



HARRIS SOLE DEMOCRAT CANDIDATE LEFT IN PREZ RACE WORLD



VALLEY TURNS A NEW LEAF, SEES BOOM IN TOURISM J&K



STEEL MINISTRY SEEKS PROBE INTO CHEAPER IMPORTS BUSINESS

DOING NATIONAL GOOD: DHANKHAR ON RSS BACK PAGE



Shah says Kerala forewarned, CM refutes claim as baseless; toll 167

Not the time for wrangling: Vijayan | 191 missing, rescuers intensify search ops

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 31 The Centre and the Kerala Government were locked in a war of words as the death toll in the devastating landslides in Wayanad district of Kerala rose to 167 on Wednesday, while 191 are still missing even as rescue teams intensified efforts to find survivors trapped under the debris on the second day of the search operations.

Speaking in Parliament on Wednesday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the Kerala Government was warned as early as July 23 regarding a possible natural calamity in Wayanad due to heavy rain. However, the state government did not heed the early warning. It also did not get alerted even by the arrival of battalions of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Shah said.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan refuted Shah's remarks, terming these baseless and saying the rain warning was way off the mark and the "red alert"



Rescue work underway after landslides in the Chooralmala area of Wayanad in Kerala. PTI

came after the Wayanad tragedy had occurred. This "is not the time for a blame game", said Vijayan, who was quoted by news agencies as saying, "What was stated in Parliament is not true". The NDRF was sent, "but the fact is that we asked for it".

Shah said the Narendra Modi government was stand-

ing like a "rock" with the Kerala Government and people of the state in this moment of tragedy. He also promised all help from the Centre.

Intervening in a short-duration calling attention motion on the Wayanad landslide tragedy in the Upper House, Shah said an early warning was sent to the state

seven days ahead. Another warning was given on July 24. "Nine NDRF battalions were dispatched on July 23 itself and three more were sent on July 30," Shah said.

Had the Kerala Government been on alert and had it acted as soon as NDRF teams landed there, the losses could have been minimised, the

PM MODI MONITORING SITUATION, SAYS KURIAN

Union Minister George Kurian said PM Narendra Modi was closely monitoring the situation. Kurian visited the people affected by the landslide in Wayanad. "The PM is monitoring the situation and has deputed me to visit the affected areas," he said.

RAHUL, PRIYANKA TO VISIT WAYANAD TODAY

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will visit landslide-hit areas in Wayanad on Thursday and meet several families affected by the natural calamity, sources said.

Channi for privilege motion against PM, submits notice

Ruckus in LS over Anurag's remarks against Rahul

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 31 Congress MP and former Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Wednesday submitted a notice to move a privilege motion against Prime Minister Narendra Modi for posting on X a video that allegedly contained portions of remarks made by BJP MP Anurag Thakur against Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi that were expunged from the proceedings of the House by the Chair.

Thakur's controversial comments against Rahul led to noisy scenes in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday as Congress-led opposition members raised slogans and rushed into the well of the



Congress MP Charanjit Channi speaks in the Lok Sabha. PTI

House, which also led to a short adjournment during Question Hour.

As soon as the House convened for the day and Speaker Om Birla called for the

Question Hour proceedings to commence, Congress members stood up and raised the issue of Thakur's comments against Gandhi and sought his apology.

As Question Hour began, they jumped into the well of the House and raised slogans seeking a caste census, while showing placards. Besides the Congress, the DMK, the Samajwadi Party and the Shiv Sena (UBT) also protested. Papers were torn and thrown into the well, much to the chagrin of the Speaker.

Amid noisy scenes, the Speaker adjourned the House at 11.36 am till 12 noon. Just before the adjournment, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju condemned the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

ED raids hospitals of two HP Cong leaders

One Nagrota MLA, other from seat of CM's wife

LALIT MOHAN

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DHARAMSALA, JULY 31 The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday raided several private hospitals in Kangra, Una and Kulu districts, including two owned by prominent Congress leaders, as part of a money laundering probe linked to the alleged Ayushman Bharat scheme fraud.

In Kangra, the ED raided Fortis Hospital, which is owned by Congress' Nagrota Bagwan MLA RS Bali, and Shri Balaji Hospital, owned by HPCC treasurer Rajesh Sharma. In Una, Banke Bihari Hospital was raided.

Bali is also the Chairman of the Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation. Sharma had contested the 2022 Assembly elections from Dehra. He gave up his ticket for the recent Dehra Assembly bypoll for CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's wife Kamlesh Thakur, which she won.

When contacted, Bali said he had nothing to hide. "We have provided all documents



RS Bali and Rajesh Sharma

AYUSHMAN 'FRAUD'

ED probing alleged fraud of ₹25 crore through misuse of Ayushman Bharat cards

It claims medical bills generated on 'fake' cards, causing a loss to exchequer

sought by the ED. Fortis follows the best ethical practices and I am sure nothing will come out against the institution. Presently, I am out of station on vacation with my family and will be back soon. I will cooperate fully with the agency," he said. Sharma could not be contacted despite repeated attempts.

Sources said the ED was investigating an alleged fraud of Rs 25 crore through the misuse of Ayushman Bharat cards in the state. They said according to the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Eye on Sikh votes before poll, BJP may send Bittu to RS from Haryana

PRADEEP SHARMA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JULY 31 The name of Union Minister of State for Railways and Food Processing Ravneet Singh Bittu is doing the rounds as the probable BJP candidate for the lone Rajya Sabha seat from Haryana.

Sources said Bittu's candidature was being considered as the saffron party was eyeing the influential Sikh community votes in the Haryana Assembly elections.

Bittu is the grandson of former Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh, who was assassinated by militants in 1995. As the BJP does not have any prominent Sikh face in Haryana, the party is looking to bank on the Union Minister of State.

His nomination could also stem the criticism by Sikh outfits of giving them "inadequate" representation in Haryana. The Beant Singh assassination case also fits into the BJP's "national security" narrative and Bittu's Rajya Sabha nomination could

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Withdraw GST on life, medical cover premium: Gadkari to FM

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 31 Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has requested Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to withdraw the 18 per cent goods and services tax (GST) on life and medical insurance premiums.

Congress MP Karti Chidambaram said he was happy that Gadkari endorsed the demand that he made yesterday on the floor of House asking the Finance Minister to remove the 18 per cent GST levelled on health and life insurance premiums. "We are an underinsured country and we must encourage people to insure themselves," he said.

In his letter to the Finance Minister, Gadkari raised concerns of the Nagpur Division Life Insurance Corporation Employees Union, which had submitted a memorandum to him regarding the issues of the insurance industry.

Referring to the memo, the minister said, "Levying the GST on life insurance premium amounts to levying tax on the uncertainties of life."

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Oath Mannerism



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann greets new state Governor Gulab Chand Kataria after the oath ceremony in Chandigarh on Wednesday. In his first remarks, Kataria asserted the Governor's post was not just decorative, but for serving people. TRIBUNE PHOTO: PRADEEP TEWARI

India, China meet 30th time, no LAC headway

AJAY BANERJEE

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 31 Following two meetings in July between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, officials of the two sides met in New Delhi today to find an early resolution of the military stand-off along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

At the 30th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC), the Indian delegation was led by Gourangalal Das, Joint Secretary (East Asia), MEA. The Chinese team was headed by Hong Liang, Director General of the Boundary and Oceanic Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The meeting was aimed at taking forward the discussions held between the two ministers in Astana (Kazakhstan) and Vientiane (Laos). "The two sides reviewed the

TALKS TO CONTINUE

The delegations agreed to maintain the momentum of talks through the established diplomatic and military channels. MEA statement

situation along the LAC for finding an early resolution of the outstanding issues," the MEA said in a statement.

The statement echoed what Jaishankar had told Wang: "Restoration of peace and tranquillity, and respect for the LAC, are an essential basis for bringing back normalcy in bilateral relations." The two sides agreed on the "need to jointly uphold peace and tranquillity on the ground in accordance with relevant bilateral agreements, protocols and understandings". They agreed to continue talks through diplomatic and military channels, the MEA said.

UPSC cancels Khedkar's IAS candidature

NEW DELHI, JULY 31

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Wednesday cancelled the provisional candidature of probationary IAS officer Puja Khedkar and debarred her from all future examinations or selections after finding her guilty of acting in contravention of the provisions of the Civil Services Examination Rules.

BARS HER FROM APPEARING IN ALL FUTURE EXAMS

In a statement, the UPSC said it had thoroughly examined the available data of more than 15,000 finally recommended candidates of the CSEs from 2009 to 2023 i.e. for 15 years with respect to the number of attempts availed by them.

After this detailed exercise, barring the case of Puja Manorama Dilip Khedkar, no other candidate had been

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Women athletes step closer to creating history — Sindhu, Lovlina & Deepika

ROHIT MAHAJAN

IN PARIS

P V Sindhu, all adrenaline, rushed across the court like a storm against a hapless Kristin Kuuba, world No. 73, of Estonia; Lovlina Borgohain weighed her steps carefully, weaved and bobbed her head, and put weight behind her punches against Sunniva Hofstad of Norway; Deepika Kumari decimated Netherlands' teenager Quinty Roeffen, who went to pieces at the biggest stage of her nascent career.

In table tennis, Sreeja Akula beat Zeng Jian of Singapore to enter the women's singles Round of 16.

These women headlined the India news on Day 5 of the Paris Olympics; the men who mattered most were shooter Swapnil Kusale, who qualified for the 50m Rifle 3 Positions



Lovlina Borgohain during the women's 75kg round of 16 boxing match against Norway's Sunniva Hofstad in Paris. PTI

final, and Lakshya Sen, who crushed world No. 3 Jonatan Christie 21-18, 21-12 to make it to the pre-quarterfinals.

The road ahead is tougher — no more amateur-like opponents from Estonia or teenagers from the Netherlands. Sindhu must beat a

Chinese star, He Bingjiao — second-rung player by Chinese standards, but one who possesses a 11-9 career advantage over Sindhu.

Lovlina's next opponent is also a Chinese woman — the two-time Olympics medallist Li Qian. Lovlina

CHASING GLORY

In pursuit of her 3rd Olympic medal, shuttler PV Sindhu advances to next round

Boxer Lovlina Borgohain breezes into quarters; one win away from 2nd Olympic medal

Archer Deepika Kumari enters pre-quarterfinal stage



faced Li twice last year, and both won at home turf — Lovlina at the World Championships in New Delhi, Li at the Asian Games in Hangzhou. Deepika's opponent in the pre-quarterfinals is an Olympics medallist, CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



HAMAS CHIEF KILLED IN IRAN; ISRAEL BLAMED

BEIRUT: Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh was killed in an airstrike in Iran. The group has blamed Israel. INSIDE



Govt. of Haryana



Mhara Haryana

Non-Stop Haryana

We Haryanvis

Our panchayats are educated and empowered

Minimum educational qualification for panchayat candidates – 10th for men, 8th for women

50% reservation for women in the Panchayati Raj Institutions

Incentives for unanimous elections in panchayats

₹21,279.35 crore approved for development in panchayats during the years 2014-2024

Continuous development by educated panchayats



Olympian Sarabjot to get ₹2.5 cr, job: MoS Sanjay Singh

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMBALA, JULY 31
Haryana Minister of State for Sports Sanjay Singh today said Olympian Sarabjot Singh has brought laurels for the country and as per the sports policy, he will get Rs 2.50 crore cash reward and a government job.

CM Saini congratulates shooter's father over the phone

The minister reached Dheen village to meet the parents of Sarabjot Singh, who has won a bronze in 10-metre air pistol mixed team event with Manu Bhaker at the ongoing Olympics in Paris. "The role of the family is appreciable, and we are hopeful that Sarabjot will continue to win more medals for the country in the future too. As per the sports policy, he will get Rs 2.50 crore cash reward and a government job," said Sanjay Singh. Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini also talked to Sarabjot's father Jatinder Singh over the phone and congratulated him for the achievement.

BJP, HLP will fight Assembly elections jointly, says CM Saini

ANIL KAKKAR

SIRSA, JULY 31
Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Wednesday said the BJP and Gopal Kanda's Haryana Lokhit Party (HLP) will contest collectively in the upcoming assembly elections and win all seats in Sirsa.

On his second visit to Sirsa in the past 10 days, the CM handed over documents related to 77 acres and 7 marlas of land to a gurdwara and participated in a programme organised by the Kamboj community's largest sect, Baba Bhuman Shah. The CM announced a contribution of Rs 51 lakh for the construction of Kamboj dharamshalas at Sirsa, Karnal, Radaur, Bhuna, Kurukshetra, Ratia, and Jagadhri.

On Wednesday, CM Saini first stopped at the residence of HLP supremo and MLA Gopal Kanda. On being asked about the alliance with the HLP the CM said they would contest the election collectively and win all five seats in Sirsa district. HLP is part of the NDA and Kanda recently met Union Education Minister



Dharmendra Pradhan, requesting 15 seats as part of the alliance. Although the BJP's top leadership has not revealed their plans, CM Saini's statement hints at a possible coalition. Notably, Gopal Kanda's brother and BJP leader Gobind Kanda are keen to contest the Vidhan Sabha elections from Fatehabad. Criticising the Congress, he said the party had been exposed and rejected by the people. He stressed trans-

parency in work in the BJP's rule had strengthened people's trust in the party. The Chief Minister also visited Gurdwara Sri Chilla Sahib and presented the registration papers for 77 kanals and 7 marlas to gurdwara management. The Sikh congregation honoured him with a turban and siropa. An akhand path was also held at the gurdwara. CM Saini then visited Dera Baba Bhuman Shah at San-

FOCUS ON PUNJABI BELT VOTERS

■ The BJP is eyeing voters in Sirsa who have drifted away from the INLD and JJP. These voters leaned towards the Congress in the recent Lok Sabha elections

■ The BJP did not win a single seat in Sirsa in 2019, making it a crucial district with four Assembly seats — Dabwali, Rania, Kalanwali and Sirsa — three of which have a significant number of Punjabi voters

<< CM Nayab Saini with MLA Gopal Kanda at his residence in Sirsa on Wednesday.

gar Sarista village to pay tribute to Shaheed Udhm Singh and participated in the 84th National Shaheed Mahasammelan as the chief guest. On July 21, he attended a programme at Radha Soami Satsang Bhavan in Sikanderpur village and participated in the "A Tree in Mother's Name" campaign as the chief guest. He also visited Sirsa 28 days ago for a workers' conference at Chaudhary Devi Lal University.

Cong dreaming of winning poll by peddling lies: Badoli

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

YAMUNANAGAR, JULY 31
State BJP chief Mohan Lal Badoli said the Congress was dreaming of coming to power in Haryana with the help of lies and deceitful politics, but it wouldn't be successful.

Addressing party workers in Jagadhri today, he said the public had understood the Congress' designs well and they (public) would wipe it out in the Assembly elections.

"The Congress has no vision for development of the state and to serve the people," said Badoli, who was on his first visit to Yamunanagar district after his appointment as state BJP president. On reaching Jagadhri, Badoli said the people would take the Congress to task for spreading lies.

"People of Haryana have faith in the BJP. With the support of people and the strength of loyal party workers, the BJP will form government in Haryana with full majority for the third time under the leadership of Chief Minister Nayab Saini," said the state BJP president. Highlighting the achieve-



Haryana BJP chief Mohan Lal Badoli at a party meeting in Jagadhri.

GOVT SCHEMES REACHING THE POOR

“The BJP government has worked to raise the dignity of the poor. Today, the government schemes are reaching the poor living far away. Mohan Lal Badoli, STATE BJP CHIEF

ments of the BJP governments at the Centre and in the state, he said the BJP was working to connect the backward and poor with the mainstream. "The BJP government has worked to raise the dignity of the poor. Today, the government schemes are reaching to the poor living far away," said Badoli. On the occasion, Agriculture Minister Kanwar Pal Gujjar said the BJP was the only party, in which an ordinary worker could reach to the highest position, whereas in the Congress only people belonging to one family could occupy high positions. Yamunanagar MLA Ghanshyam Dass Arora, BJP general secretary Krishan Bedi, district president Rajesh Sapra, former Mayor Madan Chauhan and other party leaders also spoke on the occasion.

State players shining, but sports budget not enough: Deepender

NIRESH SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMBALA/KURUKSHETRA, JULY 31
Criticising the Central Government, Rohtak MP Deepender Hooda today said despite winning the bulk of the medals for the country at international games, Haryana was not getting sufficient budget for sports activities.

Speaking to media persons, the Rohtak MP said "About 21 per cent athletes in the Indian contingent for the Olympics are from Haryana. In the last four Olympics, Asian and Commonwealth Games, about 40 to 50 per cent of the medals have been won by the players of Haryana. Despite the achievement, the state was not getting sufficient budget. Under Khelo India, Haryana was given around Rs 65 crore only, while some states from where hardly two-three players are participating in the Olympics got the bigger share." "Even in the overall budget, the state was neglected. The BJP should clarify the reason behind not mentioning the state's name in the speech", he added.

Deepender along with Varun Chaudhry reached Sherpur village to pay condolence to the family of Naik Gurpreet Singh, who was martyred in Leh last week. Later, they



Rohtak MP Deepender Hooda congratulates Olympian Sarabjot Singh's father Jatinder Singh in Ambala on Wednesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

went to Dheen village to congratulate the family members of Sarabjot Singh for winning a bronze in the Olympics.

Later, the Rohtak MP Deepender visited Shahabad as part of his 'Haryana Mange Hisaab' campaign. In a setback to the JJP, its Shahabad MLA Ramkaran Kala also participated in Deepender's padyatra. Ramkaran's two sons joined the Congress before the Lok Sabha elections, Ramkaran Kala, who was holding hands with Congress Ladwa MLA Mewa Singh during the padyatra, is yet to join the grand old party officially.

Ramkaran couldn't be contacted, but party's spokesman

Vivek Choudhary said he was still with the party, the matter would be brought to the notice of the party high command.

Earlier, before starting the yatra, the Rohtak MP paid tributes at Udhm Singh Memorial in Shahabad on his martyrdom day and concluded the yatra at Devi Mandir Chowk after covering various localities of Shahabad.

"Through the 'Haryana Mange Hisaab' campaign, the Congress has raised 15 questions, including on unemployment, crime and drugs, but the government hasn't been able to give the answers...When will the BJP break its silence?" he asked.

Sanjay Singh seeks vote for better health, edu infra

PARVEEN ARORA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KARNAL, JULY 31
AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh today struck an emotional chord with people by referring to Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal as the 'son of Haryana' and blamed the BJP for putting him behind bars. He said the court has given him bail, but his release was stopped.

"You can stop him from coming out of jail, but you cannot remove him from the hearts of the people of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, and other states," said Singh while addressing a 'Badlav Jansabha' in Karnal grain market.

He stressed that Kejriwal's health was deteriorating in jail as his sugar level has dipped to an alarming level. "We fear anything could happen to him," he said, exhorting people to elect AAP in Haryana.



AAP MP Sanjay Singh being honoured by the party workers in Karnal.

While asking people of Haryana whom they would select from the BJP, Congress, INLD, JJP, or AAP, which is providing free education, health, power, and other facilities to people in Delhi and Punjab, he said the BJP has promoted corruption, closed nearly 3,000 schools, and did nothing to promote the health

sector. He also accused the BJP of unemployment.

Accompanied by state senior vice-president Anurag Dhandra, the AAP MP promised to implement all five guarantees of Arvind Kejriwal in Haryana, including free education, water, electricity, bus travel, and employment. He also highlighted the issue

of the Agniveer scheme and said they would abolish it after the INDIA bloc comes to power at the Centre. "We do not want Agniveer but instead require the traditional recruitment in the Army where youth get a job for 17 years to serve the country," he said. "We will fight for the old recruitment process in the Army," he added.

He said the Agniveer scheme has also been implemented in Haryana BJP as the former CM Manohar Lal Khattar, who was elected for five years, was sent back in four years, making him an Agniveer.

He highlighted that the BJP won all elections in Haryana, Maharashtra, and Jharkhand in 2014, but it faced defeat from Kejriwal, and with just three seats in Delhi, the BJP was reduced to a 'scooter party'.

"Give us a chance in Haryana, we will bring a major change in governance. We will clean the mess like we did in Delhi and Punjab," he said.

Inspired by great personalities, govt working for welfare of people: Saini

AMBALA, JULY 31

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini today said the double-engine government is moving continuously ahead on the path shown by the great personalities and forming welfare policies after taking inspiration from their lives.

He was addressing a gathering on the occasion of the 21st foundation day of Ravidas Dharma Asthan at Sirasgarh in Mullana. He was accompanied by Ministers of state Aseem Goel, and Subhash Sudha, and state vice-president Banto Kataria.

Saini said, "Taking inspiration from the life of Guru Ravidas, the double-engine government has worked to implement schemes for the welfare of people of Haryana. The messages of unity, and brotherhood given by the saint are still relevant, and we should follow the path shown by the great saints."

The CM highlighted the achievements and welfare schemes being run by the state



CM Nayab Saini during the 21st foundation day of Guru Ravidas Dharam Asthan in Ambala on Wednesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

VISITS KIN OF MARTYR NAIK GURPREET SINGH

CM Saini also visited the residence of martyr Naik Gurpreet Singh in Sherpur village and extended his condolences. He assured his kin that the state government stands firmly with the family during this difficult time and will extend all possible assistance to them.

and the Central government. He announced a grant of Rs 21 lakh while Aseem announced a grant of Rs 11 lakh on this occasion. Rohtak Congress MP Deepender Singh Hooda, Ambala MP Varun Chaudhry and several other politicians also attended the event. MP Deepender Hooda and

MP Varun Chaudhry announced a grant of Rs 51 lakh to Guru Ravidas Dharam Asthan. Last year too, Deepender Hooda had announced Rs 31.25 lakh for the Asthan. Deepender also read the message of Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi on the occasion. — TNS

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Director (PECC)

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Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), a statutory body under the administrative control of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Govt. of India is the National Standards Body of India and is responsible for activities in the field of Standardization, Product and System Certification, Hallmarking, Laboratory Testing etc., in the country. BIS invites applications for Young Professionals (YP) on contract basis for 2 years as per following details:-

Sr. No.	Name of the Position	Young Professionals (YP) Management System Certification Department (MSCD)
1.	Number of positions	01 (Northern Regional Office, Chandigarh)
2.	Method of recruitment	Contract-based engagement through interviews at BIS Northern Regional Office, Chandigarh
3.	Educational qualifications	Essential: • Regular Graduation in any discipline of Science/Engineering/BE/B-Tech from a recognized University Minimum percentage of marks 60% • Regular MBA or equivalent in Marketing/ Sales, Retail Management, Logistics and Supply Management and Operations Management from a recognized University. Minimum percentage of marks 60% Work Experience: Minimum of two (2) years of experience in Marketing or equivalent fields (Preferably conversant with Management System Certification)
4.	Age Limit	Should not be more than 35 years of age as on the last date of receipt of application i.e. 15 August, 2024
5.	Remuneration	70,000/- per month
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Last date to apply through online till 15 August 2024; 1730 hrs.
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Punjab Nurses Registration Council
Medical Education Bhawan, Sector 69, Mohali -160062 (Punjab)

PUBLIC NOTICE
Admission Notice for ANM & GNM Courses session 2024-25

It is for the information of all concerned, that admission in ANM and GNM courses, in the State of Punjab in all Nursing Institutes (Govt. & Private) would be made through Online Centralized Counselling to be conducted by Punjab Nurses Registration Council. The prospectus, fee details, schedule of counselling, details of online counselling and any other updates would be available on the website of PNR C, i.e. www.pnrconline.in. The website of PNR C be persued from time to time for all updates.

