

Launch crusade against pollution: Punjab CM makes appeal on I-Day

JALANDHAR: Saying that farmers had to pay a heavy price for over-exploitation of natural resources in terms of water and fertile soil, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday appealed to people to launch a crusade to check environmental pollution and preserve natural resources on lines of teachings of Gurus.

Addressing the gathering after hoisting the Tricolour at the state-level function to mark Independence Day here, the Punjab Chief Minister recalled the immense contribution of Punjabis in the national freedom struggle.

CM Mann said Punjabis had made the maximum sacrifices during the freedom struggle, adding more than 80 per cent of the people who attained martyrdom during the Independence movement or were exiled, hailed from Punjab.

CM Mann said heroic gems like Baba Ram Singh, Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev,



Lala Lajpat Rai, Udham Singh, Kartar Singh Sarabha, Diwan Singh Kalepani and several others shed every drop of their blood to achieve the ultimate goal of Independence. Likewise, CM Mann said, Punjabis have played a leading role in preserving the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the country in the post-Independence era too. He also said the hard working

and resilient farmers of the state acted as a pivot for heralding an era of green revolution in the country thereby making the country self-sufficient in food production. CM Mann said Punjab farmers had to pay a heavy price for it by over-exploitation of natural resources.

The CM said due to Punjab food growers, the nation is today exporting "grains to other countries in sharp contrast to early 1960s when we were dependent for grains on other countries".

CM Mann said the country can progress only if Punjab is prosperous and on the path of development.

CM Mann added that curbing environmental pollution was a serious challenge and all Punjabis should play a proactive role in it. The CM said the government has launched a crackdown against the drug menace by adopting a 'zero-tolerance' policy against it and added that 14,381 drug peddlers have been put behind bars and 10,393 First Information Reports (FIRs) have been launched against them.

Properties worth Rs 173 crore belonging to 379 drug smugglers have been confiscated and more are in the process of being seized.

CM Mann said it was a matter of great satisfaction that the conviction rate against drug peddlers was 83 per cent.

CM listens grievances of people during 'Sarkar Tuhaade Dwaar' at Jalandhar



JALANDHAR: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Wednesday held Sarkaar Tuhaade Dwaar program at his official residence in the city and resolved the grievances of people.

The Chief Minister during interaction with people said that this first of its kind initiative is aimed at facilitating the people. He said that now the governments are not run from Chandigarh but it is being managed from the cities and towns across the state.

Bhagwant Singh Mann said that now the officers are visiting villages to resolve the grievances of people whereas earlier they had to visit the government offices.

The Chief Minister said that he had set up his residence in Jalandhar so as to facilitate people from Majha and Doaba region for getting their works done. He said that it is a matter of immense pride and satisfaction that people who are coming here with complaints are getting their works done. Bhagwant Singh Mann said

that this scheme is delivering the desired results and is acting as a catalyst for resolving the issues of public on one hand and ensuring feedback to the government on the other.

Meanwhile, a woman who had come all the way from Ludhiana praised the Chief Minister for this unique initiative. She said that her matter has been pending since years as none of the previous governments had ever bothered to get her work done. However, she said that now the Chief Minister has patiently heard him and passed on necessary directions to get her work done.

Meanwhile, Sukhwinder Kaur who had also come to meet the Chief Minister said that this is a laudable step aimed at mitigating woes of common man. She said that the Chief Minister has given necessary directions to officers for getting her work done at the earliest. She said that this initiative of the Chief Minister is unmatched as none of the other leaders had bothered about it.

Time has arrived to wipe out BJP govt from Haryana: Deepender Hooda



SATISH HANDA
Kurukshetra/Pehowa

Welcoming the announcement of the Assembly elections in the state, Congress MP Deepender Hooda while holding 'Haryana Mange Hisaab' campaign in the town said that similar to the farmers wait for the rainfall in the fields, people of Haryana were waiting for the Election Commission's announcement and a new shine on their faces is visible since most of the people in the state want to get rid of the ruling BJP government in Haryana.

