



SONIA EXHORTS VOTERS TO REJECT PROONENTS OF HATRED INDIA VOTES



NOTHING HAS BEEN ACHIEVED BY GUNS, STONES: PDP J&K



SEBI REJECTS NSE'S PROPOSAL TO EXTEND TRADE HOURS BUSINESS

PUTIN TAKES OATH AS RUSSIAN PRESIDENT FOR RECORD 5TH TIME WORLD

Jyoti Malhotra appointed first woman Editor-in-Chief



The Tribune Trust has appointed senior journalist Jyoti Malhotra, who has vast experience across print, TV and digital media, as the Editor-in-Chief of The Tribune Group. Ms Malhotra will assume charge on May 14.

Ms Malhotra has held senior editorial positions in various news organisations such as *India Today*, *Indian Express*, *The Print* and *Star News* and has been a regular contributor to BBC Radio. She writes widely on the intersection between politics, diplomacy and culture across the Indian subcontinent with special focus on Pakistan and Afghanistan. She takes over from Rajesh Ramachandran, who leaves office after a six-year stint with the region's premier newspaper.

MEA lashes out at anti-India Canadian floats

NEW DELHI, MAY 7

The Ministry of External Affairs has lashed out at the violent imagery being used by extremist elements in Canada against the Indian leadership.

The latest provocation was a "nagar kirtan" parade in a Toronto suburb last Sunday where a float featured PM Narendra Modi behind bars. Slogans were also raised against the Indian leadership.

SAYS GLORIFICATION OF VIOLENCE UNACCEPTABLE

Last year too, a float depicting the assassination of former PM Indira Gandhi was used in a procession. Display of posters of Indian diplomats have also been put out across Canada, threatening violence against them.

"Celebration and glorification of violence should not be a part of any civilised society. Democratic countries which respect the rule of law should not allow intimidation by radical elements in the name of freedom of expression," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Resume duty: Punjab to BJP nominee Parampal

Refuses to accept IAS officer's resignation

RUCHIKA M KHANNA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



CONG PICKS GHUBAYA FOR FEROZEPUR

The Congress has fielded two-term former SAD MP Sher Singh Ghubaya as its Ferozepur candidate

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

64.4% turnout in Ph-3, stray incidents of violence in WB

Highest 81.61% in Assam | Polling over for 283 seats in 16 states, 4 UTs

ANIMESH SINGH

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 7
A turnout of 64.40 per cent was recorded today in the third phase of Lok Sabha elections in 93 constituencies spread across 11 states with stray incidents of violence being witnessed in West Bengal.

Assam, where polling was held on four seats, recorded the highest turnout at 81.61 per cent, followed by West Bengal at 75.79 per cent and Goa at 75.20 per cent. Uttar Pradesh, which saw polling on 10 seats, witnessed the lowest turnout at 57.34 per cent while Bihar saw 58.18 per cent and Gujarat 58.98 per cent, according to the figures released by the Election Commission at 11.40 pm.

A total of 1,331 candidates were in the fray in the third phase that saw conclusion of the electoral process in Gujarat, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka and Goa. In all, the polling is now over for 283 seats in 16 states and four union territories.

Sporadic incidents of violence marred the polling in four constituencies of West



PM Modi after casting his vote in Ahmedabad on Tuesday. Home Minister Amit Shah is also seen. PTI

POLL OVER IN GUJARAT, K'ATAKA

Assam	81.61*	Madhya Pradesh	66.05
West Bengal	75.79	Maharashtra	61.44
Goa	75.20	Gujarat	58.98
Chhattisgarh	71.06	Bihar	58.18
Karnataka	70.41	Uttar Pradesh	57.34
Dadra-Diu	69.87		

*FIGURES IN PER CENT

Bengal as Thinamool Congress, BJP and Congress-CPM workers clashed with each other in various parts of Murshidabad and Jangipur. The TMC, BJP, and the Con-

gress-CPM alliance lodged separate complaints related to poll violence, voter intimidation and assaults on poll agents. The Election Commission received 182 com-

plaints, most of which were from Murshidabad and Jangipur constituencies. An incident of firing was also reported near a polling booth

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

MAYA SACKS 'SUCCESSOR' NEPHEW

- In midst of LS poll, Mayawati has removed her nephew Akash Anand as 'successor'
- The BSP chief also divested him of the post of party's national coordinator
- The UP ex-CM wrote on X the decision was taken for the party's betterment and till Anand gained 'full maturity'



REUTERS

Indian Navy flexes muscle, sends 3 ships for deployment in disputed South China Sea

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 7

The Indian Navy has started operational deployment of its fleet in the disputed waters of the South China Sea (SCS), with three of its warships — INS Delhi, INS Shakti and INS Kiltan — arriving in Singapore yesterday.

The visit is part of the 'operational deployment' of the Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet to the South China sea," the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said today.

The MoD did not specify which all countries the ships would visit, or if the Indian Navy would join patrols of countries such as the US or Japan in the SCS. A PTI report, however, stated these would leave for Malaysia on Thursday and then visit the Philippines.

China illegally claims vast portions of the SCS as its own. The same is contested by five other countries — the Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia and Taiwan — that are in a maritime territorial

dispute with Beijing.

The three warships have diverse roles at sea. While INS Delhi is a guided missile destroyer equipped with BrahMos missile among other weapon systems, 3,500-tonne INS Kiltan is a specialist anti-submarine warfare corvette that carries four heavyweight torpedo launchers and boasts of a highly advanced combat management system. INS Shakti is a

fleet support ship that can carry fuel, water and supplies for mid-sea transfer to another ship.

The warships were accorded a warm welcome by personnel of the Republic of Singapore Navy and the High Commissioner of India upon their arrival in the country.

A delegation led by Rear Admiral Rajesh Dhankhar today visited the Information

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

REUTERS

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REUTERS

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3 Ind MLAs withdraw support to Haryana Govt

GEETANJALI GAYATRI

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MAY 7

In a fresh trouble for BJP's Bathinda candidate Parampal Kaur, the Punjab Government has asked the IAS officer to resume duty immediately, saying she cannot be treated as "retired or relieved from service". The officer has also been accused of giving "false grounds" for seeking retirement, while she was engaged in political activities.



IN MINORITY, BUT SAFE

- The BJP, which has 40 MLAs, has support of two Independents & one HLP legislator. The majority mark is 45
- However, the govt is in a "safe zone" as there can't be a no-trust motion till mid-September
- As per rules, six months have to elapse before a trust motion can be introduced
- The Saini govt had on March 14 brought a motion which it won

(HLP), taking the total to 43.

The Congress presently has 30 MLAs, one MLA comes from the Indian National Lok Dal while the Janayak Janta Party has 10

MLAs. Of these, at least five MLAs have rebelled against the party leadership and are "inclined" towards the BJP. However, their hands are tied

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Kejriwal fails to get immediate relief as SC defers hearing

SATYA PRAKASH

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 7

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal failed to get an immediate relief in a money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam on Tuesday as the Supreme Court deferred the hearing on his interim bail plea.

"Tentatively... we will give you a date for day after tomorrow (May 9)... if it's not possible, we will keep it sometime next week," a Bench of Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Dipankar Datta said.

The Bench hinted at granting interim bail to Kejriwal in view of the Lok Sabha elections. "He (Kejriwal) is an elected Chief Minister of Delhi. The elections are around the corner. These are extraordinary circumstances. He is not otherwise a habitual offender... or somebody who has been involved in many other cases," it said.

The Bench, however, said it didn't want Kejriwal to discharge his functions as Delhi Chief Minister and sign official files, if released on interim bail to campaign in the elections.



NOT HABITUAL OFFENDER

Kejriwal is an elected CM of Delhi. The elections are around the corner. These are extraordinary circumstances. He is not otherwise a habitual offender. Bench

CUSTODY OF DELHI CM, KAVITHA EXTENDED

A court on Tuesday extended judicial custody of Arvind Kejriwal till May 20 and that of BRS leader Kavitha till May 14 in cases related to the alleged excise scam.

"Suppose we release you, and you are allowed to participate in elections, you will be performing official duties... it can have cascading effects... We

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IN BRIEF

Educate kids on 'virtual touch', says Delhi court

NEW DELHI: Teaching minors about "good touch" and "bad touch" is not enough in today's virtual world and children must be educated on "virtual touch" and its potential dangers, the Delhi HC has said. BACK PAGE

Fifth arrest in Salman house firing incident

MUMBAI: Mohammed Rafique Chowdhary, a member of the Bishnoi gang, has been held for "providing" financial help to the shooters in the Salman Khan house firing case. He is the fifth person to be held in the case. PTI

Hearing on Revanna's bail petition adjourned

BENGALURU: JD(S) MLA HD Revanna, in SIT custody, on Tuesday failed to get relief from the Special Court for Elected Representatives here, which adjourned his bail plea hearing to Wednesday. PTI

Allows CBI to go ahead with its investigation

the interim protection would continue provided that those found to have been appointed illegally and had continued as a consequence of its order shall undertake to refund the salary drawn by them, if the final decision went against them.

The Bench posted the matter for hearing on July 16.

The order came on petitions challenging the April 22 Calcutta High Court order invalidating the appointment of 25,753 teachers and non-teaching staff in West Bengal in state-run and state-aided schools even as it allowed the CBI to go ahead with its probe, even against state officials.

A three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, however, asked the CBI not to take any coercive action such as arresting a suspect during the probe into the appointments of teachers and non-teaching staff made by the School Service Commission (SSC).

SC stays order quashing 25K WB appointments

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 7

The Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed a Calcutta High Court order quashing the appointment of 25,753 teachers and non-teaching staff in West Bengal in state-run and state-aided schools even as it allowed the CBI to go ahead with its probe, even against state officials.

The top court directed that

₹35 CR HAUL

Jharkhand minister's aide among two held

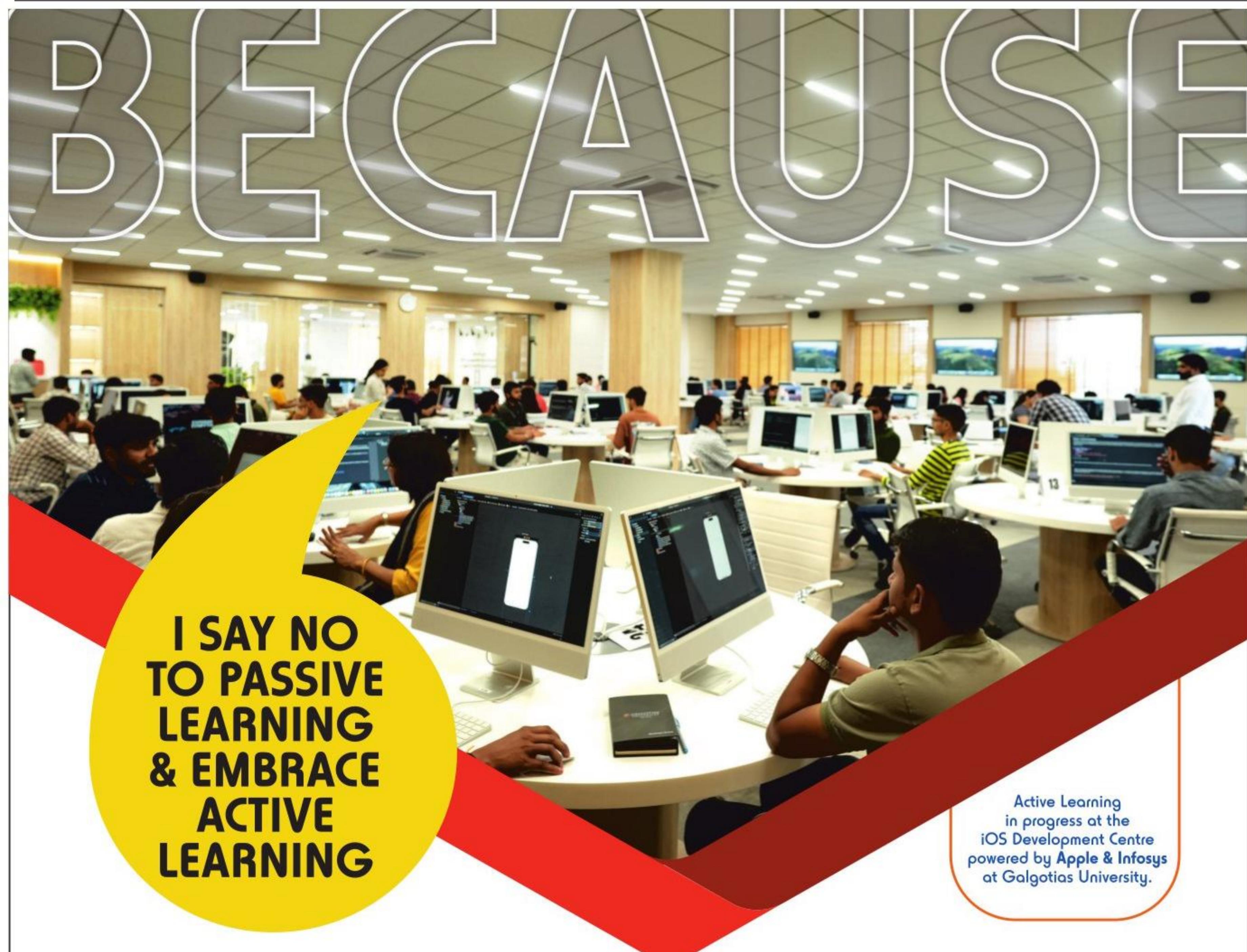
Duo remanded in six-day ED custody



irregularities in the state Rural Development Department, the ED had on Monday raided a two-bedroom flat in Ranchi that was allegedly occupied by Lal's domestic help.

The agency recovered more than Rs 30 crore in cash from the flat apart from Rs 3 crore from some other places that were searched. The total cash recovery stands at Rs 35.23 crore, the sources said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



I SAY NO
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& EMBRACE
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Drug issue missing from political discourse



None comfortable raising the problem

RAVI DHALIWAL

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

GURDASPUR, MAY 7

Gurdaspur was once a Congress bastion (party won 13 of 19 elections), but, in recent years, the political configurations have changed with the BJP-SAD combine triumphing in five of the last seven polls here.

This Lok Sabha seat has had its share of showbiz with two actors, Vinod Khanna and Sunny Deol, remaining MPs. It is another matter that while one constructed bridges, the other did little.

It has also had its share of misfortunes and broken promises.

This is a constituency where the 'elephant in the room' syndrome exists. Everybody knows the heroin problem has touched gigantic proportions yet nobody is willing to have a discussion. This is because it makes all stakeholders - the BSE, the police, parents, administration - uncomfortable. Stop the Pakistani drones from infiltrating into India's skies and half the battle will be won. But, unfortunately, that



SUKHJINDER SINGH RANDHAWA (CONG)

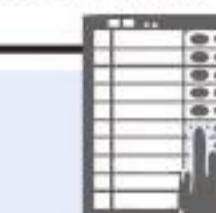
A four-time MLA, Randhawa is well-versed with pulls and pressures of local politics. During the construction of the Kartarpur corridor in 2018-19, he brought in development projects worth ₹172 crore to his Assembly segment Dera Baba Nanak. The corridor had run into trouble when the mining mafia suddenly increased the rates of sand and gravel. He handled the situation deftly following which the mafia fell in line.

DALJIT SINGH CHEEMA (SAD)

The soft-spoken and affable Daljit Cheema remained the Education Minister from 2014-2017. Before that, Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal had designated him as his adviser in the Cabinet rank. He is the SAD's long-time troubleshooter. Whenever party president Sukhbir Badal faces a problem, Cheema is his go-to person. He has remained the Chairman of the Sub-Committee of Central Advisory Board for Education.

DINESH SINGH BABBU (BJP)

Babu is a three-time MLA from Sujanpur. He remained an ex-Speaker. He mitigated the sufferings of people living in the Dhar segment, falling in his constituency, by providing them round-the-clock drinking water. His USP is that he belongs to the Rajput community, which has a strong presence in the constituency. He started his career while in college and remained a general secretary of the ABVP.



TOTAL VOTES
16,38,886

MALE: 8,44,773
FEMALE: 7,94,078
TRANSGENDER: 35

CM Bhagwant Mann and AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal had inaugurated bus stand. FILE

AMANSHER SINGH SHERRY KALSI (AAP)

Kalsi is the sitting Batala MLA. In 2017, he was seeking the ticket but the party fielded Gurpreet Ghuggi. He did not rave and rant and instead helped the party's cause. Win or lose, his prime aim is to ensure he notches up a lead from his home seat. If he does not, it will be a big setback for his career. The party settled down on Kalsi because he is young and acceptable to all factions in the party.

constituency riding on some super-hit blockbusters. He punctured Bhinder's aura of invincibility and won by one lakh votes, signalling the end of the Bhinder era.

The constituency is spread over two revenue and three police districts. Politicians have developed a special affinity for the 1.50 lakh strong Christian and 3.75 lakh Scheduled Caste vote bank. They know that these communities have the potential to swing an election, hence the attraction.

The area is beset with numerous problems that require the Central intervention. However, none of the MPs has touched these problems. They came, played to their own constituencies and faded into oblivion. The new MP should also take a drive in his own vehicles to see the deplorable condition of the Gurdaspur-Mukerian road which links the constituency with other parts of the country. This constituency has had 10 MPs so far and not even a single one has taken up the issue of connecting Gurdaspur to Mukerian with a railway line. Now, residents going to New Delhi have to travel to Amritsar, 70 kms away, before they can catch a Delhi-bound train. Once the Gurdaspur-Mukerian rail track sees light of the day, people can visit Delhi via Jalandhar.

Confronted by farmers, Hans says won't speak against 'friend' Modi

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

GIDDERBAH/AJK, MAY 7 Despite facing farmers' protests during his election campaign, BJP's Faridkot candidate Hans Raj Hans said today that even if they (protesters) take his life, he would not speak ill of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



Hans Raj Hans

to cause pain," he said.

Hans visited Gidderbaba, but the farmers lodged protests against him at Harike Kalan, Doda villages and Gidderbaba town.

