





**NOTE SENT TO LEADERS ON NOV 22 Before Chandigarh Bill rollback, Centre sent Punjab BJP a note in its favour**

In feedback, party warned of law and order situation, flagged 'sense of suspicion, distrust' after farm laws

**Manoj DG**  
New Delhi, November 25

THE TENDENCY and the reason behind the Centre's reluctance to bring a Chandigarh Amendment Bill that would have allowed it to directly govern the Union Territory of Chandigarh remains a mystery that the government, before announcing the plan for the time being in the face of political backlash and resistance from those within the Punjab BJP, tried to reason it out — that its agreement being a wholehearted support of Chandigarh would be unchanged, bringing in Article 15(4)(b) would help Punjab, and the UTA scheme would be an informal way to detail the ongoing such a Bill to be circulated to leaders in Punjab for feedback from the party would

... he was able to explain the decision and convince the Punjab BJP, given their "ambitions and aspirations" with Chandigarh and the fact that there is a need to "sense of responsibility and alertness" among a large section of the state, especially towards the Centre, rather than the other way round.

The Centre was still clear that the political hold on Punjab, even if it was genuine, would be a hindrance to the development of Chandigarh as the Centre's working with Punjab in this case has always been that Chandigarh should be given to Punjab. The feedback was that the law and order situation in the border area could be seen as unnecessary provocation, sources said.

The note, sources said, explained that although

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**AT AYODHYA TEMPLE FLAG-HOISING CEREMONY Wounds of centuries healing, says PM, links Ram to nation**

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during the Shriharishan ceremony at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on Tuesday.**

**Democracy in our DNA, country needs to get rid of slavery mindset: Modi**

**Masakhra Seth**  
Ayodhya, November 25

PARTICIPATION in the flag-hoisting ceremony at the Ram temple in Ayodhya, 22 months after he joined the site for the construction of the idol of Ram Lalla in the sanctum sanctorum, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Tuesday that "centuries-old wounds are being healed, centuries of pain are fading, respect, and a resolution and resolve is creating future moment today".

The Prime Minister, 85, lauded the late Mahatma Bhagat Singh and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for their role in the construction of the temple, as the moment of "fulfilment" and "satisfaction" for all devotees.

**PM Modi offers prayers to Guni Tegh Bahadur on his 350th Shaheed Diwas, in Kurukshetra, Tuesday.**

**From the home of milk to milk in every home**

**Tribute to Dr. Karim on his 104th birth anniversary**

**Troop shortfall, Army looks to raise Agniveer vacancies to 1 lakh a yr**

**Armita Nayak Gupta**  
New Delhi, November 25

A bid to address a shortfall of troops in the Army, the government is looking to increase vacancies for recruitment of Agniveers to over 1 lakh every year, from the existing 60,000-65,000. The Indian Express has learnt.

During the two years of the Covid pandemic in 2020 and 2021, the Army got recruitment of soldiers on hold, while 60,000-65,000 soldiers continued to retire per year during this period. This was before the launch of the Agnipath scheme in 2022, when soldiers were recruited through the usual route.

launched on June 14, 2022 — recruitment was to be for a period of four years — a total of approximately 40,000 vacancies were allowed for recruitment that year to the Army, Navy and Indian Air Force. Out of this, 30,000 vacancies were for the Army and the rest for the Navy and the IAF.

According to plans at that time, over the next four years, the intake of Agniveers for the Army was to increase progressively, with capping at 1.75 lakh. The recruitment figures for the Army and the IAF were slated to increase progressively over the next four years to around 28,700. Despite the recruitment of a

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