

HAL, Safran join hands to design, develop new-generation helicopter engine 'Aravalli'

NEW DELHI, AUG 27: State-run defence major HAL and a private firm have joined hands to design, develop and manufacture a "new-generation" helicopter engine, according to an official statement issued on Wednesday. Source Aircraft Parts

This is the first time that a high-power helicopter engine is being designed and developed in India, it said.

The design and development of 'Aravalli' engine is expected to be completed by 2032-33, the statement said.

The 'Aravalli' programme marks an important transition from licensed production to joint development of a high-power helicopter engine, giving India an opportunity to build deeper capabilities in critical propulsion technologies, it said

"Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Safran Helicopter Engines, through their 50:50 joint venture SAFHAL Helicopter Engines Pvt. Ltd., have signed a contract for the joint design, development, manufacture, supply and lifecycle support of a new-generation 3,500–4,000 shp helicopter engine, named 'Aravalli'," the statement said.

The programme will enable HAL to gain expertise and intellectual property in areas of engine design undertaken by HAL, while Indian engineers will work alongside Safran engineers throughout the development programme.

The 'Aravalli' engine will power HAL's upcoming 13-ton Indian Multi-Role Helicopter (IMRH) and its naval variant, the Deck-Based Multi-Role Helicopter (DBMRH). Get Transmission Repairs

IMRH and DBMRH have potential applications beyond military helicopters, including offshore transportation, utility missions and VVIP transport, opening avenues for future civil aero-

space opportunities, it said.

The engine will be jointly developed by HAL and Safran Helicopter Engines on a 50:50 basis and will be manufactured by SAFHAL at Tumakuru, Karnataka.

"The programme will provide HAL access to core engine technologies including the high-pressure compressor, power turbine, fuel and oil systems components, accessory gearbox and engine external systems capabilities that are critical for developing future generations of indigenous aero-engines," it added.

This will provide exposure to international design methodologies, testing practices and certification requirements. The knowledge and experience developed through 'Aravalli' can provide a foundation for future indigenous aero-engine development programmes, it said. The programme is expected to generate benefits across the wider aerospace ecosystem. It will create opportunities for Indian industry in advanced engine manufacturing areas such as raw materials, precision machining and castings, while also supporting the development of indigenous Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) capabilities, the statement said.

The design and development of 'the Aravalli' engine is expected to be completed by 2032–33, "while awaiting approval of AON and CCS for IMRH and DBMRH".

Acceptance of Necessity (AON) is the first step towards procurement.

The programme represents a significant investment in India's long-term capability to design, develop and manufacture advanced helicopter engines, and strengthens the technological foundation for future-generation rotorcraft programmes and is expected to generate significant revenue, it said.

Cong slams BJP over its Uttarakhand chief 'justifying' purification ritual at Kharge rally site

NEW DELHI, AUG 27: The Congress on Thursday accused Uttarakhand BJP chief Mahendra Bhatt of "justifying" the 'shuddhikaran' (purification) ceremony at the venue of a rally addressed by AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge in Haldwani, and asked whether the ruling party would take action against the leader for defending untouchability.

Bhatt reportedly said the place was polluted with slogans not fit for a religious place, as he dismissed the criticism over the ritual by the opposition.

Tagging a video of Bhatt's remarks, Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khera said, "It does not matter that Nadda Ji described the shuddhikaran in Haldwani after Kharge Ji's rally as 'unfortunate'. The truth is that discrimination flows through the veins of the RSS-BJP like blood."

Now, the Uttarakhand BJP president has justified the 'shuddhikaran', he claimed.

"In the 21st century, Dalits are still subjected to such dehumanising practices. That itself is a tragedy. But if this can happen to the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and one of the tallest Dalit leaders in the country, (it) elucidates how far worse the everyday reality must be for ordinary Dalits," the Congress leader said. History

"Now that its own state president has openly defended untouchability, will the party act against him? Will Modi remove him? If not, then Modi's grand appeals of unity and respect for Dalits are nothing but another political performance," Khera said.

spokesperson and social media head Supriya Shrinat also shared the video clip of Bhatt's remarks.

"This is Uttarakhand BJP President Mahendra Bhatt. He is justifying the purification ritual that took place after Congress President Kharge ji's rally in Haldwani," she said on X.

"This is the real BJP -- this is the hatred in their hearts towards Dalits. Everything else is mere lip service," Shrinat said.

Last week, the Congress Working Committee (CWC) had strongly condemned the 'shuddhikaran' of the venue in Haldwani, Uttarakhand.