During his public address, he said, "You have the right to say that don't vote for Hans Raj Hans. Let me do my work. Big farmers call me to their houses and say that they are not speaking anything against me."

Meanwhile, SGPC member Navtej Singh Kaoni, who was last year expelled by SAD, today joined the BJP. Kaoni, an aide of Manpreet Badal, had started participation in the BJP's programmes.

AAP candidate Karamjit Anmol had to face the protest of farm labourers at Bhuttiwala village. Anmol sought a memorandum from the protesters and assured them their meeting with the Chief Minister.

It's just a matter of time before Mann ditched Kejri: Sukhbir

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



Senior SAD leaders at a rally in Rajasansi on Tuesday. VISHAL KUMAR

SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal today urged Punjabis to unite against the Opposition parties by exercising their franchise for the sake of Panth and Punjab.

Addressing the masses in Ajnala and Raja Sansi in support of party candidate Anil Joshi, Sukhbir said Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann was in touch with Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

"It's just a matter of time before CM Mann ditched AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal and forms his own parallel party in Punjab," he said, adding that Punjabis should seal the borders of the state with their votes in the same manner in which the BJP government had prevented farmers from marching towards Delhi.

Sukhbir slammed the BJP for attacking the Panth.

"Immediately after we parted ways with the NDA government against the three contentious farm laws, the Centre moved to take control of Sri Hazur Sahib gurdwara committee and the Patna Sahib gurdwara committee," he said.

He asked Punjabis not to forget that the Congress had attacked the Golden Temple with tanks and mortars and had massacred thousands of Sikhs in 1984.

Bikram Singh Majithia

slammed BJP state chief Sunil Jakhar for allegedly terming farmers as anti-nationals in a representation to the Election Commission.

"The BJP wants to run away from contesting the poll as it is being shunned by Punjabis," said Majithia.

He also brushed aside the BJP candidate's claim to get Rs 800 crore into the constituency. "I have read the fine print. Rs 800 crore will come in the form of a loan," added Majithia.

Cong picks Ghubaya for Ferozepur

RAJMEET SINGH

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MAY 7

On a day the filing of nominations started for the Lok Sabha elections in Punjab, the Congress today announced two-term former Shiromani Akali Dal MP Sher Singh Ghubaya as its candidate for the Ferozepur parliamentary constituency.

With the announcement, the Congress has declared

QUITAKALI DAL IN 2019

■ Sher Singh Ghubaya won the 2009 and 2014 LS poll on SAD ticket from Ferozepur ■ Joined Congress and fought against Sukhbir Singh Badal in 2019, but lost ■ Pitted against AAP's Jagdeep Brar and SAD's Nardev Mann; BJP yet to declare its nominee



nominees for all the 13 seats in the state, the list having been released in four parts. Of the 13 Congress nominees, eight are turncoats while the rest are traditional party leaders.

Ghubaya had won the 2009 and 2014 Lok Sabha elections on the Akali Dal ticket from Ferozepur before switching to the Congress in 2019 when Capt Amarinder Singh was the Chief Minister.

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On first day, 15 file papers

CHANDIGARH, MAY 7

A total of 15 nominations were filed for the Lok Sabha poll today. The highest number of nominations, five, have been filed from Ferozepur and three from Patiala.

CEO Sibin C said, "No candidate filed nomination papers for the Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Fatehgarh Sahib and Bathinda parliamentary constituency on May 7." — TNS

शिव प्रताप शुक्ल

राज्यपाल हिमाचल प्रदेश



सन्देश

विश्व रेडक्रॉस दिवस-2024

8 मई, विश्व रेडक्रॉस दिवस के रूप में मनाया जाता है। यह दिन हमें निःस्वार्थ भाव से मानवता की सेवा का सन्देश देता है। यह दिवस विश्व भर में रेडक्रॉस के संस्थापक जीन हेनरी ड्यूनेंट की जन्म वार्षिकी पर मनाया जाता है। इस उपलक्ष्य में हिमाचल प्रदेश राज्य रेडक्रॉस ज़िला रेडक्रॉस शाखाओं के साथ मिलकर विभिन्न कार्यक्रमों को आयोजित करती है। रेडक्रॉस विश्वभर में नर सेवा – नारायण सेवा की परम्परा के अनुरूप प्रभावी भूमिका निभा रहा है। इस वर्ष का विषय महत्पूर्ण है जो कि रेडक्रॉस के मूल उद्देश्य से जुड़ा है, 'Keeping Humanity Alive' अर्थात् 'मानवता को जीवित रखना' जो कि मानव पीड़ा को कम करने और विशेष रूप से दूरदराज और दुर्गम क्षेत्रों में गम्भीर परिस्थितियों का सामना कर रहे लोगों को सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए राष्ट्रीय एवं अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर रेडक्रॉस की स्थायी प्रतिबद्धता को प्रकट करता है।

मेरा मानना है कि समाज सेवा मानव मन की एक मौलिक भावना है जो हमें संकट की घड़ी में अपने साथियों, ग्रीष्मों तथा ज़रूरतमंदों की सहायता के लिए प्रेरित करती है। हमें परोपकार की सीधी अपने पूर्वजों से मिली है तथा रेडक्रॉस की समाजसेवी भावना इसी नींव पर खड़ी है। हिमाचल प्रदेश में भी रेडक्रॉस अपनी ज़िला शाखाओं के साथ मिलकर मानव कल्याण कार्य के लिए निरन्तर कार्यरत है। रेडक्रॉस पूरे विश्व में पीड़ित मानवता की सेवा व सहायता के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। यह प्रसन्नता का विषय कि इस संस्था की शाखाएं देश भर में निष्ठा एवं ईमानदारी के साथ दीन-दुखियों की सेवा में समर्पित हैं।

भारतीय संस्कृति में, मानवता को जीवित रखने की अवधारणा को ऋषि-मुनियों द्वारा विभिन्न भजनों, छन्दों और दार्शनिक शिक्षाओं के माध्यम से व्यक्त किया गया है जो दूसरों के लिए नैतिक आचरण, करुणा और सेवा के महत्व पर जोर देते हैं। स्वयंसेवक रेडक्रॉस गतिविधियों की रीढ़ हैं, जो लाखों वर्चित लोगों को लाभान्वित करने में रेडक्रॉस शाखाओं के साथ मिलकर अग्रणी भूमिका निभाते हैं। रेडक्रॉस मूवमेंट अभावग्रस्त लोगों को मानवीय सहायता प्रदान करके उनकी पीड़ा को कम करने के लिए कृतसंकल्प है। विश्व रेडक्रॉस दिवस दया और करुणा के महत्व पर जोर देता है।

आइए, हम मानवता के महान उद्देश्य के लिए प्रतिबद्ध करें और यह सुनिश्चित करें कि करुणा, सम्मान और एकजुटता के सिद्धान्त, सभी के लिए एक बेहतर दुनिया बनाने के हमारे सामूहिक प्रयासों में सबसे आगे रहें।

विश्व रेडक्रॉस दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं।

(Signature)
(शिव प्रताप शुक्ल)

The Tribune INTERVIEW: HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL, SAD, BATHINDA

Will make region a medical, education hub'

SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal's wife and former Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal, who defeated Raninder Singh (son of former CM Capt Amarinder Singh) in 2009, Manpreet Singh Badal in 2014 and Amrinder Singh Raja Warring in 2019 from Bathinda, is contesting the election for the fourth time from the constituency. Talking to Archit Watts, Harsimrat says she never takes any election for granted. The excerpts:



"I wish to upgrade the Bathinda airport to an international one, bring a flying academy, flying school and also an international cricket stadium at Mansa. I will put in efforts to bring a major textile industry to Mansa to generate employment for women."

■ Your opponents say AIIMS was a Central project. Your take?

Apart from bringing IHM and IIM to Punjab, I put in efforts for AIIMS and fortunately that was made operational within three years. My people know it. They will answer them on their own. Still, I wish to ask my opponents what did they bring to the state when their parties were in power? And those BJP leaders should also tell what the state had got after SAD broke alliance with the party.

■ Some people say the Akalis are playing a fixed match. Any truth in it?

AAP and the Congress are contesting the election together in other states, including Chandigarh. Earlier, the PCC president and his wife were campaigning and then they brought a man who was thrown out of SAD. The BJP brought the daughter-in-law of our party leader, who can also damage SAD. AAP gave its ticket to a minister to use

■ Will you support the NDA if re-elected?

We are standing strong on our

Another farmer dies at Shambhu

20 protesters have died since February 13 | Dharna in front of Capt's house today

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, MAY 7
One more farmer died at a protest site on the Shambhu border on Tuesday. He was identified as Jaswant Singh (70) of Shahbazpur village in Tarn Taran.

Farmers at the protest site said he did not wake up in the morning. Samyukti Kisan Morcha leader Sarwan Singh Pandher said the farmer was rushed to a hospital in Rajpura where he was declared brought dead due to a heart attack.

Jaswant Singh is survived by his wife Balwinder Kaur and a son and two daughters. Later, during the afternoon, his body was brought to the protest site where farmer leaders paid tributes to him. Later, his body was taken in a vehicle to his native village for last rites.

He is the 20th farmer to have died since the protest began at the border on February 13. In the past four days, three farmers, including a woman farmer, have died.

Surinderpal Singh (65), died while protesting against BJP



VIDEO GOES VIRAL

■ Another video of the incident when farmer Surinderpal had died during scuffle with BJP leaders has gone viral. In the video, a youngster could be seen enter into a scuffle with farmers. The farmers were seen precariously close to Preneet.

■ Her media coordinator Pritpal Singh Baliwal said the BJP leader, who was heading towards the venue to address the party workers, was heckled by some persons

PRENEET'S RALLY TARGETED AGAIN

BJP candidate Preneet Kaur again faced farmers' ire during her visit to Nabha. She was going to address a rally when farmers tried to reach the venue, but the police stopped them.

Candidate Preneet Kaur at Sehra village in Rajpura on May 4. Farmer Balwinder Kaur of Tarn Taran died during the 'rail roko' protest at the Shambhu railway station on Sunday.

The cops on Sunday booked Harwinder Singh Harpalpur and two others for culpable homicide not amounting to murder. The case was registered on the complaint of victim Surinderpal's nephew Resham Singh.

The farmer leaders have maintained that preparations are in full swing for a protest at Moti Bagh Palace in Patiala.

After talks with the police failed, the farmer union leaders had issued an ultimatum that if the police do not arrest Harpalpur in two days, they will start a protest outside former CM Capt Amarinder Singh's Moti Bagh Palace.

In the meantime, protesting farmers sharing another video of the incident when



123.81 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of wheat has arrived in the grain markets till Monday, of which 49 LMT has not been lifted. FILE

40% wheat yet to be lifted from mandis

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MAY 7
Around 40 per cent of the wheat in the mandis is yet to be lifted.

A total of 123.81 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of wheat has arrived in the grain markets till Monday. Of this, 49.09 LMT has not been lifted so far.

Rajpura-based commission agent Mohinder Krishan Chand Arora said around 10 lakh bags of grain are lying in the mandi. "The lifting is very slow. Though arrivals in our mandi have trickled down to

painful incident in which the 80-year-old veteran politician, who had always fought for the rights of farmers, was being heckled. Perturbed by the incident, she cancelled her public address and decided to return," said Baliwal.

Sources in the party said the registration of the police case against Harpalpur had a demoralising impact on the BJP cadre.

BJP president Sunil Jakhar-led delegation submitted a memorandum to the Election Office on Monday complaining that the state machinery had miserably failed to ensure the right to campaign by BJP candidates.

Without providing an equal platform to campaign, the election process would be rendered futile, Jakhar said. All BJP candidates faced protests and blockades by farmer unions, who had vowed not to allow the BJP candidates to campaign as the BJP-led Haryana government and Centre did not let farmers stage a protest in New Delhi.

The farmer protest at Shambhu and Khanauri border has completed 84 days, while it has been 21 days to the rail roko protest.

Medical interns seek stipend on par with central colleges

MOHIT KHANNA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, MAY 7

With the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the state lauding its efforts for improving the state's medical infrastructure, an issue regarding the plight of medical college interns has come to light. Students currently undergoing internships in government medical colleges across the state have come forward, alleging abysmally low stipends in sharp contrast with the government's assertions of progress in the healthcare sector.

In a letter addressed to Health Minister Balbir Singh, interns of the 2019 batch of Government Medical College, Patiala, have appealed for his intervention to rectify the situation by augmenting the internship stipend. The students have also taken to social media platforms to launch an online campaign, demanding stipends on a par with those being offered in medical colleges in Delhi and central institutions.

At present, interns in Punjab receive a stipend of Rs 15,000, while their counterparts in Delhi enjoy stipends ranging between Rs 25,000 and Rs 30,000. This stark contrast in remuneration has sparked discontent among the interns, who assert that their workload is the same as that of junior residents, yet they are being remunerated inadequately for their efforts, even for night shifts.

Expressing their grievances, one intern highlighted the disparity by stating that, "We are doing almost the same amount of work as first-year junior residents but are compensated with a mere Rs 15,000 for 12-hour shifts."

Another intern lamented that even unskilled workers earn more than medical graduates in the state. "We find it difficult to even meet our accom-

WORKLOAD SAME AS JUNIOR RESIDENTS

Interns in the state receive a stipend of Rs 15,000, while their counterparts in Delhi enjoy stipends ranging between Rs 25,000 and Rs 30,000. This stark contrast in remuneration has sparked discontent among them, who assert that their workload is the same as that of junior residents

WILL ADDRESS ISSUE AFTER POLL

Health Minister Balbir Singh said he had been apprised of the matter. He said once the code of conduct was over, all issues, including that of stipend of medical students, would be addressed.



mmodation and food expenses," said the student.

Adding to their frustrations is the surge in tuition fee. Despite a substantial hike in tuition fee over the past few years, the stipends have remained unchanged, exacerbating the financial burden on interns.

The tuition fee for the full five-year course in government-run medical colleges was increased during the previous Congress government in 2020, from Rs 4.4 lakh to Rs 7.8 lakh, which is now Rs 9.05 lakh.

Despite repeated attempts to contact the Health Minister, who is also AAP's Lok Sabha candidate from Patiala, he remained unavailable for response.

Petition for CBI probe into custodial death withdrawn

CHANDIGARH, MAY 7

Just about a fortnight after firing outside actor Salman Khan's house in Bandra, the mother of an accused had moved the Bombay High Court demanding CBI probe into his death, following which a petition filed before the Punjab and Haryana High Court was today disposed of as withdrawn.

Justice Vinod S Bhardwaj observed that the prayer in the petition here was for issuance of directions to enquire inquiry/investigation into the matter to the CBI. But the counsel for the petitioner contended that the fact regarding the nature and cause of death". — TNS

CM Mann has done nothing for Dhuri: Khaira

SANGRUR, MAY 7

The Congress candidate for the Sangrur parliamentary constituency, Sukhpal Singh Khaira, today asked Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann what he had done for the people of the Dhuri Assembly segment in the last two years.

In her petition against the Union of India, the mother of an accused had moved the Bombay High Court demanding CBI probe into his death, following which a petition filed before the Punjab and Haryana High Court was today disposed of as withdrawn.

Khaira, who addressed the masses at Benra and Ladda villages in Dhuri, said CM Mann had been stating that the Congress had done nothing during its tenure, could the CM tell what he had done for Dhuri in two years.

He said despite having four ministers from Sangrur, including the CM, the only sugar mill of Dhuri was lying non-operational.

Even the demand of the people, construction of a railway bridge in Dhuri, had not been fulfilled so far, the Congress nominee pointed out.

Mann further said if the Pakistan border was opened, farmers, labourers, small traders and transporters would get financial benefits to a great extent. He also said there were many commodities like wheat, which were in great demand in Pakistan. — OC

Khaira said former Congress MLA Dalvir Singh Goldy had committed "political suicide" by joining AAP. He said induction of Goldy into AAP proved that his opponent Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer would taste defeat with a big margin. — OC

SAD (A) for trade ties with Pak

SANGRUR, MAY 7

To make Punjab prosperous, opening of the Pakistan border is a must as the financial conditions of farmers, labourers and small traders are not good.

This was stated by Simranjit Singh Mann, Sangrur MP and candidate of Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) for the constituency, while campaigning at Ballian village, about seven kilometers from

here, today. He also appealed to the villagers to vote in favour of SAD (Amritsar).

Mann further said if the Pakistan border was opened, farmers, labourers, small traders and transporters would get financial benefits to a great extent. He also said there were many commodities like wheat, which were in great demand in Pakistan. — OC

just a few hundred tonnes, the shortage of labour and trucks has adversely hit the lifting operations," he said.

Data available with The Tribune shows that the daily arrivals of wheat have slowed down to 1.80 LMT. The highest arrivals are being reported in Amritsar, Muktsar, Bathinda, Gurdaspur and Mansa. In 16 districts, the daily arrivals are less than 10,000 MT.

Private traders have purchased 6.79 LMT wheat, which is 5.5 per cent of the total arrivals. So far, 123.26 LMT wheat has been procured.

"It is for the first time that spring maize was sown in

Hit by floods last year, farmers now go in for spring maize

AAKANKSHA N BHARDWAJ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JALANDHAR, MAY 7

"Jado insan mar reha hove to hath pair maarda hai, as i ohi kitta (When someone is dying, he tries to save himself by any means, this is what we did). Now time will tell whether we will earn anything after a year or not," says Lakhbir Singh from Gatta Mundi Kasu village in Lohian, who has sown spring maize for the first time. First, he lost paddy crop when floods had hit the area, then he could not sow wheat.

This is the fate of some farmers living in the low-lying areas like Dhakka Basti and Gatta Mundi Kasu of Lohian where flood waters had caused havoc last year. Strangely, wheat was not sown on around 100 acres.

These farmers could not even prepare their fields for wheat because of accumulation of sand and silt but it was only two months back when cultivation seemed feasible. So, the farmers sowed spring maize that too with the help of the Khalsa Aid, who provided free seeds to the farmers.

