candidate issued not later than six months (iii) Proof of Education and Technical qualification (iv) Certificate of Bonafide of Himachal (v) Certificate and experience (if any) of the related field of JSV/HP/PWD/CPWD/PSUs issued by the competent authority OR Outsourcing agency providing service in H.P. Jal Shakti Vibhag (vi) category certificate (SC/ST/OBC/EWS) (vii) Income Certificate issued not older than six months (viii) 8th standard mark sheet for candidate applying for the post multi task worker. For other desired qualifications, experience details and detailed selection criteria can be had from <https://www.hpiph.org> OR at Notice Board of JSV Division, Rampur.

General Instructions:-  
1. It shall be the responsibility of the candidates to submit all requisite documents mentioned above as short listing/eligibility shall be done in case the application received are much more than that of the number of post.  
2. The shortlisted candidates based on the eligibility criteria fixed by the Government will have to undergo Skill/Physical Test. The final merit list will be prepared based upon the submitted documents and Skill/Physical.  
3. If a candidate wants to apply for more than one post, separate application for each post needs to be submitted.  
4. Only those candidates shall be eligible for Skill & Physical test who falls in the merit list i.e. five times the number of sanctioned posts.  
5. The original certificate/testimonials will be seen at the time of evaluation.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Rampur.

No. EE-JSD-RMP-Para Workers/2024:- 3140-55 Dated:- 25.07.2024

DPR/HP/1076

## INTERNATIONAL TIGER DAY

# K'taka Govt drags feet on tiger reserve despite Centre's nod

AKSHEEV THAKUR

NEW DELHI, JULY 28 While India claims to house 70 per cent of the world's tiger population, a wildlife sanctuary in Karnataka awaits the state government's approval to be upgraded as a tiger reserve.

In 2021, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) — a statutory body under the Union Environment Ministry — had given its approval to upgrade the MM Hills wildlife sanctuary to a tiger reserve. However, the Karnataka Government is yet to notify it as a tiger reserve given the huge opposition coming from several quarters within the government.

According to sources in Forest Department, Karnataka, politicians are eyeing the forest to use the land for a slew of projects, including a hydel project, which will not be possible if the sanctuary is declared a tiger reserve.

An official said MM Hills had 25 tigers now and if it was declared as a tiger reserve, it would become a safe breeding ground for them, and numerous restrictions would be imposed on the movement of people in the forest. "If MM Hills is declared a tiger reserve, it would be helpful in the breeding of tigers. MM Hills shares its borders with the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, Biligiri Ran-

## POLITICIANS EYEING FOREST LAND

According to sources in Forest Department, Karnataka, politicians are eyeing the forest land to use it for a slew of projects, including a hydel project, which will not be possible if the sanctuary is declared a tiger reserve.

ganatha Tiger Reserve and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu. Therefore, numerous tiger movements have been observed in these sanctuaries, which are connected to each other. The tiger reserve will act as a bridge between the Western and Eastern Ghats," a senior forest official told *The Tribune*. "A hydel project is also on the cards. If MM Hills is declared as a tiger reserve, it will bring money from the Central Government that could be utilised for protection," he added.

The sanctuary also houses a temple, which is annually visited by thousands of devotees. If the sanctuary is upgraded as a tiger reserve, many restrictions will be imposed on their visit. "A prominent pilgrimage centre exists within the forest so the government does not want to offend the devotees. It is important to protect the tigers, which have gone extinct in other countries, but in India, we succeeded in reviving their population through extensive measures," the official said.

# REGIONAL JOURNAL

UNTOLD STORIES FROM THE PROVINCES

## Will CM shift Jalandhar home?

PUNJAB Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann announced that Jalandhar would be his "second capital" and that he would continue to pay attention to this ancient city even after the bypoll. Now it seems that the CM will give up his rented house and may shift to the house of Divisional Commissioner Gurpreet Sapra in the Old Baradari colony — it helps that the house is huge, as big as 7 acres, with gardens and areas dedicated to growing both wheat and vegetables. An Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to the CM has already toured the house and has proposed certain structural changes for making space for creating larger waiting lounges. It helps that senior officials, including Commissioner of Police, Deputy Commissioner, DIG Jalandhar Range and SSP Rural, will practically be a phone call away, as all of them live in the same locality.