Calling the incident totally unacceptable and questioning Prime Minister Narendra Modi's silence, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh had said the CWC demanded that Modi must apologise over the issue.

Kharge had dubbed the BJP "anti-religion", citing the alleged purification ritual following his speech and questioned the ruling party's "selective interpretation of religious values".

"You (BJP) are anti-religion because when a person like me goes to Uttarakhand and gives a speech in front of lakhs of people, two days later you conduct a purification ceremony," he said.

The alleged purification took place at Ramila Maidan in Haldwani where Kharge had addressed a gathering on August 8.

Uttarakhand Congress chief Ganesh Godiyal has alleged that the Shri Ram Sena that performed the purification ceremony was associated with the BJP, a charge vehemently denied by the ruling party.

Govt working towards new Indira Gandhi university campus in proposed Narela edu hub: Delhi CM

NEW DELHI, AUG 27: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Thursday said her Government was actively working towards providing the Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women (IGDTUW) with a new campus in the proposed education hub in Narela.

Addressing the valedictory ceremony of the induction programme-2026 at the university, the chief minister said the proposed campus would enable more students to pursue higher education there.

"We want to make sure that not just 1,000, but a larger number of students from Delhi and across the country can study here," she said.

She said her Government was actively working towards providing IGDTUW with a new campus in the proposed education hub in Narela.

Addressing the students,



Gupta said, "A new journey starts for the students today, a journey that might cause excitement and anxiety at the same time. But I am sure the girls present today are more than capable of following their dreams."

Established in 2013, IGDTUW was Asia's first Government-run women's technical university. It challenged the perception that technical education was a male-dominated field, she said.

"I am sure our daughters will lead in all fields. I want to congratulate them in advance," she added.

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu and Education Minister Ashish Sood were also present at the event.

Sood said IGDTUW had established a name for itself in innovation and technology.

Students of the university had secured packages worth crores of rupees through their dedication and hard work, he said.

"We need to understand what patriarchy is. We cannot smash patriarchy through hashtags. It will be smashed when daughters of IGDTUW sit in front of computer screens and write AI algorithms for India's security system," the minister said.

Sood said empowering women through education and technology was key to challenging traditional gender stereotypes.

The event also saw the unveiling of 'IGDTUW Times', a booklet documenting the journey of the university, its students and their achievements. (PTI)

UP Govt's announcement to provide jobs to 1 lakh youths electoral move: Mayawati

LUCKNOW, AUG 27: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati on Thursday said the Uttar Pradesh Government's announcement to provide jobs to 1 lakh youths over the next six months appeared motivated by the assembly polls due early next year.

In a post on X, the former chief minister said people were eagerly awaiting an announcement on recruitment for reserved posts for SCs, STs and OBCs.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said the State Government would provide appointment letters to 1 lakh youths over the next six months.

He also said that more than 9.3 lakh youths had been provided Government jobs by his Government through a transparent and non-discriminatory process since 2017.

Reacting to the announcement, Mayawati said, "The



Uttar Pradesh Government's announcement to provide government jobs to 1 lakh youths in the next six months, although a belated correct step, appears more to be an electoral move."

The move would be welcome if the appointments were completed on time and remained free from the "curse of paper leaks and corruption", she said.

She added that people

under pressure from Gen Z and Gen Alpha, would be welcome if it reflected a genuine intent to improve school education.

Mayawati demanded that the Government revive around 30,000 schools that had been closed, saying this would also be in the public interest.

On women's welfare, she said free bus travel for elderly women was not enough.

"Governments need to work with the right intent and policy to protect women from exploitation, atrocities and harassment in every field, while also ensuring their safety, dignity and self-reliance," she said.

Adityanath on Wednesday launched the 'Lokmata Ahilyabai Matrushakti Yatra' scheme to provide free bus travel to elderly women in Uttar Pradesh and said it was aimed at facilitating mobility and greater independence for women aged 60 and above. (PTI)

Teacher recruitment in CBSE schools to be completed by Sep 30: Himachal CM Sukhu

SHIMLA, AUG 27: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Wednesday said the process to recruit teachers in state-run CBSE schools will be completed by September 30.

Responding to questions raised in the Assembly by BJP MLAs Sudhir Sharma, Randhir Sharma, Janak Raj,

Vipin Singh Parmar and Rakesh Jamwal, Sukhu said the teachers are being selected based on merit and will receive a salary for a 10-month period.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) curriculum was introduced in Himachal Pradesh government schools in the 2025-2026 academic session.