Farmer Lakhbir Singh used to grow wheat on seven acres land, out of which three acres are on contract. "We have been suffering badly since last year," he added.



A farmer looks at his maize crop in Sultanpur Lodhi. MALKIAT SINGH

SOME FIELDS STILL NOT READY

The flood-hit farmers could not prepare their fields for wheat because of accumulation of sand and silt but it was only two months back when cultivation seemed feasible. So, they sowed spring maize.

"We cultivated this crop for the first time in February when our lands seemed 'ready'. Kitta majboori vich hai, pata nai ki milega saanu" another farmer Daler Singh from Dhakka Basti said.

Farmer Partap Singh also said he could sow spring maize on only two out of six acres of his fields while remaining area is still not fit where anything can be sown.

"Four acres of my agriculture land are still bearing the brunt of floods," he shared.

Poll code hits green manuring operations

RUCHIKI M KHANNA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MAY 7

A delay in approval from the Election Commission (EC) to provide subsidised "Jantar" (dhaincha) seeds, which restore soil health, to farmers has hit green manuring operations in the state.

While "Jantar" seeds are selling for Rs 50 to Rs 60 per kg in the open market, the subsidised seeds would just cost Rs 30 per kg.

Jaswant Singh, Director, Agriculture Department, said due to the model code of conduct, all subsidies had to be approved by the EC. "We have written to the EC. The department has sought approval to supply subsidised 'Jantar' seeds to farmers," he said.

"Jantar" is planted immediately after harvesting wheat and is ploughed back into the soil before paddy transplantation.

Kulwinder Singh of Sangrur village, Sangrur, said, "Around 15 to 20 kg seeds are required for one acre of land. As farm incomes are shrinking and environmental sustainability is the need of the hour, a better plan to distribute subsidised seeds by the Agriculture Department would have been appreciated. By the time the approval comes, it will be too late."

A District Agriculture Officer on condition of anonymity said, "This year, distribution of seeds got delayed due to lack of approval from the EC. In the last two years, only five to six quintal of subsidised seeds were distributed in each block."

"After substandard seeds were provided to farmers in some pockets a few years ago, which didn't germinate, sourcing high quality seeds has also been a challenge for the government," he said.

HC denies pre-arrest bail to accused, says illicit liquor a serious menace

SAURABH MALIK
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MAY 7

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has declared the illegal distillation and distribution of illicit liquor in Punjab a "serious problem," especially in light of recent deaths attributed to its consumption. The Bench also made it clear that the confiscation of a "huge quantity" of illicit liquor was a substantial ground for denying anticipatory bail to the accused in such cases.

On the instance of persons belonging to the ruling party who were misusing their power.

The state's stand in the matter, on the other hand, was that the case was registered on the basis of secret information before the raid was carried out and illicit liquor recovered. Appearing before Justice Moudgil's Bench, the state counsel submitted that the accused did not deserve the concession of pre-arrest bail as he was involved in three other

cases also.

One of these was under the Excise Act, indicating that the accused was "not a person of clean antecedents". He added the petitioner's custodial interrogation was required to unearth the trade's dimensions and the recovery of distillation equipment and other material.

Taking a note of the submissions, Justice Moudgil asserted the allegation against the petitioner was serious in nature. A huge quantity of illicit liquor had been recovered from the spot. The normal procedure prescribed for curtailing the right to life and liberty in case of criminal investigation was that the investigating officer could arrest the accused even without warrant. The court had extraordinary power to protect an innocent person. But the power was to be exercised by the courts with due circumspection.

Dismissing the plea, Justice Moudgil added: "The menace of distilling of illicit liquor is a serious problem in Punjab, especially in view of the recent deaths taking place due to its consumption. The mere fact that the petitioner was not apprehended from the spot would not vest a right in him for the grant of anticipatory bail. Confiscation of a 'huge quantity' of illicit liquor is certainly a relevant ground for denial of anticipatory bail to an accused".

Live firing by armed helicopters as requisitioned by the mechanised forces during offensive manoeuvres was also carried out. The focus was to practice centralised and decentralised attack helicopter missions

Apache, Dhruv, choppers, UAVs and special forces take part in it

duly supported by other force multipliers in a dense air defence environment and engagement of planned and impromptu targets in battlefield.

The exercise, incorporating Apache and Dhruv - WSI helicopters, unmanned aerial vehicles and special forces of the Army, was aimed at validating and exercising various force multipliers in support of ground offensives by the strike corps.

Live firing by armed helicopters as requisitioned by the mechanised forces during offensive manoeuvres was also carried out. The focus was to practice centralised and decentralised attack helicopter missions

Had warned BJP of growing discontent: Ind MLAs

Bhupinder Singh Hooda seeks President's rule in state, says Saini government in minority now

Tribune News Service

ROHTAK, MAY 7
In a major political development, three Independent MLAs — Sombir Sangwan (Charkhi Dadri), Randhir Gollen (Pundri) and Dharampal Gonder (Nilokheri) — today withdrew their support from the BJP government and lent support to the Congress.

They announced this at a news conference here in the presence of Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Hooda, state Congress chief Uday Bhan and



LETTERS SENT TO GOVERNOR

The three legislators who have withdrawn support to the Saini government have sent letters to the Governor.

ment. "We tried to warn the BJP on various occasions while we were supporting the

government, but it did not reflect," they said.

Hooda expressed his grati-

tude to the MLAs for their support. "Their right decision, taken at the right time, will definitely bear fruit. Congress's victory is certain," he claimed.

Demanding President's rule in the state, he said the BJP government had lost majority after the withdrawal of support from the JJP and Independent MLAs. Therefore, the Assembly elections should be conducted by immediately imposing the President's rule.

"BJP leaders and workers themselves are fed up with

the government. This is the reason why many people are joining the Congress. Till now, over 100 senior leaders, including 40 MLAs, former MLAs, MPs and former MPs have joined the party in the last over a year," he claimed.

Uday Bhan said often people left the opposition to go to the ruling party, but these MLAs had announced their decision to leave the ruling party, and support the opposition. Now, the BJP had no right to remain in power, he added.

CM Saini: Teach lesson to misleading forces

OUR CORRESPONDENT



SIRSA, MAY 7
Chief Minister Nayan Saini today addressed a rally in support of BJP candidate Dr Ashok Tanwar in Gorivala village in Sirsa district. He said efforts should be made to teach a lesson to those who mislead the nation, make false promises, and seek power by lying to the people. He said the day to teach such people a lesson has come on May 25.

Referring to Congress supporters claiming to form a government on their own, he pointed out that in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, Congress contested 464 seats, in 2019 on 421, and now in 2024, they are contesting only 272 seats. He predicted that the result on June 4 would confirm the trend of BJP surpassing the 400-seat mark. He urged the people to ensure a significant victory for Tanwar in the Lok Sabha elections.

He said the Opposition lacks any significant issues to raise, hence they are opposing unreasonably on every matter. He mentioned that when the Prime Minister initiated the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme, Kumar Sejja staged a protest and now she is trying to gain the favour of farmers.

Saini criticised the previous Congress government for mocking farmers by distributing cheques of Rs 2 and Rs 5 in the name of compensation, whereas the BJP government provided substantial compensation of over Rs 500 million.

During the Chief Minister's visit, some farmers wanted to ask him questions but the police detained them and took them to the nearby police station.

BJP, Cong vie for Meo voters' attention

Former CM Khattar, Raj Babbar hold public meetings in Nuh to woo them

SUMEDHA SHARMA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

GURUGRAM, MAY 7

Meo Muslims, the minority community constituting a vote bank of over 6 lakh in the state, have emerged as the centre of attention in the Gurgaon constituency. Concentrated in Nuh district, it is conventionally a Congress stronghold. The BJP which has failed to tap voters there, is trying to break the 'meat jinx', as they call it.

BJP leaders like CM Nayan Saini and former CM Manohar Lal Khattar have been visiting the district, seeking votes for party candidate and incumbent MP Rao Inderjit Singh. Singh, who won with a considerable margin of 4 lakh votes in the 2019 elections, has scored poorly in the three Assembly segments of Nuh.

Following the 2023 riots, there has been a strong anti-BJP sentiment in the district, which might impact the winning margin of the part, if it wins. Thus efforts are being made by the

I have been sensitive to Mewat and strived to make things better. The efforts are evident on the ground. Give me five more years and I will outdo the development of the last 10 years. Rao Inderjit Singh, BJP CANDIDATE

GIVE ME A CHANCE

I seek an opportunity to have a small home here. That is only possible if you give me a chance. The Congress has stood with you, and will always do so. We are thankful for your acceptance and support and want you to give me a chance to serve you. Bless your brother. Raj Babbar, CONGRESS CANDIDATE

party to get the maximum votes here. After Saini, Khattar held a rally in the Ferozpur Jhirka segment today. Khattar and Rao Inderjit, who have always been at loggerheads with each other, shared the stage and urged Meowatis to remember 10 years of development while casting their vote.

"I am a Meowati and will always be. We knew the problems and needs of the district

and within 10 years, took it way ahead than the Congress did in decades. Inderjit is a dedicated leader with a clean image. Support him for your future," said Khattar. "I have been sensitive to Meowat and strived to make things better. The efforts are evident on the ground. Give me five more years and I will outdo the development of the last 10 years," Inderjit claimed. Meanwhile, Raj Babbar also

BJP derailed state's development: Deepender

ROHTAK, MAY 7

Coming down heavily on the BJP, Congress candidate and Rajya Sabha MP Deepender Hooda said the BJP government had derailed the state from the track of development and left the people suffering with poor law and order, contaminated water, dilapidated roads and bad governance," said Deepender during

"Seeing the huge resentment against the state government, the BJP had changed the face of the government just before the Lok Sabha elections in a bid to mislead the public but the change of guard will not work as the people have made up their mind to oust the BJP from power in coming elections," said Deepender during his poll campaign.

He addressed poll meetings in Dakhora, Rohad, Asanda, Baphroda, Kharha, Matan Silothi, Dabodha, Dulhera, Kharman, Chhudani, Rewari Khetia, Chhara, Mehrana, Champanura, Dujana villages of Jhajjar district and appealed the villagers to vote in favour of the Congress. — TNS

Archaeological tourism on anvil

SUMEDHA SHARMA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



The Dehra Jain temple in Ferozpur Jhirka.

The department plans to immediately take up its emergency stabilisation. A detailed revival plan amounting to over Rs 5 crore has been prepared, which will cover precautionary measures to prevent further deterioration. It will include re-laying of decayed and damaged floor of the courtyard and interior floor matching with original stone and with traditional materials, reconsolidation of

damaged masonry and replastering of walls with original ornamental plaster work and traditional lime mortar.

The department shall also undertake repairs and waterproofing of the roof, repair of domes, reconstruction of outer cells and fixing 'garbhgriha' and 'pradikshapanth' fencing. The temple architecture appears to be heavily influenced by the then prevailing Lodhi style of architecture.

Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhawalia and Justice Lapita Banerji also called for details of foreign nationals, who had completed their sentence. The direction came after the Bench took exception to the payment of call and related charges by the prisoners in the two states. It observed the aspect would have to be looked into again as the foreign nationals would not have money with them. "Let better affidavits as to the appre-

hensions expressed by us be filed by the state of Punjab, Haryana and Union Territory, Chandigarh..." it asserted.

Referring to an affidavit by Haryana Inspector-General of Prisons Jagit Singh, the Bench observed the position stated was better than Punjab. An audio and video prison inmate calling system had been installed in 20 jails across the state. An MoU was signed in 2022 with a service provider for five years.

ICICI Bank

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Branch Relocation Notice

On Behalf of ICICI Bank Ltd., Tugalwal Branch

Dear Customers,

We wish to inform you that with effect from July 8, 2024, we are relocating to a more convenient location. The address is as mentioned below:

New address: ICICI Bank Ltd., HB No. 533, Village Tugalwal, Tehsil Kahnuwan, District Gurdaspur, Punjab - 143527.

There would be no change in your account numbers or the security items issued to you. Assuring you of the best services at all times.

Sincerely,

Branch Manager, Tugalwal Branch

REQUIREMENT OF STAFF (ON ADHOC BASIS) FOR ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, AMBALA CANTT

1. Army Public School Ambala Cantt (CBSE affiliated) invites application for selection of energetic, enthusiastic and dedicated teachers on adhoc basis. The details are as under:-

Ser. No.	Vacancies
(a)	PGT (English)
(b)	TGT (English, Science, Social Science, Maths, Hindi and Sanskrit)
(c)	PRT (all subjects)
(d)	PRT (Computer)
(e)	PET (Physical Education Teacher)
(f)	Asst Computer Lab Technician

2. **Qualification:** As per CBSE Bye Laws and AWES Rules and Regulations. Details are available on school website : apsambala.edu.in

3. **Age/Experience:** Fresh candidates below 40 years as on 01 Jun 2024. Experienced candidates below 57 years, should have min 5 yrs teaching exp in the last 10 years in respective categories.

4. The school reserves the right to fill any or none of the posts given above.

5. Decision of the Management on the selection process will be final and binding on the individual.

6. Please apply on format given on school's website apsambala.edu.in alongwith attested copies of certificates and processing fee of Rs 100/- and send to the Principal, Army Public School, 90 Alexandra Road, Ambala Cantt 133001 by post on or before 18 May 2024. Bank draft should be in favour of Army Public School, Ambala Cantt and payable at Ambala.

Incomplete applications with all supporting documents and not as per format will not be considered.

7. Only short listed candidates will be called for interview telephonically, followed by e-mail intimating the date and time of interview.

Principal

Four Chautala kin in fray own assets worth ₹112 crore

DEEPENDER DESWAL

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

HISAR, MAY 7

Four of the Chautala family members — Ranjit Singh, Naina Chautala, Sunaina Chautala (in fray from Hisar) and Abhay Chautala, who is contesting from Kurukshetra,

NAINA CHAUTALA

(JJP candidate from Hisar)

	MOVABLE: ₹16.5 crore IMMOVABLE: ₹30.41 cr TOTAL: ₹46.91 cr LOAN: ₹3.12 cr
--	--

RANJIT SINGH

(BJP candidate from Hisar)

	MOVABLE: ₹73.85 lakh IMMOVABLE: ₹15.25 cr TOTAL: ₹89.15 lakh LOAN: ₹2.06 lakh
--	--

SUNAINA CHAUTALA

(INLD candidate from Hisar)

	MOVABLE: ₹41.15 Lakh IMMOVABLE: ₹3.34 cr TOTAL: ₹3.75 cr LOAN: Nil
--	---

ABHAY CHAUTALA

(INLD candidate from Kurukshetra)

	MOVABLE: ₹32.61 cr IMMOVABLE: ₹12.70 cr TOTAL: ₹45.31 cr LOAN: ₹58.68 lakh
--	---

immovable property in Chautala, Shri Gangotri in Rajasthan and Sirsa.

INLD's Hisar candidate Sumaina Chautala, wife of Ravi Chautala, has a total worth of Rs 3.75 crore, including immovable property of Rs 41.15 lakh.

PUNJAB CRICKET ASSOCIATION

I.S. BINDRA STADIUM, SECTOR-63, SAS NAGAR, MOHALI

SHER-E-PUNJAB T20 CUP

KITS/CLOTHING REQUIREMENT

The Punjab Cricket Association is going to organize the Sher-E-Punjab T20 Cup (Season 2) from 10th June, 2024 to 27th June, 2024. Accordingly, the quotes are invited for supply of kits/clothing requirement for teams and match officials along with samples. The detailed terms and conditions are available on the official website i.e. www.cricketpunjab.in.

Sd/-
(Deputy CEO)

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, CHANDIMANDIR

District - Panchkula (Haryana) - 134107

Phone No - 0172 2554605 (Office)

Website: <a href="http://www.apschand

Sexual abuse case

Vital to ensure that Prajwal Revanna faces the law

THE allegations of sexual harassment against Janata Dal (Secular) MP Prajwal Revanna, grandson of former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, have caused a political storm amid the General Election. The alleged sexual exploitation of many women, captured in around 3,000 video clips that are being circulated on social media, has triggered a verbal duel between the ruling Congress in Karnataka and the BJP which is contesting the Lok Sabha polls in the state in alliance with the JD(S). The state government has formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the case, even as Prajwal's father HD Revanna is under arrest on the charges of molestation and abduction. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asserted that there should be zero tolerance to people like Prajwal, but at the same time, he has accused the Congress government of allowing the MP to leave the country.

The SIT faces the challenge of conducting an independent and impartial investigation despite Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's assurance that his government will not interfere in the probe. It will not be easy to get the victims, identified from the video clips, to come forward to lodge complaints. According to reports, several women who were allegedly subjected to sexual abuse have left their homes in Hassan district — the bastion of the Deve Gowda family — over the past 10 days or so. With their identities revealed, aggrieved women are fleeing apparently due to social stigma and fear. Notably, HD Revanna is accused of abducting a woman in an alleged attempt to prevent her from approaching the SIT.

The state government needs to ensure that the victims muster the courage to give their statements and are not silenced or deterred by threats and coercion. Their protection should be prioritised in the pursuit of justice. The absconding MP, against whom a Blue Corner notice has been issued, must be made to face the law.

Farm fires

Worrying spike in stubble burning in Punjab

WITH 877 incidents of farm fires reported across Punjab since April 1, and 83 per cent of them in just the first six days of May, immediate intervention is necessary to mitigate the adverse environmental and public health impacts of stubble burning in the region. A major cause of this annual problem is the altering agricultural landscape, where the traditional practice of using wheat stubble as cattle feed is waning. Instead, farmers are increasingly turning to summer and spring maize, leaving wheat crop residue as a burdensome byproduct. This shift underscores the need for innovative solutions that align agricultural practices with environmental sustainability. Wheat stubble holds intrinsic value as fodder and soil health enhancer. Encouraging farmers to adopt alternative methods of residue management, such as mulching or composting, can reduce air pollution and enhance soil health as well as agricultural productivity in the long term.

