

Initial findings hint at LeT role in drone attack

Another strike thwarted, troops fire at 2 drones in Jammu's Ratnuchak-Kaluchak area

MUKESH RANJAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 28 Intelligence and investigative agencies today said the preliminary probe into the drone attack at the Indian Air Force (IAF) station in Jammu yesterday indicated the role of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) and the use of highly sophisticated explosive RDX, which also pointed towards likely involvement of Pakistan's state actors in the blast.


Sources said two bombs, weighing over 2 kg each, were dropped from a height of about 100-150 m and activated by "impact charge". The attack appeared to be closely linked with the recovery of a 6-kg IED by the Jammu police from an LeT operative that led

INVOLVEMENT OF PAK STATE ACTORS LIKELY

- Use of highly sophisticated explosive RDX points towards likely involvement of Pakistan's state actors
- Two bombs (over 2 kg each) were dropped from a height of about 100-150 m and activated by 'impact charge'
- The attack appeared to be closely linked with the recovery of a 6-kg IED from an LeT operative recently
- Over 300 drones have been sighted along the country's western frontier with Pakistan since August 5, 2019

to detention of at least three terror suspects, they added.

The agencies did not rule out the possibility of the



Security men rescue civilians during an encounter in Srinagar on Monday. Two CRPF men were hurt in the gunfight. PTI

TOP LeT MILITANT HELD

Jammu: Nadeem Abrar, LeT commander involved in several killings, was arrested on Monday. "Big success for us," tweeted Kashmir zone IGP Vijay Kumar. A pistol and a grenade were seized from him. TNS

AGNI PRIME TEST-FIRED

Balasore (Odisha): India on Monday successfully test-fired its new generation nuclear-capable Agni Prime missile from a defence base off Odisha coast, an official statement by the DRDO said.

I have full faith in the Army. It has the ability to give a befitting reply to aggressors. DEFENCE MINISTER

drone having originated from the Indian side of border, but claimed these might have been activated by terrorists who infiltrated from Pakistan, sources added.

Meanwhile, a fresh attempt to attack a military installation with the help of drones was foiled by alert Army

₹1.1L cr loan guarantee plan for Covid-hit sectors

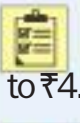

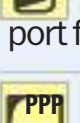


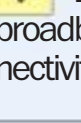
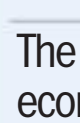
SECOND WAVE ₹50,000 cr for health infrastructure

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 28 Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday announced eight measures, six of them new, pertaining to growth, exports, health and employees aimed at ameliorating the distress caused by the second wave of the Covid pandemic as well as to gear up to counter a possible third wave.


The government estimates the package to amount to Rs 6.29 lakh crore, but it also includes earlier announced schemes such as the extension of the free foodgrain scheme, which alone will cost the exchequer over Rs 93,000 crore.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY MEASURES

 ECLGS scheme limit raised by ₹1.5 lakh crore to ₹4.5 lakh crore	 insurance cover Additional ₹23,220 cr funding for paediatric facilities in hospitals
 Free visas to 5 lakh tourists, financial support for tourism sector	 ₹93,869 cr allocated this year for free food-grain scheme
 New policy on arvil to fast-track clearances for PPP proposals	 ₹19,000 cr more for BharatNet for rural broadband connectivity
 Govt to infuse equity in ECGC to boost export	

PM: WILL BOOST PRODUCTION

The measures would help stimulate economic activities, boost production & exports and generate employment, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said.



Forces had opposed relaxing norms for civilian drones at meet last week

AJAY BANERJEE
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 28 Days before the drone attack on the Jammu air base, top officials in the armed forces and the Home Ministry had objected to any further opening up of the skies for civilian drone operations.

The use of drones by civil-

Home Ministry too objected to any further opening up of skies

ian operators came up for discussion last week during a meeting on Unmanned Aircraft System Rules, which came into effect on March 12.

The rules allow flying of drones under certain conditions. There are 34 green zones in which drone operations are permitted after intimation about the time and location of flight.

"Yellow zones" require permission to operate drones, but "red zones" are no go

2 JeM militants behind killing of cop, his family

SRINAGAR, JUNE 28 Two Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) militants, including a foreigner, were involved in the killing of Special Police Officer (SPO) Fayaz Ahmad, his wife and daughter in Pulwama district.