## Khudian's loss

PUNJAB Agriculture Minister Gurmeet Singh Khudian recently had to cut a sorry figure in front of Union Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, when he went seeking a package for crop diversification. Chouhan is learnt to have told Khudian about the central scheme of incentivising farmers by Rs 17,500 per hectare, for helping shift from paddy to other crops, which had been proposed to the state government some time back. When Khudian expressed his ignorance over such a scheme, Chouhan asked his officers to give him a copy. It has since transpired that Khudian was not told about the scheme because the model code of conduct for the elections had kicked in. The Centre-state apathy is clearly the loss of Punjab's farmers as paddy transplantation was almost over by the time the scheme was announced.

## Fitness matters

WHEN Mansukh Mandaviya was the Union Health Minister, he and his ministerial team undertook a diet plan crafted by a Gujarat-based doctor. The whole group lost considerable weight in a very short time, attracting queries from all around. Mandaviya's successor in the Union Health Ministry and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president JP Nadda is also learnt to be consulting the same sbased allopath now.

## Clean bowled!

A day before his resignation was accepted by President Droupadi Murmu, the Governor of Punjab and Administrator of UT, Chandigarh, Banwarilal Purohit, tried his hand at cricket. The occasion was the inauguration of the gully cricket tournament at the Sector 16 stadium. As part of the inauguration, Purohit took the crease as batter to face UT SSP Kanwardeep Kaur as the bowler. The octogenarian media baron-turned-politician was clean bowled on the very first ball by the young woman IPS officer. Nobody then knew that Purohit would be bowled out from the city the very next day.

## Mystery around UPSC chief's resignation

THE news of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) chairman Manoj Soni's sudden resignation raised many eyebrows this week. Considered close to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Soni joined the commission on June 28, 2017, and became its full-time chief in May 2023. He had five years of his tenure left. While he cited personal reasons for his resignation, insiders said he had quit long before the Pujya Khedkar issue blew up. It is believed that Soni, a monk of the Swaminarayan Sect's Anoopam Mission in Gujarat, has returned to serve the organisation that supported his education after his father's untimely demise when he was still very young. Soni may land a global role in the sect.

## Mission seat of politicians

WHO says proximity isn't everything? When CM Bhagwant Mann visited Muktsar district on Saturday, an AAP leader asked a flunky to occupy the sofa right next to the CM's sofa — once the CM reached the venue and sat down, the flunky left the sofa for his boss. Earlier, too, when Badals were in power, four-five people always used to sit on the rear seat of then Deputy CM Sukhbir Badal's SUV, a few in each other's laps, just so that they could be as close to the centre of power even if it was only as long as the ride lasted.



Students paint their faces as they take part in an awareness programme on International Tiger Day in Patna on Sunday.

Contributed by Deepkamal Kaur, Aditi Tandon, Ruchika M Khanna, Nitin Jain and Archit Watts



# Paris 2024



## Top 5 Medal tally

COUNTRY	Gold	Silver	Bronze	TOTAL
S KOREA	3	2	1	6
AUSTRALIA	3	2	0	5
CHINA	3	1	1	5
FRANCE	2	2	1	5
JAPAN	2	0	1	3
INDIA (19TH)	0	0	1	1