The Rohtak MP said, Congress has raised some questions regarding fast increasing unemployment, crime, illegal immigration, inflation and drug addiction among people in the state, especially in youths to the ruling BJP government, but it has not been able to give satisfactory answers. The BJP must give the account of its 10-year rule in Haryana, Hooda said that in democracy, the public and the opposition seek account from the ruling party, but in Haryana BJP government seeking account from the opposition, which indicates the BJP has accepted that it is going to sit in the opposition soon in Haryana state.

Hooda said by introducing Kaushal Rozgar Nigam and Agnipathi Yojana, the BJP government had trapped people in the net of temporary jobs without reservation, without merit and without pension, moreover the BJP government has crushed the rights of SCs, OBCs, abolished two lakh permanent jobs and converted the remaining into temporary jobs on contract basis. He said, Congress has already declared that soon after coming to power in Haryana would provide relief to the people by increase old age monthly pension to Rs 6000, provide benefits of old pension scheme to retired persons, make available LPG cylinder at Rs 500 each to consumers, provide 300 units free supply of electricity and Congress has already prepared a roadmap for five years rule in Haryana, assuring to fight against unemployment, corruption in government offices, increasing crimes and drug addiction among people in the state.

On the other hand, Haryana CM Saini blamed Congress for making fake, baseless allegations on BJP demanding 'Hisab' for 13 irregularities during 10 years when Congress rule in Haryana, raising question as regard forcible acquired farmers valuable agriculture land sold to the builders, offering jobs against 'Kharchi-Parchi', why Congress had alliance with Kejriwal's government during recent Lok Sabha polls who refused to share SYL canal water with Haryana in spite of Supreme Court of India orders.

ED attached assets of value Rs 122 crore of Haryana



SATISH HANDA

Enforcement Department (ED) attached nearly 145 immovable properties of value worth Rs 122 crore including more than 100 acres of agricultural land, commercial plots and buildings of leading political leaders and highly influential persons across Haryana state in Gurugram, Faridabad, Sonapat, Karnal, Yamunanagar, Panchkula, Chandigarh and Mohali in Punjab belonging to Surinder Pawar Congress MLA in Sonapat, a former INLD MLA Dilbag Singh closely related to Abahy Chautala, Inderpal Singh a renowned builder, Manoj Wadhwa Congress leader from Karnal and many others. Their properties were attached under the anti-money laundering law by the Enforcement Directorate on August 12, 2024.

Surinder Panwar and former MLA Dilbag Singh were allegedly involved in illegal mining. ED team had conducted raid at Panwar's Sector 15 residence in Panipat on January 4 this year allegedly running illegal mining business in Haryana and Rajasthan to collect important documents against him, which continued for 36 hours and arrested him on July 20 this year, presently lodged in Ambala Central jail under trial in money laundering case for amount worth Rs 25 crore.

Similarly, action was taken by ED against Dilbag Singh a former MLA alleged having number of properties registered in his name and running a syndicate managed and controlled by him indulged in large-scale illegal mining of sand, boulder and gravel in the Yamuna Nagar district of Haryana and some adjacent districts, said a spokesperson of the central agency. The team had raided his Yamunanagar office near Maharana Partap Chowk and farm house at Kalesar and claimed recovery of Rs 5 crore currency notes, three gold biscuits, more than 100 imported English wine bottles, five imported rifles, 300 cartridges and documents of several properties. After a five days ED raid, he was arrested on January 8 this year, but released on bail after a month.

'Inspector Raa' will be abolished when Congress comes to power in Haryana: Hooda assured during Trade & Industry conference



PARVESH HANDA
Panipat

Addressing a large gathering of people from trade and industry in a conference at Panipat on Sunday, the chief guest former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda said that prior to year 2014 when Congress was ruling in the state Haryana was No. 1 in investment, employment and in the field

of sports in the country, but today the state has become No. 1 in crimes and unemployment and in case Congress comes to the power after coming assembly polls likely to be held in October this year, it is assured that 'Industry Raa' will be abolished immediately from the state, whereas criminals and anti-social elements will be either pushed behind bars or will have to leave Haryana state immediately.

