



HAMAS MILITARY CHIEF KILLED IN JULY, SAYS ISRAEL **WORLD**



TERRORIST HIDEOUT BUSTED IN RAJOURI, ARMS SEIZED **J&K**



GST COLLECTION SOARS 10.3% TO ₹1.82 TRILLION IN JULY BUSINESS

INDIA EXTENDS \$300 MN CREDIT LINE TO VIETNAM **BACK PAGE**



FRIDAY | 2 AUGUST 2024

MONSOON MAYHEM IN NORTH

Cloudbursts claim four lives in Himachal; 49 missing

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, AUGUST 1 Four persons were killed while 49 are reported missing in three separate incidents of cloudburst in the Rampur area of Shimla, Nimand in Kullu and Chauhar Valley of Mandi late last night.

A total of 36 persons still remained untraceable from the Samej Khud near the Jhakri area of Rampur in Shimla district, where 22 houses were washed away by the gushing waters following a cloudburst at 12.15 am. "A rescue operation is being undertaken in an 85-km area, which has been divided into six parts," said Shimla DC Anupam Kashyap, while monitoring the operation. The number of people swept away is higher as the cloudburst took place when people were fast asleep.

One person died while nine are missing in the Nirmand area of Kullu, and of the 10 missing in Chauhar Valley, three bodies have been recovered. Rescue operations have been launched to trace those missing with the help of the NDRF, SDRF, police, local administration and villagers. Massive damage has been

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Rescue officials make an assessment following a cloudburst in the Rampur area of Shimla district on Thursday. PTI

12 die in U'khand; 1.5K on Kedarnath route rescued

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1 Torrential rain across parts of Uttarakhand claimed 12 lives, including three from a single family, and left several injured, stranded and missing.

Three members of a family — Bhanu Prasad (50), his wife Neelam Devi (45) and son Vipin (28) — were killed in a landslide that buried their roadside cafe after a cloudburst at Jakhanyali village of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



NDRF personnel during a rescue operation in Kedarnath on Thursday. PTI

National disaster: Rahul on South's Wayanad tragedy

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

Former Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi today termed Tuesday's landslides in the Kerala district a "national disaster" and sought a comprehensive action plan even as the administration said 190 persons had been confirmed dead and more than 200 missing.

The deceased included 27 children and 76 women, with 279 autopsies, including of body parts, conducted, and 107 bodies having been identified. "Till now, 100 body parts have been found from the debris. In all, 234 persons were admitted to hospitals and 92 are still undergoing treatment," said an official. Meanwhile, Rahul and his sister Priyanka Vadra reached Wayanad today. Union Minister George Kurian continued to oversee rehabilitation efforts, having landed two days ago. — TNS

11 PERISH IN NCR

Heavy rain in Delhi on Wednesday evening claimed the lives of 11 persons in the National Capital Region. The rainfall led to severe water-logging in various areas.



Bronze Bullet

Swapnil Kusale bags India's first Oly medal in 50m rifle 3 positions event

ROHIT MAHAJAN IN PARIS

PARIS 2024 MEDAL TALLY	
INDIA	00 00 03 03

SINDHU BOWS OUT

SWAPNIL Kusale, India's newest Olympic hero, speaks like a Zen master — the biggest day of his life, yet his mien is that of a man who's had a banal day, as if picking up an Olympic medal is part of his weekly routine.

It's not routine, of course, because Kusale today became the first Indian to win a medal, a bronze, in a 3 Positions category (50 metres) at the Olympic Games. Soon after winning the bronze, Kusale said his eyes were unseeing his competitors, his ears unhearing

the cheers for them. "I did not see the scoreboard. I did not see how the others were scoring, how I was doing," he said. "I could hear the sounds, the scores and cheers for the others, but I was ignoring that... Maine socha, sunna hi nahin hai... I was not going to listen to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Mann game for Paristrip, only if Modi allows

JYOTI MALHOTRA **TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE**

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 1 Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann is hoping he can fly to Paris in a day or so to encourage and root for the Indian hockey team — a large part of which are players from Punjab — that will play its first quarter-final match in the ongoing Olympics on August 4.

The catch is that the Chief Minister is still waiting for political clearance from the Ministry of External Affairs in Delhi, an essential prerequisite for travel by top-level political leaders.

In an exclusive conversation with *The Tribune* today, Mann said he wanted to fly to Paris on the night of August 3, so that he could reach in time to watch the Indian hockey team play the following day. "I want to encourage and cheer for the team. As many as 10 out of the 19 hockey players are from Punjab. I am so proud of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

States can sub-classify SCs, STs for quota: Apex court

SATYA PRAKASH **TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE**

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1 Holding that the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and the Scheduled Tribes (STs) were not homogenous groups, the Supreme Court on Thursday ruled that states could sub-classify the SCs and the STs to ensure greater reservation for some SC/ST groups over others in public employment and admission to government-run educational institutions.

"Article 14 of the Constitution permits sub-classification of a class, which is not

NOT ON GOVT'S WHIMS

By a 6:1 majority, a Constitution Bench, however, said such sub-classification could not be based on the whims of governments.



similarly situated for the purpose of the law. The court, while testing the validity of sub-classification, must

EXCLUDE CREAMY LAYER

A state must evolve a policy for identifying the creamy layer even among the SCs and STs so as to exclude it from the benefit of quota, the SC said. At present, the creamy layer criterion is applicable only to OBCs in order to exclude them from quota benefits, in terms of the 1992 nine-judge Constitution Bench verdict in the Indra Sawhney case. **BACK PAGE**

determine whether the class is a homogenous integrated **CONTINUED ON PAGE 11** **EDIT: QUOTA WITHIN QUOTA**

3 NHAI projects axed in Punjab: Gadkari in Parl

NITIN JAIN **TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE**

LUDHIANA, AUGUST 1 The termination of three national highway projects in Punjab echoed in Parliament, with Rajya Sabha MP Vikramjit Singh Sahney raising the issue on Wednesday.

Responding to his unstarred question whether the NHAI had, indeed, scrapped the projects costing Rs 3,303 crore over land

acquisition hurdles, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari confirmed that the projects had been terminated in Punjab due to non-availability of the requisite land.

On Sahney's further query whether the ministry had sent any proposal to the Punjab Government to take steps to continue the projects, Gadkari informed the Upper **CONTINUED ON PAGE 10**

UGC: Varsities can conduct exam to fill leftover CUET seats

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

Central universities can conduct their own entrance exams or admit students on the basis of marks in the qualifying exam if seats remain vacant in undergraduate and postgraduate courses after admissions through CUET, the UGC announced on Thursday. Keeping the seats vacant for an entire academic year was a waste of resources, it said. — TNS

Rao Inderjit stings own govt over Gurugram landfill



Rao Inderjit Singh during a visit to the Bandhwari landfill on Thursday.

SUMEDHA SHARMA **TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE**

GURUGRAM, AUGUST 1 Continuing with his rebellious stance against the state government on civic issues in Gurugram, BJP MP and MoS Rao Inderjit Singh has threatened to lead a protest in case a landfill in the city is not cleared by December.

Rao, who visited the Bandhwari landfill along with MCG officials today and

reviewed the ongoing waste treatment work there, was approached by local villagers. They called out officials, saying that they were lying about the progress of work. The villagers threatened to launch a dharna over the issue. Rao asked them to wait till December, saying that if the needful wasn't done by then, he would himself lead the protest. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 10**

ELEVATE YOUR EXPERTISE.

Join Our Ph.D Program Specially Designed For Working Executives & Academicians



MANAGEMENT | ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY | APPLIED SCIENCES
EDUCATION | MEDIA | ART & DESIGN | ARCHITECTURE | PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

At Chitkara University, we offer Doctoral programs which are meticulously designed to empower working professionals in academia, industry, or research and offer flexibility in scheduling and coursework, enabling a seamless balance between work commitments and academic pursuits. Collaborate with experienced faculty and mentors, forge connections with peers, unlocking networking opportunities and open doors to new career horizons, in academia, research, consultancy, or leadership roles within your industry. Join us to blend academic rigour with practical expertise, leveraging the resources of a distinguished research university and the guidance of top academic minds.

JOINT DOCTORAL PROGRAM with **DEAKIN UNIVERSITY**
In this unique program, Ph.D scholars will get opportunity to conduct research under the joint supervision of experts from both Universities and will have access to Deakin University's research labs in Australia. Upon completion, you will receive a Ph.D degree from both Universities and selected candidates will spend up to 12 months at Deakin University campus in Australia, based on performance and research progression.

A+ **NAAC** **nirf** **ARIIA** **THE IMPACT RANKINGS 2023** **RANKED AMONG THE WORLD'S BEST** **WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS** **QS World University Rankings | 2024**

For more information, call 95011 05633 or give a missed call on 1800 267 1999
CHITKARA UNIVERSITY CAMPUS | PUNJAB: CHANDIGARH-PATIALA NATIONAL HIGHWAY

Prasad gets regular charge of Chief Secy

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 1 TVSN Prasad was today given the regular charge of Haryana Chief Secretary after the retirement of incumbent Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal yesterday. Prasad has been holding the additional charge of Chief Secretary "during the leave period of Sanjeev Kaushal..." since March 15, 2024.

However, the state government, in a reshuffle of eight IAS and four HCS officers, failed to appoint the Financial Commissioner Revenue (FCR) apparently after a reported dispute over seniority of certain 1990-batch IAS officers. The FCR is the senior-most officer in the administrative hierarchy after the Chief Secretary. Till now, Prasad was also looking after the charge of FCR.

An order issued by the state government said, "Prasad has been posted as the Chief Secretary 'against a vacant post'. He will also look after the Departments of General Administration, Human Resources, Personnel and Training, Parliamentary Affairs, Vigilance and Secretary incharge of plan coordination. He will also be the Chief Resident Commissioner, Haryana Bhawan, New Delhi."

A 1988-batch IAS officer, Prasad had been looking after the state Home Department since August 2022 till recently when Anurag Rastogi was

WAS HOLDING ADDITIONAL CHARGE SINCE MARCH 15



■ A 1988-batch IAS officer, TVSN Prasad had been holding the additional charge of Chief Secretary 'during the leave period of incumbent Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal' since March 15

■ He had also been looking after the Home Department since August 2022 till Anurag Rastogi's appointment recently

■ In September 2023, the government had also given him the responsibility of Financial Commissioner Revenue.

Eight IAS, four HCS officers also shifted

appointed in his place. In September 2023, the government had also given him the responsibility of FCR. Meanwhile, the Haryana Government has issued posting and transfer orders of eight IAS and four HCS officers with immediate effect.

Mari Ram Sharma has been posted as Chief Executive Officer, Ayushman Bharat Haryana Health Protection Authority and Special Secretary, Home Department.

Yash Pal, Director, Urban Local Bodies, and Mission Director, State Urban Livelihood Mission and State Urban Development Authority, Haryana, has been given additional charge of Director, Consolidation of Land Holdings and Land Records, and Special Secretary, Revenue and Disaster Management Department.

Shaleen has been posted as Director, Tourism. Amna Tas-

neem has been posted as Managing Director, CONFED, and Secretary, Haryana State Commission for Scheduled Castes.

Ram Kumar Singh has been posted as District Municipal Commissioner, Ambala, and Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Ambala. Sangeeta Tatarwal has been posted as Labour Commissioner.

Neha Singh has been posted as Additional Resident Commissioner, Haryana Bhawan, New Delhi. Among HCS officers, Naveen Kumar Ahuja has been posted as Secretary, Haryana State Agricultural Marketing Board, Panchkula. Virender Chaudhary has been posted as Managing Director, Cooperative Sugar Mills, Shahabad. Inder Jeet has been posted as General Manager, Haryana Tourism Development Corporation and Rajiv Prasad as Joint Excise and Taxation Commissioner.

BJP to field 25% new faces in poll

PRADEEP SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 1 The ruling BJP is mulling fielding at least 25 per cent new faces in the upcoming Assembly elections as compared to the 2019 Assembly elections with several ministers and sitting MLAs likely to face the axe.

In an apparent bid to beat anti-incumbency, the saffron party is in the process of shortlisting the 'winnable' candidates for the Assembly elections. In fact, the 'report cards' of the ministers, sitting MLAs and the prospective candidates are being prepared by the party to assess the 'winnability' of ticket aspirants.

Certain ministers and sitting MLAs may not get re-nomination, sources said, adding that the winnability factor would be the only criteria for the allotment of party ticket.

BJP state president Mohan Lal Badoli confirmed that



ALL SITTING MLAS MAY NOT BE DROPPED

“The BJP will replace about 25 per cent of the 90 candidates who contested the 2019 polls to offer fresh choice to the electorate. However, that doesn't mean that all 41 sitting MLAs would be dropped.”

Mohan Lal Badoli, STATE BJP CHIEF

WINNABILITY ONLY CRITERIA

The 'report cards' of the ministers, sitting MLAs and the prospective candidates are being prepared by the party to assess the 'winnability' of ticket aspirants. Certain ministers and sitting MLAs may not get re-nomination, sources said, adding that the winnability would be the only criteria for the allotment of ticket

the saffron party would replace about 25 per cent of the 90 candidates, who contested the 2019 polls, to offer new choice to the electorate. "However, that does not mean that all 41 sitting MLAs would be dropped. The new

faces falling within 25 per cent category could well be from among the unsuccessful candidates in 2019 polls," Badoli quipped.

Currently, the party is depending on surveys and workers' and leaders' feed-

back to shortlist prospective candidates for the 90 Assembly seats. Later, a panel of candidates for each Assembly segment would be submitted to the Central Election Committee to take a final call on the selection of the candidates.

The sources said a majority of dropped candidates would be from the 46 Assembly segments in which the party tasted defeat in the recent Lok Sabha elections. Most of these Assembly segments fall in Ambala, Sonapat, Rohtak, Hisar and Sirsa parliamentary segments which were won by the opposition Congress.

The BJP is majorly focusing on the 44 Assembly seats in which the party maintained its lead over the Congress in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections. The next focus will be on those Assembly segments on which the victory margin of the Congress was very thin, the sources added.



Singer Rocky Mittal quits saffron party

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 1 Singer-composer Rocky Mittal who spiced up the BJP's election campaign through his audio-visual projects since 2012, has quit the saffron party.

In his resignation letter addressed to PM Modi, copies of which were also sent to BJP president JP Nadda, Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, CM Nayab Singh Saini and state BJP chief Mohan Lal Badoli, Mittal alleged that he was continuously being ignored by the party despite his 'selfless' work for the party.

Mittal alleged that false cases were registered against him during the past over four years to 'harass' him. — TNS

Surjewala slams BJP govt for failing to double income of farmers

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

Congress MP Randeep Singh Surjewala today criticised the Centre for not being able to fulfil the promise of doubling farmers' income by 2022. He said the government's promise to double the farmers' income by 2022 has turned out to be a 'jumble' as their earnings have actually gone down.

Initiating the discussion on the working of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare in the Rajya Sabha, Surjewala alleged that the income of farmers has rather come down in some states. He said the budgetary allocation for agriculture has also been slashed.

"The Narendra Modi-led government had promised to double the income of farmers by 2022, but the opposite has happened. The 37th Standing Committee on Agriculture accepted that the income of farmers has decreased," Surjewala said.

"Farmers only earn Rs 27 per day. The Committee said in the report that the department is far from doubling the income of farmers. Rather, in some states, it has come down," he said, quoting from the Standing Committee report.

He said the subsidy has been reduced by about Rs 25,000 crore for urea and Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilisers alone. In the past five years, the Centre did not spend Rs 1 lakh crore on the agriculture sector and on the contrary has "sur-rendered the amount".

Referring to PM Fasal Bima Yojana, Surjewala said between 2016-17 and June 30, 2024, the premium paid by farmers was Rs 2,29,789 crore and insurance companies earned a profit of Rs 63,648 crore.

"One lakh farmers died by suicide in the past 10 years. In the Modi government's regime, every day 31 farmers commit suicide. How do you (BJP) manage to sleep," he said. Surjewala also said the Modi government first brought three black farm laws (now revoked) and did not procure crops at MSP. — TNS

"The Narendra Modi-led government had promised to double the income of farmers by 2022, but the opposite has happened. The 37th Standing Committee on Agriculture accepted that the income of farmers has decreased," Surjewala said.

"Farmers only earn Rs 27 per day. The Committee said in the report that the department is

far from doubling the income of farmers. Rather, in some states, it has come down," he said, quoting from the Standing Committee report.

He said the subsidy has been reduced by about Rs 25,000 crore for urea and Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilisers alone. In the past five years, the Centre did not spend Rs 1 lakh crore on the agriculture sector and on the contrary has "sur-rendered the amount".

Referring to PM Fasal Bima Yojana, Surjewala said between 2016-17 and June 30, 2024, the premium paid by farmers was Rs 2,29,789 crore and insurance companies earned a profit of Rs 63,648 crore.

"One lakh farmers died by suicide in the past 10 years. In the Modi government's regime, every day 31 farmers commit suicide. How do you (BJP) manage to sleep," he said. Surjewala also said the Modi government first brought three black farm laws (now revoked) and did not procure crops at MSP. — TNS



Congress MP Randeep Singh Surjewala speaks in the Rajya Sabha during the monsoon session of Parliament. ■■

Sugarcane farmers reluctant to register crops on govt portal

PARVEEN ARORA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KARNAL, AUGUST 1 Sugarcane farmers in the district are showing reluctance in registering their crops on the "Meri Fasal Mera Byora" (MFMB) portal, a state government initiative aimed at ensuring transparency and providing various benefits to farmers on the sale of their produce.

Despite regular efforts by the Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department, farmers remain reluctant. As per official data, 12,524 acres has been registered so far, whereas the total sugarcane cultivation area spans nearly 40,000 acres in the district. Several farmers, especially those who have leased fields, have cited significant challenges in the current registration process. They said the registration system mandates a one-time password (OTP) for verification, which is sent to the field owner's registered mobile number, often causing delay and complications.

"The OTP is sent to the field owner's number. If the owner is busy or unable to share the



Say process complex for those who have leased land

OTP promptly, the registration gets delayed," said Kewal, a sugarcane farmer.

An official revealed that the government mandated MFMB registration for sugarcane sales last year, but the poor response forced the government to retract the directive. This year, the authorities have made the registration of crops on the MFMB portal mandatory, emphasising that only registered farmers will be eligible for sugarcane procurement.

Hunny, another farmer, said farmers were hoping that the

online registration process would be rolled back just like the last year. However, sources claimed the main reason behind the reluctance was the unholy nexus between arhtiyas, farmers and officials for illegal sale of paddy from other states in Karnal. They said certain arhtiyas in the district pay farmers for registering paddy instead of sugarcane so that can get the cheaper paddy from UP or PDS-rice smuggled from Bihar and other states in connivance with officials.

Officials from the department and sugar mills are now actively reaching out to farmers, urging them to complete their registrations by the August 5 deadline to ensure smooth processing and procurement of their produce.

"We have formed teams to reach out to farmers to assist them in registering their sugarcane crops as the government has made registration mandatory on the MFMB portal for procurement," said Hitender Sharma, Managing Director of Karnal Co-operative Sugar Mill.

Congress dividing society on caste lines, says Gujjar

RAVINDER SAINI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

REWARI, AUGUST 1 Agriculture Minister Kanwar Pal Gujjar has said the Congress intends to divide society on caste lines, hence it is persistently demanding a caste-based census while the BJP considers every caste equal and also believes in development of every caste and every person.

"All people wish an end to the caste system, but the Congress wants to promote it by flagging the issue of caste-based census. Earlier, it tried to divide the people on religious lines. When it did not succeed, it started to demand a caste census. All castes are equal for the BJP and it works to ensure that the last person could also avail the benefit of government schemes," said Gujjar while interacting with media

here on Thursday.

Accompanied by Public Health and Engineer Minister Dr Banwari Lal and BJP's Rewari district president Vandana Popli, the Agriculture Minister inaugurated Alaknanda Girls Hostel, Library and Examination Building at Agriculture College of Ch Charan Singh Agricultural Research Centre at Bawal town here.

Lambasting the Congress for describing the BJP as anti-farmer, Gujjar said the BJP had done what no other government ever could do for the welfare of farmers. "The BJP government is currently procuring 14 crops at the minimum support price (MSP) while farmers of neighbouring state Punjab are getting the MSP only for two crops. Farmers are being misled by the Opposition," he added.

Earlier, Gujjar while addressing the gathering at the inaugural function said the state government was ensuring the progress of farmers through new initiatives.

"Under the Khet-Khalihan Road Scheme, the government has streamlined the traffic system and connectivity in the villages so that farmers do not face any problem in taking their produce to the markets. CM Nayab Singh Saini is well aware of the struggles and problems of farmers, hence he is constantly ensuring the implementation of government schemes so as to provide the farmers get the maximum benefit of these," said the minister. He claimed the power of research would help Haryana to move towards good farming. The farmers should also innovate and experiment in agriculture.



Agriculture Minister Kanwar Pal Gujjar felicitates a farmer in Rewari on Thursday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

HC raps MDU over notice to asst prof

SUNIT DHAWAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, AUGUST 1 The Punjab and Haryana High Court has issued a notice to the administration of Maharshi Dayanand University (MDU), Rohtak, on a petition filed by a woman teacher. The notice of motion was issued for September 27 by High Court Justice Tribhuvan Dahiya while hearing a petition filed by Vanita Rose, a faculty member at MDU.

The petitioner stated that Dr Menka, whose appointment as teacher was quashed by the court, had filed a complaint against Rose with the university, alleging that while pursuing PhD, Rose also did MSc from distance education.

A committee was constituted to inquire into the complaint, which concluded in its report that Rose had violated "PhD Ordinance" and "General

Restrains varsity from taking action without its permission

Rules of Examinations" of the university. The MDU authorities issued a show-cause notice to Rose, asking her to respond as to why action be not taken for pursuing two degrees simultaneously.

"Since the petitioner was given appointment pursuant to directions issued by this court and challenge thereto stands declined, it is not open to the university to question the petitioner's qualification or appointment," stated the order. The judge said the university could take a decision on the show-cause notice after considering the petitioner's response, but no action on that basis shall be taken without leave (permission) of the court.

In Kejriwal's absence, AAP struggles to gather poll steam

DEEPENDER DESWAL
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

HISAR, AUGUST 1 Trying to create a buzz in the upcoming Assembly elections, the ongoing campaign of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) seems to be struggling to gather steam in the state dominated by caste politics.

With its intensive campaign, coined as 'Badlav Jan Samvad', the party is going to the people with the newly established organisational set-up in Haryana. However, on the ground, the enthusiasm seems to be missing with AAP workers minus popular "aam aadmi topis" at the party meetings trying to project Arvind Kejriwal as the party's face with signature song "Haryana ke laal ne, ek mauka Kejriwal ne" playing in the background. Kejriwal is a native of Siwani mandi town of Bhiwani district.

With the Delhi Chief Minister and AAP national convenor behind bars in the alleged



Even the presence of AAP MP Sanjay Singh, Delhi CM's wife Sunita Kejriwal, Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann and several other prominent leaders hasn't been able to turn the tide in the party's favour. FILE

liquor scam, AAP is certainly struggling to find its mojo. Even though AAP has put its star leaders, including Kejriwal's wife Sunita, Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh, at the forefront in the campaign in Haryana, Kejriwal's absence is hurting the party.

