

# The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

CHANDIGARH | GURUGRAM | JALANDHAR | BATHINDA | VOL. 140 NO. 317 | 12 PAGES | ₹5.00 | REGD. NO. CHD/0006/2018-2020 ESTABLISHED IN 1881

TRUMP ACCEPTS OUTCOME,  
LATER BACKTRACKS WORLD

MACHINES AWAIT OPTIMUM USE FOR  
STUBBLE MANAGEMENT INFOCUS

JAISHANKAR WARNS AS ASEAN  
MEMBERS INK PACT BACK PAGE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2020



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## Ban not enforced, Delhi air worst in 4 yrs

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 15  
The ban imposed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on the sale and bursting of firecrackers in the National Capital Region (NCR) went up in smoke on Diwali with pollution levels soaring to a four-year high.

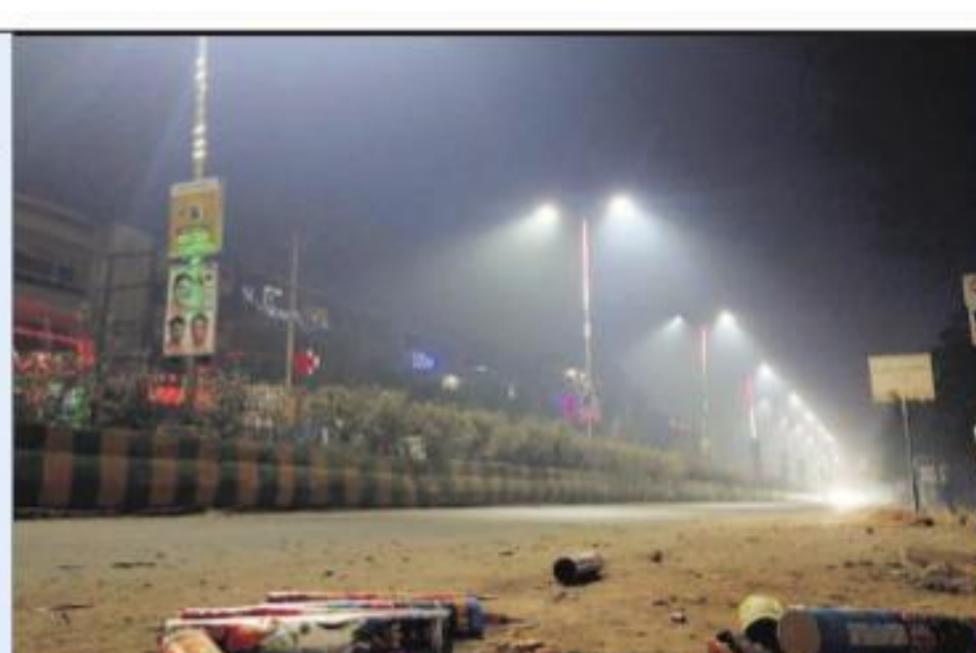
The air quality in Delhi and its surrounding areas dropped to "severe" category as pollutants exacerbated the already grim Covid-19 situation. The air quality index (AQI) for PM 2.5 pollutants on Sunday ranged between 460 and 500 across New Delhi as it posted the highest daily new Covid infections of 7,340.

The AQI from 101 to 200 is considered moderate, 201 to 300 poor, 301 to 400 very poor and 401 to 500 severe.

As Delhi defied the firecracker ban, average 24-hour

### FIRs LODGED AGAINST VIOLATORS IN HARYANA

**Chandigarh:** The police lodged several FIRs against those violating Diwali firecracker ban in Haryana on Saturday even as the air quality index (AQI) deteriorated from "very poor" to "severe" in a majority of the districts in the state. In Faridabad, which recorded an AQI of 438, the police booked three men on the charge of violating the ban on the sale of crackers. The Panipat police registered eight cases in connection with the sale of firecrackers. In Yamunanagar and Ambala, 16 cases were lodged for allegedly sale and use of crackers. **INSIDE**



FIRECRACKER WASTE ON A DELHI STREET ON DIWALI. MANAS RANJAN BHU

AIR QUALITY INDEX ON DIWALI

2020	414	2019	337	2018	281	2017	319
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AQI recorded on Diwali day was 414 — the worst in four years. In 2019, the 24-hour average AQI was 337 on Diwali as against 281 in 2018

and 319 in 2017. The neighbouring cities were no different as revellers violated the NGT order prohibiting the sale and bursting of fire

crackers in the NCR. The order was meant as a drastic measure to check pollution, which is further fuelling Covid complications.

### PUNJAB AQI DIPS FROM 'POOR' TO 'VERY POOR'

**Patiala:** Despite a ban on traditional crackers, a majority of cities in Punjab witnessed a drastic increase in air pollution levels on Diwali, with the air quality deteriorating to "very poor" last year. A layer of haze and smog was visible in many cities and villages as the two-hour window for bursting of crackers went up for a toss. Crackers were burst till wee hours in most cities. According to the Punjab Pollution Control Board, the state's average air quality index for Punjab in 2019 was recorded at 293 ("poor"), which dipped to 328 ("very poor") on Saturday night. **INSIDE**

category as the NCR woke up to a thick blanket of smog.

Weather experts said the Sunday showers would lower the air pollution levels with winds likely to change course to south-east, thus reducing the impact of pollutants on account of farm fires in the neighbouring states.

On Saturday, the Ministry of Earth Sciences' pollution forecasting platform, SAFAR, said Delhi's AQI around Diwali would be much better than previous four years, if the NGT ban worked.

But the ban was flouted, as were the 2019 Supreme Court directions curbing the use of firecrackers.

Following an order of the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Science had launched an initiative to produce green firecrackers with the involvement of industry, but such eco-friendly firecrackers were hardly used.

## Clashes in Washington



US President Donald Trump and President-elect Joe Biden's supporters engage in a heated argument in Washington. REUTERS

■ Supporters of US President Donald Trump held a rally to back his unproven claims of malpractices during the poll

■ A brawl broke out just five blocks away from the White House as counter-protesters clashed with them

## Will give fierce reply if provoked, warns PM

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 15

PM Narendra Modi on Saturday took a swipe at China, saying "expansionist forces display a distorted 18th century mindset". Interacting with troops at Longewala post in Rajasthan, the PM warned those wanting to take advantage of India's tolerance. The Indian soldiers would give a fierce reply if borders were threatened, he said without naming Beijing.

Modi said: "No force in the world can prevent our soldiers from protecting our borders. India has shown it has strength and political will to give a befitting reply to those challenging it."

The PM also targeted Pakistan, saying Indian soldiers had hit "sponsors of terrorism" in their home, a reference to surgical strikes at terror camps in Pakistan. —TNS



'FORCES WELL-EQUIPPED'  
If someone casts an evil eye on us, our forces have the courage to give them a reply in the same language. Narendra Modi, PM



## Nitish oath today, 2 deputies likely

Prasad, not Modi, BJP Legislature Party chief

PATNA, NOVEMBER 15

The NDA in Bihar on Sunday unanimously elected Nitish Kumar as its leader in the state legislature, paving the way for his return as Chief Minister for the fourth consecutive term.

According to sources, an announcement to the effect was made at the Chief Minister's official residence by senior BJP leader and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who had flown down for the occasion. Later, Nitish met Governor Phagu Chauhan and staked claim to form the new government in the state.

Talking to reporters outside his residence upon returning from Raj Bhawan, he said the swearing-in would take place on Monday evening and parried questions about BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi returning as his deputy.

The saffron party, meanwhile, named the four-time Kathiara MLA Tarkishore Prasad as BJP Legislature

Party leader, indicating that he could be Deputy Chief Minister in the new NDA government headed by Nitish. Bettiah MLA Renu Devi has been made deputy leader of the BJP Legislature Party. She could be another Deputy CM from the saffron party.

Prasad and Renu Devi's names were announced at the Legislature Party meeting here. Incumbent Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi proposed Prasad's name. —PTI

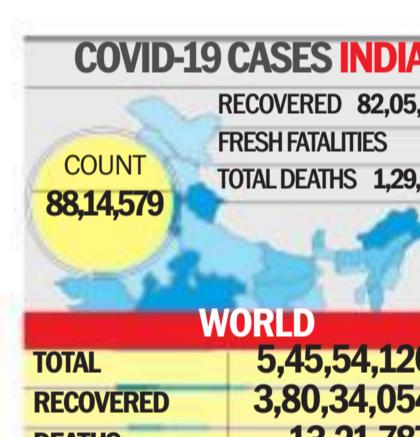
## To stem spike in Delhi, Centre to add 300 ICU beds, up testing

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 15

To deal with the recent spike in Covid cases in Delhi, the Centre on Sunday said it would soon make available 300 additional ICU beds and double the number of daily RTPCR tests in the Capital.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said some of the hospitals under the municipal corporations of Delhi would be converted into dedicated Covid hospitals and doctors and paramedics of paramilitary forces would be deployed to deal with the shortage of manpower.

Shah said the Centre would



also provide oxygen, high flow nasal cannula and other health equipment to Delhi. The decisions were taken at a high-level meeting chaired by Shah and attended by Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal, Chief Min-

### AHMED PATEL IN ICU

Congress leader Ahmed Patel, who tested positive for Covid-19 a few weeks ago, has now been admitted to the ICU of Medanta Hospital, Gurugram, for treatment.

SPUTNIK V TRIALS IN KANPUR  
ister Arvind Kejriwal and Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan among others.

Shah said daily RTPCR tests in Delhi would be doubled and the capacity of the testing laboratories would be enhanced. —PTI



A Hisar road covered with hailstones on Sunday. Also, parts of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal and Delhi received rainfall. PTI

Hail trail

DUBAI, NOVEMBER 15

The UAE on Sunday approved the issuance of a 10-year golden visa for more professionals, including PhD holders, physicians, engineers as well as graduates from certain universities who scored Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.8 and above, in a bid to keep the "talented people and great minds" in the Gulf country and help in nation-building.



## 52 HP teachers booked under POCSO in 10 yrs

SHIMLA, NOVEMBER 15

As many as 52 teachers have been booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in the state over the past decade.

Five such cases were reported in 2019. More incidents had been reported from rural areas compared to urban segments, said an official. All schools have child sex abuse (CSA) committees in place to report such incidents.

"We have zero tolerance to sexual offences against children. Steps like installation of CCTV cameras, creation of a helpline and installation of complaint boxes have helped," said Higher Education Director Amarjeet Sharma. He said stringent action was being taken against the teachers booked under the POCSO Act. —TNS

## 10-yr visa for professionals: UAE

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Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum made the announcement on Twitter. The golden visa will also be granted to holders of specialised degrees in artificial intelligence, big data, or epidemiology and virology in addition to UAE high school top graduates, the Gulf News reported. —TNS

## Results of Helix Institute in NEET-2020

710  
720  
CHANDIGARH  
Rank-1

695  
720  
J & K  
Rank-1

670  
720  
HIMACHAL  
(Result awaited)  
Rakesh

## Results of PUNJAB With Rank / Marks

Rank	706	691	687	687
1 Rank				
5 Rank				
9 Rank				
10 Rank				
11 Rank				
14 Rank				
19 Rank				

## Dropper's Batch

for NEET - 2021

Date of start : 21-11-2020

+1 for NEET & JEE

Scholarship/Admission Test : 27-12-20

(Scholarship, in the form of fee waiver, will be awarded depending upon Rank)

9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>

Scholarship/Admission Test : 27-12-20

(Scholarship, in the form of fee waiver, will be awarded depending upon Rank)

M.L. Syal's Helix Institute®

SCO 343-344-345, Sector 34-A, Chandigarh

Phone : 0172-2623155, 8559012012, 9815611835,

9988806090, 9316131832, 9872733666



Soumitra Chatterjee 19.01.1935–15.11.2020

NONIKA SINGH

THE doyen of Bengali cinema, Soumitra Chatterjee, breathed his last in Kolkata on Sunday after battling post-Covid complications, leaving the world of cinema poorer. He is best known for his association with Satyajit Ray with whom he worked in over 14 films. It is believed that Ray especially

made the third part of his famous "Apu" trilogy after having met Soumitra. Soumitra began his film career with "Apur Sansar" in 1959. He played "Feluda", Ray's character from his detective book series, in "Sonar Kella" and "Joi Baba Felunath". Soumitra was also directed by thespians Mrinal Sen, Tapan Sinha and Tarun Majumdar. His pan India presence

may have been felt as recent as 2015 with short film "Ahalya", which created a stir and went viral. Director Sujoy Ghosh admitted that the real reason for making the film was to seize the opportunity to work with a great actor like Soumitra. A master-class in acting, his fan list includes brilliant actors like Naseeruddin Shah. If as an actor he could say the same line in 20 differ-

ent ways, off screen he could not only recite Tagore and other poets, but also write many a sterling poem. He had dozens of books to his credit. His biopic is likely to throw greater light on his journey and achievements dotted with honours such as Padma Bhushan, Dadasaheb Phalke and the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, France's highest award for artistes.

## Cotton worth ₹5 cr gutted in Abohar unit

ABOHAL, NOVEMBER 15  
Hundreds of cotton bales, stacked in an open plinth, were gutted in fire, believed to have been sparked by a cracker that fell in a private yard on Saturday night.

Preliminary inquiry indicated that smoke was found emanating from a cotton yard at Bansal Industries, located on the old Fazilka road. Staff immediately informed factory owner Naresh Pal Bansal who called the fire brigade. The first vehicle reportedly arrived within 15 minutes. As the fire was spreading fast, another fire

### Major fire at godown in Bathinda

tender was called from Fazilka, about 32 km from here. It is learnt that about 2,500 bales of ginned and processed cotton and 1,600 quintal of unprocessed cotton produce was damaged. The loss is estimated to be Rs 5 crore.

Most of the stock belonged to Cotton Corporation of India that started purchase in Abohar market last month. The fire tenders were able to control fire after six hours. — OC

# Cracker ban goes up in smoke

Drastic increase in pollution on Diwali | Air quality in 'very poor' category

AMAN SOOD  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, NOVEMBER 15

Despite a ban on traditional crackers, Punjab witnessed a drastic increase in the air pollution levels on Diwali, with the air quality of the state being in "very poor" category as compared to the "poor" category, registered in 2019.

A layer of haze and smog was visible in many cities and villages, as the two-hour window for bursting crackers went up for a toss. Crackers were burst till wee hours in most cities. According to the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB), the air quality index (AQI) for Punjab in 2019 was recorded at 293 (poor) which reached an alarming 328 (very poor) on Saturday night.

The data collected from 7 am from November 14 till 6 am on November 15 showed that Amritsar and Ludhiana recorded the worst air quality with the levels of pollutants reaching 386 and 376, respectively.

The home town of the Chief Minister, that also houses PPCB headquarter, also had the AQI of 334. Jalandhar



Empty boxes after Diwali celebrations in Amritsar; and a man bursts a cracker in Patiala. PHOTOS: VISHAL KUMAR & RAJESH SACHAR

### WORSE AQI THIS YEAR

District	2019	2020	District	2019	2020
Amritsar	276	386	Ludhiana	304	376
Jalandhar	282	328	Mandi Gobindgarh	311	262
Khanna	255	281	Patiala	328	334

saw AQI of 328 while Khanna was a little better at 281.

The industrial town of Mandi Gobindgarh, where residents flouted the ban on crackers, saw the air quality index reaching 262, a dip from last year's 311.

Punjab witnessed a sharp

increase in the levels of PM10 — tiny particulate matter of diameter 10 or less than 10 microns that can enter deep into the lungs and cause major damage to children, elderly and patients. As per data, the PM10 reading crossed 118 ug/m<sup>3</sup> levels this

Diwali. Last year, it stood at 90 ug/m<sup>3</sup> on Diwali.

The levels of the most dangerous particles, called PM2.5, was 90 micrograms per cubic metre as compared to 43 in 2019, which is considered hazardous to breathe. Particulate matter smaller than 2.5

microns (or about a ten-thousandth of an inch) is particularly dangerous to health. Such particles are small enough to travel deep into the respiratory system, potentially impairing lung function.

To be considered safe, PM2.5 concentration less than 60 micrograms per cubic metre is considered safe. Experts suggest that the failure of the administration to put a check on non-green crackers and the violation of the time span fixed for bursting crackers can be established from the facts that the PM10 levels in four districts crossed the 500-mark, which can be life threatening if exposed for long. The AQI (PM10) was recorded at 500 in Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ludhiana and Patiala while it was 423 in Mandi Gobindgarh where the cracker ban turned to be ineffective.

"The high value of the AQI could be due to the atmospheric conditions (low temperature) prevailing during the season, resulting in reduced dispersion of the pollutants," claimed PPCB member-secretary Karunesh Garg.

## Brisk sales add sparkle to dealers' business

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

LUDHIANA, NOVEMBER 15

Cracker dealers are in an upbeat mood this Diwali as they said all their fears of having dull business were put to rest after witnessing a huge rush of buyers in the market in the last three days.

Though they maintained that green crackers were sold maximum as these were mostly demanded by buyers, at the same time they believed that apart from "government stamp" on green crackers, there was hardly any difference between the green or normal crackers as far as pollution levels were concerned.

Pradeep Kumar, president, Ludhiana Fire Cracker Dealers' Association, said the sales remained more than expected in this part of the region.

"All were concerned because of Covid spread and there was a fear among cracker dealers over rumours of putting a ban on burning fire crackers as a few states had already announced the same. But we are thankful that no such announcement was made and crackers were purchased as

### ABOVE EXPECTATIONS

All were concerned because of Covid spread. But the sales exceeded our expectations in this part of the region.

Pradeep Kumar, LUDHIANA FIRECRACKER DEALER

per our expectations," he said.

Commenting on the sale of green crackers, Kumar said maximum buyers asked for green crackers this time. "Those crackers had a 'government stamp', but as far as difference from normal crackers was concerned, there was hardly any difference as pollution levels were witnessed at the same levels," he said. Crackers start arriving in the city in March and these are stocked in godowns by dealers. These are brought from Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu — the place where crackers are manufactured.

