

# The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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## REBUILDING A CHALLENGE POST-FLOODS

# Special Assembly session from Sept 26 to 'change' relief norms

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 18

The Punjab Government has decided to convene a special session of the state Assembly from September 26 to 29 to "change laws and rules" regarding the disbursal of relief to flood-hit people.

In a statement issued here, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said the special session would focus on introducing several people-oriented amendments to the rules.

"New laws concerning compensation for flood victims will also be introduced and approved during the session," he said. The move comes amid a controversy over the status of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). The state government has maintained that under the norms, the compensation awarded is too less and they be allowed to give additional relief.

While there is no word on this from the Centre, the state has already announced that it will give compensation of Rs 20,000 per acre to farmers for crop damage. The rules allow for Rs 6,800 per acre relief. The state government will bear the additional cost of Rs 13,200 per acre. Under the Disaster Management Rules, all damage caused



A farmer walks along the barbed fence while a combine harvester gathers the leftover crop along the Pakistan border in Amritsar on Thursday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: VISHAL KUMAR

by a natural disaster is repaired using the SDRF accumulated over the years. However, in case of Punjab, mystery shrouds the total funds available under this head.

While Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his Punjab visit, said that the state had Rs 12,000 crore in its kitty as the SDRF for use now, Mann has maintained that Punjab received Rs 5,012 crore under the head from the Centre from 2010-11 onwards.

He said the state spent Rs

3,820 crore of this fund in 15 years. The CM said swollen rivers had submerged over 2,300 villages, affecting 20 lakh people and destroying crops on close to 5 lakh acres. Mann said 56 lives were lost and around 71 lakh people rendered homeless.

He said 3,200 government schools were damaged, 19 colleges reduced to rubble, 1,400 clinics and hospitals ruined, 8,500 km of roads destroyed, and 2,500 bridges collapsed. The CM said that

as per initial estimates, the total damage amounted to approximately Rs 13,800 crore, though the actual figure can be even higher.

He said the decisions taken during the special session would provide substantial relief to flood-affected people. He reiterated the government's commitment to supporting the people of Punjab. Mann claimed they were leaving no stone unturned to ensure rehabilitation for affected people.

The main purpose of the fund was to enable NRIs, corporates and other people to contribute to building key infrastructure in the state.

According to officials, details of contribution would be shared on a website from time to time. AAP's Rajya Sabha MP Vikramjit Singh Sahney has donated Rs 1 crore. Through a notification, the government has also constituted a monitoring committee to be headed by the Chief Secretary.

This monitoring committee

will have administrative secretaries of Finance and Planning as its members, besides



CM Bhagwant Mann visits a flood-hit area in Punjab. FILE

### RELIEF FUND

■ Chardi Kala Mission was launched by CM Bhagwant Mann to raise funds for rehabilitation and rebuilding efforts

■ The money is being credited to Rangla Punjab Vikas Fund, which was created on the lines of PM CARES Fund in May this year

the head of the Planning Department.

Rangla Punjab Society has been established to deal with any kind of emergency or distress. It will be funded by voluntary contributions and will not receive any budgetary support. Since Punjab has a vibrant NRI community, who believes in contributing toward development of the state, this fund will be exempt

from Foreign Contribution Regulation Act," said a senior government functionary.

"Contributions made by corporates towards this fund will also qualify as corporate social responsibility expenditure under the Companies Act. Thus, we are hopeful of collecting a sizeable amount, which is much needed now, for rebuilding Punjab. The donations made in this fund will also be shared on the website from time to time," the government functionary said.

Punjab already has a Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

Ever since the floods struck Punjab, a sum of Rs 25 crore has reportedly been received as donation in this fund, which has now swelled to Rs 48 crore.

But corporates and NRIs have "shied away" from making larger donations in this fund, "mainly because of lack of exemption from FCRA and funds contributed here not being considered as CSR spending".

Around 4,650 km of roads and 68 bridges have been damaged during the floods. Thousands of schools, health centres, veterinary hospitals and other public infrastructure require immediate repair.

The state's financial health remains precarious, with limited resources available with the government.

**Outflow from Bhakra to rise as water level closer to danger mark**

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 18

The authorities have decided to increase the outflow from the Bhakra Dam by 5,000 cusecs from tomorrow after the water level there rose to 1,677 feet, which is just three feet below the danger mark.

A decision to this effect was taken at a meeting of the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) here on Thursday.

As of now, 40,000 cusecs of water is being released from the dam. Sources said the inflow at the dam was 54,000 cusecs on Thursday morning.

Meanwhile, the water level in the Pong Dam continues to be above the danger mark (1,390 feet). The water level in the dam was 1,394.88 feet in the morning, with 37,248 cusecs inflow and 59,845 cusecs outflow.

The swollen Beas had wreaked havoc in over 100 villages in Kapurthala, submerging crops on thousands of acres and damaging property worth hundreds of crores.

This year, the Pong Dam witnessed unprecedented inflows during the August-September period, touching 2.25 lakh cusecs, with the outflow being maintained at 1 lakh cusecs for several days to discharge excess water.

## 16 snakebite deaths as floodwaters recede

Tribune News Service

PATIALA, SEPTEMBER 18

Sixteen snakebite deaths have been reported from flood-hit areas in the state, said Punjab Health and Family Welfare Minister Balbir Singh on Thursday.

He said about 22,000 cases of skin infection, 19,000 of fever, 10,000 of eye ailments and 4,500 of diarrhoea had also been reported.

In August, 690 cases of snakebite were reported. Of these, 129 were reported from flood-hit Gurdaspur.

As many as 81 cases of

snakebite were reported from Jalandhar, 58 from Patiala, 52 from Ludhiana and 48 from Amritsar.

Highlighting the Health Department's efforts, Balbir Singh said 848 medical teams worked round-the-clock during the floods and continued to provide relief in affected areas.

"Despite damages of about Rs 780 crore to health infrastructure, our teams have organised special camps, checked 1.42 lakh people and provided 87 essential medicines free of cost," he said.

### Strengthening defences



An earth-moving machine being used to plug a breach in an earthen dyke at Ghonewal village in Amritsar. PHOTO: VISHAL KUMAR

## No bridge over Ravi, villages remain cut off for months

RAVI DHALIWAL

Tribune News Service

GURDASPUR, SEPTEMBER 18

A widow belonging to an 'Us-Paar' village shocked everyone when she told Lok Sabha Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi that her husband died of brain haemorrhage because he could not be taken to a hospital as the area lacked a concrete bridge over the river.

'Us-Paar' refers to a cluster of seven villages located across the Ravi. The area shares border with Pakistan.

As Kaushalya Devi of Bhar-

ial village stirred the Hornet's Nest, Rahul assured her that he would look into the matter.

He turned to Dinanagar MLA Aruna Chaudhary to get first-hand information. Stories of red-tapism, bureaucratic inertia and partisan politics spontaneously tumbled out as Congressmen informed their boss of the real truth behind the bridge fiasco. Devi is not alone with her tale of woes. Around 3,500 villagers face different problems as they get disconnect-

### Pontoon bridge dismantled every monsoon

ed from India for nearly four months every year.

An 800-metre concrete bridge, costing Rs 100.48 crore, had been proposed to be built as early as April 2002.

This would have facilitated a lot of development in the area which, in any case, is a sugarcane rich zone.

Before 2004, people had to use PWD boats to cross the

Ravi from Makorān to reach the other side. Reacting to the residents' grievances, MLA Chaudhary pushed all bureaucratic hurdles aside and brought in funds from the PWD to get a pontoon bridge established.

However, this bridge is dismantled during the monsoon leaving villagers to face the vagaries of nature, sans any help from the government.

Leave alone middle or small industries, even cottage industries have not been established in these villages.

Due to its inaccessibility, 'Us-Paar' residents marry off their daughters the moment they complete their basic education, the old, sick and infirm can't visit hospitals during the rainy season, mobile companies have been reluctant to set up towers, electricity fluctuates wildly and teachers rarely come to schools.

In August 2021, the Centre sanctioned Rs 100.48 crore from the Central Road Infrastructure Fund (CRIF). The exact points from where the bridge's construction would

start and end were selected. However, engineers pointed out that due to the confluence of the Ujh and Ravi, the waters would create a powerful surge. This forced a change in the location of the overpass.

It was then decided to build it 500 metres away upstream. An amount of more than Rs 10 crore was awarded to farmers for land acquisition by the state government, of which just Rs 2.5 crore had been received so far. Reason enough why the acquisition process has been stalled.

## State liable to cough up interest on delayed salary arrears, rules HC

SAURABH MALIK

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 18

The High Court here has held that the state, as a model employer, is under a legal obligation not only to release the due payments of its employees on time but also to pay interest in case of unjustified delay.

The court made it clear that the government could not take the position of a private financier and must bear responsibility for arrears withheld due to its own fault.

"He bowed before the holy Guru Granth Sahib with profound faith and respect," the leader said.

seeking interest on her salary arrears released after several years of delay.

The Bench directed the respondents to pay her interest at the rate of six per cent per annum on the arrears for the period between August 28, 2011, and February 22, 2018, within two months of receiving the order.

The case arose out of the petitioner's regularization claim. The Bench observed that Geeta Rani joined service on February 28, 2009. Under the state's instructions, the services of computer teachers completing two-and-a-half years were to be

## New plan to fund foreign edu of kids from low-income families

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 18

Punjab Social Security Minister Baljit Kaur on Thursday said her government would support children from lower-income families wanting to study abroad.

She said the government had launched a transformative Overseas Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Castes students and children of landless agricultural labourers.

Those children whose parents earn less than Rs 8 lakh per year will be covered under it. They must have secured at least 60 per cent marks in their graduation and be under the age of 35. The government will

cover visa, airfare, tuition fee, annual maintenance allowance (Rs 13,17 lakh), contingency allowance (Rs 1.35 lakh) and medical insurance.

The minister said the state government had also reformed the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme, removing long-standing irregularities and disputes.

"Strict action has been taken against those misappropriating funds, ensuring that every rupee now directly benefits deserving students. In 2022, 1,76,842 students availed the scheme. Today, the number has risen to 2,37,456—a 35 per cent increase in three years," she said. "Over the past five

### 'SIROPA' TO RAHUL

#### Reconsider action against gurdwara staff, SGPC urged

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 18

Congress leader and former Speaker of the Punjab Assembly Rana KP Singh on Thursday urged the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) to reconsider the action taken against officials of Gurdwara Budha Sahib for presenting "siropa" to Rahul Gandhi.

The action against gurdwara officials had conveyed a wrong message among the people, contrary to the intentions of the SGPC, he said.

Rahul Gandhi should not be held accountable for the actions in which he had no role. "He is a fearless voice for protecting the secular fabric of the country that guarantees rights, safety and security of all, particularly the minorities," he added.

Rahul Gandhi paid obeisance and performed "ardas" for the welfare of Sikhs and peace to the departed souls.

"He bowed before the holy Guru Granth Sahib with profound faith and respect," the leader said.

Justice NS Shekhwat passed the ruling while allowing a petition filed by Geeta Rani, a computer teacher

regularised every four months from July 1, 2011.

Accordingly, she became entitled to regularization on August 28, 2011. The High Court, in earlier proceedings, recognised her right and granted regularization with effect from that date instead of April 1, 2012, as claimed by the state.

Following the order, she was paid arrears of Rs 2,10,778 from August 28, 2011, to April 1, 2012. However, these arrears were released on February 28, 2018, as per memo dated February 22, 2018, after prolonged delay, and no interest was paid.



**Matrimonial case: State put on notice**

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 18

The Punjab and Haryana High Court today put Haryana on notice on a plea alleging "political interference" in a matrimonial case. The petitioner-husband claimed the conclusion of a probe was changed under pressure from the SP. Appearance

ing on behalf of the husband and other petitioners, the counsel said a fair inquiry into the complaint by the respondent-wife was not carried out.

Due to pressure from the SP at the behest of minister-respondent (Anil Vij), the conclusions were changed.—TNS

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**SALE NOTICE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002** read with provision to rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.  
Notice is hereby given to public in general and in particular to Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured Creditor, the Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Karnataka Bank Ltd, the Secured Creditor on 27.10.2023, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 27.10.2025, for recovery of Rs.22,06,346.88 [Rupees Two Crore Twenty Eight Lakhs Six Thousand Three Hundred Forty Six and Paise Eighty Eight Only] i.e. (i) Rs. 40,58,533.01 under PS Term Loan Account No.4527001800022401 along with future interest from 17.03.2025, (ii) Rs. 25,32,103.23 under PS Term Loan Account No.4527001800026901 along with future interest from 01.03.2025, (iii) Rs. 1,16,49,462.60 under PS Term Loan Account No.4527001800034401 along with future interest from 01.03.2025, (iv) Rs. 45,56,248.04 under PS Term Loan Account No.4527001800034501 along with future interest from 01.03.2025, due to the Karnataka Bank Ltd, Ludhiana Branch, Sona Complex, G T Road, Millerganj, Ludhiana-141003, Punjab, the Secured creditor from (1) M/s R International, Represented by its Proprietor: Mr. Ravinder Thapar, Plot No-236, Industrial Area-A, Cheema Chowk Ludhiana-141003 (2) Mr. Ravinder Thapar S/o Mr. Mohinder Thapar (3) Mr. Chand Thapar S/o Mr. Ravinder Thapar (4) Mrs. Upneet Thapar W/o Mr. Ravinder Thapar, All (2), (3) and (4) are Residing at: House No.46, Sant Nagar, Civil Lines, Ludhiana-141001, being borrowers/guarantors/co-obligants.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:**

All that part and parcel of Plot, Bearing No.42, Measuring 631.00 square Yards, comprised in Khasra No.3, Khata No.460/522 as per jambambari 2007-08, sale deed bearing wasika No.5400 dated 21.07.2016 and wasika No.714 dated 20.04.2010, situated at New Sarabha Nagar Extension, Palkhowal Road, Village Dhandra-2 Basant Avenue, Ludhiana, belonging to Mr. Ravinder Thapar.

**Boundaries:** East : Street 36 wide 68'-0" West : Owner 68'-0" North : Street 36 wide 83'-7" South : Owner 83'-7"

**Reserve Price / Upset Price** below which the property may not be sold: Rs.86,60,000.00 (Rupees Eighty Six Lakhs Eighty Six Thousand Only)

**Earnest money to be deposited/tendered:** Rs.8,68,600.00 (Rupees Eighty Lakhs Sixty Eight Thousand Six Hundred Only)

(The borrower's / mortgagor's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset).

(This Notice shall also serve as Notice under Sub Rule (1) of Rule (9) of Security Interest Enforcement Rules-2002 to the Borrower/Guarantors)

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to link in Karnataka Bank's Website i.e., [www.karnatakabank.com](http://www.karnatakabank.com) under the head "Mega E-auction on 17.10.2025".

The e-auction will be conducted through portal <https://bankauctions.in/> on 17.10.2025 from 11:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. with unlimited extension of 05 minutes. The intending bidder is required to register their name at <https://bankauctions.in/> and get the user id and password free of cost and get online training of E-auction (tentatively on 16.10.2025) from M/s. Aclosure, 605A, 6th Floor, Matirwanian, Ameerpet, Hyderabad-500038, Contact No.040-23836405, Mobile 8142000809, E-mail: info@bankauctions.in.

Date: 18.09.2025

Place: Ludhiana

For Karnataka Bank Ltd  
Chief Manager & Authorised Officer

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE**

(In pursuance of Sec 35 of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016  
read with IBBI (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016)

**SARE REALTY PROJECTS PRIVATE LIMITED**

Sare Realty Projects Private Limited ("SRPPL") is undergoing liquidation process pursuant to order of Hon'ble NCLT, Delhi dated 09-09-2024. Liquidator of SRPPL hereby invites, Eligible Bidder(s) for participation in E-auction Sale of Assets of SRPPL listed herein, on As is Where is, Whatever There is and Without Recourse basis as per the auction schedule stated herein and as per the detailed terms, conditions & process listed in Bid Document which can be downloaded from <https://ibbi.baanknet.com/eauction-ibbi/home>.

