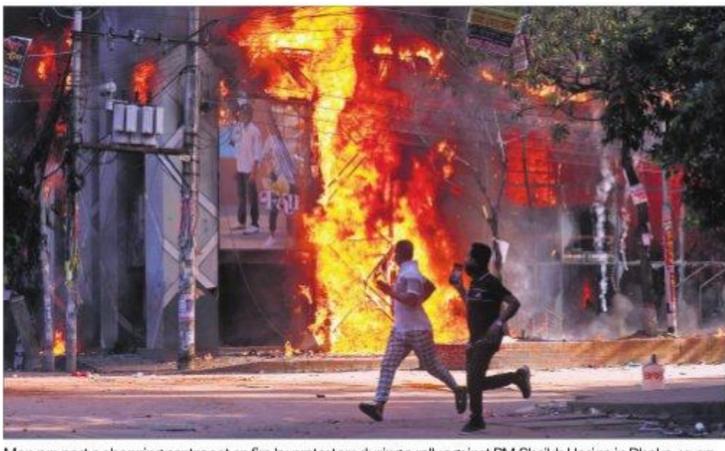


 <b>ISRAEL STRIKES ON GAZA</b> KILL 44; TWO STABBED TO DEATH IN TEL AVIV <b>WORLD</b>	 <b>BJP IDEOLOGY GETTING ACCEPTANCE IN VALLEY</b> POST '19: JITENDRA <b>J&amp;K</b>	 <b>WALL COLLAPSE</b> SNUFFS OUT 9 LIVES IN MP'S SAGAR NATION	 <b>SHAH CALLS NEW CRIMINAL LAWS BIGGEST REFORM OF 21ST CENTURY</b> <b>BACK PAGE</b>
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Men run past a shopping centre set on fire by protesters during a rally against PM Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka. AP/PTI

## 91 die in B'desh protests seeking Hasina's ouster

Mobile Net shut, indefinite curfew clamped nationwide

**DHAKA, AUGUST 4**

At least 91 persons, including 14 policemen, were killed and hundreds injured on Sunday in fierce clashes between protesters demanding Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation and the ruling party supporters in different parts of Bangladesh, forcing authorities to cut off mobile internet and enforce a nationwide curfew for an indefinite period. The clashes broke out Sunday morning when protesters attending the non-cooperation programme under the banner of the Students Against Discrimination with the one-point

### 'AVOID TRAVEL': INDIA ISSUES ADVISORY

The Ministry of External Affairs on Sunday evening issued an advisory saying Indian nationals are strongly advised against travelling to Bangladesh till further notice.

demand of the government's resignation over a job quota system faced opposition from the supporters of the Awami League, Chhatra League and Jubo League activists. At least 91 persons had been killed in clashes, shootings

and counter-chases across the country surrounding the non-cooperation programme, leading Bengali-language daily 'Prothom Alo' reported. According to the police headquarters, 14 policemen had been killed across the country. Of them, 13 were killed in Sirajganj's Enayetpur police station. One person was killed in Comilla's Elliotganj, the paper said. More than 300 policemen were injured. The fresh round of clashes erupted days after over 200 people were killed in violent clashes between the police and mostly student

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## Great India defeat Britain, storm into semis

10-man side holds off rivals 1-1 in regulation time, clinches shootout 4-2 | Sreejesh shines

**ROHIT MAHAJAN IN PARIS**

WATCH the ball, save the ball," says PR Sreejesh, goalkeeper of the Indian hockey team, explaining his method minutes after shepherding the team into the semifinals of the Paris Olympics. Sreejesh watched the ball. Sreejesh saved the ball. No less than 23 times, according to one count, in the regulation 60 minutes of the quarterfinal against Great Britain, and once in the penalty shootout that India won 4-2. Sreejesh put India in the semifinals of the Olympics for the second time in a row.

Victory for India seemed out of the question two minutes into the second quarter. India suffered a mortal blow in the 17th minute — Amit Rohidas, defender, raised his stick while on the run and caught the man behind his right shoulder, Will Calnan, on the face. Calnan went down. The TV umpire sent Rohidas out.

Playing with 10 men for 43 minutes — 10 versus the world's No. 2 team's 11 — the Indians didn't have a hope in hell, for even before that, 11 vs 11, Great Britain had been dominant. Rohidas being on the bench, however, gave the team a sense of purpose. They had to defend resolutely — but they had to attack, too, for simply sitting back would have rendered them sitting ducks. India, their minds sharp-



Jamanpreet Singh exults as teammates flank goalkeeper PR Sreejesh after India's victory in the men's hockey quarterfinal at Paris Olympics. AP/PTI

### LAKSHYA IN HUNT FOR BRONZE

Paris: India's dream of a first-ever Olympic gold in badminton remained unfulfilled after Lakshya Sen lost to reigning champion Viktor Axelsen in the men's singles semifinals on Sunday. The 22-year-old from Almorah squandered opportunities before surrendering 20-22 14-21 to Axelsen. He will get a shot at becoming the first Indian male shuttler to win an Olympic medal when he meets Lee Zii Jia of Malaysia in the bronze medal playoff. **REPORT INSIDE**

### LOVLINA FAILS TO FIRE

Tokyo bronze medalist Lovlina Borgohain loses in the women's middle-weight (75kg) quarterfinal.

### PARIS 2024 MEDAL TALLY

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
INDIA	00	00	03	03

Five minutes later, though, an unmarked Morton sent the ball in — it scraped past

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



A body retrieved from the Sutlej in Mandi on Sunday. PHOTO: JAI KUMAR

## 4 days on, 5 more bodies recovered in Himachal

**SHIMLA, AUGUST 4**

Four days after 53 persons went missing following flash-floods in Shimla, Kullu and Mandi districts, five more bodies were recovered today — two in Rajban, one in Sunni and two in Rampur. In all, 13 bodies have been recovered so far. While nine bodies have been identified, the four bodies recovered in Shimla are yet to be identified. "We have recovered four bodies, but these are yet to be identified," said Sanjeev Gandhi, SP, Shimla. While

### WILL STUDY NATIONAL DISASTER DEMAND: MoS

Wayanad: Union Minister of State Suresh Gopi on Sunday said the Centre would examine the legality of the demand from various quarters to classify as a national disaster the landslides that hit Kerala district, killing hundreds. the bodies recovered in Rajban have been identified as that of a missing woman and her infant child, the body

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## Parl standoff likely over Oppn demand for debate on MHA

**ANIMESH SINGH TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE**

**NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4**

In what could lead to a stand-off between the BJP-led NDA and the opposition INDIA bloc, the demand of the Congress-led alliance for a discussion on the demands for grants for the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is yet to be taken up in the Rajya Sabha, despite a letter having been sent to chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar in this regard. Sources indicated that the Opposition's request may not be taken up by the government, while on the other hand, a discussion on the demands for grants for the Ministry of Cooperation, also held by Home Minister Amit Shah, is expected to be taken up on August 5 in the Upper House. The Opposition had sought a discussion on the Home Ministry in the backdrop of escalation in cross-border attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, especially in Jammu

### ESCALATION IN J&K ATTACKS

The Opposition had sought a discussion on the Home Ministry in the backdrop of escalation in cross-border attacks in J&K. It also wanted to discuss the overall internal security scenario in the country, including the prevailing situation in Manipur division. It also wanted to discuss the overall internal security scenario in the country, including the prevailing situation in Manipur. Incidentally, discussions on other key ministries like Defence and External Affairs, have not been held in either of the Houses during the ongoing Budget session. The INDIA bloc had written to Dhankhar for a discussion on the demands for grants for the Ministry of Home Affairs and it had found support from the Trinamool Congress, DMK, Samajwadi Party,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

### Govt set to tweak law on Waqf for more transparency

**NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4**

The government is all set to bring a Bill in Parliament to amend the 1995 law governing Waqf boards to ensure more accountability and transparency in their functioning and mandatory inclusion of women in these bodies, sources said. The move comes in the backdrop of demands from within the Muslim community, they claimed. The Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1995, will make it mandatory for Waqf boards to register their properties with district collectors to ensure their actual valuation. There are 30 Waqf boards in the country. The sources on Sunday pointed out that the revenue generated by all Waqf properties is estimated at Rs 200 crore per annum. This is not

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## 4 Punjab cops held for framing Kapurthala resident in drug case

**APARNA BANERJI TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE**

**JALANDHAR, AUGUST 4**

The Kapurthala police have arrested four of the five members of a Punjab Police special task force (STF) for registering a false case of drugs against a local resident about five years ago. The accused police personnel had got the FIR lodged against Kuldeep Singh, alias Sonu, at the Kapurthala City police station in 2019 under the NDPS Act for alleged possession of heroin and poppy husk. Sonu had filed a writ petition in the Punjab and Haryana High Court, which ordered action against the five police personnel in a ruling last year. On the high court's order, an FIR was registered against them on December 21, 2023, at the Kapurthala City police station under Sections 58, 61 and 85 of the NDPS Act.

### HCT TO RESCUE OF VICTIM

On Sept 23, 2019: Police arrest Sonu after alleged recovery of heroin and poppy husk. Sonu claims he was framed as he didn't give in to extortion demand of accused cops. Moves high court with CCTV evidence, gets relief. High court orders action against five police personnel. The arrested police personnel are Assistant Sub-Inspector Sylwaster Masih and Constables Major Singh, Gurvinder Singh and Sham Masih. Major Singh was arrested on Saturday and the remaining three on Friday. The police have obtained their three-day remand. The fifth accused, Assistant Sub-Inspector Kuldeep Singh, is yet to be arrested. On September 23, 2019, Sylwaster had got the FIR registered

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## Parsvnath MD held at IGI after 60-km chase

**SAMAD HOQUE TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE**

**NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4**

After a 60-km chase that ended at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, the Delhi Police apprehended prominent realtor Sanjeev Kumar Jain following issuance of non-bailable warrants against him by the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission. The police said today that Jain, managing director and CEO of Parsvnath Developers Private Limited and a resident of DLF Phase-2, Gurugram, was taken into custody on Saturday. The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) in Delhi had issued the warrants on July 18 after Jain failed to appear in a case. According to police officials, multiple warrants, including four non-bailable and one bailable, had been issued against Jain, all pending at the Shahdara police station. "After sincere efforts, Sanjeev Kumar Jain was apprehended on August 3

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## Oppn parties won't shift office to new Parl, cite lack of adequate space

**ANIMESH SINGH TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE**

**NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4**

The ruling NDA coalition and the opposition INDIA bloc seem to be heading for a confrontation as almost all major entities in the bloc, led by the Congress, have refused to set up their party offices in the new Parliament building, citing reasons ranging from lack of adequate space to sentimental attachment to their offices in the original Parliament building. The Trinamool Congress (TMC), however, is yet to take a call on whether or not to

take up space for its party office in the new building. Sources said the government had offered rooms to all parties on the first floor of the new Parliament building to set up their offices. However, it had not got an enthusiastic response from the opposition parties. The Congress, which has ample space in its existing office on the first floor of the original Parliament building, is learnt to have declined the offer for space in the new building, saying it is not interested. The Samajwadi Party, which has its office on the third floor of the old Parli-



ment building, has cited sentimental attachment as the main reason behind not shifting to the new space on offer in the new building. It is learnt that party president and Kannauj MP Akhilesh Yadav said his

### TMC YET TO TAKE CALL

Sources said the government had offered rooms to all parties on the first floor of the new Parliament building to set up their office. However, it had not got an enthusiastic response from the opposition parties; the TMC is yet to decide on the offer

the new building. The TMC's office on the ground floor of the original Parliament building is narrow, but it has not yet decided whether or not to shift to the new building. The development is likely to add to the acrimony between the ruling NDA and the opposition bloc. Cutting across party lines, there has been a general lack of enthusiasm among MPs regarding the new Parliament building, which lacks a central hall and a place for MPs to sit and relax. A common refrain among leaders is that the new build-

ing does not have space like that in the old Parliament's iconic Central Hall. Moreover, facilities like rest-rooms and drinking water are also situated at a distance. The confusing design leads to visitors and MPs often losing their way while negotiating the narrow corridors of the new Parliament building. The leaking roofs during the ongoing monsoon have also not added to its repertoire. During last week's rain, water had gushed inside the new Parliament building and its roof had also started leaking.

### Saini: Will procure all crops at MSP

KURUKSHETRA: Two farmers, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Sunday said the state government would procure all crops at minimum support price (MSP). Addressing a rally at Thanesar grain market, he also announced waiver of farmers' outstanding charges on canal water supply for irrigation.



INSIDE

# BJP sounds poll bugle, announces procurement of all crops on MSP

NITISH SHARMA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KURUKSHETRA, AUGUST 4

To woo farmers, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini today said that the state government would procure all crops on minimum support price (MSP). He also announced to waive the farmers' outstanding charges on canal water supply for irrigation. The CM made these announcements while sounding the BJP's poll bugle for the Assembly poll in 'Vijay Shankhnaad' rally at Thanesar. BJP leaders trained their guns at former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Rohtak MP Deepender Hooda for running the 'Haryana Mange Hisaab' campaign and demanded 'hisaab' of Congress regime.

CM Saini said, "So far, 14 crops are being procured on MSP in Haryana, but it has been decided to procure the remaining crops on MSP too."

The CM announced to waive Rs 133.55 crore outstanding 'abiya' (charges on canal water supplies for irrigation) and said, "The decision will also give relief of Rs 54 crore to Haryana's farmers annually. All the companies manufacturing three-star motors for tubewells will be on the panel of the government and farmers will be allowed to purchase



GOVT IS GIVING 'HISAAB' TO PEOPLE

Some Opposition leaders are seeking 'hisaab' in Haryana, but I want to tell them that the BJP government has been giving 'hisaab' to the people of Haryana every year. While the Congress government used to work in commission mode, the double engine BJP government has been working in a mission mode to develop Haryana.

Nayab Singh Saini, CHIEF MINISTER

CM Nayab Singh Saini addresses a rally in Kurukshetra. TRIBUNE PHOTO

motor of any company. At present, only 10 companies are registered in Haryana. The pending compensation of crop loss of Rs 137 crore of a few villages of Rohtak, Nuh, Fatehabad and Sirsa will be released in a week."

"The Congress has been using various tactics to spread rumours and lies to grab power. Some Opposition leaders are seeking 'hisaab' in Haryana, but I want to tell them that the BJP government has been giving 'hisaab' to the people of

Haryana every year. While the Congress government used to work in commission mode, the double engine BJP government has been working in a mission mode to develop Haryana," he added.

Union Minister Dhamendra Pradhan said, "The 10-year regimes of the Congress and BJP governments should be compared. While the BJP government is doing development non-stop, Congress had put a full stop on development during its rule. Haryana will be the

first state where all the crops will be procured on MSP. I urge the people of Haryana to form the third time and lead the nation towards development."

Attacking the Congress, Pradhan said, "Congress has been accusing us of not giving jobs, but I ask Congress how many jobs were given in its rule without recommendation and bribe? The BJP has named Nayab Saini as our captain, but who is the captain of Congress? Kumari Selja

and Randeep Surjewala should answer: Is Deepender going to be the next chaudhary of Haryana Congress?"

Union Minister Manohar Lal was also scheduled to address the rally. But he didn't address despite being present there. Union Minister Krishan Pal Gurjar, state BJP chief Mohan Lal Badoli, Kurukshetra MP Naveen Jindal, Kartikeya Sharma, Minister of State Subhash Sudha, MLA Kiran Choudhry and several senior BJP leaders attended the rally.



Congress MP Kumari Selja during her 'padyatra' in Faridabad on Sunday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

## Farmers being misled: Selja

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDABAD, AUGUST 4

Congress leader and MP Kumari Selja has charged the ruling BJP government with trying to mislead farmers by announcing MSP for all crops.

Speaking to mediapersons and locals during the statewide 'padyatra' of the party here today, Selja came down heavily on the BJP government by describing its rule as the biggest hurdle in the acceptance and implementation of the demands of farmers in the state and the country.

Describing the announcement of the MSP as a lollipop, she said the farmer community had become the BJP's favourite only when the state

elections are nearing. The BJP had already tasted the results of the oppressive and regressive policies that had left the farmers at the receiving end during the past 10 years of its rule.

"Where was the BJP when thousands of farmers were sitting on roads in bad weather, resulting in the death of over 700 farmers in the country," she asked.

She claimed that the BJP rule stands exposed on all fronts, including the policies towards farmers as the report of the Swaminathan Committee had been dumped and no committee had been formed to review the demands of farmers in the country.

"Ab tak to kisano ki yaad

aaayi nahin. Lekin jab elections sar par hain, to inke liye kisan pyare ho gaye hain (Farmers, who were ignored so far, have become dear all of a sudden when elections are due) remarked the Congress leader.