Kashmir IGP Vijay Kumar said the SPO's wife and daughter tried to save him but

they were also fired upon by the militants. "There is a movement of militants in this area. Two terrorists came last night, one of them from appearance seems to be an FT (foreign terrorist)," said Kumar, who visited the SPO's family. He assured that the militants involved in the act would be neutralised soon. — PTI

Gupkar puts off meet as Mufti cites unavailability

ADITI TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 28 The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration, an amalgam of six mainstream Jammu and Kashmir parties, today postponed a meeting it had scheduled for tomorrow to discuss the outcome of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's June 24 outreach on the region.

The meeting was postponed after PAGD vice-chairperson Mehbooba Mufti cited her inability to attend the

Tarigami denies rift

conference on Tuesday due to personal reasons.

The development has further fanned speculation of the simmering tension within the PAGD on the stand principal constituents ended up taking on issues concerning the state at the meeting chaired by the PM.

Even after the June 24 meeting, PAGD leaders did

Serum applies for EU nod to Covishield

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 28 The Serum Institute of India (SII) on Monday applied to the European Union's regulatory body for the inclusion of Covishield on the list of jabs approved for the green pass vaccine passport programme that will allow inoculated people visit EU nations.

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) said the matter would be considered when an application is received for it.

CEO Adar Poonawalla said, "I realise that a lot of Indians



People at a mobile vaccination centre in Bengal's Nadia district. PTI

INDIA OVERTAKES US IN VAX DOSE DELIVERY

India on Monday overtook the US in the cumulative vaccine dose delivery, having administered 32.36 crore doses against 32.33 crore in the US.

46,148 FRESH CASES
TOTAL DEATHS 3,96,730
ACTIVE CASES 5,72,994
979 DEATHS IN 24 HOURS

50% victims in Haryana had no comorbidities

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 28 More than 50 per cent of patients who died in Haryana during the second wave of the pandemic did not have any comorbidities. As per the Health Department, as many as 5,598 persons died between April 27 and June 27. Of them, 2,819 or 50.38 per cent did not have any underlying disease.

The share of multiple comorbidities among Covid victims, which was 46 per cent of total fatalities till April 26, came down to 29 per cent in the second wave. **INSIDE**

Suspect in Red Fort violence case arrested

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police on Monday said its Special Cell had arrested Gurjot Singh, who was wanted in the Red Fort violence case, from Amritsar in Punjab. — TNS

Monsoon sluggish, expect rain next wk

NEW DELHI: Prevailing meteorological conditions suggest that southwest monsoon is unlikely to advance in the northwest regions in the next seven days, the IMD said on Monday. **BACK PAGE**

Twitter shows J-K, Ladakh outside India, rescinds

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 28 For the second time in eight months, US-headquartered social media giant Twitter has shown a wrong map of India, this time depicting Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh as a "separate country".

In October last year, a senior journalist had pointed out that geo-tagging from locations in Leh were shown in People's Republic of China.

The latest distortion appears on the career section of Twitter website under the header "Tweep Life". The map was later removed.

The distorted map has triggered angry responses, with netizens demanding action against Twitter.

The government is seized of the matter and may take action. Already, the micro-blogging site is under fire over the non-compliance of new IT rules despite repeated reminders. Twitter and the government have been at loggerheads on multiple instances in the past few months. In November last

NAMES US CITIZEN AS GRIEVANCE OFFICER

Twitter has named California-based Jeremy Kessel as India's grievance redressal officer. The appointment violates new IT rules, which state key officers to be Indians.

TWITTER INDIA MD FILES CAVEAT IN SC

Fearing that the Ghaziabad Police would challenge the Karnataka HC order protecting him from arrest in a viral video case, Twitter India MD Manish Maheshwari has filed a caveat in the SC.

DELHI HC WON'T STAY NEW IT RULES


The Delhi HC has refused to stay new IT rules, saying it is not in agreement with the petitioners on passing such an order at this stage.

Sidhu to meet Rahul, Priyanka today

RAJMEET SINGH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 28 Former Punjab minister Navjot Singh Sidhu will meet senior Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in New Delhi on Tuesday. Sidhu's office confirmed the meeting.

The Gandhis are expected to discuss with Sidhu the emerging scenario in Punjab in the run-up to the 2022 Assembly elections. Sources did not rule out discussions regarding the role to be assigned to Sidhu to end factionalism within the Punjab Congress. The biggest challenge before the leadership is



to bring Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh and Sidhu on the same page.