Mann kick-started AAP's

campaign from the Barwala segment in Hisar on July 26. The party has organised about 12 public meetings in six Assembly segments so far. Punjab Minister Anmol Gagan Maan also addressed a meeting in the Guhla assembly segment in Kaithal.

Despite this, AAP is finding it difficult to mobilise people

in the public meetings. "We have an organisational structure up to the ward level in urban areas and village level in rural areas. The cadre strength however needs to be converted into the electoral strength," said a party worker.

"The senior party workers from Punjab have been deployed in Haryana. There

LACKLUSTRE SHOW

■ In 2014 LS elections, AAP contested all 10 seats and polled 4.25 per cent votes in Haryana, though it won four seats in neighbouring Punjab, securing 24.5 per cent votes

■ In 2019 Assembly poll, AAP contested 46 seats and polled just below 1 per cent of votes

■ In 2024 Lok Sabha poll, INDIA bloc candidate Sushil Gupta (AAP) lost by 29,021 votes in Kurukshetra

■ In 2022 Zila Parisad poll, AAP won five of 28 seats in Sirsa, and one seat each in Fatehabad and Jind

said though AAP was trying to find a foothold in Haryana and hoping to cash in on being in power in two adjoining states - Delhi and Punjab - the party had little advantage. "In the Assembly elections, the electorate assesses which of the parties are in the contest. AAP is not in the main contest in Haryana as of now. It even lost from Kurukshetra despite being in alliance with the Congress," Prof Kumar said, adding that even attempting to strike a chord by hyping Kejriwal's "Haryana connection" was unlikely to turn its fortunes.

However, AAP state secretary Umesh Sharma said the AAP government's credentials in education and health sectors had caught the people's fancy, especially weaker sections, in Haryana. "During the Siksha Samvad Yatra, we realised people of the state want better education for their children. Health is also their top priority," he said.



Mhara Haryana

Non-Stop Haryana

We Haryanvis

Drive on ultra-modern highways now

40 highways and expressways pass through Haryana

Construction of Ambala-Kotputli Greenfield Corridor (152-D) completed at a cost of ₹10,646 crore

The construction of 1350 km long national highways at a cost of ₹40,000 crore over the last 10 years

Ongoing construction of 11 new national highways totalling 1069 km

**Double Engine Government
Modern Roads Continuous**





Standing cotton crop in Kabrel village of Hisar district. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Govt notifies insurance scheme for kharif crops

DEEPENDER DESWAL
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

HISAR, AUGUST 1
The Haryana Government has finally roped in two insurance firms for insurance of the kharif crops under the PMFBY during the ongoing season in the state. The insurance firms had backed out from two clusters due to consistent losses to the farmers, which resulted in huge claims.

The state government has notified the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in the state for Kharif 2024 and Rabi 2025-26 in clusters two and three. HDFC EGRO General Insurance and Reliance General Insurance have been assigned clusters two and three, respectively, for crop insurance.

The insurance firms backed out in 2023 kharif and rabi 2024 season in cluster two, which comprises districts of Ambala, Karnal, Sonapat, Hisar, Jind, Mahendergarh and Gurugram. Farmers have been agitating in Hisar for about a year demanding the release of the compensation to the affected cotton growers for the crop failure in 2022 and 2023 (when the insurance firm refused to implement

FARMERS AWAIT RELIEF FOR CROP DAMAGE

The insurance firms backed out in 2023 kharif and rabi 2024 season in cluster two, which comprises districts of Ambala, Karnal, Sonapat, Hisar, Jind, Mahendergarh and Gurugram

Farmers have been agitating in Hisar for about a year demanding the release of the compensation to the affected cotton growers for the crop failure in 2022 and 2023

the scheme even after deduction of premium of farmers). The insurance firm even returned the premium to farmers later.

According to the government notification, in the current kharif season, farmers can get their paddy, bajra, maize, cotton and moong insured with the insurance firm. The cluster three comprises Yamunanagar, Panipat, Palwal, Bhiwani, Fatehabad, Jhajjar, Mewat and Charkhi Dadri.

Dr Rajbir Singh, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Hisar, said insurance of the crops has started from today in the districts. The farmers can get their crops insured as per the existing procedure for indemnity.

Shots fired over taking control of Sirsa's Dera Jagmalwali as head passes away

ANIL KAKKAR

SIRSA, AUGUST 1
Hours after the demise of Dera Jagmalwali head Bahadur Chand Vakil and even before his cremation could take place, violence broke out at the socio-religious organisation's premises here on Thursday evening over taking its control.

The dera chief passed away in the morning at a private hospital in Delhi and his body was taken to the dera for cremation. However, the situation turned tense when two factions fought over the timing of the cremation, with one group wanting it performed at the earliest.

The verbal spat soon turned into a violent clash, with firing being exchanged between the rival groups. Sources said the dera resembled a battleground and there was a free for all till the police arrived. One of the shooters was detained while others fled.

Sources said a few dera followers, including Virendra Singh, Balkour Singh, Shamsheer Lahri and Nandlal Grover, were in a hurry to



Former MP Ashok Tanwar pays tribute to Dera Jagmalwali head Bahadur Chand Vakil in Sirsa.

cremate Bahadur Chand Vakil. This led to suspicion in the other faction that an attempt was being made to take over the dera. A few followers alleged that the dera chief had died three days ago, but the news was kept a secret due to a conspiracy.

The announcement of the death was made at 9.55 am and the cremation was

scheduled within five minutes at 10 am, which led to resentment. Some followers insisted that such a revered leader deserved a more respectful funeral, following which the cremation was postponed to 1 pm on Friday.

A police spokesperson said no FIR had been registered. Reports also suggested that ADGP M Ravi Kiran was

expected to intervene in the matter. Superintendent of Police Deepti Garg has been monitoring the situation.

As soon as people received the news of Bahadur Chand Vakil's death, there was a rush to reach the dera. People from various political parties too arrived to pay their last respects. Among others, Ashok Tanwar of the BJP and

Cong MLA Panwar sent to 14-day judicial custody

AMBALA, AUGUST 1

The court of Special Judge, Ambala, under the PMLA sent Sonapat MLA Surender Panwar to 14-day judicial custody on Thursday.

He was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with his alleged involvement in illegal mining activities. The Congress MLA was produced before the court after the completion of his extended custody. The ED had sought a two-day extension in his custody, however the court refused the further extension and sent him to judicial custody.

The ED in its application submitted to the court, said the investigation was incomplete and a few aspects were yet to be covered in furtherance of which it was important to examine the accused further.

The central agency prayed that due to the ongoing investigation and summoning of other related persons by the directorate to take their statements on record, take investigation towards its logical conclusion and also to prevent any sort of tampering with the material evidences, it was in the interest of justice to extend the period of sustained interrogation of the accused. — TNS

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT-2)

1st Floor, S.C.O. 33-34-35, Sector 17 A, Chandigarh (Additional space allotted on 3rd & 4th Floors also)

(SUMMONS UNDER SUB SECTION (4) OF THE SECTION 19 OF THE ACT, READ WITH SUB RULE 2(A) OF THE RULE 5 OF DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993

Exh. No. 22857, CASE No. OA/297/2024 Date: 07/05/2024

To, Central Bank of India Vs. Jai Bhagwan

(1) Mrs. Savita, VPO Dighai, Tehsil Beri, Distt. Jhajjar, Haryana-124507

Also at: W/o Jai Bhagwan VPO Dighai, Tehsil Beri, Distt. Jhajjar, Haryana-124507

Also at: H.No. 1206, Gali No. 5, Adarsh Nagar Colony, Bahadurgarh, Jhajjar, H-124507

WHEREAS, OA297/2024 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 07/05/2024.

WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 31,48,825/- (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).

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

(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;

(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;

(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;

(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of business any of the assets over which security interest is created or any other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;

(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

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

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this date: 10/05/2024

By Order of Tribunal Registrar, DRT-2, Chandigarh

Petition in HC seeks quashing of gallantry award notification

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 1

A petition has been filed with the Punjab and Haryana High Court seeking the quashing of Haryana Government's notification dated July 2, which awarded gallantry honours to police officials involved in alleged "atrocities" against farmers.

The petitioners, representing the humanitarian group "Lawyers for Humanity," argued that the farmers were agitating against the "anti-farmer policies of the Government of India", and many farmers laid their lives while protesting. Several farmer organisations made a call for the agitation, and thousands of farmers moved towards the national capital in response to the call. However,

the Haryana Government blocked the national highway to prevent the farmers from reaching Delhi by erecting concrete barricades.

The petition argued that gallantry awards were meant to recognise acts of valor, typically in the fight against terrorism, not for actions involving atrocities against ordinary citizens. It was added that the actions of the Haryana Government and its DGP, in forwarding the names of the officers involved in "human rights violations and atrocities" against their own countrymen for gallantry awards, was unjust and violated the principles of the Indian Constitution. — TNS

DNA report of slain Kaithal youth's father sent to embassy in Moscow

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KARNAL, AUGUST 1

Family members of Ravi (22), a resident of Mator village in Kaithal who was allegedly killed on the Russian frontline, have sent the DNA report of his father Ram Niwas to the Indian Embassy in Moscow. Ravi's brother Ajay sent the report through mail to the embassy.

The Indian Embassy in Moscow had earlier confirmed Ravi's death in Russia in response to an email from Ajay. The embassy had initially asked for the DNA of Ravi's mother for identifica-

WILL RELEASE MORTAL REMAINS SOON: OFFICIALS

The Indian Embassy has assured the family members of Ravi, a resident of Mator village in Kaithal who was allegedly killed on the Russian frontline, that his mortal remains will be sent to them after the DNA test confirmation.

tion purposes. However, since his mother passed away in 2018, the embassy subsequently asked for his father's DNA. The embassy has assured the family that Ravi's mortal remains will be sent to India after the DNA test confirmation.

The family alleged that Ravi was killed in the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine after being forced to

join the Russian army. They claimed that despite a promise by President Vladimir Putin to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discharge Indian youth, five other youths from Mator village and one from Kamal district were still waiting for their release.

Ajay said several Indian youths were detained for allegedly violating visa regulations and given the ultima-

tum to either serve one year in the Russian army or face 10 years in jail.

Ajay said that the family had paid Rs 11.50 lakh to an agent to secure Ravi a job in the transportation industry in Russia. He went there on January 13 this year. Instead, the detained youths were provided with weapons training and sent to the frontline. "We last spoke to him on March 12," Ajay added.

The family hopes that the submission of Ram Niwas' DNA will expedite the process of bringing Ravi's remains back home for a proper funeral.

Health Minister finds deficiencies in PGIMS

Seeks report, asks authorities to take action against those responsible

SUNIT DHAWAN

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, AUGUST 1

Haryana Health Minister Dr Kamal Gupta conducted a surprise inspection of the local PGIMS Trauma Centre on Thursday and found certain deficiencies in the services being provided there.

As per the doctors and staff members present there at the time of inspection, the minister expressed his displeasure over the fact that the air-conditioners were not working and there were flies inside the Trauma Centre.

A PGIMS staffer present on the occasion said Gupta also pointed out that some stretcher-trolleys were haphazardly arranged and bed-sheets were not clean.

The minister, who himself is a doctor, gave a dressing down to the PGIMS officials and doctors on duty.

According to an official statement issued later in the day, the Health Minister directed the Vice-Chancellor of Pt Bhagwat Dayal Sharma University of Health Sciences and the PGIMS Director to take action against those responsible for the



Haryana Health Minister Dr Kamal Gupta interacts with PGIMS Director Dr Shamsheer Lohchab in Rohtak on Thursday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

deficiencies and submit a report within two days.

"No doctor or other staff member should be negligent in attending to the patients. If any doctor or staff member shows negligence in this matter, the government will take strict action as per rules," he warned.

Meanwhile, a senior official at the PGIMS later told The Tribune that it was just a matter of chance that the

minister arrived at the Trauma Centre at the time when the air-conditioners were shut down for an hour for maintenance. "Since the air-conditioners were shut down, a few doors/windows of the centre had been opened, due to which some flies had entered the building," conceded the official.

When contacted, PGIMS Director Dr SS Lohchab said the deficiencies pointed out

by the minister would be removed and the report would be sent to him.

"Appropriate action would be taken in this regard," he maintained. Earlier, a delegation of the PGIMS nurses' association went to meet the minister to apprise him of their concerns.

The PGIMS nurses, who plan to go on a strike tomorrow, wanted an assurance from the minister, but he reportedly remained non-committal.

Hence, the proposed strike by nurses also remains a big challenge before the PGIMS administration.

Earlier in the day, the Health Minister visited the homes of some BJP workers, supporters and prominent residents of Rohtak at various places in the city and enquired about their well-being. He sought the opinion of the people about the schemes being run by the government and the services being provided to the citizens. The minister felicitated Neetu, daughter of a local resident Satnarayan, for being selected as a science teacher.

₹2.64 cr allocated to bolster disaster mgmt equipment

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 1

Haryana Chief Secretary TVSN Prasad today said Rs 2.64 crore will be allocated for procuring advanced equipment to bolster the state's disaster management infrastructure.

The Chief Secretary chaired a meeting of the State-Level Executive Committee on Disaster Management. He emphasised the need for a robust disaster management system, which included incorporating the latest equipment to minimise loss of life and property during emergencies.

In addition to acquiring modern and advanced equipment, district-level Disaster Management Force Committees will be trained to handle emergencies proficiently. A State-Level Executive Committee of the Haryana State Disaster Response Force has been established for the purchase of various types of equipment during the fiscal year 2024-25. This committee will also review available disaster management equipment and train personnel involved in emergency response. — TNS

Deadline to submit claims for ownership of property extended

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 1

Haryana Minister of State for Urban Local Bodies Subhash Sudha today said the deadline for submitting claims for ownership of property for tenants/leaseholders/teha-

jari of urban local bodies has been extended till August 31. He said till now 5,962 applications had been approved under the Mukhyamantri Shehri SVAMITVA Yojana. — TNS

AUTHUM AUTHUM INVESTMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED
Registered Office: 707, Raheja Centre, Free Press Journal Road, Nariman Point, Mumbai-400 021.
Ph.: (022) 6747 2117 Fax: (022) 6747 2118 E-mail: info@authum.com

POSSESSION NOTICE (As per Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Authum Investment & Infrastructure Limited ("AIL") under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 31 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices upon the Borrowers/Co-borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/Co-borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Co-borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the below-mentioned dates.

The Borrower/Co-borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Authum Investment & Infrastructure Limited ("AIL").

Sr. No.	Loan Account No. / Name of Borrower / Co-borrower	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession / Possession Status	Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)
1.	RLALKNL000408397/MALIK PULTRY & BABLU MALIK & RINKU BABLU MALIK	12/02/2024	29-07-2024 Symbolic Possession	Rs. 54,12,791.00/- (Rupees Fifty Four Lakh Twelve Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety One Only.)
Description of property: All That Piece And Parcel Of Khewat No. 61, Khasra No. 4/8/2 (7-18), Waka Village Khewat Nangal Tehsil & Distt. Panipat				
2.	RLALKNL000335059/SUNIL KUMAR /RAGHIVIR, NIRMLA DEVIRAGHIVIR SINGH	14/02/2024	29-07-2024 Symbolic Possession	Rs. 30,14,369.00/- (Rupees Thirty Lakh Forty Three Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Nine Only.)
Description of Property: All That Piece And Parcel Of Property measuring 3 Marla 1 Sarsai I.e. 95 Sq. Yards which is bounded as East - Property Of Raghbir, West - Property Of Raghbir North - Property Of Rajbir, South - Gali which is 28/747 share of 4K-3M land comprised in Khewat No. 540, Khatauni No. 577, Khasra No. 136/1/2/1 (4-3) situated at Madiauda Tehsil Madiauda Distt. Panipat - 132113.				
3.	RLLPKNL000308589/PARDEEP SINGH /RAVEENA PARDEEP SINGH /RAVEENA PARDEEP SINGH	12/02/2024	29-07-2024 Symbolic Possession	Rs. 44,54,130.00/- (Rupees Forty Four Lakh Fifty Four Thousand One Hundred Thirty Only.)
Description of Property: All That Piece And Parcel Of Property Situated At Garhi Brahman, Malik Colony Bounded As East-House Of Maha Ram, West- Gali Rasta, North- House Of Others, South- Gali Rasta Measuring 150 Sq. Yards., Tehsil & District Sonapat, Haryana.				
4.	RLALKNL000324005/PRADEEP VEDPRAKASH/POONAM PARDEEP	12/02/2024	29-07-2024 Symbolic Possession	Rs. 36,63,334.00/- (Rupees Thirty Six Lakh Sixty Three Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Four Only.)
Description of property: All That Piece And Parcel Of Property/Plot Measuring 471 Sq. Yards I.E. 15 M 5 Sarsai Which is Bounded As North- Hathwala Road, South- Property Of Maya Devi & Others, East- Rasta, West- Property Of Maya Devi & Others, Which is 1/7 Share Of 5 K-9M, Land Comprised Khewat No. 399, Khatauni No. 463, Killa No. 42/9 (5-9) At Situated Hathwala Tehsil Samalkhanda District Panipat.				
5.	RLALKNL000346682/RAMESH BALBIR/NARESH BALBEE/ BARPHO BALBIR	12/02/2024	29-07-2024 Symbolic Possession	Rs. 28,450,600.00/- (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakh Forty Five Thousand Sixty Only.)
Description Of Property: All That Piece And Parcel Of Property/Plot Measuring 1 Kanal 1 Mafra I.e. 630 Sq. Yards Which is Bounded As North- Plot Of Other, South- Gali 15 Feet, East- Property Of Other, West- Gali 15 Feet Which is 21/136 Share Of 6k-16m, Land Comprised in Khewat No. 740 And 741 Khatauni No. 976, 975 Killa No. 47/1/2/1 (1-16), 11/3 (5-0), Situated At Mauja Rathdhana, Tehsil & Distt. Sonapat.				

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers and/or their guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules there under.

Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Dated : 02.08.2024 Place: Haryana Authorized Officer, Authum Investment & Infrastructure Limited

Loving Remembrance
Always in our memories and thoughts.
It broke our hearts to lose you, but you didn't go alone, for a part of us went with you.

Col. Amarjit Singh Chonker
(08.11.1938 - 02.08.2020)

Yours Always:
Mohinder Chonker
Wife : Mohinder Chonker
Sons & Daughters in Law :
Brig. Ajai Singh Chonker & Neena Chonker,
Randeep Singh Chonker & Vaishali Chonker
Grand Children : Arjan, Samarvir & Yugvir

Punjab doesn't want Khalistan: Wadala

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 1 "There is no demand for Khalistan in Punjab," asserted Gurbhinder Singh Wadala, convener of the rebel Akali Dal group, allaying fears of the return of terrorism. About the victory of pro-Khalistan activist Amritpal Singh in the recent Lok Sabha elections, he said it was the result of "leadership vacuum in the state".



“Sukhbir Badal had several opportunities to resign while taking responsibility for the mistakes that harmed the Sikh Panth and resulted in the continuous decline of the party. But he refused to give up the post.”

In an exclusive interview with Associate Editor Sanjeev Singh Bariana and Deputy Editor Jupinderjit Singh for The Tribune's show 'Decode Punjab', Wadala said, "Khalistan word is being thrust into our mouths. There is no such issue in Punjab. Khalistan has become a slogan... more for the Sikhs settled abroad. It's a slogan of rebellion as you have done injustice to Punjab. Our problems have not been addressed. We have nowhere to go and nobody to fall back upon."

pal, who won from Khadoor Sahib despite being lodged in an Assam jail on the charge of indulging in anti-India activities.

Wadala along with former MP Prem Singh Chandumajra and other leaders had visited Amritpal's house the day they submitted a letter to the Akal Takht Jathedar on the "mistakes" committed by the SAD leadership. The rebel group convener said Amritpal had "committed some mistakes, but there clearly was no support for Khalistan". "If they (right-

wingers) can demand a Hindu rashtra, some people can pitch for Khalistan too. But the Sikhs, by and large, don't support Khalistan. We can talk about Khalsa Raj, but within India's boundaries. Amritpal indulged in 'Amrit Sanchar' and worked against drugs, but what he did at the (Ajnala) police station was wrong," Amritpal had barged into the police station to free one of his supporters who was arrested by the police.

On the way ahead for the rebels who had been expelled from the SAD, Wadala said

they had no plans as yet to float a new party. He said incumbent party president Sukhbir Singh Badal had several opportunities to resign claiming "responsibility for the mistakes that harmed the Sikh Panth and resulted in the continuous decline of the party; but he refused to give up the post". "Sacrificing anything is valued high in the Sikh Panth. But Sukhbir could not do it," said Wadala. He said before seeking changes in the SAD leadership, they had been advising him since 2017 on various internal forums to resign and give space to fresh faces. He said the Akalis should have led the farmer movements. "We have been fighting for the farmers for long. Why did we lose the trust of the farmers now? This has to be answered."

On allegations that the rebels were playing into the hands of the BJP, Wadala said the saffron party stood nowhere in Sikh politics.

"It's wrong to say the BJP is responsible for all ills facing the Akali Dal. That is not right. They are just shifting the blame. The Akalis are in a self-defeatist mode," he said.

Two days on, Akali Dal expels Dhindsa for 'anti-party' activities

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 1 The Shiromani Akali Dal's (SAD) disciplinary committee today expelled party patron Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa from the primary membership of the Akali Dal for indulging in anti-party activities.

A decision to this effect was taken by a three-member disciplinary committee comprising its chairman Balwinder Singh Bhunder, Maheshinder Singh Grewal and Gulzar Singh Ranike.

Talking to mediapersons, Grewal said, "The disciplinary committee was of the opinion that Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa was not upholding the honour of his post. He was not only issuing unauthorised statements but was also acting against the party's constitution and its rich and glorious traditions." He said the disciplinary committee also took into account several statements issued by Dhindsa in the recent past as



Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa (L) interacts with the media. FILE

CONSPIRACY SCRIPTED IN NAGPUR

“The disgruntled leaders became part of a conspiracy scripted in Nagpur to weaken the party. These leaders have even given credence to the wild allegations of the main perpetrator of the sacrilege of Guru Granth Sahib in 2015. Balwinder Singh Bhunder, CHAIRMAN, SAD DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

well as the manner in which he took on the leadership for expelling eight rebels.

Bhunder said Dhindsa had forced the party to take this action. He added that they

had invited all disgruntled leaders to attend the party meetings. "Instead of doing that, the disgruntled leaders became part of a conspiracy scripted in Nagpur to weaken

the party. These leaders have even given credence to the wild allegations of the main perpetrator of the sacrilege of Guru Granth Sahib in 2015," he said.

The committee also made it clear that it was working as per the party's constitution and that it had been entrusted to take required actions by the powers vested by the working committee.

They said the expelled leaders were free to requisition a meeting of the working committee even as they asserted that 98 per cent of the committee members had reposed faith in the leadership of SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal.