"Be it birthdays, marriages, or any important occasion crackers are burnt sold throughout the year," maintained Rajesh Kumar, a cracker dealer.

## Farmers take out marches in villages

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 15  
After the first round of talks with the Centre remained "inconclusive", farmers' unions in Punjab are in no mood to relent and are continuing with their protests

A majority of unions had given a call for celebrating Diwali as "Roshniyan layi sangharsh". As a result, marches were held across the rural landscape of the state, with farmers taking out a procession last night.

Light torches, vow to continue struggle

In the dharnas being held elsewhere, farmers lit torches and pledged to continue the struggle till the three farm laws enacted by the Centre were withdrawn.

"Baba Banda Singh Bahadur had granted land ownership rights to farmers, but in present times, the same peasant class is fighting for their inherited rights. The entire Khalsa Panth should shield farmers, labourers and every deprived section of society to justify the Sikh philosophy in its true letter and spirit," he said.

## Agriculture laws resonate in Takht message on 'Bandi Chhor Divas'

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, NOVEMBER 15

The agrarian crisis, caused by the newly enacted farm laws, was raised from the podium of Akal Takht during the "Bandi Chhor Divas" (Diwali) on November 14.

Meanwhile, the Golden Temple complex was illuminated with LED lights and thousands of devotees flocked to the temple. The traditional fireworks display was a spectacular event. As the tradition goes, the Nihang Singh organisations presented the stunts on horses at Ranjit Avenue ground today.

"Bandi Chhor Divas" (prisoner release day) is celebrated to mark the historical release of the sixth Sikh guru, Guru Hargobind, from the Mughal prison along with 52 kings in the early 17th century.

In his customary "sandesh" (message), Akal Takht official Jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh said "black laws" were being enforced upon the common citizens and its opposition would be dealt with sternly by the governments (both Centre and state).

Nihangs show their horse-riding skills in Amritsar. VISHAL KUMAR

"Around three centuries ago, Baba Banda Singh Bahadur had granted land ownership rights to farmers, but in present times, the same peasant class is fighting for their inherited rights. The entire Khalsa Panth should shield farmers, labourers and every deprived section of society to justify the Sikh philosophy in its true letter and spirit," he said.

SGPC president Gobind Singh Longowal con-

demned the Centre for imposing the 'black laws'. He said it was against the Guru's principle of "kirt".

Meanwhile, the 'parallel' acting Jathedar of Akal Takht, Dhyani Singh Mand, and his supporters were not allowed to enter the Golden Temple. Jarnail Singh Sakhiara, an organiser, said the police didn't allow them in, so the 'message' was read outside the shrine.

## Punjab Diary

### Negotiating Batala's 'death bend'

Batala: Batalvis have been caught in a cleft. Despite numerous petitions, the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) is not willing to link the city with the proposed ₹60,000 crore Delhi-Katra expressway project. Besides, the national highway originating from Pathankot to Amritsar through Batala has become the city's Achilles Heel. The point at which the highway branches off from the NH to the city has become so accident-prone that residents have given it the sobriquet of a 'death bend'. NHAI Chairman Sukhbir Singh Sandhu has now asked the NHAI's Amritsar-based project director Sunil Yadav and general manager Abdullah Khan to pay a visit to the dreaded spot on Tuesday. Residents have now decided to form a joint platform to make sure the 'death bend' is sent to its death-bed.

### Spellcheck lesson for admn

Patiala: Though many ETT-TET pass teachers are unemployed, they got an opportunity to teach the district administration when they caught the latter on the wrong foot. The teachers recently held a protest following which the administration gave them an assurance letter of a meeting with the higher-ups. The letter reportedly had many grammatical errors. Deep Banarsi, a teacher, said, "The drafting of the letter raises serious questions on the competency of the officer concerned." However, the Naib Tehsildar said, "The letter was written by an Assistant Sub-Inspector. I just signed it in haste."

### Free internet for Dhuri ward

Sangrur: Hundreds of residents of Ward no. 2 of Dhuri town in the district will have round-the-clock free access to the internet as a former municipal councillor has installed modems across the ward and started a Wi-Fi service. "I have installed 25 modems to provide free internet to residents. I have started the facility because there are many poor families in my ward and their children are facing problems in completing their online studies," said Pushpinder Sharma, former municipal councillor.

### 'Third eye' on criminals

Fatehgarh Sahib: MPs Amar Singh and Shamsher Singh Dulio have donated Rs 14 lakh from the MPLAD fund to install CCTV cameras at prominent places in Fatehgarh Sahib under the Safe City Project. The cameras will not only help in controlling anti-social elements but will also enable smooth flow of traffic and in maintaining law and order. The crime incidents and offences occurring at any place will be immediately recorded at the Integrated Control Centre which was jointly inaugurated by DC Amrit Kaur Gill and SSP Amneet Kondal.

### 'Urja Purush' breathes his last

Fazilka: Octogenarian Dr Bhupinder Singh of Fazilka, a recipient of the 'Urja Purush Award', passed away after a brief illness recently. A former head of department of mechanical engineering at IIT-Roorkee, he was awarded by the Uttarakhand Government for his tremendous contribution in promoting solar energy. He also set up a solar workshop in Fazilka to acquaint the youths with the benefits of solar energy.

### Honour for social activist

Abohar: Social activist and celebrity fashion designer Parul Bhatia was recently honoured with the prestigious Business Rankers Women Achievers' Award-2020 for her contribution in improving the economic condition of women. Parul has been the brand ambassador of the cleanliness mission in Sriganganagar. She has played an important role in promoting the art works of women craftsmen of Srikanpur, a border segment, and Kalian village, to foreign countries.



## In Sangrur village, 92% sowing done without burning stubble

PARVESH SHARMA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



A farmer stands in his field at Bhadalw village.

tions in this regard.

"I have not burnt stubble on my field for the past five years. My per acre production of various crops has increased and I can prove it with data. Teams of the PAU, Ludhiana, and Agriculture Department have been offering all help," said Gurjinder Singh, another farmer of the village.

Sangrur Chief Agriculture officer (CAO) Jaswindar Singh Grewal said Bhadalw village had done a commendable job by sowing 92 per cent of the area without burning stubble on their fields. "Apart from this village, our special teams are visiting almost all villages in the district. We are hopeful that many more villages will follow our advice as farmers are responding well to our visits," said the CAO.

promoting organic farming, has also been helping other farmers in shunning stubble burning. Some other farmers of the village said initially they were reluctant, but after seeing the success of Harwinder, they also started following his advice and government's direc-

Some have scored just 150 out of 720 marks in NEET

About 19 of the 40 NRI candidates have scored less than 300 marks in NEET.

For a Punjab resident with 500 marks in the NEET, getting admission to a government medical college is a pipedream, but an NRI candidate with 200 marks has a high chance of making it. An NRI candidate has to pay ₹1.10 lakh as tuition fee for an MBBS seat. — TNS

Addressing mediapersons here today, he said the yatra would cover a distance of 700 km, passing through 11 districts, and culminate at Chandigarh after three days and four nights.

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**BRIEFLY****Youth shot in Sangrur**

**Sangrur:** A group of men opened fire on two youths at Kalyan village on Saturday, killing one of them on the spot and injuring the other. The police have registered a case. The police said Gorakh Nath claimed that his nephews Parminder Singh and Rajinder Singh were going on a motorcycle when accused Dhaninder Singh, Lavpreet Singh, Vicky, Jassa Singh and Lavpreet Singh along with two persons opened fire on them. TNS

**Booked for hurting sentiments**

**Sangrur:** A man was booked after body parts of cows were recovered from a well on the Raikot road near Malerkotla. Pawanjit, DSP, said they had registered a case under Section 295-A against Amjad Ali, who had a cowshed near the well. "We have registered a case and started an investigation. Though there are many bags in the well, we can comment only after proper medical examination," he said. TNS

**TikTok star murdered**

**Sangrur:** A TikTok star was allegedly murdered with sharp-edged weapons on Saturday. The police have registered a case. As per information, Sukhwinder Singh's body was found a kilometre away from his Bhathuan village. During preliminary investigation, it came to light that he was murdered with sharp-edged weapons. "We have started investigations after the registration of case against unidentified persons," said DSP Tejinder Singh. TNS

**Bathinda man ends life**

**Bathinda:** A 45-year-old man allegedly committed suicide at Teona village in the district on Saturday. Identified as Jeet Singh, he was a farm labourer. His brother said: "Jeet suspected his wife of having illicit relations with other men of the village. Jeet became quite upset and committed suicide by hanging from a tree in the vicinity of our house." After initial investigation, the police have sent the body to the government hospital for post-mortem. TNS

# State ramps up facilities as infections surge again

Cases spike in Jalandhar, Mohali | 547 more test +ve

**CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 15**

As Punjab witnesses a resurgence of Covid-19 cases, the state Health Department is gearing up for a second peak in the infection curve. The state is now gearing up to increase its level-2 (critical with oxygen beds) and level-3 (very critical with ICU and ventilators) facilities.

Jalandhar and Mohali are seeing a massive upsurge while the number of cases in Ludhiana, Amritsar and Patiala continues to be high. For the past week, over 500 new cases are being detected each day, with 547 being reported today. The number of deaths, though lesser than in September, is high in comparison to the number of active patients.

A new mathematical curve, predicted by a leading non-profit organisation, said 21,000 new cases could be added in the state between November 9 and December 10. Officials in the Health department said so



A health worker takes a swab sample in Nawanshahr.

**COVID DISTRICT-WISE COUNT**

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Ludhiana	21,400	861
Jalandhar	16,255	503
Amritsar	12,310	472
Patiala	13,570	401
Sangrur	4,069	178
SAS Nagar	13,593	254
Gurdaspur	7,131	207
Bathinda	7,753	163
Hoshiarpur	6,551	228

far, they have been following these predictions to ramp up their facilities and plan healthcare accordingly. However, this time, they believe the cases could be much higher than what was being predicted using mathematical calculations.

Dr Rajesh Bhaskar, state nodal officer for Covid, said the pandemic spread had shown that the number of cases in the second wave were far more than in the first wave, and also more severe. "We are accordingly formulating our healthcare strategy. The daily testing had peaked at 30,000 at the height of the first wave, which is now around 22,000 per day. The positivity rate in the first wave peaked at nine per cent. It is still at three per cent. Nevertheless, we are increasing contact-tracing and also adding more beds to level-2 (from 5,200 to 7,000 beds) and level-3 (from 750 to 1,000) facilities," he said. —TNS

# Covid relief for trust properties' allottees

**CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 15**

In a Covid-19 pandemic-related relief to hundreds of allottees of residential and commercial properties that come under improvement trusts, the Local Government Department has decided to waive non-construction charges for six months, from April 1 to September 30.

This is in addition to granting of six-month additional permissible period of construction in case of all residential plots and other properties allotted by the trusts through draw of lots or auction.

In an order issued Secretary (Local Government) Ajay Kumar Sinha, under The Punjab Town Improvement (Utilisation and Allotment of Plots) Rules 1983, instalments on all auctioned properties due between April 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020, can be paid along with balance instalments as equated instalments at the scheme rate of interest. No interest shall be charged on the instalments due between the above men-

Non-construction fee from April 1 to Sept 30 waived

tioned six month period.

In June, the department announced to waive the entire interest on non-construction dues, provided the principal amount was paid in one go. The one-time measure had been announced to recover lakhs of rupees pending on account of non-construction fee. In many cases, allottees have defaulted in the payment of instalments, enhancement, and any other dues towards the cost of their properties.

Sources said under the amended rules, a three-year moratorium had been allowed as a one-time measure for plot owners who had not yet done any construction. The three-year waiver would be subject to payment of extension fee at a rate of 5 per cent of the sale price per year beyond the period of 15 years from the date of allotment. —TNS



Commuters drive amid rain in Jalandhar on Sunday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

# Rain brings cheer to wheat growers

**MOGA, NOVEMBER 15**

Light rains and thundershowers at most places in the state on Sunday brought cheer to farmers, especially wheat growers who had sown their crop without burning paddy straw. It is also beneficial for those who are preparing to sow wheat and other rabi crops.

Moreover, air pollution levels are also likely to fall after the state witnessed thousands of incidents of burning the paddy straw during the current harvesting season.

Dr Jaswinder Singh Brar, plant protection officer, Moga, said the widespread rain was expected to boost wheat crop sowing this season. An expected drop in the minimum temperature during November would help the temperature-sensitive wheat crop, which needed cold conditions to thrive.

Constituted on November 15, 1920, the SGPC was born out of Gurdwara Reform Movement against the mahant and priests to liberate prominent gurdwaras, including the Golden Temple, from their control.

The last SGPC polls were held on September 18, 2011. Lately, the appointment of Justice SS Saron (retd) as the Chief Commissioner, Gurdwara elections, has paved the way for holding fresh SGPC polls.

on the groundwater but also help in retaining soil moisture. It will help reduce the cost inputs. Even where farmers are going for late wheat sowing, the rain will be of immense help to them."

**Bathinda:** Rain lashed parts of Bathinda and Mansa districts on Sunday. As per Meteorology Department officials, rain was of mild to moderate degree that lasted for about 20 to 25 minutes in some parts of the region.

Meanwhile, residents in Bathinda rued that even mild rain that lasted for half an hour resulted in accumulation of rainwater on city roads. They however, got much needed relief from the air pollution caused by burning of paddy stubble lately. —TNS

# SGPC turns 100, still stuck in tangles

**GS PAUL**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**AMRITSAR, NOVEMBER 15**

The SGPC today completed 100 years of its existence. To commemorate the occasion, an "akhand path" was initiated at the Akal Takht. Besides religious, administrative issues loom large over the Sikh body. At present, the Shiromani Akali Dal, with a majority of members, holds dominance over it.

Its unending disputes include the Nanakshahi Calendar row, and the appointment and rights of Jathedars


**UNENDING DISPUTES**

- Nanakshahi Calendar row
- Appointment and rights of Jathedars of the Akal Takht
- 328 missing Guru Granth Sahib 'saroops'

of the Akal Takht.

Recently, the SGPC drew flak over 328 missing Guru Granth Sahib "saroops" that were allegedly misappropriated by staff and officials of its publication branch.

SGPC president Gobind Singh Longowal said efforts were being made to trace the missing "saroops". "We have taken prompt action and removed the officials or staff members. The existing SGPC executive, including me, submitted an apology voluntarily to the Akal Takht and faced

punishment," he said.

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**राष्ट्रीय नवजात शिरु सप्ताह**

15 से 21 नवम्बर, 2020

बच्चे से बढ़कर कुछ नहीं

शिशु की करें देखभाल सही

श्री मनोहर लाल  
मुख्यमंत्री, हरियाणा

बच्चे के स्वास्थ्य की नींव मजबूत करने के लिए जरूरी है कि हम पहले दिन से ही हर कदम सही उठाएं।

जन्म के तुरंत बाद माँ अपना पहला पीला गाढ़ा दूध पिलाए।

साफ-साफाई का ध्यान रखें और साड़न से हाथ धोकर ही बच्चे को गोद में उठाएं।

नवजात को साफ करने से पौर्ण। कम-से-कम 24 घंटे तक नहलाएं नहीं।

बच्चे को उंफेकरन ना हो इसलिए उसकी नाल पर कुछ भी ना लगाए।

छ: महीने तक बच्चे को सिर्फ रसनापान कराएं और कम्परी कुछ ना पिलाए।

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Suitable match for beautiful Khatri girl 27, 5'-4", B.Tech. (PWD working). Caste no bar. 82692-35586, 83491-02485. (CL20062770)

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Match for Saini Sikh beautiful girl, 17.10.1987 born, 5'-3", M.Pharm. Working in Company. Brother settled in Australia. Well qualified boy preferred. Contact: 98724-50137, WhatsApp: 94637-00331. (CL20059371)

Match for unmarried Saini girl, 1976, 5'-3", MA, B.Ed. E-mail: kulvir64@yahoo.com (CL20059680)

Sikh Saini Govt job or NRI match for Saini Saini, girl, 1988, 5'-2", M.Com, M.Ed. Panjab Govt school lecturer. 9814963732. (CL20060373)

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Match for Saini Saini girl, Nov. 88

born, 5'-3", slim & fair, M.Tech. working in MNC at Canada. 94178-82346. (CL20059350)

Canadian work permit/PR match for Ravidas Sikhs, 28, 5'-2", B.Sc. Nursing, Canadian PR. Well educated family.

Match for Double MA, B.Ed., M.Ed. Ravidas Sikhs girl, 1989, 5'-2", MD Radiodiagnosis, Senior Resident at PGI Chandigarh, NR/ USA/ UK/ Canada only. Caste no bar. Contact: 94637-43086, 94637-43070. (CL20062299)

Suitable Medico match for Jindal girl, 22 June 1990, 4:25 am, Dehradun, 5', beautiful, doing MD Anesthesia. Status: family. Father Doctor. WhatsApp: 94172-21110. (CL20062560)

Looking for MD/ MS/ DM/

match for the beautiful girl (MD Paediatrics, SR @ Chandigarh) 1990, 5'-1", caste: SC. Contact: WhatsApp: 94783-67136, 94789-39578. (CL20062628)

Doctor match for beautiful Lobana girl, July 1993, 5'-4", MD Radiodiagnosis, Senior Resident at PGH Chandigarh, NR/ USA/ UK/ Canada under process. Send biodata or call: 98165-03210/95013-46807. (CL20059368)

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Professionally qualified match for Prof, match for fair, beautiful, slim, smart MBA girl, 02.02.1996, 5'-4" inches. Only daughter of businessman. Other upper castes also acceptable. # 9800-04027, 78305-44111. (CL20059381)

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girl, Postgraduate, employed in

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# Cases filed for violating cracker ban

In F'bad, 3 booked for selling crackers | In Y'nagar, three FIRs registered for fireworks

Tribune News Service

**CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 15** The police registered cases in connection with violating the ban on bursting crackers on Diwali in the National Capital Region (NCR) even as the air quality deteriorated from "very poor" to "severe" in a majority of the districts of the state.