Hooda said, people in trade and industry are powerful pillars for the development of a state and its prosperity depends upon the traders, industries, farmers and traders similar to an ATM. On the issue of GST, Hooda said the amount paid Rs 7 towards tax is being reimbursed for all developments with hardly Re 1. Former CM said that the Congress government after coming to power in the state will immediately roll back taxes on fruits, food-grains and shoes of value less than Rs 500 as imposed by the ruling government. As regards PPP, property ID and 'Meri fasal Mera Biyora' Portal Hooda said these will be removed in the state when Congress comes to power since these are providing no gain to the people.

Attention Chandigarh residents: Tricity Metro Project proposal hanging in files since past 16 years yet likely to be delayed

SATISH HANDA
Chandigarh

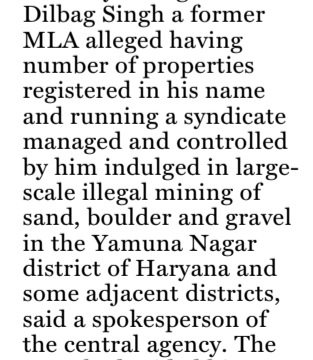
On a question raised by the Chandigarh MP Manish Tewari regarding the Chandigarh Metro project in the recent Parliament session on Thursday, according to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs there is no proposal for this project or any detailed project report (DPR) has been submitted to them by the Chandigarh administration to the central government. Information reveals, in July last year, 23 members of the Unified Metro Transportation Authority had approved nearly 82 kilometer Tricity Metro project and decided to extend the scope of this project in three phases: from New Chandigarh to Sector 28 Panchkula (about 31.70 km), from Sukhna Lake to ISBT Zirakpur via ISBT Mohali and Chandigarh Airport (about 35.70



km) and from Grain Market Chowk to Sector 39 to Sector 26 Transport Light Point. Tewari also asked the ministry to state the amount of funds sanctioned and utilised for the Chandigarh Metro Rail project. He also inquired whether the Chandigarh Metro Project was planned in a phase-wise manner and requested details of the progress made so far and the reasons for the delay in this project and whether any timeline had been fixed for its completion.

It is really surprising that the Chandigarh Metro project to cover Tricity for which nearly 140 meetings have already been held so far and huge amount worth crores of rupees has been spent so far, but this important project is still hanging in files since past about 16 years, which is now becoming a political issue in coming Vidhan Sabha polls and the Congress is likely to 'gherao' ruling BJP government on this burning issue and taking no action to finalise this most wanted project for the convenience of residents of Tricity.

Six held with Rs 13.66 lakh fake currency notes



PARVESH HANDA
Yamunanagar

Police team of Yamunanagar CIA-1 staff arrested six persons of a gang allegedly printing and supplying fake Rs 200 and Rs 500 currency notes. The accused were identified as Arun, alias Lusi, and Shahrukh, both residents of Yamunanagar, Prabhjot a resident of village Gola in Ambala district, Ashok Kumar resident of Raipur Rani in Panchkula district,

Om Singh resident of Chandigarh and Rahul resident of Patiala. They were arrested after raids at Yamunanagar and Panchkula districts on Saturday. The police seized fake currency notes of value worth Rs 13.66 lakh, a printer, a laptop and plain papers during the raids at their office in Peer Muchalla in Zirakpur. CIA-1 in-charge Yadvender Singh said that based on inputs, they arrested Arun who was earlier booked in a similar case and was out on bail along with Shahrukh who was also released on bail in a case of drug smuggling. Police had recovered fake currency notes of value Rs 91,200 in fake currency notes from them, and based on their information conducted raids near Panchkula where the notes were printed arresting the rest of the four accused with the remaining fake currency notes seized from their possession along with Laptop, Printer, paper and ink. During preliminary investigation the arrested accused said that Prabhjot had learnt manufacturing fake currency notes on U-tube. They had opened new office at Peer Muchalla in Zeerakpur on a week earlier and had already supplied 11.50 lakh fake currency notes. The CIA-1 in-charge said Ashok, Prabhjot and Om Singh were presented before court on Saturday and sent to a three-day police remand.

Projects of value worth hundreds crore hanging incomplete at Ambala

Payments worth crores alleged released on fake bills

SATISH HANDA
Ambala

The residents of Ambala raise questions over no action taken against those officers who released payments to the contractors and suppliers on the basis of fake bills in which work was either not done or material was not supplied in several beneficial projects which are left incomplete for a long time. During a recent press conference with the Deputy Commissioner Parth Gupta who took charge a few days ago, he assured to investigate the matter and visited these projects left incomplete since a long time on which an amount worth hundreds crore has already been spent.