Grewal clarified that the post of party patron was an honorary one and the latter had no power to take any decision on behalf of the party. He said Chandumajra had approved Operation Black Thunder as a Cabinet Minister in 1985 and had even hailed the "maafi" given to Dera Sirsa head.

Smart City projects moving at tardy pace in state: Sahney



IN PARLIAMENT

ANSHITA MEHRA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

Rajya Sabha member from Punjab Vikramjit Singh Sahney raised critical issues concerning the implementation of key infrastructure projects in the state during

a parliamentary debate on the Budget allocation for the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Highlighting the slow progress of the Smart City Mission in the state, Sahney expressed concern over the limited advancement in Amritsar, Ludhiana, and Jalandhar. "As far as the progress is concerned, out of 72 work orders, only five projects have been completed in these cities," Sahney said

KHELO INDIA SCHEME

During zero hour, Sahney took up the issue of funds under the Khelo India Scheme. He said Punjab contributed 19 athletes to India's contingent of 117 (16 per cent) for the Paris Olympics, but has got an allocation of ₹78 crore, which is only 3.6 per cent of the total funding under the scheme.

during the session on Wednesday evening. Sahney also pressed for the

introduction of Metro projects in Chandigarh, Ludhiana and their surrounding areas, including Panchkula and Mohali, to address the escalating traffic issues.

He also called for expedited implementation of an underground multi-layer parking facility and an underground tunnel to access Sri Darbar Sahib in Amritsar, aimed at reducing congestion on the heritage street leading to the sacred site.

'No funds to tackle floods'

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

Shiromani Akali Dal MP Harjinder Kaur Badal on Thursday took to task the Punjab Government and the Centre asking why no flood assistance was released to the state.

She raised the issue during question hour in the Lok Sabha. The Centre replied that the state government had not submitted any report about floods damaging crops

and houses in Punjab in 2023.

Badal expressed shock saying houses were damaged and crops washed away. Jal Shakti minister CR Patil said the state had submitted that no flooding took place in 2023.

"It is due to this criminal inefficiency and misgovernance that Punjab is suffering," Badal said while calling for grant of appropriate flood relief to Punjab. — TNS

ED arrests ex-minister

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JALANDHAR, AUGUST 1

The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday arrested former Food and Civil Supplies Minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu in an alleged multi-crore transportation tender allotment scam related to his depart-

ment. The Ludhiana-based Congress leader reached the office of the ED here around 10.30 am for interrogation in the suspected case of Prevention of Money Laundering Act. Officials said Ashu was not fully cooperating during questioning, so it was decided to arrest him.

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website: www.pspcl.in
(Contact number: 96461-16006)

Tender Inquiry No. 01, 03 and 04Dy. CE/DS/NSR/2024-25 Date: 31.07.2024
Addl. SE/Sr. XENDS Division Nawanshahr, Garhshankar and Goraya invites e-Tender to carry out the work of comprising only labour component for execution of various works such as releasing of T/Well connection, Deloading of overloaded T/F, bifurcation of feeders, releasing ISC/GSC Connection or any development work to be executed on labour rate during year 2024-25. For detailed NIT & Tender specification please refer to website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>.

Important Dates:-
• Last date and time for downloading of tender: 28.08.2024, 15:00 Hrs.
• Date and time for opening of tender: 29.08.2024, 12:00 Hrs.
Note:- Any corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

C 523/24 DPR/Pr/36281

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Board/Corp/ AUTH.	Name of Work/ NOTICE/TENDER	Opening Date Closing Date (TIME)	Amount/ EMD (APPROX.) in Rupees
1.	HARYANA SAHITYA AND SANSKRITI AKADEMI	E-TENDER FOR REQUEST FOR EMPANELMENT OF DIGITAL/OFFSET PRINTERS	01.08.2024 16.08.2024	EMD 50000/- (REFUNDABLE)

WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/CORP./AUTH.: <https://etenders.hry.nic.in>
NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/E-MAIL: 7889256545, hrgrn@haid@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaproecurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in
PRDH/13/2025/4/028464/31/4

HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTE SOCIETY (HEIS) GOVERNMENT COLLEGE ROPAR

Higher Education Institute Society (HEIS), Government College Ropar invites applications for various Teaching posts. These posts are purely on temporary basis with consolidated salary. The interested candidates may send their complete applications to University website: collegejobs.punjabuniversity.ac.in along with a copy to principal.gc.ropar@gmail.com by 08.08.2024. These posts can be increased/ decreased/withdrawn or cancelled at any time without any prior notice. The details of the posts and qualifications are given below:-

Sr. No.	Name of the Post	Qualifications	No. of Posts
1.	Assistant Professor for B.Com (Hons.) Text Planning and Management	1) Punjabi up to Matric Level. 2) Minimum 50% marks in Graduation. 3) 55% marks in M.Com with UGC-NET (Commerce)/Ph.D in relevant field.	01
2.	Assistant Professor for B.B.A (Hons.) Banking Financial Services & Insurance	1) Punjabi up to Matric Level. 2) Minimum 50% marks in Graduation. 3) 55% marks in MBA in relevant subject with UGC-NET/Ph.D in relevant field.	01
3.	Assistant Professor for English	1) Punjabi up to Matric Level. 2) Minimum 50% marks in Graduation. 3) 55% marks in M.A in relevant subject with UGC-NET/Ph.D in relevant field.	01
4.	Assistant Professor for Punjabi	1) Minimum 50% marks in Graduation. 2) 55% marks in M.A in relevant subject with UGC-NET/Ph.D in relevant field.	01

Desirable: Specialization in direct taxes/ Indirect Taxes subjects as one of the subjects at PG level.

Jatinder Singh Chairperson DI-9285
Sd/- Principal Govt. College, Ropar.

Haryana AIDS Control Society, Panchkula CORRIGENDUM

This is in regard to the Advertisement of various posts on contractual basis published in **The Tribune** on 24.07.2024, in the 8th line the date of sending applications should be read as 10.08.2024 instead of 10.08.2014. Rest remains the same.

PRDH/1058/11/867/2025/28131/31/4 Civil Surgeon, Rohtak.

महाराणा प्रताप उद्यान विश्वविद्यालय, करनाल (हरियाणा) - 132001
MAHARANA PRATAP HORTICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, KARNAL (HARYANA) - 132001
(A State University Established vide Haryana Act. No. 32 of 1965)

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE
(Adv. No. 03/2024)

Maharana Pratap Horticultural University invites offline applications from the eligible candidates for recruitment of Teaching & Non-Teaching Posts on regular basis against sanctioned vacant posts. Category-wise number of vacant Teaching & Non-Teaching posts along with Adv. Nos., detailed instructions, requisite qualifications and pay scales are given on the University website www.mhu.ac.in. The duly filled application form along with self-attested photo-copies of required documents should be submitted to the "The Registrar, Maharana Pratap Horticultural University, HTI Campus, Uchani, Karnal on & before 16.08.2024.

Sd/- REGISTRAR
DI-9306

ई-नीलामी/ई-टेंडर विज्ञापन

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मास अगस्त, 2024 में हरियाणा वन विकास निगम के विभिन्न काष्ठ विक्री सेल डिपॉजिटों में विभिन्न प्रजातियों की लकड़ी की ई-नीलामी की तिथियां निर्धारित की गई हैं तथा विभिन्न महाप्रबंधक, हरियाणा वन विकास निगम द्वारा वृक्षों के कटाई, पौलीथीन बैग्स, फर्नीचर, बारवाड वायर व इसी प्रकार अन्य कार्यों के ई-टेंडर जारी किए जा रहे हैं। जिसका पूरा विवरण हरियाणा वन विकास निगम की वेबसाइट www.hfdec.gov.in पर 'पब्लिक नोटिस' व 'ई-टेंडर नोटिस' मैनुअल आइटम में उपलब्ध है।

सूचित किया जाता है प्रत्येक लॉट/बैच की नीलामी अवधि 3 मिनट रहेगी व अनिश्चित समय 20 सैकेंड के 7 स्टॉप रहेगे। सभी इच्छुक खरीददार बोली संबंधित भाग लेने/पूर्ण जानकारी Website:- hfdecauction.co.in से प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। और ई-टेंडर के लिए पूर्ण जानकारी Website:- etender.hry.nic.in से प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।

हस्ता./-
प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक एवं प्रबंध निदेशक,
हरियाणा वन विकास निगम,
पंचकूला।

PRDH/1188/11/63/2025/28421/1C/31/4

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB PUNJAB URBAN PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

PUDA Complex, SCO. 41, Opp. D.C. Complex, Jalandhar
Tender Reference No. 1137-1152 Dated: 01.08.2024

Divisional Engineer (E), PUDA, Jalandhar invites online bids for "Supply and installation of remaining transformers" at Old Seed Farm Mukerian, Hoshiarpur.

Closing Date & Time: 16.08.2024 at 11.00 a.m.
For details logon to: <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

Note:- Any corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the above website only.
DPR/Pr/3628a

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB (DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVT.) (MUNICIPAL COUNCIL NANGAL)

TENDER NOTICE REFERENCE No./2403 Dt. 31.07.2024
THE DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL COUNCIL NANGAL INVITES ONLINE BIDS FOR THE FOLLOWING WORKS:-

Sr. No.	ITEM	AMOUNT
1.	Different type of Civil & Other Works.	9,02,25,000/-

PERIOD OF SALE OF BIDDING DOCUMENT : 01.08.2024 to 24.08.2024
BID SUBMISSION CLOSING DATE AND TIME : 26.08.2024 at 11:00 a.m.
TECHNICAL BID OPENING DATE AND TIME : 26.08.2024 AT 03:00 p.m.
FOR DETAILS LOGON TO www.eproc.punjab.gov.in

***NOTE*:-** IN CASE TENDER PROCESS IS NOT COMPLETED DUE TO ANY REASONS, NO CORRIGENDUM WILL BE PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPER. DETAILED REGARDING CORRIGENDUM MAY BE SEEN ON ABOVE WEBSITE.

Sd/- President Sd/- Executive Officer Sd/- Municipal Engineer
M.C. Nangal M.C. Nangal M.C. Nangal DPR/Pr/3628b

पावरग्रिड POWERGRID

POWERGRID, a "Maharatna" Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power, Govt. of India and one of the largest Transmission Utilities in the World invites bright, committed, energetic and experienced Degree/Diploma holders in Electrical discipline to join its fold in Northern Region-II as

FIELD ENGINEER & FIELD SUPERVISOR
(on fixed tenure basis)
(For Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) Works in UT of J&K)

For details of eligibility criteria, application process, selection procedure, number of vacancies etc. please visit career section at www.powergrid.in [Careers -> Job Opportunities -> Openings -> Northern Region-II, Jammu Recruitment]

Interested candidates have to register online and submit an application at POWERGRID website.

Commencement date of online application submission	05.08.2024 (Monday) (17:00 Hrs. onwards)
Last date of receipt of online application	19.08.2024 (Monday)

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Northern Region Transmission System-II, Grid Bhawan, Rail Head Complex, Jammu-180012, Tel.: 0191-2473469, CIN: L40101DL1989G00138121

HARYANA GOVERNMENT HERITAGE AND TOURISM DEPARTMENT Notification
The 30.07.2024

No. 12/250-Baoli Namaul-2024/Pura/273244 Whereas the Governor of Haryana is of the opinion that archaeological sites and remains and ancient and historical monuments specified in column 1 of the schedule given below requires protection under the Haryana Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1964 (Punjab Act 20 of 1964);

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under sub-section (1) of Section 4 of the Haryana Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1964 (Punjab Act 20 of 1964), the Governor of Haryana hereby proposes to declare the ancient and historical monument specified in column 1 of the Schedule given below, to be a protected monuments and archaeological sites and remains specified in columns 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the said Schedule.

Notice is hereby given that the proposal shall be taken into consideration by the Government on or after the expiry of a period of two months from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, together with objections or suggestions, if any, which may be received by the Principal Secretary to Government, Haryana, Heritage and Tourism Department, Chandigarh before the expiry of the period so specified:

SCHEDULE

Name of ancient and historical monuments	Name of Archaeological sites and remains	Name of Village/ City	Name of Tehsil/ District	Revenue Khasra/ Kila number under protection	Area to be protected	Ownership	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Baoli at Namaul, 17th Century CE	Baoli at Namaul, 17th Century CE	Namaul	Mahendergarh	4726/2 4727/2	80 X 80 (meter) (no revenue record available)	Punjab Waqf Board, Ambala	This baoli is situated on the outskirts of city of Namaul inside the premises of Baba Kheta Nath Government Polytechnic College. This three storeyed monument is actually a step-well, with one floor at sub-ground level. There are stairs at one side that go all the way to the bottom and are perhaps separated by a wall from a well on its other end. The most remarkable thing about this monument are the writings on its walls which seem to have been written by people who had perhaps stayed here, during their journeys.

Sd/- Kala Ramchandran,
Principal Secretary to Government, Haryana,
Heritage and Tourism Department.

PRDH/1007/11/32/2025/28452/31/4

HARYANA GOVERNMENT HERITAGE AND TOURISM DEPARTMENT Notification
The 30.07.2024

No. 12/249/2021-Pura/2753 to 2759 In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (3) of section 4 of the Haryana Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1964 (Punjab Act 20 of 1964) and with reference to Haryana Government, Heritage and Tourism Department, Notification No. 12/249/2021-Pura/26-33 dated the 12th March, 2024, the Governor of Haryana hereby declares the ancient and historical monument specified in column 1 of the Schedule given below to be a protected monument and Archaeological Site and remains as specified in columns 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the said Schedule to be a protected area:-

SCHEDULE

Name of ancient and historical monuments	Name of Archaeological sites and remains	Name of Village/ City	Name of Tehsil/ District	Revenue Khasra/ Kila number under protection	Area to be protected	Ownership	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Medieval Tomb	Medieval Tomb	Amarpur	Pawal	278/323-38	2 Kanal 4 Marla	Gram Panchayat	An abandoned small Medieval Tomb (date 18th-19th Century CE) is located in Amarpur village. The structure is standing on square plan, on a high plinth with a hemispherical dome supported by twelve pillars and has beautiful curved 12 brackets in all the sides and thus has twelve entrances. The tomb is unique in style showing the assimilation of Rajput, Pathan, Mughal Architecture. The tomb was constructed with a rubble core and then dressed with lakhori brick and red sandstone with geometric and floral designs. The dome and its base, even the plinth, are lakhori brick Architecture. The pillars, corbels, entablature and roof are made of red sandstone. It has bulbous dome with a lotus finial resting on an octagonal drum-base. Each of its entrances outside is divided into three recessed arches, with a running bracket at the cornice. It is a classic example of the evolution and development of Indo-Islamic Architecture with the use or embellishments such as brackets, pillars and lintels to support the dome. From initial examination this seems to be of the late 18th-19th century. It looks like a cenotaph with a dome but there is no grave under it. However, there is a grave near the said structure which is of a later period.

Sd/- Kala Ramchandran,
Principal Secretary to Government, Haryana,
Heritage and Tourism Department.

PRDH/1007/11/31/2025/28451/31/4

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Quota within quota

Onus on states to uplift the neediest

THE Supreme Court has ruled that states are constitutionally empowered to make sub-classification of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) for granting quotas within the reserved category in order to uplift more underprivileged castes. The majority verdict comes with a rider: the sub-classification has to be justified by 'quantifiable and demonstrable data by the states, which cannot act on their whims'. The challenge for the states is to ensure that the benefits of reservation percolate down to the neediest and poorest of the poor. Justice BR Gavai, who was among the seven judges on the Bench, has put the onus on the states to identify the creamy layer in SCs and STs and take it out of the ambit of reservation.

Commendably, the court has recognised that SCs are not a homogenous class. Hence, there cannot be a one-size-fits-all approach. Over the decades, the quota system has been plagued by the *Animal Farm* paradox — all are equal, but some are more equal than others. The creamy layer has made the most of reservation from one generation to another, even as the weakest sections have lagged socially as well as economically.

The states should initiate the 'quota within quota' exercise in a rational and calibrated manner on the basis of a comprehensive survey. Political and electoral considerations will come into play, and striking a fine balance will be an onerous task. Protests by groups whose prospects will be impacted by the sub-classification are a distinct possibility. Addressing the inadequacy of representation of certain sub-categories can pave the way for their much-needed uplift. With the CJI making it clear that any decision to sub-classify SCs to grant more quota benefits to a particular caste can be reviewed judicially, there is hope that states will refrain from misusing their power and instead make earnest efforts to remove intra-quota imbalances and disparities.

End the burden

Scrap GST on health, life insurance premiums

BY calling for the abolition of the 18 per cent GST on life and medical insurance premiums, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has raised a pertinent issue. This tax imposes an unfair burden on policy holders and runs contrary to the intent behind incentivising these vital policies. Insurance is fundamentally a tool for managing life's uncertainties. Levying a hefty tax on premiums is akin to penalising individuals for attempting to mitigate risks. This is especially troubling for the vulnerable sections who already find it challenging to afford adequate coverage. The impact of this tax has a detrimental effect on the accessibility and growth of insurance products.

The insurance industry itself has long advocated for a reduction in GST to enhance the appeal of its products. Lowering the GST rate would not only make insurance more affordable but also stimulate its uptake, contributing to broader financial security and health coverage. This is particularly pertinent given that insurance is more of a 'pull' product — consumers need to be drawn to it — rather than a 'push' one. As per the IRDAI's (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India) data for 2022-23, insurance penetration in India is relatively low — around 3.2 per cent of the GDP for life insurance and 0.94 per cent for health insurance.

Moreover, the current taxation policy is inconsistent with the government's broader objective of promoting social welfare and economic stability. By removing the GST on insurance premiums, the government can take a significant step towards ensuring that more citizens are protected against life's unpredictability without the additional financial strain. Prime Minister Narendra Modi must heed Gadkari's call that aims to safeguard people's wellbeing. The differences that the PM has had with Gadkari of late must be kept aside on this issue of fiscal policy and respect shown for well-meaning dissent within the party ranks.

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

LAHORE, SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1924

The Tilak week

YESTERDAY was the first day of what has come to be known in the national calendar of India as the Tilak week. We have no doubt that as during the last three years, the week will be celebrated all over the country with the dignity, enthusiasm and solemnity which the occasion so imperatively demands. Many are the great men who have during the last 40 years worked for the country's political uplift, who have either striven to weld India's millions into a political entity or win for them their birth-right of freedom and self-determination. None worked more singlemindedly or more assiduously or with greater determination for either of these great ends than the distinguished leader whose name has for a quarter of a century been synonymous with all that is best and strongest in India's national life and endeavour. We are, indeed, guilty of no exaggeration in saying that the great men who either preceded Bal Gangadhar Tilak or were his contemporaries from Dadabhai Naoroji, Surendranath and Pherozeshah to the immortal Gopal Krishna Gokhale were all engaged in only preparing the ground for the great fight. It was Tilak, ably aided and seconded by a handful of associates in different parts of the country, who began the actual battle. Pandit Motilal Nehru did less than justice to the noble band of what may aptly be described as the "revolutionary precursors" of India when in a recent speech at Poona he said they constituted nothing more than "an academical society of talents of the country". They were certainly a good deal more. Some of them took the problem of the country's political deliverance as seriously as Tilak himself did.

Involving the community in education

Muktangan has created a joyful learning environment in educationally underserved communities



TRYSTS AND TURNS

JULIO RIBEIRO

ELIZABETH Mehta is an Englishwoman married to my good friend Sunil Mehta, the scion of the family which ran Paragon Textiles, known for Elpar Fabrics. They met in England, where Sunil had been sent by his father for studies.

Elizabeth, or 'Liz' as she is called by her husband and his friends, is an educationist by profession. During the years she spent in India with Sunil, she came to the conclusion that "the larger purpose of education was to create a population of healthy, creative, collaborative problem-solvers who care about humanity with respect for its diverse cultures". She harboured a dream, which is presently taking flight.

When the textile industry in Mumbai ground to a halt as a result of a prolonged strike called by labour leader Datta Samant, almost all mill owners shut shop and either sold their land on which the mills were built or utilised the space for other businesses.

Sunil always exhibited a 'social' conscience. I had met him at the board meetings of a well-known NGO in our city, the Happy Home and School for the Blind, where 200 indigent blind students from kindergarten to Class X were housed, fed and taught to read and write using Braille. Sunil was a big contributor to the funds required to run this residential school built on land leased by the government.

Liz's passion for education was a perfect match for Sunil's interest in lifting the unfortunate ones from poverty and want. He handed over a few rooms in his office to Liz to plan and draw up a blueprint for improving the



POSITIVITY: Teachers are demonstrating how learning can be fun. MUKTANGAN EDUCATION TRUST

quality of life of slum-dwellers living in the vicinity of his former mill — through the medium of education. Sunil contributed to Liz's venture by taking over the 'business' part of the newly conceived joint venture. The financing of the venture was left to him.

In March 2003, Muktangan, as the venture was christened, started its first pre-school and recruited seven women from the educationally underserved communities as teachers. These women were not highly qualified nor did they possess the teaching experience required, but they had been motivated by Liz and her dedicated group of teachers to make a difference. They developed a passion for learning that gave wings to the entire initiative. Liz titled the new model 'Education for the community, by the community'. The team, which now included these seven newly enlisted teachers under training, lobbied for a municipal school to be set up and run by Muktangan with its unique pedagogy, based on the belief that it was possible to create a joyful learning environment for students and teachers in education-

Muktangan tries its utmost to choose and train teachers from the local community.

all underserved communities.

The first school was taken over from the municipality in the public-private partnership mode with the support of the community and the municipal commissioner. The spectacular success of this school, defined by the enthusiasm of the parents and their wards, led the Mumbai municipality to ask Muktangan to take over six more municipal schools in the vicinity. The entire project was predicated on the belief that ordinary men and women, empowered with the right beliefs and skills, can drive extraordinary outcomes for children in their aspiring communities.

Liz told me that the key component of the Muktangan model is the 'Integrated School and

Teacher Education Programme'. Learning, she says, is a process which occurs through experience and reflection. She proceeded to assert that children were not passive receivers of information but also active contributors in the classroom.

The children who joined the KG class in Muktangan's first school in 2003 passed out 11 years later. No municipal school in the city had secured the level of success in the SSC (Staff Selection Commission) examination that Muktangan delivered. This level has been maintained every year since then.

A boy who passed out from the SSC batch of 2023-24 stated that in a Muktangan-run school, the children were not taught what to learn but how to learn.

Muktangan tries its utmost to choose and train its teachers from the local community. Sneha Sawant is a proud Muktangan-developed teacher. In 2006, a decade after she had passed Class XII exams in the Marathi medium, she was employed as a pantry-staff member by Liz's team. Sneha was fascinated by the fact that all teachers were

from the community to which she belonged. She decided to become a teacher herself. Muktangan gave her that opportunity, which she grabbed with both hands. She is a teacher-educator now. In 2019, she attended a Global Forum on Early Care and Education in Macau, the former Portuguese colony now under China.

In its quest to foster ongoing learning environments in low-cost mainstream schools, Muktangan has recently forged strategic partnerships with the Zila Parishad, Nanded, (a district of Maharashtra bordering Telangana) to revamp pre-school education in 500 anganwadis in rural areas. Muktangan has also signed an MoU with the Dehu Road Cantonment Board, near Pune, to transform 10 government schools catering mainly to the children of migrant workers settled in the area.