Meanwhile, with regard to paddy straw disposal by burning, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) recently issued directives to Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to implement revised action plans and aim to eliminate the noxious practice this year. Notably, in view of the efficacy of Haryana's strategies for a reduction in stubble burning last year, the CAQM had recommended their implementation in Punjab. Central to Haryana's success was the provision of financial incentives to farmers, along with the deployment of flying squads by the Central Pollution Control Board for on-ground monitoring of enforcement measures.

While such steps are crucial for ensuring cleaner air the whole year round, their effectiveness hinges on robust implementation and support mechanisms at the grassroots level. Giving farmers access to affordable machinery for residue management, coupled with incentives for adopting sustainable practices, can spur compliance and foster a culture of environmental stewardship.

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

LAHORE, THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1924

The Sikhs at Vaikom

THE presence of a few Sikhs at Vaikom (Travancore) and their langar to help the Satyagrahis in their campaign against untouchability have raised doubts as to their intentions. More than one Anglo-Indian journal has made comments suspecting ulterior motives and questioning the connection between the supporters of the gurdwara reforms in the north of India and those engaged in the untouchability struggle in the southern-most part of the country. One affects the Sikh community or a very large section of it, which has differences with another section of the same community worshiping in a common place. The other affects a section of the Hindu community that is in conflict with another section of the same community. Both are regarded primarily as religious struggles, though certain political workers have expressed their sympathy with the reformers and lent their active support to some extent. In the case of both movements, certain critics have questioned the propriety of Congressmen interfering with religious problems and are anxious to isolate the religious from political reformers. A leading newspaper writes: 'With the social grievance of untouchability in the extreme south of India, the Sikhs have no concern, and their presence can mean only one thing: that the Congress has decided to make the Vaikom agitation one more episode in its laborious work of undermining authority in general all over the country. The Sikhs have been taken to Vaikom to give a revolutionary glamour to the movement and stimulate morbid dreams of heroism in the minds of excitable youths.'

OPINION

India gearing up for a leap in auto exports

Much will depend on the ability of the automobile industry to leverage its advantages



SUSHMA RAMACHANDRAN
SENIOR FINANCIAL JOURNALIST

ELECTRONIC goods, led by mobile phones, became a surprise leader in India's exports last year. The automobile industry is now looking to spring a similar surprise by becoming a rising star in the export basket. It is gearing up to become a global hub of supply to the world. It may not be as dramatic a rise as in the case of mobile phones, but it seems that auto majors are finally viewing India as a viable base for exports. Till recently, investments in projects in this sector have been made largely with a view to tapping the enormous domestic market. This despite strenuous efforts made over the years to spur multinationals to make this country a base for supplying components and finished automobiles to the world.

As per recent reports, leading Japanese manufacturers like Honda, Toyota and Suzuki are keen to supply India-made cars to even their home market. Such a unique development is akin to Indian subsidiaries of Swiss companies sending watches to Switzerland. The move speaks volumes about the improved quality and competitiveness of Indian passenger cars as the standards for imports are reputed to be extremely high in Japan.

Some car models are now being made exclusively here and exported both to Japan and Southeast Asia. These are the same manufacturers who were wary of investing in this country in the 1980s, when Suzuki took the plunge and set up a joint venture with the Indian government. Osamu Suzuki was considered a maverick of the Japanese auto



BIG CONTRIBUTOR: Automobiles account for over 45 per cent of India's manufacturing GDP. REUTERS

ecosystem for having taken this decision in a risky, untried market. Honda and Toyota as well as US and European manufacturers made investments over a decade later. It took them many years to overcome reservations about dealing with bureaucratized complexities and intricate regulations in India.

South Korean manufacturers like Hyundai were quick off the blocks and entered the Indian market in 1996. This is probably why their marketing and distribution systems are able to match those of Suzuki. Both joint venture Maruti Suzuki and Hyundai have been the market leaders for many years now. As far as car exports are concerned, they remain the bigger players as well. Yet, the total passenger car export volumes are still not enough to bring India on the list of the top 10 global exporters.

Even now, it will be a Herculean task for car exports to reach the level of top suppliers like China and Germany. In fact, the entire automobile sector, including commercial vehicles, two-wheelers and three-wheelers, recorded a dip in exports during 2023. The only segment showing an upswing was passenger cars, which rose

apparently hit purchasing abilities in these countries, leading to a dip in exports.

Passenger cars, on the other hand, are being shipped to a variety of countries/regions, including Mexico, West Asia and North Africa. South Africa is also emerging as a market, especially for electric vehicles (EVs), while Maruti Suzuki is reported to be sending cars as far away as South America.

What has now given greater heft to the prospect of a leap in car exports is the fact that Indian emission and quality norms are broadly up to international standards. This ensures that cars being produced here can meet the exacting standards of developed economies like Japan. For instance, Toyota is currently exporting e-drives, a critical component in cars with advanced hybrid technology. As much as 70 per cent of the production is reportedly being set aside for exports. Similarly, Maruti Suzuki is planning to send its first lot of EVs to Japan and Europe.

It is in this backdrop that one must recall the efforts of the automobile industry to dilute international safety norms for vehicles made in this country. For instance, airbags, which have been the norm in developed

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

A manufacturer is not through with his customer when a sale is completed. He has then only started with his customer. —Henry Ford

A mix-up at the airport

SONIK BHATIA

WAITING for your luggage at the airport carousel is somewhat like standing at the gates of your kid's school when the classes are over. You strain your eyes and expect your luggage — or kid — to come into view anytime. However, there are occasions when the wait is agonisingly long. In such cases, it is natural to be gripped by anxiety as you wonder whether something has gone wrong.

One such incident happened when I landed in Frankfurt, Germany, for a conference. Since this was my first-ever flight, the entire experience was new for me — right from security checks to getting the boarding pass and ultimately settling in my seat. Eventually, I arrived at the baggage carousel and peered at the slow-moving conveyor belt. One suitcase after another kept popping up and I could not afford to take my eyes off the belt, lest I should miss my luggage. Most of the other passengers, who had experience on their side, spotted their suitcases and quickly lifted them off the carousel. There were butterflies in my stomach. I was not sure whether I could carry out this 'operation' with such effortless ease when my turn came.

At long last, I saw a suitcase which looked like mine, but its colour was slightly different. That was the only one left when the belt stopped moving. I had a sinking feeling — my luggage had most probably been misplaced or lost. I went to the help desk and told the staff members about my problem. They accompanied me to the carousel and picked up that suitcase. They found that it belonged to one Stephanie Brown, a British citizen who had also started her journey from New Delhi. It was now obvious to me and the staff that Ms Brown had taken away my luggage by mistake.

The task at hand was to find the woman. I hoped that she would notice the mix-up in time and come back soon to collect her own item. After an hour or so, a staff member came running and told me that the woman had arrived at the counter with my suitcase. Having faced inconvenience due to her fault, I was ready to confront her for being so careless. However, when I met her after completing the formalities, my anger subsided. I was disarmed by her charm and humility. She apologised profusely for the confusion and said she realised her mistake only when she was about to board a taxi. 'Since your suitcase is of the same brand and also has the same soccer sticker, I thought it was mine. It was only out in the sunlight that I detected the difference,' she clarified. I reciprocated with a smile and asked: 'Is soccer your favourite sport too?' She replied in the affirmative. I said in a lighter vein that had the suitcase belonged to a man instead of a woman, I would have preferred to retain it and try out the clothes inside. At these words, we laughed heartily and parted ways — of course, with our respective luggage.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

India, China should hold talks

Refer to the editorial 'LAC standoff': China's policy of expansionism and aggressive conduct in the region has hurt its relations with almost all its neighbours, except for Russia and North Korea. Even the people of Pakistan are not happy with the actions of the Dragon. In his recent visit to China, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken failed to stabilise the bilateral ties. He made it clear that Beijing's aggressive behaviour would not be tolerated. Though India has held several talks with the Chinese, tensions remain high along the LAC. Leaders of both countries should proactively engage in dialogue to amicably resolve the prolonged standoff. Once the border dispute ends, the two nations will progress faster and prosper in a healthy, mutually beneficial economic environment.

SUBHASH VAID, NEW DELHI

Don't allow miscarriage of justice

Apropos of the editorial 'Criminal trials'; the SC has flagged a very valid concern with regard to the integrity of the judicial process. The public does not see the criminal justice delivery system as fair or transparent. It is disconcerting that a lot of times, there is no proper cross-examination of the witnesses who turn hostile. This miscarriage of justice must not be allowed. The role of a public prosecutor in the criminal justice system is indispensable. The criteria for the appointment of public prosecutors must be stringent. And they must have an impeccable record. Further, the court has rightly underscored the significance of an effective cross-examination of hostile witnesses to extract the truth and uncover the inconsistencies in witness testimony.

ROSHAN LAL GOEL, LADWA

Clouds of uncertainty over Gaza

Refer to the news report 'Hamas accepts truce offer after Israel evacuates Rafah'; the current state of uncertainty surrounding the Gaza ceasefire is a reflection of the suffering of the innocent civilians stuck there. As Hamas tentatively agrees to a ceasefire proposal, Israel's refusal to accept the terms prolongs the agony of countless

Palestinians, including women and children. The relentless strikes on Rafah, coupled with the displacement of over a million Palestinians, paint a grim picture of human tragedy unfolding before our eyes. While diplomatic efforts push for peace, the harsh reality on the ground speaks of shattered homes, lost lives and an uncertain future. As the world watches, it is imperative to demand swift action to end this cycle of violence.

GURDEV SINGH, BY MAIL

Campus cheerleaders for Hamas

Apropos of the article 'An overreaction to student protests'; the author has failed to understand that the purpose of higher education is education, not activism. The writer has wrongly claimed that public opinion is manipulated by the Jewish lobby in the US. At Yale, a female Jewish student was recently stabbed in the eye with a Palestinian flagpole during an anti-Israel protest. The pro-Palestine students have been chanting, 'From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free', which effectively means the eradication of the Jewish state and the expulsion or killing of its inhabitants. The protesters have become cheerleaders for the Hamas, a terror group whose operatives raped, tortured, killed and mutilated several Israeli civilians on October 7. Further, the writer's observation that the scale of destruction unleashed on Gaza has been disproportionate is flawed. Any response to a terrorist attack must be crippling.

AJAY TYAGI, MUMBAI

Canadian Khalistanis at it again

With reference to the report 'Canada again floats target Indian leadership at pro-Khalistan rally'; it is concerning that PM Justin Trudeau is allowing extremism, separatism and violence to flourish on Canadian soil. Khalistani extremists have been raising separatist slogans and delivering inflammatory speeches at rallies. Pro-Khalistan protesters often also target PM Narendra Modi and other Indian leaders. They keep pushing for greater participation in a referendum on the matter. They must understand that Khalistan can be created only in a country whose citizens want it.

UPENDRA SHARMA, BY MAIL

Students lead struggle for reinvention of democracy



SHELLEY WALIA
EX-PROFESSOR, DEPT OF ENGLISH
AND CULTURAL STUDIES, PU

THE police crackdown on university students has again roiled the US. The student protests of 1969 were against the Vietnam War, and this time, they are against the American backing of the Israeli war machinery targeting Palestinians.

Sadly, international agencies for peace and the defence of human rights remain moribund while a serious humanitarian crisis unfolds in Gaza, with more than 14,000 children killed. It is student activism that has drawn attention to the brutality of the war.

They have been closely watching the massacre in Gaza and feel deeply frustrated that their country and their university are complicit in the ongoing genocide.

While the presidents of various colleges and universities support the police force for the maintenance of order and discipline, their moral bankruptcy is apparent from their deafening silence at the destruction of schools and universities across Palestine. Their role in bringing the police to the campus and



UP IN ARMS: Dissent and opposition to injustice underpin the student protests. REUTERS

question of law and order are lame excuses used to justify the crackdown on students. The dogmatic strain found in the reasoning resonates with the dominance of the Jewish lobby in the US that ignores the call for the end of the Israeli onslaught on the people of Palestine.

It is a fact of history that when governments fail to safeguard the democratic rights of citizens, it is often the students who become vigilant about the state's inadequacies or transgressions. As we have seen in the last few days, the attempt to scuttle dissidence and freedom of thought has grown in its ferocity across universities in the US. Nationwide alarm at the use of police force against demonstrators calling

stubborn thinking and institutionalised hegemonies amounts to the abrogation of social and moral obligations to the principles of a meaningful conversation.

Student activism in the US, as seen since the days of protests against the Vietnam War, apartheid in South Africa or the Iraq War, becomes vital for resistance to political structures that take a stand against the freedom of expression and refuse to recognise basic human rights. The killing of innocent children and women in Gaza underscores the fragility of the notion of justice and respect for human life. Such a regressive milieu deepens the sense of estrangement and distrust between the students and the state with its deceitful politics, its civil aggression, the rampant academic repression or the pervasive acts of war. The student agitations compel us to revisit centres of higher learning where diverse interests and opinions underwrite a robust critical conversation.

Let it be clear that institutions of higher education cannot be turned into programming centres where critical thinking and revolutionary pedagogies are scoffed at.

We stand at a moment of crisis in world history when the free citizens of the world are livid at the return of McCarthyism, which uses the 'malaise' of communism to smudge critical education, university autonomy and public intervention in the policy decisions of a power-hungry state. Persecution and muzzling of the human spirit through the advocacy of irrevocably established

The stand taken by the heads of American universities has been demoralising.

manufacturing of fear. The voices of the students have begun to resound and reinforce each other in unison in the emancipatory struggle for the reinvention of democracy and its beleaguered educational institutions. The motivation is to oppose the tyranny of the state and spread the message that education must not be painted as a site of radical ideology out to overthrow social norms, community and national unity. The public must believe in the fact that, though demonstrations and strikes have always been put down, they nevertheless advance the cause of progressive movements. It is the power of the people to act and stand up before the state apparatus.

Understandably, interrogating power is fundamentally unsettling. Administrators across American campuses must understand that if there is a breakdown of communication between them and the students, the blame lies with the establishment's inadequacy in engaging in a discussion across the table on the relevant issues. Bureaucratic high-handedness or intimidation tactics of thought-policing higher education will never work. The stand taken by the heads of American universities has been demoralising, especially because of the botch-up by the establishment to integrate 'student idealism' as well as activism into university policies.

Need to restructure entrance exam for civil services



Lt GEN NPS HIRA (RETD)
FORMER CHAIRMAN, PUNJAB
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

THE results of the annual civil services examinations, conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), were declared recently. For the past few years, the exam methodology, its efficacy to select the best, and the brutal competition among the aspirants have become subjects of debate. The civil services need the best human resources. The UPSC has a system in place to select the best candidates. However, are they really the most suitable? A closer examination of the system reveals that the present system has led to some unintended consequences, especially for those candidates who do not make it.

Many parents in India are keen to see their children enter the civil services. The selection process is extremely tough. This year, only one applicant out of almost 1,300 made the cut. Since some candidates who apply do not appear in the exams, the actual success rate is roughly one



HERCULEAN TASK: Many parents are keen to see their children enter the civil services, which have an extremely tough selection process. iSTOCK

out of 700-800. Despite the heavy odds, aspirants continue to appear in the exams year after year. Unfortunately, a significant number of them end up frustrated.

An important question is: Are we selecting the best? A candidate in the general category is allowed six attempts, backward castes candidates can make nine attempts and for Scheduled Castes, there is no limit on the number of attempts, though there is the age limit of 37 years. It is almost a thumb rule of any competitive examination that if a candidate is allowed to make repeated attempts, his or her performance in the written exam keeps improving with every attempt. The interview is a more complex affair. The performance in the interview normally does not improve as much with successive attempts because it demands greater originality of ideas and expression from the candidate. The weightage for the written test is about 87 per cent. The interview weightage is only around 13 per cent. Those clearing the examination in the fourth to sixth attempts generally make it as they are able to score high in the written test. The British, who started this examination in India, allowed only two attempts. It was a decision based on logic. When we allow more than two attempts, the candidates

keep improving their written exam performance every year for the simple reason that they have been reading the study material under the same syllabus, with only a little variation in current affairs. So, in the end, we may select a very hard-working and perseverant civil servant, but he may not be the brightest or an original thinker. The high number of attempts allowed are partly due to political reasons and partly due to lobbying by the coaching industry, whose turnover runs into thousands of crores of rupees.

The examination has three stages: preliminary, mains and interview. A candidate in the general category who takes six chances does it over a period of

A large number of exam attempts are only benefiting the coaching industry, wasting the resources of the UPSC and also taking a heavy toll on the candidates.

almost eight to 10 years. In the reserved category, it may go up to 15 years. On the face of it, the odds may appear to be something like 800 to 1, but in reality, it is the same candidates appearing again and again. So, for a persistent candidate, the real odds of making it are around one out of 200 candidates. For the top three services (IAS, IPS and IFS), it is about one out of 400-500. On the whole, the rejection rate is still unacceptably high at around 99.5 per cent. Unfortunately, it is not the candidate but the system which we have designed for him that is responsible for getting him sucked into it. The moot point is should the candidates be allowed to

continue appearing for three to five years? The hapless parents, too, realise this only after they have wasted a lot of their hard-earned money on coaching.

Allowing so many attempts, be it in the general or reserved categories, really does not help. Ultimately, the number of candidates getting selected, whatever may be the category, remains the same. A candidate may be very bright, but it is extremely difficult for him to compete in his first attempt with another candidate who has been preparing for up to 8-10 years. So, we are being unfair to the bright and also to the not-so-bright. It stands to reason that the number of attempts be reduced to two or maximum three. The reserved category may be allowed one more attempt.

If the number of attempts are reduced, about 80 per cent of the candidates selected will be the same. About 20 per cent may change and that change would be for the better, both for the system and the candidates. A large number of attempts is only benefiting the coaching industry, wasting the resources of the UPSC and also taking a heavy toll on the candidates. Most of them end up missing other bright career opportunities.