Surprisingly, the concerned officers of PWD (B&R) released payments of fake bills in which the contractor had not done work or goods were not supplied. Information reveals, when the frauds attracted headlines in the newspapers government had assured to take action against those involved in embezzlements, transferred few of them just for an eyewash, but no stern action was taken against any one, rather few of the alleged accused were promoted and the case was dumped in files. However, PWD (B&R) has failed to recover the excess amounts paid to the contractors and the suppliers without work done or receipt of goods and several



buildings are left incomplete in twin city Ambala thus causing heavy loss to the government.

Parth Gupta DC Ambala assured to look into the matter after having a meeting with PWD (B&R) officers. According to the residents of twin city Ambala as well as political parties in opposition, why no action has been taken against the contractors and suppliers who raised fake bills as well as concerned government employees released payments on the basis of fake bills for their

self-vested interest, demanding to hand over the case to the state Anti-corruption Bureau (ACB) or CBI for investigation in the embezzlements. A fraud worth crores of rupees was allegedly exposed in the construction of the football stadium in War Heroes Memorial Stadium Ambala Cantt in which the project cost increased to Rs 115 crore and excess payment worth Rs 65.87 crore was released to the contractor by the concerned government staff without receipt of material at site.

Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud pays obeisance at Sri Harmandar Sahib

AMRITSAR: Chief Justice of India Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud paid obeisance at Sri Harmandar Sahib and expressed his devotion today.

Expressing his views, Justice Chandrachud wrote in the visitor's book, "A true fulfillment of a dream to pray at divine Harmandir Sahib. A special blessing to be able to pray and worship here, in service of the nation and humanity."

On this occasion, SGPC President Advocate Harjinder Singh Dhama honoured Justice Chandrachud with a golden model of Sri Harmandar Sahib, Siropao (robe of honour), and a set of historical books and handed over a memorandum to stop the hate propaganda being done against Sikhs on social media platforms.

Harjinder Singh Dhama



said that Sikhs have made great sacrifices for India, and some mischievous people are deliberately making hateful comments on social media platforms about Sikh principles, history, Maryada (conduct), and identity. He said that in this regard resolutions

Advocate Dhama requested the CJI to take strict notice of this serious issue while holding the highest position in the Indian judicial system.

On this occasion, SGPC General Secretary Bhai Rajinder Singh Mehta, Member Bhai Gurcharan Singh Grewal, Advocate Bhagwant Singh Sialka, S. Surjit Singh Tugalwala, Secretary Partap Singh, Amritsar Deputy Commissioner Amritsar Ghanshyam Thori, Commissioner of Police Ranjit Singh, Dhillon, assistant secretaries Jaswinder Singh Jassi, Shahbaz Singh and Harbhajan Singh Vakta, Legal Advisor Advocate Amanbir Singh Siali, Manager Sri Darbar Sahib Narinder Singh, information officer Amritpal Singh, Jatinderpal Singh, Sarabjit Singh, federation leader Bhai Paramjit Singh Dharam Singhwala were present.



C.P. RAJENDRAN ON GOVT'S STRATEGY BEHIND ANUSANDHAN NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Corporatising science research



are now more closely integrated than ever, and scientific advances can now end up as marketable products more rapidly. This transformation has also led to intellectual property rights allowing universities to sell the patents to private corporations, even if the research is publicly funded. The adoption of neoliberal economic policies across the globe has also accelerated the greater involvement of the private sector in funding science.

part of the result may not be apparent at all. A generally accepted working definition of basic scientific research reads: "the pursuit of knowledge to understand a natural process irrespective of the potential applications that might arise from such knowledge".

