The 22 words fall into 5 disjoint components:

\{निच, निढल, रुप, पुडी, लीह, भाइम, मत्र, आउ, हूलर, हूरिया\} (शैलेन्द्र, तेली)

\{मबन, मबर\} (समय, समय)

\{लेचिक, लिमावट, ल्युड\} (लेख, लाही, लीऊ, ल्युड, मूसूली, ल्युड)

However each component is a tree -- there is no closed loop in it -- so the first Betti number is zero!

**Added Sunday, Nov. 10, 2013:** Alas, the solution in today’s PT is not an exact match! Only one word is different: instead of my उदर (rudder) there is उदर (radar), but doesn’t the former answer 18 Across better? It controls aircraft, while the latter detects and tracks them. Besides, I did not always use the preferred Punjabi spelling: my वर्तंत्र is Hindi, it is वर्तंत्र in Punjabi – and for a Karanbir to forget this is bad! – and my भाइम is more Hindustani, in Punjabi मच्छ is best. (But isn’t विमानात, - forced on us by लेचिक – also Urdu, in Punjabi shouldn’t it be विमान ?)

Most educative for me in this puzzle was 2 Down: I had forgotten all about *Samman and Moosan* ...