

Disruption in train services may further hit coal supply

MANJ SOOD

RAJINDRA PUNJ is the country's largest coal producer. The country's largest coal producer is Punjab and other northern states. It is the main source of coal for the power sector. The country's largest coal producer is Punjab and other northern states. It is the main source of coal for the power sector. The country's largest coal producer is Punjab and other northern states. It is the main source of coal for the power sector.



Stock at Talwandi Sabha Coalfield plants low

Even to meet the peak peaky season demand. With this agitation, there could be further delays in train movements, delaying coal supply. A senior PSECL official said that at present Roper had coal stock for 16 days. Lehra Mohabbat 15 days and Rajpura 21 days. However, the coal stock at Talwandi Sabha is just sufficient for five days and at Goidwala Sabha for one day only.

units of Lehra, both units of Rajpura, all three units of Talwandi Sabha and one of the two units of Goidwala Sabha thermal plants are running. "From yesterday, eight-hour power supply has been started for paddy sowing. Although due to the fall in temperature due to the rain in some parts of the state, power demand is hovering around 12,000 MW. But demand is expected to increase to 15,000 MW in the coming days when transplantation starts at the full swing," said another PSECL officer.

The PSECL is expecting start of coal supply from its Pabhwara coal mine by June-end, but with agitation targeting railways infrastructure, it may not happen. Already Punjab's power demand is high this season and the limited coal stock has added to the worries of the PSECL. **The Tribune**

Agnipath protest turns violent in Ludhiana, railway station vandalised

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

LUDHIANA, JUNE 18 Protest against the Centre's Agnipath scheme took a violent turn today when over three dozen masked youths carrying sticks and iron rods vandalised the local railway station.

They smashed the windows at the main entrance of the station, broke LED signboards and damaged the property. The protesters then smashed the windownpanes of a train standing on the platform. The police reached the spot and tried to pacify them.

After the incident, Police Commissioner Kaushabh Sharma and senior officers of the Government Railway Police reached the spot.



Police vehicle damaged too; eight detained

"We appeared in the physical form of the unit and handed the unit headquarter quota for the State Regimental Centre in Ranbath Cantment in 2020. But our written test has been postponed. Now with the Agnipath scheme, we may not be considered for the written exam," said a protester during police questioning.

Initially, protesters, carrying placards demanding the pending Common Entrance Exam (CEE), and against the Agnipath scheme, protested at Bharat Nagar Chowk. Later, they marched towards Durga Mata Temple Chowk where they damaged a PCR vehicle. Soon, an alert was already sounded but a few cops present at a naka could not stop the protesters, who then entered the railway station.

Notably, the police also impounded a Scorpio belonging to a farm leader on the suspicion that the protesters had been transported to the railway station in that vehicle. Eight youths have been detained so far.

Joint Commissioner of Police RS Brar said: "We have rounded up some youths. We will also nab the miscreants who incited violence. Protesters were aged between 21 and 25 years." Meanwhile, residents trooped the police on social media. One of the posts read: "When protesters damaged the PCR vehicle at Durga Mata Temple station, the police had ample time to control the situation. However, the protesters still

Allow aspirants to take written exam, says CM

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 18 CM Bhagwant Mann today said those youth who had cleared physical test in the past two years must be to given a chance to appear in the written exam for joining the Army instead of implementation of the Agnipath scheme. He said it was ridiculous that in two years, thousands of youth had cleared the physical test of armed forces, but they had not been called for the written exam. "This is grave injustice to the youth who want to serve their motherland by joining the Army." —TNS

Bring resolution against scheme, demands Bajwa

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 18 Leader of Opposition in the Vidhan Sabha Pardeep Bajwa today urged the state to bring a resolution against the Agnipath scheme during the upcoming Assembly session. He said the state should take an all-party delegation to meet the PM to explain why the scheme must be immediately rolled back. "The result is loss of jobs for Punjabis and chaos, frustration and unemployment might lead to destabilisation of the state." —TNS



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