I have been associated with Muktangan almost from its inception. Sunil asked me to serve on its board and I immediately accepted. It was here that I met Anil Swarup of the UP cadre of the IAS after he superannuated. Anil had been Secretary to the Education Department, Government of India. As a practitioner of true service to the people, he was always ready to learn from men and women who were doing selfless service for the needy and the dispossessed.

Anil's desire to learn from others brought him to Muktangan's doorstep. This is what he had to say after he found out what Liz and Sunil were really doing: "Muktangan, where children flourish, is a free *aangan*. What a pleasure it was to meet this 'young' couple that is transforming how education and teaching can be delivered in a municipal school. They are demonstrating how learning can be fun. Truly inspiring."

My article touches on something that has always interested me — a positive contribution to progress by citizens like you and me. The work they do has to be done without expectation of any reward. Only then does it deserve a mention.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Education is the key to unlocking the world, a passport to freedom. —Oprah Winfrey

It's time for schooling in concert decorum

SUMIT PAUL

Music with dinner is an insult both to the cook and the violinist. — GK Chesterton

YEARS ago, in Lahore, I asked legendary ghazal maestro Mehdi Hassan, 'Aap ko kaun si baat sab se naagavaar guzarti hai?' (What gets your goat?). Smiling, he said, 'Jab kisi hotel ya restaurant mein koi mutrib meri ghazalein gaa raha ho aur bajaay usey sun-ne ke, log luqme todne mein mashghool hon' (When a singer is singing my ghazals at a hotel or restaurant and instead of listening to him, people are relishing their meals).

I could empathise with Mehdi sahab's angst at a swanky restaurant in Pune that had elite diners. The alfresco arrangement had an artiste singing ghazals of Mehdi, Ghulam Ali and Jagjit Singh. Hardly anyone was attentive to the poor singer. Some would patronisingly say *wah, wah or kya khoob* and that's it.

This reminded me of an incident narrated by great Urdu poet Ahmad Faraz. He had gone to a fine restaurant in London, mostly patronised by Indians, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis. He sat in a secluded corner, far from the stage where an up-and-coming singer was singing a ghazal, penned by Faraz and famously sung by Ghulam Abbas. Nobody was listening to him. It was an insult to the artistes. Faraz left and never patronised the restaurant again.

'Eating and listening to Western classics don't go hand in hand. You either eat or listen to Beethoven's celestial symphonies. One can't eat the cake and have it too,' wrote Kishore Chatterjee, a connoisseur of Western classical music. The same can be said about all genres of performing arts. You can't carry eatables to operas in Europe. Theatres in Vienna prohibit eating during a show. True appreciation of art and artistes depends upon the connoisseurs' complete attention. You can't admire Mozart while having popcorn nonchalantly.

Multiplexes serve costly meals during the screening of movies. You can eat and watch in a lying state. Do you go there to watch a movie, sleep or gorge on a sumptuous spread? If you eat groundnuts while watching Ritwik Ghatak's *Meghe Dhaaka Tara* or Cecil B DeMille's *The Ten Commandments*, you are not being respectful to the directors and the actors.

It's like caviar to the general, as Shakespeare said. Eccentric genius Firaq Gorakhpuri rightly ordered the audience to sit through his poetry-reading session without eating or going out to relieve themselves.

Vilayat Khan, Ravi Shankar, Hariprasad Chaurasia and other maestros would request the audience to not clap during the concert. They found it a plebeian and boisterous gesture, distracting them from their soulful renditions. It's time all are schooled in concert decorum.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A tragedy foretold

The calamity in Kerala's Wayanad district is a stark reminder of the risk associated with living in an ecologically fragile area. The landslides, triggered by relentless rains, have already claimed around 300 lives and left behind a trail of devastation. The tragedy should not come as a surprise to anyone, as Wayanad was ranked 13th last year in a list of the most landslide-prone districts in India. While rescue efforts are on, the authorities concerned must address the underlying causes of such natural disasters. Climate change, deforestation and an eco-sensitive terrain are a recipe for disaster. Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi has rightly called for an action plan to address calamities in view of the tragedy in his former constituency. A robust early warning system must be in place to help the states prevent the loss of lives. Further, the authorities must adopt a proactive approach to the issue.

SARGUNPREET KAUR, MOHALI

An avoidable man-made disaster

With reference to the editorial 'Wayanad calamity'; it is shocking how the rain-triggered landslides have swept away entire villages in the district, causing an immeasurable loss of life and property. Besides Kerala, the fear of landslides looms large in the hill states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand every year during the monsoon season. Senseless deforestation and urbanisation are the reason why such catastrophes have become increasingly common. The Central and state authorities need to work in synergy to avert such man-made disasters.

DEEPAK TAAK, PANCHKULA

Urbanisation, but at what cost?

Refer to 'Wayanad calamity'; the massive landslides have left a trail of destruction and killed hundreds of people. Last year, the humongous monsoon rains wreaked havoc in Himachal Pradesh, resulting in an economic loss running into thousands of crores. It is unfortunate that local authorities tend to ignore early warnings and fail to take timely measures to save lives. State governments, in a bid to boost their revenue from tourism, allow the construction of highways and

hotels in ecologically fragile zones. This costs them dear when a disaster strikes.

RAMESH GUPTA, NARWANA

Politicising a tragedy

No single entity bears the entire blame for the horror unfolding in Wayanad. The Centre and the Kerala Government share responsibility for the loss of lives that could have been prevented had they acted in time. But instead of staying focused on extending help to the affected families, a political row has broken out. By locking horns with the state government amid the mounting death toll, the Centre is milking the tragedy to reap political dividends. The need of the hour is to take steps to avoid a repeat of the fiasco in the Western Ghats.

AG RAJMOHAN, ANANTAPUR (AP)

Defuse the time bomb in West Asia

The assassination of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh in Iran is set to escalate the conflict in West Asia. Though PM Benjamin Netanyahu's government has not claimed responsibility for the slaying, it is suspected that Israel was behind it. The possibility of the Israel-Hamas war spilling over no longer seems remote, with Iran being dragged into the conflict. A truce has long eluded Gaza. But with the killing of the top Hamas leader, even the slim hope for negotiations between Israel and the terrorist group has been snuffed out. It is time for other world leaders to step in to douse the fire of conflict before it engulfs the entire region.

DVG SANKARA RAO, VIZIANAGARAM

Promote undervalued sports

It is a matter of immense pride for us that India has secured three medals in shooting alone. This must prompt the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to formulate a plan to promote undervalued sports like shooting. There is a need to create new opportunities for sports persons and boost public interest in the disciplines that have long been sidelined. This would help Indian athletes continue to bring laurels to the nation. The efforts put by Olympic medalists Manu Bhaker, Sarabjot Singh and Swapnil Kusale must be recognised.

TARUNJOT KAUR, GREATER MOHALI

Enhance farm income to tackle agrarian distress



DEVINDER SHARMA
FOOD & AGRICULTURE SPECIALIST

OVER the past 25 years or so, virtually every Finance Minister has begun his or her Budget presentation by emphasising the significant role of agriculture in the Indian economy. From 'Kisan ki Azaadi' to 'a lifeline of the country's economy', several epithets have been used to highlight the focus of the Budget proposals. Anun Jaitley had talked of enhancing farm income and kept it at the top of the government's five priorities. Nirjala Sitharaman has also accorded due recognition to agriculture by giving it pride of place among the nine priorities she has spelt out.

The boost for agriculture in almost every Budget should have transformed the rural economy by now. But despite the focus, not even once did it look as if agriculture was on the path to recovery. This is because while the underlying emphasis has remained on increasing crop productivity — in the hope that it would get higher prices and

income for farmers — the agrarian distress has only grown. If the average monthly income for an agricultural household has remained around Rs 10,218 even after a successful Green Revolution and despite all the budgetary support, the serious crisis on the farm cannot be denied.

Here is a reality check: in Karnataka, according to an official estimate, as many as 1,182 farmers have died by suicide in the past 15 months. In Maharashtra, 1,267 farmers took their lives between January and June this year, with Vidarbha's Amravati division alone witnessing 557 cases.

Farmer suicides are not a new phenomenon. A compilation of data by the National Crime Records Bureau shows a staggering number of farmer suicides in the past 27 years. This period coincided with the 25 years of heightened budgetary commitments for agriculture. Between 1995 and 2014, 2,96,438 growers had taken the extreme step. The period from 2014 to 2022 saw 1,00,474 farmer suicides. Simply put, close to four lakh farmers ended their lives between 1995 and 2022, and that too at a time when annual Budgets kept promising to turn agriculture around. The mismatch between the budgetary allocations



PLIGHT: While the underlying emphasis has remained on increasing crop productivity — in the hope that it would get higher prices and income for farmers — the agrarian distress has only grown. FILE PHOTO

and the continuing agrarian crisis is glaring.

Telangana is now in the second stage of providing a farm loan waiver. It is in the process of striking off Rs 6,198 crore of outstanding loans for 6.4 lakh farmers, with each of the indebted growers getting a waiver of Rs 1.5 lakh. In the first phase, 11.34 lakh tillers had received Rs 6,190 crore in their bank accounts. In the third phase, set to begin this month, 17.75 lakh cultivators will receive a waiver for Rs 12,224 crore. In all, 35.5 lakh farmers in the state are being given a debt waiver. It, however, does not mean that rising farm debt is not a concern in other states.

The latest global analysis by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) shows that among the 54 major economies it has worked out the producer subsidy support for, only in India's case are farmers bereft of adequate budgetary support to cover up the losses. The report states that Indian farmers have continued to incur losses year after year since 2000. Would any other sector of the economy have survived the continuing losses?

While we can find fault with the methodology, the fact remains that no amount of support for tech-

nology or the injection of money into other schemes to increase productivity and production will see farmers' income go up. It hasn't happened anywhere. The OECD study is a testimony to this.

This is what I call the 'via Bathinda' approach. Why can't a direct effort be made to raise farm incomes rather than routing it through the input suppliers or technology providers? It hasn't worked in the past, and it will not work in the future either. Several studies have shown how the input suppliers rake in profits while the farmers remain at the bottom of the pyramid. Even in the case of supply chains, the growers' share in the ultimate profits is hardly 5-10 per cent or even less. A recent study in the UK said that while the retail profits from marketing strawberries and raspberries went up by 27 pence in 2021, the farmers' share was only 3.5 pence. Earlier, some studies had shown that for the six daily necessities that consumers depend upon, farmers get only 1 per cent of the retail profit. Therefore, the thrust on strengthening supply chains, as stated in the latest Budget, will only be helpful if the share of the primary producer is guaranteed.

With an allocation of only 3.15 per cent of the total Budget for agriculture, and that too for roughly half of the country's population engaged in the sector, nothing extraordinary can be expected. An outlay of Rs 1.52 lakh crore this year, a jump of about Rs 26,000 crore from the previous year, essentially covers the non-plan expenditure, as it was earlier referred to. Given that the budget for agriculture also includes an outlay of Rs 60,000 crore for the PM KISAN scheme, which provides a monthly entitlement of Rs 500 to every land-owning farmer, what is left is Rs 92,000 crore for agriculture. No wonder the Household Consumption Expenditure 2022-23 tells us that the median monthly per capita consumption expenditure in rural areas stands at a mere Rs 3,268. If agriculture is not viable, rural spending will remain low.

Hence, agriculture needs a serious rethink. There is a critical need to first address the issue of livelihood so as to bring about income parity with other sections of society. My suggestion is to set up a National Commission for Farmers' Income and Welfare, which should come up with specific ways to enhance farm income in a given time frame. Start by ensuring a legal framework for the MSP (minimum support price).

The boost for agriculture in nearly every Budget should have transformed the rural economy.

Transition to electric vehicles fraught with challenges



NAVDEEP ASIJA
TRAFFIC ADVISER TO PUNJAB GOVERNMENT

THE advent of electric vehicles (EVs) in India represents a pivotal move towards curbing pollution and embracing sustainable transportation solutions. The Indian Government's ambitious goal to electrify 30 per cent of the vehicle fleet by 2030, supported by incentives and subsidies, underscores this commitment. Major automakers and startups are actively introducing EV models and investing in charging infrastructure. Despite these advancements, challenges such as limited charging infrastructure and higher initial costs remain. Nonetheless, as technology evolves and costs decrease, the EV market in India is poised for significant growth. However, the assumption that EVs are universally cost-effective and environmentally benign warrants scrutiny.

The EV story began in the 1830s with Robert Anderson's early motorised carriage powered by non-rechargeable batteries. The advent of rechargeable batteries in 1859 marked a significant advancement, and by the 1880s, elec-

tric cars were functional and set speed records for their quiet, clean operation.

In 1908, the Ford Model T revolutionised the automotive world with its affordable, gasoline-powered internal combustion engine, offering greater range and convenience compared to electric cars, which were up to 10 times more costly by the early 1920s. Internal combustion engines soon overshadowed the early electric models.

Today, the trend is reversing due to advances in battery technology, rising fossil fuel prices and increasing environmental concerns. Countries like Norway and the Netherlands are setting ambitious targets to phase out fossil fuel vehicles, though most cars on the road are still internal combustion engine-powered.

In India, the focus on electric public transport laid the groundwork for early electric cars like Lovebird and Vikram Safa in the 1990s. A key milestone was the 2001 launch of Reva, India's first mass-produced electric car. Government schemes like FAME (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid & Electric Vehicles), introduced in 2015, have boosted growth, especially for affordable two-wheelers. Transitioning from electric public transport to widespread personal EVs in India involves overcoming challenges related to affordability, infrastructure and policy.

India is expected to become the third-largest market for



BENEFIT: Electric vehicles (EVs) help reduce tailpipe and noise pollution. PTI

EVs globally within the next five years, driven by rapid industry development. However, the fact that 80-85 per cent of India's lithium-ion batteries are imported from China raises sovereignty concerns. The country must develop a robust EV supply chain domestically and reduce reliance on foreign sources, thus enhancing pollution control and economic sovereignty.

In India's federal structure, electricity is a state subject, placing the burden of powering EVs on states. Most states generate electricity from coal, a significant pollutant, and offer it at subsidised rates. Conversely, states earn revenue from oil through taxes. The transition to EVs could negatively impact state finances, as they would need to cover the cost of power for EVs while losing oil revenue.

The case of polythene bags, initially deemed eco-friendly but later causing significant pollution, mirrors the potential risks associated with EVs.

This could lead to budgetary imbalances. The expected forex savings from reduced oil imports might be offset by the import of batteries, necessitating clearer projections.

Punjab, for instance, consumes 1.2-1.3 lakh litres of fuel daily. A shift of 10 per cent of oil-dependent vehicles to EVs over the next three or four years could demand an additional 900 megawatts of energy daily. Meeting this demand might require installing a thermal plant every alternate year. Wealthier individuals might afford EVs, while poorer households could face reduced electricity availability for basic needs.

Lithium-ion batteries used in EVs contain essential materials such as lithium, nickel, manganese and cobalt. Each tonne of lithium requires around 20 lakh litres

of water for evaporation, making current brine mining methods unsustainable.

With the rise in EVs, proper disposal and recycling of used batteries are crucial to minimising environmental and health risks. India needs improved recycling infrastructure and incentives for better practices.

EVs help reduce tailpipe pollution and noise pollution, leading to quieter streets and improved urban soundscapes. However, they don't fully address traffic congestion. Subsidising personal vehicle travel can worsen congestion, as seen in the UK, where CO₂ emissions from private cars rose despite improved fuel efficiency. In India, EVs introduce safety concerns such as electrocution risks from high-voltage systems in post-impact scenarios. Research indicates that heavy EVs are twice as likely to be involved in pedestrian accidents compared to traditional vehicles. Given India's high pedestrian and cycle traffic, specific research is needed to address these safety issues effectively.

While EVs are viewed as eco-friendly, their manufacturing process and charging infrastructure require substantial energy. With 60 per cent of India's states relying on thermal power from fossil fuels like coal, it's akin to running cars on coal. The well-to-wheel (WTW) analysis examines the full energy lifecycle of EVs, including battery mineral extraction, refining, transport

and vehicle power, often derived from coal-based electricity. Despite zero tailpipe emissions, WTW calculations suggest that production and disposal might diminish some environmental benefits.

The shift to EVs is vital for reducing emissions and combating climate change. While India's transition to personal EVs could offer carbon emission advantages, it hinges on leveraging domestic energy resources and revising policies, power generation and distribution systems.

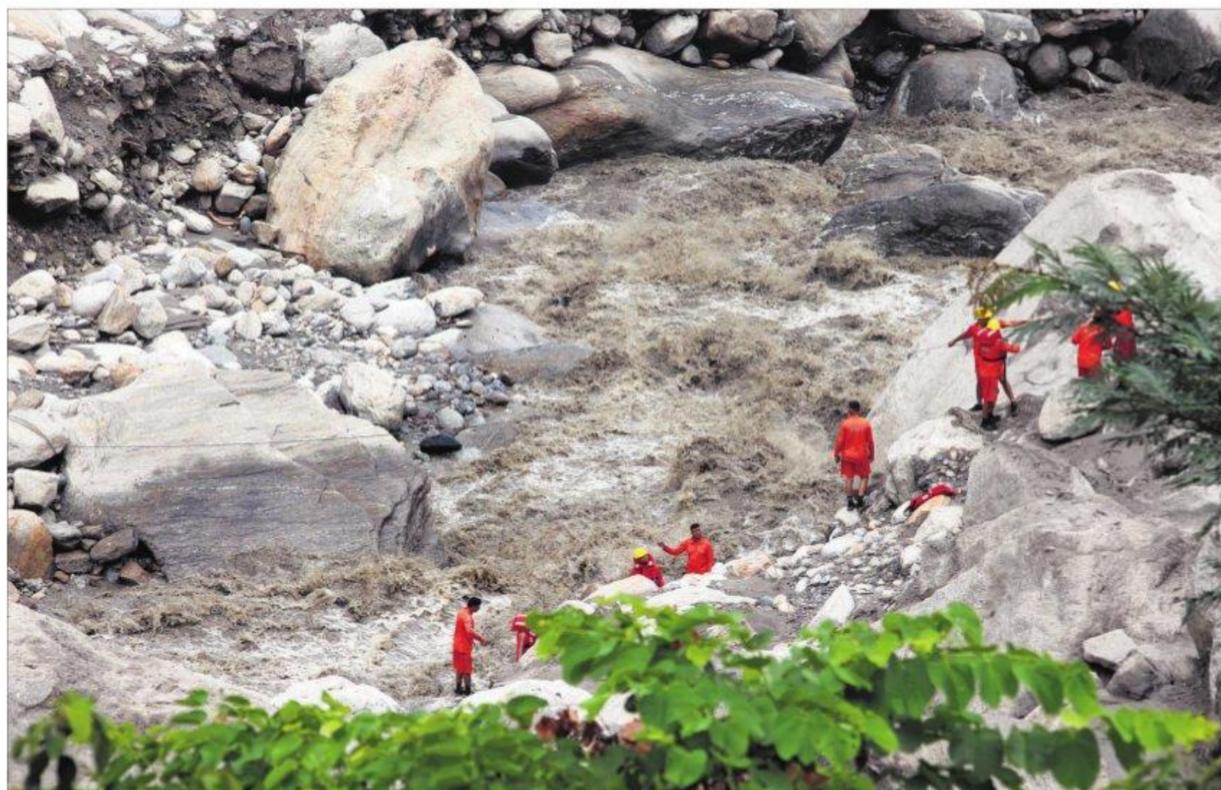
The case of polythene bags, initially deemed eco-friendly but later causing significant pollution, mirrors the potential risks associated with EVs. The success of EVs depends on effectively managing their environmental impact. Integrating renewable sources like wind and solar is crucial for providing a steady, eco-friendly energy supply and reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

Additionally, the high cost of battery replacement, often monopolised by a few manufacturers, could lead to significant maintenance expenses after four or five years of operation. Addressing these factors, along with the implications for India's sovereignty and state finances, is essential. The transition to EVs must be carefully managed to avoid unintended environmental and economic consequences, ensuring that the move to cleaner transportation does not come with new challenges.

<p>QUICK CROSSWORD</p> <p>1 Correct in all details (5) 4 Passage (7) 8 Set in rivalry (3) 9 Extremely distasteful (9) 10 Directory about notable people (4,3) 11 Haul down (5) 13 Think out (6) 15 Give a sermon (6) 18 Temporary obstacle (5) 19 Craftsman (7) 21 Formidable older woman (9) 23 Possesses (3) 24 Of little substance (7) 25 Amiably eccentric (5)</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Give authority to (7) 2 Traveller in space (9) 3 To cast (5) 4 Walk very stealthily (6) 5 Lean and bony (7) 6 Health resort (3) 7 Private teacher (5) 12 True state of things (5,4) 14 Tragedy by Shakespeare (7) 16 Integrity (7) 17 Bother persistently (6) 18 A settled tendency (5) 20 Set foot (5) 22 Metal container (3)</p> <p>Yesterday's solution</p> <p>Across: 1 Watertight, 8 Sober, 9 Reunion, 10 Useless, 11 Belie, 12 Return, 14 Bear up, 17 Drain, 19 Insular, 21 Attempt, 22 Fiery, 23 Poker-faced.</p> <p>Down: 2 Ambient, 3 Eerie, 4 Thrust, 5 Grumble, 6 Trial, 7 In jeopardy, 8 Square deal, 13 Run amok, 15 Relieve, 16 Bitter, 18 Act up, 20 Sofia.</p>							<p>SU DO KU</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>6</td><td></td><td>1</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>3</td><td></td><td>8</td><td></td><td></td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>6</td><td></td><td>9</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>8</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>7</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>5 3</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>3 7</td><td></td><td>8</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td></td><td>6</td><td></td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>4</td><td></td><td></td><td>2</td><td></td><td>7</td></tr> </table> <p>V. HARD</p>							6		1				4		3		8			5			6		9	2		9	8					1				7				4						5 3			3 7		8					1		6		8		4			2		7	<p>FORECAST</p> <p>SUNSET: FRIDAY 19:15 HRS SUNRISE: SATURDAY 06:43 HRS</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>CITY</th> <th>MAX</th> <th>MIN</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Chandigarh</td><td>35</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>New Delhi</td><td>34</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>Amritsar</td><td>35</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>Bathinda</td><td>34</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>Jalandhar</td><td>35</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>Ludhiana</td><td>32</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>Bhivani</td><td>32</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>Hisar</td><td>33</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>Sirsa</td><td>35</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>Dharamsala</td><td>27</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>Manali</td><td>26</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>Shimla</td><td>24</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>Srinagar</td><td>28</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>Jammu</td><td>31</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>Kargil</td><td>30</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>Leh</td><td>28</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>Dehradun</td><td>34</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>Mussoorie</td><td>25</td><td>17</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>CALENDAR AUGUST 2, 2024, FRIDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shaka Samvat 1946 Shravan Shaka 11 Shravan Parvishte 18 Hijari 1446 Krishna Paksha Tithi 13, up to 3.27 pm Harshana Yoga up to 11.45 am Aardra Nakshatra up to 10.59 am Moon enters Cancer sign 5.42 am 							CITY	MAX	MIN	Chandigarh	35	24	New Delhi	34	25	Amritsar	35	26	Bathinda	34	24	Jalandhar	35	27	Ludhiana	32	26	Bhivani	32	27	Hisar	33	25	Sirsa	35	26	Dharamsala	27	19	Manali	26	16	Shimla	24	16	Srinagar	28	23	Jammu	31	24	Kargil	30	20	Leh	28	15	Dehradun	34	24	Mussoorie	25	17
6		1				4																																																																																																																																						
	3		8			5																																																																																																																																						
		6		9	2																																																																																																																																							
9	8					1																																																																																																																																						
			7																																																																																																																																									
4						5 3																																																																																																																																						
		3 7		8																																																																																																																																								
		1		6		8																																																																																																																																						
	4			2		7																																																																																																																																						
CITY	MAX	MIN																																																																																																																																										
Chandigarh	35	24																																																																																																																																										
New Delhi	34	25																																																																																																																																										
Amritsar	35	26																																																																																																																																										
Bathinda	34	24																																																																																																																																										
Jalandhar	35	27																																																																																																																																										
Ludhiana	32	26																																																																																																																																										
Bhivani	32	27																																																																																																																																										
Hisar	33	25																																																																																																																																										
Sirsa	35	26																																																																																																																																										
Dharamsala	27	19																																																																																																																																										
Manali	26	16																																																																																																																																										
Shimla	24	16																																																																																																																																										
Srinagar	28	23																																																																																																																																										
Jammu	31	24																																																																																																																																										
Kargil	30	20																																																																																																																																										
Leh	28	15																																																																																																																																										
Dehradun	34	24																																																																																																																																										
Mussoorie	25	17																																																																																																																																										

Cloudburst leaves entire village near Rampur in mourning

36 persons, 25 houses located along nullah, PHC & school buildings swept away in flood waters



A rescue operation underway in Samej village of Rampur in Shimla district after flashfloods triggered by a cloudburst on Thursday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: LALIT KUMAR

SUBHASH RAJTA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, AUGUST 1
An old woman is staring at the roaring nullah full of massive boulders and debris. Her middle-aged son, looking equally lost and dejected, also has his gaze fixed on the nullah. The mother and the son are clearly unable to accept that two of their family members (his wife and daughter) have been swept away by the gushing waters and are hoping for a miracle.