Lot No.	Lot Name	Location and Address	Reserve Price* (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Incremental Bid Amount (Rs.)
1	Not Readily Realisable Assets being Shares & Debentures held by Sare Realty Projects P Ltd. ("SRPPL") in Impact Sare Magnum Townships Private Limited ("ISMPCL") & Impact Sare Realty Private Limited ("ISRPL")	Shares & Debentures held by Sare Realty Projects P Ltd. ("SRPPL") are as under:- i. 59,155 class B equity shares of Rs. 100 each of ISMTPL ii. 100 Class C equity shares of Rs. 100 each of ISMTPL iii. 102 15% fully convertible debentures of Rs. 1,00,000 each to be converted into equivalent number of Class E equity shares in ISMTPL iv. 52,00,000 Class A equity shares of Rs. 10 each of ISRPL v. 2,09,04,000 Fully convertible debentures of Rs. 10 each in ISRPL Along with all attendant rights and obligations under Articles of Association of Impact Sare Magnum Townships Private Limited and Impact Sare Realty Private Limited	38,51,10,000	3,85,00,000	1,00,000
2	Not Readily Realisable Assets being Shares & Debentures held by Sare Realty Projects P Ltd. ("SRPPL") held in Impact Sare Magnum Townships Private Limited ("ISMPCL")	Shares & Debentures held by Sare Realty Projects P Ltd. ("SRPPL") are as under:- i. 59,155 class B equity shares of Rs. 100 each of ISMTPL ii. 100 Class C equity shares of Rs. 100 each of ISMTPL iii. 102 15% fully convertible debentures of Rs. 1,00,000 each to be converted into equivalent number of Class E equity shares in ISMTPL iv. Along with all attendant rights and obligations under Articles of Association of Impact Sare Magnum Townships Private Limited	19,16,00,000	1,91,00,000	1,00,000
3	Not Readily Realisable Assets being Shares & Debentures held in Impact Sare Realty Private Limited ("ISRPL")	Shares & Debentures held by Sare Realty Projects P Ltd. ("SRPPL") are as under:- i. 52,00,000 Class A equity shares of Rs. 10 each ii. 2,09,04,000 Fully convertible debentures of Rs. 10 each in ISRPL Along with all attendant rights and obligations under Articles of Association of Impact Sare Realty Private Limited	19,34,00,000	1,93,00,000	1,00,000

\*Excluding taxes, levies, charges, duties, transfer fees, stamp duty, registration fees etc. No representation as to warranties and indemnities shall be made.

**E-Auction Schedule**

**Auction Date** 09-10-2025 (12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.) with unlimited extensions of 5 minutes

**Schedule for Due Diligence / Inspection** 19-09-2025 to 05-10-2025 (with prior appointment)

**Last Date for Submission of Eligibility Documents** 06-10-2025

**Last Date for Deposit of EMD** 06-10-2025

• Prospective Bidders would be required to create their own login id on the e-auction platform <https://ibbi.baanknet.com/eauction-ibbi/home>. The requisite documents shall be uploaded on the e-auction platform and EMD shall be deposited through e-wallet on the e-auction platform. In case of any clarification, the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and guidance documents as available on <https://ibbi.baanknet.com/eauction-ibbi/home> may be referred. Interested Bidders can also reach out to Ph. No.: +91 8291220220 or Email ID: support.baanknet@psbalance.com for any assistance required with respect to e-auction platform.

• Prospective bidders shall submit the requisite documents, including a declaration of eligibility under Section 29A of the IBC, 2016 through the electronic auction platform. Please note that the Liquidator shall verify eligibility of the bidder under Section 29A of IBC, 2016 after completion of auction and in case the Bidder is found to be ineligible the EMD of the Bidder shall be forfeited.

• Bidders participating in the e-auction shall be deemed to have read through the Bid Process Document and accepted all terms and conditions including but not limited to terms and schedule for payment of bid amount, process for declaration of highest bidder including right of first refusal as applicable and forfeiture of amount deposited on failure to comply with the terms of the Bid Process Document.

Sd/-

Santosh Kumar Samanta

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Liquidator - Sare Realty Projects Private Ltd. (In Liquidation)

Email for correspondence - cirsprpl@gmail.com

# Govt declines nod to investigate IAS officers in Faridabad MC scam

Allegations include inflated costs, fake work orders; Vigilance Bureau proposals rejected

**BHARTESH SINGH THAKUR**

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 18

## WHAT SECTION 17A SAYS

Under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, no police officer can conduct any inquiry or investigation into alleged offences by a public servant without prior approval from the government.

to the alleged "irregular" enhancement of costs for interlocking paver block work in Ward 14 from Rs 53.82 lakh to Rs 1.97 crore. Contractor Satbir Singh was named as the main accused. Permission to investigate IAS officers Sonal Goel and Anita Yadav in this FIR had already been granted earlier.

Similarly, in FIR No. 13 (April 19, 2022), permission to investigate the same officer, Yash Garg, has been refused. This FIR alleged that Satbir Singh and his firms received Rs 1.26 crore for interlocking work across seven wards, all in 28 equal payments —

despite no work being visible on the ground. The FIR also flagged payments of over Rs 1.2 crore each for drains, culverts and stone metalling without estimates, tenders, or completion certificates.

The Tribune spoke to Garg, but he refused to comment. Permission to investigate IAS officer Sonal Goel had earlier been allowed in FIR No. 11 and 13, but she has challenged the sanction in the High Court, which is still pending. When contacted by this reporter, Goel refused to comment.

In FIR No. 21 (June 16, 2022), relating to payments of Rs 1.76 crore to

Satbir Singh without tenders, permission to investigate Sonal Goel and a fourth IAS officer, Mohd Shayin, has been denied. When contacted by The Tribune, Shayin refused to comment.

In FIR No. 23 (July 15, 2022), sanction was refused against all four officers — Shayin, Goel, Yadav and Garg. The case detailed a series of extraordinary cost escalations, with estimates for interlocking tiles in Wards 14 and F-block shooting up from under Rs 25 lakh to nearly Rs 2 crore in just two days in October 2018.

The most recent FIR (September 5, 2023) was the only one to directly name IAS officer Anita Yadav, along with other officials and the contractor. It alleged manipulation of work orders and

fake dispatch numbers in a road divider project where costs ballooned from Rs 27.52 lakh to Rs 4.94 crore. Permission to probe Shayin, Garg and Goel has been denied.

Reacting to the decision, Anita Yadav told The Tribune, that "I have been singled out, whereas Shayin, Garg and Goel were similarly placed. I will approach the High Court against this pick and choose."

The allegations across the FIRs range from splitting large works into smaller ones to bypass tendering norms, to fake work orders and cost escalations in crores. However, without sanction under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, the ACB cannot proceed against serving or retired IAS officers.

# 5 arrested for cow slaughter at Nuh village

GURUGRAM, SEPTEMBER 18

The Nuh police have busted a cow slaughter racket at Ferzepur Namak village and arrested five accused. The police have allegedly seized a large quantity of beef from the spot. An FIR has been registered at Nuh Sadar police station and the police are investigating the network of the accused.

## Over a quintal of beef seized

The police received information on Wednesday that some people were slaughtering cows at Ferozepur Namak village. A team led by SI Jagat Singh raided the location, where the accused were allegedly slaughtering cows. The accused tried to flee, but the police nabbed them.

The investigating officer said a search of the spot yielded over a quintal of beef. A weighing scale, a wooden block, an axe, a knife, and six bikes were seized. —OC

# Vij stirs buzz by removing 'minister' tag from X

BJP veteran says he doesn't need labels for popularity

**GEETANJALI GAYATRI**

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 18

Cabinet Minister Anil Vij triggered curiosity on Wednesday after dropping the word "minister" from his bio on social media platform X. The BJP veteran, however, clarified that he did not require such "tags" for popularity. The Energy, Labour and Transport Minister changed his bio from "Anil Vij Minister Haryana, India" to "Anil Vij Ambala Cantt Haryana, India".

Speaking to The Tribune, Vij said: "I don't want to grow my viewership and followers as a minister. My followers on X were growing way faster when I did not have the minister tag. Vij, by itself, is a tag now. I don't need any other tags."

Known for his blunt remarks, Vij has often expressed displeasure with both government and party functioning. Just last week, he accused certain local leaders of running a "parallel BJP" in Ambala Cantonment and sought suggestions from his followers, claiming the "party is suffering a lot of damage."

Recently circulated, claiming the appointment of one of Vij's detractors as a BJP national spokesperson. Though top leaders later clarified the letter was fake, sources said Vij remained unconvinced and "disappointed" at being "ignored and overlooked."

Known for his blunt remarks, Vij has often expressed displeasure with both government and party functioning. Just last week, he accused certain local leaders of running a "parallel BJP" in Ambala Cantonment and sought suggestions from his followers, claiming the "party is suffering a lot of damage."

Vij is no stranger to con-

# Gurugram Metro delay to cost ₹3,000 crore more, says GMDA

Rao Inderjit seeks accountability, faster execution

**SUMEDHA SHARMA**

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

GURUGRAM, SEPTEMBER 18

The delay in implementing the Gurugram Metro expansion project will inflate its cost by more than Rs 3,000 crore, officials of the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) revealed during a review meeting with Gurugram MP and Union Minister Rao Inderjit Singh on Thursday.

# Schoolgirls rescued from rivulet near Dharamsala

RAGHAV GULERIA

**DHARAMSALA, SEPTEMBER 18** A group of schoolgirls was trapped in a swollen rivulet following heavy rainfall at Sudher Chungi near Dharamsala in Kangra district last evening. The girls, all students of local Government Middle School, were returning home when they were trapped midway in the Chungi Nala, which was in spate following heavy rainfall in the upper reaches of Dharamsala.

It was only through the courageous and coordinated efforts of local villagers that the girls were rescued with the help of ropes and ladders. "It's a miracle that the girls are safe. But what had things gone worse. We've been raising this issue for years," said Vipin, who took part in the rescue efforts.

The girls belong to about 10 families residing on the Nargota side of the Chungi Nala within Kajlot panchayat, which, along with Sudher panchayat, has seen extensive damage this monsoon season. Though villagers have been for years demanding the construc-



Villagers rescue girl students trapped in the swollen Chungi Nala near Dharamsala while returning from school on Wednesday.

tion of a bridge over the Chungi Nala, no action has been taken.

Dev Dutt, pradhan of

Kajlot panchayat, said that there had been no progress on the issue in the absence of a no-objection certificate (NOC), as the land on both banks was owned by private parties. "The entire village has six or seven such rivulets having only basic ramps. These become dangerous, even deadly, during heavy rain," he added.

Rekha Devi, pradhan of neighbouring Sudher panchayat, raised the alarm over the increasing frequency and intensity of heavy rainfall, which had caused massive soil erosion and subsidence. "Heavy rainfall this monsoon season has been unprecedented and has caused extensive damage," she said.

To make matters worse, the main road connecting Sudher, Gharo and Chari villages to Dharamsala has remained blocked for nearly a month due to recurring landslides. Locals are now demanding immediate government intervention for the construction of a bridge over the Chungi Nala to ensure the safety of schoolchildren, who risk their lives while crossing it.

# Crops destroyed, Lahaul-Spiti farmers request govt to waive agriculture loans

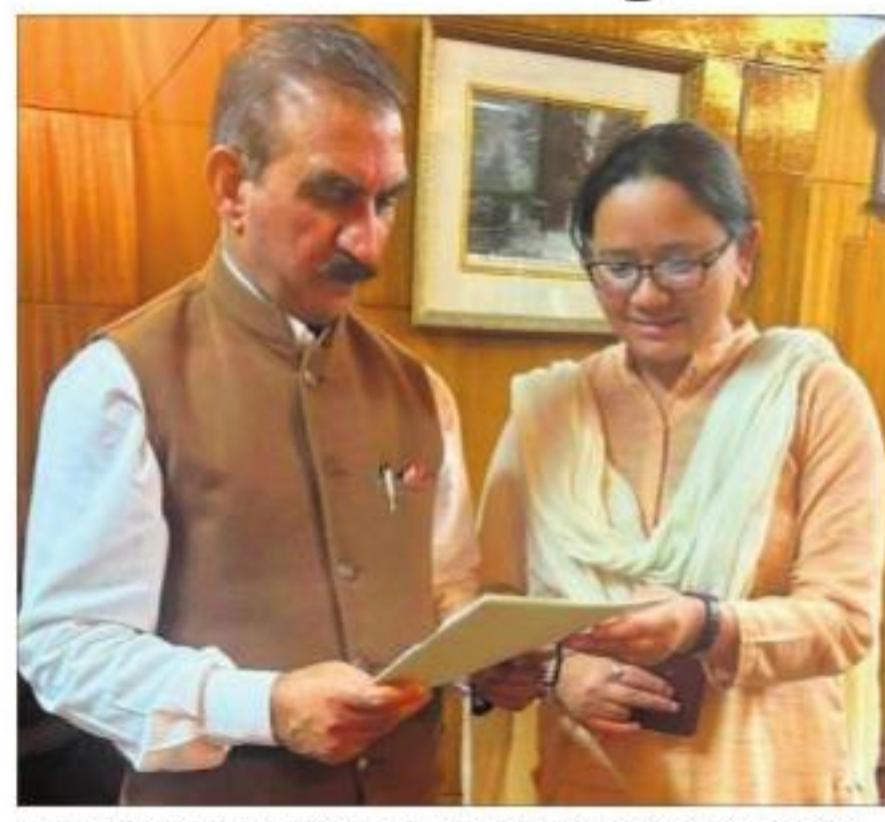
DIPENDER MANTA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MANDI, SEPTEMBER 18

Farmers in Lahaul and Spiti district are grappling with severe economic distress following widespread crop destruction due to heavy rainfall, cloudbursts and landslides this year. In light of heavy crop losses, they have urged both state and Central governments to waive their agricultural loans and provide immediate financial relief.

The region, known for the cultivation of high-value exotic vegetables like broccoli, lettuce and other seasonal produce like cauliflower and peas, suffered immense losses as heavy rain and landslides led to prolonged road blockages. As accessibility to markets was blocked, farmers were unable to transport their produce, which rotted in their fields.

Shocking visuals on social media platforms, particularly Facebook, showed heaps of spoiled vegetables being dumped from trucks and carts.



Lahaul-Spiti MLA Anuradha Rana submits a memorandum on damaged crops to Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Ramesh Kumar Rulba, former Chairman of the District Council of Lahaul and Spiti,

described the economic losses as "unprecedented" and said that farmers were now helpless and struggling to repay their agricultural loans. "This is not just a financial issue, it's

about survival," he added.

Veena Devi, incumbent Chairperson of the District Council, said that many farmers in the Miyar valley in Udaipur subdivision were unsure how they would meet even their basic food needs during the upcoming winter.

"Vegetable farming is their primary source of livelihood. The destruction of their crops has left them without any income. It's a horrible situation," she added. She had raised the matter with the district administration and local MLA Anuradha Rana.

Former MLA and senior BJP leader Ravi Thakur has also taken up the issue with the Union Government. He called on Union Minister of State for Textiles Ajay Tamta and requested him for urgent intervention and support for the distressed farmers.

Anuradha Rana, said that she had submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, requesting him for a special relief package, free seed distribution and waiver of Kisan Credit Card loans. "I have urged the Chief Minister to raise the matter with the Central Government. He has assured us that every possible measure will be taken to support farmers," she added.

# HC stays toll collection at Sanwara barrier till Oct 30

SHIMLA, SEPTEMBER 18

The High Court of Himachal Pradesh has expressed serious concern over the poor condition of road and the lack of basic amenities and stayed the collection of toll at the Sanwara barrier on the Chandigarh-Shimla National Highway-5 from September 20 to October 30.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhawalia and Justice Ranjan Sharma directed the Deputy Com-

missioner, Solan, to provide necessary assistance to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for the repair of roads and assess the law and order situation.

The court directed the Public Works Department (PWD) to improve the road condition from Kaithal to Shimla, with special focus on the industrial area near Shoghi where the situation was particularly alarming. The matter has been posted for further hearing on October 30.

Earlier, the court had expanded the scope of a petition highlighting hardships faced by residents due to multiple toll plazas near the Nangal Municipal Council limits and directed the NHAI to file replies regarding other toll barriers in the state within three weeks. The Bench observed that several barri-

ers were obstructing free movement of traffic.

