

# Many medieval-era Kos Minars stand tall, but some cry for attention: Survey

47 mile markers that once dotted Grand Trunk Road studied across state; two delisted

PARVEEN ARORA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**KARNAL, JULY 22**  
A survey by the American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) has brought to light the encouraging condition of Haryana's medieval-era Kos Minars — distance markers from the Mughal era that once dotted the historic Grand Trunk Road. While most of the 47 minars surveyed across Haryana are structurally sound, a few are in need of urgent conservation.

The survey, conducted under a project funded by the US Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation, studied over 100 Kos Minars from 2023 to 2025 across Haryana, Punjab, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh. These iconic 16th-17th century structures, built during the reigns of Sher Shah Suri, Akbar, and Jahangir, once guided traders and travellers along the GT Road.

"Out of the 47 Kos Minars we documented in Haryana, most are in good shape — fenced, with ASI signage and cleaned regularly," said Dr Vandana Sinha, Director, Centre for Art and Archaeology, AIIS, Gurugram.

The study was carried out in coordination with the



The Kos Minar in Karnal. VARUN GULATI

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and state archaeological departments. "We will share our findings with them," she said.

Minars located in Faridabad, Gharaunda, Karnal city, Dahanu and Ambala are reported to be in very good condition. Others are in fair shape but show minor issues like hairline

cracks, vegetation growth and surface erosion. However, a few are in a state of distress.

"The Kot Kachhwa Kalan (Ambala) — collapsed Machhaunda (Ambala) — Structural damage, erosion Manana (Panipat) — Only base remains

STATUS CHECK	
<b>MINARS IN GOOD CONDITION</b>	Faridabad, Gharaunda, Karnal, Dahanu, Ambala
<b>THOSE NEED ATTENTION</b>	Kot Kachhwa Kalan (Ambala) — collapsed Machhaunda (Ambala) — Structural damage, erosion Manana (Panipat) — Only base remains
<b>DELISTED BY ASI</b>	Shahabad — missing Mujessar — missing
TYPICAL STRUCTURE	
<b>21x21 ft</b>	platform
<b>10 ft</b>	octagonal base
<b>14 ft</b>	cylindrical shaft
<b>BUILT DURING</b>	Sher Shah Suri, Akbar, Jahangir era

"In Panipat, the Manana Minar retains only its base structure," she added.

Dr Chand Singh, a medieval architecture expert, said most minars follow a common design — "a 21x21 ft platform, a 10 ft octagonal base and a 14 ft cylindrical column." The size and type of bricks help date the constructions, he

said, adding that Haryana was under Delhi Suba and Punjab under Lahore Suba during the Mughal era.

The issue of monument preservation came up in Parliament recently, after Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat disclosed that 18 monuments had been delisted by the ASI, including two Kos Minars from Haryana — at Mujessar (Faridabad) and Shahabad (Kurukshetra). "Both sites had been missing for decades. Despite multiple attempts, they couldn't be located and were delisted following a complete survey," said a senior ASI official.

Gaurav Narwal, senior conservation assistant, ASI Kurukshetra, said: "There are 10 Kos Minars in Karnal district and most are well-maintained with chemical treatment to preserve their originality." He said eight Kos Minars in Kurukshetra and one in Ambala are still under ASI protection. "The Shahabad Kos Minar was in the ASI list, but never existed on the ground. Despite repeated efforts, it remained untraceable and was eventually delisted," Narwal said.

(With inputs by Nitish Sharma)



The waterlogged area adjoining the IOCL pipeline in Panipat. TRIBUNE PHOTO

## Panipat MC to turn waste-ridden, waterlogged land into green zone

Park, open space planned in line with IOCL refinery norms

MUKESH TANDON  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**PANIPAT, JULY 22**

In a major step towards civic improvement, the Municipal Corporation (MC) Panipat has received a no-objection certificate (NOC) from the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) refinery to develop the area adjoining its pipeline corridor. The 3.75-km stretch, which runs through the residential areas of wards 21, 25 and 26, will now be transformed into a green zone.

As per refinery norms, construction in this zone remains restricted due to safety and operational concerns. However, the MC plans to utilise the open stretch in accordance with IOCL's safety guidelines by developing green parks and beautifying the area to address long-standing issues of sanitation and public health.

Currently, the land remains underutilised and suffers from severe water-

logging and solid waste accumulation. "This has become a serious health and sanitation issue for residents," said an MC official, citing a formal letter sent to IOCL requesting permission and assistance.

To tackle the nuisance and prevent vector-borne diseases, the MC proposed turning the unused land into open recreational space. In addition to seeking permission, the civic body also requested financial assistance from IOCL under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives.