She said that the ruling party would have to give account of the past 10 years and any comment or remarks against the Congress would not help anymore. She said that the Congress is set to form the next government in Haryana as the people have got fed up with the present misrule.

Selja was welcomed by a number of local Congress leaders and activists, including Baljeet Kaushik, a former secretary of the Pradesh Congress Committee.

## AAP will bring 'badlav': Sunita Kejriwal

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDABAD, AUGUST 4

Sunita Kejriwal, the wife of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, on Sunday said the AAP guarantees held the promise of ushering in the real change in the state.

Speaking at her first public meeting here under the banner of Badlav Rally, she said: "One should not fall for the false promises or petty gifts, such as sarees or bedsheets, offered by political parties if the real change is desired. People should opt for the change that could improve their standard of life on a long-term basis."

Highlighting the five main guarantees of AAP, Sunita said the party would provide free power and water supply to domestic consumers, start the mohalla clinics and upgrade the government hospitals to provide best education and health facilities, besides providing employment to youths and payment of Rs 1,000 a month to every woman aged above 18 as financial help.

Mentioning "AAP ke bete" (referring to Arvind Kejriwal as the son of Haryana) several times in her speech, she said there had been many plans in store aimed at benefiting all sections of society. Claiming that AAP had already done and had been working on fulfilment of all guarantees in the states of Delhi and Punjab, she said now it was the turn of Haryana that needed to be freed from the clutches of power-hungry parties.

"Besides the round-the-



Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann, along with other AAP leaders, waves to people at a rally in Sonapat. TRIBUNE PHOTO

clock power supply, which has not been made possible till now, free medical treatment will be provided in the government hospitals and clinics. 'Aap ke Bete ne Delhi aur Punjab ko badla, ab Haryana ko badenge' (your son has changed Delhi and Punjab, now it is Haryana's turn)," she remarked.

Referring to the allegations of corruption against her husband, Sunita said if Arvind Kejriwal was corrupt then no one in the country was honest. Charging political vendetta, she said her husband had been arrested and jailed because he had been getting popular in view of the success of the policies and programmes of AAP in Delhi and Punjab. She asked people not to give a single vote to the BJP in the state. She however did not name the Congress in her address. Abhash Chandela, Pravesh Mehta, Rajender Sharma and Harender Bhati were among the local leaders present on the occasion.

## BJP working to divide country: Punjab CM

KURUKSHETRA, AUGUST 4

Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann today slammed the BJP government in Haryana over lack of job opportunities in the state, and sought support for AAP in the Assembly polls in the state.

Addressing a 'Badlav Jansabha' in Pehowa of Kurukshetra, the Punjab CM said: "A lot can be done for society if the intentions of the leaders are clean. The Punjab Government has given 43,000 jobs on merit, without any bribe, but the Haryana Government is sending youngsters to war-torn countries, which is a matter of shame."

Punjab had given opportunities to the Congress and the SAD-BJP repeatedly, and they did nothing for Punjab. Similarly, Haryana gave opportunities to the Congress, INLD and the BJP and the results were same. But in 2022, Punjab

gave an opportunity to AAP and now we are taking the 'hisaab' of the corrupt practices that prevailed in the previous governments and the money looted from the people. The corrupt people are being sent to jail in Punjab.

"Arvind Kejriwal has done the politics of work. No other party talks about building hospitals, free power, and delivering ration at the doorstep. The BJP has been working to divide the country while the AAP and Arvind Kejriwal have been working to unite the country", he added.

Mann addressed another gathering during a 'Badlav rally' at Ballah village in Karnal, where he exhorted the people to give a chance to AAP for overall development of the state. He promised to fulfill the five guarantees of the Delhi CM. — TNS

## Hoodas fire fresh salvos at govt over jobs, 'slow growth'

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

GURUGRAM/FARIDABAD AUGUST 4

Former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda and his son and Rohtak MP Deepender Hooda continued their tirade against the BJP government on Sunday.

Accusing the BJP of exploiting the youth, Hooda said the Congress would not just win the Vidhan Sabha elections, but would also revive the lost dignity of labour and jobs.

Training guns at the Nayab Saini government, he said the youth were fooled into temporary recruitments in Kaushal Nigam and promised permanent jobs if the Congress came to power.

The former CM, who was in Gurugram to address a labour rights conference, said: "The sword of dismissal always hangs over their heads, but after the Congress forms the government, the workers employed under Kaushal Nigam will be made permanent by making a policy. Permanent recruitments will be made on two lakh vacant posts to free the youth from the hassle of temporary jobs."

"The Congress government of Haryana had fixed the highest minimum daily wage and MNREGA wages in the country. The Haryana Congress is fully committed to giving the highest MNREGA wages and minimum daily wages in the country in future also. On the other hand, the BJP is pushing the poor workers into the quagmire of exploitation by playing with the labour laws,



Rohtak MP Deepender Singh Hooda in Faridabad on Sunday.

because it believes in privatisation while the Congress in nationalisation," he added.

Hooda said the BJP had implemented its privatisation policy in the field of education as well. Haryana Congress president Chaudhary Udaibhan said the Congress was the voice of the oppressed and exploited workers.

In Faridabad's Ballabgarh, addressing a public meeting under 'Haryana Mange Hisaab Yatra', he charged the BJP government of poor work and

failure to sustain the pace of progress unleashed during the Congress party rule. He said the cities like Faridabad had been turned into urban slums despite claims of spending hundreds of crores on civic infrastructure. "Lakhs of people here had been made to live without the basic civic amenities of water, sewage and roads despite Faridabad being one of the highest revenue generators in the state," he said, adding the BJP had no answer to questions raised by the Congress.

## Dushyant seeks 'hisaab' of Cong rule

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDABAD, AUGUST 4

JJP leader and former Deputy CM, Dushyant Chautala, on Sunday attacked the Congress by seeking 'hisaab' (account) of the alleged irregularities during the Congress regime in Haryana.

Speaking to mediapersons during the 'Janjagran' programme in Faridabad and Palwal, Dushyant said that Congress leaders have no right to seek account of other parties' rule if they are unable to provide the same for the alleged scam of acquisition of the 73,000 acres of farmers during their party's rule in the state earlier.

Claiming that the JJP would field candidates in all the 90 Assembly segments and contest the Assembly election independently, he said it is hard to talk about the possibility of an alliance at this stage. He, however, claimed that the JJP had been getting huge response from both the rural and urban segments during the ongoing campaign.

He said while the party had been strengthening the organisational structure, the names of the candidates for Assembly elections would be announced at the right time. Dushyant said the state needs a strong and independent government which does not have to depend on the Centre for every decision, pointing at the ruling party. Without naming anyone, he said the JJP tried its best to implement various development programmes during the stint which it got in the past few years.

## Govt giving free ration to divert attention: BSP

YAMUNANAGAR, AUGUST 4

BSP national coordinator Akash Anand has said if the BJP government had provided employment to two crore youths every year, it would not have needed to provide free ration to more than 80 crore people.

He said that the BJP was giving free ration to people to divert their attention from important issues.

"The BJP says that it is giving free ration to more than 80 crore people. This means that the BJP has worked to push

these people into poverty. BJP had promised to provide employment to two crore youths every year in the 2014 election. If the BJP had fulfilled this promise, it would not need to give free ration," said Akash Anand.

He addressed a public meeting held by INLD-BSP alliance in Jagadhri city today. The meeting was addressed by INLD leader Abhay Singh Chautala, former INLD Yamunanagar MLA Dilbag Singh and other leaders of the alliance also. — TNS

## In Rohtak segment, aspirants begin lobbying for BJP ticket

RAVINDER SAINI  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, AUGUST 4

Though the BJP state leadership has not yet initiated the process officially to receive applications from ticket aspirants for the upcoming Assembly elections, local leaders are carrying out hectic lobbying to strengthen their case.

They are not only making rounds of senior leaders, including the party's state election incharge Union Minister Dhamendra Pradhan, co-incharge Biplab Kumar Deb Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, party affairs' incharge in the

state Satish Poonia and general secretary Phanindra Nath Sharma, but also staking claim for the ticket by submitting their applications to them.

Sources said three local leaders submitted their applications to a senior BJP leader during a meeting held in the party state headquarters when office-bearers of the district and state units were present there. Interestingly, the aspirants are carrying multiple copies of applications with bio-data so as to hand them over to senior leaders at an opportune time.

"The hectic lobby for the party ticket is picking up pace as

### GROVER'S EXIT SPICES UP POLL BATTLE

The BJP face in Rohtak in the past five Assembly elections, Manish Grover, recently announced that he wouldn't contest the upcoming Assembly elections, spicing up the battle for ticket

Local BJP leaders that were earlier not so much active due to Grover, who enjoyed a good rapport with top BJP leaders, have suddenly started lobbying ahead of ticket allocation

the Assembly polls are getting closer. Since the party has been contemplating over fielding new faces in the elections, especially in the stronghold of former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda in Rohtak and Jhajjar district, hence newcomers are considering it a good opportunity for them to try

their luck in the electoral politics," said a local BJP leader.

He maintained former minister and the BJP face in Rohtak in the past five Assembly elections Manish Grover's recent announcement not to contest the Assembly polls also spiced up the battle of ticket among local saffron

leaders, who were earlier not so much active to get the party ticket due to Grover who enjoyed good rapport with top guns of the BJP, he added.

Meanwhile, Ranvir Dhaka, Rohtak district president of the BJP, told The Tribune that the party had not yet invited applications from prospective candidates for the ticket but some of them who wished to contest election were giving their resume to senior party leaders.

As far as Rohtak is concerned, the Congress had won three of the four seats in the district in the previous

Assembly elections held in 2019. An independent candidate — Balraj Kundu — emerged victorious from Meham while the BJP failed to open its accounts.

In the recently held Lok Sabha polls, Congress' Deepender Hooda took a lead over BJP's Arvind Sharma in all four Assembly segments of Rohtak, hence the Congress is believed to be in a good position in the district ahead of the Assembly poll. Former CM Bhupinder Hooda's strong influence on electors and anti-incumbency are two major challenges for the BJP in Rohtak.



Govt. of Haryana



# Mhara Haryana

# Non-Stop Haryana

# We Haryanvis

## Our Children are now getting quality education

Laid foundation stone of Bhagat Phool Singh Government Medical College for Women, Khanpur Kalan, Sonipat-Phase-III

Government college at every 20 km started in the State

241 PM SHRI, 1419 Government Model Sanskriti Primary Schools Started

National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) in Panchkula, IIM in Rohtak, and an extension centre of IIT Delhi in Sonipat established

Free tablets for 10th and 12th-grade students

Education to every child continuous





# Sukhbir reorganises SAD core committee

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 4 Amid rebellion by a section of party leaders who have launched the "Shiromani Akali Dal Sudhar Lehar", Sukhbir Badal on Sunday reorganised the party's core committee, the outfit's highest decision-making body. The 23-member core committee has been reorganised days after Sukhbir Badal dissolved the previous panel. The prominent members of the panel are Harjinder Singh Dhami, Bahwinder Singh Bhunder, Naresh Singh Grewal, Daljit Singh Cheema and Bikram Singh Majithia, besides others. The rebels have been demanding that Badal should step down as the SAD chief in view of the party's defeat in the recently held Lok Sabha elections. The leaders who raised the banner of revolt included former MP Prem Singh Chandumajra, former SGPC chief Bibi Jagir Kaur, former MLA Gurbart Singh Wadala and former ministers Parminder Singh Dhindsa and Surjit Singh Rakhra. Recently, the rebel leaders had formed a 13-member pre-

## REBELS FORMED PRESIDUM

Recently, the rebel leaders had formed a 13-member presidium to work with convener of the "Shiromani Akali Dal Sudhar Lehar" Gurbart Singh Wadala. The rebels said SAD was going through a rough patch and facing a serious existential crisis, which was a matter of concern for the entire Sikh Panth.

sidium to work with convener of the "Shiromani Akali Dal Sudhar Lehar" (reforms movement) Gurbart Singh Wadala. They said the SAD was going through a rough patch and facing a serious existential crisis and it was a matter of concern for the Sikh Panth. Efforts were being made through the reforms movement to take the SAD out of that crisis, they had said. Since 2017, the SAD's electoral graph has been going down. In the 2022 state Assembly elections, the party could win only three seats and in the recently held Lok Sabha poll, it won only one seat (Bathinda) and its candidates lost deposits on 10 seats.

# Electricity demand soars by 25%, deficit rainfall to blame

State power utility PSPCL supplied over 10K million units in July

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, AUGUST 4 Deficit rainfall coupled with hot and humid weather has led to a steep hike in the demand for power in the state. The power supplied by Punjab State Power Corporation Ltd (PSPCL) increased by 25.5 per cent to 10,385 million units (MUs) in July against 8,272 MUs during the same period last year. The maximum daily power supplied by the PSPCL was 3,666 lakh units on July 22 this year. The power demand in July remained around 15,500 MW. The demand witnessed a sharp spike mainly due to deficient rainfall. According to the PSPCL, the average daily power supplied in the state in June was 3,351 lakh units. Due to intense heatwave



## A COMPARISON

<b>10,385</b> million units (MUs) supplied by the PSPCL in July this year	<b>8,272</b> MU power was supplied during the same period last year
--	--

and practically no rain in June, the average daily demand met by the PSPCL increased by 24 per cent to 2,918 LUs per day against last year's supply of 2,352 LUs per day. The power supply during June this year was 8,772 MUs against the last year's

supply of 7,055 MUs. A senior PSPCL official said with increased withdrawal from the northern grid, including adequate power purchase, meant that all power consumers in the state were provided supply without cuts even during the paddy season. "However, there were rotational cuts of different duration in different cities to manage the situation during the peak demand, but these were minimal," he stated. In a relief for the PSPCL, the reservoir level has started increasing after heavy rainfall in Himachal Pradesh as the inflow has increased as compared to outflow. The level in Ranjit Sagar Dam is 493.42 m and inflow is 342 cusecs and outflow due to lesser generation as per demand is 76 cusecs.

# 33yrson, accused to surrender in court

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 4 More than 33 years after he was booked for various offences, including murder, under TADA and other laws, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has given Paramjit Singh, alias Pamma, time till August 7 to surrender before the Sessions Court concerned and file a fresh bail plea. Among other things, Justice Anoop Chitkara said, "A thorough investigation has been conducted pointing towards the petitioner's role in firing at a police party." Justice Chitkara said a careful analysis of the arguments and counter-arguments prima facie pointed towards sufficient evidence connecting the petitioner with the "incident in question". The evidence mentioned in the reply filed in the matter was "prima facie indicting the petitioner".

# Markfed reviews food items' quality

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 4 Amid a growing clamour over the alleged substandard food items being served in anganwaris of Punjab, the supply agency, Markfed, has begun an exercise to review the quality of items and probe other allegations of foreign material being found in packaged food. In the past fortnight, there were complaints of foreign particles being found in pre-mixed food items and snacks in Moosa village of Mansa, Nihalsinghwa in Moga and Sherpur in Sangrur. Women and many people in the villages of the state have been complaining about the panjiri being made with soybean oil, which is not as nutritious as the panjiri supplied to them earlier that was cooked in desi ghee.



Mangled remains of the recklessly driven SUV. TRIBUNE PHOTO

# Speeding SUV rams into commuters, one killed

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, AUGUST 4 The police have rounded up two under-age persons after a speeding SUV, allegedly recklessly driven by one of them, mowed down seven commuters, resulting in the death of one of them in Patran on Sunday. The police were yet to get conducted the medical examination of both accused, who were caught by passers-by. According to the police, the duo were driving an Uttar Pradesh-registered Thar vehicle. Both of them belonged to Dirba in Sangrur and were out for a drive when the mishap occurred. "We shifted seven injured to the hospital. Two of

them were referred to the Government Rajindra Hospital due to grievous injuries. One of them, identified as Tarsem (50), has died," said police post in charge Kamail Singh. "The two suspects were handed over to us by the local residents and we are trying to verify their claims," he said. The vehicle first hit two persons on the road and then two bike-borne youths, leaving them severely injured. Later, the SUV crashed into a kiosk, injuring those sitting inside. "The two occupants were young boys aged around 15-16 years and we are trying to ascertain in whose name the vehicle is registered," the police said.