Many cities, including Gurugram and Faridabad, reported an Air Quality Index (AQI) of over 400.

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) had imposed a complete ban on the bursting of firecrackers in the NCR because of rising air pollution. The NGT's order, however, remained on paper. A reality-check by *The Tribune* reporters is as follows.

**Gurugram:** The district,

already reeling under poor air quality, failed to observe the cracker ban. The situation was a bit under control in condominiums and societies with Resident Welfare Societies ensuring compliance with the ban but, in other areas such as old Gurugram, crackers in large numbers were burst in the absence of patrolling by the police.

**Faridabad:** The ban on the sale and bursting of crackers was violated here as well. People continued to burst crackers till late night.

The police booked three men on the charge of violating the ban on the sale of crackers. No complaint was lodged regarding the bursting of crackers. The city recorded an AQI of over 450, classified as "hazardous".



A boy bursts crackers in Gurugram on Diwali.

## IN G'GRAM, 28 FIRES ON DIWALI NIGHT

**Gurugram:** In all, 28 fires incidents were reported on Diwali night here. Among the major incidents was the burning of a private school bus and three cars. In all, 19 fires were reported in old Gurugram. Fire incidents were reported from a liquor vend at IMT, Manesar, a garbage dump yard in Sector 90, an electric panel in Garhi Harsaru, Khandsa Road and a Shivaji Park house. OC

**Rohtak:** The district authorities' appeal to people to refrain from bursting crackers proved futile in Rohtak, Jhajjar and Rewari districts. The three districts recorded an AQI in the "severe" category.

Crackers were reportedly sold clandestinely at high rates. Rohtak DSP Gourakh Pal Rana said, "On a tip-off that people were bursting firecrackers in the city, the police went to at least 10

places. But the information was found to be fake."

**Panipat:** The police registered eight cases in connection with selling firecrackers in the district without a permit.

**Yamunanagar:** Five FIRs were registered in connection with selling firecrackers and three cases for bursting crackers.

**Ambala:** The district recorded an AQI of 346 ("poor") on Saturday. The situation improved a bit by 3 pm on Sunday as the AQI was recorded at 286.

At least eight cases related to the violation of cracker ban were registered.

**Kurukshetra:** The air quality continued to be very poor in the district post-Diwali. The AQI was recorded at 381 in the wee hours of Sunday.

# State's first woman MP dies

Tribune News Service

HISAR, NOVEMBER 15

Former Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry Chandrawati, who stormed the Haryana's political scene when she defeated then Defence Minister Bansi Lal on his home turf Bhiwani in the 1977 General Election in the shadow of the Emergency, passed away at the Rohtak's PGIMS on Sunday morning.

She was 92. She had been ill for long.

Chandrawati, a native of Bhiwani's Dalawas village, has a number of firsts to her credit. She was the state's first woman to become a Member of Parliament (1977), the first woman minister in Haryana (1964-66) and the first woman Leader of



Chandrawati

## LEADERS EXPRESS GRIEF

**Chandigarh:** CM Manohar Lal Khattar and Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda have expressed condolences to the family of former Lt Governor of Puducherry Chandrawati on her demise. TNS

Opposition (1982-85). She was also the first enrolled advocate from the state.

Later, Chandrawati joined politics. She became an MLA from Badhra in 1954 in undivided Punjab. In

1982, she was again elected from the segment on the Lok Dal ticket.

In the 1968 and 1972 Assembly elections, she won from Loharu on the Congress ticket.

Chandrawati left the Congress after she was sacked from the Cabinet by then Chief Minister Bansi Lal in 1974. Subsequently, she joined the anti-Congress forces (Lok Dal, Janata Party and later Janata Dal).

Kanwar Pal Joon, a relative and close aide of Chandrawati, recalled that Indira Gandhi used to like her very much and called her Chandro.

"Chandrawati told me once that Indira Gandhi had asked her to join back the Congress and assured her the CM post. But Chandrawati opted to stay with the Janata Party," he said.

# Another casualty



The police have arrested two more persons, Amit of Garhi Brahman and Ashok of Rathdhana village, for their alleged involvement in supplying spurious liquor. — TNS



The mustard crop damaged by hail in Hisar on Sunday.

# Rain brings surprise, pollution down

Tribune News Service

## SIGH OF RELIEF

“Farmers, who have not irrigated their fields and waited till Sunday for sowing, have benefited. Now, the fields will be moist and this will prove beneficial for wheat sowing.”

ML Khichar, PROF AT HAU IN HISAR

Despite the ban by the state government, Hisar town witnessed fireworks on Saturday night and the air pollution was recorded as "severe". Adjoining districts including Jind and Fatehabad recorded "worse" air quality, as per the Central Pollution Control Board.

However, a good spell of around 20 mm rainfall has not only washed off the pollution but also brought cheer to farmers as the rabi sowing season is under way.

But some farmers complained of damage to the mustard crop as hail accompanied the showers in many parts of the region. Farmers will have to re-sow the crop, said a farmer from Adampur region.

Prof ML Khichar, head of the agriculture meteorology department in the Chaudhary Charan Singh

Agriculture University, said that the Met office had predicted the rain in advance and had recommended to the farmers to wait till today for sowing. "The farmers, who have not irrigated the fields and waited till today for sowing, have benefited a lot. They will get moisture in the fields for wheat sowing which will prove beneficial," he said. He said that the Western Disturbance which has caused rain in the region would cover the entire state by Monday.

The air quality index is likely to come down drastically as the rain has cleansed the environment to a large extent, said environmental scientist of Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology (GJUST).

## 8 more deaths; 1,957 cases

**Chandigarh:** With 1,957 cases, the state tally stood at 1,99,874 on Sunday. Meanwhile, with eight more deaths, the toll reached 2019. Faridabad reported the maximum cases (643), followed by Gurugram (515), Hisar (163), Sonepat (136) and Rohtak (92). — TNS

## COVID-19 CASES DISTRICT-WISE COUNT

DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Gurugram	39,401	241
Faridabad	32,233	276
Hisar	13,217	174
Sonepat	11,404	54
Ambala	9,470	114
Rohtak	9,327	85
Rewari	9,047	45
Karnal	8,845	123
Panipat	8,578	110
Panchkula	7,886	117
Kurukshetra	7,167	105
Sirsa	6,478	93
Mahendragarh	5,854	9
Yamunanagar	5,307	111
Bhiwani	4,865	80
Jhajjar	4,403	41
Palwal	3,646	21
Fatehabad	3,786	77
Kaithal	3,141	45
Jind	3,284	63
Nuh	1,382	26
Charkhi Dadri	1,153	9
Total	1,99,874	2,019

# 3 shops gutted at Ambala market

AMBALA, NOVEMBER 15

Three shops were destroyed, after a fire broke out on the top floor of a four-storey building of a famous cloth market at the Shukalkund road in Ambala here yesterday night. No casualties were reported in the incident.

Goods worth lakhs of rupees were gutted. As many as five fire tenders were pressed into service and it took nearly four hours to douse the flames.

After noticing fire, some shopkeepers tried to douse the flames with the help of buckets of water, but to no avail. The firefighters had a hard time due to the narrow lanes of the market.

Of the three, two wholesale shops, KD Kalra Enterprises and Kesar Das and Sons belong to a single-family that dealt in garlands, laces and other items required for wedding ceremonies, while the third shop was Chhabra Shoes House. The



A damaged shop in Ambala on Sunday. PHOTO: PRADEEP MAINI

shops were not insured, as the owners did not have NOC from the fire department.

Sonu Kalra, owner of KD Kalra Enterprises, said, "Yesterday night at 9:30, we were here to offer prayers at the shop on Diwali when we noticed the flames. The exact loss is yet to be ascertained."

Amar Singh, fire officer, Ambala, said, "At 9:45 pm, the fire tenders were rushed and the operation was com-

pleted at 1:45 am."

One of the shopkeepers suffered a loss of over Rs 10 lakh, while the remaining traders were yet to disclose the exact amount of loss, said the officer.

As per the officer, besides the cloth market, fire incidents were reported in Motor market and Lotan village also.

A DDR will be lodged and action will be taken as per the complaint of the shop owners." — TNS

Glowing tributes to  
**SHAHEED KARTAR SINGH SARABHA**

Mr. Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria

Housing & Urban Development, Water Resources, Mines and Geology Minister  
will pay tributes to great martyr during a State Level Function at village Sarabha (Ludhiana)

Issued by: Department of Information & Public Relations, Punjab



# The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

## Bang eclipses ban

Smog chokes north India after Diwali fireworks

A ban is only as good as its implementation. The National Green Tribunal's ban on the sale or use of firecrackers in the National Capital Region till November 30, applicable practically to the entire country, remained a flop show on Diwali as there was little or no enforcement. Residents of Delhi and other parts of north India woke up to a smoggy morning on Sunday, with pollution levels crossing the 'emergency' threshold at most places. Expectations had been high from Delhi compared to other states as the former had announced a ban even before the tribunal endorsed it. However, the lax authorities in the Capital allowed things to slip out of control. Chandigarh, which had also imposed a blanket ban, was no exception as residents who bought crackers somehow burst them with impunity through the night and the next morning.

The performance of states such as Punjab, which had declared a two-hour window for the use of green crackers, also left a lot to be desired. If you give law-breakers an inch, they will take a mile. With the cops shutting their ears to all the noise, it was child's play for revellers to keep bursting crackers — green or otherwise.

Both the governments as well as the public are responsible for the fiasco. All the anti-cracker awareness campaigns seem to have yielded little. Even the surge in Covid-19 cases amid worsening air pollution did not deter people from defying the ban. Despite the NGT's scathing observation that 'celebration by crackers is for happiness and not to celebrate deaths and diseases', there was blatant disregard for the law as well as public health. Action against the violators should not be mere tokenism. Accountability of officials who didn't bother to enforce the ban should also be fixed. The *chalta hai* attitude has to be stopped — if we want to breathe once the festivities are over.

## Test of magnanimity

Nobody takes a comedian seriously. Why should the apex court?

BARELY three months after it held activist-lawyer Prashant Bhushan guilty of contempt of court, the Supreme Court's power of contempt is back in the news. This time, it's because of Attorney General KK Venugopal's decision to give his consent to initiate criminal contempt of court proceedings against stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra for his tweets allegedly scandalising the apex court after it gave interim bail to TV channel owner Arnab Goswami last week. Going by Venugopal's opinion, Kamra's tweets are 'in bad taste', 'highly objectionable' and constitute criminal contempt of court as they clearly cross the line between humour and contempt of court. Even before the top court could take up the matter, Kamra has aggravated the situation by refusing to retract his controversial tweets or apologise for them, saying he believed they 'speak for themselves'. The comedian has also raised the issue of 'important' petitions such as those on demonetisation, nullification of Article 370, the electoral bonds scheme and 'countless other matters pending before the top court'.

It's nobody's case that the Supreme Court is always right and can't be criticised at all. Some of the issues raised by Kamra are legitimate. But it appears that while attempting to push the boundary, the comedian has crossed it. He should know freedom comes with responsibility. The Supreme Court has two options available to it. First, it can hold Kamra guilty of contempt of court and send him to jail. Second, it can follow the House of Lords, which in the Spycatcher case spared *Daily Mirror* that had published an upside-down picture of three law lords with the caption, 'You Old Fools'. The House of Lords said if one was a fool or not was a matter of perception.

In a democratic set-up, the dynamics of the relationship between citizens and institutions need not be governed by letters of law alone. Given the fact that Kamra is a comedian, expected to prick and provoke to elicit a good laugh, showing magnanimity is a far better option as it would enhance the court's credibility as an institution. In any case, nobody takes a comedian seriously. Why should the Supreme Court?

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Teaching kids to count is fine, but teaching them what counts is best. — Bob Talbert

### ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

# The Tribune.

LAHORE, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1920

### SIR EDWARD MACLAGAN'S SPEECH.

WHATEVER view one may take of the effectiveness or otherwise of the speech delivered by Sir Edward Maclagan at the informal meeting of the Punjab Legislative Council held at Government House on Saturday morning for the particular purpose for which it was delivered, no one will take exception to its tone, its temper or its spirit. There is not a word of anger in the speech, not a word which is calculated to add to the existing bitterness. One can easily imagine what Sir Michael O'Dwyer would have done at such a time and in such circumstances, and there is enough actually on record to save one even the trouble of taxing one's imagination. Such of our critics as still affect astonishment at the outburst of indignation which greeted the utterance of Sir Michael would do well to re-read those utterances with the present speech of Sir Edward Maclagan fresh in their ear. If one is largely the model of how to say everything, whether right or wrong, in the right way, the other was the model of how to say nothing but the wrong thing and to say it in the worst possible way that human ingenuity could devise. We cannot surely say that the speech contains anything that can by itself improve the situation. As Sir Edward Maclagan himself recognises, he has nothing very new to say to us, and even the old things that he has to say are not dressed in a substantially new or attractive garb. We have, indeed, nothing in the greater part of the speech but official commonplaces that have become only too familiar during the last few months. Everything that is said about the Khilafat question, the question of Sikh representation and about the aftermath of the Punjab trouble has been said again and again, and has failed either to bring peace to distracted hearts or rally even the most moderate section of those concerned.

# Sense and sensitivity

In an increasingly alienated world, care and empathy matter more on campuses



AVIJIT PATHAK

SOCIOLOGIST

**Y**ET another suicide, a tragic tale of a victim of our collective insanity, implicit in the dehumanisation of our educational system! And this time, Aishwarya Reddy — a young student of Delhi's Lady Shri Ram College — could not bear it anymore, and chose to end her life. Despite the glitz and glamour that characterises some of our branded metropolitan institutions, the harsh reality is that it is a terribly unequal world, and the idea of smooth transaction of knowledge through online teaching is a myth, and there are many who are alienated, wounded and broken. Think of it, Aishwarya's family could not afford a laptop for her to attend online classes; and the fact that during the pandemic, she was forced to vacate the college hostel, further intensified her psychic stress. As a teacher, I feel guilty, and I do not know how to respond to her suicide note: 'Because of me, my family is facing many financial problems. My education is a burden. If I can't study, I can't live.'

It is not just about Aishwarya or a particular college. As a matter of fact, there is something pathological about the learning machine. It further reproduces the existing culture of social Darwinism or the doctrine of the 'survival of the fittest'. 'Perform, compete and be a topper: this dominant common sense' that characterises the meaning of being a 'good' student, renews its life through the ritualisation of weekly/monthly tests, tutorial assignments and mindless accumulation of monologist explanations of the 'texts' offered by teachers. Even though one is persuaded to believe



BREAKING MYTH: Students, teachers have more concerns than just the syllabus.

Aishwarya's suicide note reveals once again that the 'digital divide' amid the pandemic is real, and it's not a student's excuse to abstain from classes.

in the ideology of a 'free and fair competition', the uneven distribution of social/cultural/economic capital in this fractured and stratified society makes it clear that the 'equality of opportunity' is a myth. And in the post-pandemic world, when 'online teaching' is almost normalised, the myth of equality is further sharpened. Aishwarya's suicide note reveals once again that the 'digital divide' is real, and it is not a student's excuse to abstain from classes. But then, the bureaucracy, with its 'law of uniformity', would not be able to understand the tales of this pain, wound and marginalisation.

Yes, as a university professor, I too engage in online classes. And one thing that I realise every morning is that it is an alienating experience. We should not forget that there is something more in the life of a student or a teacher beyond the official task of completing the syllabus. We learn and unlearn, and evolve and expand our horizons through a living, humane, non-virtual garland of relationships. Hence, the cafeteria, the

film society, or a direct face-to-face non-utilitarian dialogue characterise the campus life, and play a therapeutic role. And today — that too with the fluctuating internet connectivity — we meet only on the screen. We are in a hurry because the lecture has to be delivered or the syllabus has to be completed. Seldom do we find a relaxed environment that nurtures the spirit of communion. There is no ecstasy; there is no healing touch. Instead, we receive only a set of circulars issued by the Kafkaesque bureaucracy: date of examination, assignment submission, technicalities, modes of writing online examinations and maintenance of the attendance registrar. Possibly, Aishwarya wanted to be understood, and listened to. Possibly, she was expecting empathy from us. But then, we only complete the syllabus and evaluate their performance. Where is the time to cultivate the art of listening, and discuss something beyond class notes, attendance, exams and grades? All of us are alienated today.

The academic bureaucracy acts like

a soulless machine. And there are two reasons for this. First, educators have been replaced by techno-managers. And they dislike subjectivity, human emotions and qualitative experiences. And hence, everything has to be measured, quantified and documented as a necessary 'data' for selling the product. A student, in the eyes of a techno-manager, is nothing but her attendance record or the grade she gets in the exam. Likewise, a teacher is primarily her CV: the list of publications, the lectures delivered, the seminars attended, or the identifiable utility of the courses offered. What is immeasurable is beyond their grasp as the fetish of 'ranking' is about the instrumental presentation and manipulation of this 'data'. Second, as everything becomes a technological riddle, biometric or the CCTV camera, it would be asserted, is the only way to 'discipline' us. In a way, we are all caught into the vicious cycle of surveillance. Trust or spontaneity is a bad word these days. In the age of surveillance, we begin to lose what really matters: the spirit of communion, faith and relationships. The principal or the vice-chancellor suspects the faculty; the teacher suspects her students; and eventually, students begin to mistrust one another. Is it that Aishwarya's suicide can be seen as the consequence of a system that has no eyes to see, no ears to hear, or no heart to feel?

Is there a way out? It is not easy. As we find ourselves in an increasingly alienated world — or a world characterised by the 'lonely crowd', neurosis, phobia and anxiety are bound to rise. Furthermore, the rat race that the neoliberal market intensifies, is likely to transform young minds into reckless competitors — not friends, but strangers to one another. I am not very sure whether in the branded college in Delhi, Aishwarya ever found a friend who understands and cares. Or did she ever acquire the confidence to believe that some teacher would understand her agony? As a teacher, I often ask myself: Is it that as teachers, we too have become terribly insensitive?