The high command has already asked the CM to deliver on 18 promises made by the Congress in its 2017 poll manifesto. Reports suggest that given the CM camp's opposition to Sidhu being elevated as Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee (PPCC) president, the leadership will have to take some tough decisions. "It all depends on whether the high command opts for minor changes or a major overhaul of the PPCC," a senior leader observed. The Chief Minister during his last meeting with the AICC panel is learnt to have put forth two proposals to placate Sidhu. Sources said the party leadership may summon the CM again before taking the final decision.

The panel, led by Congress veteran Mallikarjun Kharge, had earlier proposed suitable rehabilitation of Sidhu while continuing with CM Amarinder Singh at the helm, with greater accountability of governance structures in the state.

Pick-up van falls into gorge, 10 killed in Sirmaur district

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SOLAN, JUNE 28 Ten members of a marriage party, including a 12-year-old boy, were killed and two injured when a pick-up van they were travelling in fell into a 250-foot-deep gorge in Shillai subdivision of Sirmaur district on Monday evening.

The marriage party was returning from Chareyu village to Bateudi when the driver lost control of the vehicle near Pashog village and the vehicle plunged into the gorge. Most of the



The accident site in Sirmaur.

victims were young. Paonta Sahib DSP Bir Bahadur, who rushed to the spot on receiving the information, said the cause of the accident was yet to be

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Despite protection, kin of Sonepat youth fear for life

MUKESH TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SONEPAT, JUNE 28 The streets of Gopalpur, which was shook by the death of a village youth in a case of honour killing, continue to wear a deserted look. No one talks about the incident even as a PCR van keeps patrolling the area.

The family members of



Om Prakash, victim's father

HONOUR KILLING

- Vinay of Gopalpur was shot allegedly by family members of his wife on June 24
- Victim's father says they fear for their life as none of the accused has been arrested

Om Prakash, victim's father, said a panchayat was held after his son married Kiran of the same village and gotra. The panchayat had banned the couple's entry into the village. "Even we had to break our relationship with them," he said.

None of the accused has been arrested even five days after the incident. "The

police have deputed a gunman with us, but till the accused are not arrested, we cannot feel secure," Om Prakash said, adding that it was ironical that he had to cross the accused's house every day on his way to work.

ASI Jagdish Kumar said they were regularly patrolling the area even as there was no tension in the village.

Now, friction in Cong over SAD leader's illegal mining charge

Warring, Manpreet's brother-in law take potshots

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, JUNE 28

With the Assembly polls slated next year, the infighting in the Punjab Congress is getting murkier by the day. Now, Congress MLA from Gidderbaha Amarinder Singh Raja Warring has tweeted a video of SAD ex-MLA Sarup Chand Singla in which he is alleging illegal sand mining on the Guru Nanak Dev Thermal Plant land by Finance Minister Manpreet Badal and his brother-in-law Jaijeet Singh Johal, alias Jojo.

Warring has also tagged CM Capt Amarinder Singh in it and demanded a thorough probe into the matter. Later, even Congress MP from Ludhiana Ravneet Bittu retweeted Warring's tweets.

This is happening at a time when the Congress high command in New Delhi is holding regular meetings to resolve the infighting and put up a united front ahead of the Assembly polls in 2022.

On Sunday, SAD leader Sarup Chand Singla did a live session and showed trucks being loaded in the area. Singla had accused Manpreet and Johal of being involved in the illegal

SIT TO PROBE MATTER, FM DENIES ALLEGATION

■ Acting on the complaint of SAD ex-MLA Sarup Chand Singla, Bathinda SSP Bhupinderjeet Singh Virk on Monday constituted a three-member SIT, comprising the SP (City), DSP and thermal plant police station SHO, to probe the matter

■ Singla on Sunday aired a

video showing alleged illegal sand mining on Guru Nanak Dev Thermal Plant land and accused Finance Minister Manpreet Badal and his brother-in-law Jaijeet Singh Johal for it

■ The Finance Minister's office, however, refuted the allegations levelled by the SAD leader



sand mining. Singla also accused truck drivers of attacking him while he was shooting the video.

Posting the video of SAD leader, Warring also tweeted: "Capt Amarinder ji, please take action against the people who are responsible. These are the people who are pulling the Congress down."

After some time, even Johal posted an old video pertaining to Faridkot murder case linked with Warring's brother-in-law Dimpy Vinayak and asked Capt Amarinder Singh to conduct a thorough probe into this murder case.