Govt. of Haryana | SPORTS DEPARTMENT HARYANA

“देश में खेलों के लिए जरूरी है कि हमारे युवाओं में खेलों को लेकर विश्वास पैदा हो, खेल को अपना प्रॉफेशन बनाने का हौसला बढ़े। मैं चाहता हूँ कि जिस तरह दूसरे प्रॉफेशन्स हैं, वैसे ही हमारे युवा खेलों को भी देखें।”  
- नरेन्द्र मोदी

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## The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

## J&amp;K at a crossroads

Five years after Art 370 abrogation, challenges persist

IT'S been five years since the Centre took the landmark decision to abolish Article 370 and bifurcate the state of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories. According to the government, the reorganisation was aimed at 'fully integrating' J&K and Ladakh into the national mainstream and ensuring that the people of these UTs were not deprived of constitutional rights and benefits of Central laws that were being enjoyed by residents of other parts of the country. The ruling BJP has often showcased the abrogation as the panacea for all ills plaguing J&K, but things have not turned out that way. The state-turned-UT finds itself at a crossroads today, awaiting the restoration of statehood as well as the resumption of Assembly elections.

In December last year, the Supreme Court had upheld the constitutional validity of the decision to abrogate Article 370, giving the Centre a leg up months before the Lok Sabha polls. At the same time, the court had directed the Election Commission of India (ECI) to hold the Assembly elections in J&K by September 30. With this deadline fast approaching, a high-level ECI team is set to visit the region later this week to review poll preparedness. A major challenge for the authorities is to provide a peaceful environment for the electoral exercise amid a spate of terror attacks that have targeted soldiers as well as civilians in recent months. What has added to the anxiety and uncertainty is the reluctance of the government to specify a time frame for restoring statehood, even as the move to grant more powers to the Lieutenant Governor has riled anti-BJP parties.

The Centre is making efforts to put J&K on the path of all-round development, but cross-border terrorism and the failure to take the regional political leadership along continue to obstruct the course of long-term peace and normalcy. Having all stakeholders on board is a must to herald a new dawn in the troubled region.

## Politicising sports

Centre's Olympic snub to Mann raises concerns

THE denial of political clearance to Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to attend the Paris Olympics raises significant concerns about the priorities and motivations of the Central Government. Mann intended to cheer for the Indian hockey team, which has 10 Punjabi players. Despite his readiness to cover his expenses, the Ministry of External Affairs thwarted his plans. Mann's diplomatic passport, which typically facilitates international travel, makes this refusal particularly troubling. Not allowing him to travel to Paris hints at potential politicisation of sports, where support for athletes is sacrificed at the altar of political rivalry.

This isn't the first such denial; similar refusals for Opposition leaders have occurred, reflecting poorly on the democratic spirit and collaborative ethos that should guide our governance. The presence of a state leader, especially from Punjab, which has contributed significantly to the Indian contingent, is not merely symbolic. It underscores support and recognition of athletes' hard work. Denying such an opportunity is a disservice to the athletes representing India on the biggest international stage.

While security concerns for high-profile figures are legitimate, the context of this situation warrants a closer examination. Mann holds Z-plus security cover. However, his diplomatic passport provides streamlined access and enables necessary security arrangements for international travel. The French authorities are well equipped to ensure his safety during the Olympics. A transparent review of the decision-making process, with clear communication regarding the specific security threats and the measures taken to address them, would help ensure that security considerations are not perceived as a pretext for political manoeuvring. As we strive for excellence in global arenas, our leaders, cutting across party lines, must be seen as united in their support for our players.

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

## The Tribune.

LAHORE, TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1924

## 'Supremacy of the state'

WE have already had something to say about Sir Malcolm Hailey's first public speech as Governor of this Province, the speech he made in reply to the addresses of welcome presented to him at Jullundur. We are constrained to say that the several speeches made by His Excellency at Amritsar, particularly those in reply to the municipal address and the address of the Sikh public committee and three other bodies, so far from improving matters, have made them worse. With every new speech made by him, His Excellency seems to be committing himself more and more to a policy with regard to the most important public movement in the Province at present, with the sole exception of the movement for Swaraj, from which nothing but difficulties and complexities can arise. We have seen that in his speech at Jullundur, His Excellency had something to say about "those who for motives which I will not here characterise, but which are certainly not religious, are endeavouring to suborn an uneducated peasantry from the paths of good citizenship and to lead them on ways which can only end in the discredit, if not in the ruin, of the whole community." At Amritsar, he went a step further. The opening remarks made by him in his reply to the municipal address were an attack on the Akalis. "There is a general agreement here," he said, "that the revival of trade which seemed at one time to have commenced, is being seriously hampered by the Akali organisation, whose activities centre in Amritsar. Their presence here disturbs the calm atmosphere in which alone trade and commerce can flourish."

## Governor's office rooted in constitutionalism

Armed with special powers, governors are not expected to function as agents of the ruling party at the Centre

AJAY K MEHRA  
POLITICAL SCIENTIST

EVEN as President Droupadi Murmu appointed governors for nine states on July 28 and addressed the Conference of Governors on August 2-3, the main agenda announced by the Union Government was to ask them to be 'proactive' and share their views when states and the Centre differed!

The BJP's 'proactive' governors in various non-BJP/non-NDA-ruled states have been controversial. A leading English daily editorially commented on July 31 on the excessive number of Bills referred by governors to the President and called for curbing this power. On August 3, Justice BV Nagarathna of the Supreme Court said: "Some governors are playing a role where they ought not to..."

While the Karnataka Chief Minister is the latest under notice from the governor, for the past decade, governors in Kerala, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and other states have been in conflict with the governments. The governor's office is embroiled in post-SR Bommai judgment (1994) controversies since the use of Article 356 is now checked.

Appointed by the President of India till the presidential pleasure for a five-year term under Articles 152-156 as the head of the state, governors have discretionary and special powers. They are expected to function not as agents of the party in power at the Centre but as titular constitutional heads in the Westminster tradition. However, the partisan tug-of-war orchestrated from the top and the party loyalty of incumbents have muddled and distorted



BRAINSTORMING: (From left) Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, President Droupadi Murmu, PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah at the Conference of Governors, held in New Delhi on August 2-3. ANI

ed the constitutional mandate.

It was transformed from a colonial office under the three Government of India Acts — 1858, 1919 and 1935 — to a constitutional office by the Constitution. Aside from the Raj Bhawans, discretionary and special powers as well as the transformation of Section 93 of the 1935 Act into Article 356 of the Constitution, vesting in it the power to dismiss an elected government, continue to signify this controversial office.

The Constituent Assembly (CA) consensually retained the governor as the head of state for the states in independent India. However, perceived as potentially partisan, an elected governor was ruled out in favour of a governor appointed by the President. To retain this clause, the Congress issued a whip to its CA members, even as the debate was inconclusive.

Soon after the first General Election in 1951-52, the appointment of C Rajagopalachari as the Congress Chief Minister by Governor Sri Prakasa and the dismissal of Gian Singh Rarewale of PEPSU (1953) by Yadavindra Singh brought partisanship at the outset. The 1959 dismissal of the EMS Nambudiripad government in Kerala at the behest of Congress president Indira Gandhi was a trailer for the

Since 2014, governors of states with non-BJP, non-NDA parties in power have been at their interfering worst, causing political skirmishes with CMs.

events of the 1960s and 1970s.

Then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's misuse of the gubernatorial office during 1967-72 spilled over to the mid-1970s. PMs Morarji Desai (1977-79), Rajiv Gandhi (1984-89) and others followed suit till the Bommai judgment. It was visible in Governor Jagmohan's 1984 dismissal of the Farooq Abdullah government (Jammu and Kashmir) by allegedly engineering a split in his party. The national uproar following the 1984 dismissal of the NTR government in Andhra Pradesh eventually brought him back and Governor Ram Lal had to quit. Bommai

challenged his government's dismissal by P Venkatasubbaiah in 1989. After the 1994 judgment, Article 356 came under judicial review; hence, the gubernatorial misuse acquired a different hue.

In 1997, then President KR Narayanan reprimanded Romesh Bhandari for acting 'in a partisan manner' in arbitrarily dismissing the Kalyan Singh government in UP. Governors Buta Singh (Bihar, 2004), Syed Sibtay Razi (Jharkhand, 2004), HR Bhardwaj (Karnataka, 2009) and Kamla Beniwal (Gujarat, 2009) did not add to the dignity of the office in working at the behest of the Union Government and not functioning as the constitutional heads of state.

Since 2014, governors of states with non-BJP, non-NDA parties in power have been at their interfering worst, causing political skirmishes with the chief ministers concerned. Jagdeep Dhankhar and CV Ananda Bose (West Bengal), Arif Mohammad Khan (Kerala), RN Ravi (Tamil Nadu) and Tamilisai Soundararajan (Telangana) have all been in it. Then Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari swore in Devendra Fadnis as the Maharashtra CM at dawn after clearance from New Delhi on November 23, 2019, violating the constitutional spirit.

Aside from the elements of

colonial control getting transformed into unconstitutional partisanship, the governor's office has unfortunately been reduced to an instrument of the party in power at Raisina Hill.

The office can still be redeemed by bringing in constitutional propriety. Nehru had stressed to select an eminent public person as governor in consultation with the chief minister of the state concerned. The Rajamannar Committee (submitted its report in 1971), the Sarkaria Commission (1988) and the Punchhi Commission (2010) have discussed that the mode of appointment and dismissal of governors make the office weak and partisan.

An elected governor has not been considered as an option. The Punchhi Commission recommended a fixed tenure of five years and removal only "by an appropriate procedure under which a governor who is to be reprimanded or removed for whatever reasons is given an opportunity to defend his position and the decision is taken in a fair and dignified manner befitting a constitutional office..."

The Punchhi Commission recommended that "the governor should be a detached person and not too intimately connected with the local politics of the state. Accordingly, the governor must not have participated in active politics at the Centre or state or local level for at least a couple of years before his appointment."

Objectively, there should be a two-tier selection process beginning with the Inter-state Council preparing, following a discussion, a panel of persons valid for one year. A committee consisting of the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition (or the leader of the single largest party in the Lok Sabha), the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India should recommend a panel of three names to be sent to the President for the final selection.

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Government exists for the interests of the governed, not for the governors. — Thomas Jefferson

## A grain that gave us a fright

RS DALAL

I recently received an invite to a book launch. The author was a young, brilliant paediatrician whom we had befriended a few years ago when our grandchildren were born. 'How could a doctor so busy find time to co-author a book on the challenges of parenting?' I wondered aloud.

While listening to him and the suave anchor talk about the book, a nightmarish incident involving our younger daughter flashed through my mind. How she had kept us on tenterhooks for 40 fateful minutes!

In 1986, I was a Deputy Director at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration in Mussoorie. Our elder daughter was five years old; the younger was just over three.

It was a Saturday afternoon. Our kids were busy playing games with their toys in the courtyard and had roasted grams (a popular healthy snack among vegetarians) in two small steel bowls. My wife and I were inside the house, leisurely lounging.

Suddenly, the elder one came shouting that her sibling had put a grain of roasted gram inside her nose. I jumped out of the quilt and rushed outside to check. To my shock, I spotted the grain stuck deep in her nostril.

I quickly rang up the academy doctor and explained the tricky situation to him. 'The dispensary opens at 3 pm. I can't do anything before that,' he tersely told me. I looked at my watch. It was only 2.20 pm. 'Ensure that she doesn't push it up further; try to distract her mind; it could be fatal if it travels to her windpipe,' he warned. I was at my wits' end for a while. Both my wife and I acted like clowns in a circus to entertain the child and keep her mind off the grain stuck in her nose. Those moments hung heavily over us.

The middle-aged burly doctor at the dispensary was supported by a skeletal staff comprising a nurse and two paramedics. The nurse, Daisy, was energetic and efficient and that made her popular. We reached the dispensary even before it opened. The doctor examined my daughter while Daisy promptly proceeded to place a tray of sterilised surgical instruments before him. The doctor was reluctant to take a chance for fear of further pushing the stuck grain up and advised us to take her to Dehradun, which had better medical facilities. Simultaneously, he started filling a form for requisitioning an academy vehicle for the purpose.

We stood completely shaken and flabbergasted. Daisy picked up a pair of tweezers from the tray and asked us if she could intervene. We trusted her.

'Please do,' we nodded our heads even before the doctor could react. With a paramedic flashing a torch, Daisy pulled out the grain, which had become soft due to nasal moisture, using the tweezers softly yet surely. What a relief it was when the ordeal ended!

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Sukhu shows how it's done

Refer to 'Sukhu takes the road less travelled' (*The Great Game*); the column rightly commends Himachal Pradesh CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu for his adept handling of internal party conflicts despite the many pulls and pressures. The Congress party's victory in four of the six seats in the state Assembly bypolls earlier this year added yet another feather to Sukhu's cap. In this day and age, when politicians make tall promises to the voters to enhance their poll appeal, it takes guts for a leader to take unpopular decisions like withdrawing the free electricity scheme for taxpayers to improve the fiscal health of the state.

CHANCHAL S MANN, UNA

## Himachal CM sets an example

Apropos of 'Sukhu takes the road less travelled' (*The Great Game*); the recent steps taken by CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu are reshaping Himachal Pradesh. His decision to scrap power subsidies for the rich and his success in consolidating his position against political rebels mark a rare blend of pragmatic governance and political acumen. Unlike Punjab, where poll promises remain unfulfilled, Sukhu's strategic cuts are aligned with the state's fiscal realities. He has clearly taken a leaf out of the successful models of Kerala and Tamil Nadu but tailored the policies to Himachal's unique requirements. His willingness to tackle sensitive issues — from power to potential water reforms — head-on signifies a break from populist politics. Sukhu's journey, driven by a vision for long-term stability over short-term gains, deserves national recognition.

GURDEV SINGH, MOHALI

## Save the Western Ghats

Apropos of the news report 'Centre issues fresh draft notification to declare Western Ghats eco-sensitive'; the unbridled exploitation of ecologically fragile regions leads to disastrous consequences like unpredictable rain patterns. Haphazard development in such sensitive areas can trigger heavy land-

slides, claiming several lives. Infrastructural development can cost the local residents and the authorities dear. It is high time that we stopped disturbing the ecological balance. All stakeholders must come together to save, protect and preserve the Western Ghats; millions of lives depend on it. The over 56,825.7 square km of the mountain range must be declared an ecologically sensitive area as soon as possible.

KRISHAN KANT SOOD, NANGAL

## Trump hits Kamala below the belt

Former US President and Republican candidate Donald Trump has been freaking out ever since Kamala Harris replaced Joe Biden at the top of the Democratic presidential ticket. He has resorted to calling her names like 'a crazy liberal' and 'radical left lunatic'. Certain early predictions that give Harris an edge over Trump are to blame for the latter's outbursts. Since Trump realises that he is on a sticky wicket, he has now even called into question his Democratic opponent's racial identity. He recently also denigrated South America, Asia and Africa, saying that they send criminals to the US. Trump must not forget that the red carpet was rolled out for him when he visited India in 2020. He must not use derogatory language for our country.

THARCIOUS S FERNANDO, CHENNAI

## Haryana must scrap S+4 policy

Gen VP Malik, who was the Army chief during the 1999 Kargil War, was heard by then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. So, it is a pity that the Haryana Government has failed to heed the concerns recently raised by him about the stilt-plus-four (S+4) policy. The state authorities have given in to pressure from lobbies comprising politicians, money-minded property dealers and other people with vested interests. This policy would give the realtors free rein to hike the prices of properties. The government must withdraw the policy in order to keep the property rates stable.

RAJ KUMAR SINGLA, PANCHKULA

# Nuclear brinkmanship keeping the world on edge



**C UDAY BHASKAR**  
DIRECTOR, SOCIETY FOR  
POLICY STUDIES

**O**N the eve of Hiroshima Day (August 6), while the world can derive slender satisfaction from the fact that the nuclear taboo (non-use of nuclear weapons) has not been violated by the nuclear weapon-capable powers since 1945, one cannot be too certain that this sanctity will be respected in the run-up to the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings next year.

This pessimism was reflected in January this year when the hands on the Doomsday Clock (maintained by the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists in Chicago) remained at 90 seconds to midnight — the “closest it has ever been to apocalypse”. This 90-second caution was announced last year in January and the reasons cited for this grave caution were the risk of nuclear escalation that arose from the Russian invasion of Ukraine, as well as climate change, biological threats such as Covid-19 and risks associated with disinformation and disrupt-

tive technologies.

Every year, the bulletin determines how much notional time the world has to avert an apocalyptic catastrophe. Over the past 75 years, the hands of the clock have moved according to whether effective steps had been taken to redress threats that could end human civilisation on the planet. Both a nuclear war and unprecedented climate change are on top of the list of apocalyptic exigencies.

The clock's original setting in 1947 was seven minutes (420 seconds) to midnight and the grim possibility of a nuclear war between the former superpowers (the US and the USSR) was a perennial anxiety during the Cold War decades. The so-called ‘safest’ setting of the clock was in 1991, when the clock hands showed 17 minutes (1,020 seconds) from midnight, and the most dire was 90 seconds, set in January 2023.