Registrar,
Punjab Nurses Registration Council,
Mohali

Kanwar yatra: Traffic restrictions hit trade activities in Faridabad

BIJENDRA AHLAWAT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDABAD, JULY 31

The ongoing Kanwar yatra has impacted the trade and industrial activities in the region. The production and supply of various items in this industrial hub has declined for many units here, Rajiv Chawla, president of the Integrated Association of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises of India has claimed.

"The yatra has affected work in many units dependent on the supply of raw material or finished goods to units located in Uttarakhand and western Uttar Pradesh. Transportation work has nearly come to a standstill due to restrictions on vehicular movement on many roads," said Chawla.

He said the production in his unit was down to 30 per cent as he was unable to supply or get products from his partners located in areas affected by the movement of Kanwar yatra.

Several ancillaries supplying material to major units located in areas like Haridwar and Roorkee districts were finding it difficult to do so in wake of problems involving due to restrictions on heavy vehicles movement. Raj Bhatia, president of the Faridabad Industries Association (FIA) here, said there was considerable impact on trade and manufacturing activity due to disruption in the movement of trucks on many routes in the National Capital Region (NCR).

While transportation rates have doubled, the risk of accidents has also led to a decline in trade activities. "This will continue for almost a month,"

SUPPLY DISRUPTED

"The yatra has affected work in many units dependent on the supply of raw material or finished goods to units located in Uttarakhand and western Uttar Pradesh. Transportation work has nearly come to a standstill due to restrictions on vehicular movement on many roads."

Rajiv Chawla, PRESIDENT, INTEGRATED ASSOCIATION OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES OF INDIA

Ramneek Prabhakar of the Manufacturers Association Faridabad stated.

Since the cost of transportation has doubled, the yatra has impacted around 10 to 15 per cent of the units in the area. "Many units here have been spending more time and money on the transportation of goods and supplies due to route diversions. The movement of commercial and heavy vehicles has been halted on several routes towards some of the cities in Uttarakhand," said Pramod Rana, general secretary, IMT Industries Association.

Anticipating hiccups, some manufacturers and suppliers had asked their vendors to pick up supplies before the start of the yatra to avoid inconvenience. Suresh Chander Garg, an industrialist, said since the yatra was an annual affair, some industrial and business houses had an action plan ready to deal with any issues related to the yatra.

NGT orders heavy penalties for illegal dumping of waste

SAURABH MALIK
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JULY 31

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has ordered a complete prohibition on littering and dumping of solid waste at unauthorised locations across Haryana, including roadsides, rivers, waterways, wetlands, and public lands. Violators, including the urban local bodies, will now pay hefty environmental compensation amounts, ranging from Rs 5,000 for a first-time offense to Rs 50,000 for repeated infractions by bulk waste generators.

Addressing the persistent issue of illegal waste disposal despite existing regulations, the tribunal headed by judicial member Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi and expert member Dr Afroz Ahmad asserted dumping of raw garbage on roadsides, railway tracks, riverbanks, highway shoulders, wetlands, and other public lands was still a common sight.

The tribunal also made it clear that its ruling was driven

NO LITTERING IN WATER BODIES, GOVT LAND

"We specifically direct that there shall be complete prohibition on littering/dumping of solid waste at unauthorised places, particularly roadsides, rivers, waterways, wetlands, lakes, nalas, panchayat or revenue land, land owned by PWD or other various authorities in the entire state of Haryana with effect from the date of this order" -NGT

by the failure of Central and state governments, as well as local authorities, to uphold their responsibilities. Even though they were under constitutional and statutory obligations to prevent environmental degradation, they had failed and neglected to discharge the responsibilities concerning the "proper collection, handling, transportation, and ultimately hygienic disposal or recycling of solid and liquid waste".

Speaking for the tribunal, Justice Tyagi asserted the state and its instrumentalities could not be allowed to violate the right to a decent and clean environment. The tribunal was under constitutional and

statutory obligation to take suo motu cognizance and give necessary directions for ensuring that the right to a decent and clean environment did not remain illusory and was strictly enforced.

Justice Tyagi asserted the violator were liable to pay environmental compensation of Rs 5,000 in the first instance and Rs 10,000 for further instances of littering/dumping of solid waste. The amount was Rs 25,000 for first instance and Rs 50,000 for further instances of littering/dumping of bulk waste by "any bulk waste generator, concessionaire, urban local bodies, or any other person or body responsible for the same"

The municipal corporations and committees were also tasked with implementing the directions on payment of compensation, with designated officers responsible for enforcement. Regional officers of the Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) were also authorised to impose the environmental compensation. The collected compensation was directed to be utilised by the municipal corporation, committee and HSPCB for waste management and processing.

The NGT also directed a comprehensive publicity campaign to ensure widespread awareness of the directives. The Haryana Chief Secretary and the HSPCB Member-Secretary were also asked to ensure adequate publicity of the directions in the entire state through electronic and print media, in addition to hoardings and banners. Failure to pay the compensation would result in recovery as arrears of land revenue.

Won't let waste unit to be set up in Nuh: Residents

SUMEDHA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

GURUGRAM, JULY 31

Nuh residents are up in arms against the state government for allegedly trying to turn it a dumpyard for NCR cities of Gurugram and Faridabad.

Following the announcement of setting up of waste-to-energy plants in both the cities, the state government has identified and earmarked around 22 acres of land for waste processing in Indri village of Nuh. This has led to a huge protest as villagers have announced that they will not allow setting up of any such waste unit in Mewat. Residents claimed that waste processing plants will contaminate water, soil, and air and push residents towards various ailments.

"We are not the backyard dump for Gurugram and Faridabad. The government has made a mess of the two cities and these are overflowing with toxic garbage. They have no solution and villages of these two cities have refused to give their land for such units so now they are targeting Nuh. We have never been their concern or priority. We will not let any such processing unit to be set up here," said Tayyeb Ghasedia, a local resident and INLD leader who organised a mahapanchayat on the issue.

Villagers fear that they will become next Bandhwari and have announced that they will not let any garbage truck from Gurugram or Faridabad

MEWAT NO DUMPYARD

"The state government thinks Mewat as its dumpyard. In the last 10 years, it has given us nothing. What's the point of having a processing unit here if waste-to-energy plants will be in Gurugram and Faridabad? Look at Aravallis, they are completely ruined in both Gurugram and Faridabad, but still flourishing in Mewat. We need to save them."

Aftab Ahmed, NUH MLA

to cross the Nuh border.

"Look at what the landfill site has done to Bandhwari village and a few others in Gurugram. We will not let even a single garbage truck cross border and come here. The state government has given us no facilities; the only respite we have is fresh air and water, and we don't want to lose these. As per the solid waste management rules, Gurugram needs to resolve its garbage crisis in its own limits. We will even move court against it," said advocate Parkrudin Chandani.

Residents alleged that waste was being illegally dumped in Tauru block along KMP where a mini-garbage mountain was already ready and would soon rival Bandhwari if government did not check the dumping.

NHAI to access control 42-km stretch of NH152 by Dec next

NITISH SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMBALA, JULY 31

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has set a target to access control the 42-km stretch of the National Highway 152 between Ismailabad in Kurukshetra and Ambala by December next year.

Under the project, 15 new structures, including 14 new

vehicular underpasses (VUPs), a flyover and service roads, are being constructed at a cost of nearly Rs 300 crore. The stretch is a part of the Kotputli-Ambala economic corridor. While the corridor, also known as the Trans-Haryana highway, is already access-controlled from Narnaul to Ismailabad, it is connected to Ambala, which will now be access controlled.

The new vehicular underpasses will come at 14 locations, including at Gangheri village, Ajrawar, Jansui-Kaleran, Loh Simbly-Jameetgarh, Ghel, Jalbera village, Matheri Shekhan, Sullar-Balana, Naraingarh-Balana, Loh Simbly, Darwa-Kolumajra and at two locations of Thol village. A flyover will be constructed near Balana village of Ambala.

As per the NHAI official said, "The median cuts on the highway are a safety hazard and by eliminating these cuts the safety on the national highway will increase, and the local residents will get service lanes for easy commuting. Nearly 15 per cent work has been completed so far and the project is to be completed by December next year."

CM's Adviser Devender Singh quits

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JULY 31

Devender Singh, Adviser (Irrigation) to Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, has resigned.

A former IAS officer, Devender Singh, was looking after the Department of Irrigation and Water Resources and works related to the implications of Chief Minister's announcements and monitoring performance of various departments under the CM window.

Govt mulls execution of rotatory headship in medical, dental colleges across state

Seeks draft of rules from University of Health Sciences, Rohtak

RAVINDER SAINI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, JULY 31

The state government is contemplating the execution of rotatory headship (appointment of head of department by rotation) in the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (PGIMS), Post Graduate Institute of Dental Sciences (PGIDS) and other government/aided medical/dental colleges in the state.

The Department of Medical Education and Research (DMER), while referring to a letter from the Chief Secretary's office, has sought the draft of rules in this regard from the University of Health Sciences (UHS) here. It has also asked the UHS authorities to provide a comparative table of the existing and proposed provisions with full justification along with a complete set of existing rules in government and govern-



PROPOSAL ALREADY APPROVED BY UHS

A proposal to start rotatory headship at the University of Health Sciences and its constituent colleges was passed by the university's Executive Council (EC) some years ago. As per the proposal, the faculty members who had remained heads of their respective departments for three years or more were to be replaced by the faculty members next to them in seniority but the proposal has not yet been executed so far.

ment-aided medical/dental colleges, sources said.

The sources claimed that the demand for rotatory headship had been raised by faculty members of the PGIMS, Rohtak, for a long time as they were unable to become head of their department despite having a long experi-

ence due to no provision for rotatory headship.

A senior doctor at the PGIMS claimed that the draft of rules had been sought to implement the rotatory headship in the PGIMS/PGIDS and other medical/dental colleges after getting its approval from the Haryana

Legislative Assembly.

"A proposal to start rotatory headship at the UHS and its constituent colleges was passed by the university's Executive Council (EC) some years ago. It was also sent to the Governor for approval. As per the proposal, the faculty members who had remained heads of their respective departments for three years or more were to be replaced by the faculty members next to them in seniority but the proposal has not yet been executed," he said.

"Currently, the headship is not being given as per rotation in the UHS and the PGIMS. However, a letter in this respect has recently been received from the DMER. The letter has been sent to Registrar, UHS," Dr Anita Saxena, Vice-Chancellor, UHS, told *The Tribune*.

Registrar Dr HK Aggarwal could not be contacted.

Judicial officer suspended

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JULY 31

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has placed under suspension the services of Additional District and Sessions Judge Raj Kumar Jain, who served as the Presiding Officer of the Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Court, Rohtak. The suspension, effective immediately, follows a series of news reports published in the newspaper against him on February 6, 16, and 22, 2019. During the suspension period, Judge Jain's headquarters will be at Rohtak, and he is prohibited from leaving without prior permission from the District and Sessions Judge, Rohtak.

The order was issued by the Registrar-General on behalf of the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court.

Resolve farmers' problems: BKU (Tikait) to UHBVN

YAMUNANAGAR, JULY 31

The BKU (Tikait group) has threatened the authorities of the Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam (UHBVN) that if they fail to solve the problems of farmers, they will be forced to start an indefinite agitation against the power utility from August 5. Subhash Gurjar, district president of the BKU, said the farmers were facing a number of problems related to issuance of tubewell connections, increase the load of transformers, etc.

He said officials of the UHBVN at Yamunanagar didn't take any interest in solving the problems faced by farmers. "Farmers shall assemble at the office of SE of the UHBVN on August 5. If their problems are not solved, they will start an indefinite agitation," said Gurjar. — TNS

Spouse can't seek nullity of marriage after years of togetherness, children, rules HC

SAURABH MALIK
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JULY 31

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has ruled that a spouse cannot seek directions to declare a marriage null after a long duration of cohabitation and the birth of children. The Bench of Justice Sureshwar Thakur and Justice Sudeepti Sharma emphasised that the extended period of marital relationship and the birth of children indicate that the marriage has been consummated and accepted, negating grounds for declaring it null and void.

The case revolved around a marriage solemnised on July 15, 2002. The petitioner-husband's case was that his wife at the time of their marriage was still legally wedded to another man.

COURT'S OBSERVATION

The Bench reiterated that the remedy of nullity was primarily available in cases where the marriage was void from the outset due to factors such as prohibited degrees of relationship or incapacity to marry.

Her earlier marriage was dissolved by a decree of divorce on October 1, 2002, just three months after her marriage to the petitioner.

The husband, during the course of proceedings, argued that his marriage to the respondent should be declared null and void because she was still wedded at the time of their marriage. After hearing the arguments and going through the documents, the Bench reiterated that the remedy of nullity was primarily available in

cases where the marriage was void from the outset due to factors such as prohibited degrees of relationship or incapacity to marry. It further clarified that long-term cohabitation and the birth of children reinforced the validity of the marriage, making annulment an unsuitable recourse.

The Bench also underscored the importance of marital stability and the welfare of children born from the union, noting that seeking nullity after such a

long period could disrupt the family structure and adversely affect the children's well-being. The prolonged cohabitation of the parties from 2002 to 2014 indicated condonation of the respondent's earlier marriage status.

The court added that the minimal gap of three months between the respondent's divorce and her marriage to the petitioner did not invalidate the marriage post-October 1, 2002. The court emphasised that the marriage had been accepted and consummated over the years.

In its final order, the court found no merit in the appeal and dismissed it, with no order as to costs. All pending applications were also disposed of.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No:- 770-W/169/WA-1/FZR-139-2024-25-ADEN-LDH acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date 20.08.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Bid System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
29.07.2024	06.08.2024	20.08.2024

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender
1.	139-2024-25-ADEN-LDH	Provision/Replacement of 02 Nos New SMC overhead tank of 225KL capacity in staff colonies and DSL shed including replacement of old corroded existing pipelines and provision of boring with pump house etc at Ludhiana under ADEN-LDH
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Validity of offer	Period of completion
27774146.91	60 Days	06 Months

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2332/24

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER TRANS. LINE MAINTT. DIV-III JKPTCL UDHAMPUR
Email: tlmdudh@gmail.com, Fax: 01992-270287
No: TLMD-III/UDh/1848-50 Dated: 29/07/2024

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE No. 1
Ref:- 1. e- NIT No: - TLMD-III/UDH/08 of 2024-25, Dated: 12.07.2024

On the request of prospective bidders and keeping in view the nature of work.

- The Corrigendum to the Terms and Conditions of Standard Bidding Document is appended herewith as Annexure-A which can be downloaded from JKtenders website.
- The last date of bid submission and opening of tender is extended as under

Extension Period: -

1. e-bid submission end date and time	08.08.2024 up to 03:00 p.m.
2. Date and time of opening of techno commercial bid	09.08.2024 up to 03:00 p.m.
3. Online Financial e-bid opening date and time	Will be communicated to techno-Commercially qualified bidders

Sd/- Executive Engineer
TLMD-III Udhampur.

DIP/J-1397-Pr24

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

S. No.	Tender No.	Name of work	Date & Time of Opening	Approx. Cost (₹)	Earnest Money (₹)	Completion period
1.	OT-11/2024-25	S&T work in c/w Constnction of LHS at L-xing No. C-82 in FTH yard in BTI-SGMR Section of Ambala Division.	22.08.2024 at 15:00 hrs.	₹20,32,164.48	₹40,700/-	180 Days
2.	OT-12/2024-25	S&T work in c/w Provision of RGM/Track Machine Sidings over Ambala Division (ABS, AHH, AADR, UMB, RAA, BXC, BTI, BTIC, CDG, DKT, DUI, GHG, YJUD, JPS, KJK, KMKN, KNN, KARR, KART, KRLI, LHA, MOT, MET, MRND, NLDM, RPJ, PUL, RPAR, SMRL, SFM, UNA, SSW, NMDA, HMK, GDB, SAG and DLPC).	22.08.2024 at 15:00 hrs.	₹3,77,68,359.97	₹3,38,900/-	270 Days

Note: 1. Open tenders through E-tendering are invited by Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom. Engineer/N.Railway, DRM Office, Rail Vihar, Ambala Cantt. from the willing contractors for above noted work up to 15:00 hrs. on due date shown against the work and will be opened soon thereafter. Tenderers(s) are required to upload scanned copies of all related eligibility documents including PAN etc. as per conditions. 2. Please refer to the website www.ireps.gov.in for detailed notice and tender documents. 3. Tenderer should have class-III Digital Signature Certificate and registered themselves on website stated above to participate in E-Tendering and they are requested to read all the instructions contained in the tender notice and tender documents carefully before submitting their offer so as to comply with all the requisite provision/special conditions.

No.: SW-Sig/UMB/NIT-03/2024-25 Dated: 29.07.2024 2330/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

After Jalandhar West, AAP lays focus on Gidderbaha bypoll

ARCHIT WATTS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

GIDDERBAHA/MUKTSAR, JULY 31

After winning the Jalandhar West bypoll, the AAP has shifted its focus to the upcoming byelections in Gidderbaha. Just two days after Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's visit to Doda village, Cabinet Minister Aman Ara and Dharamkot MLA Devinderjeet Singh Laddi Dhos, who were appointed as AAP's in-charge and co-in-charge, respectively, for the Gidderbaha bypoll, visited Gidderbaha town and met the party activists recently.

On the other hand, Amrita Warring, who was being seen as the political heir of her husband, Ludhiana MP Amrinder Singh Raja Warring in Gidderbaha, was missing from the political action. She has toured the area just twice in about three weeks. PCC chief Raja Warring himself has been busy in the Lok Sabha and the Ludhiana constituency. There were talks in political circles that the Warring family was just testing the waters as the Congress had remained in third place in Gidderbaha in the recent general election.

Raja Warring had said, "Being the PCC president, I will not seek the ticket for any member of my family. The ticket is a prerogative of the party. My wife is working in the field, and so are other peo-

ple. I had not even applied for Ludhiana; however, the party fielded me there."

Notably, Raja Warring has won thrice in a row from the constituency; however, his margin of victory had come down to just 1,349 votes in 2022. The SAD may field its sitting constituency in-charge, Hardeep Singh Dimpy Dhillon, who has twice unsuccessfully contested the election in 2017 and 2022. Further, the BJP may field former Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal, who got elected four times in a row from here in 1995, 1997, 2002, and 2007, but lost as a PPP candidate to first-time Congress candidate Raja Warring in 2012.

Before the Lok Sabha elections, he had again become active in the politics of this constituency. However, he seemed to have become inactive again. Manpreet's close aide said today the BJP leadership was putting pressure on the former minister to contest the bypoll as there were no other big names in this constituency.

Meanwhile, the Independent MP from Faridkot, Sarabjeet Singh Khalsa, has also toured this constituency recently. Notably, pro-Khalistan leader Bhagwant Singh, alias Pradhan Mantri Bajek, who was presently lodged in the Dibrugarh jail in Assam along with MP Khadoor Sahib Amritpal Singh, may also contest the bypoll from here.

Meanwhile, the Independent MP from Faridkot, Sarabjeet Singh Khalsa, has also toured this constituency recently. Notably, pro-Khalistan leader Bhagwant Singh, alias Pradhan Mantri Bajek, who was presently lodged in the Dibrugarh jail in Assam along with MP Khadoor Sahib Amritpal Singh, may also contest the bypoll from here.

Dhindsa 'rejects' expulsion of eight rebel leaders from SAD

Party patron says they are real loyalists of Sikh Panth and Akali Dal

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JULY 31

A day after the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) expelled eight leaders from the party, the rebels have rejected the expulsion. SAD patron Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa said: "The SAD leadership or the disciplinary committee does not have any right to expel anyone from the party and only the working committee of the party has the right to take such an action. As party's senior-most leader, I reject the expulsion of eight leaders who were not rebels, but the real loyalists of the Sikh Panth and the Akali Dal."

Dhindsa continues to be the patron of the SAD even as his son and former Finance Minister Parminder Singh Dhindsa was expelled by the party on Tuesday. He said he and those who raised their voice against the Badals were part of the Akali Dal and would not form any other party.

Accompanied by Gurpartap



SAD patron Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa addresses a press conference in Jalandhar on Wednesday.

NO AUTHORITY TO STAY PROCEEDINGS
Party patron Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa does not have any authority to stay the proceedings of the disciplinary committee. Dhindsa is a senior leader and should know that the party patron cannot overrule any party decision. Balwinder Singh Bhunder, SAD LEADER

Singh Wadala, who is the convenor of the rebel group, and senior leaders, including former SGPC president Jagir Kaur and ex-MP Prem Singh Chandumajra, Dhindsa said they would call a meeting of

the party delegates to restructure the party.

Wadala said if action was warranted against anyone, it had to be against Sukhbir Singh Badal and other leaders who had caused much damage to

the party by taking several

anti-Sikh decisions. He said a

recent interview of Pradeep

Kaler, a close aide of Dera Sacha

Sauda head Gurmeet Ram

Rahim, had exposed how Akali

leaders, especially the Badals,

used to meet him regularly for

personal and political gains.

Meanwhile, SAD senior

leader Balwinder Singh

Bhunder said party patron

Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa do

not have any authority to stay

the proceedings of the disci-

plinary committee.

'Selective' expulsions raise many an eyebrow

DEEPAK KAMAL KAUR
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JALANDHAR, JULY 31

After the Shiromani Akali Dal issued orders to expel eight leaders of the rebel group yesterday, questions are being raised why the remaining nearly 30 leaders, who are also part of the same group, have been spared.

Those spared included former MP Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, former minister Sarwan Singh Phullaur, core committee members Bhai Manjit Singh and Satwinder Kaur Dhaliwal, former MLA Gaganjit Singh Barnala, SGPC members Karnal S Panjoli, Paramjit Kaur Landran, Kiranjot Kaur and Balbir S Ghunas, and party leaders Harinder Pal Singh Tohra, Harjit Kaur Talwandi and Sucha Singh Chhotepur.

Jagir Kaur has reacted to selective expulsion saying: "Had the SAD removed all of us, the party would have gone half empty. Since the eight of us were leading the group, action came against us. It clearly meant attacking the leaders so that our campaign could get derailed and

Only 'architects' of plan removed, say Sukhbir loyalists

those with us could rethink on their decision and even revert. But their plans won't be successful. They removed us without giving us any hearing and the message has not gone across well."

However, those siding with Sukhbir Badal have maintained that only the 'architects' of the plan had been removed. "The party did not want to give undue importance to the rest of the people by expelling them," said a SAD leader.

Countering Jagir Kaur's version, Sukhbir loyalist Mahesh Inder Grewal said: "It was a case of exceptional indiscipline. The group was seeking removal of party president Sukhbir Badal. Our party kept on tolerating all their statements going to media, but it was felt that setting up a 13-member presidium could not be tolerated. It implies that they have created a parallel system against a legally constituted set up."

Working to rev up finances, but no support from Centre: FM

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JULY 31

Finance Minister Harpal Cheema has said that the AAP government in Punjab is trying to rev up the state's revenue, but the lack of support by the BJP-led Centre is thwarting those efforts. "The BJP hates Punjab and Punjabis," he declared.

"Over the past two years, since the Aam Aadmi Party government has come to power, the BJP-led Centre has refused to give anything to Punjab. We have raised various demands, but none of those has been met. Though I have been part of pre-Budget consultative meetings with the Union Finance Minister, she has also not given anything to Punjab. In fact, the name of

Punjab did not figure even once in this Budget," he said.

Among the key demands that the AAP government has made from the Centre is to give a tax holiday for those setting up industry in the border districts of the state, as is the case with Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. Because of this, industrial units have been shifting to these neighbouring states. "This is discrimination against Punjab," he said.

Cheema said the state government had also sought the formation of a policy for checking stubble burning, with the Centre pitching in with some fiscal benefits to be given to the farmers to stop them from burning crop stubble.