The court also noted inconvenience caused at the Timber Trail barrier, where only two or three lanes were available at weekends and no free lane existed for vehicles registered in Himachal though they were exempted from entry tax. — OC

## GOVT. POLYTECHNIC EDUCATION SOCIETY, MEHAM (ROHTAK)

Applications are invited to empanel visiting Faculty (purely on hourly basis) in Govt. Polytechnic, Education Society, Meham in D. Pharmacy, DMLT and Civil Engg. The minimum qualifications are as per Directorate Technical Education Haryana norms. It is purely on hourly basis @ Rs. 45/- per hour for lecture(theory) and Rs. 25/- per hour for practical work (maximum monthly ceiling limit Rs. 28,573/- for visiting lecturer) for current odd Semester (upto November 2025) for DMLT & Civil Engg. and upto May/June 2026 for Pharmacy as per Haryana State visiting faculty norms. The last date for submitting hard copy of resume in the Institute is 30/09/2025 up to 05:00 PM.

For any enquiry, the candidate may contact at 01257-233716, email: oiaadmstrn@gmail.com

Note:- If any amendment/corrigendum is issued, subsequently, the same will not be published in any newspaper, rather it will be uploaded on institute's official website <https://gpmeham.ac.in>

Principal  
Govt. Polytechnic Education Society,  
Meham (Rohtak)

## APPOINTMENT

Society for Promotion of IT in Chandigarh (SPIC) under the aegis of Department of Information Technology, Chandigarh Administration is inviting applications for the following post.

### ITS Manager

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

Last date for submission of online application is 29.09.2025.

**SPIC Centre of Excellence**  
Under the aegis of Department of Information Technology, Chandigarh Administration  
5th Floor, Additional Deluxe Building, Sector 9-D, Chandigarh - 160009, Phone: 0172-2740641, 2740005  
Email: ceo@spicindia.com

## HARYANA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

C-11, Sector 6, Panchkula

Ph. 0172- 577870-73, Fax No. 2581201

E-mail: hspcbho@gmail.com Website: hspcb.org.in

## NOTICE

Subject: Categorization of Industrial Sector/Projects in Red, Orange, Green, White and Blue categories for the purpose of Consent Management.

This is for the information of all the concerned stakeholders that categorization of industrial sectors and procedure for grant and refusal of consent to establish and consent to operate under Water Act, 1974 & Air Act, 1981 was issued vide order Endst. No. HSPCB/2020/PLG/1767-1795 dated 04.12.2020.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) vide letter No. CP-18/1/2023-IPC-VI-HO-CPCB-HO dated 12.02.2025 and 25.03.2025 issued the directions under section 18(1)(b) of the Water Act, 1974 and the Air Act, 1981 regarding Classification of industrial sectors into Red, Orange, Green, White and Blue category.

Based on the revised criteria of categorization of industrial sectors and revised lists of Red, Orange, Green, White and Blue category of industrial sectors and as per provisions of the said CPCB directions, the Board vide order Endst. No. HSPCB/PLG/2025/184-222 dated 01.08.2025 has replaced list of industrial/non-industrial sectors/projects under Red/Orange/Green/White category issued vide order endst. dated 04.12.2020 (as amended by subsequent orders thereof) with the consolidated list of classification of industrial/non-industrial sectors/projects under Red, Orange, Green, Blue and White category issued by CPCB, and left over industrial/non-industrial sectors/projects categorized by HSPCB, for the purpose of consent management. The consolidated list of classification of industrial/non-industrial sectors/projects under Red, Orange, Green, Blue and White category may be seen at website of the Board i.e. [https://hspcb.org.in/uploads/pages/categorization\\_689feccbb7c83.pdf](https://hspcb.org.in/uploads/pages/categorization_689feccbb7c83.pdf).

The MoEF&CC vide Notification G.S.R. 84(E) dated 29.01.2025 and G.S.R. 85(E) dated 30.01.2025 has issued Guidelines 'Control of Air Pollution (Grant, Refusal or Cancellation of Consent) Guidelines, 2025' and 'Control of Water Pollution (Grant, Refusal or Cancellation of Consent) Guidelines, 2025'. In these guidelines, siting criteria for establishment of a new Industrial Plant have been notified including other guidelines, also, as per these guidelines, no industrial plant shall be allowed to set up in non-conforming areas or restricted or prohibited areas. The guidelines issued under Air Act, 1981 are applicable in the State and guidelines issued under Water Act, 1974 become applicable as and when State Government adopts the amendments made in Water Act in 2024.

All the concerned stakeholders are hereby informed through this public notice to follow the provisions of new categorization of industrial sectors issued by the Board and obtain the necessary consent to establish (CTE) and consent to operate (CTO) under Water Act, 1974 and Air Act, 1981 as per procedure immediately. Any non-compliance/violation in respect of above attracts action including penal actions as per provisions of applicable Act/Rule/Policy.

## EXCISE AND TAXATION DEPARTMENT, HARYANA

### One Time Settlement Scheme, 2025

(From 1st April, 2025 to 27th September, 2025)

For settlement of Outstanding Tax Dues for the period upto 30th June, 2017

Under the seven specified Acts including VAT/CST Is going on

### Complete waiver of penalty & interest amount

The benefits provided in three slabs under the scheme are tabulated as below:-

Sr. No.	Total quantified outstanding tax due	Standard Waiver	Waiver of Tax dues (after deducting standard waiver)	Waiver of Interest	Waiver of Penalty
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1.	Up to Rs. 10,00,000 (Ten Lakh)	1,00,000 (One Lakh)	60%	100%	100%
2.	Above Rs. 10,00,000 (Ten Lakh) to Rs. 10,00,000 (Ten Crore)	0	50%	100%	100%
3.	Above Rs. 10,00,000 (Ten Crore)	0	0%	100%	100%

### Tax payer can also avail the instalment facility.

Serial Number	Settlement Amount under the scheme	Amount to be paid at the time of application	2nd Instalment (within 60 days from the date of provisional order of settlement)
1.	Upto 10 Lakhs Rupees	Full and Final settlement amount to be paid along with FORM OTS-1.	Nil
2.	More than 10 Lakhs Rupees	50% of the settlement amount along with FORM OTS-1.	Balance 50% of the settlement amount alongwith intimation in FORM OTS-1 A.

### Scheme closes on 27th September, 2025.

### Only 09 days remaining to avail the benefit of the scheme

visit [www.haryanaxtax.gov.in](http://www.haryanaxtax.gov.in) to apply or for any queries contact your respective Deputy Excise & Taxation Commissioner

Excise and Taxation Commissioner, Haryana, Panchkula

**PUNJAB MANDI BOARD**  
Email:- pmb.xencldh@punjab.gov.in  
**NOTICE INVITING ONLINE BIDS**  
**TENDER NOTICE 22 (2025) DATE: 18.09.2025**  
On behalf of Governor of Punjab, Executive Engineer (C), Punjab Mandi Board, Ludhiana invites bids from eligible bidders registered with Punjab Mandi Board for MODERNIZATION OF LINK ROADS VARIOUS FALLING UNDER MARKET COMMITTEE JAGRAON, HATHUR, RAIKOT, SAMRALA, KILA RAIPUR, KHANNA, MULLANPUR AND SIDHWANBI DISTRICT LUDHIANA. (SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE STATE FOR CAPITAL INVESTMENT 2025-26) (580 cr.) INCLUDING 5 YEAR ROUTINE MAINTENANCE. (For detail, terms and conditions of notice inviting bids, refer to website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in/>) Corrigendum, if any, will only be issued on website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (C),  
Punjab Mandi Board,  
Ludhiana.

**PUNJAB MANDI BOARD**  
Punjab Mandi Bhawan, Sector-65, S.A.S. Nagar  
Email:- pmb.xenmoh2@punjab.gov.in  
Dated: 17.09.2025  
E Tendering Notice No. 25 (2025)

### Secure Online Submission of Tenders

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

- DNIT for Boundary wall Community Center in Village Himayupur (166), Dera Bassi, Distt. S.A.S. Nagar. (Work Code:- SASN 2025-44)
- DNIT for Const. of Boundary wall of Cremation Ground in Seoli (189), Tehsil Derabassi, Distt. S.A.S. Nagar (Work Code:- SASN 2025-45)

Closing Date & Time: 01.10.2025 Time: 11:00 AM

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

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

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

### NORTHERN RAILWAY CORRIDGEUM (E-AUCTION NOTICE)

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager-FS, Northern Railway, Ambala Division invites bids through e-Auction Leasing on IREPS website for contract of leasing of parcel space (4/3.9 Tonnes) in SLR/SLRD compartment of Brake Vans in various Mail/Express Trains over Ambala Division; the e-Auction, earlier scheduled on 23.09.2025, has now been rescheduled to 03.10.2025 with the addition of 02 more lots.

### Auction Catalogue No.

UMB-SLR-11-25 (08 Lots)

Auction Start Date & Time

03.10.2025 at 12:00 hrs.

## EU-Indias

Tightrope as Russia's shadow looms

THE European Union has sent a clear signal of intent: it wants to deepen its strategic and trade ties with India. On the face of it, this is a natural progression. India is one of the world's fastest-growing economies, a major Indo-Pacific player, and a potential counterweight to China. Yet the road ahead is far from smooth, for India's longstanding ties with Russia cast a long shadow over the New Delhi-Brussels equation. India's relationship with Russia has been defined by decades of defence cooperation and, more recently, discounted oil imports that helped cushion inflationary shocks. At the same time, India has been expanding cooperation with Europe — France on fighter jets and submarines, Germany on green hydrogen and the EU bloc on trade negotiations. The challenge lies in balancing these axes without being forced into choosing one over the other.

The economic case for closer EU partnership is compelling. The EU is India's third largest trading partner, offering access to high-end tech, investment and regulatory frameworks that could help modernise Indian industries. Collaborations in digital trade, green energy and pharmaceuticals align with India's own development priorities. On the geopolitical front, Europe's growing interest in Indo-Pacific security dovetails with India's concerns about China's assertiveness.

But tensions are inevitable. Europe's discomfort with India's neutral stance on Ukraine will not fade quickly. For Brussels, human rights and political values are often embedded in trade and security discussions, while for India, sovereignty and strategic autonomy remain paramount. Over-dependence on either Russia or Europe carries risks: the former risks technological stagnation, the latter political pressures. The essence of Indian diplomacy has been its ability to navigate multipolar complexities — from the Non-Aligned Movement to today's multi-alignment. The EU partnership should not be seen as a replacement for Moscow, but as an expansion of India's options.

## Stubble challenge

Incentivising farmers is a viable option

THE onset of paddy procurement in Punjab has drawn the attention of various stakeholders to a seasonal problem — stubble burning. The Supreme Court has asked the state government to take a call on arresting some erring farmers for indulging in this practice, which is a key contributor to air pollution in October-November every year. The court has acknowledged that "farmers are special and we are eating because of them", but it has urged the state to invoke penal provisions to send a stern message about safeguarding the environment. Punjab and Haryana, both food-bowl states, have occasionally put farmers behind bars for setting stubble ablaze, but this drastic step has not proved to be an effective deterrent.

Arrests and hefty penalties over the years have incurred the wrath of the region's farming community, which has not shied away from upping the ante against the Central and state governments. Criminal prosecution of farmers is regarded as a politically risky move as they constitute an influential vote bank, particularly in Punjab. With the paddy crop having suffered extensive damage during the recent floods in the border state, the authorities are likely to play it safe, avoiding punitive action that can worsen the farmers' ordeal.

It is imperative to prioritise collaboration over confrontation. The carrot should work better than the stick. The key is to encourage and empower farmers to manage stubble, which can be used productively as biofuel by industries. The push for biomass utilisation in energy production can make a difference on the ground. The capital subsidy to incentivise industries shifting to stubble-based boilers is a laudable initiative. Eco-friendly steps that ensure environmental protection as well as the wellbeing of farmers are a must to prevent the great winter choke.

### ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

## The Tribune.

LAHORE, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1925

### Government's double defeat

ON Wednesday, the Government of India sustained a double defeat in the Legislative Assembly. In both cases, the defeat was perfectly well deserved. In the first case, the issue before the House was whether the present rule by which persons against whom a conviction by a criminal court involving a sentence of transportation or imprisonment for a period of more than one year is subsisting are disqualified for election to Indian and provincial legislatures should or should not continue to exist. It was not a matter in which there was any difference of opinion among educated and politically minded Indians. Not only was it repugnant to common sense and to all considerations of fairness that a man who had already served his sentence should be debarred from offering himself as a candidate for election, but the example of England, from which our laws and institutions are claimed to be derived, was entirely against the rule. Further, it was perfectly obvious that such a rule amounted in intention and in effect to a serious interference with the legitimate right of the electorate to determine who should represent it. Lastly, apart from the question of principle, there was the undeniable fact that many of the best men in the country had at one time or another been sent to prison for no other reason than the intensity of their love of the country, and not a few of these men were disqualified under the rule. The legislatures themselves, Indian and provincial, had joined in the general demand for its abolition. What had been the Government's response to this unanimous public demand? Nothing except a small concession raising the disqualifying period from six months to one year.

## Speaking truth to Pawar

A young IPS officer has set an example by standing firm against Maharashtra Deputy CM



TRYSTS AND TURNS  
JULIO RIBEIRO

MAHARASHTRA Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar is like the proverbial cat with nine lives. The BJP-Shiv Sena government (2014-19) accused him of siphoning off funds when the Congress-NCP (Nationalist Congress Party) alliance was in power. Pawar had served as the state Water Resources and Irrigation Minister from 1999 to 2009. Later, he was given the clean chit in the irrigation scam.

In 2023, he jumped ship with some of his supporters, originally from the NCP, and formed a splinter group that extended support to the BJP.

Recently, the Deputy CM found himself in trouble after a young IPS officer, Anjana Krishna, posted as SDPO (Sub-Divisional Police Officer) at Karmala in Solapur district, got the better of him. She recorded her conversation with Pawar, showing him in an extremely poor light. He tried to squirm out of the spider's web but got inexorably entangled.

The Mahayuti government, led by Devendra Fadnavis, had ordered that sand mining of riverbeds in the state would not be permitted without the written nod of the designated district revenue officer. Pawar's faithful followers, like those of other important politicians in the state, presumed that all laws and rules framed by parties in power could be broken by those who owed allegiance to the ruling alliance.

As the Police Commissioner of Thane in 1981, I was 'requested' by a Congress



ONE UP: Maharashtra Deputy CM Ajit Pawar's attempt to bully IPS officer Anjana Krishna backfired. PTI

MLA close to then Chief Minister AR Antulay, to desist from raiding distilleries manufacturing illicit liquor! I politely pointed out to the gentleman that the laws were enacted by his own party and not by the police. If his party wanted the illicit liquor business to flourish for whatever reason, he needed to approach his own party bosses to abolish the prohibition law that required the police to prevent distillation in the interest of people's health.

As the Police Commissioner, I was duty-bound to implement the government's policies. After leaving my office, the MLA told anxious police inspectors awaiting his signal that they had been saddled with an 'insane' boss who believed that laws instituted by legislators were sacrosanct!

Ajit is not the only senior politician to browbeat 'government' servants, who are actually 'public' servants. There were fewer upstarts among the politicians in the early years of my service. In fact, the very first one I encountered was in my 11th year of service when I was given the charge of Superin-



tendent of Police, Poona city. A year later, a commissionerate was formed in Poona (Pune). The state's Home Minister, Balasaheb Desai, issued verbal orders to the Commissioner "not to fire" at miscreants who had resorted to looting and burning during a communal clash.

That order conveyed down

the line was ignored by me on the second day of the clashes when the riots escalated. That was what finally saved the police from ignominy. When an inquiry into the riots was instituted, the minister, of course, was not prepared to admit to his verbal instructions. His first instinct was to protect his own skin.

Anjana Krishna was very polite while talking to the Deputy CM on the phone of one of his supporters, who had got in touch with him. She asked Pawar to call her on her own mobile phone so that she could be sure that it was the Deputy CM himself who was ordering her to permit sand mining of riverbeds, thus ignoring written orders of the government.