## A Brigadier's love for Urdu

SUMIT PAUL

**A** few years ago, at a restaurant in Jabalpur (MP), seeing me read an Urdu daily *Inquilab*, an old but upright gentleman asked me politely, 'Maaf keejiyega, cap ko Jabalpur mein 'Inquilab' kahan mila?' (Excuse me, where have you got *Inquilab* in Jabalpur?)

I told him the place I picked up a copy of the Urdu daily from. Curious, I asked him, 'Aapko Urdu aati hai?' (Do you know Urdu?) 'Urdu hi aati hai,' he chuckled. This intrigued me. How come, I asked him.

He started narrating his love for the Urdu language. He was a Rajput from Sikar in Rajasthan. His name was Bhupat Singh and he had retired from the Army as a Brigadier. Right from his childhood days, he was inter-

ested in the language. Way back in 1967, when he was posted in the Valley as a Major, he started learning Urdu from a maulavi, who was a religious teacher in his unit. He wanted to learn Urdu with its Persian script (Urdu script is based on Persian *rasm-ul-khat*). Soon, he not only learnt the script, but also mastered the language so well that he appeared as a private student and earned a master's degree in Urdu from Kashmir University! He also taught his wife how to read and write Urdu. His daughter was four years old at that time. "Meri dukhtar ka kakahra clif, be, pe se hua; ka, kha, ga se nahin" (My daughter began with Urdu alphabets of alif, be, pe rather than Devanagari's ka, kha, ga), he told me proudly.

Interested in Urdu poetry and a lover of Ghalib and Faiz, he began to write ghazals in his free time and when he was transferred to Ahmednagar in Maharashtra in the mid-seventies, he started honing his poetic skills under the tutelage of a Ustad shayar Salam Ahmednagar, who gave him a *takhallus* (nom de guerre), *junoon* (craziness) seeing his craze for Urdu! He put his daughter at Chand Sultana Anglo-Urdu School, and she went on to pursue her MA in Urdu from Pune University, securing the third position on the merit list.

I was awestruck. I remember his pithy words that still echo in my consciousness, 'Ye siyasat-e-zabaan mere idraak se baahar ki baat hai. Zabaan kisi qawm-e-makhsoos ki milkiyat nahin hoti' (This politics of languages is beyond my understanding.

A language is not a prerogative of a specific community). I nodded in

agreement. His *sheen, qaaф and ain, ghain* were just perfect.

Throughout my life, I've interacted with scholars of Urdu, Persian and Arabic and interacted with the *ahle-zabaan* (native speakers). But Brigadier Bhupat Singh had no background or grounding in Urdu, yet he mastered the language admirably. A consummate gentleman, he insisted on footing the bill, being much senior to me. I'm still in touch with Brigadier Bhupat Singh, who in this age of e-mails and WhatsApp, writes to me in a cursive *Nastaliq* style without a mistake in orthography and sends his *ghazals* across. Whenever I visit Bhopal or Jabalpur, I make it a point to meet my old friend whose Urdu fascinates me. Let's all emulate Brigadier Bhupat Singh in this age of rabid linguistic chauvinism.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### An irresponsible lot

All rules and regulations, bans, resolutions by individuals as well as groups went into thin air on Diwali night. People burst all types of crackers with impunity, polluting the already polluted environment. It may seem to be a bitter truth, but barring a few, we all lack a sense of responsibility. The government was responsible enough in putting 42,000 cops on duty for a safe and green Diwali. But, we, the citizens, are not at all responsible. Why can't we understand our moral duty to safeguard our environment? It is not only the duty of the government, but also the citizens to work for the welfare of the environment. Hope some miracle happens and there are favourable AQIs of our cities.

BIR DEVINDER SINGH BEDI, SANGRUR

#### Ban manufacturing

The pollution levels in many cities in the country have increased manifold after Diwali night, be it NCR, Amritsar or Ludhiana. Moreover, fire broke out at many places, causing a huge loss of property. All this has occurred in spite of the ban on crackers and the two-hour window. People continued to violate orders even past midnight. The only solution is

that the manufacture and sale of crackers should be banned in the country. The workers engaged in these jobs can be offered alternative means of livelihood.

VIDWAN SINGH SONI, PATIALA

#### Diwali of our times

Apropos of 'Diwali of our times', it surely is a big lesson from the past for us to celebrate festivals with a spirit of love for our fellow beings as well as Nature. Today, Diwali has become more of a show of wealth. Contrary to expectation and directions, Diwali night was just about the noise of crackers, and the revellers not paying heed to social norms and decency.

MANJIT GHUMAN, LUDHIANA

#### Be wary of the Chinese

There are some signs that India and China are close to a pullback, which is a positive development as the Chinese at least are accepting that they have to walk back from their present positions if they expect the same from New Delhi. But there remains a yawning gap between what China is offering and what India should be prepared to accept. There should be no question of India returning to the status quo ante position without China, at the minimum, doing the same. Given that China is the

aggressor, it should be trying to restore trust. However, the Indian side would be well advised to carefully weigh and verify the disengagement plan, as an earlier such plan had gone horribly wrong.

SK SINGH, BY MAIL

#### Stand by the soldier

The article 'Don't give short shrift to the resilient soldier' by Lt Gen Sujlana (retd) was thought-provoking. He has aptly pointed out how the armed forces stand out through their integrity, physical and mental strength, courage and valour. Their talent and interests should not be compromised.

SUBHASH C TANEJA, GURUGRAM

#### Gone too far

Apropos of 'Kamra refuses to apologise or retreat tweets against SC' (November 14), the trend of openly criticising the judicial institutions is dangerous and is fraught with unforeseen repercussions. The controversial tweets by the comedian need to be retracted.

JAGDISH CHANDER, JALANDHAR

#### Booster shot of stimulus

With reference to the editorial 'Booster shot' (November 14), the announcement of yet another economic package by the government

shows its confidence to neutralise the ill-effects wrought by the pandemic. People, particularly the productive members of society, should also inject their own booster shot to perform better in their chosen sphere of economic activity by enhancing their efficiency and by being more honest in paying back to strengthen the system. India is on the move, notwithstanding constant politicking or Covid-19.

JAGVINDER SINGH BRAR, PATIALA

#### Exemplary Mumbai Indians

Though played under the pandemic scare and shadow, IPL's season 13 was a remarkable success. Mumbai Indians owe their IPL success as much to individual brilliance as to collective efforts. No other team boasts of such a dazzling galaxy of stars. There was a time when the Mumbai Indians used to splash money recklessly in the auction, but now every acquisition is carefully weighed. They have arguably the best leader in Rohit Sharma, the most consistent middle order and the deadliest bowling pair ever. Mumbai Indians' march to their fifth title has been their most assertive ever. They can be now called the gold standard of success in any cricket league across the world.

LJS PANESAR, BY MAIL

# List or no list, writing's on the wall for Pak



**TARA KARTHA**  
FORMER DIRECTOR, NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

It seems Pakistan is in quite a pickle. Recently, Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency released a list of no less than 1,210 'most wanted' persons, which essentially means those who have managed to evade arrest. For India, the interest in the list is that it does include the names of 19 accused in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack case, and what it does not — the major perpetrators of the attack.

The list, however, is of interest in itself, and also merits scrutiny in terms of Pakistan's continued 'grey' status in terms of various clauses of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the adventurous Pakistani state itself.

First is the question of the names of those who plotted the Mumbai attacks, which includes Ajmal Khan, who purchased the boat and its engine which was used for the attack, the 'Tandel' (captain) of the boat, and other sundry names who donated money, essentially the small fry whose names have been widely publicised in independent analysis, from non-Indian sources. All of the 19 are referred to as 'ex-Lashkar-e-Taiba' members, which is meant to reference the ostensible ban on the group. That would be laughable if it wasn't so dangerous.

Needless to add, the Lashkar or the Jamaat-ud-Dawa and its various arms continue to operate. New Delhi's rejection of the list arises from the fact that nowhere does it mention top Lashkar commanders like the elusive Sajid Mir, who persuaded US citizen David Headley to work for him, or Yusuf Muzzamil, who is also an accused in the 2006 train blasts as well as 26/11. The fact that some names have been mentioned at all is, however, probably due to the fact that Islamabad has the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on its case, with its October 2020 report continuing to urge Pakistan to fulfil all recommendations.

The second part of the list names those from within Pakistan. Unsurprisingly, the largest number are from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where the army has been engaged in 'operations' against those whom they call terrorists from 2007. Those operations have included the burning down of houses, lifting and then killing of young men, and the dreaded raids in the night. These 'counter terrorism' operations led directly to the Pashtun Tahafuz movement, the largest and most peaceful resistance movement that Pakistan has seen in years. Next on the list are those from Baluchistan where the problem of 'enforced disappearances', a curious term that also refers to the same rampant human rights abuse, but with the difference that this one has been going on for decades. The least number of terrorists listed are from Punjab, the heartland of Pakistan. Yet it is here that the Lashkar has its home, as well as the Jaish-e-Mohammad. The 'Pun-



jabi Taliban' refers to those who are fighting in Afghanistan, whilst cadres from the state have been found across the world from the US to China, including most recently the Paris knife attacks. That was Ali Hassan, whose father congratulated him for having the 'heart of a lion'. The district is home to Tehreek-e-Labbaik (TeL), a group that violently opposes blasphemy, and which challenged Nawaz Sharif in his bastion during the 2018 elections. The TeL

and others like it managed only 10 per cent of the vote, but they split the vote for Sharif in a move widely seen as backed by the Pakistani intelligence. That, in the end, is the key. Just who is a 'terrorist' is decided by the Pakistani establishment, with some groups being used to politically backstab the elected government; others are being used to train terrorists that hit neighbours, including Afghanistan, Iran and India, and yet others being churned out, with the

world at large the target. This list is, therefore, largely about one thing and one thing only. This is Pakistan, being dragged step by reluctant step into actions it doesn't want to take, even as it continues to not just shelter, but encourage core terrorist elements.

But times are changing. Pakistan has long deceived and manipulated its way using terrorism as a currency for barter, with friends and neighbours alike. But, once the Joe Biden administration takes up the Oval

office, Islamabad will find no takers for its terrorist baggage. Biden has dealt with Pakistan in the past, partnering the tabling of the Enhanced Partnership Act in 2008 that provided generous aid, but also required that the President certify that the Pakistani army was "not materially interfering in Pakistan's political or judicial processes."

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**OMINOUS:** Things are likely to get more difficult for Pakistan with its three decades of terrorist baggage.

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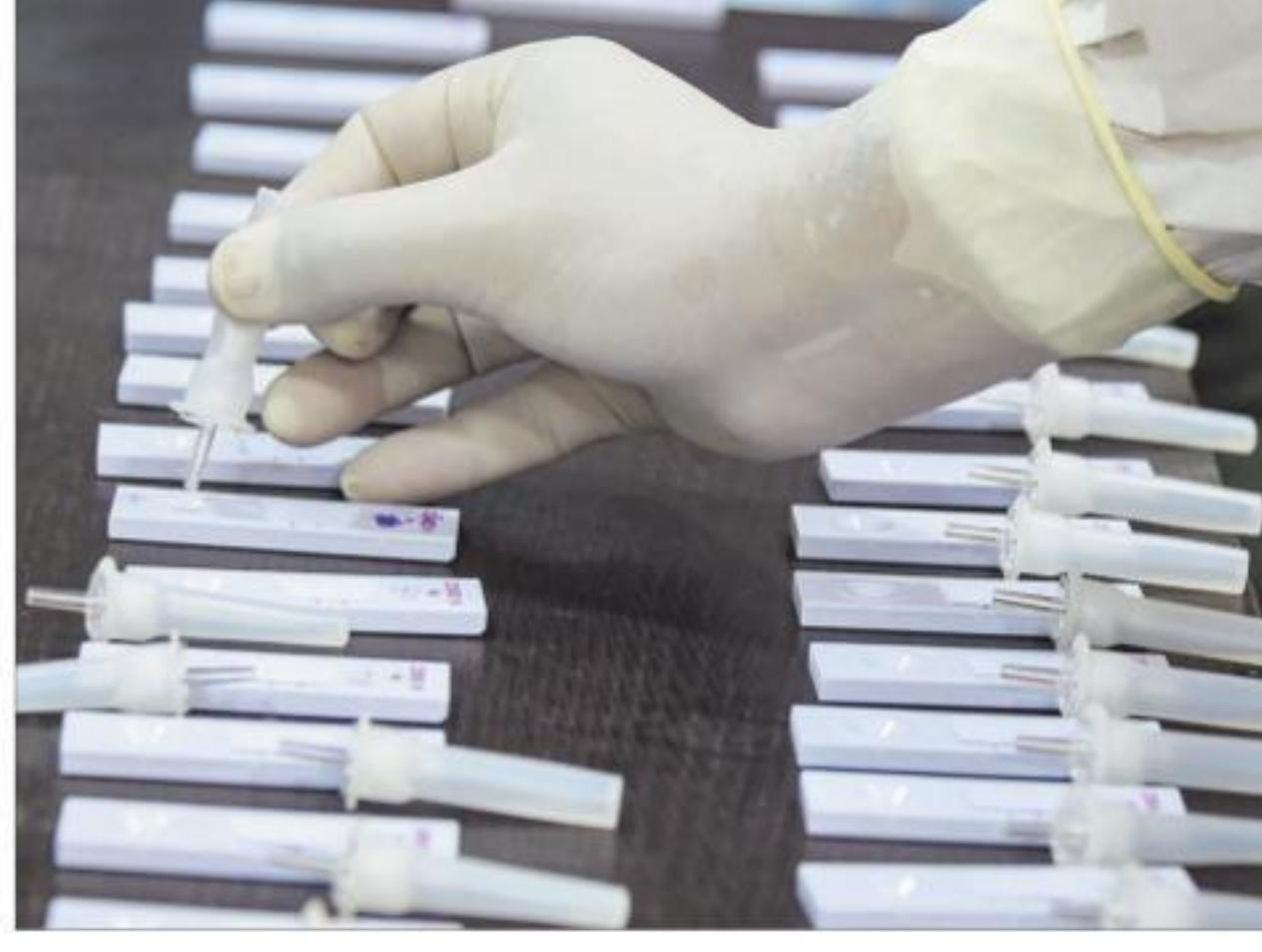
List or no list, things are likely to get more difficult for this state with its three decades of terrorist baggage.

## Scams galore in the name of Covid cure



**DR R KUMAR**  
PRESIDENT, SOCIETY FOR PROMOTION OF ETHICAL AND AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE

Compared to the Spanish flu of 1918, the present pandemic appears less lethal, with over 13 lakh deaths across the globe and around 1.3 lakh in India so far. But the spread of panic has been faster than that of the disease and the exorbitant and inconsistent billing is due to the panic. People are tempted to buy or use questionable products that claim to help diagnose, treat, cure or prevent Covid.



**MALPRACTICE:** Fake testing is common. The victims are such who wish to keep it a secret to avoid being quarantined in government facilities.

have crossed the peak of the pandemic. However, complacency of any kind is uncalled for. The Spanish flu pandemic of 1918 had infected 500 million people, with 50 million deaths. In India alone, it caused 12-13 million deaths.

The present pandemic appears to be less lethal in comparison, with over 13 lakh deaths across the globe and about 1.3 lakh in India so far. But the spread of panic has been faster than that of the disease and the exorbitant and inconsistent billing is due to the panic.

Counting every death as a corona death during the pandemic, caused

due to heart disease, diabetes, cancer, chronic infection or aging, is also a scam. Does it pay to declare a death as a 'Covid death'? A person with type-2 diabetes, who was unable to get insulin, died of diabetes ketoacidosis, even as he had tested positive for Covid-19. His death was deemed to be a Covid death, not a diabetes death. Covid was incidental, not the cause of the death.

Fake testing is common. The victims are such who wish to keep it a secret to avoid being put in the quarantine in government facilities. When a person appears rich or holding the health

insurance card and comes for corona test, he is generally declared positive. Next, his family and friends queue up to rule out the presence of the contagion. Most are reported positive and then referred for treatment to five-star Covid centres, for a consideration. A chain of extortion gets going. Hospitals of dubious reputation charge lakhs of rupees for providing beds in their premises, sans medical treatment of any value. Each visit of the doctor or any material used is charged at an extortionist rate.

Diagnostic centres and unscrupulous individuals also indulge in the business of issuing fake Covid negative certificates, without any testing, to members of the public for purposes of travel and access to some privileges. This creates a potential for the spread of the pandemic along the trail of the visitors.

A study at Harvard showed that 5.2 million medical errors are happening in India annually. Similarly, the British Medical Journal quoted that India is recording a lot of medical errors. How many more errors will now occur with bogus cures? Fraudsters from various pathies have flooded consumers with a plethora of phony remedies. A host of pills made of herbs, teas, essential oils, cannabis, colloidal silver and intravenous vitamin-C therapies are among the supposed anti-Covid treatments hawked in clinics and on websites.

In serious cases, hospitals apply a protocol of treatment — antiviral in the first phase, oxygen and anti-inflammatory drugs in the second

phase and anti-coagulants in the third phase.