Country comparison

Although India is ranked among the top 10 by gross domestic product (GDP), the ratio of public funding for science research in India has been 0.6% to 0.7% of GDP for the last decade. A country such as South Korea, only a third the size of India and its population, spends about 2% to 3% of its GDP. While the private sector is encouraged to fund, the government must increase its basic science and non-profit research allocation. If that does not happen, the country will eventually witness the decline of curiosity-driven science in our universities, which could also undermine public trust in science when it gets dominantly mediated by private interests. Equally important is to nurture an ambience of free enquiry and maintain the financial and administrative autonomy of the institutes. This should have been amplified in the ANRF Act itself. As Niraja Gopal Jayal writes in the India Forum, although the heavy hand of the educational bureaucracy has always been hovering over public universities, constraining their autonomy, in recent times "the state intervention has become more manifestly political in a partisan way, and openly ideological within an ecosystem that attaches no value to academic freedom". It all boils down to a grand vision, but it does not evolve in a repressive society.

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During the inaugural address of the 107th Science Congress in Bengaluru in January 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reflected on the government's take on how science should be conducted in India. It was conveyed to young researchers in his usual aphoristic manner of speaking: "innovate, patent, produce, prosper". By expressing it in a maxim, the Prime Minister was hinting at the birthing of a new policy on knowledge production under his leadership.

Over several years, the current ruling regime has been directing laboratories and other research centres to earn their revenue from external sources by marketing their expertise and investing the surplus to develop technologies for national missions. This policy position can be traced to the 'Dehradun Declaration' prepared by the directors of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research labs in 2015, where it was decided to market patents as a means to self-finance research. In other words, this was a call for the corporatisation of science research — a process of converting any state-owned entity into a market commodity and being able to follow the business model to support itself, rather than relying on public support. Science institutes are now encouraged to develop research centres registered as Section 8 companies, wherein private companies or shareholders can invest money.

The ANRF and research

This line of thinking can be seen in the formulation of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF). Established under the ANRF Act of 2023, this new mechanism is designed to fund research in the country and to improve linkages between research and development, academia and industry. The Finance Minister echoed the same in her July 23,

2024 Budget speech: "We will operationalise the ANRF for basic research and prototype development." The "prototype development" is a significant part of the innovation cycle to assess the marketability of a product — yet another hint of the government's overriding interest in funding the research that will cater to the market. Another giveaway is the way funding proportion is designed. The ANRF will receive Rs 50,000 crore over five years, 72% of which is expected to be from the private sector. Judging from the way the resources are currently scheduled for the ANRF, it is clear that the government intends to reduce its role in funding the research and expects private entrepreneurship to pitch in a big way.

Even in the United States, where research and development has significantly outstripped government funding over the last decade, it is clustered mostly in IT and pharmaceuticals. The knowledge thus generated through research is considered a commodity to be marketed. The entrenchment of market-oriented perspectives comes from two sources, as discussed by Prabir Purkayastha in his book, *Knowledge as Commons*. What makes science different from the Renaissance period and after that is that science and technology

Signals despite the stated objective

The understated objective of the ANRF is to fund research in natural sciences, but in reality, there are sufficient hints that the government is planning to place the university research system subservient to what Ellen Meiksins Wood calls "the dictates of the capitalist market". The curiosity-driven research in natural sciences involves understanding and predicting natural phenomena based on empirical evidence and experimentation. The private sector cannot be expected to finance curiosity-driven science because it will not invest money unless the research finds some immediate application that maximises its profits. Interestingly, the same stringency in government funding is not shown while supporting the branches of the 'Indian Knowledge Systems', which are not part of evidence-based science. Science is driven by the zeal to understand the world through scientific tools. This can be encouraged only by increasing the share of public funding. The research proposals in basic science need to be assessed based on the proposers' ability to acquire knowledge about a problem defined by conducting observations, experimentation and analyses. The application



KANIKA AGARWAL HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE OF PRECISION NUTRITION IN SPORTS

Nutrition strategy to avert Olympic-like agony

The high-stakes case, of the disqualification of Indian woman wrestler Vinesh Phogat from the women's 50kg wrestling final in the Paris Olympics 2024, was a setback for India. She was found to be 100 grams heavier than permissible limits. This incident highlights the role of support staff including the sports nutritionist, doctors, and the team management in the Indian contingent.

A myopic view indicates a slip, but the situation highlights the need to integrate precision nutrition in sport. Precision nutrition tailors dietary recommendations based on specific individual requirements, characteristics and circumstances. This process focuses on better understanding and meeting an athlete's individual requirements, particularly their individual response to different food/supplement intakes and avoiding a one-size-fits-all approach.