In February this year, a Faridkot-based contractor Naresh Kataria had killed his two children and wife before shooting himself. Kataria's suicide note had accused Vinayak of forcing him to

take this step. An inquiry into this case is going on.

Manpreet's office, however, refuted the allegations levelled by Singla. Senior Deputy Mayor Ashok Kumar and Bhatinda Improvement Trust Chairman KK Aggarwal said Singla was trying to mislead people by making allegations as he didn't know the difference between sand and fly ash.

However, party sources claimed rivalry between Manpreet and Warring was not new. In the 2012 Assembly polls, Warring defeated Manpreet, who then contested on PPP ticket from Gidderbaha. Later, Warring lost from the Bathinda urban constituency represented by Manpreet against SAD Harimrat Kaur Badal in the General Elections in 2019.

Ropar unit leaders revolt against 'outsider' Dhillon

ROPAR, JUNE 28

Terming Brinder Singh Dhillon an "outsider", a large number of local Congress leaders have revolted against the state Youth Congress president, who unsuccessfully contested the election from the Ropar Assembly seat in 2017.

The rebels, led by PPCC general secretary and Ropar Improvement Trust chairman Sukhwinder Singh Whisky, met here today and said the Congress lost the last Assembly election as the party ticket was allocated to an outsider.

Say party lost seat by 24K votes in last poll

When Dhillon was nominated as the party candidate for the Ropar seat in 2017, a majority of Congress leaders from the district had tendered their resignations, saying the party high command had "favoured an outsider".

Brushing aside rebels' claims of him being an outsider, Dhillon said Anandpur Sahib was his birthplace, where he started his schooling. The family had to leave the town after his father's transfer. — TNS



Doctors protest in front of Finance Minister Manpreet Badal's office in Bathinda on Monday. PAWAN SHARMA

Govt-doc talks fail, strike on

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 28

With the talks between doctors and the government failing to yield any results, the former have announced to intensify the protest.

As part of their call for strike, the doctors earlier paralysed the OPD services in various hospitals. The doctors are protesting against the Sixth Pay Commission's recommendation on de-linking of the NPA with basic pay.

The call of strike has been given by the Joint Punjab Government Doctors' Coordination Committee, which has members, including Punjab Civil Medical Services' Association and Punjab State Veterinary Officers' Association, Punjab Medical Teachers' Association, Rural Medical Officers' Association, Punjab

STATE-LEVEL STIR IN BATHINDA ON JULY 11

Bathinda: Various government employees' unions on Monday announced a state-level protest in Bathinda on July 11 over the non-fulfillment of promises made to them.

Dental Medical Officers' Association and Punjab Ayurveda Officers' Association. Earlier, the government invited the doctors for negotiations to resolve the issue. Principal Secretary Health Hussan Lal said the government was reviewing the recommendation and requested the doctors to end their strike and join the work but the Joint Punjab Government Doctors' Coordination Com-

mittee refused to accept any assurance less than a meeting with a full committee constituted by the Chief Minister.

In the afternoon, another session of negotiations was held. The government was represented by Principal Secretary (Finance) KAP Sinha but that too remained inconclusive.

After the meeting, the association held a press conference at Convention Centre, Dr Gagandeep Singh President of the PCMS Association alleged the government wanted to destroy the public healthcare system by making the government job for doctors less lucrative. He said in the coming days they would intensify their agitation and the government was responsible for suffering of the common public. — TNS

OPDs closed in Bathinda, patients suffer

BATHINDA, JUNE 28

Members of the Joint Punjab Government Doctors' Coordination Committee observed a pen-down strike and suspended OPD services at the government hospitals in protest against the 6th Pay Commission recommendations.

Doctors also staged a protest at the Civil Hospital and later took out a march to the Finance Minister's office on Goniara Road, where they submitted a memorandum of demands. Meanwhile, patients visiting from distant villages were at the receiving end, many of whom had to return without being examined.

Docs submit demands' charter to Cong leader

Dr Gurmail Singh, president, Punjab Civil Medical Services Association (PCMSA), said, "With the 6th Pay Commission recommendations in place our income has decreased instead of increasing." Since the Finance Minister was not available, Bathinda Congress president (Urban) Arun Wadhawan received the memorandum on his behalf and assured the doctors that he would convey their demands to the government. In Faridkot too, doctors at Guru Gobind Singh Medical College and Hospital in Faridkot observed a daylong strike and blamed the government for the misery of patients. — TNS



PRTC and Punbus contractual workers in Bathinda. PAWAN SHARMA

Roadways contract workers begin stir

BATHINDA, JUNE 28

Members of the Punjab Roadways' Union and the PRTC Contract Workers' Union started a three-day strike in Bathinda on Monday.