Ironically, the state government is encouraging builders to redevelop even well-constructed and perfectly safe buildings as part of its development agenda. The fact is that 'eviction' of residents, even those like me who are awaiting passage to the next world, is a cruel act, based sometimes on the needs of larger families, but more often on sheer greed. The

neglect of the old and infirm is intrinsic to this mad rush to redevelop buildings which do not call for such a step.

The state government does not seem to care for the health of citizens, especially the very young, the very old and the sick, who have to endure the steep rise in pollution levels caused by the razing of buildings and the construction activity that follows. It does not think about nature's revenge when sand is mined indiscriminately from riverbeds. If regulations are in place to prevent such sand mining, loopholes are left by empowering lesser officials to bypass the rules.

Coming back to the young officer who bested a powerful politician, I must give her credit for turning the spotlight on a disturbing phenomenon. Powerful politicians force 'meek' bureaucrats and police officers to disregard the laws which they themselves have passed to lull gullible people into believing that they have public health and safety uppermost in their minds. Actually, what they really seek is an avenue to generate funds needed to get the votes that will keep them in power as long as possible.

Anjana seems to have her wits about her. I would never have thought of recording the conversation with any politician, high or low. I do not know how she managed that, but whatever people may say about her methods, the end in this case did justify the means. Politicians seeking to bully officials will now be put on notice.

Anjana's career must be followed closely. If she continues to adhere to the Constitution and worship at the altar of justice and rule of law, keeping away from the temptations that are bound to come her way in the police service, she would do a great service to the IPS and the people of this great country.

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Public officers are the servants and agents of the people. —Grover Cleveland

## Seamless continuity of footsteps

VINOD KHANNA

NOSTALGIA is an old man's best friend, and lack of sleep his worst enemy. I knew it because when my old parents came to live with us for a few months, I could hear the voices emanating from their room well past midnight.

They had a whole world left behind in Pakistan to talk about. Pakpattan Sharif, the place where Baba Farid resided, was also the place where my mother was born and brought up. She had a strong religious instinct, maybe due to the proximity of the Sufi saint's dargah to her home. However, it was my father who often recited the saint's poetry during their conversations because he had studied it while preparing for an examination.

Some of the couplets that I used to overhear have stayed with me. My favourite: "Farida je tu aqal lateef hain tan kaale likh na lekh, Apne girebaan mein munh neewaan kar dekh!" (O Farid, if you are really intelligent, don't write negatively about others, you must look within and see your own faults first).

Then they talked of relatives who vanished during the Partition and those who survived. They also talked of gold and silver buried in the courtyard while leaving the house in a hurry, hoping that one day they would come back to retrieve it — as when things settled down. Alas, it was not to be.

While witnessing them getting older, losing their teeth, upgrading their specs and piling more and more medicines on the bedside, I pitied their condition, hardly realising that a subtle change had been in the offing. Their eventual departure was only a matter of time.

The actors have changed now. Approaching their age, my wife and I have slowly cast ourselves in their roles. Sleep often plays truant, and after uselessly tossing and turning in bed, we are left with nothing but to relive the memories of our youthful days and childhood. When there is a brief lull in our conversation, I sometimes hear the voices coming from the room where my late parents used to talk and sleep. I often wonder if it is a *fait accompli* for every human to follow in the footsteps of his or her forbears.

We often hear that age is just a number, but having seen old age from close quarters, I can say that all numbers are not the same. Robert Stach's *The Ice Age Cometh*, a sci-fi novel set in 2125, is a case in point. Even the years are numbers, but 2125 will never be 2025.

Poet Nida Fazli has beautifully summed up this continuity of relationships in his poem 'Walid ki wafat par' (Upon the death of a father):

"...tumhari gabr par jis ne tumhara naam likha hai  
Voh jhootha hai, voh jhootha hai  
Tumhara qabr mein main dafn hain, tum mujh mein zinda ho  
Kabhi fursat miley to fatiha padhne chale aana..."  
(The one who has written your name on your grave is a liar, I am buried in your grave, you are alive in me  
If you ever get free time, come and offer the ritual prayer).

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Unemployment a stark reality

Refer to 'Despair, desperation over jobs in Bihar'; the problem of unemployment is severe in populous states like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. These two states account for most of the inter-state migration in India. The economy of Bihar, historically one of India's poorest states, is heavily dependent on agriculture. But small landholdings, coupled with inadequate irrigation, provide less dividends and render land unproductive. The state's industrial sector is underdeveloped. The hapless villagers have no alternative except to work in farms and industries in other states. Educated youths hanker after government jobs. The recruitment process is slow in the state and paper leaks add to the misery. Results of exams get delayed for years. If no timely correction in the system is done, the consequences can be disastrous.

KR BHARTI, SHIMLA

#### Countries protect their farmers

With reference to 'Punjab farmers need a crop insurance cover'; a lack of political will across parties has led to inadequate, politically motivated compensations instead of providing real solutions. In contrast, countries like Australia, the US, Canada, China and Japan protect their farmers by providing strong crop insurance schemes. The government must learn from the current flood crisis and introduce a comprehensive crop insurance policy in Punjab, alongside strategies for sustainable management of natural resources.

RAJESH JALOTA, BY MAIL

#### Academic freedom curtailed

Apropos of 'When university professors stop questioning power'; if the academia shifts to self-censorship, truth begins to lose its meaning. A nation's history must be based on people's struggles instead of a focus on State policies in order to reveal its democratic credentials. These days, academic freedom is being curtailed in the name of fostering nationalism. It is essential for the intellectual, as Edward Said argues, "to speak truth to power, often at the risk of being deemed unpatriotic or subversive".

ASHIMA GUPTA, PATTIALA

#### Varsities must align with truth

Refer to 'When university professors stop questioning power'; it is a clarion call to the academia of the world to wake up from its deep slumber before it is too late. Professional ambition resulting in complicity is one of the stumbling blocks in the way of the academician playing an objective role. The writer has aptly observed that universities must align not with state power or capital but with the struggle for freedom, justice and truth. He has raised pertinent questions about the purpose and function of higher education in a democratic society and its role in the welfare of the State. Universities must rise to the occasion to play a significant part in ushering a humane, amiable and harmonious world order.

PK SHARMA, BARNALA

#### Protect RTI activists

The editorial 'RTI woes' underscores how vacancies and delays have weakened the RTI framework. However, another grave concern often overlooked is the safety of those who dare to use this Act. Since its enactment, scores of RTI activists have been harassed, assaulted or even killed, with the tragic case of Shehla Masood standing out as a stark reminder. The Whistleblower Protection Act, which was intended to safeguard truth-seekers, remains toothless in practice — diluted by amendments and crippled by poor enforcement. Unless the state ensures robust protection for whistleblowers and RTI activists, transparency will remain a promise only on paper.

HARSH PAWARI, ROHTAK

#### Taking development forward

Apropos of 'Modi at 75'; Narendra Modi's premiership has altered India's image in the eyes of the world. The prime minister has carried forward the work of his predecessors to newer heights. While the foundation of India's space programme was largely laid down by Indira Gandhi, Modi's tenure has propelled the country to the forefront of space exploration. The momentum of economic reforms laid down by Manmohan Singh has continued with renewed zeal as India integrates with the global economy. However, the biggest challenge is to create jobs for the teeming youth.

CHANDER SHEKHAR DOGRA, JALANDHAR

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

# Politics fuels Punjab's migrant controversy



JAGRUP SINGH SEKHON  
EX-PROFESSOR, GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY, AMRITSAR

**T**HE brutal killing of a five-year-old boy by an alleged migrant worker in Hoshiarpur has raised many issues in present-day Punjab, which is already struggling with many challenges at many levels.

This gruesome murder resulted in widespread outrage across the state against the migrant population. Many panchayats have passed resolutions demanding stern action to prevent the entry of migrants in their respective villages and hardline measures against them.

Others have talked about the negative impact of unregulated migration in Punjab, saying it is a conspiracy to change the demographic structure in the state. They have asked the government to enact laws similar to those in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand to stop migrants from settling in the state.

Similar voices have also been raised by some politicians. Some individuals were seen campaigning

against migrants and issuing threats to them.

Considering the seriousness of this incident, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann firmly stated that such demands violated the Constitution. He warned the locals against such behaviour as it would adversely affect Punjabis settled in other states of the country.

On the other hand, the passing of resolutions by panchayats to check the entry of migrants in their respective villages has raised many questions about the working of the panchayati raj system in Punjab.

Do they not know that passing such resolutions is a violation of the Constitution and the Panchayati Raj Act 1993? No gram panchayat has the jurisdiction to take such a decision or impose a ban on individuals.

Let us see how important migrant workers are for Punjab. The fact of matter is that migrant labourers are found in all areas of Punjabi society and have become an integral part of all growth-related activities, i.e. agriculture, industry, construction, etc in both rural and urban areas.

Though migration is an old phenomenon, the growing number of migrants in contemporary Punjab began with the Green Revolution in the late 1960s. This development was the outcome of a change in the traditional siri (attached labourers) culture and the movement of local



ADVANTAGE: Everybody knows who will get the political benefit of the migrant issue in Punjab. SANDEEP JOSHI

farm labourers to the non-farm sector due to mechanisation and the economic shift in agrarian structure.

However, the Punjab peasantry, in spite of mechanisation, still relies on monoculture as the Green Revolution requires a huge labour force during peak harvesting season and during paddy transplantation to complete farm operations successfully in the shortest possible time.

It is in this context that a significant number of people from states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal migrated to Punjab, firstly as agricultural workforce and later on becoming an integral part of non-agricultural activities, seeking

Migrants are integral to Punjab's agriculture, industry, construction, and services, making their contribution vital to the state's economy.

better economic prospects.

In 2011, there were more than 13 lakh migrant labourers in Punjab making a significant contribution to the state's development. The trend of migration in rural Punjab continued in 1980s and 1990s during the darkest terrorism years when dozens of migrant workers were killed by militants.

Initially, migrants came for farm work, but many later shifted to industry and settled in Punjab. However, despite sectoral shifts, Punjab's dependence on migrant workers remained.

An estimated 1.8 million migrant workers sustain Punjab's economy across agriculture, industry and services. Their inflow for farm work has reduced due

to better opportunities in their home states, leading to shortages. Farmers now offer incentives, especially in Doaba, where migrants also manage lands and homes of families settled abroad.

So, what led to the demand for the ouster of migrants from Punjab? Because of a murder committed by one individual? They could have asked the government and law enforcement agencies to make sure that no such incident happens in future and severe punishment to the accused.

Punjab faces agrarian distress, political instability, youth hopelessness, poor governance and repeated floods — all adding to public desperation.

Some Sikhs fear that rising migrant settlement is reshaping Punjab's demography. The Sikh share of the population fell from 61 per cent in 1966 to 57.7 per cent in 2011, a trend worsened by youth migration abroad.

Now, the question is: who is making migrant workers responsible for the problems in Punjab? What are their designs? Why is the whole migrant community being held responsible for this unfortunate murder allegedly committed by a migrant worker? The need of the hour is to see what is happening at the ground level.

Another aspect of this phenomenon is that when such issues are raised in other parts of the country, who gets

the political benefit? In the recent past, political parties have gained electorally by stoking anti-migrant sentiment, as seen in Maharashtra and parts of the south.

The issue of migrants is very sensitive in the Hindi heartland states of Bihar and UP. Elections in Bihar are going to be held shortly and most of the migrant workforce in Punjab is from that state. Everybody knows who will get the political benefit of the migrant controversy in Punjab.

In addition, elections are scheduled in Punjab after one year. Unlike earlier times, we have many stakeholders for power. The present government has failed to fulfil many promises it made to the people before the 2022 elections.

Punjab is facing many problems, and no government in the post-terrorism period has paid attention to solving the structural problems that emerged during the turmoil in Punjab. Such issues become handy for individuals, political parties and others to derive political benefit in the electoral process.

Punjab's past sectarian and terrorist violence has already cost it dearly. Punjab has to recover from its structural problems.

It is in this context that the people of Punjab must understand the designs of forces trying to bring social, economic and political instability in the state.

## Lessons from 1965 air war that remain relevant today



AIR MARSHAL RGK KAPOOR (RETD)  
FORMER CHIEF, CENTRAL AIR COMMAND

**O**N the occasion of the diamond jubilee (60 years) of the India-Pakistan war of 1965, it is time to reminisce the gallant efforts of the Indian armed forces thwarting Pakistan's nefarious design to annex Kashmir. This was to be the first air war between the two air forces.

Pakistan launched Operation Gibraltar and escalated with Operation Grand Slam.

However, its egregious designs were comprehensively defeated by the Indian Air Force (IAF), which not only stemmed the tide but also turned it around with tenacious operational and tactical brilliance. It is said that history tends to repeat if the lessons are not properly integrated into doctrine, strategy and tactics. While technology has undergone a huge transformation, some lessons remain relevant in the context of the present air war milieu.

The IAF was not used offensively, both during the 1947-48 and 1962 wars. With the apprehension that air power is esca-

latory, this mindset continued during the 1965 war too.

The IAF had begun modernising with MiG-21s but still relied on older fleets of Vampire, Mystere, Hunter, Canberra and Gnat, while the PAF fielded more advanced US-supplied Sabres and Starfighters.

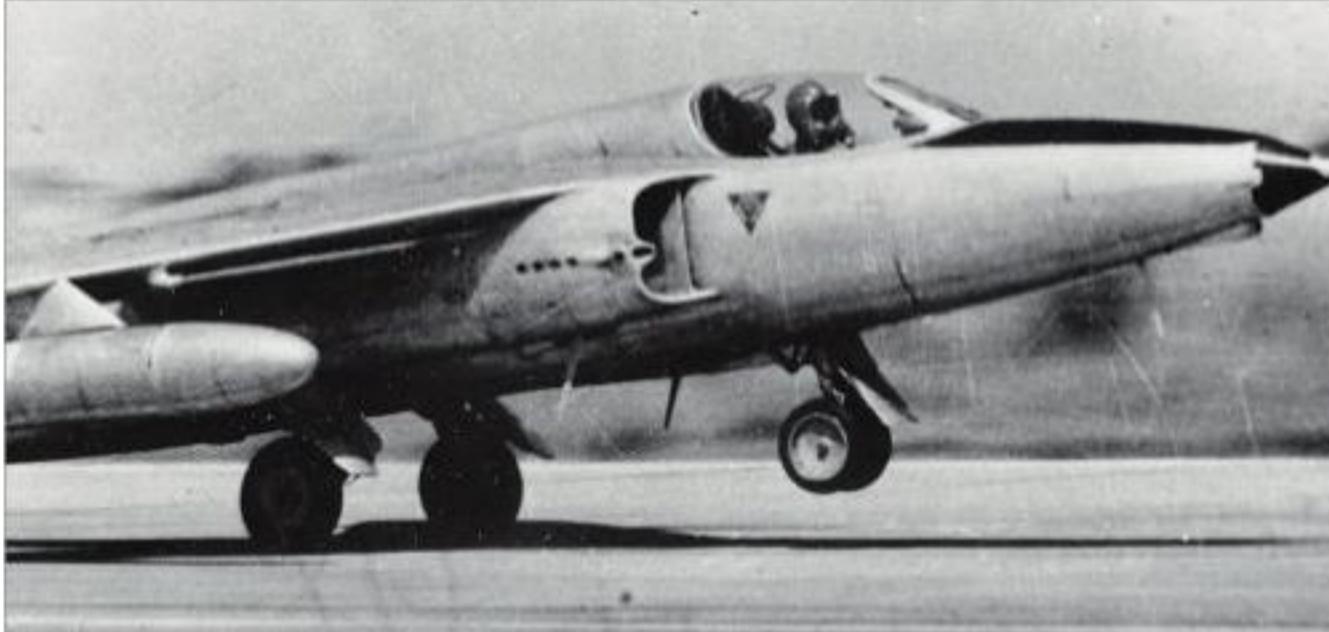
Political directions were clear before the war: Do not allow Pakistan to wrest Kashmir, destroy the offensive power of Pakistani armed forces and occupy minimum territory to force satisfactory conclusion of war.