A brief review of the prevailing global turbulence that could escalate to nuclear sabre-rattling and related brinkmanship covers the war in Ukraine and the Israel-Hamas conflict; the latter has escalated to a potential Israel-Iran war after the recent assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 was followed by Moscow drawing attention to its nuclear weapon capability on many



**UNCERTAINTY:** Nuclear powers have not violated the Ntaboo since 1945. Will this trend continue? ANI

occasions to ‘deter’ the US-led NATO from crossing the redlines identified by Russian President Vladimir Putin. Earlier this year, tactical nuclear weapons were brought into the picture; in May, a Russian Iskander missile was seen during drills to train the military for using tactical nuclear weapons at an undisclosed location in Russia.

Whether this brinkmanship to constrain the US and EU support to Kyiv is a bluff or otherwise remains moot but the UN clearly was very concerned. In June, UN Secretary General António Guterres cautioned: “Humanity is on a knife’s edge. The risk of a nuclear weapon being used has reached heights not seen since the Cold War. States are engaged in a qualitative arms

**Nuclear-growing is in the simmer mode. Putin has warned of stationing banned long-range missiles close to Western countries if the US deployed N-capable missiles in Germany.**

race. We need disarmament now. All countries need to step up, but nuclear weapons states must lead the way.”

In June, a global survey by SIPRI (the Stockholm-based security think tank) concluded that the nine nuclear-armed states — the US, Russia, the UK, France, China, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel — continued to modernise their nuclear arsenals and several had deployed new nuclear-armed or nuclear-capable weapon systems in 2023.

Nuclear-growing is in the simmer mode. In July-end, Russian President Putin warned that Moscow would station previously banned long-range missiles close to western countries if the US went ahead with its commitment to deploy several

types of nuclear-capable missiles in Germany.

It is ironic that almost four decades after the former USSR and the US successfully concluded the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, which required both parties to eliminate and permanently renounce use of all nuclear and conventional ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with a range from 500 km to 5,500 km, Moscow and Washington are getting back into the once-forbidden WMD (weapons of mass destruction) deployment mode in Europe. This is a cause for a deep concern.

If the world’s two major nuclear powers (the US and Russia) have almost 90 per cent of the global nuclear arsenal) increase their reliance on the dreaded nuke for securing their core survival interests — as Putin has framed the threat for the US/NATO — other states will follow and this is what is animating the global nuclear domain.

Pakistan and North Korea have often rattled their nuclear sabre to ward off what they perceive as superior conventional military threats. The subtext here is of relevance to examine how the pristine deterrence of old is now being diluted. Both these nations have been accused by their adversaries of engaging in and abetting terrorism by using their nuclear weapons as a shield — this practice has

been differently described as NWET (nuclear weapon-enabled terrorism) and TBNS (terrorism behind the nuclear shield) and merits attention.

The Kargil War remains a case study for the manner in which two nuclear weapon-capable nations — proximate neighbours and democracies to boot — were involved in a limited war but the WMD restraint was maintained. Will the current turmoil in West Asia — that involves Israel, an opaque nuclear power, and Iran that could transform itself into a nuclear weapon power — stay within the framework of mutual deterrence? Powerful non-state entities such as Hamas, Hezbollah and Houthis rebels have demonstrated considerable trans-border lethality and the possibility of a ‘dirty bomb’ (radiological contamination) remains an abiding WMD challenge. Manipulation through AI and disinformation campaigns adds to the cocktail that is brewing, and the forecast is bleak.

The major powers are differently distracted: the US with its dramatic and ugly election that will determine the next White House incumbent, Russia mired in the Ukraine morass and China in the Taiwan dilemma.

Can India encourage like-minded medium powers to highlight the dangers of the darkening nuclear-brinkmanship cloud?

# Learn lessons from Wayanad tragedy to combat climate change



**SURUCHI BHADWAL**  
PROGRAMME DIRECTOR, CLIMATE  
CHANGE & AIR QUALITY, TERI

**T**HE worsening impact of calamities across the country in recent years is worrisome. The Wayanad tragedy is one such extreme case; the land could not withstand the pressure caused by a couple of factors — infrastructure development and incessant rain. For long, ecological sensitivities have not been taken into consideration in the development process. But climate change is here for real. And the severity of the problem is now playing out in the form of disasters wreaking havoc in many parts of the country. Whether the tragedy in Kerala struck because of the extreme rainfall or a lack of much-needed governance or overall ecological management required in the region, we must take responsibility for it.

The Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats are rich in biodiversity, and they protect the coastlines of India run-

ning all the way from Gujarat to Kerala and from Odisha to Tamil Nadu. The ghats, which are home to many endemic species of plants and animals, regulate the local environment.

There have been several reports and debates about the sensitivity of these mountain ranges and the need to protect them. The government had set up committees for a review in this regard. The Madhav Gadgil and K Kasturirangan reports strongly recommended the need for conservation of the Western Ghats. Several suggestions were made regarding the protection of ecologically sensitive zones, such as more stringent regulations and a ban on mining, industrial and agricultural activities and construction for economic purposes, including the diversion of land. Three zones of sensitivity were demarcated. Many of these activities were said to be restricted in the high-sensitivity areas. Both reports concluded that there was a need to protect the Western Ghats. It was proposed that 50 to 75 per cent of the land would be protected, given the ecological diversity and the overall fragility of the ecosystem.

The oceans are warming. More evaporation is occurring from land as well as water, resulting in the devel-



**DISASTER:** Human-induced landslides are often preventable with proper site investigation and adherence to engineering and regulatory standards. REUTERS

opment of deep cloud systems, which leads to heavy downpours. And that increases the likelihood of waterlogging, inundation and landslides. Many regions in the Western Ghats have been experiencing this. TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute) had mentioned in its State Action Plan on Climate Change Report of 2012, submitted to the Maharashtra Government, the increase in the incidence of extreme rainfall in the Konkan region and a

**Even if warnings are issued and systems established, the damage to the ecology cannot be reversed.**

rise in future. The same phenomenon of rains is again being witnessed down south. Rains normally strike Kerala in the first week of June and then head towards other parts of the country.

The Wayanad tragedy was a result of the confluence of various factors — the formation of deep clouds over the Arabian Sea, cloudbursts, saturation of the soil, encroachments in fragile areas and ecological damage, to name a few. The rains have been unusual and extreme —

over 150 mm of rainfall was experienced in the region in a single day. One of the consequences of the heavy rainfall was the landslides.

Landslides occur as a result of factors that increase downslope forces and reduce the strength of the earth materials composing the slope. These movements occur when gravitational forces exceed the strength of the material, triggering landslides through rainfall, snowmelt, changes in water levels, stream erosion, groundwater fluctuations, earthquakes, volcanic activity or human disturbances. Human activities significantly contribute to landslides, which often occur due to inadequate grading during construction, poorly planned drainage alterations and disturbances from previous landslides.

Nearly 15 per cent of the area in the Western Ghats is considered to be prone to landslides. While physical causes cannot always be eliminated, the risk can be mitigated through detailed geologic investigations, sound engineering practices and stringent land-use management regulations. Unfortunately, these aspects are often not taken into consideration during infrastructural development planning. This has resulted in more than 300 deaths, and many residents are still missing.

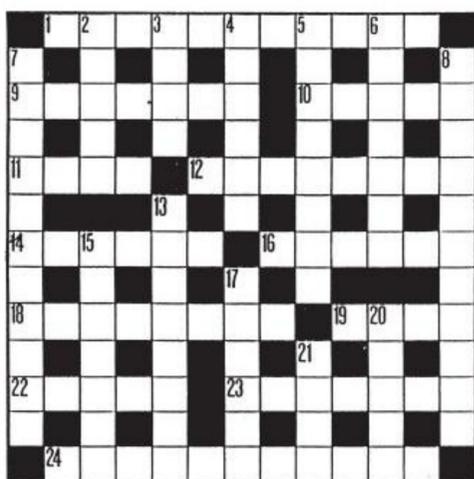
The loss of property and infrastructure has displaced people, leaving them homeless and affecting their access to basic services.

Human-induced landslides are often preventable with proper site investigation and adherence to engineering and regulatory standards. Effective mitigation requires a thorough understanding of both natural and anthropogenic factors contributing to landslide susceptibility. Even if warnings are issued and systems established, the damage to the ecology cannot be reversed. And therefore, there will be consequences.

Ensuring the protection of natural systems would be the key to checking the scale of damage. It is believed that the government is intending to introduce this year an amendment to the Disaster Management Act, appoint urban disaster management authorities in states and develop a database that allows better management of disasters. There is a need to spread awareness and build better lines of communication. Also, community drills in sensitive locations can reduce the loss of life.

We must introspect and see how to do course correction to protect our ecology as well as people.

## QUICK CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- 1 Legendary Swiss hero (7,4)
- 9 Unconventional (7)
- 10 Of the kidneys (5)
- 11 Gain wages for work (4)
- 12 Science of government (8)
- 14 Place of business (6)
- 16 Plan for income and expenditure (6)
- 18 Detective story (8)
- 19 Sudden rush (4)
- 22 Bring up (5)
- 23 Toe the line (7)
- 24 In effect (4,2,2,3)

### Saturday's solution

**Across:** 1 Piracy, 2 Two-timer, 9 Supine, 10 Brickbat, 12 Exit, 13 Tense, 14 Glee, 17 Blabbermouth, 20 Beyond belief, 23 Apex, 24 Usurp, 25 Bias, 28 Dictator, 29 Indigo, 30 Tungsten, 31 Upbeat.

**Down:** 1 Passer-by, 2 Reprisal, 3 Cant, 5 Works wonders, 6 Tack, 7 Mobile, 8 Rafter, 11 Heart of stone, 15 Ibsen, 16 Steep, 18 Diverse, 19 Offshoot, 21 Bandit, 22 Beacon, 26 Pass, 27 Snap.

### DOWN

- 2 Deduce (5)
- 3 Vegetable of onion family (4)
- 4 Writer of books (6)
- 5 End of the line (8)
- 6 Intense desire (7)
- 7 To volunteer (4,7)
- 8 Very near the truth (5,2,4)
- 13 Composer of over 500 lieder (8)
- 15 Unwise (7)
- 17 Show in the Big Top (6)
- 20 Pleasing smell (5)
- 21 Annul (4)

## SU DO KU

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

EASY

## SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

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

## CALENDAR

### AUGUST 5, 2024, MONDAY

- Shaka Samvat 1946
- Shravan Shaka 14
- Shravan Parvishtha 21
- Hijari 1446
- Shukla Paksha Tithi 1, up to 6.04 pm
- Vyatapata Yoga up to 10.38 am
- Aashle Nakshatra up to 3.22 pm
- Moon enters Leo sign 3.22 pm

## FORECAST

CITY	MONDAY TUESDAY		19:13 HRS 05:45 HRS
	MAX	MIN	
Chandigarh	34	28	
New Delhi	34	27	
Amritsar	35	28	
Bathinda	35	28	
Jalandhar	35	28	
Ludhiana	34	28	
Bhivani	34	29	
Hisar	35	27	
Sirsa	36	30	
Dharamsala	26	19	
Manali	21	17	
Shimla	23	17	
Srinagar	31	22	
Jammu	30	25	
Kargil	33	18	
Leh	25	15	
Dehradun	34	24	
Mussoorie	24	17	

TEMPERATURE IN °C

## Wall protecting Chakki bridge washed away



After washing away of the gabion wall, concrete slabs lie scattered on the bank of Chakki rivulet on Sunday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

NURPUR, AUGUST 4

The gabion wall raised to protect Chakki railway bridge from soil erosion due to flash floods at Dhangu Peer in Indora Assembly constituency in Kangra district was today washed away due to strong flow of flood water in the Chakki rivulet.

The railway department had constructed this wall on the banks of Chakki rivulet over the concrete slabs laid alongside the riverbank.

After washing away of the gabion wall, the concrete slabs laid on the rivulet bank were dislocated, posing threat of soil erosion beneath the railway bridge on which a large number of trains cross daily in Pun-

jab, Haryana, Delhi and Jammu. After washing away of gabion wall and dislocating of concrete slabs in the Chakki rivulet, a threat is looming large to the railway bridge.

The technical teams and senior officials of the railway department from Pathankot have been visiting the spot to examine the situation for the past two days. A railway official said that the department was already taken proactive steps to save the bridge from soil erosion but heavy flash floods have washed away the gabion wall constructed with iron wires. He said all steps would be taken to protect the railway bridge.

## Flashflood cuts off remote Miyar valley from Udaipur

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MANDI, AUGUST 4

Lahaul and Spiti district has been severely impacted by adverse weather conditions. A flashflood in Changut Nullah last night damaged a bridge near Karpal village, which has disrupted travel towards the remote Miyar Valley, cutting it off from Udaipur subdivision. The district administration has advised residents and others to avoid travel towards the affected areas and stay updated through official social media channels regarding restoration of road.

The flashflood has not only washed away the bridge but also caused damage to an old primary school building. Immediate work on repairing roads is underway to restore connectivity to the Miyar Valley and ensure the safety and accessibility of the region.

Lahaul and Spiti MLA Anuradha Rana visited the flood-affected site on Sunday to evaluate the situation and oversee the restoration efforts.

Lahaul and Spiti SP Mayank Chaudhary stated that in a related incident, heavy rainfall has led to further road blockages in the



Restoration work in progress at the Miyar Valley in Lahaul-Spiti on Sunday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Spiti Valley last night. The road connecting Rangrik to Losar was obstructed at many locations, rendering travel to Pin Valley and Losar difficult.

"A Himachal Road Transport Corporation bus was stranded between Sunling and Pangmo villages. It had 17 passengers on board. Fortunately, all passengers were safely shifted to secure

areas on Saturday night. The repair work on this road is going on to restore normalcy and ensure safe passage," he added.

Deputy Commissioner Rahul Kumar has urged travellers to postpone any unnecessary journey to Lahaul and Spiti until August 8 due to the ongoing heavy rain alert. The district administration is

working overtime to manage the situation and minimise disruptions, with continuous updates expected to be provided through official channels.

As the region faces these challenging conditions, local authorities remain focused on restoring essential infrastructure and ensuring the safety of all residents and travellers.

## Provide immediate relief to disaster-hit people, says Jai Ram

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, AUGUST 4

Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur has demanded the state government to make necessary arrangements to provide immediate relief to the disaster-affected people. He also demanded the state government to take necessary steps in order to avoid such accidents in future and to prevent loss of lives.

Thakur, in a press statement issued here today, stated that the Opposition is ready to extend all possible support to the government. "The government is requested to speed up the search operation so that the missing people can be found as soon as possible," said Thakur.

He further said that along with the search operation, relief camps and necessary resources should be arranged for immediate help to the people who survived the disaster.

"Yesterday, when I visited various disaster-affected areas of Kullu, people told me about the non-availability of these facilities. Hence, the government is requested to make necessary arrangements for immediate relief

to the disaster-affected people," he said.

Thakur today visited the disaster-affected Samej and met the family members and relatives of the people missing in the disaster and expressed his condolences and consoled them. He also reviewed the relief and rescue operations.

Thakur said that what happened in Samej cannot even be imagined. "The situation in Samej is heart-rending. Everyone is searching for their loved ones. People's eyes have become stone-like in the search of their loved ones for three days but their courage is intact," he said.

He said that people affected by the disaster this time should also be given compensation like those affected by the last disaster so that they can start afresh.

Thakur also flagged off vehicles carrying relief material including bedding and ration from Rampur to the disaster-affected area of Samej. He said that a large number of common people and NGOs were coming forward to help people during the disaster and are contributing fully. "The people deserve all the praise for coming forward to help the disaster-affected people," he said.

## Pandoh Dam floodgates made functional

DIPENDER MANTA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MANDI, AUGUST 4

In the light of the recent damage to the Chandigarh-Manali highway between Kullu and Manali, hoteliers in Manali have reiterated their demand for channelisation of the Beas river from Palchan to Kullu. They argue that the river's seasonal flooding consistently wreaks havoc on the highway and the surrounding areas, posing a significant threat to public and private property.

Anup Thakur, president of the Manali Paryatan Vikas

Mandal, voiced the growing frustration of local business owners. "We have been requesting the state government to channelise the Beas river from Palchan to Kullu to prevent damage to the highway and protect public and private properties," Thakur stated.

"The Chandigarh-Manali highway is vital for accessing Manali from Chandigarh. Frequent blockades on this highway due to river flooding adversely affect the tourism industry, with which we have been grappling for years," he remarked.

The state government had discussed the need for channelisation after last year's devastating rains, which caused extensive damage to the highway. Despite discussions, concrete steps towards addressing the issue have not been taken, he rued.