## Indians in action

- ARCHERY**  
Men's team quarterfinals  
**Tarundeep Rai, Dhiraj Bommadevara, Pravin Jadhav** vs Colombia/Turkey 6:30pm
- BADMINTON**  
Men's doubles Group C  
**Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty** vs Mark Lamsfuss & Marvin Seidel (Germany) 12pm  
Women's doubles Group C  
**Ashwini Ponnappa & Tanisha Crasto** vs Nami Matsuyama & Chiharu Shida (Japan) 12:50pm  
Men's singles Group L  
**Lakshya Sen** vs Julien Carraggi (Belgium) 5:30pm
- HOCKEY**  
Men's Pool B  
**India** vs Argentina 4:15pm
- SHOOTING**  
Mixed team 10m air pistol qualification  
**Manu Bhaker & Sarabjot Singh, Rhythm Sangwan & Arjun Singh Cheema** 12:45pm  
Men's trap qualification  
**Prithviraj Tondaiman** 1pm  
Women's 10m air rifle final  
**Ramita Jindal** 1pm  
Men's 10m air rifle final  
**Arjun Babuta** 3:30pm
- TABLE TENNIS**  
Women's Singles Round of 32  
**Sreeja Akula** vs Jian Zeng (Singapore) 11:30pm

## Pic of the day



**STAR ALERT** Actor Tom Cruise with fans during the women's qualification in the artistic gymnastics event. REUTERS

## Quick notes

- Women's archery team crashes out**  
Even as the 18-year-old Bhajan Kaur shot an exceptional 56 out of 60 points, the two seasoned campaigners, Deepika Kumari and Ankita Bhakat, proved to be the weak links as the Indian women's archery team lost 51-52, 49-54, 48-53 to Netherlands in the quarterfinals.
- Rower Balraj reaches quarterfinals**  
India's Balraj Panwar progressed to the quarterfinals of the men's single sculls rowing competition after finishing second in Repechage 2. Panwar clocked 7 minutes 12.41 seconds.
- Tennis: Nagal makes early exit**  
Sumit Nagal stuck to his strong baseline game but that didn't seem to be enough against Frenchman Corentin Moutet, who knocked out the Indian with a stylish three-set win. In his second appearance at the Olympic Games, Nagal bounced back after losing the first set but fell 2-6 6-4 5-7.

# DESTINY'S CHILD

### Three years after pistol malfunction, Manu becomes first Indian woman shooter to win Olympics medal

CHATEAURoux, July 28  
A resilient Manu Bhaker became the first Indian woman shooter to claim an Olympics medal by snaring the bronze in the 10m air pistol event here today, a triumph that opened the country's account in the Paris Games and ended a 12-year wait for its much-hyped shooters.

Rifle shooters Ramita Jindal and Arjun Babuta further lifted the spirits of the contingent at the scenic range, located nearly 300km away from Paris, by securing final spots in the 10m air rifle women's and men's events, respectively, to keep India in the hunt for more medals.

The scene here was in complete contrast to the Tokyo Olympics three years back when only 10m air pistol shooter Saurabh Chaudhary, from the 15 who had gone from India, made it to the final, only to fade into oblivion in the ensuing years.

Bhaker was part of that team and had gone home in tears after drawing a blank. "After Tokyo I was very disappointed and it took me a very long time to overcome that. Frankly speaking, I really can't explain how good I am feeling today," Bhaker, whose pistol malfunctioned during the qualification of the same event three years ago, said with a wide smile on her face.

"In Bhagwat Gita, Krishna says to Arjuna that 'you focus on your karma and not on the outcome of the karma'. Only that was running in my head," she revealed when asked about her state of mind during the final.

**5**  
Manu Bhaker won India's fifth medal in shooting at the Olympics

The last time India won shooting medals at the Olympics was in 2012 London where rapid-fire pistol shooter Vijay Kumar and 10m air rifle marksman Gagan Narang clinched silver and bronze, respectively. Narang is the chef de mission of the Paris contingent.

The 22-year-old Bhaker, who hails from Jhajjar in Haryana, fought hard to get the bronze with a score of 221.7. South Korea's Kim Yeji claimed the silver with a total of 241.3 while her compatriot Jin Ye Oh bagged the gold with a Games record of 243.2.

"I was fighting with all the energy I have. Really grateful that I could win the bronze. I read Bhagwat Gita and always tried to do what I am supposed to do, left everything else to god. We can't fight destiny," said the world champion in the 25m pistol event.