The FM was speaking to *The Tribune*, as part of the newspa-



NO CHANGE IN AAP VOTE BANK
There was no shifting of AAP vote bank during the Lok Sabha poll. Issues are different for the parliamentary and Assembly elections. People choose a PM in the LS poll. But we are as strong in Punjab as before, which is proven by our resounding victory in the Jalandhar (West) bypoll. Harpal Cheema, PUNJAB FINANCE MINISTER

Cheema refused to comment on the possibility of a Cabinet reshuffle in the near future saying it was the domain of the CM. He, however, agreed that three Cabinet berths were vacant and would have to be filled. "Only our CM and party's national convener Arvind Kejriwal can decide on that issue," he said.

REFUSES COMMENT ON CABINET REJIG

Cheema refused to comment on the possibility of a Cabinet reshuffle in the near future saying it was the domain of the CM. He, however, agreed that three Cabinet berths were vacant and would have to be filled. "Only our CM and party's national convener Arvind Kejriwal can decide on that issue," he said.

per's interview for its digital platform, Decode Punjab. He said no one should link power subsidy with the release of

additional grants/funds, as the subsidy was a kind of financial support to farmers in distress because of high indebt-

ness in the state. Talking about the recent visit of the 16th Finance Commission to the state, he said

though the commission did not give them any assurance, he was hopeful that it would recommend additional grants for the state. "However, the release of these grants is in the hands of the PM and BJP," he said, adding that Punjab had demanded Rs 75,000 crore as development fund. Asked if the state government has taken up this issue with the PM and why the Punjab Government decided to boycott the Niti Aayog meeting, the Finance Minister said CM Bhagwant Mann would go and meet the PM. "But all other ministers regularly go and meet the Union ministers. Our demands are ignored. Last year, the CM went for the Niti Aayog meeting, but the demands raised there were not considered," he said.

HC to hear Amritpal's petition on August 28

CHANDIGARH, JULY 31

The Punjab and Haryana High Court today fixed August 28 for hearing a petition filed by Khadoor Sahib MP Amritpal Singh. Confined in Dibrugarh Central Jail, he was seeking directions for quashing, among other things, "entire proceedings initiated against him under the National Security Act, including detention orders".

In a related matter, the high court has already called for a fresh reply by the state as well as Union of India regarding tenability of the preventive detention order since "counsel for the petitioner(s) has chosen to challenge the same despite the period of detention having been over".

In his petition placed before the Division Bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Anil Kshetarpal, Amritpal Singh said his detention

under the NSA was illegal and as such liable to be set aside. His right to life and liberty had been taken away completely in "an unusual and cruel manner" by not only invoking the preventive detention Act for more than a year, but also by detaining him away from the State of Punjab.

"It serves no purpose whatsoever except to punish the petitioner for being vocal against the state and the Central government on major political issues, which is a democratic right of every citizen of this country," he added. "The grounds of detention are primarily based on social media posts uploaded by different persons across the world, which have hardly any impact in the state and possibly the security of the state of India cannot be so fragile as to be impacted by social media posts." — TNS

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਟੇਟ ਸਿਵਲ ਸਪਲਾਈਜ਼ ਕਾਰਪੋਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਲਿਮਿਟਡ, ਬਠਿੰਡਾ

ਟੈਂਡਰ ਨੋਟਿਸ
ਕੰਮ ਦਾ ਸੰਦਾ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਵਿਭਾਗ: ਪਲਾਜ਼
ਕੰਮ ਦਾ ਸੰਬੰਧ ਵੇਰਵਾ: ਐਲ.ਪੀ.ਸੀ. ਦੇ ਡਰੋ ਗੈਸ ਸਿਲੰਡਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਡਿਲੀਵਰੀ ਲਈ ਠੱਕੇਦਾਰ ਦੀ ਨਿਯੁਕਤੀ ਕਰਨ ਸਬੰਧੀ।
ਕੰਮ ਦਾ ਬਿਆਨ: 50,000/-
ਸਕਿਉਰਿਟੀ ਦੀ ਰਕਮ: 2,00,000/- (ਸਫਲ ਟੈਂਡਰਕਾਰ ਦੀ ਬਿਆਨ ਦੀ ਰਕਮ ਭਾਵ 30,000/- ਰੁਪਏ ਸਕਿਉਰਿਟੀ ਵਿਚ ਅਭਜਸਟ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ।
ਕੰਮ ਦਾ ਖੇਤਰ: ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਬਠਿੰਡਾ
ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਮਿਤੀਆਂ: ਈ-ਟੈਂਡਰ ਡਾਕਮ 02.08.2024 ਸਵੇਰੇ 11.00 ਵਜੇ ਤੋਂ 12.08.2024 ਚਾਮ 03.00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ ਆਨਲਾਈਨ ਸਬਮਿਟ ਹੋਣਗੇ।
ਤਕਨੀਕੀ ਬੋਠੀ ਮਿਤੀ: 13.08.2024 ਨੂੰ ਸਵੇਰੇ 11.00 ਵਜੇ ਖੋਲ੍ਹੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ।
ਟੈਂਡਰ ਦੇ ਸੰਦਾ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਦੇ ਵਿਸਤ੍ਰਿਤ ਨਿਯਮਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਸ਼ਰਤਾਂ ਲਈ ਖ਼ਿਆ ਕਰਕੇ <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> ਤੇ www.punjab.gov.in 'ਤੇ ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ਤ ਕਰੋ।
ਸੰਪ, ਜੇਕਰ ਕੋਈ ਹੋਰ ਵੀ ਸਾਈਟ ਵੈੱਬਸਾਈਟ <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> 'ਤੇ ਜਾਰੀ ਰੱਖੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ।
DPR/Pb/36210 ਸਹੀ/ ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਮੈਨੇਜਰ, ਪਨਸਪ, ਬਠਿੰਡਾ।

Organised by IDEMI Mumbai, Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India
Government Certificate Course on DATA SCIENCE & AI
Course Timing: ((ONLINE)) 3rd Aug to 11th Aug 2024
Duration: 4 Days
COURSE FEES: RS. 5000/- +18% GST
Email: training@idemi.org Website: <https://idemi.org/>
HANDS ON EXERCISES & LEARNING
Course Content: Introduction To AI & Data Science, Exploratory Data Analysis & Data Processing, Machine Learning Fundamentals, Hands-on Machine Learning with Scikit-Learn, Introduction to Deep Learning, Advanced Topics in AI.
Who can attend: This course is ideal for data enthusiasts, college students, working professionals seeking to transition careers or upskill in data-related fields, individuals starting a career in data, and those looking to broaden their skills through cross-skilling.
After successful completion Certificate will be issued.
Scan QR Code for Registration & Fees Payment
Contact No. 8657573336, 8657573337, 9869087617

ਸੂਚਨਾ ਤੇ ਲੋਕ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਜਨਤਕ ਨੋਟਿਸ

ਮਾਨਯੋਗ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਅਤੇ ਹਰਿਆਣਾ ਹਾਈਕੋਰਟ ਵਿਖੇ ਦਾਇਰ ਸਿਵਲ ਰਿਟ ਪਟੀਸ਼ਨ ਨੰਬਰ: 11289/1998 - "State of Punjab etc. Vs. Rajbir Kaur and others" ਵਿਚ ਮਾਨਯੋਗ ਹਾਈਕੋਰਟ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਹੁਕਮ ਮਿਤੀ 02.04.2024 ਅਤੇ ਉਸ ਉਪਰੰਤ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਹੁਕਮ ਮਿਤੀ 15.04.2024 ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਉੱਤਰਦਾਇਆਂ ਨੰਬਰ: 1 ਤੋਂ 4 ਸੂਚਨਾ ਗੁਰਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਕੌਰ ਵਿਧਵਾ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਪਰਮਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਤੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਤਿੰਨ ਬੱਚਿਆਂ ਰਾਜਵੀਰ ਕੌਰ, ਤਜਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਤੇ ਕੁਲਦੀਪ ਕੌਰ, ਵਾਸੀ ਮਕਾਨ ਨੰ.3012, ਗਲੀ ਨੰਬਰ-8, ਅਜੀਤ ਰੋਡ, ਬਠਿੰਡਾ ਦੇ ਹੱਕ ਵਿਚ Commissioner- Under Workmen's Compensation Act-Cum-Labour Conciliation Officer, Bathinda ਵੱਲੋਂ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੀ ਅਦਾਲਤ ਵਿਖੇ Workmen Compensation Act, 1923 ਅਧੀਨ ਦਾਇਰ ਕੇਸ ਵਿਚ ਘੋਸ਼ਿਤ ਅਵਾਰਡ ਮਿਤੀ 18.03.1998 ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਕੁੱਲ 1,97,060/- ਰੁਪਏ ਸਮੇਤ ਵਿਆਜ ਜਮ੍ਹਾਂ ਕਰਵਾਉਣ ਦੇ ਹੁਕਮ ਜਾਰੀ ਕੀਤੇ ਗਏ ਸਨ। ਜਿਸ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਇਸ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਪੱਤਰ ਨੰ. (ਪਨਜੀਡੀਆ) 2024-25/125 ਮਿਤੀ 02.05.2024 ਰਾਹੀਂ ਕੁੱਲ ਰਕਮ 8,13,858/- ਰੁ. Commissioner, Employees Compensation Act-cum-Assistant Labour Commissioner, Bathinda ਨੂੰ ਜਮ੍ਹਾਂ ਕਰਵਾ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਗਈ। ਸਿਵਲ ਰਿਟ ਪਟੀਸ਼ਨ ਦੇ ਉਪਰੰਤ ਉੱਤਰਦਾਇਆਂ ਇਹ ਰਾਸ਼ੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਦਫ਼ਤਰ ਸਹਾਇਕ ਕਿਰਤ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨ, ਬਠਿੰਡਾ ਨਾਲ ਆਪਣੀ ਪਹਿਚਾਣ ਦੇ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ਾਂ ਜਿਵੇਂ ਆਧਾਰ ਕਾਰਡ, ਵੋਟਰ ਆਈਡੀ ਕਾਰਡ, ਪੈਨ ਕਾਰਡ, ਡਰਾਈਵਿੰਗ ਲਾਇਸੈਂਸ, ਰਾਸ਼ਨ ਕਾਰਡ ਆਦਿ ਵਿਚ ਕਿਸੇ ਇਕ ਸਹਿਤ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਦਫ਼ਤਰੀ ਕੰਮ ਵਾਲੇ ਦਿਨ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰਨ।
ਡਾਇਰੈਕਟਰ,
ਸੂਚਨਾ ਤੇ ਲੋਕ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਵਿਭਾਗ, ਪੰਜਾਬ।
DPR/Pb/36205

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH
E-TENDER NOTICE 2024A-6
ALLOTMENT OF SHOPS/SITES
Tenders are invited under two bid system for allotment of undermentioned shops/sites:-
1. Built up Shop No. 17, New Shopping Complex, PGIMER, Sector 12, Chandigarh.
Closing date & time: 19.08.2024 at 11.00 A.M.
The link for the e-Bidding portal is <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>
Note:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> Website: <http://pgimer.edu.in>
DI-9136 DIRECTOR

ADMISSION FOR DIPLOMA RADIOGRAPHY (SESSION 2024-2026)
Govt. Medical College, Amritsar & Patiala
Offline Application through courier or mail are invited for 2 years Diploma course for Radiography at Govt. Medical College, Amritsar & Patiala (Session 2024-2026). The last date for submission of application is 27/08/2024 (up to 2:00 PM). The counseling will be held on 21.09.2024 at Department of Radio-diagnosis GMC Amritsar. For application forms, seat distribution and details updated, merit list. Counseling schedule visit the official website i.e. www.GMC.edu.in.
Note:- Incomplete & Late received application forms will not be accepted.
Director-Principal, Govt. Medical College, Amritsar.
DPR/Pb/36221

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG "SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER"
Sealed item/percentage rate tender on form No. 6 & 8 are invited by the undersigned for and on behalf of Governor of HP for the following works from the approved and eligible contractors enlisted in the Jal Shakti Department so as to reach in the office of Assistant Engineer, Jal Shakti Sub Division, Bhoranj on or before 12-08-2024 upto 3:00 P.M. and will be opened on the same day at 3:30 P.M. in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representatives. The tender forms can be laid from this office against cash payment (Non-refundable upto 1:00 P.M. on 12-08-2024.
The earnest money in the shape of National Servicing Certificate/Time deposit Accounts/Saving accounts in any of the Post office in Himachal Pradesh duly pledged in favour of the AE must be accompanied with each tender. Conditional tenders and the tender received without earnest money will summarily be rejected. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 120 days. The AE reserves the right to reject the tender without assigning any reasons. The tender form shall be issued to only those contractors who will show their enlistment letter of appropriate class in Jal Shakti Department of HP and those who were registered under the HP General Sales Act, 1968.

Sr No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time limit
1	A/R & M/O of Various LWSS Jal Shakti Sub Division Bhoranj in Tehsil-Bhoranj, Distt- Hamirpur (HP) (SH-Deployment of skilled/unskilled labour for 6 months) (Section Bhoranj).	197928/-	3959/-	Six months
2	Providing Functional Household tap connection (FHCT) under Jal Jeevan Mission by Improvement & Augmentation of LWSS Lagwalli Bamson under Bhoranj Constituency in Tehsil- Bhoranj, Distt. Hamirpur (HP) (SH- Laying & Jointing of GI pipe 20 mm dia from Dadu Tank to Village-Baroh & Chamboh RD 0 to 1800).	194985/-	3900/-	Three months

Cost of form: 250/- for each
Sd/- Assistant Engineer, Jal Shakti Sub Division, Bhoranj.
No. JSV/SD/BHJ/Tender/2024-24-1397-1400 dated:-27-07-2024
DPR/HP/1155

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Larji invites short term offline tenders on short time basis on behalf of Government or Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following works :-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD Cost of Tender	Time of completion (Months)
1.	Providing Har Ghar Naise Jal to LWSS Kotla Gopalpur in Tehsil Banjar Distt. Kullu H.P. (SH- Providing and installation of 7.5 HP Submersible pump and its allied accessories)	228787	4576	Three
2.	Imp. Har Ghar Naise Jal to WSS Gadapari in C.V Gadapari in Tehsil Banjar Distt. Kullu H.P. (SH- Providing supply & fixing of sign Board of size 2.65x1.60 mt.)	395192	7904	Two
3.	Providing Water Supply Scheme to Paigi Dhallan, Muhan, Garsa, Railla-Rote, Bhallan, Dhara, Talara, Ronal Donal, Kashadhi, Dari, Phallana, Kothi Cheani Khadagad, Seri, Balagadandi, Chethar, Pekhari, Sarchi, Laida, Tiroo, Thatbir, Ratwahet in Tehsil Banjar, Distt. Kullu HP (SH- Laying jointing and testing of GI pipe line from Raghupur Garh to Lomesh Rishi temple at lagarshridia 15 mm dia at 1800 to 3000)	143378	2868	Two
4.	Providing Water Supply Scheme to Paigi Dhallan, Muhan, Garsa, Railla-Rote, Bhallan, Dhara, Talara, Ronal Donal, Kashadhi, Dari, Phallana, Kothi Cheani Khadagad, Seri, Balagadandi, Chethar, Pekhari, Sarchi, Laida, Tiroo, Thatbir, Ratwahet in Tehsil Banjar, Distt. Kullu HP (SH- Laying jointing and testing of GI pipe line from Raghupur Garh to Lomesh Rishi temple at lagarshridia 15 mm dia at 0.0 to 2100)	267816	5356	Two
5.	Providing LWSS Mohari Khabbal in Tehsil Banjar Distt. Kullu H.P. (SH- Construction of Retaining wall front side of filter bed & Transformer campus)	410220	8204	Two
6.	Providing LWSS to G/O Village Rote, Role-II & Bhallan-II Tehsil Banjar Distt. Kullu H.P. (SH- Providing and fixing of central locking arrangements steel rod at various pump house, M.S Grills in windows, Railing & other works)	135711	2714	Two
7.	PLWSS Mohari Khabbal (Phase-DH, Lusha) in Tehsil Banjar Distt. Kullu H.P. (SH- Laying jointing and testing of GI pipe line 40 mm dia for Village Dhar & Lusha)	283812	5676	Two
8.	Providing Water Supply Scheme to Paigi Dhallan, Muhan, Garsa, Railla-Rote, Bhallan, Dhara, Talara, Ronal Donal, Kashadhi, Dari, Phallana, Kothi Cheani Khadagad, Seri, Balagadandi, Chethar, Pekhari, Sarchi, Laida, Tiroo, Thatbir, Ratwahet in Tehsil Banjar, Distt. Kullu HP (SH- Laying jointing and testing of GI pipe line from Raghupur Garh to Lomesh Rishi temple at lagarshridia 15 mm dia at 0.0 to 2100)	182853	3657	two
9.	Providing Water Supply Scheme to Paigi Dhallan, Muhan, Garsa, Railla-Rote, Bhallan, Dhara, Talara, Ronal Donal, Kashadhi, Dari, Phallana, Kothi Cheani Khadagad, Seri, Balagadandi, Chethar, Pekhari, Sarchi, Laida, Tiroo, Thatbir, Ratwahet in Tehsil Banjar, Distt. Kullu HP (SH- Providing, laying jointing and testing of HDPE pipes line -Teel Khamarda Village Jawali)	212984	4360	Two

Cost of Form: Rs. 250/- (For each)
Last date of receive application 05.08.2024 up to 02:30 p.m. sale of tender forms:- 05.08.2024 up to 04:00 p.m. and opened on 06.08.2024 up to 02:30 p.m.
The tender forms/NIT and other detailed conditions can be downloaded from the website www.hpiph.org or from office of the Executive Engineer upto date specified above.
Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Larji.
DPR/HP/1137

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
R-Tender Reference No:- R-Tender No. 01 of 2024-2025
The Department of: Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Division
Gurdaspur invites bid for Civil Work.
Closing Date & Time: Closing Date: 15.08.2024 Time up to 5.00 P.M.
Pre-Bid Meeting Venue: Date: 06.08.2024, Time: 11.00 A.M.
At O/o Superintending Engineer, P.W. & S.W. Division, Gurdaspur, Near Fish Park, Rulia Ram Colony Gurdaspur.
Mobile Number:- 76966-39080
Email:- pwsdsgsp1@gmail.com
For details login to: (<https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>)
Note:- Any corrigendum(s) addendum, to the tender notice shall be published on the above website only.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Punjab W/S & Sew. Division, Gurdaspur.
DPR/Pb/36241

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT e-Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
The Executive Engineer, Shimla, Division No. I, HPPWD, Shimla—3, H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the Percentage rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money
1	Construction of Sanjulli Dhali Bypass in km. 0/00 to 3/285 (SH- Construction of Retaining wall at RD. 2/500 to 2/510 & U-shape Drain).	672976/-	38600/-

Starting Date for downloading Bid: 31.07.2024
Deadline for submission of Bid: 09.08.2024
Time Allowed: 30 days
The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hpptender.gov.in
The Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/application or all tenders without assigning any reason.
DPR/HP/1153

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Wayanad calamity

Landslides expose lapses on ecological front

A massive rescue operation is in progress in Kerala's Wayanad district, which has been ravaged by a series of landslides triggered by heavy rain. The death toll has crossed 150, even as the immediate priority is to evacuate and rehabilitate as many people as possible. Though it is being conveniently described as a natural calamity, the impact of factors such as climate change, an eco-sensitive terrain and the loss of forest cover cannot be discounted.

As per the landslide atlas released by the Indian Space Research Organisation's National Remote Sensing Centre last year, 10 out of the 30 most landslide-prone districts in India are in Kerala, with Wayanad ranked 13th. According to a 2021 study, all landslide hotspots in Kerala are in the Western Ghats region, concentrated in Idukki, Ernakulam, Kottayam, Wayanad, Kozhikode and Malappuram districts. Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and former Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi has asked the Central Government to prepare an action plan to address the growing frequency of natural disasters in the ecologically fragile region of the Western Ghats. No less important is the need to assess the preparedness of various states and work out ways to make them better equipped to handle such catastrophes. The loss of lives and property can be minimised through an efficient early warning system, which doesn't seem to have happened in Kerala's case.

India's approach to disaster management has improved from reactive to proactive as well as pre-emptive in recent years, but there are still some gaps to be plugged. A major stumbling block is the unwillingness of state governments, industries and local communities to pay heed to experts' warnings about the ramifications of infrastructure development and promotion of tourism in ecologically sensitive zones. As the nation extends support to a battered Wayanad, there should be a renewed commitment to using natural resources judiciously and sustainably.

Bhola's conviction

A crucial step in combating drugs, graft

THE conviction of dismissed Punjab DSP and former wrestler Jagdish Singh Bhola, along with 16 others, including his wife, mother-in-law and father-in-law, in an 11-year-old money-laundering case linked to drugs marks a significant victory in the fight against corruption and financial crimes. Bhola, already serving a 24-year sentence for his involvement in a Rs 700-crore drug smuggling racket, has now been handed a 10-year imprisonment for his role in laundering illicit money. This verdict by a special court in Mohali underscores the persistent issues of corruption and the need for comprehensive reforms within law enforcement agencies.

The investigation, initiated by the Punjab Police and later taken over by the Enforcement Directorate under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), revealed a complex web of financial crimes spanning over a decade. Bhola's involvement in orchestrating a multi-crore drug racket, exploiting his position of power for personal gains, is a reminder of the systemic issues that need to be addressed. His guilt raises questions about the oversight and accountability mechanisms within the institutions. The road ahead is long and Bhola's conviction should pave the way for a holistic strategy to combat the drug epidemic. This includes punishing the guilty as well as addressing the root causes of the drug trade, such as poverty, unemployment and a lack of education.

Punjab has been grappling with an alarming drug crisis that has devastated countless families. Bringing Bhola to book is a job half done. The general perception is that the high and mighty operating behind the scenes have been able to cover their tracks. The investigators need to dig deeper to dispel the notion that there is some unfinished business. Only then can we hope to eradicate the scourge of drugs and build a healthier, safer Punjab.

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

LAHORE, FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 1924

Bal Gangadhar Tilak's death anniversary

THIS day four years ago, Bal Gangadhar Tilak quit the scene of his earthly labours. From the point of view of the ordinary man with a limited vision, the time for his departure was singularly ill chosen. The nation, which he had done so much to build, was just beginning to pulsate with a new life. The National Congress of which he had always been a dominant figure and over which since the secession of the Moderates he had held an almost undisputed sway, was about to commit itself to a new policy and programme fraught with great possibilities of good and evil. Good if that policy and programme were inspired by wisdom, insight into things and far-sightedness, and evil if it lacked these essential qualities. The struggle for his country's freedom, in which for two decades he had been the ablest and most valiant of all captains on the popular side, was about to reach its last and most intense stage. It was at such a time as this, when the unique gifts with which nature had endowed this eminent son of India and which he had himself done so much to develop and fashion for his great task were needed by his country as it had never needed them in the past, that a cruel fate decided to take him away. It is unprofitable, though by no means uninteresting, to speculate what might have happened if Tilak had been spared to his country and his people for some years more. Would he, too, like the lesser leaders, have surrendered his judgment and will to the great and mighty man who for the last four years has been the uncrowned king of nationalist India? Who can say? Remarks of a somewhat contradictory nature have been attributed to him in this respect.

An alarming twist in the Gaza tale

Hamas leader Haniyeh's assassination on Iranian soil dashes hopes of a ceasefire



VAPPALA BALACHANDRAN
FORMER SPECIAL SECRETARY,
CABINET SECRETARIAT

THE assassination of Hamas' political chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran through an 'airborne guided projectile' and suspected Israeli involvement in the incident have changed the entire character of the Israel-Hamas-Hezbollah war. According to reports, Haniyeh had come to Tehran to attend the inauguration ceremony of Iran's new President Masoud Pezeshkian on July 30 and had met him the same day. He was staying in a special residence for military veterans in the north of Tehran as a guest of the Iranian Government. He was killed along with his bodyguard.