Following the request, IOCL's Pipeline Division granted conditional approval, emphasising the sensitivity of the Mathura-Jalandhar Pipeline (MJPL), which carries highly inflammable petroleum products. "The development work should be executed under IOCL's supervision," the company stated.

Strict conditions were laid

out in the NOC, including a ban on construction of buildings or any permanent structure, excavation of wells, tanks, dams, and planting of trees directly above the pipeline.

Confirming the development, Rahul Punia, Executive Engineer (XEN), MC Panipat, said: "IOCL has granted permission and NOC to develop the area adjoining the pipelines passing through the residential areas of three wards in the municipal limits. The MC would soon develop the green park in the vicinity to beautify the area."

The engineering wing has now prepared the project estimate and will soon initiate development work in line with IOCL's safety directions. The project is expected to enhance the livability and visual appeal of the affected localities while eliminating health hazards and preventing illegal encroachments.

# AI-powered transport plan set to ease travel for over 13 lakh CET aspirants

SUMEDHA SHARMA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**GURUGRAM, JULY 22**

As nearly 13.5 lakh candidates gear up to appear for the Haryana Common Eligibility Test (CET) 2025 on July 26 and 27, the state's transport department is preparing for one of its largest logistical operations. In a first, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is being harnessed to coordinate and manage transport for examinees across the state.

An elaborate plan has been finalised by the department, which includes deploying over 9,200 buses — 1,500 of them from Haryana Roadways and the rest sourced from various entities — to ensure safe and timely travel for candidates. The exam will be conducted in four shifts over two days, with approximately 3.3 lakh students appearing in each shift.

A senior official from the department said, "We are

OVER 4 LAKH REGISTER ON PORTAL	
<b>4,12,461</b> candidates registered on portal	<b>4,09,885</b> candidates need free bus service
<b>9,200</b> buses deployed to ferry aspirants	<b>July 26, 27</b> exam to be held at 834 centres

using AI for bus scheduling, coordination and logistics management. A centralised online portal has already been launched to collect individual travel details of all CET candidates. This not only helps determine transport demand but also assists in building a comprehensive movement map to aid in emergencies."

So far over four lakh candidates have registered for free transport through the online portal. Authorities have urged all candidates to provide travel details, regardless of their intention to use the transport, to enable better coordination. The collected data is being

shared with emergency services (dial 112) to provide police assistance and ensure real-time response in case of any issues.

The AI-driven system is helping to identify outbound candidates (those leaving their home districts) and inbound candidates (those arriving in a district for the exam). This analysis is being used for efficient route planning and resource allocation.

AI has also been instrumental in micro-management, having identified village clusters with concentrated candidate numbers — ranging from 50 to over 1,000 students. These clusters have been digi-

tally mapped and overlaid with the locations of bus depots, sub-depots, bus stands and CET examination centres, using GIS coordinates.

"AI has proved pivotal in micromanagement of the transport plan. We will ensure that every candidate has an easy option for free transport during the examination. These services aim to guarantee timely, safe and equitable transport access for all," said a senior official.

Gurugram Deputy Commissioner Ajay Kumar confirmed that all districts, including Gurugram, are operating under a tech-supported transport plan. "We have identified the pick-up and drop points and the required frequency of shuttles based on GIS inputs. The AI-enabled strategy is expected to ensure a hassle-free examination process for both candidates and authorities," he said.

## 4 kanwaris killed in Yamunanagar

YAMUNANAGAR, JULY 22

Four kanwaris lost their lives in two separate incidents in Yamunanagar district today. Two were electrocuted while participating in a religious procession, the two others were killed in a road accident while en route to Haridwar.

The deceased have been identified as Kuldeep (40) and Harish (42), both residents of Gumthala Rao village, and Devinder and Ajaypal, both hailing from Agra, UP.

In the first incident, around 15 kanwaris from Gumthala Rao were performing parikrama while aboard a utility vehicle, when it came in contact with a high-tension wire. "Kuldeep and Harish were electrocuted on the spot. Two others, Rinku and Sumit, sustained burn injuries," said a local official.

In a separate mishap near Khandwa village, a collision occurred between a motorcycle and a utility vehicle, killing Devinder and Ajaypal, who were heading to Haridwar from Kaithal. — TNS

## 20-yr-old attempts suicide in Sirsa

SIRSA, JULY 22

A 20-year-old youth from Fatehabad tried to end his life by consuming poisonous substance near Chaudhary Devi Lal University on Tuesday.