Bhaker was in the second position till the second-last shot but the Indian fell behind after Yeji shot 10.5 in response to her 10.3, ruling her out of the gold medal shoot-off. — PTI



"I was fighting with all the energy I have. Really grateful that I could win the bronze. I read Bhagwat Gita and always tried to do what I am supposed to do, left everything else to god. We can't fight destiny."  
Manu Bhaker

## 3-year curse has been lifted: Manu's coach Rana

VINAYAK PADMADEO  
THE TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, July 28  
Jaspal Rana, sitting in the visitors' gallery, was one emotional man. Manu Bhaker had just won the women's 10m air pistol bronze. It was a moment to savour for both, who were criticised after the debacle and its fallout when both cut ties months before the Tokyo Olympics.

Back then, Rana, who was part of the coaching set-up, had proposed that Manu should skip the women's 25m pistol competition and concentrate only on the 10m air pistol individual and mixed team competitions.

The result was that Manu broke ranks and asked the then National Rifle Association of India president



Bronze winner Manu Bhaker with 2008 gold medallist Abhinav Bindra and coach Jaspal Rana. COURTESY: ABHINAV BINDRA

Raninder Singh to intervene. Ronak Pandit was then asked to coach Manu just a few months before the Tokyo Games.

There were differences between Manu and Jaspal, both temperamental characters, before the final falling out. The result in Tokyo, where shooters failed to win a medal, meant Jaspal was made the villain, a central figure that 'disrupted' the

team. It had a lasting impact on both their careers. While Jaspal was seen as an outcast, Manu's scores began to slide.

On Sunday, though, the dynamic duo redeemed itself, with India's first medal in Paris. "I am relieved to be honest. Felt like the curse that I was carrying from the Tokyo Games. I will not say it is over now that she has won a medal but it is such a big relief for all of us," Rana told *The Tribune* from Chateauroux, France.

Even this time, things were not that easy. Jaspal was not supposed to be in Chateauroux as NRAI only recommends sending coaches who are on its panel. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) top brass, including PT Usha, got him the accreditation for the Games. "I knew I would

## Made us proud: PM to Bhaker

NEW DELHI, July 28  
PM Narendra Modi on Sunday spoke to India's first medal winner at Paris Olympics, Manu Bhaker, and said she had covered all gaps left in the wake of her pistol malfunction at the Tokyo Olympics. "Your pistol malfunctioned in Tokyo Olympics but today you've covered all gaps and done us proud," Modi said to Bhaker.

He also asked her if the Indian sports contingent in Paris was satisfied with the government arrangements.

"We have tried to make the best arrangements possible to ensure the comfort of our athletes need to win," PM said to Bhaker, who said the arrangements were high quality. — TNS

## SL stun India to lift Asia Cup

DAMBULLA, July 28  
Captain Chamari Athapaththu's turbo-charged fifty combined well with the steadfast half-century of Harshitha Samarawickrama as a resilient Sri Lanka carved an eight-wicket win over defending champions India to bag their maiden women's Asia Cup title here today.

This is the second time in nine Asia Cup editions (WODI and WT20I) across formats that India have lost a final. The last time India lost the final was against Bangladesh in 2018 in Kuala Lumpur.

Tasked with hunting down a strong target of 166, Sri Lanka were served well by Athapaththu (61b, 43b, 9x4, 2x6) and Samarawickrama (69 not out, 51b, 6x4, 2x6) and finished at 167 for two in 18.4 overs.

Athapaththu and Samarawickrama added 87 runs as Lankans always stayed ahead of their opponents.

The stand for the second wicket was also of contrasts as Samarawickrama was the



Leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi struck three crucial blows as India restricted Sri Lanka to a below-par 161/9 in the second T20I on Sunday. PTI

## Sindhu opens campaign with dominant victory

PARIS, July 28  
Two-time Olympics medallist PV Sindhu began her campaign with a resounding straight-game win over Maldives' Fathimath Abdul Razzaq in a women's singles match. The gulf of class between the two players was evident as Sindhu took just 29 minutes to dispatch her lower-ranked opponent 21-9 21-6 in the Group M fixture.

"It was a good start, I am happy. I was able to get used to the court and the atmosphere. It has been a long time, coming back after three years, it's a very special one," said Sindhu.