Like these two heartbroken souls, there are several other stony-eyed people in Samej village on the border of Shimla district and Kullu district near Rampur, mourning their losses. This small village, located on either side of the nullah, was hit by flashfloods on Wednesday midnight following a cloudburst higher up in the hills.

The flashfloods swept away 36 persons and around 25 houses in the village and nearby places down the stream, leaving the entire area in mourning. Someone has lost a wife in the floods, someone saw their children swept away, and a few lost

SEARCH TO BE CARRIED OUT IN 85-KM AREA

- The rescue and search operation for 36 persons missing from Samej village, near Rampur, will be carried out over 85 km
- Personnel of the NDRF, SDRF, Army, CISF, ITBP, Police, Home Guards and the Fire Department are part of the rescue teams
- Anupam Kashyap, Deputy Commissioner, Shimla, and SP Sanjeev Gandhi monitored the rescue operation, which started at 5.30 am
- The rescue teams had to walk 2 km to reach the affected area due to the broken road

their entire family.

Such was the force of the torrent that there's no sign left of the houses that have been swept away. Only some pillars could be seen jutting out of the debris at some places. "I was tossed around by the waters before I caught a wooden log and managed to come out of water. Unfortunately, my wife was swept away," said Prem Chand (75).

People recall hearing a loud noise a little past midnight, followed by water in the nullah rising several metres high. "I woke up hearing a loud noise around midnight. I was shaken when I saw out of my window the water in the nullah had risen as high as the road. And then, I saw

some houses on the other bank collapsing in gushing waters," says Ashish. "I woke up my mother, and we rushed to safety," he adds.

Along with the houses, a multi-storied building of a Primary Health Centre and a primary school building have been washed away. Lower down the stream, a hydro project has been wrecked by the big boulders that came with the water.

Several agencies have been pressed into the rescue and search operations. "The rescue operation is over, the focus is now on retrieval of the missing persons," said Sanjeev Gandhi, SP, Shimla. Two bodies were recovered today, but are yet to be identified.

10 go missing from Nirmand, Shrikhand trek route

KULLU, AUGUST 1

Ten persons are missing from the Shrikhand route and the Nirmand area after cloudbursts and incessant heavy rains since yesterday night wreaked havoc in various parts of Kullu. Two Nepalese labourers and five locals, are missing after a cloudburst in the Bagipul area of the Shrikhand Mahadev trek route.

Kullu Deputy Commissioner Tonu S Raveesh said that one body found in the Sutlej was identified as one of the five missing persons of the same family from Bagipul. He said, "Nine houses and two bridges were washed away on the Shrikhand route. A few

persons were stranded in the area and the rescue teams were bringing them back to Jaon village and all are safe."

Three persons in the Nirmand area were missing and four houses were washed away due to flashfloods.

Four persons were stranded in a tunnel of the Malana Hydroelectric project-I and 29 employees of the powerhouse were marooned on a hill after the barrage gave way due to a cloudburst. NDRF teams rescued 29 persons and reached outside the tunnel where four persons were stuck, but they could not be contacted as they had moved inside the tunnel. — OC

DIPENDER MANTA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MANDI, AUGUST 1

Eleven members of three families along with their three houses were swept away in a cloudburst in Rajban village of the remote Chauhar valley in Mandi district around 11 pm yesterday. The victims were sleeping in their houses when the cloudburst took place. So far, three bodies were retrieved from the flashflood-affected area while one critically-injured person was rescued. Seven persons were missing and the teams of the NDRF, SDRF, police and the DDMA

Schools to remain closed on Friday

were searching for them. Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Madan Kumar said that three persons were killed and one villager was injured while seven locals went missing in the cloudburst that destroyed three houses and caused widespread damage. Rescue teams were moved to the flood-affected area during the night. A team of doctors was also dispatched to treat injured persons. The ADM said, "The affected area is inaccessible, making relief efforts challenging. The road to the flood-hit village has been heavily damaged. A search and rescue operation is underway to locate missing villagers".

"In view of the rise in the water level of the Beas due to another cloudburst in Malana, residents of low-lying areas in Mandi district have been evacuated. Thirty persons from Raghunath ka Padhar and Badi Gumanu and 15 from Lower Bheul have been relocated to safer areas. Temporary accommodation arrangements have been made at local gurdwaras," the ADM said.

11 of three families swept away in Mandi; 3 bodies recovered

Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Madan Kumar said that three persons were killed and one villager was injured while seven locals went missing in the cloudburst that destroyed three houses and caused widespread damage. Rescue teams were moved to the flood-affected area during the night. A team of doctors was also dispatched to treat injured persons. The ADM said, "The affected area is inaccessible, making relief efforts challenging. The road to the flood-hit village has been heavily damaged. A search and rescue operation is underway to locate missing villagers".

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR HIRING OF OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

The Executive Engineer, Electrical Division No. II HPPWD (U.S.) Club - Shimla - 171001 on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites tender for hiring of office accommodation having 2200 Sq. ft. from legal owners/power of attorney holders in the vicinity of HP secretariat in Shimla Town.

The interested bidders may collect the tender document & other terms and condition applicable from the undersigned or the same may be downloaded from the HPPWD website and submit their offers on the appropriate "format" attached with the NIT. The bid may be forwarded to the O/o undersigned with a non-refundable fee of Rs. 500/- only (Rupees Five Hundred) only in the form of DD in favour of Executive Engineer, Electrical Division No. II HPPWD US Club Shimla, payable at Shimla.

Bid complete in all respect in sealed envelope along with EMD in the form of a Demand Draft/FDR for amount of Rs. 10,000/- only valid for 120 days beyond the validity for the bid must be either delivered by hand or sent by registered post to the O/o undersigned on or before 16-09-2024 till 04:00 PM. The tender will be opened at 04:30 PM on 16.09.2024 in the O/o Executive Engineer, Electrical Division No. II, HPPWD U.S. Club Shimla.

The tender should be submitted in accordance with the procedure detailed herein. The document should be enclosed in separate envelope of appropriate size each of which should be sealed

- Envelope No. 1 should contain following document
 - Covering letter.
 - Information in Annexure-I duly signed and stamped.
 - Requisite Fee.
- Envelope No. 2 should contain Envelope No. 1

The envelope No. 2 should be addressed to the Corporation at the above mentioned address and should clearly mention "Tender for Hiring of Accommodation". The inner envelope should also indicate the name and address of the bidder to enable the bid to be returned unopened in case it is declared "late". If the outer envelope is not sealed and marked as required the HPPWD will assume no responsibility for the bid's misplacement or premature opening. The tender received through E-mail or not in proper format as annexed or without appropriate and supporting documents will summarily be rejected.

Terms & Conditions:

- Executive Engineer, Electrical Division No. II, HPPWD (U.S.) Club Shimla is desirous of hiring suitable office accommodation in Shimla Town.
- The requirement of hiring accommodation is between 2200 Sq. ft.
- The building should preferably have parking space/facility for atleast 4 (four) vehicles.
- The building should have the provision of independent 24 hours water supply.
- The building should have independent electricity supply with fireproof electric system.
- The bidder shall have offer and quote monthly rent per square foot and total sum/rent for the building in the tender.
- The bids offer shall be valid for 120 days (one hundred twenty days) from the date of opening of tenders.
- The building should be complete in every respect to be put to immediate use.
- Repair work, if any point out by the HPPWD shall be carried out by the owner within 15 days failing which the same shall be done by the HPPWD and cost of it up to ceiling of one month's rent shall be recovered out of the rent payable in the next month.
- The applications should be accompanied by a demand draft of Rs. 500/- only (Rupees Five Hundred) only on account of tender fees in favour of Executive Engineer, Electrical Division No. II HPPWD U.S. Club Shimla payable at Shimla.
- The proposed should be submitted along with EMD in the form of a FDR/DD for an amount of Rs. 10,000/- only (Rupees Ten Thousand) only valid for 45days beyond the validity of the bid.
- The building should be ideally located near Shimla town and should have proper approach from National Highway/State Highway/Motorable link road in safe and secure premises.
- No activity other than the activities of the HPPWD will be carried out on the leased premises by the land lord/contractor.
- Independent and regular water and electricity must be available with meters stand arrangements would be preferred for water & electricity. Water and electric meters for the premises should be exclusive for the office. Charges will be paid by the office as per meter reading.
- Selected party shall be required to sign a lease agreement containing detailed terms and conditions with the office, in accordance with the provisions of the law applicable. The agreement shall be signed for a period of two years which may be extended for a further period on mutually agreed terms and conditions.
- Building offered must be free from all encumbrances, claims and legal disputes etc. Documentary proof of ownership of building, payment of all taxes, duties, telephone, water, electricity charges etc. must be submitted along with this tender document.
- The parties may furnish complete details in the applications from attached with this document.
- All existing and future rates taxes including property assessment charges and other outgoing whatsoever of description in respect of the said premises shall be payable by the owner thereof.
- The electricity and water supply lines/connection shall be provided by the owner at his cost and expenses. However, the office shall pay all running charges with respect to electric power, light and water charges of the said premises during the lease period on the basis of actual consumption.
- Arrangement of sufficient number of fire extinguisher, bucket with sand etc. shall be installed on each floor of the building.
- Building with multi stories should have internal passage.
- The Executive Engineer, Electrical Division No. II HPPWD U.S. Club Shimla reserves the right to consider/reject any such proposal without assigning any reason. In case of rejection of application for issue of tender, the decision of competent authority will be final and binding and the party shall not be entitled to any compensation whatsoever for no issue of tender.
- In case of any dispute arising in the implementation of the terms of the contract, the decision of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division No. II HPPWD U.S. Club Shimla shall be final and binding upon both parties.
- In case the date of opening of tender is declared as Public Holidays the tender shall be opened on the next working day at the same time.

BID EVALUATION:

Bid's would be evaluated on the basis of criteria like location, availability of parking space, distance from bus stand, suitability of the building for office use and rates quoted for rental as per carpet area of the space offered.

INSURANCE:

At all times during the currency of the lease period, it shall be responsibility of the owner of the building to obtain insurance coverage in line with standard industry practice, including cover for fire, theft and natural calamities. Such insurance will have to be obtained by the land lord/party before entering into contract.

Commencement & Termination:

- The agreements for hiring of buildings/accommodation shall come into force immediately after it is executed and shall remain in force for the period agreed upon.
- The agreement may be terminated by giving Two Months notice by the office. However, during such notice period, the building/accommodation shall remain in the possession of this office.

Indemnification:

The party shall keep the office indemnified against all claims/litigation in respect of the building/accommodation so hired by the office.

TERMS OF PAYMENT:-

- The monthly rent charges shall be paid at the fixed rate at the end of each month as agreed in terms of terms & condition. No advance payment and as per the lease agreement entered into with mutually agreed terms & conditions.
- The monthly payment of rent shall be subject to deduction of taxes as per rules.
- The HPPWD/Office may, at any time during currency of the lease period make such structural alterations to the existing building such as partitions, office fixtures and fitting may be easily removable and mutually agreed upon.
- Interest parties should return the complete expression of interest document, including Annexure-I, duly filled in and ink signed at the bottom of each page, in token of having accepted the terms and conditions. These documents should be sealed in an envelop superscripted "Tender for Hiring of Office accommodation".

The undersigned reserve the right to reject any or all the offers without assigning any reasons thereof.

On behalf of Governor of H.P.
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Electrical Division No. II,
HPPWD U.S. Club Shimla.

APPLICATION FORM

APPLICATION FORM	ANNEXURE-I
1. Name of the person/party holding title to the property.	
2. Nationality of Owner.	
3. Full postal address of property	
4. E-mail ID, Mobile, Landline No.	
5. Description of built-up area in sq. ft.	
i) Number of rooms with attached toilet carpet area of floor/building: Built up area of the floor/building.	
ii) Number of toilet footwise if more than one floor.	
6. Essential documents to be furnished.	
i) Copy of the title deed of the property/building.	
ii) Copy of the building plan duly approved by the Local Government.	
iii) Particulars of completion certificate, year of construction age of the building etc. (enclose attested/self-certified copy of completion certificate issued by Competent Authority).	
iv) Whether accommodation offered for rent is free from litigation including disputes in regard to ownership, pending taxes, due to like (Enclose copy of Affidavit from owner or Power of Attorney holder)	
7. i) Please indicate whether it is an independent building for exclusive use of the Corporation (Details may be clearly illustrated & stated)	
ii) General amenities	
Facility of provision of kitchen etc. (these are not essentials)	
iii) Availability of parking space in Sq. Ft/Mtr within the compound	
iv) Whether proposed building is free from all encumbrances, claims litigations.	
v) Whether proposed building is ready to occupy?	
vi) Whether the Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board (HPSEB) has certified for safety standards of electric wiring.	
vii) Whether all Govt. dues (property) taxes, electricity, telephone, water bills are paid up as on date of application documentary proof should be provided.	
8. Monthly Rent Offered (in Rupees) Please clearly mention per square foot and total carpet and built-up areas and total rent for the premises.	
i) Whether the owner of the building is agreeable to Monthly rent as determinate and fixed by CPWD/HPPWD. If the offered rent found to be at higher side than that of rent determined by the CPWD/HPPWD.	
ii) Details of Fire Safety Mechanism along with particulars of fire Department Certificate (copy of certificate to be enclosed)	
iii) Provisions of regular repairs and maintenance and special repairs, if any of the building	
iv) Availability of shelter/room for the chowkidar, if any	
v) Other information if any which the intending party wishes to furnish	
9. Declaration:	
I/we have read and understood the detailed terms and conditions applicable to the subject offer as supplied with the tender documents and agree to abide by the same in totality.	
It is hereby declared that the particulars of the building etc as furnished against the individual items are true and correct as per my knowledge and belief and in the event of any of the same being found to be not true, I/we shall be liable to such consequences /lawful action as the Corporation may wish to take.	
Signature of the Legal Owner	(Name in Block Letter)

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

Tender/RFP Reference No. 15 of 2024 dated: 01.08.2024

The Department of PUNJAB WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD invites online bids:-

Sr. No.	Name of the work	Amount
1.	Providing G.I. Pipeline & Water Supply lines and House connections in Ward No. 12 Mohalla Bania & Ward No. 14 Mohalla Santokhpura at Phillaur Town, Distt. Jalandhar	Rs. 11.63 Lac

Last date and time for online submission of bid shall be

16.08.2024 up to 15.00 hrs. For Contractors/Agencies 23.08.2024 up to 15.00 hrs.

For details logon to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

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

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.S & Sew. Div. No. 2, Jalandhar. DPR/Pb/36258

Bid No. 05/PWSSD MOGA DATE: 31/07/2024

<https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

On behalf of the Chief Executive Officer, P.W.S & Sew. Board, Chandigarh, Executive Engineer, P.W.S & Sew. Divn. Moga invites bids from eligible bidders for the works detailed below:-

Sr. No.	Item	Qty.
1.	Augmentation of Water Supply System at Fatehgarh Panjtar, District Moga under AMRUT 2.0 Scheme, Phase-1 Part-1	Part-A & B Percentage Rate Rs. 301.35
2.	Augmentation and Rehabilitation of Water Supply System at Dharamkot District Moga under AMRUT 2.0 Scheme, Phase-1 Part-1	Part-A & B Percentage Rate Rs. 364.96
3.	Providing Tap Connections to consumers, Extension and Augmentation of Water Supply System at Mullanpur Dhaska, District Ludhiana for Distribution Network under AMRUT 2.0 Scheme, Part-1, Phase-1	Part-A & B Percentage Rate Rs. 451.85 Lakh

i) Period of availability of tender online shall be : From 02/08/2024, 12:00 Noon

ii) Last Date and Time for online submission of bid : 22/08/2024 up to 5:00 p.m. shall be

iii) Date and Time of opening of Technical Bid : 23/08/2024 at 11:00 a.m.

*For detailed terms and conditions refer to website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

Note: If any corrigendum issued will be loaded & seen at website <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Punjab W/S & Sew. Divn., Moga. DPR/Pb/36254

PUNJAB MANDI BOARD,

Punjab Mandi Bhanan, Sector-65, S.A.S. Nagar

Email: pmb.xenmoh2@punjab.gov.in

E-Tendering Notice No. 20 (2024) Dated: 30.07.2024.

Secure Online Submission of Tenders

The Department of Executive Engineer (Civil) Punjab Mandi Board Sector-65-A S.A.S. Nagar Mohali invites online bids from the eligible bidders registered with Punjab Mandi Board for followings works:-

- Annual Maintenance of Public Health Services Year 2024-25 in Kisan Bhanan Sector 35-A, Chandigarh. (WORK CODE No. SAS NAGAR 2024-14).
- Annual Maintenance Fire Fighting System in Kisan Bhanan Sector 35-A, Chandigarh. (WORK CODE No. SAS NAGAR 2024-15).
- Annual Maintenance of Public Health Services Year 2024-25 in Housing Colony Sector 66 SAS Nagar. (WORK CODE No. SAS NAGAR 2024-17).
- Annual Maintenance of Public Health Services Year 2024-25 in Head Office Building Sector 65 SAS Nagar. (WORK CODE No. SAS NAGAR 2024-18).
- Annual Maintenance of Public Health Services Year 2024-25 in Fruit & Vegetable Market Sector 65 SAS Nagar. (WORK CODE No. SAS NAGAR 2024-19).
- New Construction of Boundary Wall, DB Flooring at Retail Market, MC Kharar Distt. SAS Nagar.

Closing Date & Time : 12.08.2024, Time: 11:00 a.m.

For details logon to : <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

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

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Civil), Punjab Mandi Board, S.A.S. Nagar. DPR/Pb/36251

SHIMLA JAL PRABANDHAN NIGAM LIMITED

Sewerage Division

(A jointly owned company of M.C. Shimla and Govt. of H.P.) CIN - U74999HP2018SGC007069

Regd. Office: US Club, Forest Road, Shimla-171001 (H.P.), Tel. No. 0177-2650313, Email Id: agmsw.sjpn@gmail.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

Online bids are invited by the Additional General Manager (Sewerage) Shimla, Jal Prabandhan Nigam Limited, Shimla - 171001 on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh through electronic tendering system at portal <https://tenders.gov.in> in two covers from the eligible contractors for the following works:-

Sr. No.	Description of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Time	Cost of Tender Form (Rs.)
1.	Performance based Annual Repair, Running and Maintenance of Sewerage Network of STP Lalpuri Zone for two years	3,80,57,309/-	4,13,100/-	2 years	5000/-
2.	Performance based Annual Repair, Running and Maintenance of Sewerage Network of STP Malana Zone for two years	1,79,89,685/-	2,12,400/-	2 years	5000/-

The key dates for e-tender are as under:

a	Date of Online Publication	01.08.2024 at 10:00 AM
b	Downloading of Bidding Documents	01.08.2024 at 10:00 AM up to 12.08.2024 at 3:00 PM
c	Date of submission of Bids	01.08.2024 at 10:00 AM up to 12.08.2024 at 3:00 PM
e	The submission of earnest money and cost of form online or offline mode	01.08.2024 at 10:00 AM up to 12.08.2024 at 3:00 PM
f	Date of opening of Bids:-	
(i)	Cover-1 Eligibility Criteria	12.08.2024 at 3:30 PM
(ii)	Cover-2 Financial Bid	Shall be intimated separately

The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be downloaded from the website <https://tenders.gov.in>

DPR/HP/246 Additional General Manager, Sewerage Division, US Club, SJPNL, Shimla-1.

CHANDIGARH COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY (DEGREE WING)

(Government Institute under Chandigarh (UT) Administration)

Approved by AICTE, New Delhi/Affiliated to Panjab University, Chandigarh

SECTOR-26, CHANDIGARH, PIN - 160019, Tel No. 0172-2750943

Website: www.ccet.ac.in Email: helpdesk@ccet.ac.in

ADMISSION NOTICE (ACADEMIC SESSION 2024-25)

For the academic session 2024-25, Chandigarh College of Engineering & Technology (Degree Wing), invites online applications for special round counselling followed by spot round counselling for the admission in Bachelor of Engineering (B.E.) 1st year courses on the basis of Joint Entrance Exam - 2024 (JEE) through Joint Admission Committee (JAC - 2024) online admission portal. The following B.E. courses are offered by CCET:-

Sr. No.	Name of Course
1.	Computer Science & Engineering (CSE)
2.	Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE)
3.	Civil Engineering (CE)
4.	Mechanical Engineering (ME)

For more details on the Academic Programmes, Eligibility Criteria, Seat details in each course and their corresponding Reservation details are available in JAC information brochure published at the admission website: <https://jacchd.admissions.nic.in/>

JAC PORTAL	CCET WEBSITE	CCET HELPDESK
https://jacchd.admissions.nic.in/	https://www.ccet.ac.in	9872823250, 9888623825, Email-Id: helpdesk@ccet.ac.in

Important Dates:

Display of vacant seats for Special Round	01st August, 2024 (Thursday)
Registration process for Special Round commences (for candidates not registered earlier)	01st August, 2024 (Thursday)
Last date for online registration and registration fee submission (Fresh candidates)	04th August, 2024 (Sunday)

Online payment of a non-refundable registration fee of Rs. 2800/- for General and Rs. 1400/- for SC/ST/PWD category.