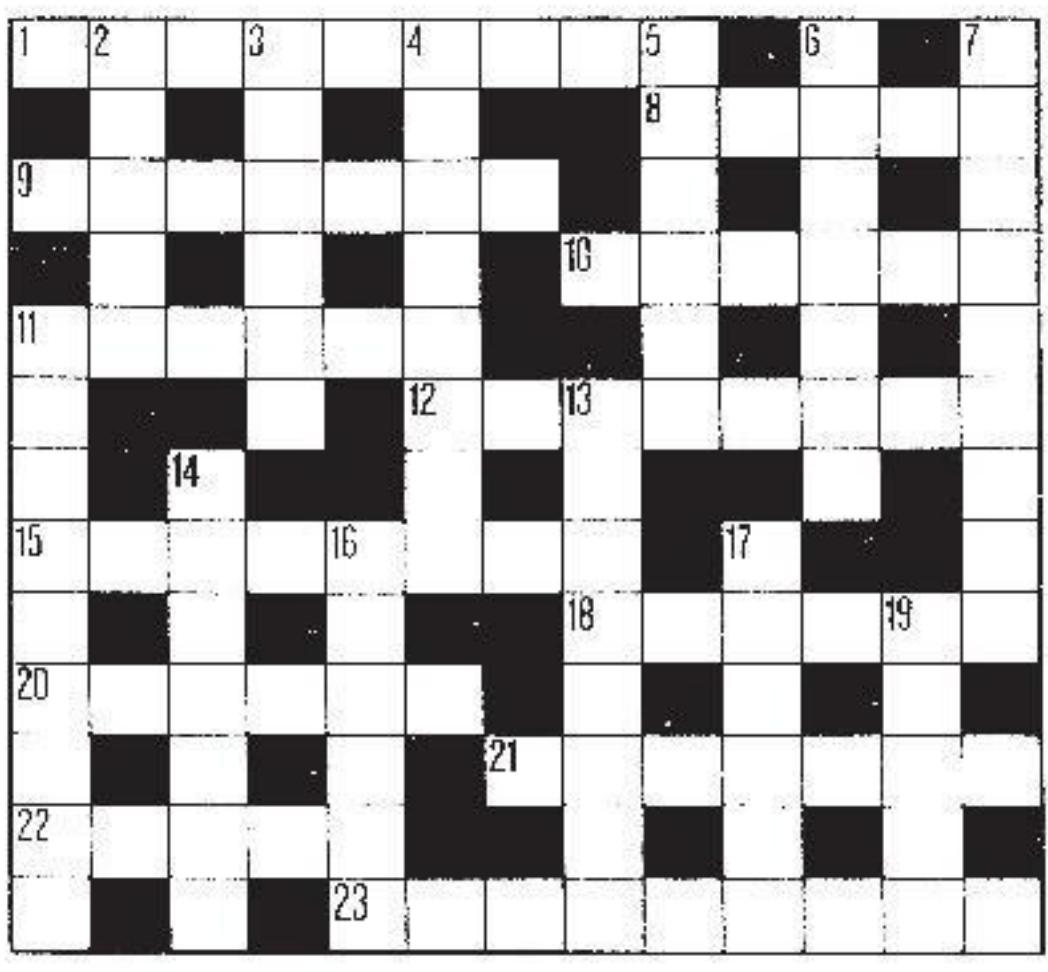
Not long ago, the fad of the administration of chloroquine, Remdesivir and human plasma was floated as the panacea. While some patients reported marginal benefits, media hyped the benefits beyond comprehension. This raised the demand of drugs/plasma from recovered patients. The dealers charged exorbitant amounts, ranging from 20-50 thousand for each unit, fake or real.

Some fraudsters are minting money on the pretext of *tantar-mantar*. The operators charge anything between Rs 8,000 and Rs 25,000 for rituals that extend up to three weeks, depending upon the degree of risk.

Scamsters are using the pandemic as an opportunity to mint money by claiming to sell exotic herbs or rare medicines. Once money is paid, it is extremely difficult to track such sellers. Corona-themed phishing lures, malware infections, network intrusions, and cyber frauds have become rampant across the dark web. Massive financial frauds, government corruption and misuse of the state machinery have been unleashed. One gets messages seeking donations or selling cheap Covid insurance to steal money or plant malware to allow criminals to access to your passwords and financial information.

Some have started harping on advance booking on a 'soon-to-be launched' Covid vaccine! Whether the vaccine will be safe and effective or prove to be another scam on humanity, only time will tell.

### QUICK CROSSWORD



#### SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

**Across:** 1 Mustang, 4 Fed up, 7 Trek, 8 Innuendo, 10 Dipsomania, 12 Canvas, 13 Choosy, 15 High and low, 18 Prodigal, 19 Salt, 20 Rally, 21 Testify.

**Down:** 1 Muted, 2 Sweeping, 3 Genial, 4 Four-in-hand, 5 Dank, 6 Probit, 9 Volatility, 11 Kohlrabi, 12 Clipper, 14 Thwart, 16 Witty, 17 Poll.

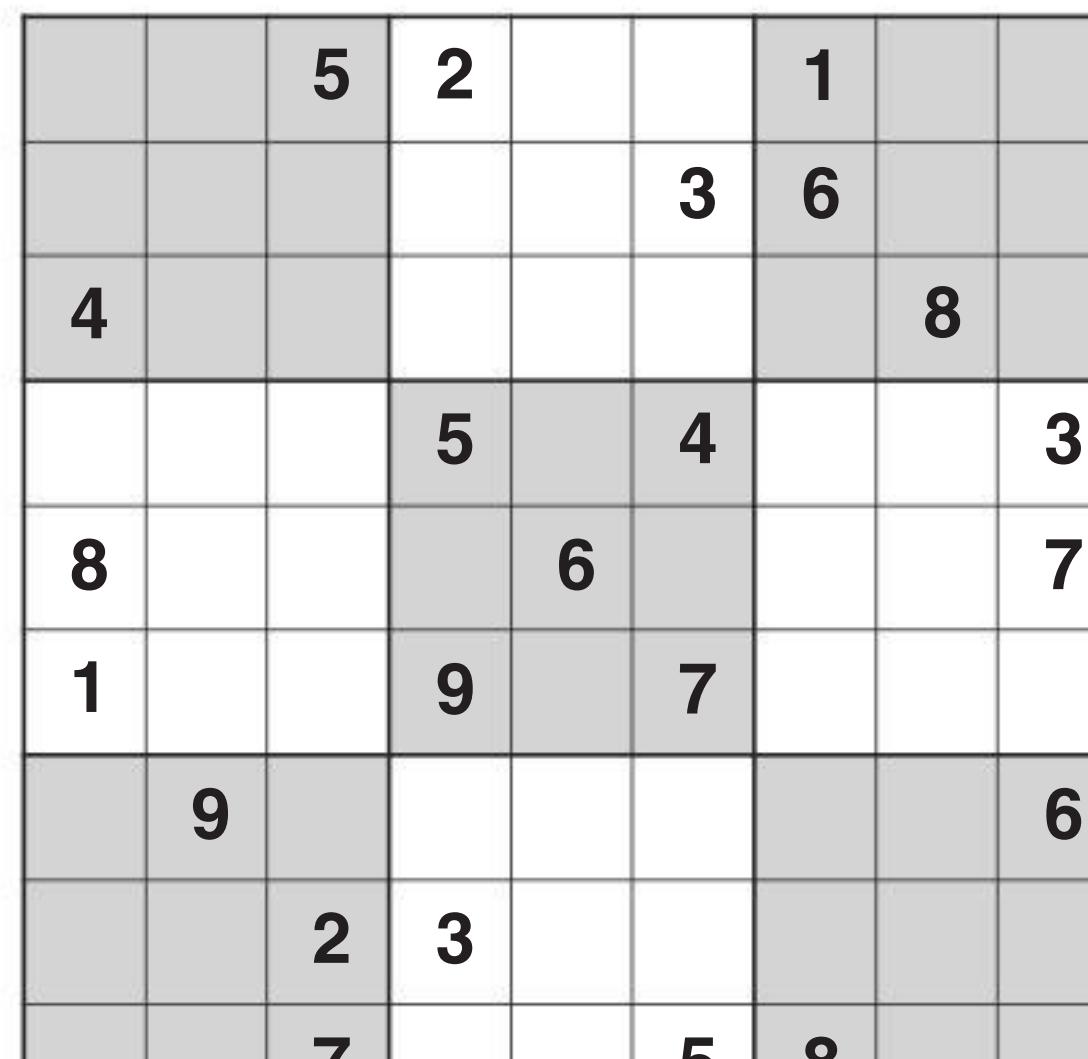
#### ACROSS

- 1 Challenging credibility (9)
- 8 Avoid facing up to (5)
- 9 Percentage from a deal (4-3)
- 10 Valuable possessions (6)
- 11 Position in hierarchy (6)
- 12 Captive (8)
- 15 Legendary submerged island (8)
- 18 A root vegetable (6)
- 20 Impede (6)
- 21 Violent lawless person (7)
- 22 Line of mountains (5)
- 23 Skill in handling (9)

#### DOWN

- 2 Separately (5)
- 3 An international agreement (6)
- 4 A sentimental weakness (4,4)
- 5 Count of population (6)
- 6 A very strong pepper (7)
- 7 Meet required standard (7,2)
- 11 A system of signalling (9)
- 13 To command (8)
- 14 Very hot (7)
- 16 Requisite (6)
- 17 Like better (6)
- 19 Unsuitable (5)

### SU DO KU



V. HARD

### CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 16, 2020, MONDAY

■ Vikrami Samvat	2077
■ Shaka Samvat	1942
■ Kartik Shaka	25
■ Marghshirsh Parvishtha	2
■ Hijri	1442
■ Shukla Paksha Tithi 1, up to 7.07 pm	
■ Shukla Paksha Tithi 2, up to 3.57 am	
■ Atiganda Yoga up to 7.10 pm	
■ Anuradha Nakshatra up to 2.37 pm	
■ Moon in Scorpio sign	
■ Bhai Dooj	

#### SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

6	9	3	8	4	1	7	2	5
7	1	5	9	3	2	4	8	6
4	8	2	5	7	6	3	1	9
2	3	1	6	9	7	8	5	4
9	5	6	3	8	4	2	7	1
8	7	4	1	2	5	9	6	3
1	2	8	4	5	3	6	9	7
3	6	9	7	1	8	5	4	2
5	4	7	2	6	9	1	3	8

### FORECAST

SUNSET: MONDAY 17:25 HRS  
SUNRISE: TUESDAY 06:51 HRS

Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Rainy	Foggy

#### CITY

	MAX	MIN
Chandigarh	25	13
New Delhi	26	11
Amritsar	21	13
Bathinda	24	13
Jalandhar	22	13
Ludhiana	23	12
Bhiwani	25	13
Hisar	24	11
Sirsra	25	15
Dharamsala	18	07
Manali	11	03
Shimla	16	06
Srinagar	12	01
Jammu	22	14
Kargil	03	-09
Leh	12	-01
Dehradun	25	11
Mussoorie	16	08

TEMPERATURE IN °C

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 04

**Chandigarh-Ambala Highway:** Zirakpur budget hotel under construction 29'x85', 4 storey with lift and huge parking @ 4.50 Cr. (Flexible payment terms) (no hindrance from Zirakpur Flyover). Sampark Estate 98142-11400, 0172-4627889. (CL20062492)

**Chandigarh-Ambala Highway:** Zirakpur showroom newly built, 4 storey 32'x50' @ 2.65 Cr. and 32'x75' @ 3.25 Cr. (Vacant and also rental options with handsome return) (no hindrance from Zirakpur Flyover). Sampark Estate 98142-11400, 0172-4627889. (CL20062494)

**Balrog Himachal Pradesh flats** 2 BHK @ 27 lacs & 3 BHK @ 37 lacs. Both fully furnished. 94633-19478. (CL20062496)

**Ambala Cloth Market** furnished shops vacant for branded surplus wholesales (only terms). No rent Arya. 98962-19018. (CL20062545)

**Brand new ground and top floor 50% & 20% share facing park excellent** working sector 37B, inquiry only tasteful customer. Malik Estates: 98157-34536. (CL20062665)

**Chandigarh: 7 marla marbled well maintained ground floor house** Sector 32-A & ground, 2nd floor Sector 33-D. RR Estate 98761-32233. (CL20062694)

**New 14 marla 4 BHK first floor & second floor excellent specifications good bargain.** Contact Delhi Punjab Real Estate Pvt. Ltd. 98150-45554. (CL20062760)

**New 10 marla ground floor** reasonably priced at 2.25 Cr. Contact Delhi Punjab Real Estate Pvt. Ltd. 98150-45554. (CL20062761)

#### CHANDIGARH

**7 marla triple storey (renovated)** house Sector 35-D, (please don't bother owner directly) authorised consultant Prinjia Associates: 82839-30009. (CL20062663)

**Hot sale 600 sq yard single storey house,** corner with service lane, Sector 8, Chandigarh. Direct deal. Genuine purchaser. Contact (Col. Ahluwalia) 98765-58145. (CL20062763)

#### PANCHKULA

**Panchkula:** Fourteen marla newly built floorwise with basement/ stilt parking and Lift. Mata Devi Complex, Sector 6, Panchkula. Sethi Estates. 98140-30249. (CL20062175)

**Panchkula 14 marla,** good construction, duplex house for sale, Yogesh: 98720-99999. (CL20062469)

**2 kanal plot facing North and** facing park duplex bungalow in Sector 7, Panchkula. RR Estate 98761-32233. (CL20062696)

#### Mohali

**Mohali: 8 Marla Big Corner & facing** park, Phase-2 & 3B-1. Contact: Mohali Realtors: 89689-11011, 98151-15711. (CL20062040)

**Orbit Estates, Phase-7,** Mohali wishes you all a Happy Diwali. As this is the most beautiful time of the year; We wish you remain blessed with special glow with hearts full of cheer & celebrations. Thank you for trusting and believing us. 9915534500, 8968799143. (CL20062270)

**10 Marla Plot No.1611 Sector-80,** Mohali. 25% Built up. Orbit Estates: 9915534500, 89687200042. (CL20062280)

**4 Marla Plot Facing Park Sectors 88-89, Mohali.** Orbit Estates: 872883540, 9915534500. (CL20062287)

**Mohali: 10 & 8 Marla Houses** in all Sectors and Phases. Orbit Estates: 9915534500, 8968799143. (CL20062290)

**Mohali: 10/2 marla North- East,** Second floor 324 fully marble, near park, Sector 71. 99143-27641. (CL20062327)

**300 gaj plot 108/89, 8 marla kothi** 2644/67, 6 marla new ground floor and first floor 74280, 4 marla new duplex 1159/78, Gujral & Sons 98150-17236. (CL20061806)

**Shop for sale Gilco, Sector 127,** 12x45 and kothi 150 gaj. 98725-83967. (CL20062225)

**Panchkula 1 kanal new, old, plot-type houses for sale in Sector-6, 7, 8.** Subhash Mangat & Co. 98720-99999. (CL20062646)

**1 kanal Aerocity rare availability** corner, facing park, East facing Block-D for sale. 90411-20002. (CL20062683)

#### PROPERTY WANTED

**6-4 kanal kothi Sector 4-5-9, 2-1 kanal 8-18 Chandigarh, Jeet Associates** 96468-09090. (CL20061779)

**Wanted one kanal industrial in 9** Phase Cont: Karan Sandhu 98788-82747. (CL20061897)

**Wanted 14 marla, 1 kanal, SF with** lift at reasonable price and attractive offer. Cont: Karan Sandhu 98788-82747. (CL20061898)

**A- Om Associates: 98151-54979** wanted 1/ 2-4 kanals kothies for MNC's all Chandigarh/ Mohali for lease. (CL20062374)

#### PROPERTY

**2700 sq. yards plot on Patiala Dalkala road, 1 km from bypass.** Mobile: 72918-10532. (CL20059253)

**Batra Estate - # 99, Sector 17,** Panchkula: 94179-77016, 85669-15000, 94638-37635, 70093-27189. Property Consultants specialised in commercial & residential accommodation. (CL20062172)

#### PLOT FOR SALE

**Available all sizes plots Sectors** 76 to 80 JPL Sec 82/ 88/ 90 Aerocity/ Ecocity, IT-City. Rama Properties Rera approved 98140-42287. (CL20061900)

**Aerocity/ IT City 100 to 500 sq. yard,** genuine price, right time to invest. 98282-24100. (CL20062457)

**8 marla plots available in G-Block** Aerocity good location reasonable price. Contact Jitender: 98282-24100. (CL20062479)

**Eco City, 1 kanal good location plot** for sale. Yugesh: 98720-99999. (CL20062484)

**500 sq. yard plot (zora) 1000 sq. yard** in Badhi Housing Colony, Mandhala (Himadhi). 88472-09779. (CL20062553)

**Plot 200 sq. yard for sale in** Sector 124, University Society, Sunny Enclave, Mohali. 98142-01355. (CL20062561)

**One kanal plot North East facing and** facing park in Sector 8, RR Estate 98761-32233. (CL20062697)

#### PLOT WANTED

**Get maximum price for all sizes of** plots Sec 76 to 80 JPL industrial 82, 88, 90. Aerocity, Ecocity, IT City. Mohali. Rama Properties Rera approves 98140-42287. (CL20061904)

#### LAND FOR SALE

**Agriculture 10.75 Acres fertile land** at one place, Bhawan Kalan (Tehsil & distt. Ludhiana). 98724-82964. (CL20062281)

**Land for sale in Gharshankar** Achalpur 6L per acre approx 100 acres registered land. 98771-41915, 72900-00011. (CL20062079)

**Batra Estate- 20 acres land on main road near Pinjore can be used for** School, Housing Society, Banquet hall etc. 94179-77016, 85669-15000, 94638-37635, 70093-27189. (CL20062169)

**Near Sukhillas Resort Mullapur,** 28 kanal land 100 feet front suitable for farm house. 98886-57077. (CL20062204)

**FLAT FOR SALE**

**Cheap and best ready to move &** under construction 2/3 BHK flat and Villas on NH 58, near Hardwar. 92168-86277, 73007-01751. (CL20050640)

**Wanted/available CHB flat all** categories sectors 38 West to 63 societies flats Sector 48 to 51 Chandigarh. Rama Properties 98140-4287, 97804-18830. (CL20061903)

**1 BHK 2 bath sector 63, 4 BHK** 6 bath golf facing Sector 65, immediate sale. 98156-31231. (CL20062043)

**Kasauli two bedroom, drawing** newly built fully furnished luxurious flat, only 50 lakh. 98886-57077. (CL20062201)

**CHB, EWS Flat, 1st floor, corner** East facing, Sector-49, Chandigarh. 99152-17386. (CL20062347)

**HIG 3+1 Bedroom Flat, Second** Floor in Sector 38-A, Chandigarh for sale. Contact Owner 98141-11164. (CL20062399)

**Zirakpur 2 BHK ground floor** flat, independent floor, premium Zirakpur gated community, excellent location, price negotiable. Contact: 98120-15715, 97297-65715 or g s s 7 7 4 3 2 1 @ y a h o o . c o m (CL20062614)