As he walked towards a bank and shopping complex, he collapsed. Two security guards noticed his condition and rushed him to a nearby hospital on a motorcycle. Doctors said though the youth had consumed poison, his condition was stable due to timely treatment. The youth said he visited the university to meet his girlfriend, who refused to marry him. — OC

# Sex ratio improves to 917 as govt cracks down on illegal abortions

690 reverse trackings, 18 FIRs

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**CHANDIGARH, JULY 22**

Under the leadership of Health and Family Welfare Minister Arti Singh Rao, the State Task Force (STF) for improving the sex ratio convened its weekly meeting today, which was chaired by Director General of Health Services (DGHS) Manish Bansal.

The meeting focused on intensifying the state's ongoing efforts under the 'Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao' campaign to curb illegal abortions and strengthen implementation of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act.

Officials reported a marked improvement in the state's sex ratio, which rose to 917 during the week of July 14 to 21, up from 860 in the same week last year. Between January 1 and July 21, the cumulative sex ratio has climbed to 904, compared to 902 in the corresponding period last year.

DGHS Manish Bansal directed strict action against erring medical professionals.

"Doctors found complicit in illegal abortions will face punitive action, including licence

cancellation," he warned.

He emphasised reverse tracking of all medical termination of pregnancy (MTP) and abortion cases beyond 12 weeks, especially when the woman already has daughters. So far 690 reverse tracking cases have been completed across the state, with Ambala reporting the highest number. This has led to 18 FIRs, with 13 more under process.

Show-cause notices have been served to several private clinics, hospitals, ASHAs, ANMs, SAHELIs, and even medical officers linked to the women involved.

DGHS Kuldeep Singh instructed CMOs to submit MTP data for the past three months and to complete reverse tracking within 24 hours of receiving information.

"Coordinate with OPD gynaecologists and seek police assistance where necessary," he directed. The STF also decided to charge-sheet negligent officers and mandated all CMOs and PNDT officials to conduct field raids and report Pre-implantation Genetic Testing (PIGT) requests within five days to prevent misuse.

### KEY STATISTICS

Gender ratio (July 14-21, 2025)	917 (up from 860 in 2024)
Sex ratio (Jan 1-July 21, 2025)	904 (up from 902 in 2024)
Reverse trackings done	690
FIRs registered	18 (13 more under process)
District with most trackings	Ambala

# High Court raps Faridabad judge for 'judicial indiscipline', orders probe

SAURABH MALIK  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**CHANDIGARH, JULY 22**

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has deprecated and flagged as "judicial indiscipline" the conduct of a Faridabad Additional Sessions Judge for passing two orders on the same day in an anticipatory bail matter. The court also made it clear that the matter required thorough investigation.

"Amazingly, this court finds it illogical to the extent of judicial indiscipline on the part of Jyoti Lamba, Additional Sessions Judge, Faridabad, in recording two orders of even date without following due procedure as envisaged for the purpose of considering anticipatory bail petitions," Justice Sandeep Moudgil asserted. The assertion came as Justice Moudgil ordered the cancellation of anticipatory bail granted to the accused by Farid-

abad Judge in an FIR registered for forgery and other offences under Sections 465, 467, 468, and 473 in September last year at the Bhupani police station. The FIR was registered on the allegation of using forged agreement to sell.

Justice Moudgil's Bench was told that the controversy arose when the Judge after hearing the matter orally instructed the parties, especially the public prosecutor for the state, to release the accused on interim bail on her joining the investigation within three days. "Later on, in the day, it transpired that another order of even date — November 19, 2024, came to be passed by Jyoti Lamba, Additional Sessions Judge, Faridabad, running into 12 pages granting the respondent Priyanka Kumari absolute anticipatory bail, observing that it is not the case falling under the category of 'serious offence' but a civil dispute given the colour of criminal

nature and recording its inclination to grant bail. This order was uploaded on the web portal of the District Court, Faridabad," Justice Moudgil's Bench was told.

The court, during the course of hearing, also took note of a handwritten noting of "that date" made by the judicial officer that case was documentary based and interim bail was granted to respondent-accused, subject to joining the investigation within three days and on furnishing Rs 50,000 as surety of the like amount.

"As far as the judicial officer's conduct is concerned, which is not only to be deprecated but demands thorough investigation into the matter and accordingly, the Registrar-General is directed to place the case file along with the order's copy before the Administrative Judge, Faridabad, for consideration and necessary action as deemed appropriate," Justice Moudgil ordered.

# Temple priest gets 25 years in jail for sexually assaulting minor boy


SIRSA, JULY 22

A Special Fast Track Court here has sentenced a temple priest to 25 years of rigorous imprisonment for the sexual assault of a minor boy. The court also imposed a

fine of Rs 77,000 on the convict, Raman Giri, who originally hailed from Moga Mandi in Punjab and was serving as a priest at the Sherawali Mata Temple in Ding village, Sirsa.