NOTE:- (i) All further notices and updates regarding the admission process will be made available on the JAC website. Candidates are advised to visit the website regularly.

(ii) For counselling schedule and other updates, please visit the JAC Portal or contact admission Helpline No: 9872823250, 9888623825. Email-Id: helpdesk@ccet.ac.in

Principal

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

The long wait for Assembly elections gets longer

Poll last held in 2014; frustration sets in among people

**5 YEARS
ABROGATION
OF ART 370**

ADIL AKHZER

Srinagar, August 1
It has been five years since the abrogation of Article 370, but the UT continues to remain without electoral representation at all levels — Assembly, panchayat and municipal.

It was in 2018 that the BJP ended the coalition government with the PDP. The year 2014 saw the last election to the legislative Assembly.

The frustration has begun to show. "The existing scheme of things is not a solution in a democracy," says Mohammad Ashraf Mir, a senior leader of the Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP). "People have negligible access to offices. Elected representatives used to have a say in decision-making. Now, bureaucrats are calling the shots. An elected member used to call officials and apprise them of an issue. Nothing of the sort exists now," he says.

By way of explanation, Mir says: "The number of people going to the Secretariat to meet officials has decreased. They view it as a futile exercise since institutions have



been disempowered over the years." More teeth to the Lieutenant Governor will force the Chief Minister to work under him, he adds.

People have been waiting to have their own elected representatives in the Assembly. But the wait has gone on for far too long. PDP spokesperson Tahir Sayeed says: "People from outside, who are at the helm of affairs in J-K, are taking decisions for locals. In our Assembly, there are no elected representatives. The hall is used for shooting films."

The term of 4,892 panchayats expired on January 9. Along with the Block Development Council, the term of elected Urban Local Bodies, including municipalities, municipal councils and municipal committees, ended in December 2023.

After the Assembly dissolved in 2018, says Shafiq Mir, chairman, All J&K Panchayat

ASSEMBLY HALL BEING USED TO SHOOT FILMS

“People have been waiting for their elected representatives. People from outside, who are at the helm of affairs in J-K, are taking decisions for locals. In our Assembly, there are no elected representatives. The hall is used for shooting films.” Tahir Sayeed, PDP spokesperson

Conference, Panchayati Raj institutions and Urban Local Bodies were the only link between people and the government. "In the absence of elected representatives, that connect is missing," he says.

Jammu-based political analyst Zafar Chaudhary says the two tiers of Panchayati Raj were put in place with "significant empowerment" and were "marketed at massive scale" as the real grassroots democracy that would empower the common man.

However, these institutions failed to be seen as a replacement to political authority because they "lacked any central leadership, agency of

voice and coherence of purpose," he states.

In 2020, the UT government held the first-ever elections of the District Development Council (DDC). They are still holding office.

The UT has seen the formation of new parties as well. But experts say they failed to make any impact as they were dismissed as BJP's "informal allies or alleged proxies".

The JKAP was the first major party to come up in March 2020. Founded by former PDP leader Altaf Bukhari, several former PDP leaders joined the party as it boasted of proximity to New Delhi. Two years later, former

Congress veteran Ghulam Nabi Azad launched his DPAP — a rival to the NC and the PDP.

The result of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, says Zafar, demonstrated that no party was in a position to completely dislodge the NC and the PDP.

"Elections are the first step to engage in a long battle of restoration of the state as it existed before 2019," he asserts.

NC president and former JK CM Farooq Abdullah says that the imposition of direct rule from New Delhi resulted in bureaucratic hurdles, particularly affecting remote areas.

"Once attended to by MLAs and MLCs, the region now finds itself at the mercy of bureaucrats who have no connection with people they are meant to serve," he says, emphasising

"These officials are not held accountable to public in a way an elected MLA is."

5 summers later, Ladakh dejected

ARJUN SHARMA

JAMMU, AUGUST 1
As part of the erstwhile star-crossed Jammu-Kashmir-Ladakh trioka, Ladakh had always felt like the third wheel. And so, the cold desert was awash with exuberance when, on August 5, 2019, the Centre did away with Article 370. It had come out of the shadows. But five summers later, its people feel that they have been handed the short end of the stick.

For the past three years, Ladakh has been trying — in vain — to get its three key demands accepted — safeguards under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, statehood and setting up of a Public Service Commission. Endless meetings with Central government officials and ministers have yielded nothing.

"There is a trust deficit, for sure. We feel humiliated. No one listens to us. Whatever happened on August 5, 2019, is being seen as a betrayal," says Sajjad Kargili, an activist and leader from Kargil. Last month, Ladakh MP Haji Hanifa Jan raised the issue of the Sixth Schedule and statehood during Zero Hour in Parliament.

A fresh stir is now being planned to exert pressure on the government. After an Independent candidate from Kargil won the Ladakh Lok Sabha seat this year, leaders of the Ladakh BJP unit reassured people — the government was giving their demands a serious thought. As usual, nothing moved.

Kargili is part of the Kargil



NO ONE CARES ABOUT OUR DEMANDS

“There is a trust deficit, for sure. We feel humiliated. No one listens to us. Whatever happened on August 5, 2019, is being seen as a betrayal.” Sajjad Kargili, an activist and leader from Kargil

Democratic Alliance (KDA), which, along with the Leh Apex Body (LAB), held meetings with MHA officials and met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi in support of their demands.

On July 28, a delegation of BJP leaders, including former MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal and party chief of UT Phunchok Stanzin, met Shah and raised the issue of constitutional safeguards for Ladakh, reservation in jobs, early notification of vacancies for gazetted posts and strengthening the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs) of Leh and Kargil.

"When we were part of J&K, we felt the region was discriminated against. Our four MLAs used to raise the issue in the state Assembly often. But now, there is no representation as we are a UT without an Assembly," he laments, adding that the only good thing that came of

the abrogation of Article 370 was that it united the Buddhists and Muslims against the government's ill-perceived policies.

People of the region celebrated the scrapping of Article 370, says Chering Dorjay Lakrook, president of the Ladakh Buddhist Association and member of the Leh Apex Body. But it soon changed. "They have realised that they gained nothing," he says.

"While the administration is getting enough funds from the Centre, these are not being diverted towards LAHDCs. Earlier, the bureaucracy did not interfere in the working of the councils. Now, that has also changed," he adds. Educationist and innovator Sonam Wangchuk recently said he would go on indefinite fast from August 15 if the Centre did not call Ladakh leaders for talks.

The writing is on the wall — people of Ladakh are losing patience.

FROM PAGE 1

Terrorist hideout busted in Rajouri

JAMMU, AUGUST 1
Security forces seized arms and ammunition after busting a terrorist hideout in a remote forest area in Rajouri early this morning.

The hideout was unearthed during a joint cordon and search operation launched by the Army, police and the BSF at Gulabgarh in Dharamsal area

of Kalakote. The operation, 'Gulabgarh', was launched following specific intelligence.

During the search operation, the security forces found a natural cave in the forest area. They recovered an AK-47 rifle, two hand grenades, a knife and bullet rounds, eatables and cigarette packets from the hideout. — OC

Rao Inderjit stings own govt over G'gram..

"Wait till December. If the landfill is not cleared by then, I will stage a dharna against the state government," Rao said. Earlier, Rao had demanded a CBI inquiry against MCG officials and the Nayab Saini-led state government, accusing them of being in connivance with the waste concessionaire, who, he said, had turned Gurugram into "kuragram". "Sanitation and clean surroundings are a basic constitutional right. Waste in the city needs immediate attention and despite tall claims by the authorities, residents say nothing has been done on the ground," Rao said.

"The landfill is ruining lives and the reputation of the millennium city. I will do whatever it takes to get people their due even if it means sitting on a dharna with the affected villagers," he added.

During his visit to Gurugram today, the Union Minister visited Bandhwari and took stock of the ongoing efforts to resolve

the sanitation issues and directed the officials concerned to speed up the work. While the officials claimed that things were under control, the villagers said they were lying.

Narhari Singh Banger, Commissioner of the Municipal Corporation, Gurugram, said of the 39.75 lakh metric tonne waste at the plant, 30.18 lakh metric tonne had been disposed of from January 2023 to July 2024. The remaining waste will be disposed of by December this year.

Bronze Bullet

them at all" Kusale, a ticket collector with the Indian Railways and son of a school-teacher father and sarpnakh mother, is 28 and has had days of glory in the past, but he has a natural diffidence and a low voice. However, he's put himself in the category of the greats of Indian shooting.

The 3 Positions category is particularly challenging, for the shooter's perspective of the target changes dramatically — it's high in the standing position, lower in the kneeling position, and when the shooter is prone on the ground, on his tummy, it's lower still. It requires significant adjustments, and Kusale took to this format because he loved to shoot as much as he could, spending hours in the range.

Speaking at the National Shooting Centre at Chateauroux, some 270 km away from Paris, Kusale said the medal resulted from years of labour.

He had to labour hard today, too — he was at the sixth spot after the first 15 shots in kneeling positions, with 153.3. He did better in the prone and standing positions, rising to third after Stage 1. At one stage he was in the silver medal position, but a 9.1 and 10.1 sent him down to fourth. He recovered well to register a 10.3 and, even better, a 10.5. Now, he was up to third and never let go, ending up with 451.4 points. China's Liu Yukun won the gold at 463.6 and Ukraine's Serhiy Kulish

(461.3) won the silver. From Kambalwadi village — known for organic farming and a ban on drugs — near Kolhapur to Paris, Kusale's journey is stuff dreams are made of.

Scouted as a teenager for the Maharashtra Government's Kreedha Prabodhini scheme at age 14, Kusale joined a residential institute, Bhogawati School in Parite, Kolhapur.

He made a mark at the national and Asian level, and got a job with the Railways in 2015 — it was only then that he was able to afford his first rifle, hoarding his salary for six months so that he could save Rs 3 lakh he needed for his own gun.

But it's not the gun — it's the person behind the gun who really matters. Today, holding the gun, Kusale made it matter by keeping calm.

"Like all shooters, my heart-beat too races in such situations," he said. "But I kept my breath quiet." He had no desire, no aim for the day, he said. "I was only focusing on my processes — on my body, the target, the shots... To keep my breath low."

He cared not a bit for the noise for his opponents, he said — but he did hear the Indians shouting themselves hoarse behind him. "Behind me were the India supporters, and I wanted them happy and I wanted their noise, more and more," he said. "I heard their noise, and I was happy."

12 die in...

Tehri district's Ghansali. Emergency workers rescued 1,500 pilgrims from the Kedarnath yatra route; another 425 from Bhimbali, Rambada and Lincholi were airlifted.

Tehri and Rudraprayag were the worst hit with Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama visiting the spot and meeting with kin of those deceased.

Dhama reviewed the situation starting last night when heavy rain hit the region and visited state disaster operations centres to take stock.

Monsoon...

caused to roads and bridges, especially in Nirmal area.

CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said: "Rescue operations are being undertaken on a war footing. The Army and the Air Force have been asked to remain on standby as there is an alert of heavy rain in the next 24 hours".

Those missing include two Nepalese labourers in Bagipul area of Shrikhand Mahadev trekking route. Four persons were stuck in a tunnel of the Malana hydel project-I and 33 employees working in the power house were stranded on a hill after the barrage gave way due to a cloudburst upstream.

Mann game...

my boys and I know that my presence will be proof of that," he told this reporter.

"I have a red-coloured diplomatic passport," Mann added, referring to the document that it is an automatic entitlement for senior political leaders, which guarantees them a visa for any country in the world.

"This means that I can get a French visa in record time. But my officials have been waiting at the Ministry of External Affairs in Delhi for political clearance for many hours now. Two days are left for my proposed flight and it still hasn't come through," he added.

3 NHAI projects axed in...

House that the ministry had requested the Punjab Government to take necessary steps to hand over the possession of the land required for the projects. In Punjab, the NHAI is developing 1,500-km-long national highways at a cost of Rs 52,000 crore.

However, delay in the possession of acquired land and declaration of compensation, coupled with tardy disbursement of awards, have forced the contractors of several projects to foreclose or terminate

contract agreements and raise claims against the NHAI. Meanwhile, PM Narendra Modi, who was scheduled to chair a high-level meeting to review the status of major infrastructure development projects in Punjab and some other states, in New Delhi on July 31, has rescheduled the meeting for August 28. "The meeting has been postponed due to the PM's busy schedule during the ongoing monsoon session of Parliament," a source told *The Tribune*.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Public Notice
National Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission, New Delhi
Revision Petition No. 984 of 2021
Neetu Lal, Northern Railway & Ors
Versus
Anoop kumar S/O Sh. Ram Kumar
Mohalla - Amanjal, Jalal Nagar, Sahajanpur
You have been identified as the defendant in the said case, you are requested to submit your reply personally or through Advocate on 08.08.2024, before National Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission, New Delhi. 2351/2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

MISSING
The General Public is hereby informed that a person namely Sukhwinder Singh S/o Gurbj Singh R/o # 34 Jagga Colony Bhamian Kalan road Ludhiana Punjab, aged about 40 years, height 5'8"ft, wheatish complexion, wearing White T-shirt and Black pajama has been reported to be missing from PGI Sector-12 Chandigarh for his treatment since 23.07.2024. In this regard, a DDR No. 35, dated 27.07.2024 has been lodged in Police Post PGI Sector-12, Chandigarh. The photograph of missing person is given above.
In case of any clue about the said missing person, Please inform Police Post PGI Sector-12 on Phone No. 0172-2755100, SHO Police Station Sector-11, Chandigarh on Phone No. 9779580911, 0172-2920296, 2760002 or Police Control Room Phone No. 0172-2749194 or 112.
CHANDIGARH POLICE

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./ AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/ CORP./ AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/ EMAIL
1.	UHBVN	CONSTRUCTION OF NEW CONTROL ROOM BUILDING 33 KV YARD, BOUNDARY WALL AND OTHER CIVIL WORKS AT 33 KV SUBSTATION LAKHAN MAJRA (ROH TAK)	CLOSING DATE 05.08.2024	1.36 CRORES	http://tenders.hry.nic.in TENDER No. 31/2024-25/HWP	9356063248 xencivil@hrypanchikula@gmail.com
2.	UHBVN	ESTIMATE FOR EXTENSION OF SWITCH HOUSE BUILDING (25'X24.50') AND CONST. OF BOUNDARY WALL AT 33 KV S/STN. NDIRI RAM NAGAR KARNAL	CLOSING DATE 05.08.2024	22.44 LACS	http://tenders.hry.nic.in TENDER No. 30/2024-25/HWP	9356063248 xencivil@hrypanchikula@gmail.com
3.	UHBVN	TAB URSODEOXYCHOLIC ACID 300 MG	30.07.2024 21.08.2024	4630/-	www.ubvbn.org.in TENDER No. 05/UH/IM/P&S/QH-II/2594 dated 29.07.2024 2024 -HBC- 395.515	9781404844 cernm@ubvbn.org.in
4.	UHBVN	1 NO. JEEP (BOLERO) TO BE USED AROUND THE CLOCK FOR 24 HOURS WITH DRIVERS FOR THE USE OF SDO/OP/ SUB URBAN DIVISION UHBVN, PANIPAT	CLOSING DATE 07.08.2024	6000/- (FOR EACH VEHICLE) 500/- APPLICATION FORM + GST EXTRA	www.ubvbn.org.in TENDER No. Ch-177/HV-102024-25 dated 30.07.2024	906689087 xenops@paripat@ubvbn.org.in
5.	UHBVN	PUBLISHING OF TENDER NOTICE IN THE PRESS FOR HIRING OF 01 NO. VEHICLE BOLERO FOR SDO OP DIVISION NO-II UHBVN SHAHABAD	CLOSING DATE 08.08.2024	RS.6000/- EMD RS.500/- TENDER FEE RS.485000/- PER ANNUAL (UP TO 30000 KM PER MONTH)	www.ubvbn.org.in NIT No. 03/24-25 dt. 08.08.2024	01744240098 xencopshahab@ubvbn.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in PRDH-13/2025/100284/30/31/4

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./ AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/ CORP./ AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/ EMAIL
1	HVPNL	PROCUREMENT OF 22 NO. OVERHEAD TRANSMISSION LINE OFFLINE FAULT LOCATOR WITH SIGNATURE ANALYSER SYSTEM	26.07.2024 24.08.2024	EMD 18.70 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in	0172-2583789 PRO@HVPN.ORG.IN
2	HVPNL	PROCUREMENT OF 11KV SINGLE CORE (1000SQ MM & 630SQ MM) XLPE ALUMINUM POWER CABLES	26.07.2024 24.08.2024	EMD 10.86 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in	0172-2583789 PRO@HVPN.ORG.IN
3	HVPNL	AUGMENTATION OF 66KV BUS BAR FROM SINGLE ZEBRA TO TWIN ZEBRA CONDUCTOR AT 66KV S/STN., HVPNL, SOHNA.	25.07.2024 05.08.2024	4.26 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in	0172-2583789 PRO@HVPN.ORG.IN
4	HVPNL	CONSTRUCTION OF BOUNDARY WALL AND LIC FENCING AT 132 KV SUB STATION HVPNL, MEHEM.	29.07.2024 16.08.2024	66.84 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in	0172-2583789 PRO@HVPN.ORG.IN
5	HVPNL	FOR REPAINTING OF BOUNDARY WALL AT 132KV S/STN. HVPNL KHANPUR F.Y 2024-25 (KAITHAL)	29.07.2024 07.08.2024	2.78 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in	0172-2583789 PRO@HVPN.ORG.IN
6	HVPNL	FOR REPAIR AND RE-PAINTING WORKS OF BOUNDARY WALL AT 132KV S/STN. HVPNL, NOUTCH.F.Y 2024-25 (KAITHAL)	29.07.2024 07.08.2024	3.18 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in	0172-2583789 PRO@HVPN.ORG.IN
7	HVPNL	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE OF RESIDENTIAL & NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING REST HOUSES INCLUDING SEWERAGE SYSTEM, STORM WATER, DRAIN AGE SYSTEM, ROAD & PATH, AT SLDC COMPLEX AND COLONY (PANIPAT)	29.07.2024 13.08.2024	RS.64612/- CONTRACTORS OF & RS. 32306/- FOR CO- OPERATIVE SOCIETIES	www.hvnpn.org.in	0172-2583789 PRO@HVPN.ORG.IN
8	HVPNL	PROCUREMENT OF VARIOUS TYPES OF 220 KV C&R PANELS (WITH SAS & WITHOUT SAS)	30.07.2024 29.08.2024	EMD 13.30 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in	0172-2583789 PRO@HVPN.ORG.IN

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in PRDH-13/2025/160/28429/31/4

Anurag's fresh barb at Rahul: 'Feudal posing as socialist'

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1 Intensifying his attack on Rahul Gandhi over his "caste census" demands, former minister and five-term Hamirpur MP Anurag Thakur on Thursday said the Congress leader was a "feudal masquerading as a socialist."

No respite, downpour likely in Delhi, HP, U'khand till August 5

AKSHEEV THAKUR TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1 The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted light rainfall over Delhi NCR till August 5. The Met Department has further issued a red alert for Thursday in certain areas of Himachal Pradesh and yellow alert till August 5. Uttarakhand too will receive heavy rainfall till August 5.



Rescue and restoration work underway in the hilly areas of Wayanad district on Thursday. PTI

good rainfall activity along the west coast and central parts of the country from July 25 to August 1. We issued a yellow alert on July 25 and a red alert was issued in the early morning of July 30, indicating that very heavy rainfall, up to 20 cm, was expected," Mohapatra said.

place for Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, he said. "The reason behind heavy to very heavy rainfall in Delhi, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand is the shifting of the monsoon trough from south to north," Mohapatra remarked.

and Ladakh will receive below normal rainfall. India recorded 9 per cent above normal rainfall in July. India recorded 306.6 mm rainfall in July compared to the usual 280.5 mm in the month, IMD said.

Disaster mgmt Bill tabled in Lok Sabha

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1 A Bill which seeks to strengthen the working of disaster management authorities at the national and state level was introduced in the Lok Sabha on Thursday as Opposition members questioned the constitutionality of the measure. The Bill provides to make provision for constitution of "Urban Disaster Management Authority" for state capitals and large cities having Municipal Corporation. Also, it makes provisions for constitution of "State Disaster Response Force" by the state government.

States can sub-classify...

FROM PAGE 1 class for fulfilling the objective of the sub-classification. If the class is not integrated for the purpose, it can be further classified upon the fulfilment of the two-pronged intelligible differentia standard," a seven-judge Constitution Bench, led by CJI DY Chandrachud, said in the landmark judgment.

Ex-IAS probationer denied pre-arrest bail

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1 A Delhi court on Thursday denied anticipatory bail to former IAS probationer Puja Khedkar accused of "misrepresenting and falsifying facts" in her application to avail attempts to clear Civil Services Examination.

UPSC insider may have aided Khedkar: Court

permanently barred her from all future exams and selections citing violation of the Civil Services Examination-2022 Rules. Additional Sessions Judge Devender Kumar

Woman groped in UP, 16 arrested

LUCKNOW, AUGUST 1 A woman was groped by a rowdy group on a waterlogged street here, prompting the arrest of 16 men, action against eight policemen and a cryptic remark in the Assembly by CM Yogi Adityanath who said a "bullet train" will be run for the offenders. —PTI

Former BJD MP joins BJP

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1 Former Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leader Mamata Mohanta joined the BJP here, a day after resigning as Rajya Sabha member and quitting the Naveen Patnaik-led party. With her exit, the BJD's strength in Rajya Sabha has dropped to eight. It does not have any MP in the Lok Sabha. There are 10 seats in the Rajya Sabha from Odisha. —TNS

Govt. of Punjab Ludhiana Urban Water & Wastewater Management Ltd., Zone-B

Tender Notice No: 24/EN/B Dated: 01.08.2024 The Department of Municipal Corporation, Ludhiana invites online bids for the following Date and Time:

RAIL COACH FACTORY, KAPURTHALA

Table with columns: Sr. Tenders No. & Due Date, Description, Qty. (Nos./Sets), EMD (₹)

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE Table with columns: SR. NO., NAME OF BOARD/CORP/AUTH., NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER, OPENING DATE, AMOUNT/EMD

नीलामी सूचना ग्राम पंचायत ललाना, खंड अंबाला-1 जिला अंबाला की पंचायती भूमि में खड़े 1951 सफेदों के पेड़ों की खुली बोली

HP CITY TRANSPORT & BUS STANDS MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, TARADEVI UNIT, SHIMLA-10 TENDER NOTICE Sealed tenders are invited on prescribed format to rent out the shops on 'as is where is basis' at Bus Stand, Kotkhai on monthly rent basis.