Another issue is whether

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Free of charge (6)
- 4 Rough drawing (6)
- 9 Salt lake in Jordan valley (4,3)
- 10 Haggard (5)
- 11 Chock (5)
- 12 Set of documents on subject (7)
- 13 Forefront of progress (7,4)
- 18 Unbeliever (7)
- 20 Bird's resting-place (5)
- 22 Disapproving expression (5)
- 23 In relation to (3-1-3)
- 24 For choice (6)
- 25 Very handsome young man (6)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Stoical, 5 Bland, 8 Trail one's coat, 9 Other, 10 Concern, 11 Shekel, 12 Apiece, 15 Optical, 17 Terse, 19 Spitting image, 20 Rigid, 21 Hatchet!

Down: 1 Set to, 2 On a shoestring, 3 Calorie, 4 Lunacy, 5 Basin, 6 Above reproach, 7 Detente, 11 Sponsor, 13 Patriot, 14 Clinch, 16 Cited, 18 Exert.

SU DO KU

DOWN

- 1 To sink (2,4)
- 2 Judicial decision (5)
- 3 Examine closely (7)
- 5 Acclaim (5)
- 6 Furious (7)
- 7 Needing food (6)
- 8 In close cooperation (4,2,5)
- 14 Payable in advance (2-5)
- 15 Open to the elements (7)
- 16 Be unlike (6)
- 17 Long scholarly dissertation (6)
- 19 Thickheaded (5)
- 21 Split (5)

V. HARD

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

	MAX	MIN
Chandigarh	39	25
New Delhi	41	24
Amritsar	41	23
Bathinda	41	22
Jalandhar	40	22
Ludhiana	41	24
Bhiwani	41	27
Hisar	42	23
Sirsra	44	25
Dharamsala	33	20
Manali	25	08
Shimla	27	16
Srinagar	27	11
Jammu	38	22
Kargil	23	10
Leh	20	05
Dehradun	37	20
Mussoorie	26	15

FORECAST

SUNSET:	WEDNESDAY	19:04 HRS
CITY	MAX	MIN
Chandigarh	39	25
New Delhi	41	24
Amritsar	41	23
Bathinda	41	22
Jalandhar	40	22
Ludhiana	41	24
Bhiwani	41	27
Hisar	42	23
Sirsra	44	25
Dharamsala	33	20
Manali	25	08
Shimla	27	16
Srinagar	27	11
Jammu	38	22
Kargil	23	10
Leh	20	05
Dehradun	37	20
Mussoorie	26	15

CALENDAR

MAY 8TH 2024, WEDNESDAY

■ Shaka Samvat	1946
■ Vaishakh Shaka	18
■ Vaishakh Parvati	26
■ Hijari	1445
■ Krishna Paksha Tithi 15, up to 8:52 am	
■ Saubhagy Yoga up to 5:41 pm	
■ Bharni Nakshatra up to 1:34 pm	
■ Moon enters Taurus sign 7:07 pm	
■ Vaishakh Amavas	

TEMPERATURE IN °C

Prez to leave for Delhi today

Offers prayers at Tara Devi Temple, partakes of langar

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE



President Droupadi Murmu on way to pay obeisance at the Sankat Mochan Temple in Shimla on Tuesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Mall and from there headed towards the Gaiety Theatre to witness a cultural programme. She later left for the Raj Bhawan for a dinner hosted by the Governor and afterwards returned to the President's Retreat for the night stay.

In view of her visit, the dis-

trict administration and the district police had made elaborate security arrangements. Barricades were put up on The Mall and The Ridge and traffic movement in many areas of the city, including roads leading to The Mall and The Ridge, was restricted.

Later, she arrived on The

NORTHERN RAILWAY



E-TENDERING

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

S. N.	Name of Work	Approx. Cost (Rs.)	Bid Security (Rs.)	Period of Completion	Date of Closing & Opening
1	Open shed in new car parking behind Sculpture Park for 40 nos. cars and 18 nos. in old car parking near COE welding inside Jagadhari workshop in the section of SSE/W/JUDW under ADEN/JUDW.	55,45,882	1,10,900	06 Months	31.05.2024
2	Welding of Rail with Mobile Flash butt welding Plant in cw TRR (S) of 25.996 & CTR(S) of 24.585Tkm in the section of Sr DEN-II/UMB and conversion of loop line from SWR to LWR with MFBWP in the section of Sr DEN-II & III.	2,77,59,818	2,88,800	12 Months	31.05.2024
3	Annual repair, white washing, C/washing and painting to Service building Inside Workshop at JUDW AND KLK Under Zone "A" & "B" in the section of SSE/W/JUDW for the period ending 30.06.2025 Under ADEN/JUDW.	2,63,74,083	2,81,900	12 Months	31.05.2024
4	Misc. work in C/W with deep screening of track with BCM in the section of ADEN/SRE under Sr. DEN-III/UMB.	98,79,595	1,97,600	08 Months	31.05.2024
5	TTR(TRS) - 18 sets (1:12 - 8 sets & 1:8.5 - 10sets) on SRE-UMB Section under ADEN/SRE.	41,57,753	83,200	08 Months	31.05.2024
6	Reconditioning of Tongue rails, CMS Xings, built-up crossings and SEJs over Ambala Division under DEN/T/UMB.	45,41,265	90,800	12 Months	31.05.2024

1. Tenderers are required to upload scanned copies of all related eligibility documents including PAN / TIN / GST as per conditions. 2. The required Bid Security will be acceptable On-line payment through Net Banking / or Payment Gateway payment only. 3. Tenderers should have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate to participate in e-Tendering of works tenders. 4. For detail, please log on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in 5. GST will be levied as per GST Act, 2017

OPEN TENDER NOTICE No. NIT-05/UMB-2024-25 DATED 07.05.2024

1387/24

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-AUCTION NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/Chg. Northern Railway, Ambala Cantt, for and on behalf of the president of India, invites bid through E-auction on IREPS website. Earnest money shall be 5% of the bid amount and minimum increase in bid amount shall be 0.2%. Details of the invited bid through E-auction is as under- Auction Catalogue No. : UMB-01-Mix-2024

S N	Lot No & Details	Rate unit	Auction start date & time	Auction close date & time
1	MSS-UMB-PTA-WVM-16-23-2 (Misc-Static Services- 01 Water Vending Machine at Patiala Railway Station)		15.05.2024 at 10:30 hrs	15.05.2024 at 11:00 hrs
2	MSS-UMB-YJUD-WVM-13-23-2 (Misc-Static Services-01Water Vending Machine at Yamuna Nagar Jagadhari Railway Station)		15.05.2024 at 10:30 hrs	15.05.2024 at 11:00 hrs
3	MPS-UMB-KLK-MPS-4-23-1 (MPS-Multi Purpose Stall) Space for operation of MPS of dimensions 3.048'm x 1.8 m at the beginning of PF No. 283 of Kalka Railway Station		15.05.2024 at 10:30 hrs	15.05.2024 at 11:20 hrs
4	MPS-UMB-KEJ-MPS-5-23-1 (MPS-Multi Purpose Stall) Space for operation of MPS of dimensions 10' x 6' in circulating area in front of gate of Kathieghat Railway Station		15.05.2024 at 10:30 hrs	15.05.2024 at 11:30 hrs
5	MPS-UMB-ABS-MPS-3-23-1 (MPS-Multi Purpose Stall) Space for operation of MPS of dimensions 10' x 6' at PF No. 1(In front of Parcel Office) at Abhara Railway Station		15.05.2024 at 10:30 hrs	15.05.2024 at 11:40 hrs

Auction Catalogue No. : UMB-Catg-02-24

S N	Lot No & Details	Rate unit	Auction start date & time	Auction close date & time
6	Catg-UMB-JPS-GMU-34-23-1 (Catering -General Minor Unit (GMU) for General category at PF no. 1 in Jamalpur Shaikhian Railway Station)		20.05.2024 at 10:00 hrs	20.05.2024 at 10:50 hrs
7	Catg-UMB-SHZ-GMU-23-23-1 (Catering -General Minor Unit (GMU) for General category at Summer Hill Railway Station in Circulating area)		20.05.2024 at 10:00 hrs	20.05.2024 at 10:50 hrs
8	Catg-UMB-SML-GMU-24-23-1 (Catering -General Minor Unit (GMU) for Freedom Fighter/War Widow and Widow of Railway employee at PF No. 1 in Shimla Railway Station)		20.05.2024 at 10:00 hrs	20.05.2024 at 10:50 hrs
9	Catg-UMB-JUDW-GMU-35-23-1 (Catering -General Minor Unit (GMU) for General Women stall no.2 at platform no.2 in Jagadhari Workshop Railway Station)		20.05.2024 at 10:00 hrs	20.05.2024 at 11:00 hrs
10	Catg-UMB-SFMU-SMU-32-23-1 (Catering -Special Minor Unit (SMU) for ST (Freedom Fighter/ War Widow and Widow of Railway Employee) Category at PF no. 1 in Sunam Udhampur Railway Station)		20.05.2024 at 10:00 hrs	20.05.2024 at 11:10 hrs
11	Catg-UMB-SOL-SMU-20-23-1 (Catering -Special Minor Unit (SMU) for OBC Category in circulating area in Solan Railway Station)		20.05.2024 at 10:00 hrs	20.05.2024 at 11:20 hrs
12	Catg-UMB-PTA-SMU-59-24-1 (Catering -Special Minor Unit (SMU) for Scheduled Caste category stall no. 12 at PF No. 1 in Patiala Railway Station)		20.05.2024 at 10:00 hrs	20.05.2024 at 11:30 hrs
13	Catg-UMB-KRLI-SMU-38-23-1 (Catering -Special Minor Unit (SMU) for SC(Women) category at PF no.1 in Kurali Railway Station)		20.05.2024 at 10:00 hrs	20.05.2024 at 11:40 hrs
14	Catg-UMB-PUL-SMU-9-23-1 (Catering -Special Minor Unit (SMU) for OBC (Women) Category at PF no.1 in Rampura phul Railway Station)		20.05.2024 at 10:00 hrs	20.05.2024 at 11:50 hrs
15	Catg-UMB-MOT-SMU-13-23-1 (Catering -Special Minor Unit (SMU) for Minority Category at PF no. 2 in Malout Railway Station)		20.05.2024 at 10:00 hrs	20.05.2024 at 12:00 hrs
16	Catg-UMB-BCU-SMU-10-23-1 (Catering -Special Minor Unit (SMU) for ST Category at PF no.1 in Bhuchchu Railway Station)		20.05.2024 at 10:00 hrs	20.05.2024 at 12:10 hrs
17	Catg-UMB-DKT-SMU-14-23-1 (Catering -Special Minor Unit (SMU) for OBC (Women) Category at PF no. 1 in Dhulkot Railway Station)		20.05.2024 at 10:00 hrs	20.05.2024 at 12:20 hrs
18	Catg-UMB-SRE-SMU-55-24-1 (Catering -Special Minor Unit (SMU) for OBC Category Stall no. 2 at PF no. 1 in Saharanpur Railway Station)		20.05.2024 at 10:00 hrs	20.05.2024 at 12:30 hrs
19	Catg-UMB-UMB-SMU-54-24-1 (Catering -Special Minor Unit (SMU) for SC Women Category Stall no. 14 at PF no. 6/7 in Ambala Cantt Railway Station)		20.05.2024 at 10:00 hrs	20.05.2024 at 12:40 hrs
20	Catg-UMB-SOL-SMU-56-24-1 (Catering -Special Minor Unit (SMU) for OBC (Freedom Fighter, war widow, widow of Railway employee) Stall no. 1 at PF No. 1 in Solan Railway Station)		20.05.2024 at 10:00 hrs	20.05.2024 at 12:50 hrs
21	Catg-UMB-GDB-SMU-11-23-1 (Catering -Special Minor Unit (SMU) for Minority (Women) Category at PF no. 2 in Giddarbaha Railway Station)		20.05.2024 at 10:00 hrs	20.05.2024 at 13:00 hrs
22	Catg-UMB-BOF-SMU-61-24-1 (Catering -Special Minor Unit (SMU) for Minority for Catering stall No.2 at PF no. 2 in Barog Railway Station)		20.05.2024 at 10:00 hrs	20.05.2024 at 13:10 hrs

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

1380/24

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

4 candidates file nominations on Day 1

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, MAY 7
The notifications for the four Lok Sabha seats and six Assembly constituencies, where byelections will be held on June 1, were issued today.

The respective Returning Officers issued the notification for the four Lok Sabha seats of Kangra, Hamirpur, Mandi and Shimla (SC) and six Assembly segments of Dhamamsala, Gagret and Kutlehar (Una), Sujanpur and Barsar (Hamirpur) and Lahaul Spiti today as per the schedule announced by Election Commission of India (ECI).

A spokesperson of the Election Department said here today that as per the notification, nominations can be filed from May 7 to May 14 (11 am to 3 pm) at the designated locations and before the designated Returning Officers (RO) and AROs. However, nominations will not be filed on May 11 and 12 being public holidays.

Voting for all four Lok Sabha and six Assembly segments will take place on June 1 from 7 am to 6 pm. Counting of votes will be taken up on June 4.

Meanwhile, four nomination papers were filed on the first day today for the four parliamentary constituencies. No nominations were filed in any of the Assembly constituencies going for byelections.

BSP candidate Anil Kumar (31) from Ghundwin village in Rohnat, Sirmaur, filed nomination for Shimla (SC) seat, Ramesh Chand Sarthi (50) of Gindpur village in Bharwain tehsil in Una filed his nomination as an Independent from



Ramesh Chand Sarthi files nomination papers for Lok Sabha poll from Hamirpur parliamentary constituency on Tuesday.

4 LS CONSTITUENCIES

Kangra, Hamirpur, Shimla (SC), Mandi, (17 Assembly segments each)

KANGRA

TOTAL VOTERS: 14,90,118

MALE: 7,61,346

FEMALE: 7,28,766

POLLING BOOTHS: 1,545

LAST WINNER IN 2019: Kishan Kapoor (BJP)

VICTORY MARGIN: 4,77,623 votes

CANDIDATES

| Anuradha Rana (Cong)

| Ravi Thakur (BJP)

HAMIRPUR

TOTAL VOTERS: 14,38,993

MALE: 730,866

FEMALE: 708,127

POLLING BOOTHS: 1,734

LAST WINNER IN 2019: Anurag Thakur (BJP)

VICTORY MARGIN: 4,05,459 votes

CANDIDATES

| Suresh Kashyap (BJP)

| Vinod Sultanpuri (Cong)

MANDI

TOTAL VOTERS: 13,49,458

MALE: 6,79,091

FEMALE: 6,70,364

POLLING BOOTHS: 2,213

LAST WINNER:

Top TRF commander among 2 ultras killed in Kulgam gunfight

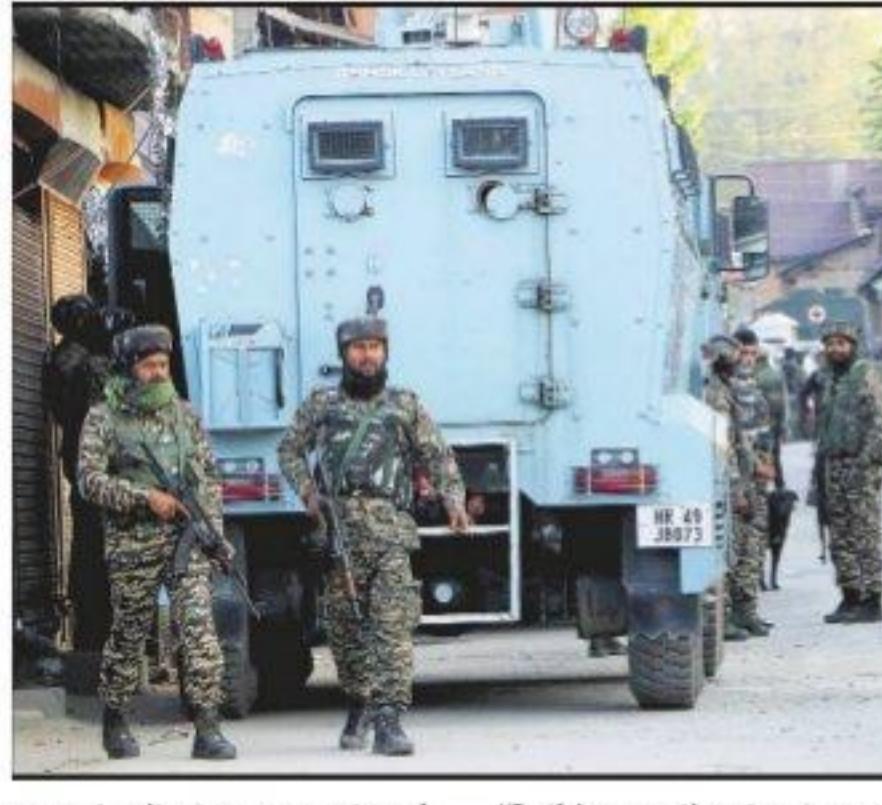
OUR CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR, MAY 7

Most wanted local militant commander Basit Ahmed Dar of the TRF was among two ultras killed in an encounter in south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Tuesday, the police said. The police described it as significant achievement, stating that Dar was involved in killing of police personnel, civilians and minority members.

The police said Dar, a resident of south Kashmir's Kulgam district, was the top commander of "The Resistance Front" (TRF), an organisation which police says is a shadow outfit of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba. In July last year, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) had announced a bounty of Rs 10 lakhs on Dar.

Kashmir IGP VK Birdhi told reporters that following information about the presence of the militants, police and security forces laid a cordon operation. He said during the cordon, the security forces came under fire. "We followed legal due diligence during the operation. We gave them an



INVOLVED IN KILLING OF COPS, CIVILIANS

■ TRF commander Basit Dar was involved in the killing of police personnel and innocent civilians. He was involved in planning and carrying out attacks, including those on minority community members. VK Birdhi, KASHMIR IGP

■ Security personnel stand guard during an encounter between paramilitary forces and militants in Kulgam. ANI

opportunity to come out and surrender. However, they didn't heed to the caution of the police and the security forces. They started firing on security forces," Birdhi said.