Precision nutrition involves understanding an individual's metabolism, microbiome, and how their body responds to food and calorie expenditure to determine the best dietary practices for them. It focuses on systems biology and a multi-omics approach (including genomics, proteomics, metabolomics, microbiomes, and epigenetics), integrated with bioinformatics and machine learning to provide evidence-based individualised nutrition recommendations. This data-driven approach allows for adjustments based on an athlete's physiological responses, ensuring they are in peak condition for a competition. The integration with bioinformatics and machine learning will help in the identification of patterns and predict how different nutritional strategies affect an athlete's performance. The gut microflora may be influenced by diet, especially a plant-based diet and regular exercise, resulting in the production of short chain fatty acids which may support athletic performance and post-exercise metabolic recovery.

An effective nutrition recommendation rides on high granularity of an individual's dietary



intake and physical activity data. Traditional questionnaire/interview-based methods of collecting such data have drawbacks such as self-reporting, memory bias, high respondent burden, and socially desirable responses. Combining this subjective information with targeted individual continuous monitoring (for example, continuous blood glucose monitoring) can provide more specific and individualised recommendations for athletes that not only address dietary requirements but also check the regulatory requirements of sport. Many wearable sensors track and provide information on physical activity levels, stress, sleep quality, and heart rate monitoring. This incident with Ms. Phogat underscores the importance of continuous and real-time tracking of targeted outcomes for athletes during training sessions, making it easier to achieve and maintain target weight.

Glucose monitoring

Continuous glucose monitors (CGM) are commonly used by people with diabetes to monitor interstitial blood glucose responses to food. These devices, implanted in the subcutaneous layer (just under the skin), record blood glucose levels minute

by minute. The use of CGMs, under the supervision of a trained nutritionist, can help monitor athletes' blood glucose responses to food. The information collected can be used to individualise recommendations for building muscle, boosting energy, reducing inflammation, and maintaining body weight — important parameters for an athlete.

A few players have reportedly improved their sports performance using CGM. Retired Olympic gold medal-winning Australian swimmer Chelsea Hodges, once admitted that CGM helped manage her fuel levels and exhaustion during training sessions. Long-distance runner Eliud Kipchoge of Kenya has been using the CGM since 2021 to build personalised nutrition plans that give him a competitive advantage. The Union Cycliste Internationale (the world governing body of cycling and recognised by the International Olympic Committee) has banned the use of CGM by healthy athletes during competitions. However, these could potentially be used during training sessions to see how players respond to food. This use of technology for personalised nutrition recommendation is still in its early stages and requires further exploration.

The need for such personalised approaches becomes more apparent in weight-based sports, where "making weight" is crucial. Athletes in weight-based sports, such as boxing, wrestling, and martial arts, often struggle to stay within their designated weight class. To do so, they resort to extreme measures such as starvation, intentional dehydration, and using saunas or sweat suits to reduce weight quickly before weigh-ins. These drastic measures jeopardise their mental and physical health and adversely impact their performance. Reports indicate that Ms. Phogat spent an entire night trying to shed extra weight. Likewise, another Indian woman wrestler, Antim Panghal, reportedly starved herself for two days to make weight. Such instances would severely impact the capabilities of such sportspersons in such high-level competitions.

A role for sports nutritionists

A study found that coaches and fellow players play an influential role in deciding what dietary regimen works best for the athlete during training and competition. Athletes need sports nutritionists trained in precision nutrition to monitor their nutritional requirements, intake, and understand their body composition and metabolism.

It would be in everyone's best interest if nutritionists are assigned to different types of sports and become involved with the athletes longer, allowing their recommendations and body responses to be tracked and tested over time. These nutritionists must familiarise themselves with the rules of the sports, weight categories, weigh-in procedures, and methods to reduce weight without compromising an athlete's performance and annual training cycles.

Flourish logoInteractive content by Flourish

Integrating precision nutrition into sports involves not only individualising dietary plans but also continuously monitoring and adjusting them based on the athlete's changing needs. This approach can help prevent the drastic measures often resorted to by athletes, in turn promoting healthier, and more sustainable practices.