**TOLET**

**CHANDIGARH**

**HIG 3+1 Bedroom Flat, Second** Floor in Sector 38-A, Chandigarh for rent. Contact Owner 98141-11164. (CL20062401)

**Two rooms fully furnished newly** built small family working couple only. 35/1-35-D, 77107-23887, 85914-28800. (CL20062653)

**PANCHKULA**

**Sector 20, 3 BHK flat** Rastriya Cooperative Society-35. Bank/ Corp preferred. 98551-02821. (CL20062764)

**MOHALI**

**One bedroom/ drawing dining in** Phase 3B2, Mohali, fully furnished first floor independent for small family. Contact No. 94631-90070. (CL20061846)

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Multipurpose Complex on Jalandhar** Dahlousie Highway at Pathankot, Halls, rooms etc at isolated floors suitable for godown, company offices, community gatherings etc. www.multiplespace.in Mob: 919816503210. (CL20062583)

**ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE**

**A-One Associates 98151-54979** showroom full/ floorwise furnished/ unfurnished office space upto 1.00,00 sq. ft. all Chandigarh/ Mohali & Mall. Quick deals. (CL20062380)

**RENT/LEASE**

**4 BHK 2nd floor Nirmal Chhaya** Towers VIP road Zirakpur. Contact 97189-32324. (CL20062365)

**10 marla independent first floor,** 4 rooms kitchen, washroom, store or 2 rooms, kitchen, washroom, Sector 35-C. 95604-47070, 93129-08149. (CL20062271)

**Commercial space for rent, upper** ground floor, Ubber Mews Gate, NH-21, Chandigarh-Kurali road, Kharar (16x4.25 feet). 98555-06277. (CL20062278)

**SITUATION VACANT**

**Urgently required Gynaecologist/** Sonographer at Dogra Hospital, Mukrian, District Hoshiarpur, annual package minimum Rs. eighteen lac only. Contact: 98724-62863. (CL20061841)

**DETECTIVE SERVICE**

**Human/Cyber Intelligence gathering,** E-Surveillance for employees etc., Data-Recovery, Death Investigation, criminal/civil case opinion, CRIFT : 94637-23029. (CL20062343)

**ADMISSION GUIDANCE**

**Low NEET score candidates contact** for MBBS seats, package 55-56 laes. Seats available in Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Karnataka etc. 98730-97977. (CL20061913)

**ASTROLOGY**

**Special on Diwali: Are u facing so** many problems related to your bright future don't worry we have very easy Astrological remedies to solve all your problems in few days. Appointment 98767-26492 Raman Malhotra (Celebrity Astrologer & Gen. Stones expert) Chandigarh/ Mumbai. Follow me in YouTube, Instagram. (CL20061894)

**Astrologer Dr. Rudra Swami ji** Maharaj specialist love, relationship problem, business, divorce, husband wife disputes all problems solution in just few hours. Mobile: +91896400768. (CL20060119)

**BUSINESS**

**Company promoted by Senior** ITIans requires partner with ten lakh to execute Govt. orders of Solar Water Heater for Himachal. Excellent profit. Contact 9711-13838, 96673-56670. (CL20062622)

**LOAN**

**Finance of Rs.50 Lacs required on** reasonable rates against property i.e. Industrial Shed in Mohali or Agriculture land within MC limit in Ludhiana. 98151-16994, 98729-96625. (CL20062776)

**Plot 200 sq. yard for sale in** Sector 124, University Society, Sunny Enclave, Mohali. 98142-01355. (CL20062561)

**One kanal plot North East facing and** facing park in Sector 8, RR Estate 98761-32233. (CL20062697)

**PLOT WANTED**

**Get maximum price for all sizes of** plots Sec 76 to 80 JPL Sec 82/ 88/ 90 Aerocity/ Ecocity, IT City. Mohali. Rama Properties Rera approves 98140-42287. (CL20061904)

**LAND FOR SALE**

**Agriculture 10.75 Acres fertile land** at one place, Bhawan Kalan (Tehsil & distt. Ludhiana). 9872

# PAGD finalises seat-sharing for 2nd phase of DDC polls

**SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 15**  
The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration on Sunday finalised its seat-sharing formula for the second phase of the District Development Council polls, allocating eight seats each out of the total 27 to the National Conference and the PDP.

The seat-sharing list was released by the alliance spokesperson and Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference (JKPC) chairman Sajad Ganj Lone.

The list was approved by PAGD chairman and NC president Farooq Abdullah at a meeting of the alliance

## NC, PDP GET 8 CONSTITUENCIES EACH

- The PAGD allocated eight seats each, out of the total 27, to the National Conference and the PDP.
- Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference will contest from five seats.
- The Congress will field its candidates on three seats, while Jammu and Kashmir People's Movement will fight for two seats.
- Awami National Conference has been allotted one seat.

partners at his residence on Sunday morning.

The last date for filing the nominations for the second phase of the polls is Monday, while the polling would take place on December 1.

According to the PAGD's seat-sharing pact, Lone's JKPC will contest from

five seats.

The Congress will field its candidates on three seats, while Jammu and Kashmir People's Movement will fight for two seats.

Awami National Conference (ANC), led by Abdullah's estranged sister Begum Khalida Shah, has been allotted

one seat to contest.

A difference, however, continued to persist between CPM and PDP over 'Pom-bay' seat in south Kashmir's Kulgam district, which was represented in the erstwhile J&K's state Assembly during its last few terms by CPM leader MY Tarigami.

While the alliance has allocated the seat to the PDP, the CPM is adamant to field its candidate from there.

"You can check the ratio of votes when I won against the PDP candidate in 2014 Assembly polls or when I supported the NC candidate in 2019 Lok Sabha polls," Tarigami said. — PTI

# Oppn leaders denied security: Panthers

**JAMMU, NOVEMBER 15**  
The Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party (JKNPP) on Sunday claimed that the leaders of the Opposition parties continue to be deprived of the requisite security cover even as the maiden District Development Council (DDC) elections are scheduled to start later this month.

It also claimed that security categorisation of political and other vulnerable people in the union territory was decided by the authorities con-

## NON-BJP POLITICIANS BEING HARASSED

- The non-BJP leaders, especially those opposing the policies of the saffron regime, are being harassed in all possible ways with none to take cognisance of even their threat perception.

Harsh Dev Singh, Panthers Party chief

cerned on the basis of political affiliations.

"The non-BJP leaders, especially those opposing the policies of the saffron regime, are being harassed in all pos-

sible ways with none to take cognisance of even their threat perception," NPP chairman and former minister Harsh Dev Singh said after several prominent per-

sons joined the party here.

"Not only the contesting candidates of Opposition parties but their top leadership has also been divested of their due security cover. While the lower rung workers of the BJP have been provided with huge paraphernalia of security staff, the heads of recognised Opposition parties in J&K are being deliberately exposed to the threats of militants by withdrawing even their existing security covers," Singh claimed. — PTI

# Terror and talks will not go together, says Chrungoo

**JAMMU, NOVEMBER 15**

Opposing dialogue with Pakistan on Jammu and Kashmir, senior BJP leader Ashwani Kumar Chrungoo on Sunday said "terror and talks will not go together in the established doctrine".

He also hit out at the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) and said "there is hardly any possibility now to hoodwink the opinion of the people in the name of opposition to the BJP Central Government or the UT Administration."

Reacting to the statements of PDP president Mehbooba Mufti and Hurriyat Conference advocating dialogue with Pakistan, the BJP leader said "terror and talks will not go together is an established national, diplomatic and political doctrine of India that has its genesis in the agreements which were signed by India and Pakistan more than a decade ago."

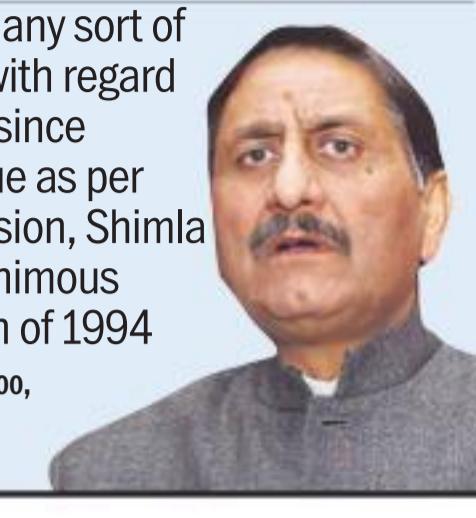
He said Pakistan had assured India that it would not allow land under its control to be used for terrorism against India, but it failed to keep its promise all along till date.

Mufti had on Saturday asked India and Pakistan to rise above their political compulsions and initiate dialogue, saying it was sad

## KASHMIR IS A SETTLED ISSUE

- There is no case for any sort of 'settlement of dispute' with regard to Jammu and Kashmir since Kashmir is a settled issue as per the Instrument of Accession, Shimla Agreement and the unanimous parliamentary resolution of 1994 on J&K. Ashwani Kumar Chrungoo,

SENIOR BJP LEADER



to see mounting casualties on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC).

"There is no case for any sort of 'settlement of dispute' with regard to Jammu and Kashmir since Kashmir is a settled issue as per the Instrument of Accession, Shimla Agreement and the unanimous parliamentary resolution of 1994 on Jammu & Kashmir. The resolution, however, emphasises upon the liberation of the Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir and the other areas like Gilgit and Baltistan which have been under the illegal occupation of Pakistan since 1947-48," he said.

Referring to the PAGD, an amalgamation of several mainstream parties seeking restoration of special status to J&K, Chrungoo accused its leaders of trying to provoke the people of the Jammu and

Ladakh regions. — PTI

# Former MLA figures in BJP's 2nd list

**JAMMU, NOVEMBER 15**

A former legislator figured in the second list of 44 candidates released on Sunday by the BJP for the District Development Council (DDC) elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

The list, which covered all 10 districts of the Jammu region, also included 14 women candidates, a party spokesperson said.

The maiden DDC polls, along with by-elections for panchayats and urban local bodies (ULBs), are being held in eight phases in the UT.

On Monday last, the BJP had released the first list of 72 candidates — 35 candidates for the Jammu region and 37 for the Kashmir valley.

Releasing the second list at the party headquarters here in the evening, the spokesperson said J&K BJP general secretary Devinder Kumar Maniyal in consultation with party president Ravinder Raina and general secretary (organisation) Ashok Kaul finalised the names of the candidates.

The list included former MLA Shakti Raj Parihar, who would be fighting the DDC polls from the Gurdana constituency of Doda district, the spokesperson said. — PTI



BSF personnel pay homage to their colleague Sub-Inspector Rakesh Dobhal during a wreath-laying ceremony at STC Humhama on the outskirts of Srinagar on Sunday. PTI

# Army pays tributes to martyrs

**SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 15**  
The Army on Sunday paid floral tributes to four soldiers who were killed in ceasefire violations by Pakistan in several sectors along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir.

Five security forces personnel were among 11 people killed in multiple ceasefire violations by Pakistan along the LoC between Gurez and Uri sectors on Friday. In retaliation, the Indian Army caused extensive damage to Pakistan army's infrastructure.

Those killed in the Pakistani aggression include four Army men, a BSF

## LoC FLARE-UP

- The Army on Sunday paid tributes to Havildar Hardhan Chandra Roy, Naik Satai Bhushan Rameshrao, Gunner Subodh Ghosh and Sepoy Jondhale Rushikesh Ramchandra, who made the supreme sacrifice on 13 November, 2020, in north Kashmir.

jawan and six civilians.

"The Army today paid tributes to Havildar Hardhan Chandra Roy, Naik Satai Bhushan Rameshrao, Gunner Subodh Ghosh and Sepoy Jondhale Rushikesh

Ramchandra, who made the supreme sacrifice on 13 November, 2020, in north Kashmir. In a solemn ceremony at Badami Bagh Cantonment, Lt Gen BS Raju, Chinari Corps Commander, and all ranks paid homage to the gallant soldiers on behalf of the proud and grateful nation," an Army spokesman said.

He said Havildar Roy and Gunner Ghosh of an Artillery regiment were deployed in the Uri sector, while Naik Rameshrao and Sepoy Ramchandra of the Maratha Light Infantry were deployed in the Gurez sector. — PTI

# 9 deaths, 460 new Covid cases in J&K

**SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 15**  
Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday recorded 460 new Covid-19 cases taking the infection tally to 1,02,619, while nine fatalities pushed the death toll to 1,589, officials said.

Of the fresh cases, 189 were from the Jammu division and 271 from the Kashmir valley, they said.

Srinagar district recorded the highest 120 cases, followed by 94 in Jammu.

There were 5,688 active cases in the union territory, while 95,342 patients had recovered so far, the officials said.

Of the nine deaths reported in the union territory, four were from the Jammu division and five from the Kashmir valley. — PTI

# Rain, snow end dry spell in Jammu

**SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 15**  
Rain lashed most parts of Jammu on Sunday, ending over two-month-long dry spell but engulfing the region in cold as the day temperature plummeted seven degrees below normal, officials said.

There were also reports of snowfall from the high-altitude areas, including the Peer Ki Gali along the Mughal Road, which remained closed for the second day on Sunday, they said.

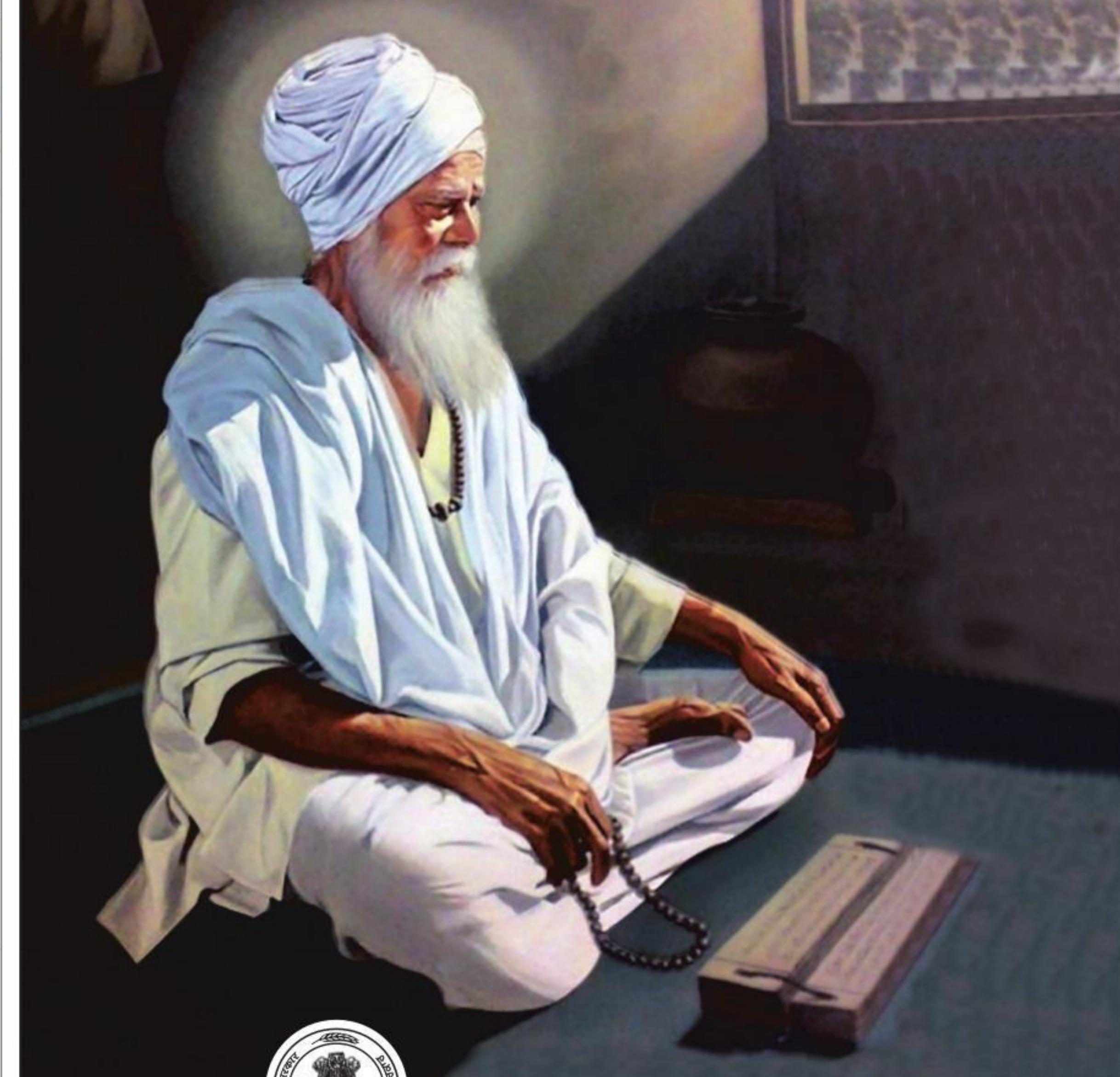
Jammu city recorded a high of 19.7°C, which is 7.6 degrees below normal during this part of the season, while the night temperature appreciated due to cloud cover and settled at 14.7°C, 1.3 degrees above normal, a spokesman for the Met Department said.

He said the weather is expected to improve gradually from November 17 onwards. — PTI

connecting the twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri in the Jammu region with south Kashmir's Shopian district, remained closed for vehicular traffic for the second day due to accumulation of the snow on the road at several places, especially the high-altitude Peer Ki Gali area.

Jammu city recorded a high of 19.7°C, which is 7.6 degrees below normal during this part of the season, while the night temperature appreciated due to cloud cover and settled at 14.7°C, 1.3 degrees above normal, a spokesman for the Met Department said.