दरदर रजिस्ट्रार, सिकारवाी सडावां, पंजाब, चंडीगढ़ 17 बेश बिलडिंग, सैक्टर-17 डी, चंडीगढ़ (0172-5046816) पबलक नॉटिस

INDIAN RAILWAYS "PUBLIC NOTIFICATION" Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises situated on the completed section of the under noted section of the Northern Railway that the 25 kV, 50 Hz, AC overhead traction wires will be energized on or after the date specified against the section.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE Table with columns: SR. NO., NAME OF BOARD/CORP/AUTH., NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER, OPENING DATE, AMOUNT/EMD

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB (DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVT.) (MUNICIPAL COUNCIL NANGAL) TENDER NOTICE REFERENCE NO./ 2404 Dt. 31.7.2024

HARYANA STAFF SELECTION COMMISSION BAYS NO. 67-70, SECTOR-2, PANCHKULA - 134151 (www.hssc.gov.in)

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice to the candidates for Physical Screening Test (PST) for the post of Male Constable (GD) against Advt. No. 06/2024, Cat. No. 01 of Police Department, Haryana

INTRODUCTION OF 25 kV AC TRACTION "WARNING TO ROAD USERS" It is notified for information of the Public that in connection with introduction of 25 kV AC electric traction over (i) (Km Location 362/1A, chainage 362/048.50) to (Km Location 362/31A, chainage 362/691.55) of 3rd main line

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION JALANDHAR Nehru Garden Road, Central Town, Jalandhar PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING BULK WASTE GENERATOR Whereas the SWM Rules 2016 notified by the Government on 08.04.2016 mandate the Bulk Generators of municipal waste to carry out certain waste management functions by themselves, the Municipal Corporation Jalandhar, notwithstanding any other rule/provision, hereby directs all Bulk Generators of municipal Solid Waste defined as generating more than 50 kg of waste per day in total from the identified Premises/ property/ establishment to implement the provisions of the SWM Rules 2016 not later than 7 days from the date of this notice, including Segregation into 3 (three) categories/streams (Biodegradable, Non-Biodegradable and Domestic Hazardous Waste) at Source; storage within Premises for Door-to-Door Collection and in-Premises Processing and treatment of Biodegradable Waste. Detailed instructions are available on the urban Local Body website at cpheo.gov.in/upload/5abc3c488029Bulk-Waste-Generator-Book.pdf.

Top Hamas commander killed in July strike: Israel



Iranians attend the funeral of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh and his bodyguard in Tehran, Iran, on Thursday. AP

TRUCE KEY TO ENDING VIOLENCE: BLINKEN

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken appealed for "all parties" in the West Asia to avoid escalatory actions that could plunge the region into further conflict, and said a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas was the only way to begin to break the cycle of violence and suffering.

Iranians attend the funeral of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh and his bodyguard in Tehran, Iran, on Thursday. AP

blamed Haniyeh's killing on Israel, which has neither denied nor confirmed a role in the assassination. It did however confirm it killed a senior commander of the Lebanese Hezbollah movement in Beirut on Tuesday. — Reuters

B'desh bans BNP ally Jamaat under anti-terrorism law

DHAKA, AUGUST 1 Bangladesh today banned the Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir under anti-terrorism law following nationwide unrest over the quota system for government jobs, accusing the fundamentalist party of instigating protests that left at least 150 people dead.

A notification issued by the Public Security Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs confirmed the ban on the Islamist party, a key ally of former prime minister Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party. The ban on Jamaat, Chhatra Shibir and other associated groups came through an executive order under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

"They (Jamaat-Shibir and BNP) just used the students as their shield," PM Sheikh Hasina said on Thursday when Italian Ambassador Antonio Alessandro called on her at her home. A government spokesman said the government today banned all political activities of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami and its various wings. — PTI

CAIRO/JERUSALEM, AUGUST 1 The head of Hamas' military wing, Mohammed Deif, was killed in an Israeli airstrike in Gaza last month, the Israeli military said on Thursday, a day after the group's political leader was assassinated in Tehran. Deif is believed to have been one of the masterminds of Hamas' October 7 attack on southern Israel which triggered the Gaza war.

"The IDF (Israeli Defence Forces) announces that on July 13th, 2024, IDF fighter jets struck in the area of Khan Yunis, and following an intelligence assessment, it can be confirmed that Mohammed Deif was eliminated in the strike," the military said. Hamas neither confirmed nor denied the killing of Deif, but one official, Ezzat Rashaq, said any word on deaths of its leaders was its responsibility alone.

"Unless either of them (the Hamas political and military leadership) announces it, no news published in the media or by any other parties can be confirmed," Rashaq said. The Israeli announcement came as crowds gathered in the Iranian capital for the funeral procession of Hamas' leader Ismail Haniyeh. Iran and Hamas have

blamed Haniyeh's killing on Israel, which has neither denied nor confirmed a role in the assassination. It did however confirm it killed a senior commander of the Lebanese Hezbollah movement in Beirut on Tuesday. — Reuters

'Is she Indian or Black?' Trump on Kamala

CHICAGO/HOUSTON, AUGUST 1 US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump falsely suggested to the country's largest annual gathering of Black journalists on Wednesday that his Democratic rival Kamala Harris had previously downplayed her Black heritage.

"She was always of Indian heritage, and she was only promoting Indian heritage. I didn't know she was Black, until a number of years ago, when she happened to turn Black, and now she wants to be known as Black," Trump said, drawing a smattering of jeers from an audience of about 1,000 people.



"So I don't know, is she Indian or is she Black? Trump continued. Harris, who is of Indian and Jamaican heritage, has long self-identified as both Black and Asian. Hours after Trump's comments, Harris told members

US, Russia complete prisoner swap deal

WASHINGTON, AUGUST 1 The US and Russia completed their biggest prisoner swap in post-Soviet history on Thursday, with Moscow releasing Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich and Michigan corporate security executive Paul Whelan in a multinational deal that set some two dozen people free, according to officials in Turkey, where the exchange took place.

But the release of Americans has come at a price: Russia has secured the freedom of its own nationals convicted of serious crimes in the West by trading them for journalists and other Westerners. — AP

INDIRA GANDHI MEDICAL COLLEGE SHIMLA - 171001

No. HFWM(C-A) NCCD-AMR Project/Micro/2022- Dated: **ADVERTISEMENT**

Applications are invited to fill up the following posts on co-terminus basis under the ongoing Scheme/Programme/Project entitled "National Antimicrobial (AMR) Surveillance Programme of NCCD in the Department of Microbiology, IGMC, Shimla (HP) funded by NCCD New Delhi initially for a period of one year or completion / winding-up of the Scheme / Programme / Project, whichever is earlier. The Scheme / Programme / Project may be extendable on the recommendation of the funding agency. The duly filled Application in original along with self attested testimonials/documents is required to be submitting in the office of the undersigned (Administrative Block, Opp. HP Govt. Dental College, Shimla) on or before 14.08.2024 till 5.00 p.m.

Sr. No.	Name of the Post	Number of post(s)	Duration	Age Limit
1.	Lab Technician	1	One Year	18 - 40 years
2.	Infection Control Nurse	1	One Year	18 - 40 years

The educational qualification, remuneration, age criteria and other terms and conditions for fillings up these posts are at Annexure-A, which is available on the IGMC website www.igmcshimla.edu.in on Recruitment Link. The fee of Rs. 200.00 from General Category and Rs. 100.00 from Reserved Category is required to be submitted with application form in the shape of Demand Draft issued in the name of Principal, IGMC, Shimla-1. The application form received without fee will be rejected straightway.

**Principal,
IGMC, Shimla-1.**

Endst No. As Above: 14402 Dated: 30.07.2024 DPR/HP/1202

HIMACHAL PRADESH JSV DEPARTMENT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Jai Shakti Division Kullu (HP) invites tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following works through online process:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money
1	A/R & M/O Sewerage Scheme Kullu Town (SH- Operation and maintenance of 0.38 MLD STP at Badah Bihal including main trunk/distribution network 7.86 km for a period of one month. (Zone-III)	6,04,775/-	12,100/-

Time of Completion: 1 Month
Last Date of Submission of Tender: 09.08.2024 up to 5.00 p.m.

The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website <https://hptenders.gov.in> or from office of JSV Division, Kullu upto date specified above.

Executive Engineer, JSV Division Kullu
DPR/HP/1160 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB Tender Reference No. : EE PWSSD No. 2/Amritsar/30/2024 Date: 31.07.2024

The Department of Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Division No. 2 Amritsar invites Bids for Civil Work.

Closing Date & Time : Closing Date: 27.08.2024 Time up to 1.00 PM

Pre-Bid Meeting Venue : Date 19.08.2024 (Sr. No. 1 Tender 11:00 AM) Date 20.08.2024 (Sr. No. 2 Tender 2:00 PM) (Sr. No. 3 Tender 11:00 AM) (Sr. No. 4 Tender 2:00 PM)

At O/o Superintending Engineer, P.W. & Sew. Circle, Amritsar, Near Sunrise Multispecialty Hospital, Hide Market, Amritsar, Mob. 83609-07229. Email : ee-pwssds2@gmail.com (https://eproc.punjab.gov.in)

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 No. 2,
Amritsar.**

DPR/PP/36267

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB PUNJAB WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD BID NO. ETENDER/EE/PWSSD/ROPAR/23/2024/Date: 31.07.2024

Executive Engineer, P.W. & Sew., Divn. Ropar on the behalf of Chief Executive Officer, P.W. & Sew. Board Chandigarh invites online bids for the following:-

Sr. No.	Items
1 to 3	Drilling and Deve. of T/well complete in all respect in W. No. 27, W. No. 06, W. No. 09 at Kharar
4	---do---NCC Academy at Ropar.
5	Repair of Sewer line at Ropar
6	Const. of 4 Nos. Pump Chamber complete in all respect Banur.

Closing Date & Time: 19.08.2024 up to 3.00 P.M.
Pre-bid meeting date: 05.08.2024 up to 11.00 A.M.

For details login to: <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

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

**Sd/- Executive Engineer,
P.W. & Sew. Divn., Ropar.
(01881-292030)**

DPR/PP/36255

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-AUCTION NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/Chg. Northern Railway, Ambala Cantt. for and on behalf of the president of India, invites bid through E-auction on IREPS website. Earnest money shall be 5% of the bid amount and minimum increase in bid amount shall be 0.2%. Details of the invited bid through E-auction is as under-

A.C. No. : UMB-02-Mix-2024 Rate Unit: -Annual Licence fee

Auction Date & Time : 13.08.2024 at 10:00 hrs.

Sr. No.	Lot No. & Details	Auction Close date & time
1	MSS-UMB-RPJ-WVM-15-23-1 (Misc-Static Services-01 Water Vending Machine at Rajpura Railway Station)	13.08.2024 at 10:40 hrs
2	MPS-UMB-KLK-MPS-4-23-1 (MPS-Multi Purpose Stall) Space for operation of MPS for at the beginning of PF No. 2&3 of Kalka Railway Station for any category of Women	

For participation in E-auction process or for any other information related to E-auction process prospective bidders are advised to visit www.ireps.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2352/24

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT e-Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

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

Sr. No.	Name of Works	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money
1	C/o 133.00 mtr span double lane bridge along with foot path over Satluj River on Rampur Bye-pass approach road from Bus stand to Chatti at RD 0/975 (SH- Preparation of detail Project Report, Geogical investigation of soil/strata, Hydraulic data, working drawings etc. of bridge site.)	37,33,000/-	90,000/-
2	C/o Hydraulic of 69.00 mtr. span prestress motorable bridge over Seri Khad with Both side approach at RD 2/735 (SG- Preparation of Detailed project report Geogical investigation of soil/strata, working drawings etc. of Bridge site)	13,48,000/-	27,000/-
3	A/R & M/O NPB road Km. 0/000 to 22/300 (under MMGSY) (SH- M/T work at RD 4/600 to 4/800)	6,30,646/-	12,600/-

Starting Date for downloading Bid: 06.08.2024 for each
Deadline for Submission of Bid: 12.08.2024 for each

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders form the department website www.hptenders.gov.in.

On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh
**Executive Engineer,
Rampur Division (B&R),
HPPWD, Rampur Bushahr.**

DPR/HP/1198

HARYANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION Bays No. 1-10, Block-B, Sector 4, Panchkula

Advt. No. 41/2024 Date of Publication: 02.08.2024

The Commission invites online applications from eligible candidates for the posts of **Motor Vehicle Officer in Transport Department Haryana**. Category wise break-up of the posts is as under:-

General	EWS	SC	BC-A	BC-B	Total
13	02	04	03	01	23

(a) Opening date for submission of online applications: **02.08.2024**

(b) Closing date for the submission of online applications: **22.08.2024 up to 05:00 P.M.**

(c) Closing date for deposit of Fee: **22.08.2024 up to 05:00 P.M.**

For more information, logon to <http://hpsc.gov.in>

Dated: 01.08.2024 **Sd/- Secretary,
Haryana Public Service Commission,
Panchkula.**

HARYANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION Bays No. 1-10, Block-B, Sector 4, Panchkula

Advt. No. 40/2024 Date of Publication: 02.08.2024

The Commission invites online applications from eligible candidates for the posts of **Motor Vehicle Officer (Enforcement) in Transport Department Haryana**. Category wise break-up of the posts is as under:-

General	SC	BC-A	EWS	Total
09	02	01	01	13

(a) Opening date for submission of online applications: **02.08.2024**

(b) Closing date for the submission of online applications: **22.08.2024 up to 05:00 P.M.**

(c) Closing date for deposit of Fee: **22.08.2024 up to 05:00 P.M.**

For more information, logon to <http://hpsc.gov.in>

Dated: 01.08.2024 **Sd/- Secretary,
Haryana Public Service Commission,
Panchkula.**

DPR/HP/1198/13/264/2025/28468/31/4

CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION : EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Award of "Post Matric Scholarships to Scheduled Caste, Other Backward Class, Economically Backward Class, DNT and Transgender" for the year 2024-25

Education Department, Chandigarh Administration has decided to award Post Matric Scholarships to Scheduled Caste, Other Backward Class, Economically Backward Class, DNT and Transgender who are permanent resident of U.T., Chandigarh for studies in India under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India Schemes. The scholarship will be open to Indian nationals belonging to Scheduled Caste, Other Backward Class, Economically Backward Class and Transgender as notified by the Central Govt./State Govt./U.T. Administration.

The guidelines/conditions of eligibility for filling up of online application is available at <http://socialjustice.gov.in> and www.scholarships.gov.in

Sr. No.	Scheme Name	Last Date for submission of application by students	Last Date for verification of application by Institutes
1.	Post Matric Scholarship to Scheduled Caste Students	31st October 2024	15th November, 2024
2.	Post Matric Scholarship to Other Backward Class Students		
3.	Dr. Ambedkar Post Matric Scholarship to EBC Students		
4.	Post Matric Scholarship to Transgender Students		

The eligible candidates may apply through online on the website of common National Scholarship Portal of Govt. of India under URL <https://scholarships.gov.in>

Applicants are advised to take print-outs of the duly filled-in application forms, through National Scholarship web portal and to submit the same along with all supporting documents (i.e. residence proof, annual fee receipt, last class pass certificate, Aadhaar No., bank account in the name of applicant, income proof, Caste Certificate) in their respective School/ College/University/Institutes and also ensure that the concerned institution has verified the same in stipulated time.

**Sd/- State Liaison Officer-cum-
State Nodal Officer (Scholarship)
For Director Higher Education,
Chandigarh Administration.**

Government of Jammu and Kashmir FINANCE DEPARTMENT Civil Secretariat, UT of J&K VACANCY CIRCULAR

Subject: Selection for the post of Technical Member (State/UT) in Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal for UT of J&K.

- The Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) is the Appellate Authority Established under the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 ("hereinafter referred to as CGST Act") to hear appeals arising out of orders passed by/decisions of the Appellate and Revisional authorities under the said Act and the Jammu and Kashmir Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017. One bench of GSTAT has been constituted vide S.O. No. 4073(E) dated 14.09.2023 in the UT of J&K for which one Technical Member (State/UT) is to be selected by the UT Government through a Search-cum-Selection Committee constituted in terms of clause (a) of sub-section (4) of Section 110 of the CGST Act.
- Accordingly, applications are invited for the following vacancy:

Post	Bench	No. of Posts	Date of Vacancy
Technical Member (State/UT)	1	1	01/04/2024

- Qualifications and Eligibility conditions:**
The qualifications, eligibility, salary and other terms and conditions of the appointment of a candidate will be governed by the provisions of the CGST Act and Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (Appointment and Conditions of Service of President and Members) Rules, 2023 (hereinafter referred to as "GSTAT Rules"). The same are summarized in Annexure III.

- Procedure for selection:**
The Central Government shall appoint the Technical Member (State) on the recommendations of a Search-cum-Selection Committee (hereinafter referred to as "Committee"). The Applications received would be scrutinized with respect to suitability of application for the post having regard to the qualifications and relevant experience of candidates. Shortlisted candidates may be called for personal interaction by the Committee, if deemed necessary and proper. The Committee shall recommend a panel of two names, on the basis of overall evaluation, to the Central Government to make the appointment to the post of Technical Member (State/UT).

- Application Procedure:**
 - Interested candidates shall apply online (<https://gstn.org.in/gstat-state-application/#/home>) in the form prescribed in Annexure-I along with necessary documents. Application submission will begin on **05.08.2024** and the last date for submitting applications is on **05.09.2024**. Applications submitted through any other mode shall be liable for rejection. However, in case of difficulty in uploading any document while making the online application, the document(s) may be forwarded by email by the last date to email pdfinance-jk@nic.in, clearly mentioning the online application number in the email.
 - Applications by eligible and willing officers (serving only) should be accompanied with a certificate to be furnished by the employer/head of department as in Annexure-II.
 - A helpdesk facility (0194-2473690/0191-2546715) is also available during office hours (Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.).
 - No TADA will be admissible to the candidates to be called for interview/interaction. The candidates are required to make their own arrangements.
 - Advertisement and prescribed application form can be downloaded from website of this department (<https://www.jakfinance.nic.in/>).
 - Any application received after due date or without necessary statements, documents and relevant attachments as mentioned above will be liable for rejection at the discretion of the Committee.

**Sd/- (Santosh D. Vaidya), IAS
Principal Secretary to Government,
Finance Department
(Member-Secretary, Search-cum-Selection Committee)**

No. FD-ET/64/2021-03 Dated: 01.08.2024 DJ-9341

BUSINESS

USD \$	EURO €	POUND £	JPY ¥	YUAN 元	CAD C\$	AUD A\$	SGD S\$	HKD HK\$
₹83.71	₹90.32	₹106.83	₹0.55	₹11.56	₹60.42	₹54.58	₹62.65	₹10.72

BSE	NSE	GOLD	SILVER
126.21 8L867.55	59.75 25,010.90	₹70,360 Mumbai	₹87,100 Mumbai

Automobile majors Maruti, Tata, Hyundai report drop in July sales

VIJAY C ROY TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 1 Passenger vehicle wholesale domestic volumes in July turned out to be a mixed bag for automobile makers in the country, as some logged volume growth while some others saw negative sales.

The country's largest car-maker Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai Motor, Tata Motors, Honda Cars registered decline in sales, while Mahindra & Mahindra, Toyota Kirloskar Motor and Kia Motor witnessed growth. Maruti Suzuki registered total domestic PV sales of 1,37,463 units in July 2024 compared to 1,52,126 units in July 2023, witnessing a 9.6 per cent sales decline. The company registered decline in sales in compact, mid-size, UV and van segment.



Manufacturers	Number of vehicles sold		Growth %
	July 2024	July 2023	
Maruti Suzuki	1,37,463	1,52,126	-9.6
Tata Motors	44,725	47,628	-6
Hyundai Motor	49,013	50,701	-3.3
Mahindra & Mahindra	41,623	36,205	15
Toyota Kirloskar Motor	29,533	20,759	42
Kia Motor	20,507	20,002	2.5
Honda Cars	4,624	4,864	-4.9

Last month, Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) sold 49,013 units in the domestic market, witnessing a 3.3 percent decline in YoY sales compared to 50,701 in July 2023. Tata

GST collection rises 10% to ₹1.82 tn

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 1 The gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection for July stood at Rs 1.82 trillion (Rs 1,82,075 crore) marking 10.3 per cent year-on-year (YoY) growth, according to official data released on Thursday. This YoY growth is higher than 7.7 per cent recorded in June.

The gross goods and services tax (GST) collection for June stood at Rs 1.74 trillion (Rs 1,74 lakh crore) while in May this year, the gross GST collection amounted to Rs 1.73 trillion (Rs 1,73 lakh crore).

8.9 per cent to Rs 1.34 trillion (Rs 1,34 lakh crore) in July. The GST revenue from imports jumped 14.2 per cent to Rs 48,039 crore. The data clearly suggests that overall GST collection has shown an encouraging trend.

Among the states, Maharashtra witnessed highest collection of GST at Rs 28,970 crore followed by Karnataka (Rs 13,025 crore), Gujarat (Rs 11,015 crore), Tamil Nadu (Rs 10,490 crore), and Uttar Pradesh (Rs 9,125 crore), according to the official data. These collection figures do not include GST on the import of goods.

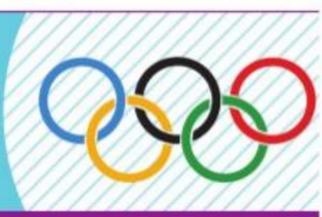
Hero Motocorp starts operations in Philippines

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 1 Hero MotoCorp, the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters, has commenced operations in the Philippines. The strategic expansion would help the two wheeler makers to strengthen its global presence.

For the purpose, Hero MotoCorp has tied up Terrafirma Motors Corporation, a part of the Columbian Group of Companies, which will serve as the exclusive assembler and distributor of Hero MotoCorp products & services. — TNS



Paris 2024



Top 5 Medal tally

COUNTRY	Gold	Silver	Bronze	TOTAL
CHINA	11	7	4	22
FRANCE	8	11	8	27
JAPAN	8	3	4	15
AUSTRALIA	7	6	4	17
USA	6	13	12	31
INDIA (43RD)	0	0	3	3

Indians in action

LIVE ON SPORTS18 IST

ARCHERY Mixed team 1/8 elimination Dhiraj Bommadevara & Ankita Bhakat vs Indonesia 1:20pm	INDIA vs Australia 4:45pm
ATHLETICS Women's 5,000m heats Ankita Dhyani, Parul Chaudhary 9:30pm Men's shot put qualification Tajinderpal Singh Toor 11:40pm	JUDO Women's +78kg Round of 32 Tulika Mann vs Italy's Ortiz (Cuba) 2:10pm
BADMINTON Men's singles quarterfinals Lakshya Sen vs Chou Tien Chen (Chinese Taipei) 6:30pm	ROWING Men's single sculls Balraj Panwar 1:45pm
GOLF Men's individual Round 2 Shubhankar Sharma, Gaganjeet Bhullar 12:30pm	SAILING Women's dinghy Neethra Kumanan 3:45pm Men's dinghy Vishnu Saravanan 7pm
HOCKEY Men's Group B	SHOOTING Women's 25m pistol qualification Esha Singh, Manu Bhaker 12:30pm Men's skeet qualification Anantjeet Singh Naruka 1pm

Quick notes

Diksha escapes unhurt from car accident
Indian golfer Diksha Dagar, who is due to take part in the Olympics next week, has escaped unhurt from a car accident and will compete in her event as scheduled. Diksha was involved in an accident late on Tuesday night. Her father, who also doubles up as her caddie, also came out injury-free from the incident. Her brother had minor injuries, while her mother hurt her back and needed to be hospitalised.