The use of air power was tightly controlled by the political leadership, resulting in its reactive and defensive use, which severely restricted the initial outcomes.

At the war's outset, the IAF had numerical superiority, but many aircraft were tied down on the eastern front, reducing its edge in the west.

The air war must, therefore, be viewed in this context, where PAF had unambiguous plans of concentrating its combat power on the western front in consonance with its overall plan. The quantitative edge of the IAF was virtually neutralised by the qualitative edge of the PAF, which had better aircraft, weapons and radars.

As the government had stopped the IAF from taking offensive action inside East Pakistan, 38 per cent of the IAF was left out of the battle. Hesitation in using air power proactively was a major lesson of the war, especially when



OUTMANOEUVRE: Gnats shot down seven Sabres, earning them the sobriquet 'Sabre slayers'. PIB PHOTO

faced with a technologically superior adversary.

The IAF joined battle to counter a major ground offensive by the Pakistani armour in the Jammu sector on September 1, 1965, restricting it to operate only in the Chamb sector. The IAF used Vampires in the initial waves, followed by Mysteres by night. The IAF lost three Vampires to Sabres on the first day itself. This was a major blow and Gnats were pressed into operation against the much better Sabres.

The IAF adopted innovative tactics and on September 3, Sqn Ldr Trevor Keelor, flying a Gnat, shot down a Sabre — the first kill by the IAF. Restrictions on the use of air power are counterproductive, while innovation produces disproportionate outcomes and surprises the enemy.

The PAF conducted pre-emptive strikes against IAF bases at Halwara, Adampur

and Pathankot on September 6, destroying IAF aircraft on the ground. A lesson: Assets need to be secured under heightened alert situation.

Base and asset protection remains relevant to date, when the means to strike have diversified from drones to loitering munitions and long-range precision weapons. The latest examples are Operation Rising Lion (Israel) and Spike Web (Ukraine).

In response, the IAF struck PAF bases, including Sargodha, Chaklala, Peshawar, Risalwala and others. The significance of offensive employment of air power and ingenuity was driven home, as with every strike, the IAF gained ascendancy.

In the days following the initial skirmishes, Gnats shot down seven Sabres, earning them the sobriquet 'Sabre slayers'. The lesson: realistic training, initiative and innovation

during operations can outmanoeuvre a superior air force.

The IAF lost aircraft to air defence guns during strikes by the day. Adaptability of air power was highlighted when the Air Force shifted to night operations since most anti-aircraft weapons were ineffective at night. Even today, most air forces operate by night, but the sanctuary of safety at night has largely shrunk with modern radars and weapons.

The IAF flew more sorties overall, but restrictions on offensive use gave the PAF room to operate freely, thus wresting the initiative. Counter air operations are imperative to achieve desired control of air.

The IAF-commissioned book, 'The Duels of the Himalayan Eagle: The First Indo-Pak Air War', released on September 1, 2015, acknowledges that the IAF suffered 'disproportionately higher losses.'

Despite higher overall aircraft losses, including many on the ground, the IAF matched the PAF in air combat through ingenuity and tactics. IAF pilots displayed guts and resilience, undeterred by the much superior Sabres and Starfighters.

Air Marshal Arjan Singh led the IAF with elan. He was disheartened when the ceasefire was declared after 17 days of war since the IAF had consumed less than 10 per cent of its resources. He was prepared for a three-month conflict. Also, the ceasefire was declared when the IAF was gaining ascendancy.

Lessons were learnt, many of which remain relevant: intelligence, jointness, offensive use of air power and force protection. With this war began the IAF's glorious era, in which professionalism, ingenuity and spirit to achieve more with what we have continue to thrive.

It is important to drive home the advantage against the enemy to create long-lasting deterrence. The PAF would have been largely neutralised had the war continued. This is true even today. However, political and military objectives have to be aligned. It calls for clarity on outcomes and pre-war dialogue. Otherwise, there is always a dilemma on the extent of force application.

Some takeaways from the air war are: Air power must be used offensively; quantity has a quality of its own, as the IAF had the depth to endure longer war; realistic training, spirit of personnel and innovation can change the outcome; force protection is extremely important to preserve combat power; the Pakistani notion of victory was higher IAF losses.

However, Pakistan had lost more territory and more aircraft in the air combat; more importantly, Kashmir remained with India. The 1965 war was the first time the IAF was offensively used. Though the IAF started a little late, it overcame adversity with tenacity, innovation, ingenuity and gallant warfighting.

It played a major role in creating favourable conditions for the ground offensives.

Lessons were learnt, many of which remain relevant: intelligence, jointness, offensive use of air power and force protection. With this war began the IAF's glorious era, in which professionalism, ingenuity and spirit to achieve more with what we have continue to thrive.

### QUICK CROSSWORD



#### ACROSS

- 1 Close embrace (6)
- 4 Amphibious force of shock troops (8)
- 9 Persuade by argument (6)
- 10 Dejected (8)
- 12 US university (4)
- 13 Deduce (5)
- 14 Otherwise (4)
- 17 Brave a hostile reception (4,3,5)
- 20 Against one's expressed wish (5,7)
- 23 Place to deposit rubbish (4)
- 24 Ward off (5)
- 25 People (4)
- 28 To set aside (8)
- 29 Is spite of that (4,2)
- 30 Askance (8)
- 31 Effortlessly smooth (6)

Yesterday solution  
Across: 1 Rapid, 4 Caustic, 8 Don, 9 To a nicety, 10 Central, 11 Octet, 13 Launch, 15 Amount, 18 Again, 19 Chopper, 21 Play a part, 23 Duo, 24 Entral, 25 Pupil.  
Down: 2 Radical, 4 Peninsula, 3 Deter, 4 Cradk, 5 Uniform, 6 Tie, 7 Crypt, 12 Trumped-up, 14 Centaur, 16 Turnoil, 17 Scrawl, 18 Ample, 20 On tap, 22 Apt.

### SU DO KU



V. HARD

#### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

#### CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 19, 2025, FRIDAY

■ Shaka Samvat	1947
■ Bhadrabudha Shak	28
■ Aashwin Parvish	4
■ Hijri	1447
■ Krishna Paksha Tithi 13, up to 11:38 pm	
■ Siddha Yoga up to 8:41 pm	
■ Aashle Nakshatra up to 7:06 am	
■ Moon enters Leo sign 7:06 am	

### FORECAST

SUNSET:	FRIDAY	18:23 HRS
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# Citing 'national integrity,' senior lawyer opts out of AAP MLA Malik's PSA case

ARJUN SHARMA

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 18  
In a setback to the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) legal efforts to secure the release of its MLA Mehraj Malik, who was recently detained under the Public Safety Act (PSA), one of the prominent lawyers and president of the J&K High Court Bar Association, Nirmal Kotwal, has withdrawn from representing Malik, citing concerns over 'national integrity.'

On September 14, AAP had announced a legal team comprising 10 senior advocates from J&K who had agreed to represent Malik, who was detained under the stringent PSA by the Doda district administration.

Mehraj Malik, 37, was

## CLAIMS FACTS WITHHELD BY PARTY

- Senior advocate Nirmal Kotwal, also president of the J&K High Court Bar Association, has withdrawn from representing AAP MLA Mehraj Malik, citing concerns over national integrity and alleged anti-national remarks
- He said videos surfaced online purportedly showed Malik praising terrorists and questioning J&K's place in India — claims he said were not disclosed by the AAP's legal team
- Calling the statements "insensitive and detrimental to national security," Kotwal stated he could not ethically or professionally continue representing Malik in the PSA case

detained on September 8 in Doda for allegedly disturbing public order and was lodged in Kathua district jail.

Kotwal, in a statement, said that certain issues came to his attention through social media, prompting him to recuse himself from representing Malik.

"It has come to my notice

that certain videos are in circulation wherein Mehraj Malik has allegedly stated that Jammu & Kashmir is not a part of India and has also praised terrorists Burhan Wani and Masood Azhar. At the very outset, I wish to state that these videos and statements were never brought to my knowledge by the legal

team of the AAP while briefing me in connection with the matter wherein the Public Safety Act has been imposed against Mehraj Malik," Kotwal, a senior advocate, said. He added that these alleged utterances are extremely "insensitive, irresponsible and detrimental to the cause of national security, sovereignty and integrity of India." "As an officer of the court and as a citizen of this great nation, I place the interest of the nation above all else," he said.

Kotwal further stated: "In light of this, and in keeping with my conscience, professional ethics, and commitment to national integrity, I hereby recuse myself from representing Mehraj Malik in the matter concerning the

PSA proceedings. The unity and sovereignty of India are non-negotiable, and any act or statement undermining them cannot be condoned under any circumstances."

After days of unrest and restrictions, Doda district has now returned to normalcy. Protest demonstrations had erupted in some parts of the district following Malik's detention. Meanwhile, in his first statement after Malik's incarceration, his personal assistant Aamir Hamid Malik said on social media on Malik's behalf:

"Your support, cutting across political ideologies, from different districts of J&K and across India, has given immense strength to our collective voice."

FROM PAGE 1

## 3 ex-PMs backed Vajpayee's Kashmir peace plan: Yasin Lone



J&amp;K CM Omar Abdullah

department to go and told them Gujarat is a very important market for us," he said.

Omar revealed that the initially declined approval for the Paris trip, citing the need for industry feedback. "I received a file that said our presence in Europe is weak and it's a good market. I didn't give my consent right away. I asked my advisor to consult the industry—if they saw no benefit, I had no desire to go," he said.

However, he accused government insiders of deliberately leaking the file to create controversy. "No other file is leaked, no other order is leaked. But this particular paper was put on social media. And from that day till now, I have only been abused," he said. The CM expressed disappointment over the silence of tourism stakeholders in the face of public criticism against him.

He recalled efforts made to promote Kashmir post-attack, including directing the tourism department to reach out to new markets. "We were not ready to go to Ahmedabad. I forced the

meetings with IB Director Shyamal Dutta and NSA Brajesh Mishra, who told him that the PM was "serious about the talks" and wanted him to support the ceasefire.

The separatist leader said that RK Mishra of the Observer Research Foundation played a parallel role, hosting him at his Vasant Vihar residence and arranging a breakfast meeting with Brajesh Mishra. "A public statement was sought from me as the JKLF chairman, All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leadership and if possible, from the Kashmiri militant outfits (on the ceasefire)," he said.

Malik said he contacted JKLF's Rafeeq Darr in Pak-

istan-occupied Kashmir and arranged a phone call with United Jihad Council chief Syed Salahuddin. He said he advised Salahuddin not to oppose the ceasefire: "I suggested him to welcome the ceasefire with a rider of unconditional dialogue, as was going on with Naga militants." He also reached out to the APHC leadership in Srinagar. The executive council, including Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Abdul Ghani Lone, Mirwaiz Umar, Abbas Ansari and Malik himself, issued a joint statement backing Vajpayee's move, with the condition that dialogue must follow. Even militant leaders in Muzaffarabad, he said, refrained from issuing

negative statements.

The goodwill created by this consensus, Malik claimed, was marred by a fidayeen attack on Srinagar airport. RK Mishra, furious over the backlash faced by Vajpayee, told Malik the PM had been "humiliated".

Malik said he told RK Mishra that the ceasefire was Vajpayee's own decision. "On his request, I helped to bring the entire political as well as Kashmiri's militant leadership to support his bold move... If any fringe element wants to sabotage this initiative, then tell your PM to revoke the ceasefire and play into the hands of these fringe elements."

In the days that followed, Malik said he and other Hurriyat leaders met senior Congress leaders at journalist Prem Shankar Jha's residence. Manmohan Singh and then Rajya Sabha chairperson Najma Heptullah were also invited. We discussed Vajpayee's peace initiative for three hours. At the end of the meeting, Manmohan asked me "what do you expect from us?" We replied simply, 'As opposition, support the peace process fully.' Within 24 hours, a Congress delegation headed by Manmohan met Vajpayee and openly endorsed his initiative," the affidavit said.

Malik said the opposition's support bolstered Vajpayee's position. In the following weeks, he and Mirwaiz met Sonia, VP Singh, IK Gujral, AB Bardhan and Prakash Karat. Malik claimed these meetings created a rare consensus across the political spectrum. He claimed that Vajpayee and then Home Minister LK Advani issued him a passport in 2001, the first of his life, allowing him to travel to the US, UK, Saudi Arabia and even Pakistan with valid visas. "I travelled freely... speaking on the non-violent democratic peaceful struggle and the resolution of Kashmir issues through dialogue. I have never been found in violation of visa norms or have never absconded or fled," he said.

## Adani gets clean chit..

alleged \$250 million bribery scheme, for which Gautam Adani was indicted in November 2024.

The Hindenburg report

sparked a fierce political battle in 2023, pitting the ruling BJP against a united opposition. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi demanded a joint parliamentary committee probe into alleged cronyism between the Modi government and Adani.

Adani, in a post on X accompanied by the Tricolour, said the Sebi orders had reaffirmed what his group had always maintained — "that the Hindenburg claims were baseless". However, according to reports, the Sebi orders do not absolve the conglomerate of other allegations of large-scale corporate fraud levelled by Hindenburg. The Adani Group continues to face scrutiny, including a separate investigation by US federal prosecutors over an

to intensify efforts for early conclusion of a mutually beneficial Bilateral Trade Agreement, which was announced in February. The negotiations for the trade pact were postponed after President Donald Trump imposed 50 per cent tariffs on select Indian goods.

Initially, the US imposed a baseline 25 per cent reciprocal tariff on India to address perceived trade imbalances. However, in August, an additional 25 per cent penal duty was slapped on Indian goods, bringing the total to 50 per cent. The US cited

the Hindenburg report as a "foreign plot" to derail India's economic growth. The party highlighted Sebi's ongoing investigation and Adani's role in national infrastructure, urging critics to await regulatory findings.

## Setback for Delhi...

link for humanitarian supplies and trade with Afghanistan, bypassing Pakistan. Washington had twice, in 2018 and 2019, formally conveyed to India that modernisation of Chabahar would be exempt from sanctions because of its role as a gateway for aid to Afghanistan.

With the waiver gone, any entity operating at Chabahar or engaging in activities described under IFCA could now face sanctions after September 29.

Indian officials did not immediately comment on the development. However, observers warned that the move could complicate India's regional connectivity plans and humanitarian commitments to Afghanistan, while testing New Delhi's diplomatic balancing act between Washington and Tehran. Strategically located on the Gulf of Oman, Chabahar has long been viewed by India as a counter to Pakistan's Gwadar Port, operated by China.

Hours later, Rahul, in a post on X, escalated his attack on CEC Gyanesh Kumar and accused him of blocking the

economy remains resilient, despite the global headwinds. "Trade continues to be robust in the current financial year," he said, adding that the foreign exchange reserves were healthy.

The CEA's intuition aligns with India's robust export momentum, with shipments crossing \$820 billion last financial year and eyeing the \$1 trillion mark soon. This resilience, Nageswaran noted, positions India as a "healthy and open economy" capable of navigating such headwinds.

## CEC shielding vote chors...

such as destination IP addresses, device ports and OTP trails connected with the delections. "Yet, the EC has refused to provide the information," he said, adding that such stonewalling left "nodoubt" that the CEC was shielding those responsible.

The Congress leader produced voters whose names, he alleged, had been used without consent to delete entries from the electoral rolls. In one case, a woman, Godabai, was shown to have deleted 12 votes; another voter, Suryakant, allegedly deleted 12 names in just 14 minutes. A third, Nagraj, was recorded as deleting two names in 36 seconds, at 4.07 am.

"This pattern proves it was being done through a software," Rahul alleged, pointing to a "systematic fraud". The EC fact-checked his claims, terming these baseless.

Hours later, Rahul, in a post on X, escalated his attack on CEC Gyanesh Kumar and accused him of blocking the

## Notify rules for registering 'Anand Karaj'..

In its September 4 order, the Bench said when the law recognised "Anand Karaj" as a valid form of marriage yet left no machinery to register it, the "promise was only half kept". "What remains is to ensure that the route from records to record is open, uni-

form and fair," it said. The top court passed the order on a plea seeking directions to various states and UTs to frame and notify rules under Section 6 of the Anand Marriage Act, 1909 (as amended in 2012) to facilitate registration of marriages.— PTI

## Placed under house arrest after Bhat's death: Mehbooba Lone

ADIL AKHZER



PDP president Mehbooba Mufti

wilfully blind to this truth, refusing to learn anything from the deep anguish and suppressed emotions that have been building for years now," she said.