Sindhu has been mentioned by the legendary Prakash Padukone in the past few months. "I have been with Prakash sir for more than six months now and it's going on very well. Everything is coming together. We have to know each other very well to work together," she said.



PV Sindhu

## Nikhat enters pre-quarterfinals with gritty win over Kloetzer

PARIS, July 28  
Two-time world champion Nikhat Zareen powered into the women's 50kg pre-quarterfinals with a tenacious victory over Germany's Maxi Karina Kloetzer here today.

Trailing on three cards after the first round, the 28-year-old Indian prevailed by a 5-0 margin against the German in a rather messy Round of 32 contest. The unseeded Zareen is making her Games debut and is a strong medal contender. Zareen, who has been handed a tough draw, will take on top-seeded Asian Games and reigning flyweight world champion Wu Yu of China on Thursday.

Asian Games bronze medallist Preeti Pawar began her campaign on a rousing note as she picked a unanimous decision win over Vietnam's Vo Thi Kim Anh to move to the pre-quarterfinals in the women's 54kg. — PTI



Nikhat Zareen defeated Germany's Maxi Karina Kloetzer. PTI

## Sharath makes shock exit

PARIS, July 28  
Indian table tennis veteran Achanta Sharath Kamal made a shock exit from the men's singles competition but star woman player Manika Batra started her campaign with a 4-1 win in a Round of 64 women's singles match.

The 42-year-old Kamal, making his fifth Olympics appearance, lost 12-10 9-11 6-11 7-11 11-8 10-12 to Deni Kozul of Slovenia, who was ranked 86 places below the India, in a Round of 64 match that lasted 53 minutes. — PTI

# Cheer for Olympic athletes, resume 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign: Modi

Urges citizens to buy khadi, informs about efforts of tiger conservationists in monthly address

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 28

In his monthly radio broadcast 'Mann ki Baat', Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged citizens to support Indian players at the Paris Olympics.

"At this moment, the Olympics are the flavour of the season in the whole world. The Olympics give our players a chance to hoist the Tricolour on the world stage. Let us encourage our players... Cheer for Bharat," Modi said.

"In this Olympiad, students of India have performed exceptionally well. Our team performed its best and won four gold and one silver medals. Our team was successful in reaching the top five among participants from a 100 countries," the PM said. Modi also informed that the turnover of khadi village industry has crossed Rs 1.5 lakh crore for the first time. He said the sales of khadi products had increased by 40 per cent. "This rising sale of khadi is creating a large number of new employment opportunities. The women are the ones who are benefiting the most," he said.

Modi announced the launch of a portal, Manas, to curb drug menace. "This is a very



## VISIT MOIDAMS IN ASSAM

"The inclusion of Assam's Moidams in the UNESCO's World Heritage Site list means that more tourists will visit this place. A country can only progress by taking pride in its own culture. You should also include Moidams in your future travel plans." Narendra Modi, PM

<< Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP chief JP Nadda and others listen to PM Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' programme in New Delhi on Sunday. ANI

big step in the fight against drug abuse. A helpline and portal of 'Manas' has been launched. The government has issued a toll-free number, 1933. Anyone can call on this number to get necessary advice or information related to rehabilitation," he said.

Celebrating the inclusion of Assam's Moidams, the burial mounds of Ahom royalty, in the UNESCO's World Heritage Site list, Modi urged people to include the site in their travel lists.

"Charaideo Moidams becoming a World Heritage Site now will mean that more

tourists will visit the place. You must include this site in your future travel plans," he said.

He also spoke about a group of women in Rohtak whose handloom products were in demand in the market. "More than 250 women associated with the handloom industry joined the UNNATI Self Help Group and received training in block printing and dyeing. These women who spread the magic of colours on clothes are earning lakhs of rupees today," Modi added.

He also cited similar examples of artisans in Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Maharash-

tra, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh.