Stating that the channelisation of Beas was the long-pending demand of the people, Hem Raj Sharma, a Manali hotelier, said, "Until the channelisation of Beas begins, there is an urgent need to identify black spots on the Kullu-Manali highway and take technical

assistance to protect the road from damage".

"Simultaneously, the state government should make effort to fourlane Left Bank road via Naggar to Manali from Kullu to ensure round-the-year connectivity with Manali," said Gajender Thakur, former president of the Manali Hoteliers' Association. Local businesses are particularly concerned about the financial losses incurred at the time of the highway blockades and the region's infrastructural challenges increasing with each passing year.

## Demand to channelise Beas to avert damage to Manali highway

DIPENDER MANTA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MANDI, AUGUST 4

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The national highway almost got washed away due to flooding in Beas. FILE

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highway blockades and the region's infrastructural challenges increasing with each passing year.

Hoteliers and local stakeholders have since long highlighted how floods year after year disrupt traffic flow along the crucial Chandigarh-Manali highway, a key route for tourism and trade.

**Kullu-Manali NH opened for traffic after 2 days**

**KULLU:** The Kullu-Manali National Highway (NH 3) was restored on Sunday evening after the patches of the road washed away due to the flood in Beas on July 31 at Raison and Bindu Dhek near 18 Mile were partially repaired and thrown open for all types of vehicles. The work of the restoration of the highway

was started by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on Friday restoring the NH within two days.

About 100 metres of patch was restored in Raison which was badly damaged. The same spot was damaged in the floods in July last year as well. The patch of about 20 metres in Bindu Dhek was also repaired and thrown open to traffic from today. The residents heaved a sigh of relief as the NHAI has been able to restore the road in a record time. A resident of Katrain village, Saurabh said, "Everybody had an apprehension that it would take a long time to restore connectivity through Raison but the NHAI has done a remarkable job." — OC

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Tender Notice No.: 1      Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Dept Inviting Work      : PUNSUP

Brief of work              : Printing of Stationery/Register/Forms.

Cost of work/Earnest Money      : Rs. 10,000/-

Area of Work              : PUNSUP, Head Office Chandigarh

Date of opening of Bid      : Sale of e-tender form start from 06.08.2024 at 09.00 AM to 26.08.2024 at 5.00 PM

Technical Bid will be opened on 27.08.2024 at 11.00 AM

Financial Bid will be opened on 28.08.2024 at 11.00 AM

For detailed terms and conditions of the notice inviting tender please see <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> or [www.punSUP.gov.in](http://www.punSUP.gov.in)

Corrigendum, if any, will be issued on above mentioned website only.

Managing Director, PUNSUP CHANDIGARH.

DPR/Pb/36312

**Office of the Senior Superintendent of Police, Ferozepur**

**Auction Notice**

Through this auction notice, the general public is informed that the vehicles (undocumented and unusable/scrap) seized by police in various cases of District Ferozepur are to be auctioned by the Vehicle Disposal Committee Ferozepur. There is no appeal pending against the judgment of these cases and orders for auctioning have been obtained from the Hon'ble Court. A minimum value has been fixed for these vehicles. Bidders can check the vehicles by going to the respective police stations and buy them by placing bids during the auction. Bidding of these vehicles will be done on 12.08.2024 at 10:00 A.M at Police Line Ferozepur. List of vehicles and auction conditions are available at <https://ferozepur.punjabpolice.gov.in/>

Sen. Supdt. Police Ferozepur

DPR/Pb/36332

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY SERVICES LIMITED**

(A Joint Venture of Ministry of Power, Govt. of India)

6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Core-3, SCOPE Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

**INVITATION NOTICE**

Notice Inviting for Corporate Sales Agency / Direct Sales Agency / Dealers, Retailers & Others as Demand Aggregators/Channel Partners Phase-III to enroll with Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) for Indian Market.

Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) is looking forward to empanelment of Corporate Sales Agency, Direct Sales Agency, Dealers & Retailers and others as Channel Partner/ Demand Aggregators with requisite Scope of Work under Success Fee Model. EESL has proven records of transforming LED market in India. The organization is now strategizing to develop & transform the market of energy efficient Fan, SEACs, EE Motors, Induction Cooktops etc. under its various existing & new programs (SEAC | UJALA | NMRP | IIES | SLNP | Induction Cooktop (IC) | Heat Pump | Others

Details will be available from 5<sup>th</sup> August 2024 onwards on our website ([www.eeslindia.org/enrollment/phase-iii](http://www.eeslindia.org/enrollment/phase-iii))

For Further Information Kindly Contact:

Email: [services@eesl.co.in](mailto:services@eesl.co.in), Tel.: (011) 42519576/ 584, Address EESL, Core 3, Floor 7, Scope Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110003

Creating an Energy Efficient India

**GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB**

The Department of Punjab Small Industries & Export Corporation Ltd. invites office bids for the following works:-

1. Providing and fixing 500 KVA Transformer at STP in IFP Jalandhar.

• Date to purchase tender form: From 05.08.2024 to 13.08.2024 up to 1:00 p.m.

• Last Date & Time for submission of tender: 09.08.2024 up to 03:00 p.m.

• Date & Time for opening of Bids: 09.08.2024 at 03:30 p.m.

The tender form may be obtained from the office of the undersigned on payment of Rs. 2000/- (Rs. Two Thousand only) + GST @ 18% for each tender form.

• For detail terms & conditions of the notice inviting bids may visit the office of the undersigned.

• Note: Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website i.e. <http://www.psic.gov.in> only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer-IV, PSIEC, Jalandhar.

DPR/Pb/36296

### DIRECTORATE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION & INDUSTRIAL TRAINING, PUNJAB, CHANDIGARH (TECHNICAL EDUCATION WING)

Applications are invited for filling up the post of Principal/Director in State Managed Engineering College Malout Institute of Management & Information Technology, Malout.

**Qualification/Experience:**

Qualification & experience will be as per AICTE, New Delhi Regulations dated 01.03.2019 available on website: [www.acts-india.org](http://www.acts-india.org).

The appointment shall be made initially for period of 3 years which is renewable depending upon the performance of the candidate in the Pay Band of Rs. 37400-67000 with AGP of Rs. 10,000, plus a Special Allowance of Rs. 3000 per month as admissible (unrevised) under the bye-laws of the College. The age of retirement is 60 years. The candidate should have passed Punjabi up to Matric Standard.

This College is governed by Society registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860 and supported by Punjab Government. Persons in service should submit their application through proper channel. Applications in the prescribed format available on the department's website [www.dte.punjab.gov.in](http://www.dte.punjab.gov.in) along with copy of supporting documents should be sent through registered post in the office of Director, Technical Education & Industrial Training, Punjab, (Technical Education Wing), Room No. 208, Plot No. 1, Sector 36A, Chandigarh - 160036 latest by 2.9.2024.

Sd/- Amit Talwar, IAS  
Director, Technical Education & Industrial Training, Punjab.

DPR/Pb/36331

## Himachal got separate identity because of Parmar, says CM

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, AUGUST 4

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu chaired the state-level programme organised on the 118th birth anniversary of Yashwant Singh Parmar, the founder of Himachal Pradesh, at Vidhan Sabha today. "Parmar was a great personality who used to think ahead of his times. He dedicated his entire life for the welfare of Himachalis," he said.

The Chief Minister said that it was because of the con-

tinuous and untiring efforts of Parmar that Himachal got its separate identity having a distinct culture, tradition and language. Sukhu said Parmar was a preserver and promoter of Himachal's rich culture and environment, and always paid great respect and importance to the preservation of forest and wildlife. "It was Parmar who laid the roadmap for making Himachal a green state," he said. Sukhu said the government was working with a vision to ensure a bright future for the state.

कार्यालय : प्राचार्य राजकीय पी. जी. महाविद्यालय, कालका

**बोली आमंत्रण सूचना**

बोली प्रारम्भ होने की तिथि : 03.08.2024

बोली की अंतिम तिथि : 12.08.2024

कॉलेज परिसर में निम्नलिखित सेवाओं को चलाने के लिए अनुबंध के आवंटन के लिए निम्नलिखित प्रारूप पर मोहरबंद विनियम बोलीयां आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

1. कैटीन

2. स्टेनरी-सह-फोटोस्टेड शॉप

बोली/निविदा दस्तावेज कॉलेज की वेबसाइट [www.gkalka.edu.in](http://www.gkalka.edu.in) से नि:शुल्क डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं या कॉलेज कार्यालय से 100/- रुपये में खरीदे जा सकते हैं।

केवल कम से कम एक वर्ष का समान अनुभव रखने वाले उम्मेदवार ही पात्र हैं। पात्र स्वयं सहायता समूहों (एसएचजी) को केवल कैटीन सेवाओं के लिए वरीयता दी जाएगी।

नोट : डिमांड ड्राफ्ट प्रिंसिपल जी.सी. कालका (Principal GC Kalka) के नाम से हो।

PRDH/1031/11/153/2025/28535/31/4

प्राचार्य।

**EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND ORGANISATION**

(Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India)

Regional Office, S.C.O. 4-7, Sector-17-D, Chandigarh-160017

Tel.: 2701190, 2701158, 2701135 Fax: 2710453

Website: [www.epfindia.gov.in](http://www.epfindia.gov.in), [www.epfindia.nic.in](http://www.epfindia.nic.in)

File No. 93(1)/Admn.V/55      Dated : 02.08.2024

**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**

Sealed quotations are invited from the Govt./Semi Govt. agencies for Annual Maintenance Contract in respect to Civil & Electrical Work of Office Building and Staff Quarters of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, Regional Office, Chandigarh for the period 01/09/2024 to 31/08/2025. The terms and conditions can be downloaded from our website i.e. [www.epfindia.com](http://www.epfindia.com) under the link Tenders/Auctions. The last date of receipt of application is 21/08/2024 superseding "Annual Maintenance Contract in respect of Civil & Electrical work of Office Building and Staff Quarters".

-sd-  
Regional P.F. Commissioner-I

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

# 'Paradigm shift in J&K, BJP ideology getting acceptance'

The Tribune INTERVIEW: JITENDRA SINGH, UNION MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECH

**5 YEARS**  
**ABROGATION**  
**OF ART 370**



**C**RITICISING the previous governments of Jammu and Kashmir, Union Minister and Udhampur MP Jitendra Singh said the unfurling of Tricolour was once vehemently opposed in the Valley, but not since the abrogation of Article 370 five years ago. Interacting with **Arjun Sharma**, the minister talked about development works and administrative reforms introduced by the Union Government after J&K became a UT in 2019. Excerpts:



**BJP BASED ON NATIONALIST CULTURE**

“The BJP’s ideology was considered offensive in many areas of J&K before the abrogation of Article 370. If the BJP called for the unfurling of Tricolour, it was vehemently opposed by the then government, which even instigated the public against it. This is no longer the case. You can see Tricolour flying all over Lal Chowk in Srinagar. The BJP is a party based on nationalist culture and its ideology is gradually getting acceptance.

**What steps were taken after the abrogation of Article 370 to streamline the J&K administration?**

Broadly, there is a change at three levels—administration and governance; development; and psychological. Administratively, a number of laws and practices that were applicable to the rest of the country, but not to J&K, were implemented in the UT too. For example, soon after PM Modi-led NDA came to power, a decision was taken to abolish the practice of holding interviews for junior-level government jobs in J&K. But this could be implemented only after the abrogation of Article 370. A grievance redressal mechanism was also formed after 2019. Several other practices, which were in the interests of the common man, but were

not implemented in J&K as these didn’t suit its political dispensation, were adopted only after the abrogation of Article 370.

**What kind of governance reforms were introduced in the past five years?**

To start with, the rights of refugees from west Pakistan were restored. India has many top leaders who migrated from this region. Dr Manmohan Singh, Inder Kumar Gujral and LK Advani are among them. But migrants who chose to settle in J&K did not have the right to vote or contest Assembly elections since it did not suit the political dispensation. Secondly, all of India, barring J&K, had district development councils (DDCs). J&K got these only after 70 years. The political parties there always talked about

autonomy and self-rule. In our view, self-rule has to come from the grass-roots. If you don’t have the DDCs, you can’t give the benefit of the 72nd and 73rd Amendments to the masses.

Through these amendments, the central grants go directly to the elected representatives of local bodies. This rule was brought by the then Congress government led by Rajiv Gandhi, but it was not fully implemented in J&K.

**Did the Modi government take steps to remove regional imbalances in J&K?**

There was always a grievance that there was a regional imbalance in the distribution of resources. In the past five years, the Centre has been successful in resolving it. Many projects which were simultaneously granted in Kashmir and Jammu have progressed

equally. Some projects, however, get delayed in Kashmir due to unfavourable and unavoidable circumstances. For example, AIIMS-Jammu is ready, but the work on the one in Kashmir is going at a snail’s pace. The ring road is ready in Jammu, but in Srinagar, it is still at the nascent stage. Now, people have realised that there is an equitable distribution of works. There is more transparency and equality between the two regions in terms of recruitments too.

**Has the abrogation of Article 370 strengthened the integration of J&K with the rest of the country?**

The psychological change is visible. Earlier when J&K residents moved out of India, they considered themselves as different beings (as the ones who came from a troubled area and not as Indians) and the people outside too had a differed view about them. Now, there is a sense of belongingness among the J&K residents. They see themselves as part of the nation and the mental barrier has gone.

Those who opposed the abrogation of Article 370 were the ones who were misusing it the most. For example, the then PM Indira Gandhi had extended the term of state Assemblies during the Emergency as she wanted to delay the elections and most states were ruled by the Congress. J&K was then ruled by the NC, which too extended the Assembly’s term. After the Janta Party came to power at the Centre, the state Assemblies reverted to five-year tenure, but the then J&K Government headed by Sheikh Abdullah did not reverse it in the garb of Article 370 because it suited them. So, they selectively used Article 370.

## New quota rules leave youth jittery about future

ADIL AKHZER

**SRINAGAR, AUGUST 4** In 2019, when the Central Government removed the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, the government said in Parliament it wanted to embrace the youth and give them “flourishing opportunities of employment”.

Five years later, new concerns are worrying the youth, triggered by a change in the reservation rules in the Union Territory.

This year, the government granted 10 per cent reservation to the Pahari community in the UT, taking the reserved quota for different categories to 60 per cent, leaving only 40 per cent for the general population.

This means the general category students can now compete only for 40 per cent of the jobs and college seats. According to the 2011 census, around 69 per cent of J&K’s population belongs to the general category.

“This is total injustice and ‘murder’ of open merit students,” Sahil Parray, a job aspirant from South Kashmir, told The Tribune. He said the government granted the reservation by cutting job opportunities for the general category students.

He cites examples to prove his point. In 2018, the authorities notified 70 jobs for the prestigious J&K Combined Competitive (Preliminary) Examination. While 41 were open merit seats, the remaining 29 were meant for reserved categories. In 2024, of the total 90 advertised seats of the J&K Combined Competitive (Preliminary) Examination, the open merit seats were only 36 and the remaining 54 for reserved categories.

Parray said he had been preparing for various exams



**TOTAL INJUSTICE, HOPES DASHED**

“This is total injustice and ‘murder’ of open merit students. Now, with fewer seats in the open category, my hopes have been dashed.” Sahil Parray, a job aspirant

and was hopeful that he would crack these. “Now, with less seats in the open category, my hopes have been dashed,” he said.

He shares another worry. “I can get a seat only in the general category. However, an aspirant from a reserved category is also eligible for a general category seat,” he said.

Aspirants say the new reservation rules for Paharis were introduced by the Central Government for “electoral politics” — to appease the Paharis, considered a populous group in the UT, ahead of the Lok Sabha elections.

Bhat Shafiq, an aspirant from north Kashmir, said the opportunities for the general category students had now shrunk and the “future doesn’t look very promising”. Besides 60 per cent seats reserved for students of reserved categories, the “horizontal reservation” of 10 per cent was impacting the general category further, he said.

The youth from Jammu are also on the same page. Vinkal Sharma, a job aspirant from Jammu, said over the years, amid rising unemployment,

several big recruitments were cancelled following scams and now the change in reservation rules was a big jolt to the general category students.

“When the abrogation of Article 370 took place, we were hopeful that things would change for good. However, nothing changes for us...no one is listening to us now,” he said.

Last year, the Central Government said in Parliament nearly 30,000 vacancies were filled in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370.

Karthik Bhagat from Jammu terms the decision “unconstitutional”. He said along with others, he had recently approached the court in the matter.

Aspirants say they knocked the door of all political parties ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, but it didn’t become a major poll issue. The parties maintained a silence with two individuals as exceptions — former Mayor of Jammu and Srinagar MP Ruhullah Mehdi.

“We approached all parties. However, we didn’t get any support from anyone,” said Parray. “Only two leaders

spoke about it openly.”