"It is becoming increasingly clear that the BJP has no interest in peace or healing in Kashmir. Instead, they seem determined to keep the region in a constant state of turmoil, weaponising pain and unrest for political mileage across the rest of the country. This cynical approach is not just irresponsible; it is dangerous and utterly reprehensible," the former chief minister added.

People's Conference chief and Handwara MLA Sajad Lone also claimed he had been placed under house arrest and prevented from visiting Prof Bhat's home.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**

Tender Notice No: 433-Sig-T-37-25-26  
 Closing Date/Time: 09.10.2025 12:30

Sr. DSTE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on https://www.reps.gov.in against Tender Notice no. 433-Sig-T-37-25-26 Closing Date/Time 09.10.2025 12:30 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

**Contract Type** Works  
**Name of work** Interlocking of 5 No's Non-interlocked L-Xing gates having TVUs>50000 over Firozpur Division.

Tender Closing Date Time 09.10.2025 12:30 Date of Uploading Tender 18.09.2025 10:49

Advertised Value (Rs.) 25974461.96 Bidding Start Date as per IREPS 25.09.2025

Earnest Money (Rs.) 279900.00 Period of Completion 9 Months

**NOTE** Tenderer should keep himself updated about the Tender amendments, Corrigendum, etc. by remaining in touch regularly with the website.

2873/25

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE					
S.R. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT
1.	PWD B&R, GURUGRAM	CONSTRUCTION OF PRECAST BOUNDARY WALL FOR THE LAND EXIST AT 03 NUMBER TOLL PLAZAS SITUATED AT- I). VILLAGE BANDHWARI OVER GURUGRAM - FARIDABAD ROAD (MDR-137, II) ROAD ID- 8752, VILLAGE PAKHAL AND VILLAGE SANCHOLIAIT BALLABHGARH SOHNA ROAD( MDR - 133) ROAD ID-8647 IN DISTT. GURUGRAM AND FARIDABAD UNDER PROVINCIAL DIVISION NO. 1. PWD BANDR BK., GURUGRAM.	CLOSING DATE 26.09.2025	68.76 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in
2.	PWD B&R, ROHTAK	PDG. AUDIO CONFERENCE SYSTEM IN CONFERENCE HALL IN EXTENSION BLOCK OF MINI SECRETARIAT JIND - 2 WORKS	16.09.2025 24.09.2025	11.78 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in
3.	PWD B&R, GURUGRAM	RESTORATION OF DAMAGED ROAD AGAINST B.T. BILL FOR LAYING OF SEWERAGE AND WATER SUPPLY LINE AT MEDAWAS ULLAWAS BEHRAMPUR ROAD KM 0 TO 4.70 (ROAD ID- 3070) FROM CHAINAGE 2.800 TO 3.780 (HBR CHOWK TO WINE SHOP BEHRAMPUR CHOWK) IN GURUGRAM DISTT.	CLOSING DATE 23.09.2025	47.21 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in
4.	DIRECTORATE OF STATE TRANSPORT HARYANA, CHANDIGARH	ONLINE TENDER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BUS DEPOT FOR ELECTRIC BUSES AT DTI, MURTHAL, SONEPAT, HARYANA.	18.09.2025 08.10.2025	1244 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in
5.	AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE, HISAR	LAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME THROUGH VERTICAL DRAINAGE PROJECT AT VILLAGE KAMRI BLOCK HISAR 1	15.09.2025 29.09.2025	195.56 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in
6.	AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE, HISAR	LAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME THROUGH VERTICAL DRAINAGE PROJECT AT VILLAGE DAHIMA BLOCK HISAR-1, DISTT - HISAR	29.09.2025 15.09.2025	151.56 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in
7.	AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE, HISAR	RECLAMATION OF WATERLOGGING LAND BY VERTICAL DRAINAGE PROJECT PART - 2 AT VILLAGE KHARABA, BLOCK - HANSI - II, DIST - HISAR	29.09.2025 15.09.2025	77.32 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in
8.	DIRECTOR GENERAL, SUPPLIES & DISPOSALS PANCHKULA, HARYANA	RENEWAL OF OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES OF DATA FOR 25 STATIONS OF CAQMS FOR A PERIOD OF 5 YEARS.	19.09.2025 03.10.2025		https://etenders.hry.nic.in dshdhyaryana.gov.in
9.	DIRECTOR GENERAL, SUPPLIES & DISPOSALS PANCHKULA, HARYANA	RENEWAL OF OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES OF DATA FOR 03 STATIONS OF CAQMS FOR A PERIOD OF 5 YEARS.	19.09.2025 03.10.2025		https://etenders.hry.nic.in dshdhyaryana.gov.in
10.	ZILA PARISHAD, PANIPAT.	BPL CONSTRUCTION OF COMMUNITY HALL IN FRONT OF VALMIKI CHOPPALAT VILLAGE-PASINA KALAN, BLOCK-BAPOLI, DISTT-PANIPAT	12.09.2025 22.09.2025	29.69 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in
11.	PANCHAYATI RAJ, KANRAL	CONST. OF VETERINARY HOSPITAL AT VILLAGE GOLLI, BLOCK MUNAK, DISTT. KANRAL + 1 WORK	16.09.2025 08.10.2025	47.14 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in
12.	PANCHAYATI RAJ, JHAJJAR	CONST. OF TOILET, WALKING TRACK AND OTHER CIVIL WORKS IN PARK CUM YAMSHALA VILLAGE, KHERA KHUMAR, BLOCK AND DISTT. JHAJJAR	16.09.2025 22.09.2025	10.99 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in
13.	PANCHAYATI RAJ, KURUKSHETRA	BIR			

## CLASSIFIEDS

## SITUATION VACANT

Receptionist required for Homeopathic Clinic in Sirhind (District Fatehgarh Sahib). Timings 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Salary: Rs. 8,000 per month. Contact: Dr. Shabnam 75278-20919. (CL25052989)

**Sir Chhotu Ram Jat College of Education, Ellenabad (Haryana)** requires teaching staff for D.E.L.D., Assistant Professor for Pedagogy in teaching of Social Science-1, Math-1, Language (Hindi, English & Punjabi)-2, Assistant Professor in Perspectives Education-1, Qualification & Grades as per NCTE/Haryana Govt./Affiliating body norms. Apply within 10 days. Contact: 98124-36237, Email: scrienb@gmail.com (CL25052955)

**St. Kabir Public School (CBSE), Gurdaspur.** Required Teachers for the Posts of Higher Classes, Phy. Edu.-2, Bio-2, Eng-3, Music-2 and Primary Teachers for all subjects. Transport & accommodation available walk in interview or send resume, stkabir25180@gmail.com, Phone: 94174-84017, 98766-87771. (CL25052999)

**Akria Group of Institutions, Goniya-Jau Road, Bathinda, Akria Engg. College.** Applications are invited for the post of Assistant Professor [Mechanical- (2), Electrical- (2), Civil- (2), Computer Application- (2), Management- (4), Commerce- (4), Office Superintendent- (2), Office Assistant- (3), Accountant- (2)]. Send resume in engg@akriainsitute.org, Akria Degree College, Applications are invited for the post of Principal, Assistant Professor [Economics- (1), English- (2), History- (2), Physical Education- (1), Commerce- (2), Computer- (2)]. Send resume in degg@akriainsitute.org. For more detail: 81466-28401, 95011-08143 (CL2505190)

## SALES &amp; MARKETING

Required Marketing & Office Exec., BA/ MA Eng/ comprehension skills for Pharma organisation. info@asghsn.in (CL25052930)

## LOST &amp; FOUND

**It is notified for the information of the public that I Krishan Lal s/o Sh. Diwan Singh r/o # 125/1, VPO: Chandhrivwas, Distt. Hisar (HR) have lost my Registry of # 2193/5, Pipiwala Town, Manimajra, Chandigarh bearing Sale Deed no. 2302 dt. 11.08.2014 issued by Sub Registrar U.T. Chandigarh in Manimajra on dated 29.08.2025. If anybody finds may please contact at: 93577-36897. (CL25053008)**

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**I, Rajinder Pal S/o Om Parkash, 115-A Gobind Nagar Ambala Cant disown our son Ravinder Pal, his wife, their descendants from our moveable immovable properties. As all are out of my control. Anybody deals them at own risk. (CL25052973)**

**COURT NOTICE**  
Proclamation under Order 5  
Rule 20 CPC  
In the Court of Kapil Sharma  
Motor Accident Claim Tribunal,  
Paonta Sahib, Distt. Sirmour,  
Himachal Pradesh.  
Petition No.: 40 of 2022  
Instituted on: 08.03.2022  
Fixed for: 04.11.2025

1. Smt. Jyoti Sharma W/o Late Sh. Guumee Singh, aged 28 years,  
2. Navleen Kaur D/o Late Sh. Guumee Singh, aged 6 years.  
3. Smt. Baljeet Kaur W/o Sh. Paramjeet Singh, aged 51 years.  
4. Sh. Paramjeet Singh S/o Sh. Ram Singh, aged 60 years,  
R/o Village Amargarh, P.O. Puruwala, Tehsil Paonta Sahib, Distt. Sirmour, H.P. ...Petitioners  
Versus

1. Satbir Singh Yadav S/o Shri Jawahar Singh Yadav, resident of Village Babupur, P.O. Daulatabad, Gurgaon, Haryana (owner of vehicle/ car bearing Registration No. HR-70D-0099) ...Respondent  
Notice to Respondent:  
Whereas in the above noted case, it has been proved to the satisfaction of this Court that the above named Respondent cannot be served in ordinary way. Hence, this proclamation under Order 5 Rule 20 CPC, is hereby issued against Respondent to appear in this Court on 04.11.2025 at 10:00 am, to defend the case personally or through an authorized agent or pleader, failing which ex parte proceedings shall be initiated against them.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this 16th day of September 2025.

Sd/- Motor Accident Claim Tribunal,  
Paonta Sahib, Distt. Sirmour, H.P.  
Endt. No. ADJ/C. AHL/PNT/2025-  
1951-52 Dated 16.09.2025  
CL25052959

## COURT NOTICES

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)  
In the Court of  
Sh. Prateek Gupta  
Civil Judge  
(Junior Division)-9,  
Jalandhar  
Raman  
Vs.  
Joginder Singh

Suit for grant of decree of permanent injunction as prayed for  
CNR No.  
PBJL02-004879-2024  
Next Date:- 06.10.2025

Publication issued to:  
1. Joginder Singh S/o Banta Singh R/o House No. 84, Ward No. 11, Kamrai, Kapurthala.  
3. Sukhjit Singh S/o Joginder Singh R/o House No. 84, Ward No. 11, Kamrai, Kapurthala.

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 06.10.2025 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Dated, this day of 16.09.2025.  
Sd/- Civil Judge  
(Junior Division)-9,  
CL25030324, Jalandhar

## Schedule II

(See Sub Section (2) of Section 18A)  
In the Court of Sh. Priyanshu Singh  
Civil Judge Jr. Div., Chandigarh  
Kanwaljeet Singh Kambaj  
Vs.

Baldev Krishan Aggarwal  
CNR No. CHCH02-002883-2023  
Next Date: 07.11.2025

Publication issued to:  
Abhishek Krishan Aggarwal S/o Baldev Krishan Aggarwal R/o H.No. 1050, Sector 27-B, Chandigarh.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/ respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that you Abhishek Krishan Aggarwal to appear before Rent Controller within fifteen days of service thereof to obtain leave of controller to contest application for eviction under Sec 13B of said act, in default whereof the applicant will be entitled at any time after the expiry of said period of fifteen days to obtain an order for your eviction from said non residential building.

Leave to appear and contest the application may be obtained on an application to controller supported by an affidavit as is referred to in Sub Section(5) of Section 18A of the said act.

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

Dated, this day of 16.09.2025.  
Sd/- Civil Judge  
(Junior Division)-9,  
CL25052867 Chandigarh

## (U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of Sh. Suresh Singh  
Civil Judge Junior Division-I,  
Sultanpur Lodhi  
Kuldeep Singh  
Versus

Balbir Kaur & Ors.  
CS-32/2025

CNR No. PBKPB0-000042-2025  
Next Date: 29.10.2025

Publication issued to:  
1. Balbir Kaur widow of Malook Singh son of Hazara Singh. 2. Rupinder Kaur daughter of Malook Singh son of Hazara Singh. 3. Amritpal Singh son of Malook Singh son of Hazara Singh, all resident of Mangat Colony, Machhiwaara, District Ludhiana. 5. Joginder Kaur daughter of Hazara Singh wife of Kashmire Singh, resident of Village Khoja Bet, PO Garlon Bet, Tehsil Balachaur, District Nawanshahr, SBS Nagar, 144521. 6. General Public.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 29.10.2025 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Dated, this day of 17.09.2025.  
Sd/- Civil Judge  
Junior Division-I,  
CL25053044 Sultanpur Lodhi.

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## COURT NOTICES

In The Supreme Court of India  
Civil Appellate Jurisdiction  
SLP(C) Diary No. 4929 of 2020  
With Prayer for Interim Relief  
With  
3009/2020 - Application for  
Condonation of delay in filing  
The New India Assurance Co. Ltd.  
Petitioner(s)/Appellant(s)  
Versus  
Ranjit Kaur and Others  
Respondent(s)

To,  
1. Smt. Jaswinder Kaur Sukhdev Pal, Lalle De Quarter (Sh. Rakesh Gupta) Near Peer Biru Shah Di Mazar (Near Marhan) Dagana Kalan, District- Hoshiarpur, Punjab, PID: 198321/2025 for R[4.1] In Diary No. 4929/2020 (SEC IV-B). 2. Inderjit Singh S/o Sukhdev Pal, Lalle De Quarter (Sh. Rakesh Gupta), Near Peer Biru Shah Di Mazar (Near Marhan), Dagana Kalan, District- Hoshiarpur, Punjab, PID: 198322/2025 for R[4.2] In Diary No. 4929/2020 (SEC IV-B). 3. Priya Kumar D/o Sukhdev Pal, Lalle De Quarter (Sh. Rakesh Gupta), Near Peer Biru Shah Di Mazar (Near Marhan), Dagana Kalan, District- Hoshiarpur, Punjab, PID: 198323/2025 for R[4.3] In Diary No. 4929/2020 (SEC IV-B). 4. Harman Singh S/o Sukhdev Pal, Lalle De Quarter (Sh. Rakesh Gupta), Near Peer Biru Shah Di Mazar (Near Marhan), Dagana Kalan, District- Hoshiarpur, Punjab, PID: 198324/2025 for R[4.4] In Diary No. 4929/2020 (SEC IV-B). 5. Akashdeep Singh (Minor) S/o Sukhdev Pal, Lalle De Quarter (Sh. Rakesh Gupta), Near Peer Biru Shah Di Mazar (Near Marhan), Dagana Kalan, District- Hoshiarpur, Punjab, PID: 198325/2025 for R[4.5] In Diary No. 4929/2020 (SEC IV-B).

Whereas the Petition for Special Leave to Appeal with prayer for interim relief along with application for Condonation of delay in filing, above mentioned (copy enclosed) filed in the Registry by Mr. Ranjan Kumar Pandey, Advocate on behalf of the Petitioner(s) above named was listed for hearing before this Court on 04th March, 2020, when the Court was pleased to pass the following order:

"Issue notice to Respondents Nos. 4, 5 and 6 limited to the point as to whether the Appellant should pay the compensation and recover from them."

And whereas, the matter above-mentioned was lastly listed before Lt. Registrar's Court on 14th August, 2025, When the following order was passed:-

"Respondents Nos. 5 and 6 have already filed counter affidavit. Lt. Counsel for the petitioner has filed an application seeking substituted service through publication on respondent Nos. 4 (i to v). The newspapers mentioned in the application are "Jagran", Punjabi language and "The Tribune", English language. Application is hereby allowed. Four weeks' time is granted to file proof of publication. List again on 24.09.2025."