In conclusion, the disqualification of Ms. Phogat underscores that there is a critical gap in the Indian sports support system. Precision nutrition, a data-driven approach to dietary planning, is imperative to prevent such setbacks and optimise athlete performance. By integrating technology and expert nutritionists, India can revolutionise its sports training, ensuring that sportspersons reach their full potential while prioritising their health and their well-being.

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"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

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BOOKS: REVIEW

Book explores the depths of Souza's artistic vision

F.N. Souza: The Archetypal Artist, authored by Janeita Singh, is a profound exploration of the works of Francis Newton Souza, one of India's most celebrated modern painters. Through a collection of 21 essays, Singh delves into the cultural, psychological, and philosophical underpinnings of Souza's art, offering a multifaceted interpretation that draws on psychoanalysis, feminism, Eastern and Western philosophy, and Jungian analysis. Souza's significance in the Indian art scene is indisputable. As a founding member of the Progressive Artist's Group in Mumbai in the 1940s, his contributions were instrumental in shaping modern Indian art. His journey from India to the UK and eventually to the US mirrors his evolving artistic vision. Over the years, Souza's works have gained immense recognition, commanding high prices at art auctions. However, for those who cannot

own a Souza painting, Singh's book offers an opportunity to appreciate and engage with his art through detailed reproductions and insightful analysis.

Singh's approach is both scholarly and accessible. She challenges readers to confront the often provocative and unsettling nature of Souza's paintings, particularly his depictions of nudes and heads. Singh interprets these works through the lens of psychoanalysis, exploring concepts like the male gaze, the perception of the nude, and alternative ways of seeing. Her analysis is rooted in the idea that Souza's art taps into the collective unconscious, drawing on archetypal imagery that resonates on a deeply personal level with viewers.

One of the book's strengths is its examination of the female form in Souza's work. Singh connects Souza's depictions of women to the iconography of fertility goddesses, suggesting that his art celebrates

female confidence and sexuality in a way that challenges conventional social codes and religious authority. She argues that Souza's paintings offer a vision of the female body imbued with self-assurance and authority, contrasting sharply with the often submissive and objectified portrayals of women in Western art history.

Singh's writing is particularly compelling when she describes her first encounter with Souza's art. She reflects on how his female subjects defy traditional representations, appearing neither shy nor self-effacing but instead exuding a raw, almost primal energy. This connection to nature, Singh suggests, is central to Souza's artistic vision. He was deeply attuned to the natural world, and this affinity is evident in the vitality and vigor with which he expressed himself on canvas.

The book's exploration of Souza's use of the collective unconscious is another intriguing aspect. Singh



F.N. Souza: The Archetypal Artist
By Janeita Singh
Niyogi Books;
320 pages;
Rs4,500

draws on Jungian psychology, particularly the concept of the 'anima,' to interpret Souza's work. She posits that his art reveals a deep connection to the archetypal feminine, a force that is both nurturing and powerful. This interpretation adds a layer of psychological depth to Souza's paintings, inviting readers to consider the ways in which his work speaks to universal human experiences and emotions.

In addition to its rich textual analysis, F.N. Souza: The Archetypal Artist is visually stunning. The book includes around 130 images of Souza's artworks, reproduced in excellent color and detail. These images allow readers to fully appreciate the complexity and richness of Souza's artistic output. The visual component of the book comple-

ments Singh's analysis, providing a comprehensive understanding of Souza's oeuvre.

Singh's work is not just an art historical study; it is a meditation on the cultural constructs of life, body, and sexuality. She offers readers a lens through which to view Souza's art as a commentary on these themes, highlighting the ways in which his work challenges and subverts traditional narratives. For those interested in modern Indian art, psychoanalysis, or cultural studies, F.N. Souza: The Archetypal Artist is an essential read.

In conclusion, Janeita Singh's F.N. Souza: The Archetypal Artist is a thought-provoking and richly layered exploration of one of India's most important modern artists. Through her insightful analysis and the inclusion of a wide range of visual and theoretical sources, Singh offers readers a new way of understanding Souza's work, one that is deeply informed by both art history and psychoanalysis. This book is a valuable contribution to the study of Souza and a must-read for anyone interested in the intersection of art, culture, and psychology.