He said the weather is expected to improve gradually from November 17 onwards. — PTI



**Punjab Government  
led by  
Chief Minister  
Capt. Amarinder Singh  
extends greetings on the  
Birth Anniversary  
of  
Bhagat Singh Ji**

Prominent spiritual preacher of the 14th-15th Century, who propagated the message of love, peace, harmony and universal brotherhood





## GLOBE TROT

**FESTIVE CHEER:** A man dressed as Santa Claus sits on a salt formation in the Dead Sea near Ein Bokek, Israel. REUTERS**Swimming Santa Claus brings Dead Sea to life**

**EIN BOKEK:** A man, dressed as Santa Claus, had a swim in the Dead Sea on Sunday. It was a part of Israel's Tourism Ministry campaign to bring some Christmas cheer during a pandemic that has kept Christian pilgrims away from the Holy Land. He stuck a Christmas tree in the salty bottom, which he took along while returning to the shore. REUTERS

**Thousands in UK oppose Sikh widow's deportation**

**LONDON:** Over 62,000 people have signed an online petition in favour of an elderly Sikh widow against forcibly sending her back to India after 10-year stay in England. Gurmit Kaur Sahota, 75, is an undocumented migrant. She has no one in the UK or India, reads the petition on Change.org addressed to the Home Office and UK Parliament. PTI

**Indian couple's 'drive-by' wedding ceremony in UAE**

**DUBAI:** An Indian couple in the UAE has organised a drive-by wedding ceremony amid the Covid scare. Muhammed Jazem and Almas Ahmed first had their Nikah, then they stood outside their home so that their kin and friends stop their cars and wish them, Khaleej Times reported. PTI

**Breakthrough must for Brexit, say UK, Ireland**

**LONDON, NOVEMBER 15** There has to be a breakthrough this week on a post-Brexit trade agreement, British and Irish ministers said on Sunday, as London's top negotiator went back into talks saying progress had been made in recent days.

Without a deal, around \$1 trillion worth of trade would be at risk of disruption through tariffs and tougher rules after the December 31 expiry of UK's transition period for leaving the EU.

That would deliver a fresh economic shock amid the economic fallout from the Covid pandemic.

"This needs to be a week when things move, when we break through some of these difficult issues and get a resolution and at least have some sort of headlines, if you like, of an agreement," British Environment Secretary George Eustice told a media outlet on Sunday. Irish foreign minister Simon Coveney said time was running out for a deal. — Reuters

**EU negotiator Michel Barnier** is in Brussels for talks. FILE

**Trump accepts poll outcome only to backtrack hour later**

**WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 15** President Donald Trump backtracked after appearing on Sunday to acknowledge for the first time that Joe Biden won the November 3 election, saying he conceded "nothing" and repeating his "unfounded" claims of widespread voting fraud.

Biden defeated Donald Trump by winning a series of battleground states that the Republican incumbent had won in 2016. The Democratic former Vice President also won the national popular vote by more than 5.5 million votes, or 3.6 percentage points.

Trump made his conflicting statements in a series of Twitter posts. "He won because the Election was Rigged," Trump wrote on Sunday morning, not referring to Biden by name.

About an hour later, Trump wrote, "He only won in the eyes of the FAKE NEWS MEDIA. I concede NOTHNG! We have a long way to go. This was a RIGGED ELECTION!"

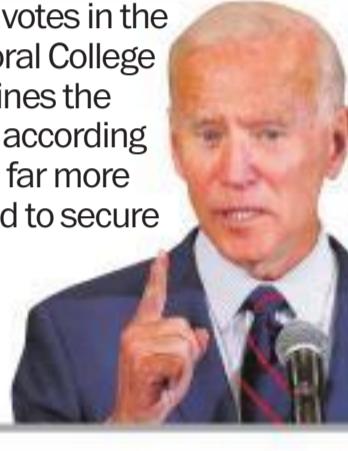
Trump's campaign has filed lawsuits seeking to overturn the results in multiple states, though without success, and legal experts say the litiga-



A protester holds a sign with other Trump supporters during a rally in Dallas on Saturday. AP/PTI

**DEMOCRATS' TALLY REACHES 306**

Biden has won 306 votes in the state-by-state Electoral College system that determines the presidential winner, according to Edison Research, far more than the 270 needed to secure a majority. Trump earned the same number of electoral votes in 2016.

**BIDEN YET TO DIAL MODI**

**New Delhi:** PM Narendra Modi is in line for a telephonic conversation after South Block became one of the first countries apart from its allies to congratulate both Biden and Kamala Harris. Leaders of Japan, Australia and South Korea have received phone calls from Biden about five-six days after their congratulatory messages, the MEA here said a Modi-Biden phone conversation would take place in due course at a mutually convenient time. TNS

tion stands little chance of altering the poll outcome.

Meanwhile, thousands of

Trump supporters protested in Washington. The march was largely peaceful, but

scuffles broke out between Trump supporters and counter-protesters later. — Reuters

**Gilgit-Baltistan election results likely today**

**ISLAMABAD, NOVEMBER 15** Wearing face masks, the people of Gilgit-Baltistan in northern Pakistan voted on Sunday in the third legislative assembly election amidst tight security. India has already slammed the poll, saying any action to alter the status of the militarily-occupied region has no legal basis.

No untoward incident was reported during voting. The counting of votes has started and complete results are expected by Monday.

**India has opposed the polling in the disputed region**

There are 24 seats for the contest but polling on one seat was postponed, leaving 23 seats up for grabs. As many as 330 candidates, including four women, are in the contest, they said.

Alleging rigging in the election process, Secretary General of the Opposition Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Nayyar Bukhari demanded disqualification of ruling PTI candidates from the election, the Dawn report said.

However, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, also a senior leader of the PTI, rejected the rigging allegations, the report added. — PTI

**Islamophobia in UK Labour Party ranks**

**LONDON, NOVEMBER 15**

Over a third of UK Muslim members of the Labour Party claim to have witnessed Islamophobia within its ranks, according to a report of the Labour Muslim Network.

It found 44% do not believe the party takes Islamophobia seriously and 48 per cent have lost confidence in the party's complaint structures. — PTI

**Israel all set to enlarge Jerusalem settlements**

**JERUSALEM, NOVEMBER 15**

Israel is moving forward on the construction of new homes for Jewish residents in a sensitive east Jerusalem neighbourhood, the country's Housing Ministry and a settlement watchdog group said on Sunday. Tenders for more than 1,200 new homes in the Givat Hamatos area of Jerusalem were opened on Sunday.

The settlement watchdog group Peace Now and other critics say construction there would seal off the Palestinian city of Bethlehem from east Jerusalem, further cutting off access for the Palestinians to the eastern sector of the city, which they claim as capital of their hoped-for state. — PTI

**Brace for 4-5 months of curbs: German minister**

**FRANKFURT, NOVEMBER 15**

Germans should brace for another 4-5 months of severe measures to halt the rise in Covid infections and should not expect the current rules to be eased quickly, Economy Minister Peter Altmaier has said.

"We're not out of the woods yet," Altmaier said referring to infection numbers.

Germany has imposed a set

of measures dubbed a "lockdown light" to rein in the second wave of the pandemic.

Meanwhile, Germany recorded 16,947 new cases, taking the tally to 7,90,503.

As many as 32,095 new cases surfaced in France where Catholics protested against curbs on Mass.

Russia reported 22,572 new cases, taking the tally to 19,25,825. — Agencies

**TRACKING VIRUS**

NATIONS	DEATHS
US	2,51,331
BRAZIL	1,65,696
MEXICO	98,259
UK	51,934
ITALY	45,229

WORLDMETER TILL NOV 15, 11 PM



People pray during an open air mass in Nantes, France. REUTERS

**INFOCUS AGRICULTURE****STUBBLE MANAGEMENT****Machines await optimum use**

**RUCHIKA M KHANNA**

**F**OR years, farmers of Punjab have been setting paddy stubble afire to prepare their fields for sowing the wheat crop. They agree that the plumes of smoke that arise from their fields are harmful to the environment as well as human health. They admit that restricted visibility caused by the smog leads to accidents. "But what can we do? This is the way things are and always have been," is the common rant one hears from farmers.

No wonder the efforts made by the state Agriculture Department to manage stubble scientifically — in situ and ex situ — have made little progress. It's not that the government's attempts are half-hearted, especially under the gaze of the National Green Tribunal and the Central Pollution Control Board. In the past three years, over 50,000 machines such as happy seeders, super seeders, paddy choppers/shredders, mulchers, reversible MB ploughs, super straw management systems, rotary slashers etc., meant for stubble management, have been distributed. This year, 23,500 more machines are to be provided, of which 17,000 have already been given. For ex situ stubble management, about 220 balers have been provided on subsidy. Some industrial projects using paddy straw as biofuel have been set up. Punjab has also started field trials of the Pusa bio decomposers, along with other similar equipment, though their commercial use will take time.

The menace persists in Punjab as political will to stop it is lacking. After all, the farming community is a major vote bank. As a result, stubble burning in the state is somewhat controlled only when the elections are away. The number of cases registered against farmers for burning stubble is a minuscule fraction of the incidents of farm fires reported by the Punjab Remote Sensing Centre. Against an environmental compensation of Rs 2.42 crore in 9,167 cases, only Rs 5.4 lakh has been recovered.

This year, the number of stubble burn-



This machine, a cross between a rotavator and a happy seeder, chops paddy straw and sows wheat.

Machine/equipment	Given to farmers, co-op societies etc.			
	Punjab	Haryana	UP*	Total
Straw Management System (SMS)	3,634	909	8	4,552
Happy seeder	9,758	2,376	24	12,158
Reversible MB plough	3,034	1,159	232	4,425
Shrub master/cutter-cum-spreader	86	216	14	316
Straw chopper/shredder/mulcher	4,486	1,581	96	6,163
Rotary slasher	484	265	11	760
Zero till drill	3,437	2,527	906	6,870
Rotavator	3,690	1,714	15,115	20,519
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,609</b>	<b>10,747</b>	<b>16,406</b>	<b>55,762</b>

\*UTTAR PRADESH'S DATA ONLY FOR MACHINERY SUPPLIED TO INDIVIDUAL FARMERS.  
SOURCE: UNION MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS' WELFARE (DATA FOR 2018-19)

says though farmers have bought or rented machines to manage stubble, the anger against the government forced them to burn stubble this year.

Last year, the Supreme Court had said that farmers be given compensation for scientific management of paddy stubble at the rate of Rs 2,500 per acre. "Most of the farmers did not get this compensation as it was stopped abruptly. Thus, they got demotivated and resumed stubble burning," says Talwinder Singh Gagron, state vice-president of BKU (Qadian).

Also, farmers are up in arms over the Centre's farm laws. Ranveer Singh, a Sangrur-based agriculture activist,

**Earning, not burning**

**PARVEEN ARORA**

**E**VEN as farm fires continue to rage across Haryana, some farmers in the state are profiting from the adoption of crop management systems either through custom-hiring centres (CHCs) or individually after purchasing subsidised machinery.

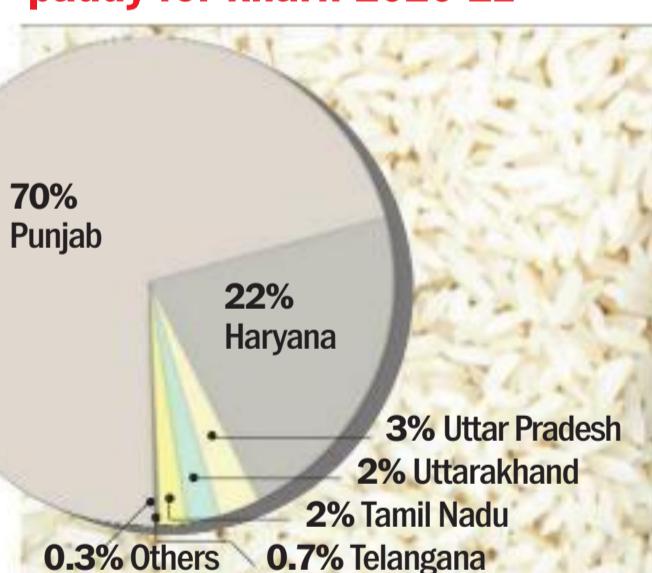
Virender Yadav (32), a progressive farmer of Faras Majra village in Kaithal district, manages crop residue with the help of a baler. "After spending four years in Australia, I returned to my country to do farming. As stubble burning was a major issue, I decided not to go that way and also to encourage other farmers," says Yadav, adding that he purchased a baler and a tractor for crop management.

"I charge Rs 500 per acre from farmers to clean their fields, which costs me around Rs 1,500 per acre. I sell the crop straw to industries, from which I get Rs 2,000-2,200 per acre," he adds. "The only major expense is on diesel as all these machines are tractor-mounted," he says.

He resents not receiving subsidy for two balers and one cutter at the right time from the government. "I have purchased two balers and a cutter for Rs 30.5 lakh in September, but I have not received the subsidy, which is around Rs 19.5 lakh so far. The government should provide subsidy in time if it wants to attract farmers towards stubble management," he observes.

Rajesh Kamboj, a farmer from Radaur in Yamunanagar who has set up a CHC, provides machines to farmers on rent for the management of crop waste. He says farmers can use mulchers and rotavators which mix the stubble with the soil before sowing wheat with a zero till drill machine.

A number of farmers are selling the crop residue at the collection centres set up in various villages by groups of farmers, who further sell the paddy straw and fodder to states like Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Delhi and also to gaushalas after making bundles and crushing the straw into

**Statewise procurement of paddy for kharif 2020-21**

dry fodder. This fodder is also used for livestock feed as well as in industries like cardboard, brick kiln and others. The farmers are getting Rs 2,500-3,000 per acre for paddy straw.

Dr Virender Lather, former Principal Scientist of Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) Karnal, advocates paddy straw collection for later use as dry fodder or bio-fuel in the industry.

"I have sent a representation to the President of India for the constitution of a national dry fodder board for procurement of paddy straw and to use it in drought-prone areas of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Karnataka. This way, the crop residue will be fully utilised without burning," he adds.

Karam Chand, Deputy Director, Agriculture (DDA), Kaithal, says there are several methods to manage rice straw. "Under in situ management of paddy straw, several machines, including happy seeders, straw choppers/mulchers, cutters etc. are being provided at 50-80 per cent subsidy to farmers. They can obtain these machines through CHCs or individually. Subsidy is given after physical verification of the machines," he says, adding that under the ex situ plan, farmers can take balers and cutters on subsidy.

Besides, various districts have made it mandatory to attach a straw management system (SMS) with combine harvesters to curb straw burning.

Send your feedback to letters@tribunemail.com

## SPORT

**Rohit 70% fit, so he's in only Test team: Ganguly**

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 15**  
The curious case of the injury of Rohit Sharma has taken an interesting turn. Sourav Ganguly, the Indian cricket board (BCCI) president, says that Sharma is "still 70 per cent" in terms of fitness, and that is the reason he's not part of India's ODI and T20I squads for the tour of Australia. In an interview with a newsmagazine, Ganguly has said: "Rohit is still 70 per cent (fit). Why don't you find out from Rohit himself? That is why he is still not picked for the ODIs and T20s Down Under. He has been added to the Test squad."

Ganguly added: "Certain things are confidential in a board... Don't need to tell everything, but things are going on."

Ganguly came up with this answer after being asked why Sharma continued to play on in the IPL despite his injury — after Ganguly himself had publicly talked about the gravity of the injury.

The three-match ODI series against Australia begins on November 27 and ends on December 2, and the three-match T20I series ends on December 8. The Test series begins on December 17. So, according to Ganguly, Sharma played in the final stages of the IPL despite a serious injury, due to which he may need more time to recuperate for his India assignment.

**How bad is his injury?**

Sharma came back to play for Mumbai Indians in the IPL merely a week after being dropped for the tour of Australia because of a hamstring injury. He went on to play a match-winning innings of 68 in the final of the IPL on November 10.

Sharma had sustained a hamstring injury in the match against Kings XI Punjab on October 18. He was not part of India's Test, ODI and T20 squads for the tour of Australia when they were announced on October 26.

On November 3, Ganguly said: "You don't want him to get injured again. He has a hamstring tear and it will get ruptured again. It will then take longer for him to come back. But yes, there are people working with him."

Yet, despite the serious injury, Sharma came back to play for Mumbai Indians against Sunrisers Hyderabad on November 3.

Ganguly's new comments suggest that Sharma prioritised Mumbai Indians over India. Ganguly's comment about the need for confidentiality in BCCI in a selection matter — which involved the Club vs Country conundrum — is curious. Why the secrecy?

## Hamilton equals Schumi's record with 7th title

**ISTANBUL, NOVEMBER 15**  
Britain's Lewis Hamilton choked back the tears as he won a record-equalling seventh Formula One world championship today and became the most successful driver in the sport's history. The Mercedes ace put on a masterclass in wet and slippery conditions to take a record-stretching 94th career win at a rollercoaster of a Turkish Grand Prix and secure the title with three races to spare.