The gun battle started on Monday night. The police said due to darkness, the operation was kept on hold till early Tuesday morning. With the first light, the operation was resumed. "The fire intensified in the morning and by noon, the operation had been concluded," he added.

Asked whether he was involved in killing of Kashmiri Pandit chemist ML

Bindroo, the IGP said: "There are details regarding that. I wouldn't like to share them at this moment because it is a matter of investigation."

"We, however, have ample evidence regarding his involvement in killing of civilians, police personnel and minorities," the IGP said. Asked whether militants were trying to destabilise the region in poll season, the IGP said any attempt by "terrorists" would be handled by the police and security forces.

While some dense forest

Bukhari: Will drop Srinagar candidate if NC brings 10% of jailed youths out

**INDIA VOTES
2024**

OUR CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR, MAY 7

If the National Conference MPs could release only 10 per cent of jailed youth, he would withdraw his candidate from the Srinagar constituency, Apni Party chief Altaf Bukhari said here today.

Addressing a rally at Arizal in Budgam, Bukhari said 1,400 youths of Kashmir were in jails and the NC MPs, who continue to be Members of Lok Sabha till June, had done nothing to ensure their release. He added that people should ask them what they had done in the past five years.

ENSURED LAND SECURITY IN J&K

■ I got an order for land security in J&K. Today, 95 per cent of land in the UT is for sale and purchase only by J&K residents. Altaf Bukhari, APNI PARTY CHIEF

Nothing achieved by guns & stones, says Mehbooba

SRINAGAR, MAY 7

Former J&K Chief Minister and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti and her party's Srinagar candidate, Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra, addressed a gathering in Tral today. The PDP chief asked people to vote for the PDP candidate, and said guns and stones had not given anything to the people of Kashmir.

She said elections were



Mehbooba Mufti addresses a gathering in Tral. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Poonch ambush: Search operation intensified, 22 held for questioning

SRINAGAR, MAY 7

Security forces have intensified search operations in the twin-border districts of Poonch and Rajouri in Jammu region to track down the terrorists responsible for attacking an IAF convoy that claimed the life of a corporal rank personnel, an official said on Tuesday.

The agencies have also expanded the scope of operation to various areas of Doda, Udhampur and Kathua districts to track down the two groups of terrorists involved in the killing of a village defence guard (VDG) in the Basangar area on April 28.

The terrorists had targeted an IAF convoy in the Shaistar area of Poonch district, resulting in the killing of an IAF corporal and injuries to four others on Saturday.

Armed with surveillance equipment, including drones and sniffer dogs, the search operation, which entered the fourth day on Tuesday, has been intensified in Shahsitar, Gursai, Sanai, Lasana, and Sheendara top in the Surankote belt and adjoining areas in Poonch district, the official said.

While some dense forest

₹20L BOUNTY ON SUSPECTS

Posters offering a cash reward of ₹20 lakh for any information leading to the arrest of the two individuals, believed to be the prime suspects, have been put up in Surankote.

areas have been scanned and routes towards Kashmir have been plugged, there has been no trace of the terrorists involved in the attacks so far, they added.

Twenty-two people have been detained for questioning and the authorities are reviewing some CCTV footage for leads, he added.

Posters offering a cash reward of ₹20 lakh for any information leading to the arrest of the two individuals, believed to be the prime suspects, have been put up in Surankote.

In Rajouri, security forces have launched a fresh search operation and put troops on alert following reports of suspected movement of two people in Sada and Kandi areas that have been cordoned off.

Security measures have been tightened with increased checking of vehicles on busy roads, especially on the Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch national highway, which is vital for the twin

districts of Rajouri and Poonch, part of the Anantnag constituency going to polls on May 25.

On April 28, a VDG was killed in a brief encounter with terrorists in the remote Panara village in Udhampur district. Security agencies have expanded the scope of the search operation to various areas of Doda, Udhampur, and Kathua districts to track down the terrorists.

The ongoing search operation, which entered its 10th day on Tuesday, has been extended to the Bhalesa areas of Doda district, while operations continue in Basantgarh, Dudu, Bani and Seoj areas of Udhampur and Kathua districts, an official said.

Twenty-two people have been detained for questioning and the authorities are reviewing some CCTV footage for leads, he added.

Posters offering a cash reward of ₹20 lakh for any information leading to the arrest of the two individuals, believed to be the prime suspects, have been put up in Surankote.

Apni Party reaches out to KPs in Budgam

OUR CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR, MAY 7

Apni Party's senior leader and media advisor Farooq Andrabi today visited a Kashmiri Pandit colony at Sheikhpora in Budgam. He sought the support of the community brethren for the party in Lok Sabha elections, a statement by Apni Party said.

"Andrabi was accompanied by party leader MK Yogi and other senior colleagues. While meeting the residents at the Sheikhpora migrant colony, Andrabi requested their support and votes for the Apni Party," the statement added.

"The Apni Party, led by Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, has a well-defined agenda for peace, prosperity and development. We are aware of the issues and problems that our Pandit brethren are grappling with. I assure you that this party will not disappoint you. Once we receive the public mandate to serve, we will not leave any stone unturned to ensure that the issues and problems faced by the Pandit brethren are resolved properly," the statement by Apni Party said.

dence in Srinagar. My constituency is within this parliamentary constituency. I have represented the Assembly from Beerwah, which is now in this parliamentary constituency," Omar said, responding to Lone, who has been calling Omar a "tourist" since the announced to contest from north Kashmir's Barumulla constituency.

"You claimed that the Prime Minister is your elder brother. As a younger brother, how did you use this relation? Here, the spree of arrests took place, youths were arrested and sent to jails outside the state. Did you try to stop it? We don't change our stand like the direction of the wind as our opponents do, whose brother at times is the Indian Prime Minister and at times a Pakistani general," Omar said.

"I am called a tourist. I am neither baffled nor angered by it. There is little difference between him and me. He lives in Srinagar, so do I. He comes to fight elections in Handwara. In his affidavit, he has mentioned his home resi-

'Today PM Modi's brother, yesterday Pak general's': Omar hits out at Lone

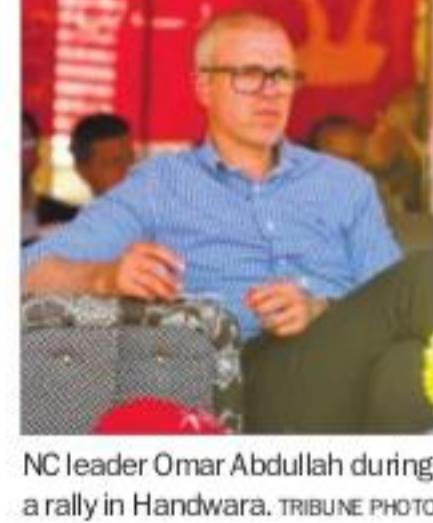
NASEER GANAI

SRINAGAR, MAY 7

Former J&K Chief Minister and NC vice-president Omar Abdullah today accused Peoples Conference leader Sajad Lone of being thick with the BJP for a long time.

Addressing people in Handwara, Omar targeted Lone throughout his 20-minute speech, accusing him of changing colours with changing times and declaring the Prime Minister of India his brother today and a Pakistani general before that. Both Lone and Omar are contesting from North Kashmir.

"As a voter, you have a responsibility to scrutinise the candidates contesting elections. You have to examine their track record and when you enter the polling



NC leader Omar Abdullah during a rally in Handwara. TRIBUNE PHOTO

booth, you should first consider who will represent you better," Omar said.

"I am called a tourist. I am neither baffled nor angered by it. There is little difference between him and me. He lives in Srinagar, so do I. He comes to fight elections in Handwara. In his affidavit, he has mentioned his home resi-

Jharkhand minister's aide among two...

However, Alam has distanced himself from the incident.

The case is linked to the arrest of Water Resources Department engineer Virendra Ram. The ED had said Ram was arrested on February 23 when he was on deputation as Chief Engineer with the

Rural Works Department and Rural Development Department.

The agency claimed that Ram allegedly used to collect commissions in allocation of tender and execution of works and a fixed share of 1.5 per cent was distributed among his seniors and politicians.

Addressing an election rally in Andhra Pradesh on Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi while referring to the ED seizure, had sought to know why those from whom huge mountains of cash were recovered, were close to the Congress' first family.

3 Ind MLAs withdraw...

since any switcheroo could invite action under the provisions of the anti-defection law.

With two seats vacant in the 90-member House following the resignations of former Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and former Power Minister Ranjit Singh Chautala (they are both contesting the Lok Sabha elections from Karnal and Hisar, respectively), the strength of the House has been reduced to 88. This means that the BJP effectively needs 45 seats to be in majority. However, in the present numbers game, it is short of the majority mark by two MLAs.

Though the BJP does not have the numbers anymore, the government is still in a "safe zone" since the Opposition cannot bring a no-confidence motion against the government till mid-September.

Under the rules, a no-confidence motion cannot be brought against the government before six months of the previous one. The Saini government had on March 14 brought a confidence motion which it had won with the support of six of the seven Independent MLAs and the lone HLP MLA.

With the BJP in minority in Haryana, the Congress is likely to build up the rhetoric around the ruling party's dwindling numbers right through the campaign during the Lok Sabha poll to use it to its advantage. With the last date of nominations over, electioneering is all set to gather steam and the Congress will try and build its campaign around this development.

Fusion Centre there. "They held deliberations on current maritime security landscape in the region and ways to mitigate emergent threats," the Navy posted on X.

The Navy said the visit was poised to further strengthen the longstanding friendship and cooperation between the two maritime nations through a series of engagements and activities.

During the ships' stay in harbour, various activities planned to be undertaken include interactions with the High Commission of India, professional interactions with the Republic of Singapore Navy as also academia and community outreach amongst other activities.

The Indian Navy and Republic of Singapore Navy have had robust relations spanning three decades of cooperation, coordination and collaboration with regular visits, exchange of best practices, and reciprocal training arrangements.

SC stays order...

64.4% turnout in Ph-3, stray incidents of...

the high court order cancelling the appointments, terming it "arbitrarily". Terming the scam in the appointment by the SSC a "systemic fraud", the top court said the state authorities were duty-bound to maintain digitised records pertaining to the appointment of teachers and non-teaching staff.

"Public jobs are so scarce... Nothing remains if the faith of the public goes. This is a systemic fraud. Public jobs are extremely scarce today and are looked at for social mobility. What remains in the system if their appointments are also maligned? People will lose faith," the CJI told the Bengal Government's counsel.

The state government has nothing to show that relevant data was maintained by the authorities and asked about its availability, the Bench noted.

"Either you have the data or you don't have it. You were duty-bound to maintain the documents in the digitised form," the Bench told the WB Government's lawyers.

MEA lashes out...

"We continue to remain concerned about the security of our diplomatic representatives in Canada and expect the Government of Canada to ensure that they are able to carry out their responsibilities without fear," he said. Jaiswal called on the Canadian Government to stop providing criminal and secessionist elements a safe haven and political space in Canada. —TNS

Resume duty: Punjab to BJP nominee...

In a letter to Parampal Kaur Sidhu, who is the daughter-in-law of SAD leader Sikandar Singh Maluka, the Punjab Department of Personnel, said her three-month notice period for leaving the job had not been waived. The letter said the state government had not passed any order for acceptance of her voluntary retirement from the service. She has further been accused of remitting charge of the post of the MD, PSIDC, on her own in an "unauthorised" manner.

Parampal Kaur has been campaigning in Bathinda for almost a month now. Though Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had claimed on April 11 that her resignation had not been accepted, she had claimed that it had been accepted by the Department

those who exercised their franchise in Gujarat, where elections were held in 25 seats. While PM Modi cast his vote at a polling booth in Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency, Shah voted at a polling booth in Ahmedabad. Shah (Gandhinagar) is among the bigwigs in the fray along with Union ministers Jyoti Madhavrao Scindia (Guna), Mansukh Mandaviya (Porbandar), Parshottam Rupala (Rajkot), Pralhad Joshi (Dharwad) and SP Singh Baghel (Agra).

The stakes are high for the BJP in this round as it had won an overwhelming major-

ity of these seats, including all in Gujarat, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh, in the last election. Both the BJP and the INDIA bloc claimed that they had the upper hand after the third phase.

In Uttar Pradesh, where several members of Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav's family are contesting, party chief Akhilesh Yadav alleged that the BJP workers were trying to "loot booths" in Mainpuri and people from opposition parties were being detained in police stations. Akhilesh cast his vote in Saifai (Etawah) in Mainpuri

back and there is nobody in India to look after your aged mother, and that you immediately need to remain at the house of your parents in Bathinda to look after your aged ailing mother and pursue further plans in life. Vide the letter dated 07.04.2024, you requested the Government of India to accept the application submitted to the Government of Punjab for voluntary retirement from the IAS from 01.04.2024 and seeking exemption from a three-month notice under the Rule 16(2)," reads the letter.

It may be mentioned that the Centre had written to Punjab Government, asking it to accept the VRS of the officer, on April 12. Despite repeated attempts, Parampal Kaur could not be contacted.

Remove K'taka BJP's offensive post, EC asks X

post immediately.

"This is issued with the approval of the competent authority," it said. The video, which allegedly targeted the Muslim community, received a backlash soon after it was posted on May 4. The video reportedly sought to underline the party's allegation of Muslim appeasement by the Congress.

The Karnataka Police had also issued a notice to X, asking it to take down the post targeting Muslims, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The action came after the Congress had filed a complaint with the state chief electoral officer on May 5. —TNS

Kejriwal fails to get immediate...

make it clear, we don't want you to be performing official duties if we release you," Justice Khanra told senior counsel Abhishek Manu Singhvi,

who represented Kejriwal.

"He will not sign any files, with a condition that the L-G may not stop any work on that ground," Singhvi responded.

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Saraswati Group of Colleges, Mau Mandi, Dist. Bathinda (Punjab) requires Assistant Professors- Regular basis (in Biochemistry, Anatomy, Physiology, Optometry, Medical Lab Technology, Radio-Imaging Operation Theatre, Anesthesia, Technology, Computer Science, English, Punjabi, Mathematics, Physical Education, History, Sociology, Political Science, Economics), Laboratory Technicians, Laboratory Assistant, Office Superintendent, Clerk, Data Entry Operator, UGC-NET/ Ph.D. Candidates will be preferred as per UGC/ MRSPTU, Bathinda Rules. Attractive salary with free accommodation for outstation candidates. Contact: 98720-15239, 93564-60660, Email: sipsmaur@gmail.com (Chairman). (CL24012594)

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Mandi Gobindgarh, Punjab 01765-502557, 7087034459

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• Salary - No Bar. Accommodation available for outstation candidates. Qualifications as per CBSE with relevant experience. TEFL/TET cleared, Google/Microsoft Certified teachers are preferred.

Resume with recent passport size photograph to be sent at jobs@gpsgobindgarh.com latest by 15.05.2024. Shortlisted candidates will be called for the interview.

CL24012647

DCM Land of Gods School under DCM Group of Schools (Since 1946) invites applications for school, Teh. Arki, Dist. Solan, just two hours from Chandigarh. Vacancies include GM (Admin), Security Officer, Front Office Executive, Academic Coordinators, Music/ Dance teachers/ Art teachers, TGT (English, Science, Maths, S.S.T., Computer teacher, Robotics teacher, Librarian, PRT (all subjects), NTT, Sports. Salary no bar for deserving applicants. Accommodation available Send CV at apply.dem.logs@dcmschools.com 95920-24929, 88375- 91875. (CL24012532)

DCM Young Entrepreneurs School, Ludhiana invites applications for Academic Coordinator, Mother teacher, Nursery trained teacher, TGT (English, Maths, Science, S.S.T.), PRT (All subjects), French, Spanish, Cambridge Educator, Yoga, Robotics teacher, Librarian, Lab Assistant (Science/Chemistry), Admin Officer, House Keeping Manager, Food & Beverage Manager, Front Office Executive, Security Supervisor, Transport Supervisor, AC Technician, Digital Marketing expert. Email resume at: career01dm@gmail.com 97810-83030. (CL24012543)

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CL24012627

S.D. Charitable Hospital, Sultanpur Lodhi, sdcollgeformen@gmail.com Wanted experienced X-Ray Technician Receptionist, Medical officer, (BAMS, MBBS), BDS, MDS, Nurses/ ANM/ GNH, DM/LT. Visiting Doctor, Skin & Ortho. (President) 9814002609. (CL24012571)

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Banda Babadur College of Education Vire Wala Road, Faridkot, Required Staff for B.Ed. Course Assistant Prof. in Perspective Education (03), Assistant Prof. in Pedagogy Subjects, Social Science (01), Commerce (01), Math (01) Salary and educational qualifications and reservations category under SC/ BC/ ST and others as per UGC/ NCETE/ Panjab University, Patiala and Punjab Govt. Rules. Please apply the online application at collegejobs.jpnjabnuniversity.ac.in in must within 15 days. Chairman 0163-253026. (CL24012607)

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Required Structural/Civil Engineer and Quantity Surveyor, experience at least 5 years+. Smart male/ female workers in business administration + management, well spoken English. Send C.V. E-mail: info@phullemire.com (CL24011857)

Career Defence School (Boarding) Yamunanagar (Haryana)/ Ambala (Haryana/ Patiala (Punjab)) (Exclusive Residential Schools Required Residential Staff only). 1. Principal with boarding school experience. 2. All subject teachers PRT, TGT, PGT, 3. ANM or GNM or any Medical Diploma Holder. 4. Accountant, Sports cum warden. (Male/ Female). 5. Admission counselor. 6. HR Manager. Experience 2-5 years. WhatsApp your resume on +91 89506-18074 or email on careerdefenceschool@gmail.com (CL24012633)

PUNJAB INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT & TECHNOLOGY
Village- Akour, Near GPS Campus, Mandi Gobindgarh, Tehsil-Khajuri, Distt- Ludhiana -141401
(Approved by AICTE & affiliated to IKG Punjab Technical University, Jalandhar) Requires:

DIRECTOR

Qualification, Experience & pay scale as per AICTE / IKG PTU norms. Interested candidates may send their resume along with all testimonials & experience certificates by post or email: director@pitm.in, within 15 days of the date of advertisement.