Now, therefore, take notice that the above petition with prayer for interim relief along with application for Condonation of delay in filing, will be posted for hearing before this Court in due course and you may enter appearance before this Court either in person or through an advocate on record of this Court duly appointed by you in that behalf within 30 days from the date of service of notice.

You may thereafter show cause to the Court on the day that may subsequently be specified as to why delay in filing SLP be not condoned and Special Leave Petition and interim relief as prayed for not granted and the resultant appeal be not allowed.

Take Further Notice that the prayer for interim relief after notice will also be listed before the Court in due course.

You may file your affidavit in opposition to the petition as provided under Rule 14(1) of Order XXI, S.C.R. 2013 within 30 days from the date of receipt of notice or not later than 2 weeks before the date appointed for hearing, whichever be earlier, but shall do so only by setting out the grounds in opposition to the questions of law or grounds set out in the SLPs and may produce such pleadings and documents filed before the Court/Tribunal against whose order the SLP is filed and shall also set out the grounds for not granting interim order or for vacating interim order if already granted.

Take further notice that if you fail to enter appearance as aforesaid, no further notice shall be given to you even after the grant of special leave for hearing of the resultant appeal and the matter above mentioned shall be disposed of in your absence.

Dated: 21st August, 2025

Sd/- CL25052794 Assistant Registrar

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## NATION

## Nitish, Shah discuss seat-sharing strategy for poll-bound Bihar

JD (U) wants to contest one seat more than BJP



Amit Shah with Nitish Kumar during a meeting in Patna. PTI

gress at 19; CPI (ML) at 11, CPM two and CPI two.

The sources said the larger agreement was on the BJP contesting 100; JD(U) 101 and the rest being divided among allies — LJP, HAM and Rashtriya Lok Morcha of Upendra Kushwaha.

The LJP's Chirag Paswan has been flexing his muscle amid seat-sharing talks and has demanded 45 seats, but BJP sources say the maximum the Hajipuri MP could get was 20 to 25.

In the 2020 Assembly elections in Bihar, the LJP was not part of the NDA. It contested alone and spoilt the chances of JD(U) in many seats.

The Opposition's Mahagathbandhan has made Election Commission's ongoing special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar its principal poll plank, with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi pressing ahead with vote theft allegations. The EC has rejected the charges. — PTI

## Court sets aside order asking scribes to take down content on Adani

## Rahul trying to create Kathmandu, Dhaka-like chaos in India: Anurag

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

The BJP on Thursday accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of attempting to create Nepal and Bangladesh-like chaos in India and said the Opposition party's pro-infiltrators' policy will be thwarted.

The district court, however, observed the Civil Judge should have provided an opportunity to the defendants before passing the order, pointing out that the provisions of the Civil Procedure Code (CPC) weren't kept in mind. "The impugned order is not sustainable. I allow the appeal and set aside the impugned order without any finding on the merits of the case," Judge Aggarwal said.

Meanwhile, a different court reserved its order on the appeal filed by journalist Paranjay Guha Thakurta. — TNS

FROM PAGE 1

deaths of four passengers on Flight 171, a US-based law firm said in a statement.

In one of the worst aviation disasters in India's history, 260 persons, including 241 passengers, died after the Tata Group-owned Air India's Boeing 787-8 aircraft operating Flight AI171 to London Gatwick crashed soon after taking off from Ahmedabad on June 12.

According to the lawsuit, filed in Delaware Superior Court by the Lanier Law Firm, flight data indicated that an Air India pilot accidentally shut off fuel to Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner's engines, causing a complete loss of thrust necessary to complete the takeoff. The fuel cut-off switch, manufactured by Honeywell and installed by Boeing, is designed with a lock-

## HC notice to NIA, Pragya in Malegaon blast case

MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 18

The Bombay High Court on Thursday issued notices to seven persons acquitted in the 2008 Malegaon blast case, on an appeal filed by the family members of the victims.

A Bench of Chief Justice Shree Chandrashekhar and Justice Gautam Ankhd had also issued notices to the prosecution — National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the Maharashtra Government — and posted the appeal for hearing after six weeks.

The HC was hearing an appeal filed by the family members of six persons who lost their lives in the blast against the acquittal judgment. The appeal challenged a special court judgment acquitting the seven accused in the case, including former BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur and Lt Col Prasad Purohit. The appeal filed last week claimed that a faulty investigation or some defects in the probe cannot be the grounds for acquitting the accused. — PTI

usual drama. Infiltrators' first politics is the Congress policy. By giving voting rights to illegal immigrants, the Congress is weakening the rights of the SCs, STs and OBCs," said Thakur, who accused Rahul of hatching a conspiracy to "destabilise India at the behest of a toolkit".

The former union minister asked Rahul what were his intentions behind repeating unfounded allegations against the EC.

Thakur also said the Aland Assembly segment which Rahul mentioned in his remarks today was won by the Congress' BR Patil.

"Did the Congress win by vote theft? Rahul should tell," said the five-time Lok Sabha MP from Himachal Pradesh's Hamirpur.

**CLASSIFIEDS****COURT NOTICES**

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)  
In the Court of Meenakshi Gupta  
Civil Judge (Senior Division)-NRI  
Court, Jalandhar  
Baljit Singh  
Versus  
Kulbir Singh  
CNR No. PBL02-0009-67-2023

Suit for grant of Decree of declaration as prayed for. Suit for grant of Decree of Permanent Injunction as prayed for Publication issued to: 1) Kulbir Singh S/o Harbans Singh S/o Ajay Singh R/o Village Passan Sub Tehsil Kartarpur Teh. and Distt. Jalandhar. 2)

Amrik Singh S/o Harbans Singh S/o Ajay Singh R/o Village Passan Sub Tehsil Kartarpur Teh. and Distt. Jalandhar. 3) Bawa Singh S/o Harbans Singh S/o Ajay Singh R/o Village

Passan Sub Tehsil Kartarpur Teh. and Distt. Jalandhar. 4) Deepo D/o Harbans Singh S/o Ajay Singh R/o Village Passan Sub Tehsil Kartarpur Teh. and Distt. Jalandhar. 5) Sunjat Kaur D/o Gurdev Kaur Resident of 27 Repton Avenue, Romford, RM2 5LT, UK.

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 24.10.2025 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to [https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?mod=district\\_notice&district=jalandhar](https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?mod=district_notice&district=jalandhar)

Dated, this day of 17.09.2025.

Sd/- Additional Civil Judge (Senior Division), Phyllaur, CL25052947

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**(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)**

In the Court of Sh. Jasvir Singh

Additional Principal Judge, Family Court, Camp Court at Phyllaur

Bipanpreet Kaur Vs.

Jaspreet Singh CNR No.: PBFL3-000713-2025

Next Date: 24.10.2025

Publication issued to:

Jaspreet Singh Father: Jasbir Singh

R/o Village and Post Office Rurka Kalan Patti Boola Ki Tehsil Phyllaur, District Jalandhar at present R/o Italy

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 13.10.2025 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to [https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?mod=district\\_notice&district=jalandhar](https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?mod=district_notice&district=jalandhar)

Dated, this day of 11.09.2025.

Sd/- Additional Principal Judge, Family Court, Camp Court CL25052975 at Phyllaur.

**(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)** (Succession Case)

In the Court of Ms. Meenakshi Gupta Civil Judge

(Senior Division)-N.R.I Court, Jalandhar

Naginderjeet Singh Vs.

General Public CNR No.: PBFL0-002532-2025

Next Date: 15.11.2025

Petition for grant of Succession Certificate Under Section 372 of Indian Succession Act

Notice to: General Public

- General Public

CNR No.: PBLS02-001376-2024

Next Date: 06.10.2025

Publication issued to:

1. M/s United Concrete Solutions 1st floor, 33-128/5-9, Balaji Nagar, Gudur Road, 1st Street, Palam, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh- 517408. 2. Mohd Minhas Hashmi, Prop. M/s United Concrete Solutions, 1st floor, 33-128/5-9, Balaji Nagar, Gudur Road, 1st Street, Palam, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh- 517408.

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 06.10.2025 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to [https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?mod=district\\_notice&district=jalandhar](https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?mod=district_notice&district=jalandhar)

Dated, this day of 17.09.2025.

Sd/- Civil Judge (Senior Division)-N.R.I Court, CL25053047 Jalandhar.

**(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)**

In the Court of Sh. Atul Kamboj Addl. District and Sessions Judge-6, Patiala

M/s Parth Colonizes Pvt. Ltd. Vs.

Union of India through Secretary Ministry of Shipping Road Transport and Highways New Delhi

CNR No. PBPT01-004238-2023

Next Date: 16.1.2025

Publication issued to: 9. Adarsh Manocha W/o Jasbir Singh Manocha, 11. Jaginder Singh S/o Ram Singh, 13. Harddeep Singh S/o Pian Singh, 15. Darshan Kumar S/o Lachman Dass, 16. Dhrinder Singh S/o Randhir Singh, 17. Vijay Kumar S/o Rajinder Parshad, 18. Ranjit Singh S/o Dharam Singh, 19. Swaran Singh S/o Dharam Singh, 20. Wanti Rani W/o Ashok Kumar, 21. Droupati Devi W/o Parme Nand S/o Dayal Chand, 22. Seema Rani D/o Parma Nand, 23. Rajni D/o Parma Nand, 24. Seema Gupta W/o Vikram Gupta, 25. Gulshan Kumar S/o Darshan Singh, 26. Naresh Kumar S/o Darshan Kumar, 27. Shiv Kumar S/o Ranu Ram, all residents of Village Pehar Khurd, Tehsil Rajpura District, Jalandhar.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 16.12.2025 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to [https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?mod=district\\_notice&district=jalandhar](https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?mod=district_notice&district=jalandhar)

Dated, this day of 09.09.2025.

Sd/- Additional District and Sessions Judge-6, Patiala

CL25050993 Patiala.

**WIDEST REACH MAXIMUM RESPONSE**

Tribune CLASSIFIEDS

**COURT NOTICES**

(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of Sh. Gurhinder Singh Johal Additional Civil Judge (Senior Division), Phyllaur Balvinder Kaur Nirwal D/o Gurdev Kaur R/o Bilga Tehsil Phyllaur District Jalandhar at present R/o 27 Repton Avenue, Romford, RM2 5LT, UK.

Versus General Public CNR No.

PBBL0-000178-2025

Next Date: 24.10.2025

Publication issued to:

1) General Public, 2)

Salinderjeet Kaur D/o Gurdev Kaur Resident of 27 Repton Avenue, Romford, ESSEX RM2 5 LT, England, UK.

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 24.10.2025 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to [https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?mod=district\\_notice&district=jalandhar](https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?mod=district_notice&district=jalandhar)

Dated, this day of 17.09.2025.

Sd/- Additional Civil Judge (Senior Division), Phyllaur, CL25052947

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**(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)**

In the Court of Ms. Komple Dhanjal Additional Civil Judge (Senior Division), Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar Harbans Lal Vs.

Kulwinder Kumar CS/282/2025

CNR No.

PBBS02-000423-2025

Next Date: 13.10.2025

Publication issued to:

Kulwinder Kumar Son of Santosh Kumar R/o Village Dariyapur, Tehsil Nawanshahr, Distt. SBS Nagar.

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 13.10.2025 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to [https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?mod=district\\_notice&district=jalandhar](https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?mod=district_notice&district=jalandhar)

Dated, this day of 15.09.2025.

Sd/- Additional Civil Judge (Senior Division), Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar CL25053010

**(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)**

In the Court of Ms. Namita Sharma Civil Judge (Junior Division), Ludhiana

Bawea Industries Vs.

United Concrete Solutions Suit for grant of decree for recovery of Rs. 3,02,533/- alongwith interest as prayed for CNR No. PBBL02-001478-2023

Next Date: 06.10.2025

Publication issued to:

1. M/s United Concrete Solutions 1st floor, 33-128/5-9, Balaji Nagar, Gudur Road, 1st Street, Palam, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh- 517408. 2. Mohd Minhas Hashmi, Prop. M/s United Concrete Solutions, 1st floor, 33-128/5-9, Balaji Nagar, Gudur Road, 1st Street, Palam, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh- 517408.

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 24.10.2025 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to [https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?mod=district\\_notice&district=jalandhar](https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?mod=district_notice&district=jalandhar)

Dated, this day of 11.09.2025.

Sd/- Additional Principal Judge, Family Court, Camp Court CL25052975 at Phyllaur.

**(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)** (Succession Case)

In the Court of Ms. Meenakshi Gupta Civil Judge

(Senior Division)-N.R.I Court, Jalandhar

Naginderjeet Singh Vs.

General Public CNR No.: PBLS02-002532-2025

Next Date: 15.11.2025

Petition for grant of Succession Certificate Under Section 372 of Indian Succession Act

Notice to: General Public

- General Public

CNR No.: PBLS02-001376-2024

Next Date: 06.10.2025

Publication issued to:

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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 06.10.2025 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to [https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?mod=district\\_notice&district=jalandhar](https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?mod=district_notice&district=jalandhar)

Dated, this day of 17.09.2025.

Sd/- Civil Judge (Senior Division)-N.R.I Court, CL25053011 Jalandhar.

**(U/O 5 Rule 20 CPC)**

In the Court of Ms. Tarandeep Kaur Civil Judge (Junior Division), Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar Jaswinder Singh Versus Inderjeet Kaur CNR No.: PBSB02-001376-2024

Next Date: 06.10.2025

Suit for permanent injunction

&lt;p

## BRIEFLY

**LUCKNOW**  
Jurel century drives India A's progress in unofficial Test

Wicketkeeper-batter Dhruv Jurel's unbeaten 113 underlined a collective batting show from India A as they reached 403/4 against Australia A on Day 3 of the unofficial Test. Apart from Jurel's 132-ball effort, India were also bolstered by half-centuries from N Jagadeesan (64), B Sai Sudharsan (73) and an unbeaten 86 from Devdutt Padikkal. Skipper Shreyas Iyer (8), though, could not make a mark.

**Brief scores:** Australia A: 532/6 decl; India A: 403/4 (Jurel 113\*); Padikkal 86; Sudharsan 73; Jagadeesan 64)

**HONG KONG**  
Ashwin to be part of Indian team for Hong Kong Sixes

Former spinner Ravichandran Ashwin will be a part of the Indian team for the Hong Kong Sixes tournament to be held here on November 7-9. Ashwin retired from all forms of international cricket last year and while he bid adieu to the Indian Premier League last month, the spin legend said that he was available to play his trade in various leagues across the world.

**JAIPUR**  
Jaipur Pink Panthers pip Bengal Warriorz in PKL  
Jaipur Pink Panthers registered a 45-41 victory over the Bengal Warriorz in the Pro Kabaddi League. Nitin Kumar and Ali Samadi recorded Super 10s for the hosts to help them climb to fourth place on the points table.

**LISBON**  
Mourinho back in Portugal, reaches deal with Benfica

Jose Mourinho will coach in Portugal again, two decades later. Benfica said it reached a deal with Mourinho, sealing his return to the country 21 years after he led rivals Porto to the Champions League title in 2004. Mourinho started his coaching career at Benfica in 2000 but lasted only three months before leaving in a contract dispute.

**SHENZHEN (CHINA)**

**US battle past Kazakhstan to enter BJK Cup semis**  
The United States stayed on course for a record-extending 19th Billie Jean King Cup crown after Taylor Townsend and Jessica Pegula won the doubles decider to edge out Kazakhstan 2-1 and set up a semifinal clash with Britain. The tie hung in the balance after American Emma Navarro had dramatically saved two match points to outlast Yulia Putintseva, only for an aggressive Elena Rybakina to level matters by dismantling world No. 7 Pegula. Britain are seeking their first title and they cruised past Japan. AGENCIES

**TODAY ON TV**  
ASIA CUP  
INDIA VS OMAN  
SONY SPORTS 8PM

# Chopra loses his crown

Defending champion finishes 8th as debutant Sachin takes 4th place

**Tribune News Service**

**NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18**  
In a major heartbreak for India, javelin superstar Neeraj Chopra failed to defend his title in the ongoing World Athletics Championships in Tokyo on Thursday.