The incident dates back to April 1, 2020, when the minor visited the temple and was allegedly taken to a secluded room by the accused. In his complaint, the boy's father stated that the child returned

home visibly disturbed and, after much coaxing, confided about the assault. The priest had also allegedly threatened the boy with dire consequences if he disclosed the incident to anyone. — OC

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[Appendix - IVA] [See proviso to rule 8 (6) R/W Rule 9(1)]

**PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Asset under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("SARFAESI Act") read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general & in particular to the Borrower(s) and Co-Borrower(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of SBFC Finance Limited. Further, **Omikara Assets Reconstruction Private Limited (acting in its capacity as Trustee of Omikara PS 26/2024-25 Trust)** has acquired entire outstanding debts of the below accounts vide Assignment Agreement dated 27.03.2025 from SBFC Finance Limited (Assignor) along with underlying security from assignor Accordingly, OARPL has stepped into the shoes of assignor and empowered to recover the dues & enforce the security. The Authorized Officer of OARPL hereby intends to sell the below mentioned secured properties for recovery of dues & hence the tenders/bids are invited in sealed cover for the purchase of the secured properties. The properties shall be sold in exercise of rights and powers under the provisions of sections 13 (2) & (4) of SARFAESI Act; on "As is where is", "As is what is", & "Whatever there is" & "Without recourse Basis" for recovery of amount shown below in respective column due to OARPL as Secured Creditor from respective Borrower and Co-Borrower(s) shown below. Details of the Borrower(s)/Guarantors/Mortgagors, Securities, Outstanding Dues, Date of Demand Notice sent under Section 13(2), Reserve Price, Bid Increment Amount, Earnest Money Deposit (EMD), Date & Time of Inspection is given as under:

<b>Name of Borrower(s)/ Guarantors/ Mortgagors :-</b> Jai Mahalaxmi Industries (borrower), 1.Naveen Sehgal (co-borrower), 2.Rajni Sehgal (co-borrower), 3.Laxman Prasad Sehgal(co-borrower)
<b>Details of the Secured Asset :-</b> Property No. 417 (as per Patwari Letter) Land area measuring 60 sq. yds., out of Khewat/Khasra No. 8/45/25,, Saran, Faridabad, Haryana-121001
<b>Owner of the property:</b> Naveen Sehgal
<b>Demand Notice Date &amp; Amount:</b> Rs. 23,77,979/- (Rupees Twenty-Three Lakh Seventy Seven Thousand Nine Hundred And Seventy Nine Only) due and payable as on 14 th March, 2024
<b>Reserve Price : Rs.20,08,000/- EMD : Rs.2,00,800/- Bid Increment Amount : Rs. 20,000/-</b>
<b>Date &amp; Time of Inspection :-</b> Date: 20.08.2025, Time: 1 PM to 3 PM (Noon)
<b>Date of E- Auction &amp; Time:-</b> 26.08.2025 at 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm (noon)
<b>Last date and time for submission of bid letter of participation/KYC Document/Proof of EMD:</b> 25.08.2025 up to 6:00 pm

**TERMS & CONDITION OF THE AUCTION:** For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer to the link provided in <http://omkaraarc.com/auction.php>. The auction shall be conducted online through OARPL. The last date of submission of bid (online as well as in hard copy) along with EMD (DD/ Pay Order in original or remittance by way of NEFT/ RTGS) is **25.08.2025 by 6:00 PM**. The intended bidders who have deposited the EMD and require assistance in creating Login ID & Password, uploading data, submitting bid, training on e-bidding process etc., may contact e-Auction Service Provider - **M/S. C1 India Pvt. Ltd., Tel. Helpline: +91-7291981124/25/26, Helpline E-mail ID: support@banksaleauctions.com, and for any property related query contact the Authorized Officer, Mr. Swapnil Pradhan, Mobile: +91 8976870980 Mail: swapnil.pradhan@omkaraarc.com**

**Statutory Notice For Sale Under Rule 8(6) Of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002**

This notice is also a mandatory Notice of not less than 30 (Thirty) days to the Borrower(s) and Co-Borrower(s) of the above loan account under Rule 8 (6), of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002 & provisions of Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, informing them about holding of auction/sale through e-auction on the above referred date and time with the advice to redeem the assets if so desired by them, by paying the outstanding dues as mentioned herein above together with further interest & all costs charges and expenses. In case of default in payment, the property shall at the discretion of the Authorized Officer/Secured Creditor be sold through any of the modes as prescribed under Rule 8 (5) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002.

**Date: 23.07.2025**  
**Place: Faridabad**

**Authorized Officer, Omikara Assets Reconstruction Pvt Ltd.**  
(Acting in its capacity as a Trustee of Omikara PS 26/2024-25 Trust)