It is leant that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has forbidden official comments from his cabinet members on the matter. However, some far-right Israeli leaders have already expressed on X their happiness at the development.

Haniyeh had survived four assassination attempts. Hamas said in June that 10 members of his family were killed in an Israeli airstrike in northern Gaza's Shati refugee camp. Haniyeh had then said that more than 60 of his family members had been killed since the start of the war on October 7, 2023. In April, three of his sons — Hazem, Amir and Mohammad — died when their car was bombed in the Shati camp. Four of Haniyeh's grandchildren, three girls and a boy, were also killed in the attack, according to Hamas.

Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei said "avenging Haniyeh's killing" through harsh punishment was Tehran's duty.



OMINOUS: Ismail Haniyeh's killing has sparked fears of a wider conflict in West Asia. REUTERS

President Pezeshkian also warned of retaliatory action. It was only on July 28 that Tehran had warned Israel that any new military 'adventures' in Lebanon could lead to 'unforeseen consequences'. This was after Hezbollah had attacked Druze town of Majdal Shams in Israel, killing 12 children on July 27.

After the Majdal Shams incident, Netanyahu reportedly cut short his US trip and returned to attend a meeting of the Israeli security cabinet in Tel Aviv. According to *Azrioz*, America was very worried that such a trigger which "we have been worried about and tried to avoid for 10 months" had happened. The US was commenting on the Hezbollah bombing. While the world was expecting Israeli retaliation in Lebanon, the unexpected action in Tehran has come as a shock.

China was quick to condemn the assassination. Lin Jian, spokesperson for China's Foreign Ministry, said Beijing was "deeply concerned that this incident might lead to further instability in the regional situation".

It was on July 23 that China had upstaged the carefully choreographed US visit by Netanyahu by managing to release a 'Bei-

The killing is going to put the lives of overseas Jews at risk at a time when the US is keen to bring about a ceasefire in Gaza as soon as possible.

jing Declaration' after hosting 14 Palestinian factions, including Hamas and Fatah, for three days in the Chinese capital. Hamas was represented by Mousa Abu Marzouk.

Mao Ning, another spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, had said on July 23 that Palestinian leaders had unanimously agreed to sink their differences, hold an international conference under the UN auspices on Palestine, form a 'new Palestinian national council' under the existing basic law of Palestine, establish an interim national reconciliation government, carry out reconstruction in Gaza and prepare to hold a

general election.

China Daily published a picture of Foreign Minister Wang Yi with the representatives of Palestinian factions, who signed the declaration at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing on July 24, the day Netanyahu delivered his address to a joint session of the US Congress.

His fourth address to the Congress, surpassing even Winston Churchill's record of three orations, was marred by sharp attacks on him by leading US Congressmen. *The Times of Israel* said on July 24 that his "visit was barely registering among American officials amid dramatic developments in the US presidential race".

It said US President Joe Biden's 'abrupt' announcement on July 21 that he would address the nation on July 24, "just hours after Netanyahu's speech", and the absence of Vice-President Kamala Harris "due to scheduling" would "likely further divert attention from the Israeli leader".

The Times of Israel also quoted senior US Congressmen like Senator Bernie Sanders, who called Netanyahu a 'war criminal' and Senator Chris van Hollen of Maryland, "a prominent critic of

the Biden administration's Israel policies", who refused to be 'a political prop' for Netanyahu. It further said Rep Jerrold Nadler, "a Democratic leader and the highest-ranking Jewish congressman", would attend the speech but called Netanyahu "the worst leader in Jewish history since the Maccabean king who invited the Romans into Jerusalem over 2,100 years ago".

Was this disappointing US visit the reason for Israel to reject advice from American leaders and apparently embark on a perilous journey which now leaves open all possibilities of a regional war with Iran? Or was the operation involving Haniyeh assassination already too advanced in the pipeline that it could not be withdrawn after Netanyahu's US visit?

Mikhail Bogdanov, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister, called Haniyeh's assassination "an absolutely unacceptable political murder" which will lead to further escalation of tensions. Similar condemnation came from Turkey, Malaysia and Qatar.

Whatever may be the reason for this provocation, the consensus all over seems to be that this assassination is going to put the lives of overseas Jews at risk at a time when the US is keen to bring about a ceasefire in Gaza as soon as possible. Speaking to *Al-Jazeera*, Akiva Eldar, former *Haaretz* correspondent and analyst, mentioned the 1994 synagogue bombing in Argentina and said Netanyahu had betrayed the families of captives and millions of Israelis who wanted an end to the standoff.

China's diplomatic 'success' in West Asia as a conciliator among Palestinians, which, together with US pressure on Netanyahu, especially through the statement of Vice-President Harris that she would "not be silent on the suffering in Gaza", could have worked as small steps towards a Gaza ceasefire. However, the Haniyeh assassination on Iranian soil has destroyed all that.

Views are personal

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Our silence and complicity, especially on the situation in Gaza, shame us all. —Desmond Tutu

Saving Himachal tourism from decline

PRASHANT GAUTAM

THE monsoon has brought the curtain down on the tourist season in Himachal Pradesh. For reasons ranging from traffic snarls to steep taxes on tourist vehicles and aggressive marketing by other hill states, the state's tourism industry has suffered two consecutive bad years. That the revenue generated from tourism activities is the mainstay of the state's economy is no secret. However, this sector is fraught with challenges and missteps that threaten to undermine its potential.

Back in 2006-06, the state government was bitten by the disinvestment bug. It planned the privatisation of select properties of the Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (HPTDC), starting with the famed Goofa Ashiana restaurant on the Ridge in Shimla. Yes, the very building crowned with a pointy hat-like slate canopy. A middle written by Prof Vepa Rao caught the then chief minister's attention and resulted in scuttling of the move. Rao, a noted columnist and a patron of the restaurant, had underscored the importance of Goofa Ashiana not only as a tourist landmark but also as an institution in the public life of Shimla.

Fast-forward to 2024: a video that went viral showed the tourism corporation's top officer giving a dressing-down to the staff for not donning caps in the kitchen of the restaurant. This video is a fit case study to explain negative marketing, organisational behaviour and the need for professionalism. The video, unintentionally, also laid bare to the public a kitchen in neglect, with poorly maintained walls and roofs. Of course, the management won't reprimand itself for its lapse.

Whether through direct or indirect taxes, or through income generated from the state-owned HPTDC, tourism has an immense untapped economic potential in Himachal. State tourism corporations, mandated with developing and facilitating tourism, are also entrusted with setting standards of service and pricing through their properties.

Throughout Himachal, scores of big and small HPTDC properties in the past have paved the way for tourism development in popular and offbeat areas. However, of late, the sector has been marred by poor management and a lack of vision. Investing in proper maintenance, professional management and genuine marketing efforts are essential to boost Himachal's tourism. However, service delivery in the short term and a viable road map for the long term are conspicuous by their absence.

Places like Goofa Ashiana reflect the collective memory and identity of the people. The same is true for HPTDC properties like the Club House in McLeodganj or Naggar Castle near Manali. Left to untrained and unprofessional managers, the economics is bound to come full circle, till one day bureaucrats propose the privatisation of these properties. This time, no citizen may be able to save them from becoming the subject of an elegy.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don't cross the red line

Apropos of the editorial 'Governor-CM spat'; governors must act in accordance with the Constitution and not create problems for chief ministers. It is shocking to see them cross the *Lakshmanrekha* and embarrass CMs. It is not desirable for them to run a 'parallel' administration. In Punjab, the Governor and the CM had a confrontation over the appointment of vice-chancellors of state-run universities. The role of governors has also been under scrutiny in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. It is the duty of the Centre to ensure a harmonious relationship between CMs and governors.

SUBHASH C TANEJA, GURUGRAM

Not on the same page

With regard to 'Governor-CM spat', it is nothing new for governors and CMs to not be on the same page; it has happened in the past too, though not so frequently as today. The duties, responsibilities and functions of governors and CMs are well-defined and documented. The two constitutional functionaries can work together smoothly if they do not exceed their brief. It is no coincidence that such disputes have not been reported from states with a 'double-engine *sarkar*'. Attempts have been made to destabilise governments in Delhi, Goa, Maharashtra and Karnataka. The Supreme Court's repeated warnings to the Centre to stop such interventions, have fallen on deaf ears.

BM SINGH, AMRITSAR

Divisive rhetoric

With reference to the news report 'Caste remark at Rahul triggers uproar in the Lok Sabha', the uproar in the House over BJP MP Anurag Thakur's remark about Rahul Gandhi is lamentable. Thakur's taunt about Rahul's caste, while dismissing his call for a caste census, undermines the gravity of the issue. A caste census is crucial for addressing social inequalities and ensuring a fair distribution of resources. Personal attacks distract from a substantive debate and highlight the need for decorum and focus on national issues in parliamentary discussions. It's imperative that our leaders engage in a constructive dialogue rather than resorting to divisive rhetoric.

SAMRIDHI KAPOOR, PANCHKULA

Bhola drug case

Apropos of the news report '17 convicted, former Punjab DSP Bhola awarded 10-year jail in drug case'; the conviction of Arjuna awardee wrestler-turned-cop Jagdish Singh Bhola in a drug trafficking case by a special PMLA court is a shot in the arm for the Enforcement Directorate (ED). Punjab has become a hub of drug smuggling. Niranjana Singh, the ED officer who probed the case against Bhola, has disclosed that he had faced threats and was also hounded by his seniors when he refused to compromise the investigation. Despite all the pulls and pressures, he remained unrelenting on his principles and took the case to its logical end. Such fearless investigating officers can be a game-changer for curbing the drug trade in Punjab and other states.

MD SHARMA, SHIMLA

Eco-friendly Olympics

Hats off to the organisers of the Paris Olympics for showcasing a sustainable and eco-friendly model of the sporting extravaganza. They have used clean and green energy, besides implementing the three 'Rs' — recycle, reuse and reduce — for the material used for making medals, furniture, etc. Electric boats for the opening ceremony and geo-positioned buoys for the competitions to limit anchoring in those areas are among the other noteworthy features. These environment-friendly concepts should be applied to all international events, not just sporting ones. Let's save the environment in order to save our planet.

PV SRINIVAS SREELEKHA, SECUNDERABAD

Prioritise rail safety

With reference to the train derailment in Jharkhand, this mishap lays bare critical gaps in our railway infrastructure, suggesting a pattern of neglect and inadequate maintenance. Despite numerous derailments, necessary preventive measures are still lacking, resulting in the tragic loss of lives. It is imperative that routine maintenance, timely inspections and swift remedial action become the norm. Furthermore, there ought to be transparency about the steps being taken to solve these problems and raise safety standards.

VARSHITA BHURA, ZIRAKPUR

CLASSIFIEDS

SITUATION VACANT

Phoenix The Global Institute of Nursing urgently required the following faculty is required at the earliest- Professor-cum Vice Principal-1, Professor-1, Associate Professor-1, Assistant Professor-2, Tutors- 5. Contact on 94177-12992 or email: phoenixnursing@phoenixinstitute.com

Sri Guru Angad Dev College of Education, Khadur Sahib (Tarn Taran) invites applications for the post of Accountant. Qualification M.Com. Apply before 07.08.2024. (E-mail: principal@sgdec.org Contact: 84272-313133). (CL24040064)

Gold Coast Hotel Moga requires Assistant Managers, 75054-00005, gcmoga@gmail.com (CL24039710)

The Enlightened Degree College Jhunj, Mansa (Pb) Required Principal (1), Assistant Professor in English (2), History (2), Librarian (1), Computer Science (2), Commerce (2), Environment Studies (1), Sociology (1) on Regular basis. Qualification and Grade as per UGC/ NCTE/ Pbi. Uni/ Pb. Govt. Norms. Submit application to College within 10 days through registered post or by Email: egjhunjir@rediffmail.com. Also apply online on Punjab University Portal. collegejobs.punjabuniversity.ac.in, 98078-74000. (CL24040085)

Pasture Diagnostics and Instruments Mohali Requirement: for sales and service for Medical Instrument Location Punjab, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Himachal and J&K. Qualification: B.Sc./ Diploma in Electrical & Electronics Engg. Mail: pcmohali@gmail.com. Contact: 99881-59695. (CL24040090)

The Enlightened College of Physical Education Jhunj, Mansa (Pb) Required Professor in Physical Education (1), Associate Professor in Physical Education (2), Assistant Professor in Physical Education (4), Panjabi (1), English (1), Yoga (2), on Regular basis. Qualification and Grade as per UGC/ NCTE/ Pbi. Uni/ Pb. Govt. Norms. Submit application to College within 10 days through registered post or by Email: egjhunjir@rediffmail.com. Also apply online on Punjab University Portal. collegejobs.punjabuniversity.ac.in, 98078-74000. (CL24040094)

Sai Ram Security & Placement Service, Office No. 7, Value Home, Dhakoli, Zirakpur (Pb). Urgently requires 1. Project Manager experience 10 years, 2. Web Developer experience 4+ years, 3. Programmer experience 2 years. Qualification: BE/B.Tech. in IT, Computer Science or Electronics/M.Sc. in IT, Computer Science or Electronics/MCA and MBA from recognized University or Institution with minimum 60%. Interested candidates can apply online on Company Website: http://jobs.srsps.co.in/jobs-apply on or before 09.08.2024, Time 4:00 pm. For more information Contact: 70565-75002. (CL24040110)

LOAN

Loan upto Rs 500 crores available. Contact: gilloverseas@gmail.com, Mobile: 98100-24957. (CL24039882)

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Chandigarh: Sector 43B, HIG (Upper) first floor, parking, well maintained, freehold. 93161-12756. (CL24039962)

PUBLIC NOTICES

I. Vandna Haritwal D/o Shiv Bhagwan, resident 4, Shiv Partap Nagar, Ambala Cantt, have changed my name to Vandna Panasher w/o Deepak Panasher after marriage. Concemed note. (CL24039982)

I, Pamanjeet Kaur w/o Ajit Singh Dhindsa r/o 397, Green Avenue Amritsar have changed my name to Pamanjeet Kaur Dhindsa concerned note. (CL24040018)

I, Parkash Kaur Saluja w/o Harjeet Singh Saluja, 101/1605-1606, Baldev Nagar, Ambala City, have changed my name from Parkash Kaur to Parkash Kaur Saluja. (CL24040038)

I, Inderjeet Singh s/o Laljeet Singh YPO Kakee, Distt. Bamala Pin Code 148105, have changed my name from Inderjeet Singh Srow to Inderjeet Singh. (CL24040061)

I, Karmjeet Kaur w/o Sukhwinder Singh, Village Mohanpur (Ludhiana) have changed my name Karmjeet Kaur. (CL24040078)

TENDER NOTICE

Director YPS Mohali desires to invite applications for the post of Cooks in the School Mess. Interested candidates must send their resume along with relevant documents (Medical Certificate) within 04 days from date of publication of advertisement. The applications or resume can be sent via hard copy at the school main gate (between 09:00 am to 03:00 pm) or soft copy on school email ID info@ypsccd.com. Please note, that this school is a Day-cum-Boarding School. Director reserves the right to reject any or all application without assigning any reason. Director (CL24040077)

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COURT NOTICES

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC) In the Court of Ms. Sonali Singh Additional Civil Judge, (Senior Division)-2, S.A.S Nagar. CNR No.: PBSA02-001332-2022 CIS No. CS/991/2022 Next Date: 30.08.2024 State Bank of India V/s Manpreet Kaur CNR No. PBPTCO-001748-2023 Next Date: 23.08.2024

Publication issued to: Manpreet Singh s/o Tarlok Singh r/o Village Jaikhar, Tehsil Patran, Distt. Patiala. 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=patiala

Dated, this day of 10.07.2024. Sd/- Civil Judge (Junior Division)-2, CL24039953 Samana

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC) In the Court of Ms. Sonali Singh Additional Civil Judge (Senior Division)-2, S.A.S. Nagar CNR No. PBSA02-001331-2022 CIS No. CS/992/2022 Next Date:- 17.08.2024 State Bank of India V/s M/S Shree Babaji Karyana Store Civil Suit for Recovery of Rs. 3,27,170/-

Notice to: 1. Babaji Karyana Store- through its Prop. Sh. Dalip Singh, College Road, Shakti Nagar, Near RK Public School, Derabassi, SAS Nagar Mohali-140507. 2. Dalip Singh Prop. of Babaji Karyana Store, College Road, Shakti Nagar, Near RK Public School, Derabassi, SAS Nagar, Mohali-140507. 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 17.08.2024 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=jalandhar Dated, this day of 26.07.2024. Sd/- Additional Principal Judge Family Court-I, Jalandhar. CL24039969

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC) (Succession Case) In the Court of Sh. Jasvir Singh Civil Judge (Senior Division)-N.R.I Court, Jalandhar Darshan Kaur V/s General Public CNR No. PBJL02-001459-2024 Next Date:- 25.09.2024

Notice 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 25.09.2024 at 10:00 a.m. For details logon to https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=jalandhar Dated, this day of 24.07.2024. Sd/- Civil Judge (Senior Division)-N.R.I Court, Jalandhar. CL24039972

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC) In the Court of Ms. Savreen Sandhu Civil Judge (Jr. Division)-19, Jalandhar Balwant Rai V/s Santokh Singh CNR No. PBJL02-000654-2024 Next Date: 20.09.2024 Suit for grant of decree of Permanent Injunction as prayed for CS/246/2024

Publication issued to: Santokh Singh - Malkit Singh - Nangal Shama Ladhwali Jalandhar In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 20.09.2024 at 10.00 a.m. For details logon to https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=jalandhar Dated, this day of 25.07.2024. Sd/- Civil Judge (Junior Division)-19, CL24039996 Jalandhar

COURT NOTICES

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC) In the Court of Ms. Sonali Singh Additional Civil Judge, (Senior Division)-2, S.A.S Nagar. CNR No.: PBSA02-001332-2022 CIS No. CS/991/2022 Next Date: 30.08.2024 State Bank of India V/s Sonu Kumar Civil Suit for Recovery of Rs. 2,56,182/-

Notice to: Sonu Kumar through its Prop. Anish Katyal, # 2170, Sector 52, Chandigarh - 160036. 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 30.08.2024 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to: https://www.highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=mohali Dated, this day of 25.07.2024. Sd/- Additional Civil Judge, (Senior Division)-2, CL24040007 Bhagha Purana. (U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC) In the Court of Ms. Rashmi Sharma Additional Principal Judge Family Court-I, Jalandhar Kuljeet Kaur Versus Rohit Bharti CNR No. PBJL01-001830-2022 Next Date: 28.08.2024

Petition Under Guardian and Wards Act Publication issued to: 1. Rohit Bharti S/o Hamail Singh Village Sarmastpur near Bal PS Maqsudpur, Distt. Jalandhar Punjab at present R/o CCTV Operator, employee ID 7962, Raifles Dubai Hotel and Resort, Sheikh Rasid Road, WAFI, Post Box 121800, United Arab Emirates. 2. General Public R/o 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 28.08.2024 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=jalandhar Dated, this day of 26.07.2024. Sd/- Additional Principal Judge Family Court-I, Jalandhar. CL24039969

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC) In the Court of Ms. Vineta Luthra Additional Civil Judge (Senior Division), Dera Bassi. M/s JCB Limited V/s Rawal Industries CNR No.: PBSA00-00018-2022 Next Date: 16.08.2024 Suit for Recovery of Rs. 1,72,490/-

Publication issued to: Rawal Industries through its Manager, 42/32 Site- IV, Sahibabad Industrial Estate, Ghaziabad- U.P. 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 16.08.2024 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to: https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=sasagar Dated, this day of 05.07.2024. Sd/- Ms. Vineta Luthra Additional Civil Judge (Senior Division), CL24040059 Dera Bassi. (U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC) In the Court of Sh. Ravesh Inderjit Singh Civil Judge (Jr. Division)-6, Jalandhar Anil Kumar Batra V/s Mohinder Ram CNR No. PBJL02-002669-2017 Next Date: 14.08.2024

Suit for permanent injunction and specific performance of agreement sell dt. 07.03.1995, Plot No. 9, Varun Vihar Colony, Gadaipur, Jalandhar measuring 10 marlas in Hadbasi No. 161 Jamabandi 1989-1990 Khewat No. 01 Khatana No 01 Kitta 16 situated in Village Gadaipur Jalandhar and directing the Defendant No. 1 to 11 to execute a legally valid sale deed Publication issued to: 6(a). Smt. Toshi w/o Late Babu Ram r/o Village Gadaipur, Tehsil & District Jalandhar. In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 14.08.2024 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=jalandhar Dated, this day of 24.07.2024. Sd/- Civil Judge (Senior Division)-6, CL24040071 Jalandhar

COURT NOTICES

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC) In the Court of Ms. Shikha Goel Principal Judge, Family Court, Bhagha Purana. Harwinder Singh Brar V/s Veerpal Kaur D/o Resham Singh CNR No.: PBMOF3-000031-2024 Next Date: 22.08.2024

Publication issued to: Veerpal Kaur D/o Resham Singh -> Harwinder Singh Brar S/o Surjit Singh Brar R/o Baghapatti, Near Science Academy, Ward No. 2, Baghapurana, Distt. Moga now Village Maur Nau Abad, Sandli Patti, Teh. Baghapurana, Distt. Moga. 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.