Only Ferrari great Michael Schumacher has seven titles to his name, a number once thought unlikely ever to be matched, but most of the German's records have passed to Hamilton. —Reuters

## Johnson takes 4-shot lead after third round

**AUGUSTA (USA):** Dustin Johnson had one arm in the Green Jacket after charging to a four-shot lead with a near-perfect 7-under 65 in the third round at the Masters on Saturday. Johnson matched Jordan Spieth's record low Masters total for the first 54 holes — 16-under — while Im Sung-jae (68), Abraham Ancer (69) and Cameron Smith (69) were tied-2nd on 12-under. —REUTERS

FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2020						
In order to clear extra rush of passengers during ongoing Festival Season, Northern Railway has planned to run the following fully reserved Festival Special Trains as per the schedule given below:-						
LIST OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS ORIGINATING/TERMINATING IN NORTHERN RAILWAY						
Spl. Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Frequency / Day	Period
04998	Bathinda	20:50	Varanasi Junction	16:30	SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04997	Varanasi Junction	21:20	Bathinda	16:50	MON	Up to 30.11.20
04612	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	23:30	Varanasi Junction	23:35	SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04611	Varanasi Junction	06:35	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	06:50	TUE	Up to 01.12.20
04422	Anand Vihar Terminal	20:20	Lucknow	04:20	WED, FRI, SUN	22, 25, 27 & 29.11.20
04421	Lucknow	21:20	Anand Vihar Terminal	05:45	MON, THU, SAT	23, 26 & 28.11.20
04924	Chandigarh	23:15	Gorakhpur	16:00	THU	Up to 26.11.20
04923	Gorakhpur	22:10	Chandigarh	14:15	FRI	Up to 27.11.20
04090	Anand Vihar Terminal	16:55	Bhagalpur	11:00	MON, WED, FRI	Up to 30.11.20
04089	Bhagalpur	13:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:20	TUE, THU, SAT	Up to 01.12.20
04012	Anand Vihar Terminal	07:30	Jogbani	08:30	TUE, FRI	Up to 27.11.20
04011	Jogbani	20:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	21:00	WED, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
02237	Varanasi Junction	12:40	Jammu Tawi	11:05	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02238	Jammu Tawi	14:00	Varanasi Junction	12:30		Up to 01.12.20
02231	Lucknow	22:25	Chandigarh	10:05	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02232	Chandigarh	21:05	Lucknow	08:30		Up to 01.12.20
04092	New Delhi	09:20	Jaynagar	11:15	WED, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
04091	Jaynagar	15:30	New Delhi	19:30	THU, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04030	Delhi Junction	13:45	Muzaffarpur Junction	08:00	WED, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
04029	Muzaffarpur Junction	15:30	Delhi Junction	10:30	THU, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04624	Amritsar Junction	05:45	Saharsa Junction	10:30	WED, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
04623	Saharsa Junction	14:30	Amritsar Junction	19:45	THU, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04656	Firozpur Cantt	19:00	Patna Junction	21:25	FRI	Up to 27.11.20
04655	Patna Junction	23:25	Firozpur Cantt	23:55	SAT	Up to 28.11.20
04084	Delhi Junction	23:00	Katihar Junction	22:00	FRI	Up to 27.11.20
04083	Katihar Junction	23:50	Delhi Junction	22:50	SAT	Up to 28.11.20
04401	New Delhi	23:50	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	11:35	MON, THU	23, 26 & 30.11.20
04402	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	23:30	New Delhi	11:15	TUE, FRI	24, 27.11.20 & 01.12.20
04418	H. Nizamuddin	21:35	Pune	21:25	TUE	Up to 24.11.20
04417	Pune	05:15	H. Nizamuddin	05:35	THU	Up to 26.11.20
02422	Jammu Tawi	18:10	Ajmer Junction	12:20	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02421	Ajmer Junction	14:05	Jammu Tawi	08:15		Up to 01.12.20
04041	Delhi Junction	22:25	Dehradun	08:25	Daily	21.11.20 to 30.11.20
04042	Dehradun	21:20	Delhi Junction	07:25		22.11.20 to 01.12.20
02448	H. Nizamuddin	20:10	Manikpur Junction	08:45	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02447	Manikpur Junction	17:05	H. Nizamuddin	05:25		Up to 01.12.20
04515	Kalka	12:10	Shimla	17:20	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
04516	Shimla	10:40	Kalka	16:10		Up to 01.12.20
04854	Jodhpur Junction	09:10	Varanasi Junction	10:30	MON, THU, SAT	Up to 30.11.20
04853	Varanasi Junction	17:15	Jodhpur Junction	18:50	MON, WED, SAT	Up to 30.11.20
04864	Jodhpur Junction	09:10	Varanasi Junction	08:45	TUE, FRI, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
04863	Varanasi Junction	18:15	Jodhpur Junction	18:50	TUE, FRI, SUN	Up to 01.12.20
04866	Jodhpur Junction	09:10	Varanasi Junction	08:50	WED	Up to 25.11.20
04865	Varanasi Junction	18:15	Jodhpur Junction	18:50	THU	Up to 26.11.20
05115	Chhapra	11:15	Delhi Junction	11:20	SAT	Up to 28.11.20
05116	Delhi Junction	14:00	Chhapra	13:20	SUN	Up to 29.11.20
02581	Manduadih	22:30	New Delhi	12:15	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02582	New Delhi	22:35	Manduadih	11:10		Up to 01.12.20
06229	Mysore Junction	07:20	Varanasi Junction	12:00	TUE, THU	Up to 26.11.20
06230	Varanasi Junction	21:05	Mysore Junction	02:15	THU, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
07323	Hubballi Junction	17:50	Varanasi Junction	12:00	FRI	Up to 27.11.20
07324	Varanasi Junction	21:05	Hubballi Junction	13:00	SUN	Up to 29.11.20
02587	Gorakhpur	14:20	Jammu Tawi	13:10	MON	Up to 23.11.20
02588	Jammu Tawi	22:45	Gorakhpur	20:30	SAT	Up to 28.11.20
05097	Bhagalpur	14:30	Jammu Tawi	06:00	THU	Up to 26.11.20
05098	Jammu Tawi	08:00	Bhagalpur	22:55	TUE	Up to 24.11.20
05251	Darbhanga Junction	03:25	Jalandhar City	05:10	SAT	Up to 28.11.20
05252	Jalandhar City	09:50	Darbhanga Junction	11:35	SUN	Up to 29.11.20
02397	Gaya	14:15	New Delhi	04:30	Daily	Up to 30.11.20
02398	New Delhi	12:10	Gaya	03:20		Up to 01.12.20
03255	Patliputra	20:35	Chandigarh	17:35	WED, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
03256	Chandigarh	21:30	Patliputra	18:50	MON, THU	Up to 30.11.20
02355	Patna Junction	07:25	Jammu Tawi	10:37	TUE, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
02356	Jammu Tawi	17:45	Patna Junction	20:55	WED, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
02595	Gorakhpur	20:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	08:50	MON, TUE, THU	Up to 30.11.20
02596	Anand Vihar Terminal	20:00	Gorakhpur	07:50	TUE, WED, FRI	Up to 01.12.20
02331	Howrah Junction	23:55	Jammu Tawi	13:10	TUE, FRI, SAT	Up to 28.11.20
02332	Jammu Tawi	22:45	Howrah Junction	11:30	MON, THU, SUN	Up to 30.11.20
02819	Bhubaneswar	15:40	Anand Vihar Terminal	20:50	WED, SUN	Up to 29.11.20
02820	Anand Vihar Terminal	07:05	Bhubaneswar	12:20	TUE, FRI	Up to 27.11.20
02549	Kamakhya	10:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	19:20		Up to 30.11.20
02550	Anand Vihar Terminal	06:45	Kamakhya	16:35	Daily	Up to 02.12.20
02530	Lucknow Jn	05:00	Patliputra Junction	14:50	Except SUN, THU	Up to 30.11.20
02529	Patliputra Junction	15:50	Lucknow Jn	02:35	Except SUN, THU	Up to 30.11.20
02033	Kanpur Central	06:00	New Delhi	11:20</		

# 15 Asia-Pacific nations sign trade agreement sans India

Jaishankar warns ASEAN of security perils as it inks pact with China

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

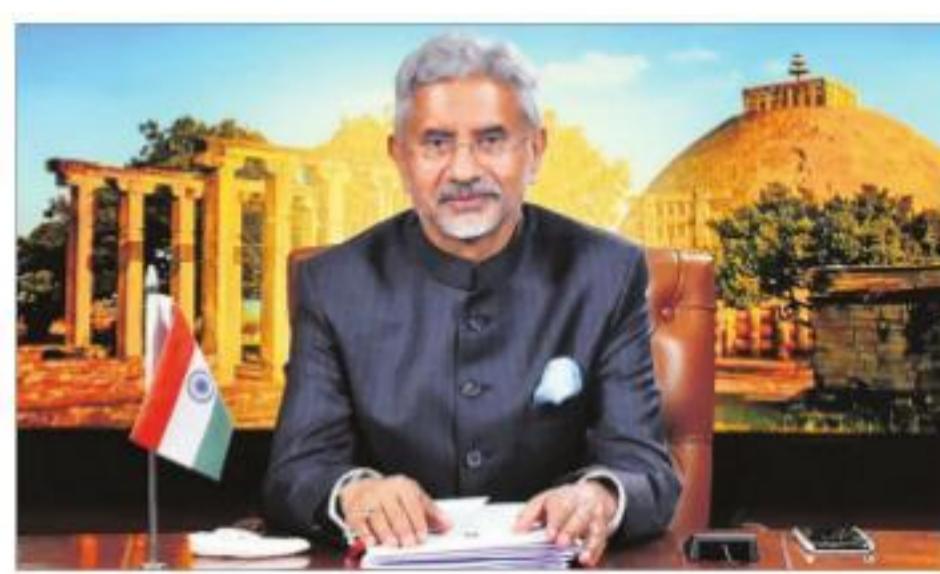
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 15

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar sounded the alarm about Chinese expansionism a day before the 10-nation ASEAN signed a free trade pact with China and four other countries while India stayed away.

Jaishankar participated for India at the East Asia Summit, the main ASEAN event where it coordinates policy with six regional partners and two extra-regional players, the US and Russia.

The impact of not signing the RCEP has hung heavy and the Indian side sought to suggest that ASEAN has kept a window open for negotiations. But an ASEAN statement a couple of months back had turned down India's suggestion to start talks right away.

Speaking at the summit being held in virtual mode, Jaishankar expressed concern about actions and incidents in the South China Sea that erode trust in the region. He also said the Code of Conduct negotiations on the South China Sea should not be prejudicial to legitimate interests of third



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar at the 15th East Asia Summit. PTI

## DELHI CAN JOIN WHENEVER IT WANTS

- The pact will create Asia's largest free-trade zone and will be Japan's first FTA framework with China
- Other countries will be barred from joining the RCEP for some time, but India will be allowed to participate whenever it chooses to do so

parties and should be fully consistent with UNCLOS.

Jaishankar also underlined the need for greater international cooperation in the post-Covid world to tackle the challenges cutting across national boundaries such as terrorism, climate change and pandemic, stated a Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) news release.

The East Asia summit consists of 10 ASEAN plus eight countries in three rungs —

China, Japan and South Korea; India, New Zealand and Australia; and the US and Russia. The Regional Economic Cooperation Partnership (RCEP) was signed on Sunday by all regional players minus India. The US and Russia were not invited.

The pact will create Asia's largest free trade zone and will be Japan's first FTA framework with China. Other countries will be barred from joining the RCEP for

some time, but India will be allowed to participate whenever it chooses to do so.

Like Jaishankar, US officials reaffirmed their support for a free and open Indo-Pacific, while they underlined their latest Indo-Japan economic initiative with five ASEAN members in India's periphery — Cambodia, Lao, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

Japanese PM Yoshihide Suga stressed on the partnership with these five countries on the lower banks of the Mekong river.

The summit was chaired by Vietnamese PM Nguyen Xuan Phuc in his capacity as ASEAN Chair.

The summit discussed ways to strengthen the EAS platform and to make it more responsive to emerging challenges. Issues such as the South China Sea, situation in Korean peninsula and Rakhine state were discussed. Besides the Ha Noi Declaration, the summit also adopted four other leaders' statements on marine sustainability, epidemics prevention and response; women, peace and security and steady growth of regional economy, stated the MEA release.

## Assam well fire doused after over 5 months

GUWAHATI/TINSUKIA, NOV 15

The damaged gas well at Baghjan in Assam was successfully "killed" and the blaze was fully doused on Sunday after over five months of a blowout, Oil India said.

The worst industrial disaster of the northeast took away the lives of three employees of the PSUs major and injured several others. The process to control the well by joint efforts of multiple teams, including foreign experts, also faced a series of setbacks.

"The well has been killed with brine solution and under control now," Oil India Ltd spokesperson Tridiv Hazarika said. "There is no pressure in the well now and it will be under observation over the next 24 hours to check if there is any amount of gas migration and pressure build-up," he added.

"Further operation to abandon the well is in progress," Hazarika said, adding that experts from Singaporean firm Alert Disaster Control were actively engaged in the final operation to control the well. — PTI

## 160 tonnes of biomedical waste generated during Bihar elections

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 15

As the dust settled after completion of the Bihar Assembly elections, the state poll machinery is involved overtime to ensure disposal of nearly 160 tonnes of biomedical waste in the form of gloves, face masks and empty sanitiser bottles used by polling personnel and voters in view of the Covid-19 protocol.

"To ensure voters' safety, polling staff and security personnel in the first-ever polls held amid the pandemic, the Election Commission had procured 18 lakh face shields, 70 lakh face masks, 5.4 lakh single use rubber gloves for polling and security personnel and 7.21 crore

"one hand" single use polythene gloves for voters to press the EVM button and sign the register at the polling stations. It had also bought a total of 29 lakh hand sanitiser bottles of 100 ml and 500 ml.



Election officials at a counting centre in Patna. FILE PHOTO

### THE POLL PANEL PROCURED...

18L	70L	5.4L	7.21CR	29L
FACE SHIELDS	FACE MASKS	SINGLE USE RUBBER GLOVES	POLYTHENE GLOVES	SANITISER BOTTLES

was generated. All districts have its biomedical waste disposal agency, they said, adding that the challenge is the agency lifts the waste from health centres and hospitals, but not from polling stations and in view of this, waste workers have been appointed to deal with it.

According to the guidelines issued by the ECI, the poll authorities in Bihar were mandated to sanitise the polling stations a day before election and three times on the day of the election.

Officials in the state election body said roughly 160 tonnes of biomedical waste

## Maha shrines reopen today



An employee, wearing a PPE kit, sanitises the premises of a temple in Mumbai on Sunday. PTI

■ Places of religious worship in Maharashtra will reopen from Monday. As per SOPs, devotees will be allowed inside religious places in a staggered manner.

■ Only asymptomatic persons will be allowed and wearing of face masks will be mandatory. Touching of statues, holy books and idols not allowed.

■ Only recorded devotional music can be played and choir or singing groups will not be allowed. There'll be no physical offering of 'prasad' and distribution of holy water. PTI

## C'garhwoman judge found dead at home

MUNGELI (C'GARH), NOV 15

In a suspected suicide case, a 55-year-old woman judge's body was found hanging at her official residence in Chhattisgarh's Mungeli district on Sunday. Mungeli District and Sessions Judge Kantha Martin's body was found hanging from a fan with a saree inside a room, SP Arvind Kujur said.

As per preliminary information, after having food on Saturday, the judge asked her staff to leave the house. "When the cook came on Sunday, he found the door locked from inside. He saw from the window that the judge's body was hanging," Kujur said. According to her staff, she was apparently under depression following her husband's death last year — PTI

Sources in the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGII) said during raids at multiple locations across the country in the past one week, including Delhi, Ludhiana, Gurugram, Mumbai, Nagpur,

Dept registers 350 cases against 1,180 entities; new registration process being tightened

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 15

In a nationwide drive against Goods & Services Tax (GST) fake invoice, its intelligence and investigation wing DGII has arrested 25 persons, including Sunil Gutte, son of sugar baron MLA in Maharashtra Ratnakan Gutte and two chartered accountants.

Sources in the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGII) said during raids at multiple locations across the country in the past one week, including Delhi, Ludhiana, Gurugram, Mumbai, Nagpur,

Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata and Ahmedabad, the agency and also the beneficiaries, who used the fake invoices to evade GST and income tax.

In the wake of fake invoices and hawala racket and their damaging impact on the stability of the economy, the procedure for new GST registration was also being tightened, the sources said.

They said the DGII had registered nearly 350 cases for issuing fake invoices against 1,180 entities and search and investigations are on to apprehend others involved in the

Income Tax Act and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, issuers of fake invoices as well as beneficiaries of such invoices can be detained under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities (COFEPOSA) Act," the source said.

The DGII Mumbai Zone arrested Sunil Gutte, Managing Director of Sunil Hi-tech, along with his business associate Vijendra Ranka, the two kingpins of fake invoice scams totalling Rs 520 crore of ITC in Maharashtra.

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3. Request Token  
4. Upload health records, if any  
5. Receive Patient ID & Token through SMS

**Waiting Room**

1. Enter waiting room  
2. 'CALL NOW' button will get activated in sometime  
3. Initiate VIDEO CALL

**Login**

1. Wait for SMS notification to login  
2. Login with Patient ID

**Consultation**

1. Doctor will show up  
2. Consult Doctor  
3. Get instant ePrescription



RIL acquires 96% stake in Urban Ladder for ₹182 cr

**Woman dies after acid attack, boyfriend held**

AURANGABAD, NOVEMBER 15

A woman has died after her boyfriend allegedly threw acid on her and tried to set her ablaze in Maharashtra's Beed district, a police official said on Sunday. State Home Minister Anil Deshmukh tweeted, "The accused has been arrested and directions have been issued to try the case in a fast track court."

A police official said the accused, identified as Avinash Rajure (25), has been nabbed in Nanded. The incident took place on Saturday, the police official said, adding that the reason behind the attack was not yet known.

The woman, hailing from Shelgaon in Nanded district, was travelling from Pune to her native place along with the accused, he said. They took a halt at a lonely spot at Yalambar Ghat in Beed where the accused allegedly attacked the woman with acid and later tried to set her on fire by dousing her in petrol, another police official in Beed said. The accused then fled from the spot, he said. The woman was taken to a hospital where she died. — PTI

Besides, RIL has proposed to make a further investment of up to Rs 75 crore in Urban Ladder. This acquisition will help RIL in bolstering its presence in the fast-growing e-commerce segment and widening the bouquet of consumer products provided by it as it looks to compete with Amazon and Flipkart. — PTI

Printed and published by Rajesh Ramachandran for The Tribune Trust

Printed at The Tribune Press, Sector 29-C, Chandigarh.

Published at The Tribune, Sector 29-C, Chandigarh.

RNI No. 15/57.

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Telephones: 0172-2655066-72

Circulation: 0172-2670419, Advertisement: 0172-2670256, 257

Editor: Rajesh Ramachandran\*

\*Editor for purpose of PRB Act, 1867

epaper.tribuneindia.com