People’s Democratic Party leader Waheed Parra had to delete a tweet which was in support of open category students. PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti was quick to distance herself from Parra’s views.

Mehdi also raised the issue in Parliament saying that open merit was now limited to 30 per cent in the UT, while 70 per cent reservation had been kept for different categories.

Renowned academic and former Vice Chancellor of the Islamic University of Science and Technology in Kashmir Siddiq Wahid told The Tribune that “a bird’s eye view of the J&K’s reservation policy has some contradictions that, unless mitigated, will lead to severe economic unrest among the youth in the medium term.”

Talking about the “contradictions”, he said “first, it suffers from a democratic deficit in that the recent policies have been revised during a time when we have not had an elected government.”

He said, second, it “constitutes opportunity denial to those in the open merit category of citizens; as is well known, they constitute almost 70 per cent of the population, but will now have access to only 40 per cent of the job openings.” “Third, it overcompensates those who are in the reserved category of citizens, who constitute 30 per cent of the citizens of the territory,” he said.

He said “those who have historically been denied opportunities — Gujjars, Bakerwals, Paharis and others — must be compensated.” “However, that must be done via laws that are logical and fair, not ad hoc and arbitrary,” he said.

## ED seizes ₹1 cr after raids in Leh, other places

**CRYPTO FRAUD**

**NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4**

An amount of ₹1 crore and “incriminating” documents were seized following raids against operators of a “fake” cryptocurrency investment company that cheated people in Ladakh and some other places, the Enforcement Directorate said Sunday.

The searches were conducted in Leh, Jammu and Sonepat, Haryana, on August

2 under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Officials said this was the first time that the federal anti-money laundering agency carried out searches in Ladakh.

The probe pertains to cheating of innocent people, including those of Leh, by assuring them of doubling their investment in a short period of 10 months through investment in fake cryptocurrency named “Emollient Coin”, the agency

said in a statement.

This “fake” cryptocurrency, as per the ED, was represented and promoted by Nareish Gulia of Sonepat through a company named “Emollient Coin Limited” that was incorporated in September, 2017 in the United Kingdom. The business was promoted in Leh by Ajay Kumar Chaudhary and Charanjeet Singh, alias Churni, of Jammu and Attul Rehman Mir of Leh. The investors were assured that their investment

will be doubled in 10 months and they will get a fixed percentage commission through the marketing of the fake crypto-currency, it alleged. The money laundering investigation stems from a March 2020 FIR filed by the J&K police.

The money collected from this alleged fraud business was laundered. It was utilised for personal use and for purchase of various immovable properties and assets by the suspects, the ED said. — PTI

## Parl standoff likely over Oppn demand... Govt set to tweak...

**FROM PAGE 1**

NCP (Shaad Pawar), Shiv Sena (UBT) and the Aam Aadmi Party. While the Lok Sabha has held discussions on demands for grants for the ministries of Health, Education and Railways, the Rajya Sabha has held discussions on the functioning of the Agriculture and Housing and Urban Affairs ministries.

On August 5, discussions are expected to be held on the functioning of the ministries of New and Renewable Energy and the Ministry of Cooper-

ation in the Rajya Sabha.

Since the Parliamentary Committee on Home Affairs is a Rajya Sabha panel, the INDIA bloc was seeking a discussion on its functioning in the Upper House. Normally, during a Budget session, after a discussion on the Union Budget, the demands for grants of some key ministries like Home, Defence, External Affairs, Agriculture and Railways are taken up for discussion. After this, during a break between the session, these demands are sent to the

respective parliamentary standing committees, where generally more funds are sought for these departments. After the break, these demands are then guillotined with the Finance Bill for passage, thus leading to the passing of the Union Budget.

However, as parliamentary standing committees are yet to be formed, with the 18th LS having just been convened, these demands for grants will be guillotined this week, and the Union Budget is expected to be passed on August 6.

**FROM PAGE 1**

in sync with the number of properties such boards have, they said. The Waqf boards have 8,72,292 properties spread over eight lakh acres.

The amendment Bill with as many as 40 changes in the current law could be brought in the ongoing Parliament session. The key changes include ensuring verification of land before a board announces it as a Waqf property. Fresh verification of disputed lands claimed by various state boards will also be sought. The changes in composition of the Waqf boards will ensure inclusion of women.

AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi said, “The BJP has been against the Waqf board and Waqf properties since there is a ‘Hindutva agenda’ of the RSS.” — PTI

## 91 die in B'desh protests seeking...

protesters demanding an end to the controversial quota system that reserved 30 per cent of government jobs for relatives of veterans who fought in Bangladesh’s War of Independence in 1971.

Today’s protests were joined by unidentified people and activists of right-wing Islami Shashontantra Andolon, which erected barricades on several major highways and within the capital city, officials said, adding that protesters attacked the police stations and boxes, ruling party offices and residences of their leaders and burnt several vehicles.

The situation prompted authorities to order a curfew in major cities and small towns across Bangladesh for an indefinite period from 6 pm on Sunday, mobilising troops, paramilitary border guards BGB, and the elite anti-crime Rapid Action Battalion alongside police.

The government ordered the shutdown of Meta platforms Facebook, Messenger, WhatsApp and Instagram. The mobile operators were ordered to shut down 4G mobile internet, the paper added.

Prime Minister Hasina called a meeting of the National Committee on Security Affairs, the highest policy-

**‘SUPPRESS TERRORISTS WITH FIRM HAND’**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said those engaging in “sabotage” across the country in the name of protest were not students but terrorists and asked people to suppress them with a firm hand. “I appeal to the countrymen to suppress these terrorists with a firm hand,” she said.

making authority of national security, at Ganabhaban, the paper reported citing sources from the PMO. The government has announced a three-day general holiday on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday to ensure public safety amid the ongoing violence.

In a related development, a group of former senior military generals asked the government to withdraw the armed forces from the streets and send them back to barracks. “We urge the government to undertake political initiatives to resolve the crisis. Do not destroy the good standing of our armed forces by keeping them engaged in a disgraceful campaign,” said former army chief Iqbal Karim Bhuiyan, who served under PM Hasina’s government. Another former army chief, general Nuruddin Khan, who also served as the Energy Minister in Hasina’s past 1996-2001 tenure, joined the briefing

along with fellow officers, some of them being 1971 Liberation War veterans.

“Time is ripe to immediately take the soldiers to barracks to prepare themselves for any eventuality as the time taken to transition from internal security mode to operational mode takes quite some time,” the statement read.

Several vehicles at Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University were torched by unidentified people. People carrying sticks were seen vandalising private cars, ambulances, motorcycles and buses on the hospital premises, triggering fear among the patients, their attendants, doctors and staff. In Chattogram, the residences of Education Minister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel and Chattogram City Corporation Mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, as well as the office of AL MP Md Mohiuddin Bachchu were attacked. — PTI

**FROM PAGE 1**

## 4 Punjab cops held for framing Kapurthala...

against Sonu, a resident of Mohalla Mulkana in Kapurthala, alleging his arrest after the recovery of 20 grams of heroin and 250 grams of poppy husk from his possession near Kusht Ashram (Kapurthala). The STF members had alleged that Sonu dropped two polybags carrying the contraband from the pockets of his trousers. Two more youths were later named in the case.

On April 16, 2020, the police

presented a challan in the court. Maintaining that the FIR was false, Sonu filed a writ petition in the high court and also presented CCTV footage of his service station that showed the police personnel visiting him hours before the FIR was lodged.

Sonu petitioned that the FIR was a “complete abuse and misuse of power”. He alleged that the contraband was plant-

ed on him after he refused to give in to extortion demand, and that six to seven police personnel visited his workshop on the morning of September 23, 2019. He maintained he was forced to sign blank papers and subjected to physical abuse.

On October 6, 2023, the high court ruled in Sonu’s favour and directed the constitution of a SIT, which was to be headed by the Jalandhar DIG and

comprise the Kapurthala SSP and a DSP from Jalandhar. Justice Arun Monga of the high court also ordered the registration of a separate FIR against the erring officials.

Kapurthala DSP Harpreet Singh said, “Four police personnel have been arrested while a hunt is on for the fifth. They were posted in Jalandhar, Patiala, Gurdaspur and Kapurthala.”

## 4 dayson, 5...

of a woman recovered in Sunni is yet to be identified. Also, it’s yet to be ascertained whether or not the woman is a victim of the flashflood at Samej in Shimla. The body was spotted by locals at the side of the dam in Sunni on Sunday morning. Shimla Deputy Commissioner Anupam Kashyap said the efforts to identify the body were on.

The rescue teams carrying out the search operation in Samej feel that most missing bodies from the village will be recovered from the Sutlej or the dam in Sunni as the missing persons were, in all probability, swept away by the flood waters into the Sutlej. — TNS

## Great India defeat Britain, storm...

robustness of their defence. Sreejesh made three saves in the last 10 minutes, blocking a great effort by Calnan in the very last minute. The hooter went off, and the Indians celebrated — a draw with 10 men tasted sweeter than victory, and was down to the shootout now, and India had Sreejesh.

Harmanpreet, Sukhjeet Singh, Lalit Upadhyay and Rajkumar Pal scored in the shootout; Connor Williamson hit his shot wide — and then Sreejesh saved Britain’s fourth, blocking Phillip Roper’s shot.

Seconds, Sreejesh was lying on his back on the turf, Manpreet Singh by

his side, both in the embrace of coach Craig Fulton. “We had no option but to defend hard after the red card,” said Harmanpreet. “We did that! Ek bande se kam poora match khela — the best defensive game we’ve played.”

Sreejesh, the cynosure of all eyes, handed the glory to his men. “It’s not about me, it’s about them,” he said. “When they scored in the shootout, they made my job easy!” As Manpreet, the former captain, said, “Sreejesh saves!” In Tuesday’s semifinals, India will play the winner of the quarterfinal between Germany and Argentina.

The case pertains to a long-standing consumer complaint filed in 2017 where Jain’s company Parsvnath Developers had been accused of failing to fulfil its obligations to the complainants, leading to the issuance of multiple legal actions against him. On July 29, the Supreme Court had upheld the NCDRC’s order directing Parsvnath to refund Rs 1.31 crore to flat buyers in Delhi due to significant project delays. The buyers had paid 95 per cent of the flat’s cost between 2008 and 2013, but the developer failed to deliver the flats within the agreed 36 months.

# Strikes by Israel kill 44 in Gaza; 2 dead in Tel Aviv stabbing attack

CAIRO/TEL AVIV, AUGUST 4

An Israeli airstrike hit two schools in Gaza City on Sunday, killing at least 25 people, the Palestinian official news agency said, while the Israeli military said it struck a Hamas military compound embedded in the schools.

An Israeli air strike hit a tent camp inside a hospital in central Gaza earlier in the day. Gaza health officials said at least 44 Palestinians were killed on Sunday, the day after a round of talks in Cairo ended without result.

Footage circulated on Palestinian media showed bodies scattered inside the yard of one of two blast-wrecked schools as residents rushed to carry casualties, including children, and loaded them into ambulance vehicles that took them to at least two nearby hospitals. The Palestinian officials news agency Wafa and Hamas media said dozens were wounded in addition to the 25 fatalities in the schools of Hassan Salama



Palestinians try to extinguish a fire at a tent camp in the central Gaza Strip on Sunday. REUTERS

## HOUTHIS TARGET VESSEL

Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi movement said on Sunday that it targeted MV Groton vessel in the Gulf of Aden and also confirmed that it had downed a US drone "MQ-9" over Yemen's northern Saada province.

## 'OUR GOAL IS DETERRENCE IN W ASIA'

The US is deploying additional military might in the West Asia as a defensive measure with a goal of de-escalating tensions in the region, a White House official said on Sunday. "The overall goal is to turn the temperature down in the region..." the official said.

and Al-Nasser, which housed Palestinian displaced families. They said the strike

destroyed several structures inside the facilities. The Israeli military said it

struck militants inside a Hamas command embedded within the schools, accusing

Hamas of operating from within civilian property. Hamas denies using civilian institutions for military purposes.

Earlier in the day, an Israeli strike inside the Al-Aqsa Hospital compound started a fire, and wounded at least 18 people as well as killing five, medical authorities said.

Elsewhere in Deir Al-Balah, three Palestinians were killed when an Israeli missile struck a house. Separate Israeli strikes killed eight others inside their home in Jabalia camp in northern Gaza City and three inside a car.

A Palestinian attacker killed two people and wounded two others in a stabbing spree in central Israel on Sunday before being shot dead by police, authorities said.

The stabbings took place during morning rush hour in the city of Holon, near Tel Aviv. Two senior citizens, a man and woman, were killed and two other people were wounded and rushed to hospital, medical officials said. — Reuters

## Lava fountain



Lava rises from a crater of Mount Etna, Europe's most active volcano, in Italy on Sunday. REUTERS

# Anti-immigration unrest hits parts of Britain, 100 arrested

LONDON, AUGUST 4

Anti-immigration protesters broke hotel windows and set bins on fire in northern England on Sunday in the latest wave of unrest that has presented a major test to new Prime Minister Keir Starmer's government.

Violent protests involving hundreds of anti-immigration protesters have erupted in towns and cities across Britain after three girls were killed in a knife attack at a children's dance class in Southport in northwest England last week.

Police forces have made at least 100 arrests across the UK. The murders were seized on by anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim groups as misinformation spread that the suspected attacker was an immigrant and a radical Islamist. Police have said the suspect was born in Britain. Media reports have said his family is Christian.



A car burns after being overturned during an anti-immigration protest in Middlesbrough, England, on Sunday. AP

Violent disorder broke out in cities around the country on Saturday, including Liverpool, Bristol and Manchester, resulting in dozens of arrests as shops and businesses were vandalised and looted and several police were injured, police statements said.

The government has promised tough action against people taking part in the violence. On Sunday, hundreds

of anti-immigration protesters gathered by a hotel that has been used to house asylum seekers near Rotherham, northern England.

The protesters threw bricks at police and broke several hotel windows, a Reuters witness said, before setting bins on fire. Dozens of other protesters gathered by another such hotel in Aldershot, southern England. — Agencies

## Kamala, Trump at odds over debate

WASHINGTON, AUGUST 4

Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris has rejected her Republican rival Donald Trump's offer to shift the presidential debate to the Fox News channel, media reports said on Sunday.

On Saturday, Trump said that he has agreed to an offer from Fox News to hold a debate with Harris on September 4, shifting from ABC News, CBS News reported.

Turning down the offer, Harris said: "It's interesting how 'any time, any place' becomes 'one specific time, one specific safe space.'" — PTI

## Ukraine displays F-16 fighter jets

KYIV, AUGUST 4

Ukraine's newly arrived F-16 fighter jets were put on display on Sunday by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who said the planes will boost the country's war effort against Russia.

"These jets are in our sky and today you see them," said Zelenskyy, standing in front of two of the fighter jets as two others flew overhead in close formation. "It's good that they are here and that we can put them to use." Ukraine is also trying to get neighbouring countries to help defend it against Rus-



Volodymyr Zelenskyy poses with F-16 fighter jets on Sunday. AP

sian missiles, Zelenskyy said. Two American-made F-16 jets, sporting Ukraine's trident insignia on their tails and

draped in camouflage netting, were a dramatic background for Zelenskyy's address to Armed Forces Day. — AP

## Imran seeks Pak army's apology

ISLAMABAD, AUGUST 4

Pakistan's jailed former PM Imran Khan has refused to apologise for the May 9 riots that erupted after his arrest last year and claimed it was the army that owed him an apology since he was "abducted" by paramilitary rangers on the day of the violence.

His arrest sparked country-wide protests and riots by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf supporters who damaged civilian as well as military installations. He said talks with "people in the power corridors" would be within the ambit of the Constitution. — PTI

# Wall collapse snuffs out 9 young lives in MP's Sagar, two injured

4 kids were killed in similar incident in state's Rewa dist on Saturday

SAGAR (MP), AUGUST 4

Nine children were killed and two others injured after a wall of a dilapidated house collapsed in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar district on Sunday, a senior official said. The incident occurred between 8.30 am and 9 am near the campus of a temple during a religious programme in the Shahpur village of Rehli Assembly seat, as per the official.

This is not the first such incident in the state in recent time. Only on Saturday, a wall collapse had killed four kids in Rewa district. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has suspended the chief municipal officer (CMO) of Shahpur Nagar Panchayat and a sub-engineer. He also directed civil bodies across the state to identify dilapidated buildings and take action.