Hockey team loses 1-2 to Belgium
The Indian men's hockey team suffered its first loss of the Olympics, going down 1-2 to defending champions Belgium after letting slip a one goal lead in a pool match. Abhishek gave India the lead in the 18th minute before Belgium made a strong comeback after half-time to score through Thibaut Stockbroekx (33rd) and John-John Dohmen (44th) to seal the win and remain unbeaten in the tournament so far. Both India and Belgium have already qualified for the quarterfinals from Pool B.

Swiatek stunned in semis by China's Zheng
Iga Swiatek will have to wait four more years to try and win an Olympic gold medal after the Polish top seed was shocked by China's Zheng Qinwen in the semi-finals at Roland Garros — her first loss there since 2021. Swiatek, the overwhelming favourite for gold after a third successive French Open title this year confirmed her as the Queen of Clay, was outplayed 6-2 7-5 on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Failed gender test last year, Algerian boxer wins 1st bout



PARIS, AUGUST 1
Italian boxer Angela Carini pulled out of the Paris Olympics after she sustained a series of crunching blows from her Algerian opponent Imane Khelif, who last year failed a gender eligibility test at the World Championships. Khelif, whose participation in the Games was permitted by the IOC and had divided boxers, landed multiple punches in the first 30 seconds before a powerful right to Carini's nose prompted the Italian to raise her hand and return to her corner. Her coach signalled she was pulling out of the women's welterweight Round of 16 bout. A dis-

traught Carini fell to her knees in the ring, sobbing and declining to shake Khelif's hand after the referee declared the Algerian the winner. "I am a fighter. My father taught me to be a warrior. When I am in the ring, I use that mindset, the mindset of a warrior; a winning mindset," Carini said. "This time I couldn't make it. I didn't lose tonight, I just surrendered with maturity." Khelif and Taiwan's double world champion Lin Yu-ting were cleared to fight in Paris after the IOC last year stripped the IBA of its status as boxing's governing body over governance issues, and took charge of the Paris 2024. — Reuters

Pressure and pain of Paris

ROHIT MAHAJAN IN PARIS

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, India's strongest bet in badminton, crashed out in the quarterfinals of the men's doubles event, beaten 21-13 14-21 16-21 by Malaysia's Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik.

It would be fair to say that the Indians cracked under pressure — they admitted as much later. Rankireddy and Shetty had lost eight matches in a row to the Malaysians, who won the bronze at the Tokyo Olympics and then became the world champions in 2022; the tables were turned, however, and Sat-Chi beat Chia and Soh three times in a row, including in the semifinals at last year's Asian Games in Hangzhou.

But today, at the biggest stage, the Indians cracked, tactically and mentally; the Malaysians raised their game, altered their tactics. It seemed that it was the Indians' match to lose, after they took the first game 21-13.

The second game onward, the Malaysians started hitting flatter and flatter — this denied the Indians the soaring shuttles, which both Shetty and Rankireddy are adept at smashing at the feet of their opponents.

Chia and Soh had a slender lead, 11-10, in the second game; they then took charge, hitting flat, dictating play at the net, denying the Indians the opportunity to smash. Both Shetty and Rankire-

ddy seemed to get desperate — as the points became difficult to get by, their eyes lit up every time they thought they had got a smashable serve, and again and again they smashed the shuttle into the net.

They failed to slow down the game and, instead, got locked into flat, superfast rallies that ended more often in the favour of the Malaysians than them.

They lost the second game by a big margin, but started well in the third, up 4-0 and then 14-11. Then, their game simply broke down.

Minutes after the disaster was complete, they came over to discuss the match with the media — their faces shocked and ashen, mirrored their emotions of shock and awe.

"Till 14-11, I think we were playing quite well," said Shetty of the third game disintegration. "In the end, we gave away quite a few easy points... Should have been a little calmer."

Pounding at the opponents' serve, they often hit into the net. "It depends on the situation," said Rankireddy. "When we were leading in the first game, we didn't miss those. When we're confident, we don't miss those. So, those were pressure mistakes... caused by pressure."

Did the pressure get to them? "All games at the Olympics are high pressure games," Shetty said. "But yes, it's a pressure situation, because we were going to the medal round."



Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy lost to Malaysia's Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik. PTI



HS Prannoy and Lakshya Sen after their Round of 16 match. PTI

SEN OUSTS PRANNOY

- HS Prannoy hid his face in his towel — he didn't speak for a full minute, he hid his tears in the towel, gulped, composed himself, and then talked. "The last 20-25 days were pretty tough," he said, having lost his pre-quarterfinals match to his India teammate, Lakshya Sen.
- The scoreline was terrible for him, a 21-12 21-6 win for Sen. Sen toyed with Prannoy, a World Championships bronze medalist. Prannoy was clearly far below his best, feeling the effects of debilitating Chikungunya infection, which caused him to be hospitalised days before the Olympics.
- "Both emotionally and physically, I've had tough days," he said, gulping and fighting back his tears. "I had just about a week to prepare and train. I knew it was going to be tough here. My team (coaches) kept pushing me..."
- So, Sen still has a shot at a medal while for the luckless Prannoy, who played the Hangzhou Asian Games semifinal with an injury and lost, it's more tears and sadness.

Hungry, sleepless Nikhat picked apart by Wu

ROHIT MAHAJAN

PARIS, AUGUST 1
Nikhat Zareen, beaten by Yu Wu, world champion, in the pre-quarterfinals of the women's 50kg boxing competition, speaks brave words suggesting she's got boundless strength of the mind — "I'm tough! I'm a fighter! My coach calls me a tigress!"

But she's broken. She's hollow, literally. She's drained out — she'd not eaten, she says, for two days, and she had a sleepless night. "Sir, agar pet me kuchh na ho, how can you sleep, with nothing in the stomach," she asks.

She hadn't eaten for two days, she says, because she needed to be 50kg on the weighing machine today. That's the norm in combat sports, in which a contestant reaches a competition a bit heavy — and strong —



Yu Wu being declared winner of her women's 50kg Round of 16 match against Nikhat Zareen. PTI

and loses weight at the 11th hour, to become eligible to contest in a particular weight category.

A two-time world champion, Nikhat never had a chance against Wu, the top seed here. Wu won the first round easily, unanimously,

and just held back from there onward. She was light on her feet, bobbing her head and weaving right and left, and Nikhat found herself connecting thin air again and again and again. "She was not attacking much and my punches

were going in the air," the 28-year-old said.

Trailing after two rounds, Nikhat was expected to go after Wu in desperation — indeed, Wu invited her by keeping her hands low, asking to be hit. However, Nikhat kept back, preferring to try to

hit the Chinese on the counter — this defied logic.

The crowd, many among it waving the Tricolour, wanted Nikhat to fight in the third round — they clapped and stomped their feet to the rhythm of Queen's We Will Rock You, probably world sport's most popular pop number.

But Nikhat couldn't rock. She couldn't fight.

Nikhat's explanation later revealed that, in fact, she was out of power and energy and, with them, the strength of the mind.

"She wasn't attacking (in the third round), and my punches were missing her. So there was no point in keep doing that and losing energy," she said about the third and final round.

In the end, having spoken words that were brave — even boastful! — she knew she was broken, and tears flowed.

Sindhu knocked out in last-16

PARIS, AUGUST 1

A third straight Olympic medal stayed out of her grasp as PV Sindhu made a shock exit from the Paris Games with a straight-game loss against China's world number six He Bingjiao in the women's singles pre-quarterfinals here on Thursday.

The 29-year-old from Hyderabad failed to mount a consistent attack and was outpaced 21-19 21-14 by Bingjiao in a 56-minute round of 16 clash, which was a rematch of the Tokyo Olympic bronze medal play-off.

Sindhu, who won the silver and bronze medal at the Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo editions, had topped the group to qualify for the knockout stage. — PTI

Kohli, Rohit in focus on return as India face Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, AUGUST 1

The Gautam Gambhir-led Indian team management has an opportunity to decide who among KL Rahul and Rishabh Pant will be India's long-term first-choice wicket-keeper-batter in ODIs when the side takes on Sri Lanka in a three-match series beginning here on Friday.

There will be clamour around the first sighting of veterans Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli as well, after the recent T20 World Cup triumph.

But the think-tank will look to shut out that outside noise, focusing on sorting out the combination in a season that has some marquee one-day events including the Champions Trophy.

In that context, the Rahul vs Pant conundrum is certain to get priority treatment in this

series.

Rahul is the incumbent wicketkeeper-batter and has been assigned to that role by the previous set-up under Rahul Dravid since last year's Asia Cup, a tournament in which he made his comeback from a long injury-forced lay-off.

Since then, Rahul has done full justice to his duty both in front and behind the wicket.

Since the continental showpiece last year, Rahul has made 834 runs from 21 matches at a fine average of 69.50 with two hundreds. Besides, Rahul also captained India in the ODI series against South Africa earlier this year. As a stumper too, the 32-year-old has been pretty good.

But will Gambhir follow the same route since Pant is back in the reckoning? Pant's return to India fold



Virat Kohli with Gautam Gambhir during practice; Rohit Sharma bats at nets. PTI



through a clutch of T20s after that horrific accident in 2022 has been heartwarming but he has not set the field ablaze with his outings. There have been encourag-

ing sparks during the last month or so. But is that enough to convince the powers that be to pick him ahead of Rahul? If Gambhir and skipper

Rohit decide to keep both Rahul and Pant in the 11, then they will have to think as to how to accommodate Shreyas Iyer, another formidable player in the 50-over version.

TODAY ON TV
FIRST ODI
INDIA VS SRI LANKA
SONY SPORTS 2:30PM

2 medals, 24 athletes: Uproar as Haryana gets only ₹66 crore in Khelo India funds

Similar outcry in Punjab | UP sends just six sportspersons to Paris, receives ₹438 crore

SUMEDHA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

GURUGRAM, AUGUST 1
Even as the country is celebrating three Olympic medals won by its athletes (two of which have been won by sportspersons from Haryana), the sports fraternity and Opposition have lambasted the Centre for the disparity in fund allocation under the Khelo India Scheme.

Haryana, which accounts for around 2 per cent of the country's population, has sent the maximum number of 24 athletes to Olympics. However, under the Khelo India scheme, an amount of just Rs 66 crore has been allocated to Haryana, while Gujarat, which has sent only two athletes to the Olympics, managed to get Rs 426 crore. Similarly, UP got Rs 438 crore, even as only six athletes from the state are representing the country in Paris. Talking to *The Tribune*,



Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh, who won the bronze medal in the Paris Olympics Games, hail from Haryana. FILE PHOTO

HOODA SLAMS GOVT

“A medal belongs to no one party or state, it belongs to the entire nation, so there should be no disparity in the allocation of funds. Bhupinder Hooda, FORMER HARYANA CM

Haryana LoP and former CM Bhupinder Hooda said: “The funds allocated to the state are grossly inadequate. Haryana is sports cradle of the country

that has produced the best sportsmen and made the nation proud. A medal belongs to no party or state, it belongs to the entire nation, so

there should be no disparity in the allocation of funds.”

Taking a dig at the BJP-led Centre, Hooda said: “During its regime in Haryana, Congress worked on nurturing sports talent from a young age, giving athletes the best infrastructure and securing their future by schemes like ‘Padak se pad tak’, but the current government doesn't care about sports. Stadiums are in a poor shape and lack of funds is impacting sports.”

Speaking on the condition of anonymity, a celebrated international player of the state said: “You have seen what happens to sportspersons in Haryana now. The entire nation saw our condition. Not just funds but a lot of other disparities are also faced by us.”

Haryana is not the only state that has flagged the disparity in fund allocation. Punjab, which has sent 19 athletes to Olympics, has also openly voiced concern over the dis-

parity. Punjab LoP and senior Congress leader Partap Bajwa took to X to question it.

“The Modi government's skewed allocation of funds under the Khelo India Scheme is a glaring example of injustice. Punjab and Haryana, the heartlands of Indian sports, were given a meagre Rs 78 crore and Rs 66 crore, respectively, despite sending 43 athletes to the Paris Olympics. This step-motherly treatment undermines our sporting potential and regional talent,” Bajwa wrote.

It may be noted that a similar disparity was reported in 2023 when during Asian games in China, 655 athletes were sent from India, which included 89 from Haryana and 73 from Punjab. While athletes from both states got a majority of medals, they had been allotted Rs 88.89 crore and Rs 93.71 crore, respectively. Uttar Pradesh had got over Rs 500 crore back then as well.

India expands ties with Vietnam, extends \$300 million credit line

Modi takes a dig at China, says ‘we are not expansionist’

AJAY BANERJEE
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

India and Vietnam on Thursday firmed up a new action plan to expand strategic ties, including India extending a credit line of \$300 million (about Rs 2,400 crore) for two types of patrol boats to boost security for the Southeast Asian nation locked in a maritime dispute with China.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Vietnamese counterpart Pham Minh Chinh were making a media statement after delegation-level talks when Modi took a dig at Beijing, saying: “We support development, not expansionism.”

The comments came amid growing global concerns over China's expansionist behaviour in the Indo-Pacific.

Describing the meeting, Modi said: “We have adopted a new plan of action to further strengthen our comprehensive strategic cooperation.” India and Vietnam signed



PM Modi with his Vietnamese counterpart Pham Minh Chinh at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Thursday. MUKESH AGGARWAL

SHIVA TEMPLES TO BE RESTORED

A Letter of Intent was signed between India and Vietnam for the conservation and restoration of a cluster of abandoned and partially ruined Shiva Hindu temples in central Vietnam, constructed between the 4th and the 14th century at Quang Nam Province.

several Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs). The joint statement said on Thursday night that the leaders agreed to further elevate trade from the present level of around \$15 billion. Modi said

both sides would continue cooperation for a free, open, rules-based and prosperous Indo-Pacific. Vietnam was an important partner in India's Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific vision, he stated.

Exclude creamy layer from SC/ST quota: SC

This alone can achieve real equality enshrined in Constitution, observes court

SATYA PRAKASH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1
The State must evolve a policy for identifying the creamy layer even from the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) so as to exclude them from the benefit of reservation, the Supreme Court said on Thursday.

Currently, the creamy layer criteria are applicable only to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in order to exclude it from quota benefits, in terms of the 1992 nine-judge Constitution Bench verdict of the Supreme Court in the Indra Sawhney case.

However, four of the six judges on the seven-judge Bench led by CJI DY Chandrachud – which ruled by a 6:1 majority that sub-classification in SCs/STs was per-

CRITERIA COULD VARY

A seven-judge Constitution Bench, however, said the criteria for exclusion of the SC/ST creamy layer for affirmative action could be different from the one applicable to the OBCs.

missible for the purpose of reservation – said the creamy layer should be identified and excluded from reservation.

“In my view, only this and this alone can achieve real equality as enshrined under the Constitution,” wrote Justice BR Gavai in his 281-page verdict. He said the criteria for exclusion of the SC/ST creamy layer for the purpose of affirmative action could be different from the criteria as applicable to the OBCs. “I have no hesitation to hold that putting a child studying in St Paul's High School and St Stephen's Col-

lege and a child studying in a small village in the backward and remote area of the country in the same bracket would obliterate the equality principle enshrined in the Constitution,” Justice Gavai wrote.

“Putting the children of parents from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, who on account of benefit of reservation have reached a high position and ceased to be socially, economically and educationally backward, and the children of parents doing manual work in the villages in the same category would defeat the constitutional mandate,” added.

The other three judges, who

favoured extending the concept of creamy layer to SC/ST reservation, were Justice Vikram Nath, Justice Pankaj Mishal and Justice SC Sharma. “I am also in agreement with the opinion of brother Justice Gavai that ‘creamy layer’ principle is also applicable to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and that the criteria for exclusion of creamy layer for the purpose of affirmative action could be different from the criteria as applicable to the Other Backward Classes,” wrote Justice Nath.

Justice Mishal said, “...my brother Justice Gavai has rightly concluded that the State must evolve a policy of identifying the creamy layer even from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes so as to exclude them from the benefit of reservation.”

Cong sets up panels to choose Assembly poll nominees

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

Gearing up for Assembly elections, the Congress has constituted screening committees to choose candidates for Haryana, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and J&K.

Haryana's committee will be led by RS MP Ajay Malen; and its members are Manickam Tagore, Jignesh Mavani and BV Srinivas. Lok Sabha MP Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa has been named chairman of the committee for J&K; Anto Antony and Sachin Rao are its members. — TNS

Lankan navy vessel, fishing boat collision leaves 1 dead

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

An Indian fisherman has died and another one is missing at sea after a Sri Lankan naval vessel collided with an Indian fishing boat, on Thursday, some 8 km north of Katchatheevu island near Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu. India has lodged a ‘strong protest’ to Sri Lanka regarding the incident.

Two other fishermen have been rescued and brought ashore to Kankesanthurai. The Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement: “A search is

India lodges ‘strong protest’

going on for the missing Indian fisherman. Indian Consulate officials in Jaffna have been instructed to immediately rush to Kankesanthurai and extend all possible assistance to the fishermen and their families.” The Sri Lankan Acting High Commissioner in New Delhi was called in today morning to the MEA and a strong protest was registered over the incident — TNS

CBI files first chargesheet in NEET-UG case

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

The CBI on Thursday has filed its first chargesheet against 13 accused in the NEET-UG paper leak case.

“It may be recalled that this case was initially registered at Shastri Nagar police station, Patna, on May 5 and later transferred to CBI on June 23. The CBI has utilised advanced forensic techniques, artificial intelligence technology, CCTV footage, tower location analysis, etc. to gather evidence against the accused,” the CBI said. — TNS

Cases about Mathura temple-mosque dispute maintainable: HC

PRAYAGRAJ, AUGUST 1

The Allahabad High Court on Thursday ruled that the trial in 18 cases related to the Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah dispute in Mathura could continue, dismissing a petition filed by the mosque committee that challenged the maintainability of these suits.

Justice Mayank Kumar Jain had on June 6 reserved his judgment on the plea. — PTI

₹1,200-cr structure depends on ₹120 bucket': Oppn mocks govt over Parliament water leak

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

The new Parliament's leaking dome had the Opposition and BJP sparing over gaps in the new structure Prime Minister Narendra Modi had hailed as the symbol of “aspirational India” during its inauguration in May 2023.

After several Opposition MPs questioned the sight of a bucket in the Parliament lobby to collect dripping water, the

Lok Sabha Secretariat, in its clarification, termed the leakage “minor” and defended the water resilience of Parliament.

“During heavy rains on Wednesday, the adhesive material used to fix the glass domes over the lobby of the building was slightly displaced, causing minor leakage,” the LS secretariat said.

Inside Lok Sabha, Speaker Om Birla rapped Congress

MP Manickam Tagore for seeking adjournment of the house to discuss water leaking and for demanding a committee of MPs to inspect the Parliament structure.

INDIA bloc leaders asked how such a costly new structure could give in to leakages so soon. “The new Parliament built with Rs 1200 crore has to depend on a Rs 120 bucket,” said an AAP leader. — TNS

IN BRIEF

Lt Gen Nair first woman DG Medical Services in Army

New Delhi: Lt Gen Sadhna Saxena Nair on Thursday took charge as the Director General Medical Services (Army), becoming the first woman officer to be appointed to the post. Lt General Nair graduated from the AFMC, Pune. P11

Published by Jyoti Malhotra and Printed by Amit Sharma, for The Tribune Trust
Printed at The Tribune Press, Plot No 123, Sector 37, Pace City-1, Gurugram.

Published at The Tribune, Sector 29-C, Chandigarh.

RNI No. CHAENG/2017/72605.

Copyright © The Tribune Trust. All rights reserved.

Telephones: 0124-2210033, 2210044

Circulation: 0172-2670419, Advertisement: 0172-2670256, 257

Editor-in-Chief: Jyoti Malhotra *

*Editor for purpose of PRP Act, 2023

HARYANA GOVERNMENT HERITAGE AND TOURISM DEPARTMENT Notification

The 30.07.2024

No. 12/250- Fort of Islampura-2024/Pura2745-2752 Whereas the Governor of Haryana is of the opinion that archaeological sites and remains and ancient and historical monuments specified in column 1 of the Schedule given below requires protection under the Haryana Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1964 (Punjab Act 20 of 1964);

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under sub-section (1) of Section 4 of the Haryana Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1964 (Punjab Act 20 of 1964), the Governor of Haryana hereby proposes to declare the ancient and historical monuments specified in column 1 of the Schedule given below, to be protected archaeological sites and remains specified in columns 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the said Schedule to be protected area.

Notice is hereby given that the proposal shall be taken into consideration by the Government on or after the expiry of a period of two months from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, together with objections or suggestions, if any, from any person with respect to the proposal which may be received by the Principal Secretary to Government, Haryana, Heritage and Tourism Department, Chandigarh before the expiry of the period so specified:

SCHEDULE

Name of ancient and historical monuments	Name of Archaeological sites and remains	Name of Village/ City	Name of Tehsil/ District	Revenue Khasra/ Kila number under protection	Area to be protected Kanal- Maria	Ownership	Remarks
1 Fort of Islampura 17th - 18th Century CE.	2 Fort of Islampura 17th - 18th Century CE.	3 Islampura	4 Mahendergarh	5 158/145 Khatoni-236 Khasra-28	6-15	7 Haryana Department	8 This square shaped fort is situated in the fields between two villages - Islampura and Serolli. There is only one entrance to it. The Fort has high walls, with bastions on each corner. Flight of stairs at each wall enables one in reaching the top. Inside the Fort there are remains of rooms.

Sd/- Kala Ramachandran,
Principal Secretary to Government, Haryana,
Heritage and Tourism Department.

PRDH/1007/11/33/2025/28453/31/4

A New MRF Tyre Showroom comes to Ludhiana

MRF

PARTH TYRES

MRF EXCLUSIVE SHOWROOM

INDUSTRIAL AREA-A EXT., TRANSPORT NAGAR, LUDHIANA

An exclusive MRF Tyre Showroom opens today in Ludhiana bringing to the motorists of Ludhiana a new concept in tyre shopping. A showroom fully stocked with the entire range of your favourite MRF Tyres and Tubes. So don't hesitate. Whenever you need tyres, just drive over to Parth Tyres for instant service.

INAUGURATION TODAY 12:30 PM

PARTH TYRES
Plot No.82-B,
Industrial Area-A Ext.,
Beside AITC, Transport Nagar,
Ludhiana, District Ludhiana,
Punjab - 141 003.
Mobile: 9357465317

For Dealership Requests,
please send an email to
write2us@mrftyres.com

www.mrftyres.com | [f/mrfcorporate](https://www.facebook.com/mrfcorporate) | [X/MRFWorldwide](https://www.x.com/MRFWorldwide) | [i/mrfcorporate](https://www.instagram.com/mrfcorporate)