Contact: 935253001 CL24012649

ASTROLOGY

Free Sewa- Free Samadhan, hand/ snap reading specialist, solve all problems. Contact: 3254/- 45-D, Chandigarh. 094170-8506. (CL24012638)

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Booking or sale-purchase of commercial properties on Airport road & Patiala road. Contact: Subhash Mangat & Co. 98720-99999. (CL24012655)

Available pre/soft launching property in Tricity very low investment & good return in plots, flats & Showrooms. 98720-99999. (CL24012657)

Pre-rented showroom in Zirakpur with good returns. Subhash Mangat & Co.: 98720-99999. (CL24012658)

GMADA approved farm houses for sale in New Chandigarh. Subhash Mangat & Co.: 98720-99999. (CL24012659)

CHANDIGARH

Chandigarh 1 kanal plot (joda) for sale in central Sector, can be sold individually also, maximum cheque preferred. Subhash Mangat & Co. 98155-70278, 98726-65556. (CL24012577)

Chandigarh 10 marla 70% triple storey house for sale in Sector 37. Subhash Mangat & Co. 98155-70278, 98726-65555. (CL24012578)

PANCHKULA

Panchkula: 10 marla duplex Sector-2, 4, 7. Double Sector-4. Facing park Sector-7. Subhash Mangat & Co.: 98720-99999. (CL24012660)

Panchkula: 1 kanal main road, prime Sector, Subhash Mangat & Co.: 98720-99999. (CL24012661)

14 marla brand new duplex, Sector-4, MDC. Subhash Mangat & Co. 98720-99999. (CL24012662)

Panchkula: 14 marla old facing north Sector-7. Subhash Mangat & Co.: 98720-99999. (CL24012663)

MOHALI

Aerotropolis commercial LOIs booth, bayshops & Showrooms 100 & 200 sq. yards in B, C & D Blocks. Subhash Mangat & Co. 98720-99999. (CL24012664)

IT City 300 sq. yards excellent location, Sector 66B. Subhash Mangat & Co.: 98720-99999. (CL24012666)

IT City 1 kanal extra ordinary location, Sector 82. Subhash Mangat & Co.: 98720-99999. (CL24012667)

Industrial & Commercial properties in Landchester and Gilleco. Subhash Mangat & Co. 98720-99999. (CL24012668)

Aerotropolis residential LOIs A-200, B-200. Subhash Mangat & Co.: 98720-99999. (CL24012665)

IT City 300 sq. yards excellent location, Sector 66B. Subhash Mangat & Co.: 98720-99999. (CL24012666)

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Aerotropolis residential LOIs A-200, B-200. Subhash Mangat & Co.: 98720-99999. (CL24012665)

TOLET

CHANDIGARH

Newly renovated corner 2 BHK flat. Quiet Society, own garage in Sector 45 A. Ideal for small family. 81467-57377. (CL24012469)

PUBLIC NOTICES

I. Ram Swarup alias Swami Ram

Swami s/o Late Sh. Prabhu Ram

Sharma r/o Ved Mandir, Tila Lehsar

Yol Bazaar, Tehsil Dharmshala, Dist.

Kangri H.P. Declare that I disown my son Anil Sharma (Widower) and his children (Sumedha Sharma, Somesh Sharma, Soniya Sharma and Rishabh Dev Sharma members of their family) and my elder daughter Sushma

Sharma her daughter Richika Verma (formerly Richika Sharma) Metrai

Sharma, Gargi Sharma and my

daughter Geeta (alias Geeta Sharma her daughter Shubham from all moveable/ immovable properties. If anyone deals with them at his own risk. (CL24012497)

II. Reeta Kumari w/o No.249402A

Hav. Suseel Kumar village Gaarli, P.O.Bahina, Tehsil Barsar, District Hamirpur declare in my husband's service record my name wrongly recorded Rita Devi instead of Reeta Kumari. (CL24012644)

III. Gurmeet s/o Sohan Lal w/o 1353,

Hargola Road, Ambala Cantt, have changed my name to Gurmeet Singh.

Concerned note. (CL24012652)

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COURT NOTICES

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)
In the Court of
Ms. Navdeep Gill
Additional Civil Judge Senior
Division-1,
Patiala

Punjab and Sind Bank
Versus

Rajinder Kaur

CNR No. PBP-T02-003195-2023

Next Date: 28.05.2024

Publication issued to: 1. Ranbir

Singh S/o Late Tejinderpal Singh

(being the legal heir of

Tejinderpal Singh s/o Jagir

Singh) R/o Village Shadipur,

Block Bhunerheri, Tehsil &

District Patiala, 2. Satnam Kaur

d/o Late Tejinderpal Singh

(being the legal heir of

Tejinderpal Singh S/o Jagir

Singh) R/o Village Shadipur,

Block Bhunerheri, Tehsil &

District Patiala.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/ respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 28.05.2024 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to

https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=patala

Dated, this day of 01.05.2024.

Sd/- Additional Civil Judge

Senior Division-1,

CL24010691 Patiala.

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of

Sh. Ajay Mittal

Additional Civil Judge

(Senior Division),

Barnala.

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of

Ms. Ankita Gupta

Civil Judge

Sonia exhorts voters to reject proponents of hatred, lies

Tribune News Service



RELEASES VIDEO MESSAGE

The Congress leader attributed the prevailing atmosphere of despair to the policies of PM Modi and the BJP. She accused them of prioritising power over people's welfare and lamented the alleged exacerbation of hatred for political gain. "Our aim is to not only ensure progress and justice for all, but also to strengthen the nation," she asserted in a video message.

underscoring the party's vision encapsulated in its manifesto and guarantees. She reiterated the Congress and INDIA alliance's dedication to safeguarding the Constitution and democracy.

Urging citizens to vote for the Congress and join hands for building a stronger and united India, she appealed to everyone to work towards a brighter future for all.

Sonia Gandhi passionately appealed to voters to once again extend their support,

emphasising the significance of the party's manifesto, described as "Nyay Patra", claiming that this was a promise to uplift the impoverished, empower the youth and women, provide support to farmers and labourers and bolster marginalised communities.

The message comes at a critical juncture as the Lok Sabha elections unfold, with the Congress positioning itself as a champion of the people's rights and aspirations.

PM makes 'vote jihad vs Ram Rajya' pitch as elections reach midway mark

ADITI TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 7 As voting for half of the 543 Lok Sabha seats ended on Tuesday, PM Narendra Modi intensified his anti-Congress pitch framing the ongoing elections as a choice between "Ram Rajya and vote jihad" and declaring that erasure of the Opposition from national politics would be a real tribute to BR Ambedkar.

The PM, who voted early on Tuesday in Gandhinagar from where Union Home Minister Amit Shah is the BJP candidate, said at election rallies in Madhya Pradesh, "We must decide the route that we want to take — Ram Rajya or vote jihad." On Monday, the PM had urged the Muslims to introspect as to why they had been left behind on the road to development.

Speaking to a television channel, the PM said even countries like Saudi Arabia had yoga as part of syllabus there. "But when I promote yoga in India, I am called anti-Muslim... There is a mindset that they (Muslims) can make or mar governments... So I earnestly urge the Muslim community to introspect how the Congress treated them as vote bank and deprived them



PM Narendra Modi along with Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav at a public gathering in Dhar on Tuesday. ANI

PANDEMIC OF LIES, SAYS CONGRESS

After voting for 283 seats, it's clear that the BJP is half in North and wiped out in South. So the PM is betraying increasing signs of nervousness. He is spreading a pandemic of lies, and he's running a "3D" election campaign — to distort, divert and defame.

Jairam Ramesh, AICC GENERAL SECRETARY

the Madhya Pradesh HC.

The PM also utilised the occasion to flag the serial exodus of leaders from the Congress. "To grasp the dangerous intentions of the Congress, you have to understand why old Congress workers and leaders are quitting the party. One person said she quit because they harassed her for praying at Ram Mandir. Another said people with Muslim League and Maoist mindset have captured the Congress. A third person said the Congress, if elected, planned to overturn the Supreme Court judgment on Ram Temple," Modi said.

Rahul vows to empower tribals, eradicate poverty

NEERAJ MOHAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 7 Congress leader Rahul Gandhi vowed to uplift the tribal population and eradicate poverty through a series of welfare measures if the INDIA bloc was voted to power.

He promised to credit Rs 1 lakh annually to the bank accounts of crores of poor households, with a focus on families from Adivasi, Dalit and backward communities. "If the BJP can make a handful of people crorepati, we can ensure that crores of poor people become lakhpatis and transform their lives completely," he said while addressing an

election rally in Jharkhand. Extending support to the tribal population, he pledged to secure their rights over "jal, jungle, and zameen" (water, forests and land) and return their usurped land. Emphasising the significance of tribal rights, he said, "Adivasis have the first rights over the land of this country. If I call you Adivasi, it means the resources of this country belong to you and you must have the first rights on them."

Rahul criticised the BJP for derogatorily referring to tribals as "Vanvasis" and accused them of selling off forests to corporates like Adani, depriving tribals of their homes and



TARGETS BJP

If the BJP can make a handful of people crorepati, we can ensure that crores of poor people become lakhpatis and transform their lives completely.

Rahul Gandhi, CONG LEADER

livelihoods. He underscored the contrast between the BJP's intentions and those of the INDIA bloc, asserting, "We want your children to become doctors, engineers, lawyers and industrialists."

He also condemned the BJP's alleged attempts to undermine the Constitution

to consolidate power, warning against the consequences of such actions. "If the Constitution is dissolved, the tribals, Dalits and OBCs will suffer, and everything will fall into the hands of a few millionaires," he said.

He announced that the Agniveer scheme would be

abolished if the INDIA bloc was voted to power. "INDIA bloc will scrap the Agniveer scheme, a scheme brought by Modi and not by the Army. We do not want to differentiate between martyrs. Anyone sacrificing for the nation should be attributed martyr status, should be given pension," he said.

He also raised questions over the implementation of GST with five slabs, saying the GST law would be amended by making one tax slab to provide relief to the poor.

He accused Modi of harbouring intentions to govern the nation outside the bounds of the Constitution.

Kharge voices concern over anomalies in turnout figures

Urges parties to unite for ensuring EC's accountability

Tribune News Service



the delayed release of data, calling for transparency and accountability from the ECI.

Kharge also raised concerns about the absence of crucial figures, such as votes polled in each parliamentary and assembly constituency, in the voter turnout data released by the EC. He stressed the importance of releasing comprehensive data, including station-wise voter turnout and details of complaints filed by political parties, to address doubts raised in the public domain.

The letter, dated May 6, 2024, underscores the pivotal role of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections in safeguarding democracy and upholding the Constitution. Kharge said the unprecedented delay in releasing the final voting percentages for the first and second phases, cast doubt on the quality of data provided by

the ECI. He emphasised that such delays raise serious questions on the credibility of the electoral process and the functioning of the ECI.

Kharge posed several probing questions to the Election Commission, seeking clarification on the reasons behind the delayed release of voter turnout data and the significant discrepancies observed in the final figures. He highlighted the substantial increase in voting percentages from the time of polling conclusion to

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
E-TENDER NOTICE	
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav	Sr. DSTE/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders on https://www.ireps.gov.in against Tender No. 433-Sig-T-4-24-25 closing date/time 31.05.2024 (15:00 Hrs.). Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payment against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.
Contract Type	Works
Name of work	Provision of passenger address system/Computer based announcement system at 121 station over FZR division.
Tender closing date and time	31.05.2024 at 15:00
Advertised Value	₹1,34,83,627.33
Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	17.05.2024
Ernest Money	₹2,17,400/-
Period of completion	06 Months

Tender Notice No.: 433-Sig-T-4-24-25 Dated: 07.05.2024 1386/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Excise & Taxation Department, UT, Chandigarh holds the responsibility of regulating the sale and consumption of liquor within the region. In an ongoing effort to ensure the safety and authenticity of liquor bottles and to 'Track & Trace' the flow of liquor containers/bottles along-with supply chain, the department is now seeking to procure tamper-evident adhesive stickers (mother-child basis) for QR code based track & trace system. For effective and transparent procurement process a pre bid meeting is scheduled on 13.05.2024 in the Office of Worthy Collector (Excise), at Additional Town Hall Building, Sector 17, Chandigarh in physical as well as virtual mode with the prospective bidders, for getting valuable suggestions and clarifications regarding request for proposal.

Sd/- Assistant Excise and Taxation Commissioner
Excise and Taxation Department
U.T., Chandigarh

Bihar constituency set to witness showdown between bahubalis'

AKSHEEV THAKUR
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Gangster-turned-politician Anant Singh walks out of jail. FILEPHOTO

VITAL STATS

17.19 lakh

Total voters

9.37L male

7.82L female

Others: 47

Total candidates in fray: 12

Voting date: May 13

PEEK INTO PAST (2019 LS POLL)

Winner: Lalan Singh (Janata DalUnited)

Polled: 5,28,762 votes

Nearest rival: Nilam Devi (Congress)

Polled: 3,60,825 votes

of five lakh votes. There is no fight," Anant said.

Meanwhile, Ashok is famously known for the 2001 Nawada jailbreak, where he escaped along with four others after killing a guard. A web-series "Khakee: The Bihar Chapter" is based on his life.

After serving 17 years in jail, he was released in 2023, after which he made his political ambitions clear. Since Ashok (58) could not contest the election due to rules that bar convicts jailed for over two years

from contesting elections for six years after their release, he married Anita in March this year and secured the RJD ticket for her from Munger.

"It was difficult for Lalan Singh to win with a clear majority this time because Munger is a Kurmi-dominated area and Mahto is a Kurmi.

Even after the release of Anant Singh, the game will not go completely in his favour as the backward community will support Mahto," a senior RJD functionary said.

"I haven't heard his (Ashok Mahto) name. There is competition. Lalan Singh is winning by a huge margin

from contesting elections for six years after their release, he married Anita in March this year and secured the RJD ticket for her from Munger.

"It was difficult for Lalan Singh to win with a clear majority this time because Munger is a Kurmi-dominated area and Mahto is a Kurmi. Even after the release of Anant Singh, the game will not go completely in his favour as the backward community will support Mahto," a senior RJD functionary said.

"The party's leadership will not hesitate in making sacrifices in order to take forward the movement of Dr Ambedkar," she concluded.—TNS

EC to Telangana: Defer payment to farmers

Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, MAY 7

The Telangana Government has been directed by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to defer the payment under its Rythu Bharosa scheme (earlier known as Rythu Bandhu) to farmers until the Lok Sabha elections are held in the state on May 13.

In a letter to the Telangana Chief Electoral Officer, the poll body has said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had violated the model code of conduct by saying in his public speeches that the scheme's payout would be given on or before May 9. Elections to all 17 Lok Sabha seats in Telangana will be held in the fourth phase on May 13.

"In the above premise and clear violation of the model

code of conduct by Revanth Reddy, president Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee and star campaigner and CM, the commission has directed that the disbursement of balance instalment under the Rythu Bharosa scheme for rabi season 2023 be released only after the completion of poll in the state on May 13," the commission said in the letter.

"After taking cognisance of the attempts by Telangana CM Revanth Reddy to claim credit for the disbursement of the instalments under the 'Rythu Bharosa' scheme and violating the model code of conduct by making statements to the media, the Election Commission of India has ordered deferral of the undisbursed instalments till after poll day i.e. May 13," an official statement said.

"The party's leadership will not hesitate in making sacrifices in order to take forward the movement of Dr Ambedkar," she concluded.—TNS



GLOBE TROT

THERE, BUT NOT! A member of the Orduno Castro family, who lives in North Carolina but can't cross into Mexico, kisses her niece during a family meeting at the Mexico-US border fence. REUTERS

Czech SC rejects surgery rider for gender change

PRAGUE The Czech Republic's highest court has ruled to dismiss a law requiring people to undergo gender affirmation surgery, including sterilisation, to officially change their gender. The court called the requirements "in conflict with the rights of LGBTQ+ people to protect physical integrity". The ruling came on a plea by a person seeking gender change after the authorities refused to register him as a man as he had not undergone surgery. PTI

Boeing calls off astronaut launch due to valve issue

FLORIDA Boeing called off its first astronaut launch because of a valve problem on the rocket Monday night. Two NASA test pilots had just strapped into Starliner capsule when the countdown was halted, two hours before the liftoff. A United Launch Alliance engineer, Dillon Rice, said the issue involved an oxygen relief valve on the upper stage of the company's Atlas rocket. PTI

Israel seizes Rafah crossing, cuts off vital aid route to Gaza

RAFAH, GAZA STRIP/CAIRO, MAY 7 Israeli forces seized the main border crossing between Egypt and southern Gaza on Tuesday, shutting down a vital aid route into the Palestinian enclave that is already on the brink of famine.

The Palestinian militant group Hamas accused Israel of trying to undermine efforts to secure a ceasefire in the seven-month-long war that has laid waste to Gaza and left hundreds of thousands of its people homeless and hungry.

Israeli army footage showed tanks rolling through the Rafah crossing complex and the Israeli flag raised on the Gaza side.

UN and other international aid agencies said the closing of the two crossings into southern Gaza — Rafah and Israeli-controlled Kerem Shalom — had virtually cut the enclave off from outside aid and very few stores were available inside.

Red Crescent sources in Egypt said shipments had completely halted. "The Israeli occupation has sentenced the residents of the Strip to death," said Hisham Edwan,

**REOPEN BORDER CROSSING, SPARE NO EFFORT TO REACH TRUCE: UN CHIEF**

■ UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appealed to Israel and Hamas to spare no effort to get a truce deal and urged Israel to reopen the Gaza border crossings immediately.

■ "Make no mistake — a full-scale assault on Rafah would be a human catastrophe," the UN chief said adding the war-battered Gaza risks running out of essential supplies

HAMAS OFFER INSUFFICIENT

■ The latest truce proposal from Hamas falls far short of Israel's essential demands... the military's capture of Rafah crossing is an important step towards dismantling Hamas' economic and capabilities.