For details logon to: https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=moga Dated, this day of 11.07.2024. Sd/- Principal Judge, Family Court, CL24040007 Bhagha Purana. (U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC) In the Court of Ms. Radhika Puri, PCS Additional Civil Judge (Senior Division), Ludhiana CNR No. PBLD02-007060-2023 Next Date: 20.08.2024

Canara Bank Branch office at Bhai Randhir Singh Nagar, Ludhiana through its attorney/ Authorised person Sh. Vaneet Kumar. Versus M/S S.S. Traders and others Suit for recovery of Rs. 11,77,654/- Notice to Defendants No. 01 and 2: 1. M/S S.S. Traders, 177/ 305, Basant Enclave, Vill. Dugri, P.O. Basant Avenue, Near Ravidass Dhamshala Ludhiana through its Prop. Satvir Singh. 2. Satveer Singh s/o Bhupinder Singh, Prop. of M/S S.S. Traders, 177/305, Basant Enclave, Vill. Dugri, P.O. Basant Avenue, Near Ravidass Dhamshala, Ludhiana. In above titled petition respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that the respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 20.08.2024 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=ludhiana Dated, this day of 30.07.2024 Sd/- Radhika Puri, PCS Addl. Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.) CL24040010 Ludhiana. (U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC) In the Court of Ms. Vineta Luthra Additional Civil Judge (Senior Division), Dera Bassi. M/s JCB Limited V/s Rawal Industries CNR No.: PBSA00-00018-2022 Next Date: 16.08.2024

Suit for Recovery of Rs. 1,72,490/- Publication issued to: Rawal Industries through its Manager, 42/32 Site- IV, Sahibabad Industrial Estate, Ghaziabad- U.P. 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 16.08.2024 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to: https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=sasagar Dated, this day of 05.07.2024. Sd/- Ms. Vineta Luthra Additional Civil Judge (Senior Division), CL24040059 Dera Bassi. (U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC) In the Court of Sh. Ravesh Inderjit Singh Civil Judge (Jr. Division)-6, Jalandhar Anil Kumar Batra V/s Mohinder Ram CNR No. PBJL02-002669-2017 Next Date: 14.08.2024

Suit for permanent injunction and specific performance of agreement sell dt. 07.03.1995, Plot No. 9, Varun Vihar Colony, Gadaipur, Jalandhar measuring 10 marlas in Hadbasi No. 161 Jamabandi 1989-1990 Khewat No. 01 Khatana No 01 Kitta 16 situated in Village Gadaipur Jalandhar and directing the Defendant No. 1 to 11 to execute a legally valid sale deed Publication issued to: 6(a). Smt. Toshi w/o Late Babu Ram r/o Village Gadaipur, Tehsil & District Jalandhar. In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 14.08.2024 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=jalandhar Dated, this day of 24.07.2024. Sd/- Civil Judge (Senior Division)-6, CL24040071 Jalandhar

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER The Hospital Engineer (Civil-I), PGIMER Chandigarh invites on behalf of the Director PGIMER, Chandigarh online Percentage rate bids from the enlisted contractors of appropriate class of CPWD/Department of Posts/BSSN/Rajya/R.A.S./Chandigarh Administration/CHB/MC Chandigarh/State PWDs/PUDA/Amaze/Amaze Hyundai & Corporations dealing in Civil works or in Composite works on Two bid system (Eligibility & Financial Bid) for the following works:-

ਦਫ਼ਤਰ ਡਿਪੂ ਮੈਨੇਜਰ, ਪਨਬੱਸ, ਜਲੰਧਰ-1 ਨਿਲਾਮੀ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਨੰਬਰ: 0181-2226828 ਚੌਥੇ ਸਟੇਜ, ਜਲੰਧਰ ਵਿਖੇ ਸਥਿਤ ਦੁਕਾਨਾਂ, ਬੁਥ, ਕਲਾਕ ਰੂਮ, ਫੂਡ ਕੋਰਟ, ਅੱਡਾ ਫੀਸ, ਬਾਥਰੂਮ ਅਤੇ ਸਮੁੱਚੇ ਅੰਡੇ ਦੀ ਸਾਫ਼-ਸਫ਼ਾਈ ਅਤੇ ਸਾਈਕਲ ਸਕੂਟਰ/ਕਾਰ/ਆਟੋ ਪਾਰਕਿੰਗ ਅਤੇ ਪਹਿਲੀ ਮੰਜ਼ਲ 'ਤੇ ਖਾਲੀ ਹਾਲ ਦੀ ਈ-ਫ਼ਿਕਸ਼ਨ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਨਿਲਾਮੀ ਸਬੰਧੀ

J. N. GOVT. ENGINEERING COLLEGE SUNDERNAGAR HIMACHAL PRADESH Telephone: 01907-267199, 267688 Website: www.jngec.ac.in, E-mail: jngecnp@yahoo.co.in TENDER NOTICE The Director-cum-Principal Jawaharlal Nehru Govt. Engineering College Sundernagar, Distt. Mandi (HP) invites sealed bids/tenders under two-bid system from reputed and experienced contractors/societies/firms etc. for running canteen in this institution premises as per instructions/terms and conditions laid down in the bid document.

H.P. PWD KANGRA NOTICE INVITING TENDER Sealed percentage rate tenders on form 6 & 8 are invited by the Executive Engineer, Division, HP: PWD, Kangra on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh in the appropriate class for the work mentioned below on 08.08.2024 up to 11:00 a.m. and will be opened on the same day at 11:30 a.m. in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representatives. The tender forms can be obtained from his office on cash payment (non refundable) on any working day from 06.08.2024 to 07.08.2024. The applications for issue of tender forms accompanied with enlistment letter/or renewal letter and the earnest money in the shape of FDR duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Kangra Division, HPPWD, Kangra.

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB AMRITSAR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY PUDA Bhawan, Green Avenue, Amritsar Tender Reference No. ADA/DE(H)/ASR/2024/459-465 dated 31-07-2024 Divisional Engineer (H), ADA invites online bids for "Development of remaining works in parks at New Urban Estate, Batala."

TENDER NOTICE HIMACHAL PRADESH ZOOS AND CONSERVATION BREEDING SOCIETY HIMACHAL PRADESH ZOOS AND CONSERVATION BREEDING SOCIETY invites sealed quotations/ tender from all interested person/registered owner/service providers, tax valid driving license, for providing commercial vehicle (Etios/Desire/Honda/Amaze Hyundai Accent/other Sedan vehicle in this category) on contractual deployment under HPZCBS Shimla for official use on monthly rent basis upto 31.3.2025.

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG Notice Inviting Tender The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Nagrota Bagwan invites offline tenders on behalf of Government of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following work through offline tendering process:-

Table with 5 columns: Sr. No., Name of Work, Estimated Cost (in Rs.), Earnest Money (in Rs.), Time Limit, Cost of Tender form (in Rs.).

INVITATION FOR BIDS HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD (A Government Undertaking) VIPANAN BHAWAN, KHALINI, SHIMLA — 171002 (H.P.) No. HMB-EC-11/92-Vol-XI- DATE: 30/07/2024

1. Himachal Pradesh State Agricultural Marketing Board (HPSAMB), hereby inviting the online Tender vide tender No. HMB-EC-11/92-Vol-XI- from the legible bidders i.e. OEM or Authorize Dealer/ approved vendor or Supplier for "Supply of Material handling equipments for Integrated Cold Chain Infrastructure for Preservation and Value Addition at Parala and Kharapathar, Shimla District (HP)".

Table with 5 columns: Sr. No., Name of Work, Estimated Cost, EMD, Cost of Tender, Time Period.

4. Key dates: 1. Date of Online Publication 01.08.2024 at 18:00 HRS 2. Document Download Start and End Date 01.08.2024 at 18:00 HRS up to 13.08.2024 at 18:00 HRS

5. SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS: The bidders are required to submit (a) Original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document (b) Original Bid Security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of Fixed Deposit receipt duly pledged in the name of Executive Engineer, HPSAMB Shimla in the O/o Executive Engineer, HPSAMB, Shimla, H.P. as specified in Key dates at Sr. No. 3.

11. The undersigned reserve the right to reject one or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever in the interest of the board. 12. The address for communication is as under: 1. Name & Designation of Officer: Executive Engineer Official Address: Himachal Pradesh State Agricultural Marketing Board, Vipnan Bhawan, Khalini, Shimla - 171002 (HP) Telephone Nos. : +91 177 2621252, 2621347; Fax: 01772621260 E-mail: hpmarketingboard@yahoo.co.in Executive Engineer, HPSAMB, Shimla — 2

ED raids hospitals in 4 dists over Ayushman 'fraud'

Searches conducted in Una, Mandi, Kullu, Kangra facilities over Central health scheme violations

LALIT MOHAN

THE ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE (ED) today conducted raids on private hospitals in Kangra and Una districts over the alleged misuse of the Ayushman Bharat scheme. The Central agency raided the Fortis hospital, which is owned by RS Bali, Congress MLA from Nagrota Bagwan, and the Balaji Hospital owned by HPCC treasurer Rajesh Sharma in Kangra. Bali is also the Chairman of the Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (HPTDC). In Una, a raid was conducted on the Bankey Bihari Hospital.



HOSPITALS OF BALI, HPCC TREASURER SEARCHED

- The Central agency raided the Fortis hospital in Kangra owned by RS Bali, Congress MLA from Nagrota Bagwan, and the Balaji Hospital owned by HPCC treasurer Rajesh Sharma. The Enforcement Directorate officials raided the Bankey Bihari Hospital in Una and the residences of its administrator at Behdala village in the district and another employee at Nangal in Punjab. ED sources revealed that about 19 health institutions in Himachal were under scrutiny. ED officials raided two private hospitals at Dhalpur and at Haththan near Bhuntar in Kullu and scrutinised and seized documents related to the Ayushman Bharat Yojana. Both hospitals belong to the same company, which owns another hospital at Gutkar in Mandi district. The ED also conducted a raid at a private hospital in Mandi. The agency team scrutinised the hospital's administrative and billing records over alleged fraudulent activities. The hospital authorities are yet to make a formal statement regarding the raid.

Security personnel stand guard during a raid by the Enforcement Directorate at a hospital in Kullu on Wednesday.

July 16 this year under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2022. The sources said that the ED's investigation into the PMLA case revealed that the Bankey Bihari Hospital in Una, Fortis, Shri Balaji Hospital, Sood Nursing Home and Sri Harihar Hospital in Kangra had illegally availed of the benefits of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. During investigation, 373 fake Ayushman cards were identified wherein claims of about Rs 40,68,150 were made to the government for reimbursement.

The list of fake beneficiaries included Rajnish Kumar and Pooja Dhiman, who on verification denied having possessed Ayushman cards. They had never undergone treatment in any of these hospitals. Besides, the hospitals had made claims for treatment, surgeries and admission, which the patients had never availed of. A hospital had denied admission to Raksha Devi by illegally blocking her package under the scheme. The investigation also revealed

that these hospitals were removed from the panel under the Ayushman Bharat scheme for illegal practices. As many as 8,937 Ayushman Bharat golden cards had so far been scrapped in Himachal for alleged violation of the scheme. As per the investigation so far, the case involved corruption to the tune of about Rs 25 crore, the ED sources said. Meanwhile, Fortis owner RS Bali told The Tribune that he had nothing to hide. "We have provided all documents sought by the raid-

ing ED teams. The Fortis Hospital, Kangra, follows the best ethical practices and I am sure that nothing will come out against our institution in the investigation," he added. He said, "I along with my family am out of station on vacation and will be back in Kangra soon. I will extend all cooperation to the investigating agency." Dr Rajesh Sharma, owner of the Balaji hospital, was not available for comments. His mobile phone was switched off. The SR Vigilance and Anti-

Corruption Bureau, Kangra, said that they had registered a case only against the Bankey Bihari hospital in Una. "In our investigation, it was found that people running the hospital had created fake cards under the Ayushman Bharat scheme. They had also inflated bills under the scheme in some cases. Our investigation against the hospital is still going on," he added. He said that the State Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau was not aware of the reasons for the ED raiding other hospitals in the region.

Govt has stalled Himcare scheme in state, says Satti

OUR CORRESPONDENT



UNA, JULY 31 Local MLA Satpal Singh Satti today alleged that the Congress government in the state had stalled the Himcare scheme initiated by the previous BJP government to provide health-care services to common citizens on a par with the beneficiaries of the Ayushman Bharat scheme of the Union Government.

Satti, in a press note issued here, said that the Himcare scheme provided a cashless healthcare facility to five members of a family up to the maximum of Rs 5 lakh per year. The scheme provided the weaker sections of society access to healthcare at government health institutions along with the PGI, Chandigarh, besides empaneled private hospitals in and outside the state. The former BJP state president said that the Himcare facility was provided at 292 health institutions, including 141 private hospitals. He added that the Congress government had excluded all private hospitals from the list of empaneled health institutions.

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG JSV-JSDG- Recruitment-2024- APPOINTMENT NOTICE

In continuation to this office advertisement No. 11876-29 dated 29.01.2024 (Classified) applications from desirous Bona-fide Himachal candidates on prescribed Proforma which were invited for filling up 56 Nos. of various categories i.e. 16 Nos. of Para Pump Operator, 06 Nos. of Para Fitter and 34 Nos. of Multipurpose Workers and also as per clarification received from the O/o the Engineer-in-Chief vide letter No. JSV-ES-III-D-W. Manpower-Vol.-VI/2022-416-495 dated 26.04.2024 w.r.t. reservation of posts for Schedule Caste, Other Backward Classes, Schedule Tribe categories and E.W.S. categories, the applications are once again invited for filling up the available posts under Jal Shakti Division, Jawali.

Candidates who have applied against earlier advertisement No. 11876-84/2024-dated 20.01.2024 (Classified) need not apply again however they are required to submit the required documents of SC/ST/OBC/EWS category and latest EWS category certificate if they wish to get the benefit of reservation under SC/ST/OBC/EWS category. The applications/documents must reach to the office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Jawali before 5.00 P.M. on 07.08.2024. The revised distribution of available posts in Jal Shakti Division, Jawali is as below:-

Table with 4 columns: Sr. No., Name of Post, Number of Posts, Category wise Posts, Essential Qualification. It lists three categories: Para Pump Operator, Para Fitter, and Multi Purpose Worker.

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

Age Limit:- 18 to 45 Years. The number of posts may increase or decrease depending upon Vacancy position as per the requirement of Jal Shakti Vibhag. The selected candidates can be posted at anywhere under the jurisdiction of this Division.

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 Bona-fide of Himachal (v) Certificate and experience (if any) of the related field of JSV/ HPPWD/CPWD/PSUs or outsourcing agency providing services in H.P. issued by the competent authority (vi) Category certificate (SC/ST/OBC/EWS) (vii) EWS category certificate issued by the competent authority not older than six months.

For other desired qualifications, experience details and detailed selection criteria can be had from https://iph.hp.nic.in/ OR at Notice board of JSV Division, Jawali.

- 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 the numbers of post. 2. The merit list will be prepared based upon the documents submitted and the shortlisted candidates will have to undergo skill/physical test. 3. If a candidate wants to apply for more than one post, separate application for each post needs to be submitted. 4. The candidates will be called for Skill/Physical test separately. 5. The original certificates/testimonials will be seen at the time of evaluation. 6. The detail of evaluation criteria, experience and other detail can be had from the office of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Jawali, Distt. Kangra.

Orange alert issued for next 36 hours

SHIMLA, JULY 31 The Weather Department has issued an alert for heavy to very heavy rain at isolated places in Bilaspur, Chamba, Hamirpur, Kangra, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla, Sirmaur, Solan and Una districts over the next 36 hours. The department has retained the orange alert for heavy to very heavy rain on August 1-2 at isolated areas in several districts.



Heavy rain lashes Shimla.

The department has issued orange alert for heavy to very heavy rainfall for today as well. Light to moderate rain was recorded at several places over the last 25 hours, with Una, Dharamsala and Manali recording

the maximum rainfall. It has warned that heavy to very heavy rain could cause flooding and waterlogging in low-lying areas and also lead to landslides and mudslides. People have been advised to follow the advisories issued by the departments concerned over the next two days. —TNS

Work on ₹1,734-cr Shimla ropeway to start in March next year, says Dy CM

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, JULY 31 The work on the Rs 1,734 crore Shimla Urban Ropeway Project will start in March next year. The project, funded by New Development Bank, will decongest Shimla by offering an alternative mode of safe, eco-friendly and affordable transportation. It will be the second longest passenger ropeway system in the world.

Besides offering an alternative mode of travelling, the ropeway will enhance the ease of living and the tourist footfall in Shimla. "Several ropeways are

Complex block titled 'WILL HAVE 15 STATIONS IN SHIMLA' listing stations like Chakkar court, Tutikandi parking, New SBT, 103 Tunnel, railway station, Victory Tunnel, Old Bus Stand, Lakkar Bazaar, IGM, Sanjauli, Navbahar, Secretariat and the Lift. It also mentions it will be the second longest passenger ropeway system in the world.

being constructed in the state. We intend to have a ropeway network in the state like available in Austria and Switzerland," said Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri during a symposium on the project held here today.

ment Bank's board meeting will be held in December, wherein the final approval for the project will be given. Subsequently, a tripartite agreement will be inked between the Central Government, Himachal Government and New Development Bank," said Ajay Sharma, Director, RTDC. Ahead of the bank's board meeting, the RTDC needs to complete two formalities - tenders should be ready to be awarded and 70 per cent land to be used in the project should have received forest clearance. "We will meet both conditions before the deadline," said Sharma.

Advertisement for 'ਪੈਪਸੂ ਰੋਡ ਟਰਾਂਸਪੋਰਟ ਕਾਰਪੋਰੇਸ਼ਨ, ਬਠਿੰਡਾ' (Pepsu Road Transport Corporation, Bathinda) with details of a recruitment process.

Proclamation requiring the appearance of accused person Charanjeet Singh, S/o Sajjan Singh R/o H.No.1568, Sector-38 B, Chandigarh. Includes details of the FIR and the accused's status.

Advertisement for 'GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB' recruitment for Municipal Corporation Mohali, S.A.S Nagar. Includes tender reference number and closing date.

Advertisement for 'Executive Engineer NH Division HPPWD, Joginder Nagar' recruitment. Includes details of the department, contact information, and an invitation for bids (ITB) with a table of work items.

Advertisement for 'GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB' recruitment for RFP/Tender Reference No. 41-42/SE dt. 30.07.2024. Includes details of the work and bidding process.

Advertisement for 'HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB))'. Includes details of the department, contact information, and a table of work items.

Advertisement for 'SAHIYA AKADEMI' inviting books for Yuva Puraskar 2025 from publishers and young Indian writers of age 35 and below.

| The Tribune investigates the evolution of a 'Naya Kashmir' |

Valley turns a new leaf, sees surge in tourism

Over 15 lakh tourists have visited Kashmir so far this year

**5 YEARS
ABROGATION
OF ART 370**

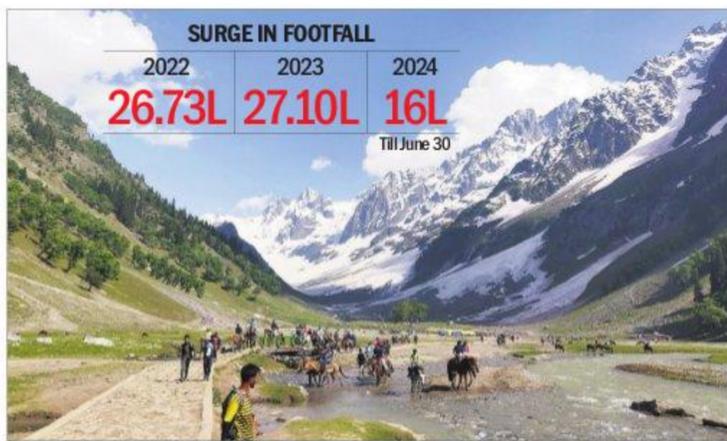


ADIL AKHZER

SRINAGAR, JULY 31
In 2019, the abrogation of Article 370 was met with scepticism and a dark sense of foreboding, fuelling a nervous anticipation of the reaction that would follow. For long, the region was on edge, unsure of the direction in which it was headed and the shape it would take. Five years on, a new face of Kashmir has emerged — the multitude of tourists a testimony to the tranquillity that seems to have, finally, cast a kind glance towards the ever-hurting Valley. The numbers speak for themselves — in just first half of this year Kashmir saw the arrival of an unprecedented 16 lakh tourists.

Tourism officials say 13 lakh people had visited the Valley in the corresponding period last year. The numbers have grown steadily. Over 27 lakh tourists visited the Valley in 2023 as against 26.73 lakh in 2022.

As per figures presented in Parliament, 34.70 lakh people visited J&K in 2020, while in 2021, the number rose to 1.13 crore. In 2022 and 2023, it increased to 1.88 crore and 2.11 crore, respectively. Till June 2024, 1.08 crore tourists have visited the Union Territory. These figures also



BOOM AFTER PANDEMIC

“During the Covid-19 pandemic, there was a decline in tourists. Later, we witnessed a boom. Corporate houses visiting the Valley is a new trend and has multiple benefits, including increase in revenue.”

Sheikh Ashiq, DIRECTOR OF SRINAGAR-BASED AL-KHUDDAM GROUP

include the pilgrims visiting the Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine in Jammu.

“During the Covid-19 pandemic, there was a decline in tourists. Later, we witnessed a boom,” says Sheikh Ashiq, director of the Srinagar-based Al-Khuddam Group and former president of the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

There is a perceptible change in profile, too. Corporate houses have also started coming here for meetings and conferences. “Corporate houses visiting the Valley is a new trend and has multiple benefits, including increase in revenue,” he says.

However, he cautions: “We need to continue providing good services to clients and also take care of the environment”. If calm prevails over

the next five years, the tourism sector will grow manifold, he states.

Mauzam Bakshi, chairman, Kashmir Hotel and Restaurant Association and Kashmir Hotel and Restaurant Owners' Federation, echoed the sentiment. “There has been a boom in the tourism sector over the past three years. This year in particular, the influx was such that not all tourists could find accommodation in destinations such as Gulmarg and Pahalgam,” he remarked.

The authorities, Bakshi says, need to do more to create better infrastructure at tourist destinations. “Train service will start soon and travel will become cheaper and faster. With it, more tourists will arrive. But we need to take care

about adding more infrastructure, especially at new destinations.”

The border towns are now witnessing a massive influx, which would not have been possible without a ceasefire effective along the Line of Control and the International Border since 2021.

While traditional destinations such as Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonamarg used to be tourist hotspots, places like Gurez, Keran and Teetwal in north Kashmir and RS Pura in Jammu are the new favourites, changing the fortunes of the locals.

But not all is rosy. Environmental experts are raising concerns about the ecology and the sustained strain on these destinations. “We are witnessing huge problems at these places,” says a Srinagar-based tour operator. “We are opening new places, but there is no proper infrastructure and waste management facilities. The government must focus on environmental pollution and other concerns before it is too late,” he adds.

For us, nothing has changed: KPs

ARJUN SHARMA

JAMMU, JULY 31
Nestled on the outskirts of Jammu, along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, Jagti township houses the Kashmiri Pandit community, who await the day they will be able to return to their homes in the Valley.

As the fifth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370 approaches, residents of the township, with over 4,200 flats and nearly 20,000 community members, have little to rejoice. They claim they did not witness any change in the past five years, despite the tall promises by the government.

Shweta Bhat, 36, a housewife, says they are plagued with fear of targeted killings of Pandits serving in Kashmir under the PM's employment package.

Her husband, too, works in the Valley. “We pray for his safety all day. Little has been done to allay our fears,” she said.

Her fear is not exaggerated. Fourteen persons belonging to the minority community, including three Kashmiri Pandits, were killed in the Valley in 2022 alone.

Bhat's parents had to flee the Valley overnight in 1990, when she was two years old. “Giving quality education to my two sons is our priority,” she says.

As many as 39,782 Kashmiri Hindu families had to leave the Valley in 1990. According to the figures of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, 219 Kashmiri Pandits were killed during the insurgency.

At Jagti, only a few people can be spotted on roads or at



BJP, CONG TERMED EXODUS SIMPLE MIGRATION

“The abrogation of Article 370 has brought no change for us. It has only exposed the resettlement claims of the present regime. Both BJP and Congress have termed the exodus of thousands of Pandits simple migration.”

Ajay Churangoo, CHAIRMAN OF PANUN KASHMIR

shops due to the hot weather and the recent spate of violence in the Jammu region, which forced the government to increase police vigil.

The headquarters of the Army's White Knight Corps (16 Corps), in charge of the security situation in the Jammu region, is located nearby at Nagrota.

Another housewife, Anita Raina, 46, reminisces the days when residents of the town rarely latched their doors. “Sadly, things have changed. Now, as soon as we enter the house, we must lock the door. Our area is close to a forest, which adds to our worries.”

Rumours about the movement of terrorists in the nearby area created panic a few days ago.

The perception among the community members living in Jammu and elsewhere is that despite promises of resettlement in the Valley, little has been done by the pres-

ent dispensation.

Satish Mahaldar, an activist and chairman of the J&K Peace Forum, says governments have come and gone but nothing has changed for them.

“Since 1990, the BJP's manifesto has called for the return of Kashmiri Pandits to the Valley. However, they have not kept their promise,” he states, adding that the government had launched a portal for Pandits to reclaim their property sold in distress.

Ajay Churangoo, chairman of Panun Kashmir, minces no words when he says the BJP-led Central government did no better than the Congress. “The abrogation of Article 370 has brought no change for us. It has only exposed the resettlement claims of the present regime. Both BJP and Congress have termed the exodus of thousands of Pandits simple migration,” he says.

What more is there to say, he adds with resignation.