Sukhu said computer labs will be established in all the 147 CBSE schools opened so far by this year, for which a sum of Rs 80 crore would be made available.

"Bringing qualitative changes in education is the government's objective. Student enrollment in government schools has risen by

24,000 since the opening of the CBSE schools," Sukhu said.

Earlier, Education Minister Rohit Thakur informed the House that 3,830 teachers are currently deployed across the state's 147 CBSE schools.

He also said that 100 more CBSE schools would be opened in the state.

NEW DELHI, AUG 27: India on Wednesday night sent the first tranche of relief supplies in a military transport aircraft to Nepal where flash floods along the country's border with Tibet region killed at least 95 people and left a trail of destruction. Exploring Tourist Destinations

The relief materials were sent hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to his Nepalese counterpart Balendra Shah and assured him of all possible humanitarian assistance to deal with the situation.

"The people of India stand in solidarity with their sisters and brothers in Nepal at this difficult time," Modi said on social media after the conversation.

"India is ready to provide all possible humanitarian assistance to Nepal. Our teams are coordinating closely on rescue and relief efforts," he said.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said India dispatched 10 tonnes of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) assistance to Nepal.

"Dispatched 10 tonnes of HADR assistance and essential medicines to support



Nepal's response to the devastating floods," he said on X.

"Our thoughts are with the bereaved families and all those affected. In face of this challenge, India stands with Nepal and its people," he added.

The relief supplies were sent on board a C-130J aircraft of the Indian Air Force. The aircraft took off for Kathmandu from Hindon airbase near Delhi around 8:35 pm.

The relief supplies included emergency items such as temporary shelters,

blankets, hygiene kits, solar lamps, and medicines. Comparing Freight Rates

The IAF also posted on X, saying, "In response to the devastating flash floods in Nepal, the IAF has swiftly deployed a C-130J aircraft carrying 10 tonnes of essential relief materials and medical supplies."

"Additional air effort by C-17 and C-130 aircraft will transport further relief supplies, with helicopters earmarked for rescue and evacuation operations. From the

skies to the ground - responding with speed, agility, and precision, delivering hope when it matters most," it added.

According to latest reports, at least 95 people were killed, and a few hundreds are missing following the flash floods along the Nepal-Tibet border. It is learnt that New Delhi will send more relief supplies in the next few days with another military transport aircraft expected to be sent to Kathmandu on Thursday morning. (PTI)

Arunachal makes PRC, tribal certificate mandatory for government jobs

ITANAGAR, AUG 26: The Arunachal Pradesh government on Wednesday issued a notification making PRC, APST certificate and knowledge of an indigenous tribal language mandatory for direct recruitment to all posts and services under the state government. Sourcing Government Grants

The notification, signed by Chief Secretary Manish Kumar Gupta with the governor's approval, will apply to direct recruitment to posts under the state government, public sector undertakings, autonomous bodies and local and urban bodies, officials said.

Under the new criteria, every candidate applying for direct recruitment must possess a valid Permanent Residence Certificate (PRC) of Arunachal Pradesh, an Arunachal Pradesh Scheduled Tribe (APST) certificate as an original inhabitant of the state, and working knowledge of an indigenous tribal language as notified under the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.

The decision was approved by the state Cabinet at its meeting held on August 13.



The notification also provides for a mandatory language test for selected candidates.

Until a formal language proficiency test is included in the competitive examination, the test will be conducted after a candidate joins service and must be cleared within the three-year probation period.

Failure to clear the language test within the prescribed period will result in the withholding of annual increments and further promotions until the candidate qualifies the test, the notification said. Searching Job Listings

The Arunachal Pradesh Public Service Commission

was the result of the union's sustained demand for making PRC and APST certification mandatory in government recruitment.

"This is a demand AAPSU has pursued relentlessly, and today it has been translated into a formal government order. We thank the government for hearing our voice and acting on it. But a notification on paper means nothing unless it is enforced on the ground, in every recruitment exercise, without exception," Taku said.

He urged the APPSC, APSSB and all other recruiting authorities to implement the new criteria in letter and spirit and incorporate them in pending and future recruitment advertisements. Discovering City Tours

Taku cautioned that AAPSU would closely monitor the implementation of the notification and would not tolerate any attempt to circumvent, dilute or selectively apply the criteria.

"We will not allow this hard-won safeguard to be diluted through bureaucratic delay or selective application. If any agency fails to comply, AAPSU will not hesitate to act," he added. (PTI)