Nine children, aged 10 to 15 years, were killed and two injured in the wall collapse incident at a religious pro-



Rescue work underway at the mishap site in Sagar on Sunday. PTI

## COLLECTOR, SP, SDM REMOVED

■ MP Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has ordered the removal of Sagar collector, SP and Rahli SDM after the mishap  
■ Earlier on Sunday, Yadav suspended the chief municipal officer of Shahpur Nagar Panchayat and a sub-engineer

gramme in Shahpur; Sagar Divisional Commissioner Virendra Singh Rawat said. Senior officials, including the district collector, had reached the spot, he added.

CM Yadav expressed grief over the incident and announced assistance of Rs 4 lakh to the kin of each of the deceased. A programme of "Parthiv Shivling Nirman"

(making Shivling out of clay) was going on under a tent near the dilapidated house, and a wall collapsed and fell on the tent, local BJP MLA and former minister Gopal Bhargava told the media.

The children got crushed under the tent and debris, he said. Several of the deceased were the only child of their parents, Bhargava added.

District Collector Deepak Arya said the children were sitting under a tent near a temple, and the house wall collapsed due to rain. Two children died on the spot, while seven others succumbed on the way to hospital or on reaching the medical facility, he added.

Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Jitu Patwari also expressed grief over the incident. Former CM and Congress leader Kamal Nath said the administration needed to identify weak buildings and walls to prevent such incidents, he said. — PTI

# Cong MPs await Centre's approval to release discretionary funds for Wayanad

SHUBHADEEP CHOUDHURY  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

A stupendous rush by Congress MPs to release money from their respective Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLAD) funds for relief work in Wayanad is likely in case the devastation caused in Kerala district by the landslide is declared a "calamity of severe nature" by the Centre.

While top party leader Rahul Gandhi has resigned from Wayanad, the party has announced that Rahul's sister Priyanka Gandhi, the general secretary of the Congress, would contest from Wayanad. As a result, Wayanad has now assumed an importance similar to that of two old Gandhi family bastions of Amethi and Raebareli. Congress MPs are impatiently waiting for the government to declare the Wayanad tragedy as a "calamity of severe nature" so that they can help in the reconstruction work in the district and endear themselves to the Gandhis.

Any MP can give consent



Rescue operation continues for the fifth straight day in Wayanad. ANI

## CHINESE PREMIER MOURNS DEATHS

■ Chinese Premier Li Qiang sent a message to PM Modi, conveying condolences to the families of deceased in the Kerala landslides  
■ On behalf of the Chinese government, he expressed "heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families and injured"

for the use of their MPLAD funds up to Rs 1 crore per annum for the rehabilitation and reconstruction works in areas affected by natural "calamity of severe nature" declared by the Centre in any part of the country.

Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor has already urged Home Minister Amit

Shah to declare the Wayanad landslides as a "calamity of severe nature" under the MPLAD guidelines.

Wayanad does not even have an MP of its own at this point of time, not to speak of MPs from other constituencies releasing money from their MPLAD funds for relief works in Wayanad.

# 14 get 7-yr term for stripping woman in R'sthan

JAIPUR, AUGUST 4

Nearly a year after a 20-year-old pregnant woman was stripped and paraded naked in Rajasthan, a district court has sentenced 14 men, including her husband, to seven-year imprisonment while noting that it was a "heinous crime" similar to the one committed in Manipur. Pratapgarh Chief Judicial Magistrate Ramkanya Soni on Saturday also sentenced

## 3-year sentence for three women

three women involved in the case to five-year imprisonment, said Special Public Prosecutor Manish Nagar.

While observing that women are revered in the country as goddesses and that the ancient scriptures also mentioned honouring women, he said atrocities were continuing against women in "Kalyug". "Similar heinous crime was committed in Manipur. Such crimes cause emotional hurt to the women," the judge said in the order. — PTI

# Centre has finally admitted it gave Bengal 'zero' NREGS funds: TMC MP

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Derek O'Brien cites govt reply in Parliament

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

Citing an answer in the Rajya Sabha by the Centre to a question on the MGNREGS funds, Derek O'Brien, leader of the TMC in Rajya Sabha, on Sunday claimed that the government had in its response "finally" accepted that West Bengal had been given "zero" funds under the 100-day rural employment guarantee scheme.

TMC Lok Sabha MP

Abhishek Banerjee has been demanding a white paper on the scheme to know what the Central Government had paid to West Bengal since the BJP's loss to TMC in the 2021 state Assembly poll.

"Finally! Modi govt admits inside Parliament that Bengal's been given zero for MGNREGA funds," O'Brien wrote on X, sharing the July 26 reply that

gave state and UT-wise data of the last five financial years on the number of households that had completed 100 days of employment under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

In West Bengal, the number of households that completed 100 days of wage employment was "zero" in 2023-24, according to the

written reply given by Union Minister of State for Rural Development Kamlesh Paswan in the Upper House of Parliament.

In 2022-23, 1,618 households got 100 days of work in the state under the scheme, while in 2021-22, the figure was 4,71,136, it was stated in the reply.

During 2020-21, the figure was 6,78,633, and in 2019-20, it was 3,65,683, it said. Officials in the Union Rural Development Ministry had earlier said the

release of funds to West Bengal under the MGNREGS were stopped on March 9, 2022, due to "non-compliance with directions of the Centre".

The action was taken according to the provisions under Section 27 of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, they had said. Overall in the country, around 44,99,343 households got 100 days of employment under the MGNREGS in 2023-24.

# Bengal minister quits after row over threatening woman forest officer

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Refuses to apologise

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

West Bengal Jail Minister Akhil Giri, who was recently seen threatening and verbally abusing a woman forest officer, resigned on Sunday following huge row over his remarks.

Giri, who quit under pressure from the Trinamool Congress (TMC), expressed regret over the words used by

him while maintaining that the woman officer was at fault. The minister found himself at the centre of controversy after he was seen threatening a woman forest officer, Manisha Shau, in a video. The minister, who had visited an anti-encroachment site of the Forest Department, was saying, "If you interfere

in this issue again, I will ensure that you won't be able to return." He then shouted, "You better behave or I will beat you with a stick." A video of the altercation went viral and this prompted the BJP to target the state's ruling party, TMC. The minister was asked to tender his resignation and apologise to the officer, following which he agreed to resign but refused to apologise.



# Paris 2024



## Top 5 Medal tally

COUNTRY	Gold	Silver	Bronze	TOTAL
CHINA	19	15	10	44
USA	17	26	25	68
FRANCE	12	14	17	43
AUSTRALIA	12	9	7	28
G BRITAIN	10	12	15	37
INDIA (57TH)	0	0	3	3

## Indians in action

LIVE ON SPORTS18 IST

<b>ATHLETICS</b> Women's 400m Round 1 Kiran Pahal 4pm Men's 3,000m steeplechase Round 1 Avinash Sable 10:50pm	Men's dinghy Vishnu Saravanan 6pm
<b>BADMINTON</b> Men's singles bronze medal playoff Lakshya Sen vs Zii Jia Lee (Malaysia) 6pm	<b>SHOOTING</b> Skeet mixed team qualification Maheshwari Chauhan & Anant Jeet Singh Naruka 12:30pm
<b>SAILING</b> Women's dinghy Nethra Kumanan 3:35pm	<b>TABLE TENNIS</b> Women's team pre-quarterfinals India vs Romania 1:30pm

## Paris diary

**Sardar in the house**  
Sardar Singh, the former captain, sauntered at the hockey stadium, seeming to be as fit as he was during his playing days. Working with the juniors at the SAI centre in Bengaluru, Sardar was in Paris in an official capacity, to observe the Indian players. And he's happy with what he's seen. "They're playing like a team, with every player contributing, and that's very important at the Olympics," Sardar, hailed as a modern great of Indian hockey, said. "In the Olympics, you can't win if only one or two players are doing well." Sardar planned to travel to the Netherlands — at his own initiative and expense, he says — to train at the club he played at, HC Bloemendaal. "The idea is to keep learning — about new developments in the game, new methods in training, so that I could impart them to my trainees."

**No to Mann**  
Ten men in the hockey team are from Punjab, and that explains the desire of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to be in Paris today to cheer the team. But the Central Government didn't give him "political clearance" to travel to Paris. Here in Paris, the Indian Embassy has been keeping abreast of requests by politicians wishing to travel to Paris for the Olympics. An official at the Embassy said that at least five chief ministers had expressed the desire to visit Paris during the Olympics. "And among those who wished to travel were CMs from BJP-ruled states, and they too were denied permission by the Indian Government," said the official.

**Chinese and Axelsen**  
Viktor Axelsen, the defending champion in men's badminton, shocks even the contingent of Chinese journalists when he is reeling off sentences in perfect Mandarin. The Dane, who beat Lakshya Sen in the semifinals today, has been learning Mandarin for 10 years. He has mastered Mandarin to such an extent that he speaks as well as the native speakers of the language — some say better than them. "I told myself that if I could speak Chinese, I could learn a lot about how Chinese players train, their perspectives on badminton, and their training methods," Axelsen said. — **Rohit Mahajan**



**Djokovic fights off Alcaraz to finally strike gold**  
Novak Djokovic completed his career Golden Slam as the 37-year-old Serb fought off Spain's Carlos Alcaraz in a magnificent men's singles final battle. After heartbreak in Beijing, London, Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo, Djokovic simply would not be denied the one title that had eluded him for so long, winning 7-6(3) 7-6(2) in front of an enthralled crowd. Top seed Djokovic delivered one of the finest performances of his career to deny a man 16 years his junior and become only the fifth player to win all four singles Grand Slams and the Olympics title. With points being celebrated by football-style chants that shattered the calm of the adjacent Bois de Boulogne, neither player took a backward step in a ferocious contest. The first set alone lasted one hour 33 minutes as the two gladiators wrestled for control in a series of spellbinding games, one at 4-4 in which Djokovic repelled five break points. Alcaraz blinked first in the tiebreak to allow Djokovic to move ahead and when another tiebreak was required to decide the second set, again Djokovic found another gear, moving 6-2 in front and sealing victory with a stunning forehand winner. REUTERS

## Sen loses it in the mind, cracks after 20-17 in first game | To play for bronze today



LAKSHYA SEN LOST TO VIKTOR AXELSEN IN STRAIGHT GAMES DESPITE LEADING 20-17 IN THE FIRST GAME AND 7-0 IN THE SECOND.

### ROHIT MAHAJAN IN PARIS

**MIND GAMES**  
VIKTOR Axelsen, man mountain, leaps up and smashes down the shuttle from 10 feet high; yet that's not the reason he won the semifinal against India's Lakshya Sen today. Denmark's Axelsen, the defending Olympic champion, tapped the side of his head and said: "I won the match up here today!" Sen, leading 20-17 in the first game, three game points in hand, cracked under pressure — hope and expectation made his heart pound, his mind race. Serving, he wanted to keep the shuttle close to the net, place it short of the reach of the 6ft 4in Dane, but it was too short and Axelsen roared. The crowd, most of them Danes, roared "Viktor! Viktor!" drowning out the "India, India!" from Sen's supporters in the stands. Sen, 22, then simply fell apart: He hit long twice, and then smashed out — 21-20 for Axelsen, and then game for Axelsen as Sen failed to put his drop shot on the other side of the net. Was that the turning point, then? Axelsen, two-time Olympic medallist, two-time world champion, thought so. "I could definitely feel that he was tense," said the 30-year-old. "He maybe started to think about what he was doing. The pressure was there. That was my chance to grab the game. It wasn't easy, and I did it." To win today against the formidable Dane, Sen's best chance was to win the first game — he did unsettle Axelsen, but he didn't stay in the moment and became impatient and edgy. Second game, Sen started strongly, Axelsen surprisingly error-prone: he smashed into the net, hit long, hit wide,

“If I had closed the first set, I would have better chances in the third. I had to be more patient at that time. Overall, in that moment, I did whatever came to my mind. — Lakshya Sen

I think Lakshya, he thought a lot about it. He was probably thinking 'I have a big chance. I think he got nervous.' — Viktor Axelsen

and in no time Sen was up 7-0. He was moving like a dream, floating across the court, but Axelsen started clawing his way back — a smash on the line, an error by Sen, and another, and the scoreline was 9-7. Axelsen wasn't perfect, perhaps overreager in parts, smashing

into the net and wide and long. But when he's smashing well, he's almost unreturnable — when Sen did pick up the shuttle, as at 11-11 or 13-16 or 14-19, he was left scrambling and out of position, leaving the court empty. In no time, Axelsen had overturned the 10-11 deficit and gone 19-14 up, winning nine of the previous 12 points. Sen's agony ended at 12:54pm sharp, after 54 minutes of intense hope, intense thought, intense despair; Axelsen pranced about, sank to his knees, saluted the Danes in all four stands and sent his racquet flying into them for a lucky catcher. Sen, never the most verbose of men, despaired, lamenting the errors he made late in the first game. "If I had closed the first set, I would have better chances in the third," he said. 20-17, 7-0... "I had to be more patient at that time," said Sen. "Over-

all, in that moment, I did whatever came to my mind." At the elite level they operate, players being near equals, it boils down to the mind. "If you start to think, you have problems," said Axelsen about being 17-20 down in the first game. "I think Lakshya, he thought a lot about it. He was probably thinking 'I have a big chance'. I think he got nervous. And when he gets nervous, I know I have to strike." And strike Axelsen did, winning 26 of the next 40 points, handing Sen an eighth defeat in the nine matches they've played. Sen will fight for bronze tomorrow, against Zii Jia Lee of Malaysia. "I'd look at things I can improve upon tomorrow," he said. "Forget this match, give my best tomorrow." "He could easily have won today," said Axelsen. "I think in four years, Lakshya would be a stronger bet for gold."



Sri Lanka's Jeffrey Vandersay celebrates the wicket of Shivam Dube.

## Vandersay heroics help SL sink India in 2nd ODI

**INDIA-SL CRICKET SERIES**  
COLOMBO, AUGUST 4  
Sri Lanka leg-spinner Jeffrey Vandersay ripped through India's batting line-up with a maiden one-day international six-wicket haul to guide his side to a 32-run win in the second game of the three-match series in Colombo on Sunday. After winning the toss and electing to bat, Sri Lanka struggled against seamer Mohammed Siraj, who dismissed opener Pathum Nissanka with the first ball of the match before Avishka Fernando and Kusal Mendis steadied the innings with a 74-run stand. The home side lost wickets at regular intervals, but lower-order batters Dunith Wellalage (39) and Kamindu Mendis (40) came to their rescue to help post a total of 240-9. India's chase got off to a blistering start as in-form captain Rohit Sharma scored 64 runs off 44 deliveries before he was dismissed by the 34-year-old Vandersay. Sri Lanka did a terrific job of defending the total and bowling India out for 208 in 42.2 overs. India opener Shubman Gill (35), Virat Kohli (14) and Shreyas Iyer (7) were removed cheaply, while Shivam Dube and KL Rahul fell for golden ducks. All-rounder Axar Patel scored run-a-ball 44, but a disciplined fielding and bowling effort by Sri Lanka, in which skipper Charith Asalanka claimed three wickets, secured victory for the hosts. With the opening ODI ending in a dramatic tie, Sri Lanka will aim to seal the series in the final match at the same venue on Wednesday. "There was a lot of pressure coming into the side. I was coming off a layoff. I had to do something. It's easy to take credit with a spell like this but I want to give credit to the batters also for taking us to such a competitive total," Vandersay said. **Brief scores: Sri Lanka:** 240/9 in 50 overs (Avishka Fernando 40, Kamindu Mendis 40; Washington Sundar 3/30); **India:** 208 all out in 42.2 overs (Rohit Sharma 64, Axar Patel 44; Jeffrey Vandersay 6/33). — Reuters

## Sreejesh gaalis keep team going

**ROHIT MAHAJAN TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE**  
PARIS, AUGUST 4  
Before the shoot-off for a place in the semifinals, PR Sreejesh, Indian goalkeeper, wondered if he had reached the end of the road. "I thought this can be my last match, or I can have two more," Sreejesh said after a jailbreak of a victory over Great Britain. The Kerala man would indeed have two more — semifinal and final, or semifinal and bronze medal match — thank you very much. Sreejesh, 36, had announced before the tournament that his fourth Olympics would also be his last. After the 17th-minute red card for Amit Rohidas today, it seemed that it would be curtains for India — after all, for how long could the Indian defenders keep Great Britain from pressing home their one-man advantage? Right until the end, it turned out. The celebration by the players when the final hooter rang showed that for them, a draw with a one-man disadvantage was no less than victory — it was up to Sreejesh to give it the final touches and make it official. Sreejesh did give it the final touches: A stunning block in the dying moments of the game in regulation time. Then the save in the shoot-off: As Philip Roper, eight seconds in his hand to shoot, went towards the goal, Sreejesh, his arms outstretched, faced him squarely; trying to create an angle, Roper turned left, and Sreejesh followed; Roper tried to lift it over the falling Sreejesh, who pawed it away — the final touch.