Agencies, forces fortify sensitive areas in Jammu

JAMMU, JULY 31

An alert has been sounded across Jammu region ahead of August 5, which will mark the fifth anniversary of abrogation of Article 370, for which intelligence agencies and security forces have fortified sensitive areas in the division. Army, police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) have intensified vigilance in Doda, Rajouri, Poonch, Kathua, Jammu and Kishtwar districts where they have received inputs that terrorists might try to usurp peace.

Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) of Jammu region, Anand Jain, held a meeting on Monday evening to take an overview of the security situation for August 5 and Independence Day celebrations across the Union Territory.

Security forces are also keeping the civil administration in loop for the preparations ahead of the two important events. Jammu division had recently witnessed a spate of terror attacks across the region and there are reports that highly trained terrorists are present in the forest areas of the region.

During the meeting headed by Jain, discussion was held on the inputs shared by intelligence agencies, Army, CRPF, BSF and CID, ensuring a coordinated approach to address any security concerns.

ADGP Jain underscored the importance of inter-agency cooperation to mitigate these threats as well as heightened vigil in border areas and the hinterland to prevent infiltration attempts. — PTI

FROM PAGE 1

Channi for privilege motion...

protests in the House and alleged that the Congress tried to weaken the country and create violence.

On Tuesday, Thakur's apparent reference to Rahul's caste during a discussion on the Union Budget in the House had triggered a spat between the Opposition and the Treasury Benches.

The Congress talks about “jaati” (caste) day and night, Rijiju said and stressed that everyone should go by the rules and regulations of the House.

Several members of the Opposition, including



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Manickam Tagore, did not ask questions even though their names were called by the Chair during Question Hour.

When first-time Congress MP from Gadchiroli-Chimur Namdeo Kirsan

asked a supplementary question, Birla told the protesting members not to disrupt him.

“Your party member is asking a question. You are not allowing him to speak. This is not good,” he said.

The Congress termed Thakur's speech on Tuesday a “highly abusive and unconstitutional tirade”.

Rahul had also accused the BJP leader of insulting and abusing him during the debate but asserted that he would not seek any apology from Thakur, who is also a former Union Minister.

Shah says Kerala forewarned, CM refutes claim...

Kerala Chief Minister Vijayan said, “The India Meteorological Department (IMD) had predicted 115 mm to 204 mm rainfall in the affected area. However, in the first 24 hours itself, the area received 200 mm rainfall, while in the next 24 hours, it received 372 mm rainfall, making it a staggering 572 mm in 48 hours — much more than what was predicted. So with these being the facts, I wish to state that this is not the time for wrangling.”

The Ladakh IMD Director noted that while high temperatures are typical during Ladakh's hottest months of July-August, he added that a steep rise in temperature, particularly in Ladakh, is indeed a matter of concern as glaciers are the region's key water source, and their rapid melting due to intense heat poses a significant threat to the region's water supply.

“Ladakh is a cold desert area but it doesn't mean that it is always cold here. It is cold here during winters in December-

Steep rise in temperature in Ladakh a matter of concern, says IMD Director

LEH, JULY 31

Ladakh's India Meteorological Department (IMD) Director Sonam Lotus on Wednesday said that a steep rise in temperature in Ladakh is a matter of concern. Notably, a maximum temperature of 30.5 degrees Celsius was recorded in Leh on July 30.

The Ladakh IMD Director noted that while high temperatures are typical during Ladakh's hottest months of July-August, he added that a steep rise in temperature, particularly in Ladakh, is indeed a matter of concern as glaciers are the region's key water source, and their rapid melting due to intense heat poses a significant threat to the region's water supply.

“Ladakh is a cold desert area but it doesn't mean that it is always cold here. It is cold here during winters in December-



GLACIERS MELTING FAST: LOTUS

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January when temperatures drop to even -20 or -25 degrees Celsius in Leh. It is not new to experience summers here in July-August. It happens every year. July-August is the hottest month of the year for Ladakh. Kargil experiences 2-3 degrees more than Leh. This time, Leh recorded a highest temperature of 33.5 degrees Celsius. At the same time, on 28th July, Kargil recorded the highest temperature of 37.5 degrees Celsius. These temperatures are not new. It is always hot in July-August, especially from the second week of July to

mid-August, around 45 days,”

IMD Ladakh Director said. “Steep rise in temperature, that too in Ladakh, is indeed a matter of concern. Glaciers are our natural resources and are very valuable. We get water from that glacier, so if the temperatures rise like this - when Ladakh's 30 degrees is like 40 degrees in the plains - the intense heat will melt the ice bodies faster,” he added.

Ladakh IMD Director also issued an advisory for tourists, warning of potential flash floods in the coming days.

“Sometimes, it also rains due to the heat...The monsoon is becoming active now, so it has started becoming cloudy since yesterday which has caused light rain in a few spots...There has been no loss of life or property. We would like to tell the tourists that it is going to rain in the next week. It can take the form of a flash flood in a few areas. So, people will have to be alert these few days. Take this as an advisory. There is no need to panic,” he said. — ANI

ED raids hospitals of 2 HP Cong leaders

ED, many medical bills were generated on “fake” cards, causing a loss to the exchequer. The agency reportedly found that a total of 8,937 Ayushman Bharat cards had been scrapped in the state over alleged violations till now.

The sources said the ED investigation revealed Bankey Bihari Hospital in Una and Fortis Hospital, Shri Balaji Hospital, Sood Nursing Home and Sri Harihar Hospital, all in Kangra, availed “illegal benefits” under the central scheme.

The raids were conducted on the basis of a case registered by the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau in Una in July last year. The case was registered under Sections 420, 467, 468 and 471 of the IPC against Kiran Soni, owner of Banke Bihari Hospital. The ED registered another case on July 16, 2024, under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act as part of its investigation.

Withdraw GST on life, medical...

The union feels that the person who covers the risk of life's uncertainties to give protection to the family should not be levied tax on the premium to purchase cover against this risk.”

He said the main issue raised by the union was related to the withdrawal of the GST on life and medical insurance premiums.

Both life insurance and medical insurance premiums are subject to an 18

per cent GST. “The 18 per cent GST on medical insurance premiums is proving to be a deterrent for the growth of this business segment, which is socially necessary,” Gadkari wrote.

“You are requested to consider the suggestion of withdrawal of the GST on life and medical insurance premium on priority as it becomes cumbersome for senior citizens as per rules with due verification,” he said.



STALLING GROWTH

“The 18 per cent GST on medical insurance premiums is proving to be a deterrent for the growth of this business segment, which is socially necessary.”

Nitin Gadkari, ROAD TRANSPORT MINISTER

Women athletes step closer to...

Germany's Michelle Kroppen who won a bronze at Tokyo 2020.

Sindhu, Lovlina and Deepika have what it takes — they know they must keep strong. “Every match is tough here onward,” said Sindhu. “It's the knockout stage, nothing is easy now.”

Lovlina agrees, and

Deepika says: “For me, in archery, it's me against myself — if I shoot three perfect arrows, I get 30 points,” she said. “I must focus on myself.”

Sen, flush from his defeat of world No. 3 Christie, echoed the sentiment. His opponent in the pre-quarterfinals is likely to be HS Prannoy, his

teammate from India who was scheduled to play late in the evening on Wednesday. “Whoever it is, I have to give my best!”

The day brought to a close the challenge of Manika Batra in women's singles badminton — she lost her Round of 16 match to Japan's Miu Hirano (6-11 9-11 14-12 8-11 6-11).

UPSC cancels Khedkar's...

FROM PAGE 1

found to have availed more number of attempts than permitted under the CSE Rules, it said.

The commission said Khedkar was able to do so “primarily due to the fact that she changed not only her name but also her parents' name”.

It said the UPSC was in the process of “further strengthening the SOP to ensure that such a case does not recur in the future”. The commission said a show-cause notice was issued to Pujya Manorama Dilip Khedkar on July 18 for “fraudulently” availing attempts beyond the permissible limit in the examination

by “faking” her identity.

The commission said a show-cause notice was issued to Khedkar on July 18 for “fraudulently” availing attempts beyond the permissible limit in the examination by “faking” her identity.

She was asked to submit her response to the notice by July 25, but she requested time till August 4 to gather the necessary documents for her response, it said.

The UPSC granted her a “final opportunity” to submit her response by 3:30 pm on July 30, but she “failed to submit her explanation within the prescribed time”, the commission said. TNS

Eye on Sikh votes before poll, BJP...

FROM PAGE 1

prove to be a game-changer, said a senior party leader. Having lost the recent LS election from Ludhiana, Bittu has time till mid-December to get elected either to Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha.

Besides Bittu, other senior leaders, including Ram Bilas Sharma, Capt Abhimanyu, OP Dhankar, Sanjay Bhatia, Manish Grover, Kuldeep Bishnoi and Sunita Duggal, too were in the contention, said sources. The seat fell vacant following the election of Deepender Hooda as the Lok Sabha MP from Rohtak. Tosham MLA Kiran Chaudhry, who recently quit the Congress to join the BJP, too was in the race, they said.

Currently, there is no Sikh minister in the Haryana Government as Sandeep Singh, the lone Sikh BJP MLA, was

WHY BITTU?

- BJP looking to woo Sikh voters ahead of Assembly poll
- Wants to cash in on legacy of Bittu's grandfather and Punjab ex-CM Beant Singh
- He fits well into the BJP's 'national security' narrative

dropped from the Cabinet when Nayab Singh Saini took over as the CM on March 13. “Currently, we have an OBC CM, a Brahmin BJP president, besides adequate representation to other sections, including Jats, Aggarwals and Dalits in both the government and the organisation. Giving representation to Sikhs through Bittu can pay rich dividends in the Assembly poll,” the leader reasoned.

Centre opposes plea seeking mineral royalty refund to states

SATYA PRAKASH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 31

The Centre on Wednesday opposed before the Supreme Court mineral-rich states' plea for refund of royalty levied by it on mines and mineral-bearing land since 1989, saying any order with retrospective effect will have a "multi-polar" impact and the PSUs will have to shell out an estimated amount of Rs 70,000 crore.

Holding that royalty payable on minerals is not a tax, a nine-judge Constitution Bench led by CJI DY Chandrachud had on July 25 said states have the legislative competence to impose taxes on mineral rights and mineral-bearing land. However, it held that Parliament has "wide enough" powers to impose restrictions, con-



'STEP WILL HAVE MULTI-POLAR IMPACT'

■ Attorney General R Venkataramani, also appearing for the Centre, argued that any order asking the government to pay the alleged dues with retrospective effect will have a "multi-polar" impact.

■ The Centre contended that making the July 25 verdict retrospective will have cascading effects as companies will pass on the financial burden on citizens and the PSUs will have to empty their coffers by ₹70,000 cr

ditions, principles and prohibition on the legislative field created by that entry under Entry 50 of List II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.

The Bench had posted the matter for further hearing on July 31 to consider the states' demand for making the verdict operational with retrospective effect to ensure refund of taxes from the Centre.

On Wednesday, Attorney General R Venkataramani told the Bench that any order ask-

ing the government to pay the alleged dues with retrospective effect will have a "multi-polar" impact. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta submitted that making the verdict retrospective will have a cascading effect as PSUs will pass on the financial burden on citizens.

"A preliminary estimate of the potential financial impact of the judgment due to past State levies which may become due (in the form of additional state levies of taxes,

interest and penalties) on only the Public Sector Units (PSUs) engaged in mining, and in production activities dependent on minerals (like electricity production), is to the tune of Rs 70,000 crore," Mehta said.

Without naming a profit making 'Maharatna' PSU - a stock market listed PSU, Mehta said, if the July 25 verdict was given a retrospective effect, the potential demand of tax was three times the net worth of the company.

Judicial custody of Kejriwal, Sisodia extended till Aug 13

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 31

A Delhi Court on Wednesday extended the judicial custody of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and former Deputy CM Manish Sisodia till August 13 in a money laundering case related to the alleged excise policy scam.

Special Judge Kaveri Baweja also extended the custody of BRS leader K Kavitha till August 13 in the same case.

The judge further extended the judicial custody of Sisodia and Kavitha in a related corruption case, being probed by the CBI, till August 9.

The court passed the order after the accused were produced before it on expiry of their judicial custody granted earlier.

Gadkari's letter to FM sparks 'BJP dissent' talk among rivals

ADITI TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 31

Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari's letter to Cabinet colleague Nirmala Sitharaman seeking the removal of GST on life and medical insurance premium on Wednesday sparked talks of internal dissent in the BJP.

Opposition Congress was the first to raise questions of one minister writing to another when the two could have picked up the phone and spoken.

"Could they not have talked to each other? Obviously there is something amiss here," said a senior Congress leader with AICC General Secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh saying: "Nitin Jairam Gadkari's letter to the FM on the Budget is a sure sign of internal dissent and rumblings against the non-biological PM."

While the BJP was officially silent on the matter, sections privately wondered what led Gadkari to write a letter to Sitharaman and then ensure it went public.

Gadkari's well-known proximity to RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat only added to the internal dissent debate with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bhagwat's equations after the 2024 Lok

KUMARASWAMY SAYS NO TO BJP YATRA

In signs of tension within the NDA, Union Minister and JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy on Wednesday said the party will not take part in the foot march the BJP has announced from August 3 to 10 against the alleged Musuru Urban Development Authority scam. Though BJP leaders said the NDA partners will together hold the *padayatra*, Kumaraswamy lashed out at the BJP saying he had not been consulted. "This is their unilateral decision," said Kumaraswamy.

Sabha poll result are yet to unravel even though the RSS and BJP leaders recently met to discuss Haryana elections in signs of a thaw. It was their first meeting since national election results and since well-known differences within the Sangh parivar on approach to the Lok Sabha poll and strategies.

It is equally well-known and documented that Gadkari was Bhagwat's preference when the RSS was looking to project BJP's prime ministerial candidate for the 2014 General Elections - a position which then Gujarat CM Narendra Modi filled due to his mass popularity with the RSS and BJP cadres at the time.

As for Gadkari, ever since he was dropped from the BJP's parliamentary board, the party's highest decision making body in August 2022, he has off and on signalled unease with PM Modi.

Ahead of removal, Gadkari

had, among other controversial things, said, "Today, what we are seeing in politics is 100 per cent about coming to power." The remarks were seen as directed at the PM and his confidante Home Minister Amit Shah.

Of late, Gadkari has also been openly aligning with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath within the BJP. Yogi had campaigned for Gadkari in Nagpur at a time when Shiv Sena (UBT) claimed that the top BJP leadership was working against Gadkari in the segment.

"He is Ajatshatru (one with no enemies)," Yogi had said about the Transport Minister on the LS poll eve.

Interestingly, Uttar Pradesh CM, too, continues to hold on to the state despite the party's poor show in Lok Sabha polls and attempts to attribute this below par performance to administrative failures. Like Gadkari, Yogi also has RSS backing.

KERALA TRAGEDY

Govt school students, teachers assist survivors in relief camps

WAYANAD (KERALA), JULY 31

Students from a Government Higher Secondary School at Meppadi here are tirelessly volunteering in the relief camps, working diligently to assist survivors of the massive landslides which hit the high-range district with food and supplies.

School teachers are also playing a crucial role, motivating and supporting the students, many of whom are part of the NSS and NCC programmes, in their efforts.

Despite the immense struggles and losses these survivors have faced, the selfless efforts of the students are highly commendable. "We are helping the people by sorting the clothes that have arrived for them," Mini, a teacher at GHSS Meppadi, said they were doing all that they could for the people and were praying for Wayanad.

"This is a tragedy. We are all sad. All are not allowed here, there are restrictions here. It's a lot of emotional drama. We are consoling them, giving love



Rescue teams cross a temporary bridge in Wayanad, Kerala. REUTERS

and affection. How to rehabilitate them? It's a very, very difficult situation to overcome. "We are doing what we can. It's very little, but we are doing what we can. Students are sorting the clothes and helping them. We lost a few students, we don't know where they are (not traceable). There are six rooms in higher secondary and more rooms in high school. Maybe around 1,000 people are here in this camp. We are praying for them. Everyone in the world is praying for Kerala, Wayanad," she said. — PTI

committed to working hand in hand here. It's not just the NSS and NCC; other students from our school are also volunteering." Melbin, a student of GHSS, added, "We are helping the people by sorting the clothes that have arrived for them." Mini, a teacher at GHSS Meppadi, said they were doing all that they could for the people and were praying for Wayanad.

"This is a tragedy. We are all sad. All are not allowed here, there are restrictions here. It's a lot of emotional drama. We are consoling them, giving love

'Infra projects to blame for disasters in Western Ghats'

AKSHEEV THAKUR
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 31

In the wake of the natural disaster in Kerala's Wayanad, questions are also being raised about the environmental catastrophe in Karnataka, which witnessed a massive landslide at Shirur district last week. Experts say that unscientific infrastructure projects in Western Ghats are resulting in natural disasters.

Several government projects like thermal, railway are underway in those areas of Western Ghats which fall in Karnataka. Experts warn that massive encroachments of forests and infrastructure projects in both the states are likely to bring climate catastrophe.

Successive governments in Karnataka and Kerala have opposed the implementation of both Madhav Gadgil Committee Report 2011 and Kasturirangan Committee Report 2012 on Western Ghats. Due to this, the Union Environment Ministry could never implement the recommendations of either of the reports

ally Sensitive Localities (ESL) in Kerala were identified by the Gadgil Committee. Speaking with *The Tribune*, Gadgil reiterated that the report prepared by him was scientific.

"Our Western Ghats Panel produced a pro-nature, pro-people report based on sound scientific information and feedback from Central and State Governments, zila parishads, gram panchayats and people. Its recommendations conformed to our Constitution and various acts. Several vested interests engaged in exhausting or polluting the country's natural capital to make a fast buck so it was rejected out of hand," he said.

Gadgil said once there were quarries operational from the disaster site in Wayanad.

In Kottickal in the Kottayam district of Kerala, 14 people died in a landslide on October 16, 2021. Gadgil said that unabated quarrying in the hill resulted in that.

REPORTS 'IGNORED'

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People screamed for help: Survivor narrates ordeal

WAYANAD (KERALA), JULY 31

At 1.30 am on Tuesday, Jayan, a resident of the landslide-hit Chooralmala in Kerala, woke up hearing a loud noise. As he rushed outside his house, he saw flood waters gushing just outside his house and saw people rushing to their terraces, screaming out for help.

Most of the houses in the area vanished within no time, with no signs of life left around. The slush and boulder-filled waters crushed the buildings with people inside. An area that was once full of life suddenly became a river, with slush and debris strewn all around.

Everyone who managed to stay safe was crying out loud, calling the names of their dear ones.

Jayan knew that his wife's relatives, who lived in the most affected areas, were missing. "Eleven members from my wife's family are missing. We identified the body of a child that was recovered from Chaliyar river in Nilambur in Malappuram district as one of my relative's. We have only got three dead bodies so far and the remaining are still missing," a teary-eyed Jayan said.

Many, like Jayan, are wandering in the area, rushing to the rescuers as they pull bodies out and hopefully waiting to have the last glance of their dear ones who have been swept away in the flash floods. — PTI

India to host air exercise

NEW DELHI, JULY 31

India will host its first-ever multilateral air exercise 'Tarang Shakti' that will see participation of 30 countries.

The exercise will be held at Sullur in Tamil Nadu from August 6-14, and the second phase from August 29-September 14 at Rajasthan's Jodhpur.

Among the countries sending in their air assets are France, Spain, Germany, the UK, Australia, Bangladesh, Greece, Singapore, the US and the UAE.

Indian Navy and its MiG 29K jets will be part of the phase-I. Air Marshal A P Singh, Vice Chief of the Air Staff, said there would be no maritime exercises. — TNS

APPOINTMENT

Society for Promotion of IT in Chandigarh (SPIC) under the aegis of Department of Information Technology, Chandigarh Administration invites applications for Customer Care Executive on contract basis for Sampark Centres in Chandigarh. This advertisement has been published for creation of bench strength of CCEs.

The eligibility criteria and other information for Customer Care Executive post can be obtained from our website: <http://www.spicindia.com>

Last date for submission of online application is 14.08.2024.

SPIC Centre of Excellence
Under the aegis of Department of Information Technology, Chandigarh Administration
5th Floor, Additional Deluxe Building, Sector 9-D, Chandigarh - 160009, Phone: 0172-2740641, 2740905
Email: ceo@spicindia.com, Website: www.spicindia.com

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
Municipal Corporation Ludhiana
Expression of Interest (B&R Works/Goods)
EoI/NIT No. 52/SE(TIC), dated 30.07.2024

The Department of Municipal Corporation Ludhiana (B&R) invites online expression of interest for "Purchase of 2 nos. Infrared Recycling based Mobile Pothole Patching Machines including AMC for 5 years for Ludhiana under Smart City Mission." (1st time) as per schedule given below:-

Closing Date & Time : 22.08.2024 up to 01:00 PM
For details login to : eproc.punjab.gov.in

Note: Detail of EoI, other terms & conditions & tender documents any corrigendum/addendum to the tender notice shall be published on above website only.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (TIC)
Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana.

DPR/Ph/36223

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Invitation for tenders through E-procurement system
Deputy Chief Materials Manager, N.R. Jagadhari Workshop-135002, for and on behalf of the President of India invites through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Quantity	Closing date
1.	61246110	Basic LHB brake container	25 Nos.	29.08.2024
2.	61246062	Brake panel Module	20 Nos.	29.08.2024
3.	61246117	Kit for modification of junction box assembly	161 sets	29.08.2024
4.	612457998	Supply and application of Fleet Graphic film	23500 SQFT	26.08.2024
5.	61246105	Universal Milling Machine	1 Nos.	26.08.2024
6.	61246048	Laser Marking System	2 Nos.	26.08.2024

Note :- 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained. Tender Notice No.- 61246117, 61246110, 61246062, 612457998, 612457998, 61246105, 61246048

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
GREATER LUDHIANA AREA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GLADA Complex, Ferozpur Road, Near Rajguru Nagar, Ludhiana
Tender Reference No. GLADA/Stationery/2024/01 dated 31.07.2024

Greater Ludhiana Area Development Authority invites offline bids for the following:

Item	Quantity
Stationery items	As per detailed tender notice available on PUDA website

Closing date & time : 16.08.2024 at 3.00 p.m.
For details login to : www.puda.punjab.gov.in and www.puda.gov.in

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

DPR/Ph/36235

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No: 433-Sig-T-12-24-25 Date: 31.07.2024
Closing Date/Time: 23.08.2024 15:00

Sr. DSTE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on <https://www.ireps.gov.in> against Tender Notice No. 433-Sig-T-12-24-25 Closing Date/Time 23.08.2024 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

NIT HEADER

Contract Type	Works
(i)	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of EITRONICS make Data Loggers installed at stations in BAH-L-BRML section over Firozpur division for three years.
(ii)	Provision of Road Signals at mid-section interlocked L-xing gates over Firozpur division.

Tender Closing Date/Time	Date Time of Uploading Tender	(i)	(ii)
23.08.2024 15:00	09.08.2024	30.07.2024	31.07.2024

Advertised Value (Rs.)	Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	(i)	(ii)
(i) 3056617.80	09.08.2024	30.07.2024	31.07.2024
(ii) 6733754.42			

Earnest Money (Rs.)	Period of Completion	(i)	(ii)
(i) 61100.00	36 Months	36 Months	6 Months
(ii) 134700.00			

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2335/24

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, BARETA MANSA
DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVT. PUNJAB
NOTICE INVITING ONLINE BIDS

Bid No. 641 Date: 30.07.2024

Sr. No.	Name of Project/Work(s)	Bid Security/ Earnest Money (Rs. in Lakh)	Cost of document/ Tender Fee (Rs.)	Period of Completion	Approx. Value of the Project/Work (Rs. in Lakh)	Availability of tender	From Date 01.08.2024 Time: 11:00 AM
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Rejuvenation of Water Body near Bibfan Mandir Bareta Town, District Mansa under AMRUT 2.0	3.58	Rs. 1000 + 1.0% of DNT Cost + Taxes and max. Rs. 5000 + Taxes	12 months	Project value: Capital Cost - Percentage Rate Rs. 160.96 Lakh 5 Years O&M cost - Percentage Rate Rs. 17.82 Lakh	Last Date for online submission of bids	Date 22.08.2024 Time 11:00 AM
						Date & Time of opening of Technical Bid	Date 22.08.2024 Time 13:00 PM

Refer to website <http://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in>. For detailed terms of conditions and corrigendum. Sd/- Signature of President Municipal Council, Bareta. Sd/- Signature of Executive Officer Municipal Council, Bareta.