On the eve of Global Tigers Day, Modi gave the example of the Rajasthan's Kulhadi Band Panchayat campaign, under which communities took an oath to not cut trees in Ranthambore, with the aim of creating a safe habitat for tigers. "Due to this decision, the forests here are becoming green once again and a better environment is being created for the tigers," he said. He added that the local communities around Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve of Maharashtra had also taken rapid

strides towards eco-tourism.

"You will also be surprised at the efforts of the 'Chenchu' tribe living on the Nallamalai hills in Andhra Pradesh. As tiger trackers, they have gathered every bit of information on the movement of wild animals in the forest. They also keep monitoring illegal activities in the area," he said.

Modi also urged citizens to resume the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign in the run-up to the Independence Day on August 15. He also asked them to click and upload their selfies with the Tricolour on social media.

# Nepal among top 3 recipients of Indian aid

AJAY BANERJEE  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 28

India's efforts to expedite the development of Nepal are often compared with the contribution made by China to the Himalayan country. An analysis done by security agencies here has found that Nepal has been consistently among the top-three recipients of aid from India.

The allocation of aid to Nepal, when seen in terms of the percentage of India's GDP, is greater than the portion China allocates, from its own GDP. In 2023, while India allocated 0.00295% of its GDP for Nepal, China contributed 0.00124% of its GDP for the Himalayan country in the same year.

India's approach emphasises sustainable development and fosters a debt-free relationship, showcasing India's commitment to sup-

## DRAGON'S DEBT-TRAP DIPLOMACY

China's loans to Nepal, particularly under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), are substantially higher and have raised concerns about the Himalayan country facing a potential debt trap

The pattern has been observed globally, where heavy reliance on Chinese loans for large-scale infrastructure projects often leads to increased financial dependency and debt challenges

porting Nepal without imposing financial burdens. On the other hand, China's loans to Nepal, particularly under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), are substantially higher and have raised concerns about a potential debt trap.

The pattern has been observed globally, where heavy reliance on Chinese loans for large-scale infrastructure projects often leads to increased financial dependency and debt challenges for recipient countries. Explaining this, the analysis says, a grant is a financial aid provided without the expectation of

repayment. It is typically used to support immediate needs, humanitarian assistance or developmental projects.

India's grants to Nepal, such as the Rs 700 crore for this fiscal, provide immediate financial support for relief and development, without adding to Nepal's debt burden. Under the BRI, China funds infrastructure projects through loans. These loans need to be repaid, often with interest.

India has allocated higher percentage of grant compared to China in terms of GDP in the last 6 years. India's GDP is about \$3.7

trillion. China's is much greater, at \$18 trillion. While in terms of absolute figures, India's grants to Nepal are lesser than those of China, when seen as the percentage of GDP, India's grant is higher.

The absolute amount China allotted to Nepal was Rs 1,600 crore in 2023, but it represents a smaller percentage of its much larger GDP. India's approach fosters goodwill and strengthens diplomatic ties through direct support and capacity building. The focus on grants and humanitarian aid reinforces India's role as a reliable partner.

While China's infrastructure projects are substantial, the debt associated with these investments can lead to economic and political leverage over Nepal. This dynamic can influence Nepal's policy decisions and strategic orientation.

# 23 Bangladesh nationals held in Agartala

AGARTALA (TRIPURA), JULY 28

In a significant operation, the Government Railway Police (GRP) arrested 23 Bangladesh nationals at the Agartala railway station, including an individual identified as a tout. All the suspects arrested on Saturday primarily hailed from the Chapai Nawabganj district in Bangladesh.

The arrested individuals were identified as Ram Saha, Md Asmaul Hoque, Jakir Hossain, Md Sahin Ali, Ibrahim Khalil, Sahin Alam, Nayan Ali, Md Ilahi Hossain, Md Taib Hossain, Md Dalim, alias Iman, Md Abdul Ajij, Md Saiful Islam, Sahabuddin Shek, Md Shahidul Islam, Md Suman, Md Amirul Islam, Hajikul Babu, Ramjan Shek, Md Mijanur, Ali Akbar, Sakil Shek and Md Rehan Sk. Md Selim Reja (27) was identified as the tout in the case. — ANI

# Top court to take up ED plea challenging Soren's bail today

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 28

The Supreme Court will hear on Monday the Enforcement Directorate's petition challenging the Jharkhand High Court's order granting bail to Chief Minister Hemant Soren in a money laundering case linked to an alleged land scam.