Benjamin Netanyahu, ISRAELI PM

■ Smoke rises from structures hit by Israeli forces in Rafah on Monday. REUTERS



President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin in Moscow. REUTERS

West's choice to talk or fight, says Prez Putin as he begins 5th term

Tribune News Service

Has been at helm as Prez or PM since 1999

cooperation and peace," he declared. "Together with its partners in the Eurasian integration process and other sovereign centres of development, Russia would continue working to establish a multipolar world order and a system of equal and indivisible security," he added.

Moscow is ready to engage in a fair dialogue on security and strategic stability, but "it should not be held from a position of strength but should be free of arrogance, conceit and a sense of exceptionalism. The parties to the dialogue should be equal and have respect for each other's interests".

"Russia does not renounce dialogue with the West. The choice is theirs: do they intend to continue trying to restrain the development of Russia, continue the policy of aggression, lay pressure on our country that has not stopped for years, or look for a path to

success?" he asked.

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BRIEFLY

LONDON

Maradona's Golden Ball trophy goes to auction

Diego Maradona's Golden Ball trophy won for being named the best player at the 1986 World Cup will be auctioned in France in June, the Aguttes auction house said. This is the first Golden Ball to go for auction and while the value is still to be confirmed, the auction house expects it to fetch millions on June 6. Maradona, who died in 2020, won the award after leading Argentina to World Cup victory in Mexico, scoring five goals at the finals where he captained his country and played every minute of the tournament. Maradona's award had disappeared before resurfacing among several trophy lots in an auction room.

NEW DELHI

Injured Jhingan out of camp for World Cup qualifiers

Injured central defender Sandesh Jhingan missed out as head coach Igor Stimac announced his second list of 15 probables for the Bhubaneswar camp ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2026 preliminary joint qualification round 2 matches against Kuwait and Qatar. The first list of probables was announced on Saturday. Key defender Jhingan had sustained a right knee injury during India's Asian Cup group match against Syria in January.

LONDON

Chelsea's Silva returning to hometown club Fluminense

Chelsea centreback Thiago Silva will return to his hometown club Fluminense in the close season, the Brazilian Serie A side said. Silva, who announced last month he would leave Chelsea after a four-year stay at the club, began his youth career at Rio de Janeiro-based Fluminense in 1998.

RANCHI

Haryana beat Maharashtra in women's hockey league

Bengal and Haryana registered identical victories by margins of 2-1 over Odisha and Maharashtra, respectively, in the National Women's Hockey League. Manju Chorsiya (12th minute) and Pooja (37th) scored for Haryana, while Sukanya Dhaware (55th) got a consolation goal for Maharashtra.

CHATTOGRAM

Bangladesh beat Zimbabwe to clinch T20 series

Towhid Hridoy hit his maiden half-century as Bangladesh beat Zimbabwe by nine runs in the third T20I to take an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match series. Bangladesh compiled 165/8 with Hridoy hitting a 38-ball 57 and then defended the total by restricting Zimbabwe to 156/9. AGENCE

TODAY ON TV

IPL

HYDERABAD VS LUCKNOW

STAR SPORTS 7:30PM

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

REAL MADRID VS BAYERN MUNICH

SONY SPORTS 12:30AM (THU)

Delhi Capitals grab crucial 20-run win over Rajasthan Royals, live to fight another day

DC emerge heroes

Jake Fraser-McGurk (50 off 20) and Abhishek Porel (65 off 36) gave DC a superb start. BCCI

56

Sanju Samson has broken the record for playing most IPL matches as captain for RR, going past Shane Warne

We have lost three games but all have been tight. Results can go either way but we need to keep the fine-tuning going and come back as IPL doesn't allow us to relax.

Sanju Samson, RR CAPTAIN



Shai Hope's controversial catch to dismiss Sanju Samson. BCCI

Marsh's comeback trail will see him bowl at T20 World Cup

BRISBANE, MAY 7

Australia coach Andrew McDonald today said even though skipper Mitchell Marsh's progress is slower than expected, the all-rounder will be fit to bowl in the upcoming T20 World Cup in the Americas.

Marsh, who played for Delhi Capitals, returned from the IPL in early April to recover from a right hamstring injury ahead of the shortest format's marquee event.

Besides Marsh, members of Australia's World Cup squad not part of the IPL assembled here today for a training camp ahead of their touch down in the West Indies on May 25.

"He's (Marsh) progressing well. Probably a little slower than expected. But

we've got plenty of time now that he has been ruled out the IPL. (Our) first game is just short of a month away now. So ample time for him to get ready."

Andrew McDonald, AUSTRALIA COACH

Asked about the youngster's exclusion, McDonald said: "There's been a discussion around the age profile of our team in all formats. I'm a big believer in you don't know when the end is going to be. And then he'll be able to ramp that up when we're over there. We'll be able to cherry pick the moments in particular in the white-ball space we've given plenty of opportunities to other players," he said. — PTI

some all-round depth in the squad, which gives us good coverage anyway," he added.

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The \$1,75,000 prize money event has as many as six wild cards in the first of the five events. — PTI

Gukesh, Arjun and Praggy eye glory in Poland

WARSAW, MAY 7

Fresh from his historic triumph at the Candidates' tournament, Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh will compete in the Superbet Rapid and Blitz chess tournament which begins here tomorrow.

A part of the Grand Chess tour, the event will also see GM R Praggnanandhaa in action for the first time since the Candidates while world No. 7 Erigaisi Arjun is the other Indian in the 10-player field for the tournament.

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Work on all-weather Leh tunnel to begin soon

AJAY BANERJEE
Tribune News Service

The target for the completion of the 4.1-km strategic tunnel linking Manali with Leh is 2026. FILE

BRO TO RAMP UP INFRA AROUND NYOMA AIR BASE

■ The BRO has been tasked with completing the infrastructure around the IAF's new base at Nyoma in eastern Ladakh

■ Matching the rapid deployment of Chinese troops across the LAC, the Nyoma airstrip in eastern Ladakh was made into a paved runway. The IAF has been operating transport planes and attack helicopters from the location

year due to snow. The tunnel under the Shingo La will suffice to reach Leh by road in the winter too.

Of the 450 kms, a new alignment road is 298 kms. Some 65 per cent of the work has been done. Ladakh shares 823-km frontier with China and for more than six

months, both road routes — via Srinagar-Sonamarg and Manali-Keylong — are closed due to snow.

The existing Manali-Leh

tunnel is 16,700-foot-high Shingo La (pass) in Ladakh this summer, which will provide all-weather access to the Manali-Leh route.

"The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) will soon commence the construction of the tunnel," the MoD said today as it marked the 65th Raising Day of the BRO.

The target for the completion of the tunnel is 2026, said sources. The route will be 450 kms long, running via Manali-Darcha-Shingo La-Padum-Nimoo-Leh.

Presently, it has a motorable track. In 2021, the Army was the first to use it. However, the route is closed for almost eight months of the

route has the Atal tunnel under the Rohtang pass. The route also has Baralacha Pass (16,040 feet), Lachung La (16,800 feet) and Tanglang La (17,480 feet) and would need 35 kms of tunnelling.

Also, the BRO has been tasked with completing the infrastructure around the IAF's new base at Nyoma in eastern Ladakh.

Matching the rapid deployment of Chinese troops across the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the Nyoma airstrip in eastern Ladakh was made into a paved runway. The IAF has been operating transport planes and attack helicopters from the location.

The IAF has an operational base at Leh and full-fledged airstrips at Kargil and Thoise (base of Siachen). The one at Nyoma will be the fourth in Ladakh.

Nyoma, located on the banks of the Indus, is some

2 more in CBI net for Russia war trafficking

NEW DELHI, MAY 7

The CBI on Tuesday arrested two persons, Arun and Yesudas Junior, both residents of Thiruvananthapuram, in connection with a case of trafficking of Indians for combat role in the Russian army.

Thereafter, the trafficked Indian nationals were trained in combat roles and deployed at bases in the Russia-Ukraine war zone against their wishes, thus putting their lives in danger.

It has been ascertained that some of the victims also got injured in the war zone.

A case of human trafficking was registered against private visa consultancy companies and agents who were involved in trafficking of Indian nationals to Russia under the guise of better employment and high paying jobs.

The human trafficking network of these agents is spread over several states across the country. — TNS

through the social media and also through their local contacts or agents for "highly paid jobs" in Russia.

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Teaching minors 'good, bad touch' not enough, educate them on 'virtual touch': HC

NEW DELHI, MAY 7

Teaching minors about "good touch" and "bad touch" is not enough in today's virtual world and children must be educated on the emerging concept of "virtual touch" and its potential dangers, the Delhi High Court has said.

This involves teaching them appropriate online behaviour, recognising warning signs of predatory behaviour and understanding the importance of privacy settings and online boundaries.

"This court is constrained to note that in today's virtual modern world, where virtual space has also become a breeding ground of alleged virtual affections between teenagers, they are not equipped to deal with the potential dangers of human trafficking for prostitution and other side of crimes which exists in the virtual world," Justice Swarana Kantha Sharma said on Monday.

The high court's observations came while dismissing a bail plea by a woman, Kamlesh Devi, accused of helping her son in sexually assaulting a minor girl after kidnapping her and forcing her into prostitution.

The 16-year-old was allegedly kidnapped by Rajiv, who befriended her on social media and kidnapped her when she came to meet him. The girl was taken to Madhya Pradesh and confined there for several days. She was allegedly sexually assaulted by the court said.

It added that just as children are taught to exercise caution in the physical world, efforts must be made to teach them to develop critical thinking skills to assess the credibility of online contacts and safeguard their personal information. — PTI

ONLINE SAFETY

■ Minors must be equipped with the knowledge and tools to navigate online interactions safely and recognise potential risks lurking in cyberspace. Delhi HC

man and others.

It was also alleged that the girl was forced to marry a 45-year-old man in exchange for money. The teen alleged that the accused persons would bring various men to the premises where she was confined and she was forced to present herself to these men for sexual gratification.

"Traditionally, efforts to protect minors from harm have focused on teaching them about 'good touch' and 'bad touch' in the physical realm. However, in today's virtual world, it is crucial to extend this education to encompass the concept of 'virtual touch'. Minors must be equipped with the knowledge and tools to navigate online interactions safely and recognise potential risks lurking in cyberspace," the court said.

It added that just as children are taught to exercise caution in the physical world, efforts must be made to teach them to develop critical thinking skills to assess the credibility of online contacts and safeguard their personal information. — PTI

Waiting for results of India's probe into 'plot' to kill Pannun, says US

WASHINGTON, MAY 7

The United States is waiting to see the results of the Indian investigations on allegations related to a plot to assassinate Sikh separatist leader Gurpatwant Singh Pannun in the US, a State Department official has said.

"They (Indian government) opened a committee of inquiry to look into the matter, and that work is ongoing; we'll wait to see the results. But we made it very clear that it's something that we are taking seriously and we think they, too, should take this seriously," State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller told reporters at his daily news conference on Monday.

Miller was responding to a question on the allegations that Indian government officials were involved in a plot to assassinate Pannun, a US citizen and a separatist Sikh leader. "I would refer you to the Canadian authorities to speak to the details of the investigation there. With respect to the indictment that was returned in the United States, I will let the Department of Justice speak on behalf of that in detail," he told reporters.

"And then the only thing further I would say: when it comes to the State Department, we had made it clear right when these allegations were first made public that it's something we think India should take very seriously and investi-

gate," Miller added.

The Washington Post, citing unnamed sources, recently named a Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) officer in connection with the alleged plot to kill Pannun on American soil last year.

Slamming the report by the US daily, India has strongly rejected the claims, saying the report made "unwarranted and unsubstantiated" imputations on a serious matter.

"The report in question makes unwarranted and unsubstantiated imputations on a serious matter," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in New Delhi last Tuesday. — PTI

British court rejects Nirav's fresh bail plea

LONDON, MAY 7

Fugitive businessman Nirav Modi, who has been in prison in London for over five years, on Tuesday made a new bail application, which was rejected by a UK judge who ruled that he continued to pose a "substantial risk" of absconding justice.

The 52-year-old diamond merchant, who lost his extradition battle to face fraud and money laundering charges in India, did not appear for the bail hearing at Westminster Magistrates Court in London but his son and two daughters were present in the gallery. — PTI

Lanka inks pact with Adani for wind energy

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 7

After months of procrastination, the Sri Lankan Government has signed a 20-year power purchase agreement with Adani Green Energy to construct two wind power stations. Under the terms of the agreement, the company will receive compensation of 8.26 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh).

Adani Green Energy had secured approval to invest \$422 million in February last year. The power plants are

located in Mannar town and Pooneryn village in Northern Province.

The Adani Group is already engaged in the construction of a \$700 million terminal project at Colombo, Sri Lanka's largest port.

Adani Green Energy currently has an operating renewable portfolio of 8.4 GW, the largest in India, spread across 12 states, offsetting over 41 million tonnes of CO2 emissions cumulatively. The company has set a target of 45 GW by 2030 aligned to India's decarbonisation goals.

Women in corporate India still short of inclusivity: Study

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 7

Women in boardrooms are yet to achieve the desired proportion of inclusivity and support, according to the first edition of its Women Leadership Survey in Corporate India conducted by All-India Management Association with the KPMG group.

The survey considered perspectives from professionals across industries on five key aspects. In addition to exploring the current state of women's leadership and the factors affecting inclusivity and support, the survey also examined the evaluation process and the level of inclusivity experienced by women professionals who were chosen for leadership positions.

"The survey indicates that 58 per cent respondents believe that their organisations have a well-defined process of evaluating the employees for leadership roles. Further, only 38 per cent believe that the evaluation process is absolutely fair and transparent for the prospective candidates," said the survey.

The survey considered perspectives from professionals across industries on five key aspects. In addition to exploring the current state of women's leadership and the factors affecting inclusivity and support, the survey also examined the evaluation process and the level of inclusivity experienced by women professionals who were chosen for leadership positions.

Ensure innocents from backward groups not named in history sheet: SC

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 7

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the police authorities in states and union territories to ensure that innocent people and individuals from backward communities were not named in a history sheet.

The police authorities in states and UTs should ensure that no mechanical entries in a history sheet are made of innocent individuals belonging to socially, economically and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds along with backward communities, scheduled castes or scheduled tribes, a Bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice KV Viswanathan said. The directions came on a petition filed by AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan challenging the Delhi Police's decision to declare him as a "bad character".

The top court said a history sheet is an internal public

document and not a publicly accessible report. Extra care and precaution should be observed by police officers while ensuring that the identity of a minor is not disclosed as provided by law in a history sheet, it said.

"It is alleged that police diaries are maintained selectively of individuals belonging to Vimukta Jatis, based solely on caste bias, a somewhat similar manner

as happened in colonial times," said the Bench, which initiated suo motu action.

There were some studies available in the public domain that reveal a pattern of "unfair, prejudicial and atrocious" mindset, it noted.

"We must bear in mind that these preconceived notions often render them invisible victims due to prevailing stereotypes associated with their communities, which may often impede their right to live a life with self-respect," the Bench said.

The Bench directed the top court Registry to forward a copy of this judgment to the chief secretary and director general of police of all states and UTs to enable them to consider and comply with what has been held above, as early as possible but not later than six months. A periodical audit mechanism will serve as a critical tool to review and scrutinise entries made in a history sheet, it said.

Not lax in giving visas: Canadian minister

NEW DELHI, MAY 7

Canada's Immigration Minister Marc Miller refuted comments by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on the arrest of three Indians allegedly involved in the murder of India-designated terrorist Hardik Singh Nijjar.

"We are not lax. The Indian Foreign Minister is entitled to his opinion. I'm going to let him speak his mind. It's just not accurate," Miller said in an interview with Cable Public Affairs Channel (CPAC).

Jaishankar had accused the Canadian Government of being welcoming to individuals from India with connections to organised crime despite warnings from New Delhi. He said that a section of pro-Khalistan people had

been using Canada's democracy, creating a lobby and having become a vote bank for the minority government of Justin Trudeau. He went on to claim that some Canadians, with "pro-Pakistan leanings", had formed a politically influential lobby.

"We have convinced them several times not to give visas, legitimacy or political space to such people, which is causing problems for them (Canada), for us and also for our relationship," the minister had said. Miller did not confirm reports that three Indian nationals had travelled to Canada on student visas. "Such enquiries should be directed to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police," he said. — TNS

Internet giant Google on Tuesday announced the launch of Google Threat Intelligence, an artificial intelligence-backed system that will protect users from cyber threats faster than ever before. Google CEO Sundar Pichai announced the new system at a conference in San Francisco.

Google Threat Intelligence includes Gemini in Threat Intelligence, an AI-powered agent that provides conversational search across a vast repository of threat intelligence. Google provides two of the most important pillars of threat intelligence in the industry today — VirusTotal and Mandiant. — TNS

NORTHERN RAILWAY**E-Tender Notice**

Str.DEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.reps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.

Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
251-Elect-T-08-2024-25	Provision of New Pre-cooling Battery Charging points with battery charger & allied work over Firozpur division.	1,68,90,298.73	2,34,500.00	06 Months	28.05.2024 after 15.00 Hrs.	www.reps.gov.in

No. 251-Elect/T. Notice No. 06-Elect/2024-25 Dated: 07.05.2024

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The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division:

Catalogue No.	Auction Start	Name of work
EAFZR-OH-24-3	20.05.2024 at 11:00 AM	1) Allotment of contract for Commercial Advertisement rights on exterior of Overhead of Water Tanks at Sujanpur, Sahnewal, Bari Brahma, Jammu Tawi, Pathankot, Amritsar, Jalandhar City, Baramulla 2) Allotment of contract for Commercial publicity rights through static media at Railway Station Amritsar and Level crossings adjoining to Nawansheh, Banga, Chhina, Verka, Jaintpura, Batala, Bhagawala & Path Railway Station. 3) Allotment of contract for Commercial publicity rights through static media & overhead of water tank at Makhu, Nakodar & Sampla Railway Station.

For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.reps.gov.in

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