DPR/Ph/36231

Office of Superintending Engineer, 9th Circle Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department
Address:- 9th Circle, HPPWD., Nurpur.
Mail ID hp-kan2@nic.in Phone No. 01893-220098

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

List of Important Dates of Bids for Construction/Upgrade of Road using New Technology 'Cement Treated Base' under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and their Maintenance for five year. Accordingly Superintending Engineer 9th Circle, H.P.P.W.D., Nurpur on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites Percentage rate bids, in electronic tendering system for construction of below mentioned roads:-

Sr. No.	Name of Execution of Contract Bond	District	Package No.	Name of work	Period of completion	Estimate Cost Excluding of GST (in Lacs)	Total cost excluding GST (in Lacs)	Bid Security (in Lacs)
1.	Chief Engineer (KZ) HPPWD D/shaha.	Kangra	HP04347	Upgradation of Jawalamukhi Daroli Upper Ghalour to Rohara Bridge at 9/795.	24 months	1643.55	3.65	1647.20

2. Date of Publishing of e-procurement notice through Newspapers:- 12-08-2024
3. Publishing date of Bid online:- 12-08-2024 (10.00 AM).
4. Start Date of downloading of bids :- 13-08-2024 (11.00 AM).
5. Deadline for submission of bids:- 28-08-2024 (5.00 PM).
6. Date of opening of bids:- 28-08-2024 (11.00 AM).

Pre-bid meeting on dated 20-08-2024 at 11:30 AM.
For further details please login to <https://pmsytendershp.gov.in>

Superintending Engineer,
9th Circle, H.P.P.W.D., Nurpur-176202
Email: hp-kan2@nic.in, 01893-220098.

DPR/HP/1143

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH
E-TENDER NOTICE

The Hospital Engineer (Electrical), PGIMER Chandigarh invites on behalf of the Director PGIMER Chandigarh Online Percentage rate bids on two bid system (Eligibility cum Technical Bid and Financial Bid), who fulfil the Eligibility Criteria for the following works:-

- NIT No.-PGI/Engg/Elect/2024-25/23** from the Specialized agencies dealing in Local Area Network (LAN) system for the work of "Providing dedicated IT network extension line to LT and Bhargava Auditorium at PGIMER, Chandigarh", Estimated Cost-Rs. 24.98 Lakh, Earnest Money-Rs. 30,000/-, Period of Completion-One week. The last date & time for submission of bid is 05.08.2024 up to 03:00 PM. The last date and time for submission of Original EMD/EMD Exemption certificate in physical form is 08.08.2024 up to 03:00 PM. The date and time for opening of Eligibility cum Technical Bid is 08.08.2024 at 03:30 PM. The date and time for opening of Financial Bid is to be Declare later.
- NIT No.-PGI/Engg/Elect/2024-25/24** from the enlisted contractors of CPWD/ Department of Posts/BSNL/Railways/ M.E.S./Chandigarh Administration/CHB/MC Chandigarh/ State PWD/ HUDA/ PUDA/ State Electricity Boards & Corporations dealing in Electrical works for the work of "Replacement of existing shaft lighting and machine room lighting with LED lighting of lifts installed at various locations in PGIMER, Chandigarh" Estimated Cost- Rs. 21.58 Lakh, Earnest Money-Rs. 43,200/-. Period of Completion- 3 Months. The last date & time for submission of bid is 09.08.2024 up to 11:00 AM. The last date and time for submission of Original EMD/EMD Exemption certificate in physical form is 10.08.2024 up to 10:30 AM. The date and time for opening of Eligibility cum Technical Bid is 10.08.2024 up to 11:00 AM. The date and time for opening of Financial Bid is to be Declare later.
- NIT No.-PGI/Engg/Elect/2024-25/25** from the enlisted contractors of CPWD/ Department of Posts/ BSNL/ Railways/ M.E.S./ Chandigarh Administration/ CHB/ MC Chandigarh/ State PWD/ HUDA/ PUDA/ State Electricity Boards & Corporations dealing in Electrical works for the work of "Replacement of damaged cables, fixtures and timers of streetlights installed at various locations in the Institute, PGIMER, Chandigarh" Estimated Cost- Rs. 11.25 Lakh, Earnest Money-Rs. 22,500/-. Period of Completion- 3 Months. The last date & time for submission of bid is 08.08.2024 up to 11:00 AM. The last date and time for submission of Original EMD/EMD Exemption certificate in physical form is 09.08.2024 up to 10:30 AM. The date and time for opening of Eligibility cum Technical Bid is 09.08.2024 up to 11:00 AM. The date and time for opening of Financial Bid is 09.08.2024 up to 11:00 AM. The last date and time for opening of Original EMD/EMD Exemption certificate in physical form is 09.08.2024 up to 10:30 AM. The date and time for opening of Eligibility cum Technical Bid is 09.08.2024 up to 11:00 AM. The date and time for opening of Financial Bid is to be Declare later.

The original EMD or EMD exemption certificate for MS/EMS/MS as scanned & uploaded shall be deposited physically by all the intending bidders in the office of H.E. (Electrical) as per above schedule failing which the bid shall be treated as invalid. The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website: <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> and official website of the PGIMER www.pgimer.edu.in. Contractors are requested to get their firm registered on the website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> for participating in e-tendering process (Help desk no. for registering- 9988447883). DI-9182

Hospital Engineer (Elect)

NORTHERN RAILWAY
e-TENDERING

OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO. NIT- 200/UMB-2024-25 DATED 30.07.2024

Open tenders through e-tendering are invited on a behalf of President of India by Sr. Divisional Engineer/Coordination, Northern Railway, Ambala from the willing contractors for following work upto 15.00 hrs. on the date of closing shown against the work and will be opened thereafter.

S. No.	Name of work	Approx. Cost (Rs.)	Bid Security (Rs.)	Period of Completion	Date of Closing & Opening
1	Annual repair, white washing and painting of staff quarters & Service buildings, etc under Zone 3 & 4 from BTI(excl)-SGNR (excl) for the period ending 30/6/2025 in the section of SSE(W) ABS under ADEN/BTL	50,99,997	1,02,000	10 Months	27.08.2024
2	Overhauling of filter plant, recoupment of filter media and cleaning of sedimentation tank, OH, UG water storage tanks, cleaning of cooh, repair of leakage of CI pipe line from Kaushalya, Majra and Pinjore & operation of pumps in Kaushalya bed to lift water in summer season in the section of SSE/W/CLK.	26,72,773	53,500	12 Months	27.08.2024
3	Provision of Drinking water tanker throughout Day and Night at Shimla, Kalka, Kasauli and at approachable locations in the jurisdiction of SSE/W/ KLR under ADEN/SM/L.	12,32,569	24,700	12 Months	27.08.2024
4	Supply, installation, commissioning and operating with AMC (for 60 months) 15 Nos. Electronic Type Track based Rail Lubricator in the section of ADEN/SRE.	2,16,76,045	2,59,400	60 Months	27.08.2024
5	Supply, installation, commissioning and operating with AMC (for 60 months) 40 Nos. Electronic Type Track based Rail Lubricator in the section of ADEN/UMB & CDG.	5,86,44,564	4,43,200	60 Months	27.08.2024

OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL, GOVERNMENT COLLEGE NARNAUL TENDER NOTICE

Tender is hereby invited for cleaning of premises and housekeeping etc. services in Govt. College Narnaul from the interested and eligible tenderers/service agencies (approved by Govt. of Haryana) having at least three years experience in similar services in prescribed form. Interested Tenderers/Service Agencies can collect tender forms from the Office of Principal, Govt. College Narnaul on any working day between 09:00 a.m. to 04:00 p.m. by paying Rs. 500/- (Payable through demand draft/Banker cheque of any nationalised bank drawn in favour of Principal Govt. College Narnaul. All terms and conditions will be attached with the form. Last date of receipt of sealed tender document:- 13.08.2024 Date of opening of tender:- 16.08.2024 at 2 p.m.

Sd/- Principal Govt. College Narnaul.

DI-9216

HIMACHAL PRADESH Jal Shakti Vibhag Notice Inviting e-Tender

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Nagrota Bagwan invites online tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following work through online e-tendering process:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Cost of tender form (Rs.)	Time Limit
1	Retrofitting on existing STP for Septage Management in Tehsil Nagrota Bagwan and District Kangra (H.P.) (Sub-Head:- Construction of Equalization Tank for Septage Management for Sewerage Scheme Nagrota Town.)	1434641/-	287000/-	400/-	6 Months

Last date of filing /uploading the tender through e-tendering 06.08.2024 up to 11:00 A.M. and opening on same day at 11:30 AM. The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be seen from the website <https://hptender.gov.in>.

Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Nagrota Bagwan (H.P.).

DPR/HP/1164

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT e-Procurement Notice Invitation for Bids (IFB)

The Executive Engineer, Daulatpur Chowk Division, HP, PWD, Daulatpur Chowk - 177204 on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the online bids on percentage rate in electronic tendering system in 2 covers for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved class of contractors/Firm registered with HPPWD.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost.	Earnest Money	Time limit	Cost of form	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of 70.00 Meter (actual 88.875 meter span Double Lane) Bridge over kuneran Khad on Link Road Gondpur Banehra to Ghanari at RD 1/600 (SH:- Construction of Bridge sub Structure & Super Structure and approaches	4279215.00	8,60,000/-	Eighteen Months	5000	A

1. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission. The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online on website <http://hptenders.gov.in>.

2. The bidders are advised to note the other details of the tenders from the website <http://hptenders.gov.in>

Key Dates:-

1. Date/Time of online Publication	08.08.2024 (10.00 AM)
2. Documents download Start and end date/time	08.08.2024 (10.00 AM) 18.08.2024 (5.00 PM)
3. Bid submission Start and end date/time	08.08.2024 (10.00 AM) 18.08.2024 (5.00 PM)
4. Physical submission of receipt of EMD & cost of tender documents	19.8.2024 (11.00 AM)
5. Date of technical bid opening	19.8.2024 at 11.00 AM

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidder's responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

The undersigned has right to extend or cancel the bids without declaring any reasons therefor.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Daulatpur chowk Division, HPPWD Daulatpur chowk.

DPR/HP/1159

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Telephone: 01975-238883 e-mail:- hp-una@nic.in

INVITATION FOR BIDS PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY-III)

The Superintending Engineer, 15th Circle, HPPWD Una on behalf of Governor or HP invites the percentage rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD/ CPWD/other State Govt./Central Govt. agencies for the bridge works as detailed in the table below funded under PMGSY-III Batch-II, 2023-24 approved by the MoRD, Govt. of India vide letter No. P-17024/9/2021-RC (EFMS: 375520) dated 15th March, 2024.

Sr. No.	Di vision	Package No.	Name of Bridge	Esti- mated Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Period of Completion	Bid Security (Rs. in lacs)
1	Daulatpur Chowk	HP-12-190A	Construction of 3-Span 19.75 M Each R.C.C. T-Beam Bridge Over Nakroth Khad-2 at Km. 7/575	241.88	12 months	4.84
2	Daulatpur Chowk	HP-12-190B	Construction of 3-Span 19.75 M Each R.C.C. T-Beam Bridge Over Nakroth Khad-1 at Km. 9/195	233.56	12 months	4.68
3	Daulatpur Chowk	HP-12-191A	Construction of 4-Span 15.037 M Each RCC T-Beam Bridge over Tatehra Khad at Km. 3/360	272.33	12 months	5.45
4	Daulatpur Chowk	HP-12-191B	Construction of 3-Span 15.037 M Each RCC T-Beam Bridge Over Mawa Sindhiyan Khad at Km. 4/020	216.23	12 months	4.33
5	Daulatpur Chowk	HP-12-191C	Construction of 19.75 M Single Span RCC T-Beam Bridge Over Shilag Khad at Km. 5/570	131.59	12 months	2.64
6	Daulatpur Chowk	HP-12-191D	Construction of 5-Span 15.037 M Each RCC T-Beam Bridge over Lohari Khad at Km. 7/320	307.34	12 months	6.15
7	Daulatpur Chowk	HP-12-192A	Construction of 5-Span 15.037 M Each RCC T-Beam Bridge Over Jadla Khad at Km. 3/780	287.70	12 months	5.76
8	Hareoli Bhawan	HP-12-196A	Construction of 3-Span 5.0 M Each RCC Box Cell bridge over Amb Khad at RD-3/270	87.07	12 months	1.75
9	Hareoli	HP-12-198A	Construction of 36.0 M Span Box Cell Bridge over Hareoli Khad at Rd-23/050	370.92	12 months	7.42
10	Hareoli	HP-12-205A	Construction of 4-Span 14M Each RCC T-Beam Bridge over Chandpur Khad at RD-3/705	305.27	12 months	6.11

Note:- The rates to be quoted by the bidder shall be inclusive of all taxes, royalties, duties and other levies that the contractor will have to pay for the performance of this contract but excluding GST. GST at prevalent rates will be added/paid to the value offered by the bidder separately.

1. **Cost of Bid Form:- Rs. 5000/- (Non-refundable)**

2. **Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission:** The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website <https://pmgsytendershp.gov.in>. The bidders are advised to note the other details of the tenders from the website <https://pmgsytendershp.gov.in>

3. **Key Dates:**

1. Date of Online Publication	06.08.2024 (17.00 Hrs.)
2. Document Download Start and End Date	07.08.2024 (10.00 Hrs.) up to 04.09.2024 (17.00 Hrs.)
3. Bid Submission Start and End Date	07.08.2024 (10.00 Hrs.) up to 04.09.2024 (17.00 Hrs.)
4. Date of Technical Bid opening.	05.09.2024 (11.00 Hrs.)

Other T & C and details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidder's responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender. The undersigned has right to extend or cancel the bids without declaring any reasons therefor.

* Non-registered bidders may submit their bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities of HPPWD before signing the contract.

(For & on behalf of the Governor of HP) Sd/- Superintending Engineer-cum-DPIU Una, 15th Circle, HPPWD Una

DPR/HP/1166

Hamas chief killed in Iran, strike fuels fears of retaliation; Israel sounds alert

CAIRO/DUBAI, JULY 31 Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh was assassinated in the Iranian capital Tehran early on Wednesday morning, an attack that drew threats of revenge on Israel and fuelled further concern that the conflict in Gaza was turning into a wider Middle East war.

The Palestinian militant group and Iran's Revolutionary Guards confirmed Haniyeh's death. The Guards said it took place hours after he attended a swearing-in ceremony for Iran's new president.



Palestinians protest the killing of Ismail Haniyeh in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. REUTERS

Although the attack was widely assumed to have been carried out by Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government made no claim of responsibility and said it would not make any comment on the killing.

Haniyeh, normally based in Qatar, had been the face of Hamas's international diplomacy as the war set off by the Hamas-led attack on Israel on Oct. 7 has raged in Gaza. He had been taking part in internationally-brokered indirect talks on reaching a ceasefire in the Palestinian enclave.

The assassination took place less than 24 hours after Israel claimed to have killed a Hezbollah commander in the Lebanese capital Beirut in retaliation for a deadly strike in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. The latest events appear to set back chances of any imminent ceasefire agreement between Israel and Palestinian Hamas.

'CAN DERAIL GAZA TRUCE EFFORTS'

Qatar and Egypt, which have acted as mediators in ceasefire negotiations between Israel and Hamas, suggested on Wednesday that the killing of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh could jeopardise efforts to secure a truce in Gaza.

US NOT INVOLVED, SAYS BLINKEN

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Wednesday his country was not involved in the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, and reiterated the importance of a ceasefire in Gaza. "This is something we were not aware of or involved in. It's very hard to speculate," Blinken said.

ISRAEL'S HISTORY OF TARGETED KILLINGS

- **April 2024:** Two Iranian generals are killed in what Iran said was an Israeli strike on Iran's consulate in Syria.
- **January 2024:** An Israeli drone strike in Beirut kills Saleh Arouri, a top Hamas official in exile as Israeli troops fight the militant group in Gaza.
- **December 2023:** Seyed Razi Mousavi, a longtime adviser of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard in Syria, is killed in a drone attack outside of Damascus. Iran blames Israel.
- **2019:** An Israeli airstrike hits the home of Bahaa Abu el Atta, a Islamic Jihad commander in Gaza, killing him.
- **2012:** Ahmad Jabari, head of Hamas' armed wing, is killed when an airstrike targets his car.

Cops fire tear gas as protesters hit streets in B'desh

DHAKA, JULY 31 Police in Bangladesh fired tear gas and lobbed sound grenades on Wednesday to scatter protesters marching to demonstrate against violence that killed at least 150 people this month during student-led agitation against job reservations.

The unrest is the biggest test facing Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, 76, since she won a fourth straight term in January elections that were boycotted by the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party and also marred by deadly protests.

Police said they had to use force when protesters in the northeastern district of Sylhet broke through barricades to head for the courts.

"We requested the protesters to move from the road, but they didn't listen and instead attacked the police, forcing us to disperse them with tear gas and stun grenades," said regional deputy commissioner Azbahar Ali Sheikh.

Dhaka, the capital, and Chittagong were among several places where police and protesters scuffled. The number of casualties was not immediately clear, though the media reported some injuries. — Reuters

Clashes in UK after death of 3 girls in mass stabbing

SOUTHPORT, JULY 31 Police are prepared for further trouble in the English seaside town of Southport after violent clashes followed the deaths of three young girls in a frenzied knife attack at a dance class, the area's top officer said on Wednesday.

A 17-year-old male is in police custody on suspicion of murder and attempted murder after the bloody rampage on Monday at a "Taylor Swift yoga and dance workshop", a summer vacation event for children aged 6 to 11.

More than 50 officers suffered injuries in disturbances in Southport on Tuesday night, after social media posts stoked speculation that the suspect was a radical Islamist migrant. — Reuters

Kamala lone Democrat to qualify for presidential race



Kamala Harris attends a campaign event in Atlanta.

WASHINGTON, JULY 31 Vice President Kamala Harris has sealed her Democratic presidential nomination as she emerged as the only candidate to qualify for virtual roll call votes from the party's delegates from across the country.

As many as 3,923 delegates from across the country petitioned to put Harris, 59, on the ballot for the Democratic nomination, and she secured the support of 99 per cent of the participating delegates, the Democratic Party announced Tuesday night after the official deadline.

In a joint statement, Democratic National Committee (DNC) Chair Jaime Harrison and the Democratic National Convention Committee (DNCC) Chair Minyon Moore said no other candidate met the threshold of 300 delegate signatures to qualify for the ballot.

The chairs said that voting on the virtual roll call – the process through which Harris will officially become the Democratic nominee – will begin on August 1 and end on August 5.

"Democratic delegates from across the nation made their voices heard, overwhelmingly backing Vice President Kamala Harris as the Democratic Party's presumptive nominee..." the chairs said. — PTI

BUSINESS

USD \$	EURO €	POUND £	JPY ¥	YUAN ¥	CAD C\$	AUD A\$	SGD S\$	HKD HK\$	BSE	NSE	GOLD	SILVER
₹83.72	₹90.60	₹107.52	₹0.55	₹11.59	₹60.64	₹54.69	₹62.60	₹10.71	285.94	93.85	₹69,820	₹86,500

Steel Ministry calls for probe into cheaper China, Vietnam imports

NEW DELHI, JULY 31 The Union Ministry of Steel has asked the trade ministry to investigate cheaper steel imports from China and Vietnam, a government official directly aware of the matter said on Wednesday, as New Delhi grapples with rising imports.

India, the world's second-biggest crude steel producer, turned net steel importer in the fiscal year through March and the trend continued with finished steel imports scaling a five-year high in April and May, according to provisional government data.

"We have said that the trade ministry should investigate these imports and offer its recommendations to the finance ministry, which will take the final call," the source told Reuters, declining to be identified as the discussions are not public.



India's steel and trade ministries did not immediately respond to emails from Reuters seeking comments. Last week, India's JSW Steel told Reuters that the steel industry was in talks with the union government for trade measures to combat rising imports, particularly from China and Vietnam.

The source added that the steel ministry had urged officials from the European Union not to impose higher taxes on its carbon-producing industries in a meeting two weeks ago.

Separately, the steel ministry is in talks with mills to diversify imports of coking coal, a key steelmaking raw material, from countries including Russia, Canada and the United States, the source said, as the country tries to cut its reliance on Australia, its biggest supplier. — Reuters

Key infra sectors' growth slows down to 20-mth low

NEW DELHI, JULY 31 The growth in production of eight key infrastructure sectors slowed down to a 20-month low of 4 per cent in June this year due to a decline in the output of crude oil and refinery products, according to official data released on Wednesday.

The core sectors' production grew by 6.4 per cent in May 2024. The growth of core sectors — coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity — was 8.4 per cent in June 2023.

The previous low level of growth was recorded in October 2022 at 0.7 per cent.

During April-June this fiscal, the output of core sectors rose by 5.7 per cent

Impacted by decline in output of crude oil and refinery products

against 6 per cent in the same period last fiscal. The eight core sectors contribute 40.27 per cent to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) which measures overall industrial growth.

Crude oil, and refinery products' output contracted by (-) 2.6% and (-) 1.5%, respectively, in June. The growth rate in the production of natural gas, fertiliser, steel and cement slowed down to 3.3%, 2.4%, 2.7% and 1.9%, respectively, during the month under review. — PTI

RBI proposes new rules for AePS touchpoints

MUMBAI, JULY 31 The Reserve Bank on Wednesday came out with draft rules on the due diligence to be carried out for Aadhar-enabled Payment System (AePS) touchpoint operators by lenders, in order to prevent frauds.

The proposals focus on streamlining the process for onboarding of AePS touchpoint operators and on-going due diligence, as per an official statement on the central bank website.

RBI has proposed that an acquiring bank shall carry out due diligence of all AePS touchpoint operators onboarded by it and also carry out updation of KYC

(Know Your Customer) in cases where an AePS touchpoint operator has not performed any financial transaction for a continuous period of six months.

It also asks the NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India) and acquiring banks to ensure that any AePS touchpoint operator is onboarded only by one acquiring bank.

On the ongoing due diligence front, it asks for transaction limits to be set for AePS touchpoint operators based on their risk profile and transactions by AePS to be consistent with their location of operation and risk profile. — PTI

Work on to develop bullet trains with indigenous tech: Vaishnaw

NEW DELHI, JULY 31 The country is working on developing bullet trains with indigenous technology, Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Wednesday.

He said in the Lok Sabha that the bullet train project, first of which is under construction between Ahmedabad and Mumbai, is very complex technologically and is being implemented with the help of Japan.

"Bullet train project is a very complex and technology intensive project.

Considering the highest level of safety and associated maintenance protocols, bullet train project has been



Ashwini Vaishnaw

works of civil structures, track, electrical, signalling and telecommunication and supply of train sets," he said during Question Hour.

The total distance the bullet train will cover between the two western cities will be 508 km of which work in 320 km stretch has been going on in full swing, he said.