The ED's petition against the June 28 Jharkhand High Court order will be taken up for hearing by a Bench led by Justice BR Gavai on Monday.

The JMM executive president had resigned as the CM shortly before the ED arrested him on January 31 in the case. After coming out of jail on bail in the case, he took oath as the Jharkhand CM again on July 4. The ED's counsel had contended before the high court that if Soren was released on bail, he might commit a similar offence. He also referred to cases against ED officers at

## JHARKHAND CM ACQUIRED LAND 'UNLAWFULLY'

The ED alleged that Hemant Soren misused his position to unlawfully acquire 8.86 acres in Ranchi

The agency claimed that during probe, Soren's media consultant admitted that he had instructed him to manipulate official records to change the ownership details of the plot



the SCST police station.

"Though the conduct of the petitioner has been sought to be highlighted by the ED on account of a first information report instituted by the petitioner against the officials of the ED, on an overall conspectus of the case, there is no likelihood of the petitioner committing a similar nature of offence," the high court had said.

The HC said the consequence of the findings recorded by the court "satisfies the condition in Section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, to the effect that there is reason to believe

that the petitioner is not guilty of the offence as alleged".

The ED had alleged that he misused his position to "unlawfully" acquire 8.86 acres in the Bargainia area in the state capital. The agency had claimed that during the probe, Soren's media consultant Abhishek Prasad admitted that the JMM leader instructed him to manipulate official records to change the ownership details of the plot.

The ED had also claimed that the original owner of the land, Raj Kumar Pahan, had tried to lodge a complaint when his land was usurped, but it was never acted upon.

# Delhi excise 'scam': Apex court to hear Sisodia's bail pleas today

NEW DELHI, JULY 28

The Supreme Court will on Monday hear senior AAP leader and former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's bail pleas in corruption and money laundering cases linked to the Delhi excise policy 'scam'.

Sisodia has sought bail, contending that he had been in custody for 16 months and the trial against him had not made any progress since October 2023. His pleas are listed for hearing before a Bench led by Justice BR Gavai on July 29.

The Supreme Court had on July 16 asked the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to respond Siso-



The former Delhi Deputy CM has been in jail for 16 months now.

dia was arrested by the CBI on February 26, 2023 for his alleged role in the 'scam' and he resigned from the Delhi Cabinet two days later. The ED arrested him in a money-laundering case related to the scam on March 9, 2023 after questioning him in the Tihar Jail.

Holding that the possibility of evidence-tampering by him could not be ruled out, the Delhi High Court had on May 21 dismissed Sisodia's bail pleas. He challenged the high court's order, but the Supreme Court on June 4 refused to entertain his bail pleas in the corruption and money laundering cases lodged by the CBI and the ED. — TNS

# To mark Independence Day, MoD to plant 15 lakh saplings

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 28

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) will undertake a drive to plant 15 lakh trees across the country to mark Independence Day.

The plantation drive is a part of the 'A Tree in the Name of Mother campaign', and will be conducted

through the three services, and associated organisations such as DRDO, defence public sector undertakings, NCC, Sainik Schools and ordnance factories.

It may be recalled that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the campaign on the occasion of World Environment Day on June 5.

# CUET-UG results declared

NEW DELHI, JULY 28

The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Sunday announced the CUET-UG 2024 results.

The results have paved the way to begin counselling in the undergraduate courses which was delayed this year.

The NTA had on July 7 released the provisional answer keys of the CUET-UG

2024. A retest for more than 1,000 candidates whose grievances were found genuine by the agency was conducted on July 19.