Chopra did not look confident from the outset after he registered a below par effort of 83.65 metres to start the competition in fifth place. As attempts started to mount, the two-time Olympics medallist — gold in Tokyo and silver in Paris — slid to eighth position.

Although he did improve slightly to register 84.03m with his second attempt, his chances of making into the medal positions seemed bleak. With his final three attempts, the 27-year-old registered two foul throws and the sole valid attempt of 82.86m did not improve his position and he was eliminated before the last round of throws.

The eighth-place finish ended Chopra's impressive run where he had finished in the top-2 in 25 competitions.

Reigning Olympics champion Arshad Nadeem suffered a similar fate as he finished 10th and was eliminated a round earlier. Nadeem registered two foul throws in his quota of four, registering a best throw of 82.75m. The final was conducted under the new format where the 12-man field



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Neeraj Chopra did not look confident from the outset and had a best throw of 84.03m; Sachin Yadav's personal best of 86.27m was just short of the bronze-winning mark; Pakistan's Olympics champion Arshad Nadeem finished 10th. AP/PTI, REUTERS

#### BATTING BACK INJURY

Neeraj Chopra's return to the site of his Olympics triumph turned into a painful reality check as he finished a dismal eighth in the men's javelin after secretly battling a back injury for weeks. "I don't understand what happened today. This has not happened for a long time. I had some problems before coming to Tokyo," said Chopra.

"Two weeks ago I had some back issues but I didn't want to tell anyone. I was thinking I would still manage to get through it. But Javelin is really tough. If you are not in a good shape, you're out. Normally it doesn't happen with me because for a long time, I was always in top two positions. After a long

time I'm not in the position, but it's okay I will learn from today and I will try to stay healthy and try to focus on my technique."

Chopra said he hurt his back on September 4 and then had an MRI scan, adding that he was not at 100%. "Maybe I need more training or to improve my technique. Maybe I just need more time for training," Chopra said. "But it's life, it's sport. I have to accept it and move on. Competing two days in a row was not a problem. It was OK because I qualified yesterday with my first throw. It was not too far but I was thinking it was still good, and that I could throw further today. I will go back to my room, watch the competition and check on my throws. I will work on it." REUTERS

ships gold medal. The silver medal was bagged by two-time world champion and Olympics bronze medalist Anderson Peters of Grenada after he registered a throw of 87.38m.

While there was disappointment because of Chopra's result, Sachin Yadav finished a creditable fourth in his debut appearance. In fact, the 25-year-old was in third place after his first attempt of 86.27m, a personal best mark in his young career. He eventually finished outside the medal bracket as he could not better American Curtis Thompson's mark of 86.67m.



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Neeraj Chopra did not look confident from the outset and had a best throw of 84.03m; Sachin Yadav's personal best of 86.27m was just short of the bronze-winning mark; Pakistan's Olympics champion Arshad Nadeem finished 10th. AP/PTI, REUTERS

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starts to thin from the third round with the last two in the rankings getting eliminated after every attempt.

The gold medal was won

by Keshorn Walcott of Trinidad and Tobago as he registered season's best mark of 88.16m. The 2012 London Olympics champion

on went into the lead after his second attempt of 87.83m and then bettered it to 88.16m to win his first ever World Champion

## Antim claims 2nd Worlds medal after 9-1 win in bronze playoff

**ZAGREB, SEPTEMBER 18**

Mixing strong defence with measured attack, young wrestler Antim Panghal won her second World Championship medal with a dominating 9-1 victory over U23 world champion Emma Jonna Denise Malmgren in the bronze medal playoff here Thursday, ensuring that the Indian contingent won't return empty-handed from the Croatian capital.

Since the first day of competition, the Indian wrestlers have looked a hapless lot following Aman Sehrawat's shock disqualification, but Antim made sure that the country's medal winning tradition at the prestigious tournament continued.

The 21-year-old had won a bronze in the 2023 edition as well but since the 2024 Olympic Games, where she suffered a heart-breaking first-round exit, she has been under pressure.

The two-time U20 champion (2022, 2023) has made



Antim Panghal became the second Indian woman wrestler, after Vinesh Phogat, to win two World Championship medals. FILE

a smooth transition from junior to senior level. She has made the 53kg category, once owned by Vinesh Phogat, her own.

Meanwhile, Manisha Bhawala went out of the bronze medal race after losing her repechage round 0-9 to Bulgaria's Bilyana Dudova.

India's Greco-Roman wrestlers continued to struggle at the international stage as none of the four grapplers in action could win a bout Thursday. — PTI

ta Mor and Anshu Malik have won one each.

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India's Greco-Roman wrestlers continued to struggle at the international stage as none of the four grapplers in action could win a bout Thursday. — PTI

## Archery league to start from October 2

**TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE**

**NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18**

The Archery Association of India (AAI) has announced that the inaugural Archery Premier League will be held in New Delhi from October 2 to 12 at the Yamuna Sports Complex.

The AAI announced the format, introducing all six teams for the first edition on Thursday.

Prithviraj Yodhas (New Delhi), Mighty Marathas (Maharashtra), Kakatiya Knights (Telangana), Rajputana Royals (Rajasthan), Chero Archers (Jharkhand) and Chola Chiefs (Tamil Nadu)

picked eight archers each in their squads for the inaugural league.

Major national and international stars, including Brady Ellison, Deepika Kumari and Atanu Das, will be part of the league.

"The launch of the Archery Premier League is a watershed moment for the sport in the country. Through this league, we wish to expand

our reach across India, including rural and tribal regions. We are confident our archers will gain tremendous exposure through the league, which will prepare them for future events," AAI president Arjun Munda said.

The Korean and Chinese archers did not sign for the league but the AAI secretary general Vinod Sachdeva dismissed the development saying it was not a worry.

"We were only concerned with the archers who were willing to come and participate. There is a good chance they will take part in the next but it all depends on how well it is run. I am confident that this league is here to stay," Sachdeva said.

The league's director Anil Kamineni said that World Archery was also excited about the league. "For the first time ever anywhere in the world, we will have combined teams of recurve and compound archers competing side-by-side," Kamineni said.

## My only job is to take wickets: Kuldeep

**DUBAI, SEPTEMBER 18**

During the two months in England when he was warming the bench, the easy way would have been to blame anyone and everyone for his failure to fit into India's playing XI, but Kuldeep Yadav chose to traverse the tougher route. While spinners who can bat are in vogue these days, Kuldeep has his priorities clear and won't deviate from his philosophy.

"If I play in any team, I will play as a (specialist) bowler. My job is to take wickets. If I don't take wickets, there will be no place for me. It is very important to understand that when you play as a proper bowler, your job is to take wickets for the team," Kuldeep said.

Considered India's most versatile spinner of current times, the Kanpur man made it clear that he doesn't want to

put all eggs in one basket by trying to transform himself into a bowling all-rounder.

He preferred to work on his skills, improve his fitness, and increase the volume of his bowling before he received his chances again. It paid dividends as the left-arm wrist spinner has got back-to-back Player of the Match awards in the first two Asia Cup games, including a three-wicket haul against Pakistan.

Kuldeep is very critical of his own bowling, and doesn't feel he is still performing at his full potential, even though his T20I record is impressive.

"I don't think I am bowling that well. But I think I can improve and become better. Sometimes, you make a mistake in reading the batsman in this format. I still have to work on that," he said. — PTI

## ICC pulls up PCB over Pycroft row

The ICC is mulling action against Pakistan for "violation of multiple tournament rules" prior to their Asia Cup match against the UAE. The game was delayed after the Pakistan team protested the world body's rejection of its demand to remove match referee Andy Pycroft. It is learnt that despite several warnings, Pakistan breached the rules by allowing their media manager to film a meeting between Pycroft, their head coach Mike Hesson and captain Salman Ali Agha before the toss.

## Sri Lanka knock out Afghanistan

Opener Kusal Mendis blazed away to an unbeaten 52-ball 74 as Sri Lanka defeated Afghanistan by six wickets in their last group league match to qualify for Asia Cup Super Four stage along with Bangladesh. Afghanistan were eliminated.

**Brief scores:** Afghanistan: 169/7 (Nabi 60; Thushara 4/18); Sri Lanka: 171/4 in 18.4 overs (Kusal 74\*, Kamindu 26\*). PTI

## PUNJAB SKILL DEVELOPMENT MISSION DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT GENERATION, SKILL DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING

**SCO 149-152, Second Floor, Sector-17C, Chandigarh**

**NOTICE Inviting Request for Proposal from Project Implement Agencies under DDU-GKY 2.0 Scheme**

**No. PSDM/PB/2025/2638 Dated: 18.09.2025**

Punjab Skill Development Mission (PSDM) invites Request for Proposal (RFP) for selection of Project Implementation Agencies under DDU-GKY 2.0 Scheme.

The RFP document can be downloaded from <https://kaushal.rural.gov.in> from 19th September 2025. Interested applicants should submit their proposals online at <https://kaushal.rural.gov.in> or before 05:00 p.m. on 9th October 2025. Any further updates/corrigendum/amendments to RFP will be uploaded only on <https://kaushal.rural.gov.in>.

**Sd/- General Manager**

**Punjab Skill Development Mission**

## GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

**Tender Notice Reference No. MCR/2025-26/1936**

The Department of Municipal Council, Raikot invites online bids for the following:

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost in Lacs
1.	Work of Mechanised sweeping or internal/main roads in M.C. Raikot for 3 Years	71.32
2.	Work of operation and maintenance of water supply system for 2 years in M.C. Raikot	158.92
3.	Work of operation and maintenance of sewerage supply system for 2 years in M.C. Raikot	304.25
4.	Work of integrated solid waste management project in M.C. Raikot for 2 Years	153.61

**Closing Date & Time: 10.10.2025 up to 05.00 P.M.**

**For detail log on to: [eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://eproc.punjab.gov.in)**

**Note:- Tender details and any corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the above website only.**

**Sd/- Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Raikot.**

## कार्यालय नगर निगम, हिसार

नगर निगम, हिसार द्वारा दी.पी.सी.मी.द्वारा प्रकाश गर्ने आई पैटर्न 1 में दर्शाए गए प्लॉटों में जो कि मौजे पर गली है जिसके द्वारा प्रशंसन, परिचयम से सुरोग तंत्र का मकान बना हुआ है, गली के पूर्व, दक्षिण में

# Pak, Saudi ink security pact; will protect national interests: MEA

UJWAL JALALI  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

A day after Pakistan and Saudi Arabia signed a strategic defence pact, India on Thursday said it would take all steps to protect its national interests and ensure comprehensive national security in all domains.

The agreement states that "any aggression against either of the two countries shall be considered as an aggression against both" — a pact that could recalibrate security calculations across the Gulf and South Asia.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the Indian Government was aware that this development, which formalises a long-standing arrangement between the two countries, had been under consideration.

"We will study the implications of this development for our national security as well as for regional and global stability," he said.

The "Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement" was

Deal says 'aggression' against either nation shall be considered as attack against both



Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif (L) with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Riyadh on Wednesday. PTI

signed by Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Abdulaziz Al Saud and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Riyadh on Wednesday.

Sharif, accompanied by Pakistan army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir and Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, was on a

visit to Saudi Arabia.

The agreement institutionalises decades of defence cooperation and pledges expanded military collaboration and joint deterrence measures.

The agreement marks a significant new chapter in Riyadh-Islamabad ties, putting defence cooperation at the cen-

tre of their strategic alignment. While Pakistan is a nuclear-armed state, the text of the agreement did not explicitly detail any nuclear arrangements. Observers cautioned that Islamabad's deterrent posture will complicate strategic calculations across South Asia even as the formal pact primarily emphasises conventional defence links and integrated deterrence.

India and Saudi Arabia, however, retain deep cordial ties, anchored in centuries-old economic and socio-cultural exchanges.

Former diplomat Veena Sikri says there is a good possibility that the pact won't have any effect on India-Saudi relations. "See, the Saudis hold Prime Minister Narendra Modi in very high esteem... The way PM has cultivated relations in the past 10 years is commendable," Sikri told *The Tribune*. However, she maintains, India would have to examine the agreement closely and weigh multiple possible narratives behind Riyadh's decision.

# Army launches initiative to make all soldiers drone-ready

AJAY BANERJEE  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

The Army has accelerated the induction of drones and counter-drone systems under a new initiative called 'eagle in the arm', which aims to train every soldier to use a drone just as he is taught to use a weapon.

Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi today visited one such facility — a drone lab at Likabali in Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh — where drones have been deployed and soldiers are being trained.

Officials said the plan is to make each soldier capable of operating a drone, much like carrying his own rifle.

Depending on the unit's role, drones will be used for combat, surveillance, logistics and even medical evacuation.

Counter-drone measures are being inducted in parallel to create a layered system capable of neutralising enemy unmanned platforms.

To meet the training requirement, drone centres have been set up at premier academies such as the Indian Military Academy (Dehradun), Infantry



Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi inspects a drone lab at Likabali in Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh on Thursday.

## OVERHAULED ARMOURED RECOVERY VEHICLE

The Army has rolled out its first overhauled Armoured Recovery Vehicle (ARV) based on the T-72 tank. The ARV is used to recover tanks that have broken down or been hit during conflict. It was flagged off from the Army Base Workshop (ABW) in Pune.

School (Mhow) and Officers' Training Academy (Chennai). The aim is to embed drone operations as a standard capability across all arms of the Army, officials said.

The Army is pursuing a dual thrust: arming soldiers with drones while simultaneously strengthening counter-drone defences. That drones are no

US revokes visas for Indian biz executives over fentanyl link

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

The US Embassy on Thursday said it has revoked and subsequently denied visas for "certain business executives" and "corporate leadership" over alleged involvement in trafficking fentanyl precursors.

According to the US National Institute of Health, fentanyl is an opioid drug, similar to morphine or heroin, but manufactured entirely in laboratories with no natural ingredients. While it is approved as a prescription painkiller, most of the fentanyl driving the current overdose crisis is produced illegally.

The Embassy said as a result of its decision, the individuals concerned, along with their immediate family members, may be ineligible to travel to the US. "The Embassy is further flagging executives connected with companies known to have trafficked fentanyl precursors for heightened scrutiny if and when they apply for US visas," it added.

There was no immediate response from the Ministry of External Affairs. —TNS

## India extends Maldives' \$50-mn govt bond repayment deadline

MALE, SEPTEMBER 18

India on Thursday said it has rolled over, for one more year, \$50 million Maldives' government bonds as "an emergency financial assistance" to the

archipelagic nation.

The deadline for the repayment of a \$50 million Treasury Bill (T-bill) was extended once again "on the request of the Maldives government". —PTI

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\*Editor for purpose of PRP Act, 2023

## Modi dials Karki, vows support for Nepal peace

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

Both leaders pledge to carry forward strong momentum of bilateral cooperation

first time during which Karki thanked Modi for his message of solidarity and conveyed greetings on his 75th birthday.

PM Modi, in turn, congratulated Karki on becoming the first woman to lead Nepal as PM, and expressed condolences over the recent loss of lives in the country's youth movement. He also extended warm wishes to the people of

Nepal on their National Day. Modi also conveyed India's readiness to continue working closely to further strengthen the specialities between the two countries and India's full support to Nepal in its efforts towards restoring peace and stability, and for the progress of the people of Nepal.

Karki emphasised that Nepal and India's historical and close ties would continue to be strengthened through multifaceted people-to-people exchanges. Both leaders pledged to carry forward the strong momentum of bilateral cooperation and partnership for the benefit of their peoples.

Diplomatic observers noted that the exchange underscored India's steady policy of standing by Nepal during political transitions, while the new interim leadership in Kathmandu sent a clear message that elections and governance reforms are central to its agenda. —TNS

## B'desh EC bars deposed PM Hasina from voting

DHAKA, SEPTEMBER 18

at his office in Nirbachon Bhavan here.

"Her (Hasina's) NID is locked," he added.

Though Ahmed did not mention any other name, UNB news agency and the *Dhaka Tribune*, quoting unnamed EC officials, reported that NIDs of Hasina's younger sister Sheikh Rehana, son Sajeeb Wazed Joy and daughter Saima Wazed Putul have also been "locked" or "blocked". —PTI

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