He said that work in the Maharashtra portion had slowed down but it picked up after the BJP-Shiv Sena government came to power in 2022 and all relevant permissions have been received from the state government.

"Now, work is going on very speedily," he said. — PTI

Maruti Suzuki Q1 net profit jumps 47%

CHANDIGARH, JULY 31 The country's largest carmaker, Maruti Suzuki, reported a 46.9 per cent year-on-year (YoY) increase in standalone profit for the June quarter, reaching Rs 3,650 crore. This was broadly on account of cost reduction efforts, favourable commodity prices and foreign exchange. In the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, the net profit was Rs 2,485 crore.

During the quarter, the passenger vehicle maker registered net sales of Rs 33,875 crore as against Rs 30,845 crore in quarter one of FY 2023-24.

It sold 5,21,868 vehicles during the quarter. — TNS



Paris 2024



Top 5 Medal tally

COUNTRY	Gold	Silver	Bronze	TOTAL
CHINA	8	6	2	16
AUSTRALIA	7	4	3	14
JAPAN	7	3	4	14
FRANCE	6	9	7	22
G BRITAIN	6	6	5	17
INDIA (38TH)	0	0	2	2

Indians in action

LIVE ON SPORTS18 IST

SPORT	Event	Time
ARCHERY	Men's individual 1/32 elimination round	
	Pravin Jadhav vs Kao Wenchao (China)	2:30pm
BOXING	Women's 50kg Round of 16	
	Nikhil Zareen vs Yu Wu (China)	2:30pm
GOLF	Men's individual Round 1	
	Gaganjeet Bhullar, Shubhankar Sharma	12:30pm
HOCKEY	Men's Pool B	
	India vs Belgium	1:30pm

Pic of the day



France and Britain hogged the triathlon spotlight as Cassandra Beaugrand delivered a decisive gold for the hosts in the women's race while Alex Yee pipped New Zealand's Hayden Wilde for an amazing victory in the men's event. REUTERS

Quick notes

Kusale enters 50m rifle 3 positions final
Indian shooter Swapnil Kusale on Wednesday qualified for the finals of 50m rifle 3 positions here after finishing seventh in the qualification round but Aishwary Tomar ended at the 11th position to make an exit. Kusale shot 198 (99, 99) in kneeling position, 197 (98, 99) in prone and 195 (98, 97) in standing position as top eight shooters in a field of 44 made it to the final round.



Confident Lovlina advances to quarters
Tokyo Olympics bronze-winner Lovlina Borgohain (75kg) began her quest for a second successive Games medal confidently as she out-punched Norway's Sunniva Hofstad in her opening bout. Borgohain prevailed 5-0 in the contest and she is now just one win away from adding to her Tokyo bronze, which was claimed in the 69kg category, and achieve a feat that is unprecedented in Indian boxing. But her path is not an easy one as she will take on top-seeded Chinese Li Qian in the last-eight stage on August 4. A win in this bout would ensure at least a bronze medal for her.

Manika ousted, Sreeja lone Indian in singles
Manika Batra's splendid run came to an end with a defeat against higher-ranked Japanese Miu Hirano, hours after her compatriot Sreeja Akula celebrated her birthday by reaching the women's singles pre-quarterfinals in the table tennis competition. Seasoned Manika had become the first Indian to progress to the Round of 16 at Olympic Games on Monday and Sreeja joined her in the pre-quarterfinals with a 4-2 win over Singapore's Jian Zeng. Up against Miu, who has been in tremendous form, Manika lost 6-11 9-11 14-12 8-11 7-11 in the pre-quarterfinals. Manika enjoyed healthy lead in two of the games but Miu upped her game with pacy strokes to deny the Indian more history. Earlier in the day, Sreeja rallied to progress to pre-quarterfinal with 9-11 12-10 11-4 11-5 10-12 12-10 win.



After reaching pre-quarters, four-time Olympian Deepika says she's competing only against herself

CHASING PERFECT 10

Deepika Kumari edged past Estonia's Reena Parnat before comfortably beating Netherlands' Quinty Roeffen. AP/PTI

ROHIT MAHAJAN IN PARIS

THE Netherlands' Quinty Roeffen, 18 years old but looking like 16, can't stop gushing over her conqueror from India. "Oh, Kumari! She's a great archer," says Quinty. "I know about her! She's competing in her fourth Olympics. I watched a documentary about her, I admire her. It was a privilege to shoot against her, unfortunately I lost."

Deepika Kumari, the object of the young Quinty's awe, grins happily when she learns the kid she beat is her fan — it's not every day that your opponent watches a documentary about you before competing against you at the Olympics.

Quinty, unfortunately, crumbled under pressure after beginning strongly — she had a 9, 9, 10 in the first set, but Deepika won the set and two points for it by hitting bullseye twice — 10, 10, 9.

Quinty then turned the tables — 10, 10, 9 against Deepika's 9, 9, 9; the rookie had tightened the screws on the veteran, the score was tied 2-2.

Quinty, sensing an opportunity against the fabled Kumari, couldn't control the throbbing of her heart. "I felt the pressure and became nervous," she said later.

The teenager fumbled, the arrow didn't fly off the

string, there was no thud on the board that stood 70 metres away — Quinty registered a 0. That broke her, Deepika won the set easily and led 4-2. In the fourth set, Deepika shot 10, 9, 9;

Quinty had 7, 6, 10, and it was all over for her.

How did the poor girl explain that brilliant final shot that earned her 10 full points? "I knew I had lost the match and I was no longer nervous. I was fearless. I nothing to lose."

Hopelessness made her brave; it's hope that makes an archer or a shooter nervous and unsteady and fearful — as in sport, so in life.

Deepika herself could feel her heart leaping to her mouth in the previous match, the Round of 64 encounter with Reena Parnat. Some brilliant and some average shooting by Deepika, and the score was 3-3 after the third set; Deepika then began with a 7 in the

fourth set, which Reena took for a 5-3 lead. Deepika's response? A perfect set — 10, 10, 10 for 5-5, and a shootoff to decide the winner. Deepika hit 9 and Reena 8 — the Indian managed to evade a knockout blow.

"My heart was throbbing, my heartbeat was very rapid," said Deepika. She says in her sport, she's competing only against herself: "You're trying your best to get 30 points, which is the maximum you can get in a set (three shots each). You're fighting against yourself." The opponent doesn't thwart you physically — she does it mentally. "What happens is that your opponent gets a 10, you're motivated to shoot a 10, too. And that

makes you nervous. That makes your heart race. I had to tell myself to keep calm, follow the processes."

Breathe in. Pause. Breathe out. Pause. Repeat. Shoot.

Deepika was able to do that today. She must do this again two days later, when she meets Germany's Michelle Kroppen, winner of bronze at Tokyo 2020, in the pre-quarterfinals. The same day, Bhajan Kaur, the-18-year old from Haryana, would take on Diananda Choirunisa in the pre-quarterfinals.

"Do pray for me!" says Deepika as she flexes the right arm to show her tattoo, the image of a woman with a bow and quiver of arrows on her back. "Do pray!"

Sindhu reaches knockouts with ruthless win

ROHIT MAHAJAN
Tribune News Service
PARIS, JULY 31
PV Sindhu, two-time Olympics medalist, handed a lesson to Estonia's Kristin Kuuba in their round-robin pool match to top Group M and sail into the pre-quarterfinals. Though she didn't quite need it, Sindhu was egged on by a sizeable Indian presence in the stands, who urged to her insistently: "Go India go!" Sindhu did go on to win the match, rather easily, at 21-5 21-10.

Kristin is 27 and she's been around, but she'd never played Sindhu before. She was stung by Sindhu's power, surprised by her reach. "She was able to reach up to make returns," she said. "Also, her smashes were very powerful — very fast." Kristin, a tall, statuesque woman who seems to be a supreme athlete, knew she was not quite in the same league as the Indian.

Sindhu knew that, too. "Even if I was confident, it was important for me to display my game and finish it off," she said. "I can't take it easy — I had to top the group. I had to be at my best. I had to see how the court conditions were. It was a good game, I now have to prepare for the next match."

The way Sindhu spoke about the game — her wish to gauge the court conditions, top the group, to prepare for the next game — she seemed to be talking about a sparring session with a friend. And it indeed turned out to be not much more than a light sparring session with a non-threatening friend, lasting just 48 minutes.

Next up for Sindhu would be a highly-threatening player, He Bingjiao; Sindhu had

Ready for knockout punch



PV Sindhu beat Estonia's Kristin Kuuba 21-5 21-10; Below: Lakshya Sen decimated world No. 3 Jonatan Christie of Indonesia for a 21-18 21-12 win. PTI



beaten He in the bronze medal match at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021. "It won't be an easy match," Sindhu said. "It's the elimination round, so it would be tough. There won't be any easy points. There would be long rallies. I have to be at my best. I have to be at my best physically and mentally."

Sindhu trails He 9-11 in their career, the last time they met, at the Asian Games last year, He won 21-16 21-12

in the quarterfinals. Sindhu knows she has a fight on her hands in the first knockout match at Paris. "There won't be an easy match now on," she said. "I want a medal, but it's one match at a time."

Sen on target
Lakshya Sen too entered the pre-quarterfinals, decimating world No. 3 Jonatan Christie of Indonesia for a 21-18 21-12 win in their Group L match. Christie made a high num-

ber of errors, especially in the second game; it seems he may have been unable to come to terms with the draught in the hall — which Sindhu talked about — which made the shuttle travel faster from one side of the court. He hit long or wide far too many times in the second game after the first game saw a tight contest.

"It was a really tough match today. I'm happy with the way I played, especially in the first set," said Sen. "I took an early lead and found my rhythm quickly, and then it was a matter of a few points at the end and I just stuck in there."

In the second game, Christie quickly turned desperate, and that made him strike without control. "I tried to be brave to press harder but several times my shots went wide," he said.

In the pre-quarterfinals, Sen would probably play compatriot HS Prannoy, who was scheduled to face Vietnam's Le Duc Phat late on Wednesday in their Group K match.

Is Paris burning?

Players, fans adapt to heatwave that is hitting much of France

ROHIT MAHAJAN
Tribune News Service
PARIS, JULY 31
A famous German seems to have asked this question of his commander during the World War II in 1944. The question may have been slightly premature — 80 years, it can be said that Paris is burning, for it's been oppressively hot. The Olympics are in town and sportsfans and fans from across the world have followed them to Paris, and all of them seem surprised by the heat in the capital. The buses and Metro coaches of Paris don't seem ready for the heat — it gets quite hot in these, with only a small vent to let fresh air in.

India's hockey players talked about the conditions yesterday. "Such a hot day," said Sukhjeet Singh, who's from Punjab and knows a thing or two about the north Indian summer.

PV Sindhu has noticed the heat, too. "The conditions keep changing, today was OK, yesterday was superhot," she said. "We have fans in the rooms! For me, personally it's fine... I've been playing for a long time, I'm fine."

Man from Israel
Misha Zilberman, a 35-year-old badminton player from Israel, crushed Nepal's Prince Dahal in their round-robin stage match. He was asked about Israel and military and conflict and the security situation — but he was determined not to bite the bait. "Let's don't talk about it! But security,

I'm feeling safe, no problems here," he said. Next question: Have your done your compulsory military service? "Only sport!"

Is he walking freely in the Olympics village, without an escort? "Everything freely! In Paris, we can walk free. Everything good." "But no politics, please... We're Israelis," he may well have added.

Watch your bag
Locals and visitors warn you of the danger lurking in the public, particularly in public transport — pickpockets!

An Indian journalist recounts the tale he's been telling to whoever is listening — how, travelling on the Paris Metro, his backpack was opened by a sly-fingered operator and a pullover removed. "The next thing to go would have been a bag containing my passport and money," he says. The loss of a pullover has made him smarter — "I always wear the backpack on the front rather than the back... And it's always locked when I'm using public transport."

Ruouxuan Zhang, a journalist with China's Xinhua agency, is upset with the local police. "My friend was targeted by pickpockets, and he lost money and documents," says Ruouxuan. "He went to the cops and was told they could do nothing! And why? Well they don't have CCTV in too many areas because of concerns about people's privacy! And what about public safety?"

Dhankhar defends RSS in Rajya Sabha, says it has unimpeachable credentials

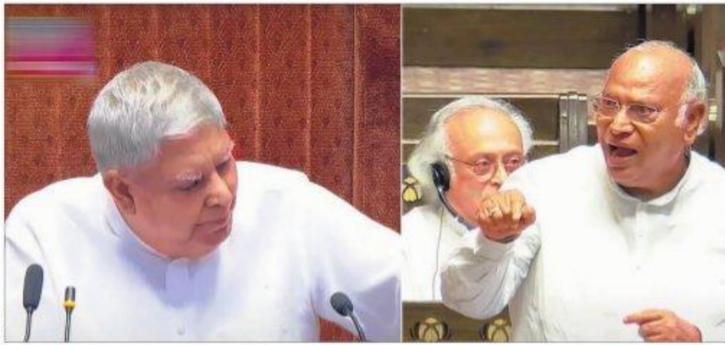


ADITI TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 31
Vice-President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Wednesday backed the RSS, the ruling BJP's ideological mentor, saying the organisation had unimpeachable credentials and it was unconstitutional to suggest that its members could not participate in India's growth story.

Dhankhar's remarks came after Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge objected to the Chairman interrupting a Samajwadi Party member from mentioning RSS unfavourably during question hour.

The question being discussed was the poor handling of entrance exams by the NTA and SP's Lalji Suman said, "For them (the government), the sole crite-



LoP Mallikarjun Kharge speaks as Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar conducts proceedings in the Rajya Sabha.

MHA MAKES DoPT ORDER PUBLIC

■ The MHA on Wednesday made public (hosted on its website) the Department of Personnel and Training July 9 order removing the ban on government servant participation in activities of the RSS and affiliated organisations

■ Earlier, the MP High Court had asked for Centre's stance on a plea challenging the November 30, 1966, order of the Centre that provided for disciplinary action against central government employees taking part in RSS activities

■ It was as part of this court proceeding that the DoPT lifted the ban from RSS

ria for judging anyone's merit is whether he is an RSS member or not."

When Dhankhar asked Suman not to politicise the exam issue, Kharge remarked that the chair could interject if MPs transgress rules and that none had been transgressed by Suman.

At this point, Dhankhar gave a ruling, saying, "I hereby rule that RSS is an organisation that has full constitutional rights to participate in the development journey of this nation. This organisation bears unimpeachable credentials and comprises people deeply

committed to serving the nation selflessly. To take exception that a member of this organisation cannot participate in the development journey of this nation is not only unconstitutional but beyond rules."

The Rajya Sabha Chairman went on to say it was

"soothing to note that RSS has been contributing to national welfare, culture and everyone should take pride in any organisation acting like this."

"If I take exception like this, it is indicative of undemocratic situations and such comments (as made by Suman) are antithetical to the Preamble of the Constitution...We are doing great disservice to the nation and the Constitution by taking such a divisive stance," Dhankhar added.

He said people were increasingly engaging in divisive activities and this needed to be deprecated by all.

"This is a pernicious design, a sinister mechanism to run down the growth of the country. Attempts are being made to tarnish our constitutional institutions...I have taken into consideration constitutional essence, rules of the House, while making my ruling," the Chairman said.

He said any observation (as Suman made) is "not only offensive to the Constitution but also to the growth trajectory of the nation."

Sustain momentum created in LS poll, Sonia tells Cong MPs

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 31
Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chairperson Sonia Gandhi on Wednesday reminded Congress MPs about the impending Assembly elections in four states and said they must sustain the momentum and goodwill that had been generated for the Congress in the Lok Sabha elections.

While Assembly polls are slated to take place in Maharashtra, Haryana and Jharkhand during the next six months, poll for electing the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly is also due.

"We must not become complacent and over-confident. The 'mahaul' (prevailing conditions) does favour us, but we have to work unitedly with a sense of purpose. I dare say that if we perform well, reflecting the trend that we witnessed in the Lok Sabha elections, national politics will undergo a transformation", the Congress leader said.

Congress put up an impres-



CPP chairperson Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi on Wednesday. ANI

sive show in the Lok Sabha elections, improving its seat share to 99 from 52 in 2019. The INDIA bloc, led by Congress, won 30 of 40 seats in Maharashtra and 43 of 80 seats in Uttar Pradesh. The BJP is in power in both these states, but failed to do well in the General Election.

Sonia Gandhi said education has been amongst the worst casualties in the past years. Instead of taking the nation forward, the entire educational system is looking flawed and manipulated under the Modi regime, she said.

Govt wants to end coaching culture: Education Minister

NEW DELHI, JULY 31
Union Education Minister Dhamendra Pradhan today said that the government wants to end the coaching culture in India.

Addressing Parliament, he said that the National Testing Agency (NTA) is accountable to the students and the government is committed to ending the pervasive coaching culture.

"Be it NTA or any instrument of the government, it is accountable in every way, inside and outside Parliament, up to the level of CAG audit. In the past six years, more than five crore students took up 250 exams conducted by NTA. The quality of education should be such that there is no need for coaching centres. Kendriya Vidyalaya and Navodaya Vidyalaya are examples of quality education. We have to bring our students out of the world of coaching centres, it should be done legally and by bringing social change," Pradhan said.

Pradhan also noted significant advancements in medical education, stating that the number of MBBS seats in the country has more than doubled from 51,000 in 2014 to 1,10,000 at present. — TNS

SC confirms order staying Gawli's release

NEW DELHI, JULY 31
"So ja beta, nahi toh Gabbar aa jayega." Quoting the oft-remembered dialogue from the blockbuster 'Sholay', the Supreme Court on Wednesday "confirmed" its earlier order staying the premature release of gangster-turned-politician Arun Gawli who is serving life imprisonment in a murder case.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Dipankar Datta made absolute its June 3 order staying the operation of the April 5 order of the Bombay High Court's Nagpur Bench and posted the appeals for hearing on November 20.

The High Court had directed state authorities to consider Gawli's application for premature release under the 2006 remission policy. — PTI

Budget has taken all sectors into consideration: FM

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 31
Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said the Budget has taken into consideration all sectors of the economy and every state has been allocated sufficient funds.

Replying to the discussions on the Budget in the Rajya Sabha, Sitharaman tried to answer the criticisms levelled at Budget proposals by the Opposition parties and said she tried to strike a balance between various aspects of growth.

On the controversial Agniveer scheme, mentioned by Congress leader and former Union Finance Minister P Chidambaram in his speech, Sitharaman said the scheme would help keep the armed forces of India battle-ready and young.



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speaking in the Rajya Sabha.

"One of the expected outcomes of the scheme is that armed forces will have a much younger force by recruiting those in the age group of 17-21 years," Sitharaman said, brushing aside the Opposition's criticism of the scheme.

"I don't think there is a need for us to unnecessarily worry that this is causing some kind of distortion. Not at all. It is with the acceptance of the armed forces that

it has been brought in," Sitharaman said.

"Agniveer is a scheme which we brought in with great sense of commitment to keep our armed forces battle-ready and for young and fit people to get into the Army," she added.

The Finance Minister informed the Rajya Sabha that the total expenditure outlined in the Budget statement amounts to Rs 48.12 lakh crore. She also

UPA-II INTRODUCED NEET: SITHARAMAN

Amid the DMK demand to scrap NEET, the medical entrance examination conducted by the NTA, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told Parliament that NEET was introduced by UPA-II and Gandhi Selvan was the then MoS for Health and Family Welfare

noted that this figure is Rs 54,744 crore higher than the interim Budget.

She highlighted that the capital expenditure allocation over 10 years under the UPA government was Rs 13.19 lakh crore, whereas under the NDA government up to 2024, it has reached Rs 43.82 lakh crore.

Sitharaman stated that the Budget allocates Rs 1.52 lakh crore to agriculture and allied sectors, an increase of

Rs 8,000 crore from the previous year. She contrasted this with the 2013-14 Budget under the UPA government, which allocated only Rs 30,000 crore.

The Budget proposed unflinching support to cooperative federalism, funds to states stand at Rs 22.91 lakh crore in FY25, up 2.49 lakh crore YoY, she highlighted.

She added that India is on track to attain a target of 4.5 per cent fiscal deficit by FY26.

"The Budget strikes a fine balance between growth, employment, capital investment and fiscal consolidation, among others," she said.

The Finance Minister termed as misleading claims by Opposition leaders that if any state is not named in the Budget speech, then it does not get any budgetary allocation.

Ex-Health Secy Sudan is UPSC chairperson

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 31
President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday accepted the resignation of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Chairman Manoj Soni and appointed Commission member Preeti Sudan as his successor. She will assume charge on Thursday. Sudan will hold the position till further orders or till April 29, 2025, whichever is earlier.

A former Union Health Secretary, Sudan is an IAS officer of 1983 batch from the Andhra Pradesh-cadre. She retired as Union Health Secretary in July 2020.

She led the ministry during the peak Covid situation and has vast experience of 37 years across all

spheres of government administration.

Sudan earlier served in the women and child development and defence ministries. While serving in the state administration, she handled finance and planning, tourism and agriculture. She has done MPhil in economics and MSc in social policy and planning from the London School of Economics.

Sudan has a role in the initiation of two major flagship programmes of the country — Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Ayushman Bharat, besides a legislation on the National Medical Commission, Allied Health Professionals Commission and ban of e-cigarettes. She had joined as member, UPSC on November 29, 2022.

1.9L complaints of rape, child pornography on portal

NEW DELHI, JULY 31
About 1.94 lakh complaints regarding child pornography and rape or gang rape had been registered on the government's National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP) till April 30, Union Minister Annapurna Devi said on Wednesday.

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha, the Women and Child Development Minister said since its inception, the NCRP has received over 16.18 crore visitors.

"As of April 30, 2024, approximately 1.94 lakh complaints regarding child pornography and rape or gang rape have been reported," she said.

Till March 31, more than 69.05 lakh cyber tipline reports had been shared with the relevant states and Union Territories, she said.

According to the minister, the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS-112) is operational in all 36 states and Union Territories and had handled more than 36.29 crore calls till April 30, with more than 14.36 lakh downloads of the '112 India' mobile app.

The integration of the Women's Helpline (WHL-



181) with ERSS is functional in 35 states and Union Territories. Over 76.02 lakh women had sought helpline assistance till May 31.

Monitoring centres for the Vehicle Tracking Platform (VTP) have been commissioned in 11 states and Union Territories, enhancing the tracking and safety of public transport, Devi said.

Under the Integrated Emergency Response Management System (IERMS) project, CCTV systems have been installed in 489 railway stations nationwide. Additionally, 2,034 tabs have been procured and distributed to Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel to assist women travelling alone or those in need of help on trains, she said.

An AI-based Facial Recognition System (FRS) has been integrated with video surveillance systems at seven major railway stations for a pilot project, the minister said. — PTI

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2.	Clc Irigation Twell at Village Charatgarh (Lahar Mohalla) Behdala, Pehubela (Khuie) Charatgarh 924 Nos) Abada Barana, Jankour Khas, Basara, Kular Kalan Rampur and Nanga of Una Consiq in Distt Una (HP) SH- Survey Investigation work, Collection of revenue record for various Twells (Under Nabard) Job No.1.	Rs. 3,09,025/-	Rs. 9,994/-	Rs. 250/-	One Month	Class "C" and "D"
3.	Clc Irigation Twell at Village Charatgarh (Lahar Mohalla) Behdala, Pehubela (Khuie) Charatgarh 924 Nos) Abada Barana, Jankour Khas, Basara, Kular Kalan Rampur and Nanga of Una Consiq in Distt Una (HP) SH- Survey Investigation work, Collection of revenue record for various Twells (Under Nabard) Job No.2.	Rs. 4,99,700/-	Rs. 6,181/-	Rs. 250/-	One Month	Class "C" and "D"

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