The examination took place on May 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 24 and 29 utilising a hybrid mode with both computer-based and pen-and-paper formats. — TNS

# Absence of long-term plan, unutilised funds hampering rejuvenation of Ganga

AKSHEEV THAKUR  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 28

Unutilised funds, absence of a long-term plan, lack of sewage treatment plant with optimum capacity and non-compliance of pollution norms by industries are hampering the rejuvenation of the Ganga, said a parliamentary panel report.

The Public Accounts Committee report said, "The committee finds the absence of a long-term action plan for the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) alarming. It urges the NMCG to prioritise the development of a comprehensive river basin management plan that can guide the project's implementation effectively."

"The plan should be shared with various ministries and departments. Besides, a definite timeline should be set for cleaning the Ganga river and maintaining its cleanliness in subsequent phases of the Namami Gange programme."

The Namami Gange Mission-I and II were approved by the Union Cabinet with a



As many as 2,706 industries have been classified as "grossly polluting" that are causing discharge of pollutants into the river.

dedicated outlay of Rs 20,000 crore and Rs 22,500 crore, respectively, for the clean-up of the Ganga. The Union Government had released funds to the tune of Rs 13,797.77 crore till 2022-23, but the NMCG had only spent Rs 13,297.43 crore.

Additionally, the committee also found gaps in the sewage treatment infrastructure. It noted that about 3,603 million litres per day (MLD) of sewage was generated by 97 towns situated on the main stem of the Ganga river (based on the projected popu-

lation for 2035). However, only about 2,100 MLD is being treated, while the rest of the untreated sewage goes directly into the river, the report said.

As many as 2,706 industries were classified as "Grossly Polluting Industrial Units" that were causing discharge of pollutants in the river in five states.

During the audit, 332 of these were found to be temporarily closed, 144 were shut down permanently, while 463 units were still not complying with the norms.

## PUNJAB STATE DEAR 200 MONTHLY LOTTERY

1st Prize Amount for Winner

TICKET ₹200

# 1.50 CRORES

GUARANTEED

DRAW ON 06.08.2024

8 PM Onwards

PRIZE AMOUNT FOR SELLER : ₹ 10 LAKHS\*

PRIZE AMOUNT FOR SUB-STOCKIST : ₹ 5 LAKHS\*

TOTAL PRIZE AMOUNT ₹ 1.65 CRORES

1st PRIZE WILL BE DRAWN OUT OF SOLD TICKETS ONLY

2nd Prize Amount for Winner

₹10 LAKHS

PRIZE AMOUNT FOR SELLER

₹ 1,00,000\*

PRIZE AMOUNT FOR SUB-STOCKIST

₹ 50,000\*

TOTAL PRIZE AMOUNT ₹ 11.50 LAKHS

3rd Prize Amount for Winner

₹5 LAKHS

PRIZE AMOUNT FOR SELLER

₹ 50,000\*

PRIZE AMOUNT FOR SUB-STOCKIST

₹ 20,000\*

TOTAL PRIZE AMOUNT ₹ 5.70 LAKHS

WIN MANY OTHER ATTRACTIVE PRIZES

Rank	Prize Amount for Winner	Prize Amount for Seller	Prize Amount for Sub-Stockist
1	1,50,00,000	10,00,000	5,00,000
2	10,00,000	1,00,000	50,000
3	5,00,000	50,000	20,000
4	2,000	500	200
5	1,000	200	100
6	1,000	100	100

Price Amount for Sellers & Sub-Stockists above ₹ 10,000 should be claimed from Government only

Contact Stockists for Tickets:

ARE YOU THE NEXT CROREPATI?

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL LOTTERY COUNTERS

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Printed and Published by Jyoti Malhotra for The Tribune Trust  
 Printed at The Tribune Press, Plot No. 123, Sector 37, Pace City-1, Gurugram.  
 Published at The Tribune, Sector 29-C, Chandigarh.  
 RNI No. CHAENG/2017/72605.  
 Copyright © The Tribune Trust. All rights reserved.  
 Telephone: 0124-2210033, 2210044  
 Circulation: 0172-2670419, Advertisement: 0172-2670256, 257  
 Editor-in-Chief: Jyoti Malhotra\*  
 \*Editor for purpose of PRB Act, 1987