Coach Craig Fulton hugs PR Sreejesh after the shootout win.

What was he thinking? "See, shoot-offs are normal for us, we train a lot for them," said the big goalie, his rubbery shoes squawking on the floor. "There are two parts of it — one, kill those eight seconds, then save the goal. When you kill the time, the pressure is on the player, and he tries something wrong." Roper, running out of time to shoot, made the mistake — he couldn't lift the ball high enough to beat Sreejesh. "Sreejesh is the legend, sir!" said Harmanpreet Singh, the captain, who had a great game as the pillar of defence. Sreejesh won the game for India? "Team India won the game," he said. "No doubt he's the best goalkeeper we have. He's saving us from Day 1, but if you ask even him, he would say that it was a team effort."

Sreejesh indeed said that. "You need support from your players (in shoot-off)," he said. "My players scored four goals. That gave me confidence, took pressure off me. So, it's not about me, it's about them!" Manpreet Singh, former captain, said the 'gaalis' showered by Sreejesh at them when they're not sticking to the plans sound like music. "I know how to keep this defence on their toes!" Sreejesh grinned. "My words to them... Everyone knows what BC, MC gaalis are, but for the players, they are like music. When they hear them from me, they know they're doing something wrong, and they correct that! It works!" Indian fans hope that it would work at least twice more, including in the final.

## Afghan sisters cycle into Paris in pre-Taliban colours

PARIS, AUGUST 4  
Two Afghan sisters in the black, red and green of Afghanistan's pre-Taliban flag entered the Paris suburbs near the head of the peloton in the Olympic women's road race on Sunday, throwing a spotlight briefly on their six-athlete team. Sent by Afghanistan's Olympic Committee-in-exile as part of a gender-equal team of three men and three women, Yulduz and Fariba Hashimi were part of a small group of cyclists riding ahead of the peloton as it neared the capital, with Fariba taking second spot as the riders entered the city limits. While the Taliban have discarded the old Afghan flag and replaced it with a white one carrying an Islamic oath in black letters, the colours featured prominently on the uniform of the Hashimis, who fled Afghanistan in 2021 after the Taliban took over. In an interview with France 24 ahead of the race, Fariba, 21, said she hoped that her presence and performance in the Paris Olympics would help push back against the idea that women and girls had no place in the world of professional sports. "I will try to do it for my people, to show that cycling is something nice that everyone can do, not just the men but women as well," she said. The Taliban, who say they respect women's rights in line with their interpretation of Islamic law and local customs, have closed girls' high schools, placed travel restrictions on women without a male guardian and restricted access to parks and gyms since seizing power in August 2021. No Taliban official was allowed at the Games. — Reuters



## In a first, Centre issues SOPs for transportation of human organs

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

The Union Health Ministry has come out with its first-ever Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for seamless transport of human organs through various modes of travel, which will allow airlines carrying them to request the Air Traffic Control for priority take-off and landing and also arrange front-row seats. "By streamlining organ transport process, we aim to maximise the utilisation of precious organs and offer hope to countless patients awaiting life-saving transplants," Union Health Secretary Apurva Chandra said.

According to the SOPs for transportation by air, airlines carrying human cadaveric organs can request the Air Traffic Control for priority take-off and landing of the aircraft and arrange front-row seats. Airport officials should define a "green corridor" — free from obstruction — and a trolley for the organ box from ambulance to the aircraft at the airport of origin and vice versa.

To facilitate transport by ambulance and other vehicles, the "green corridor" may be provided on the request of specific authorities. The "One Trigger System" i.e. a request from the organ allocation authority to initiate the process of transport by creation of "green corridors", may be considered for this purpose, it said. — PTI

# BJP, Cong silent on sub-classification of SCs/STs; Maya, Chirag oppose order

ADITI TANDON  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

The Supreme Court's August 1 verdict allowing sub-classification of constitutionally guaranteed Dalit and tribal quotas has caught the political class by surprise with the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress yet to react officially. The only major parties to have publicly opposed the 6:1 verdict of the apex court so far are BJP ally LJP (Paswan); Mayawati's BSP and Lalu Yadav's RJD.

LJP (Paswan) chief and Union minister Chirag Paswan has gone so far as to say that his party will challenge the verdict in the highest court and seek a review.

Mayawati has said the SCs were a homogenous group that had been historically discriminated against and any classification would be

unjust. "We do not agree with the verdict," she said on Sunday. RJD's Tejashwi Yadav has decried the order saying it goes against the spirit of Poona Pact.

Senior BJP and Congress leaders for their part said the implication of the classification on SCs and STs would need to be carefully assessed.

More troublesome for the political class would be the SC's urge to state governments to devise a way for identifying the creamy layer segments with SCs and STs to ensure the reservation benefits went to the less advantaged.

"The creamy layer concept is more challenging," sources in both the Congress and BJP say as they calibrate their strategies around the SC order on the eve of Assembly polls in Haryana, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and impending J&K poll this year.



BSP chief Mayawati. PTI

So far, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has publicly supported SC quota sub-classification only for the Madiga community of south India. The PM even directed the constitution of a committee to look at the prospect of an SC sub-quota for Madigas. The committee is working.

Within the Congress, Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah and Telangana CM Revant Reddy have welcomed the SC verdict, but party president Mallikarjun Kharge has

not yet authorised an official national response.

So far as the BJP goes, sources say the SC order presents the political system with a Mandal 2.0 moment.

When then Prime Minister VP Singh had adopted the Mandal Commission report for reserving 27 per cent seats in public employment for OBCs, BJP's ideological mentor RSS, then working on a pan Hindu identity through the Ram Mandir movement, had sought suspension of the report in the wake of massive agitation by upper caste students.

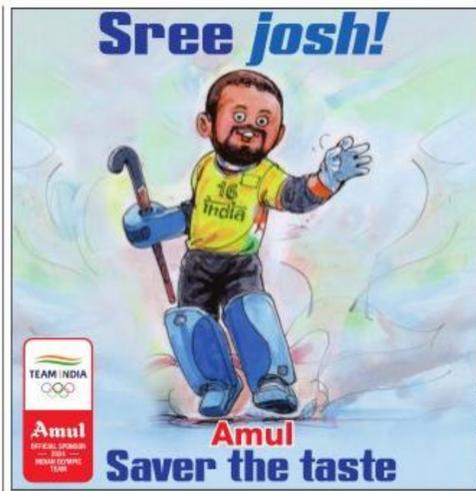
"What VP Singh through mandalization of society seeks to achieve is a division of Hindus on forward, backward and Harijan lines," Sangh journal *Organiser* wrote at the time.

But LK Advani, then BJP president, took a politically

pragmatic stand. Since the BJP was supporting the Janata Dal-led VP Singh government from outside, Advani did not oppose the Mandal report realising the numerical strength of the middle class segment it sought to benefit.

Advani devised a middle path — the BJP would back 27 per cent reservation for OBCs, but demand sub-categorisation of castes within OBCs and a promise that overall quotas will not exceed 50 per cent. The OBC sub-categorisation as backward classes, most backward classes and extremely backward classes later became a norm.

The SC has now opened prospects of the same sub-classification for the SCs and STs which get 15 per cent and 7.5 per cent reservation in government jobs and education systems.



## Investment by Chinese firms vital: Niti member

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

Niti Aayog member Arvind Virmani on Sunday said it is better for India to get Chinese firms to invest and produce goods here to boost local manufacturing than to keep importing goods

from the neighbouring country.

Virmani was responding to a pitch made by the pre-budget Economic Survey on July 22 for seeking foreign direct investment from China to boost local manufacturing. — PTI



Home Minister Amit Shah being felicitated by Chandigarh Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria. NITIN MITTAL

# Three new criminal laws biggest reform of 21st century, says Shah

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 4

Union Home Minister Amit Shah today launched the e-Sakshya, Nyay Setu, Nyay Shrutu and e-summon systems to augment the criminal justice apparatus here at the Chandigarh Secretariat.

Shah dubbed the three new criminal laws as the "biggest" reform of the 21st century, saying their objective is to ensure people get justice.

He was given a live demonstration of the various pillars of the Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) functioning under the new criminal laws and their integration. He congratulated the Chandigarh Administration and police for the demonstration.

The four new apps developed by the NIC in collaboration with the Chandigarh Police and NCRB under the directions of the Ministry of Home Affairs, aim to stream-

line the Criminal Justice System, acting as catalysts for efficiency and transparency.

Addressing the gathering at the inauguration, Shah pointed out that the previous laws, enacted in 1860 by a foreign parliament, are no longer relevant for India in 2024.

The new laws, based on modern technology and purely indigenous, represent one of the biggest reforms in India over the next decade. He emphasised that these laws

are justice-oriented rather than punishment-oriented.

He also slammed the opposition parties for raising questions about the strength of the NDA government at the Centre, saying the alliance will not only complete its term but also form the government in 2029.

Shah said Chandigarh will be the first administrative unit in the country where 100 per cent implementation of all the three laws will be completed in the next two months.

## Law soon for life imprisonment in 'love jihad' cases: Assam CM

GUWAHATI, AUGUST 4

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday said his government will soon introduce a law for life imprisonment in cases of 'love jihad'.

Speaking at the state BJP executive meet here, he said, "We spoke about 'love jihad' during the elections. Soon, we will bring a law, which will award life imprisonment in such cases."

Sarma also said a new domicile policy will be introduced soon, under which



Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma

only those born in Assam will be eligible for state government jobs.

He maintained that indige-

nous people have received priority in the "one lakh government jobs" provided as per a pre-poll promise, which will be evident when the complete list is published.

The CM said the Assam Government has also taken a decision regarding the sale of land between Hindus and Muslims.

He said though the government cannot prevent such a transaction, it has made it mandatory to take consent of the Chief Minister before going ahead. — PTI

## SC to hear Sisodia's bail petitions today

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday pleas filed by AAP leader Manish Sisodia, seeking bail in corruption and money-laundering cases linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam.

A Bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan will take up for hearing both the pleas. On July 29, Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the CBI and ED, had told the Bench that while the Central Bureau of Investigation had filed its response on Sisodia's plea, it had not come on record.

Raju had raised preliminary objections on Sisodia's pleas and said it was the second special leave petition challenging the same Delhi High Court order.

"The same order can't be challenged twice," the law

officer had submitted.

Sisodia had earlier moved the apex court challenging the Delhi High Court's May 21 order dismissing his bail pleas. He had challenged in the high court a trial court's April 30 order rejecting his bail applications in the two cases.

He was arrested by the CBI on February 26, 2023, over his alleged role in the liquor policy case. The ED arrested him in the money-laundering case stemming from the CBI FIR on March 9, 2023.

During the hearing, Raju referred to the June 4 order of the top court, refusing to entertain Sisodia's bail pleas in the cases lodged by the CBI and the ED. The top court, however, had said Sisodia could revive his petitions for bail after the ED and the CBI filed their final prosecution complaint and chargesheet. — PTI

## Missing since '22, two Arunachal men were last sighted along China border

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

Two men from Arunachal Pradesh, missing for nearly two years after they disappeared from a remote area along the India-China border, are believed to be in the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) custody but the Chinese military has not confirmed their presence.

Batelum Tikro, 35, and his cousin, Bainsi Manyu, 37, went missing on August 19, 2022, while looking for medicinal herbs in a high-altitude region of the Chaglagam area in the state's Anjaw district. Extensive searches have yielded no information about their whereabouts. Families and local authorities continue to seek answers, raising concerns about the security and safety of individuals in border areas.

"I have come to know that they were detained by the Chi-



Batelum Tikro and Bainsi Manyu

nese army," Tikro's brother Dishanso Chikro said. Chikro said he has approached local army authorities several times to seek information about his brothers. "I am told that the issue was raised by the Indian Army with their Chinese counterparts. But no response has come so far," he said.

Anjaw MLA and state's Women and Child Development Minister Dasanglu Pul confirmed that the duo went missing along the border with China while looking for medic-

inal herbs. "The Chinese side has not yet acknowledged that the youths are in their custody. But I am told that they are still alive," he said.

After the two went missing, Chikro lodged two complaints of missing persons at Hayuliang police station on October 9, 2022. It was mentioned in the complaints that "some fellow villagers might have last seen them at border areas on August 24, 2022" but since then there has been no sign of the whereabouts of the duo.

Anjaw Zila Parishad Chairman Soblem Pul said he has come to know that the local Army authorities raised the issue of the two men with the Chinese army at the flag meetings held along the border. "I have no idea what was the response of the Chinese side at the flag meetings," he said. — PTI

## Body of drowned techie recovered in US park

WASHINGTON, AUGUST 4

The body of a 26-year-old Indian IT professional who drowned in the famous Glacier National Park in the US state of Montana last month has been recovered by park rangers, media reports said on Sunday.

Siddhant Vitthal Patil drowned while hiking above a gorge on July 6 on Avalanche Lake Trail after falling off a large rock into Avalanche Creek.

According to park officials, visitors reported seeing a body around 10.30 am on Saturday morning, following which rangers removed the body, NBC Montana reported.

Clothing and gear similar to what Patil was wearing at the time of the incident were also recovered, the Daily Inter Lake newspaper reported, citing a press release from park officials.

The Flathead County coroner is working to confirm identity through DNA or dental records, it said. Rangers suspected the body was being held underwater by submerged obstacles such as fallen trees or rocks.

According to the report, the rangers were limited in their ability to search the gorge for weeks due to water depth and whitewater conditions. As the water level dropped, they were able to probe larger portions of the gorge but were unable to reach the deepest and most dangerous areas.

Friends who were with him at the time of the incident saw Patil go underwater and resurface before being swept by the current into the gorge.

Hailing from Maharashtra, Patil was living and working in California and on vacation with his friends at the time of the incident. — PTI

## Indian student charged with fraud to return under plea deal

NEW YORK, AUGUST 4

A 19-year-old Indian student, who was arrested and charged with falsifying records to gain admission in a US university, will have to return to India under a plea deal with American authorities.

Aryan Anand had submitted fake and falsified documents to secure admission into Lehigh University, a private research university in Pennsylvania for the 2023-2024 academic year.

A report in the Lehigh University's student newspaper 'The Brown and White', said last month that a police investigation had found that Anand had falsified admission and financial aid documents. He had even "faked his father's death" as part of the conspiracy to obtain admission and scholarship, it said.

Anand was arraigned by Magisterial District Judge Jordan Knisley on June 12, with a bail of USD 25,000. He pleaded guilty to one count of forgery. As part of the deal, Anand is required to return to India and Lehigh chose not to seek restitution of about USD 85,000. — PTI

## 683 wildlife crime cases in northern region in 5 years

Highest in UP, Uttarakhand | Chandigarh saw 1 case each in 2021 & 2022 | None in Punjab

AKSHEEV THAKUR  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

In the five-year period from 2019 to 2023, a total of 683 wildlife crimes were recorded in the northern region states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand and the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

Data provided by the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), in response to an RTI application filed by The Tribune, showed Uttar Pradesh having the maximum 425 cases, Uttarakhand had 152 cases, Himachal Pradesh 82, Rajasthan 22 and Chandigarh two cases. Punjab didn't have any case while the figures for Haryana weren't available.

The data includes cases like poaching, forest fires, encroachments, trespassing into forest areas, smuggling of body parts of animals and



collection of non-timber forest products. In 2023, the WCCB also registered a case against a man who was caught at the Mumbai airport with nine ball pythons, an exotic species. The man had arrived from Bangkok.

In Himachal, skin of snow leopards, bear gall bladders, fur of wolves and musk pods of musk deer are the most common illegally trafficked items from the Himalayas. Of the 82 cases in Himachal, eight cases were logged in

### STRAYING INTO WILD

State/UT*	Cases
Uttar Pradesh	425
Uttarakhand	152
Himachal	82
Rajasthan	22
Chandigarh	2
Punjab	0

\*DATA FOR HARYANA WAS NOT AVAILABLE



2019 and 24, 37, six and seven cases in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, respectively.

Uttar Pradesh saw the maximum 158 cases in 2019, followed by 131 in 2020, 64 in 2021, 53 in 2022 and 19 in 2023. "The figures could be high as

state forest departments also register cases. We perform regular cyber-patrolling to detect any post or offers regarding animal body parts or smuggling of animals. Enforcement officers are trained by us regularly so that they can take action," a senior official from the WCCB said.

Chandigarh recorded one case each in 2021 and 2022. In Uttarakhand, 16, 48, 33, 37 and 18 cases were recorded in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

In the southern states, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have major issues of human-animal conflict. To prevent animals from straying into human habitats or agricultural fields, illegal electric fences are installed, which often result in animal deaths. "In Karnataka, 127 cases were recorded between 2019 and 2023. There have been cases of poaching as well," said officials.