The protesting union members suspended work for four hours and raised slogans against the state government, demanding regularisation of services.

Gursikander Singh, union president, said, "Protests and representations submitted to the authorities for the long-pending demands on numerous occasions have failed to wake up the state government from its deep slumber. So now we have decided to launch an indefinite stir, which will continue until the government relents and fulfils our demands. For now we have decided to hold a three-day strike. Also, a state-level protest rally will be taken out tomorrow followed by a march towards Moti Mehal in Patiala."

He said, "Before forming the government in the state, Chief Minister Capt

To hold state-level rally, march in Patiala

Amarinder Singh had promised that the services of contractual and outsourced employees of different state departments will be regularised. He had also promised 'Ghar Ghar Naukri' and end of transport mafia but nothing has been done on the ground. There is huge resentment among the transport sector workers as many of them have been rendering their services for the past over 15 years without being regularised. Now if the government representatives keep cancelling meetings to listen and address issues of its employees then it can reflect poorly in the upcoming elections."

Meanwhile, passengers had to bear the brunt of the strike as a majority of the government-run buses did not ply on roads and they had to wait for hours for private ones to reach their destinations. — TNS

YAD activists gherao ex-IG's residence

Accuse him of patronising drug suspect | AAP calls charge baseless

AMRITSAR, JUNE 28

Activists of the Youth Akali Dal today gheraoed the residence of former IG and newly inducted AAP leader Kunwar Vijay Pratap Singh here.

They accused Kunwar of patronising key suspect in the Rs 15 crore medical drug scam and AAP Amritsar West constituency in charge Rajiv Bhagat, who is at large. They demanded registration of a case and an inquiry marked to the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) or the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

During the march, the activists broke through the police barricading and staged a demonstration in front of the former SP's residence before courting arrest.

While Kunwar could not be contacted for comment, a district AAP leader termed the allegations baseless. AAP state joint secretary Ashok



YAD workers break through barricades outside ex-IG Kunwar Vijay Pratap Singh's Amritsar house. VISHAL KUMAR

Talwar and urban president Parminder Singh Sethi claimed Kunwar investigated the desecration and firing incidents of Kotkapura and pointed out the conspirators and culprits in his report.

"Kunwar had to face the adversity in the existing gov-

erning system for being true to the facts. That's why he chose to resign. The Akalis and Congress were two sides of the same coin and stood exposed," they said. YAD leaders Gurpartap Singh Tikka, Jodh Singh Samra, Gurinderpal Singh Lalli, Gaurav Valto-

ha, Rana Ranbir Singh Lopoke, Sandeep Singh AR, Harjit Singh Mianwind and Sarabjit Singh, however, alleged the police were yet to take action even after it was revealed that Bhagat used a police vehicle to transport drugs from one place to another. — TNS

Bittu apologises for 'pious' seat remark

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 28

Ludhiana MP Ravneet Singh Bittu today tendered an unconditional apology before the Punjab State Commission for Scheduled Castes over his recent "pious" seat remark.

Stating this here, commission chairperson Tejinder Kaur said in a written explanation, Bittu said his intention was not to insult anyone and if his statement had hurt anyone's feelings, he offered unconditional apology.



Protest over regular jobs for safai workers

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, JUNE 28

The AAP today staged a protest outside the residence of Congress MLA Raj Kumar Verka for allegedly misleading sanitation workers over regularisation of jobs. The protesters also burnt his effigy.

Leader of Opposition in Assembly Harpal Singh Cheema, who led the protesters, said the Congress government had been trying to mislead safai workers on jobs.

A few days ago, Verka had met CM Capt Amarinder Singh and announced regularisation of sanitation workers services. Cheema said the



AAP workers outside MLA Raj Kumar Verka's residence in Amritsar.

government had neither come up with any such policy nor had the issue been consid-

ered in the Cabinet. Cheema said Verka should apologise to sanitation workers for playing

with their sentiments. The LoP said in the coming days, the AAP would expose false promises made by the Congress government to the people. "The CM had made tall promises to different sections of society, but none had been fulfilled so far," he said.

Party's state joint secretary Ashok Talwar, joint secretary Baljit Singh Khaira, Amritsar urban president Parminder Singh Sethi, rural president Harwant Singh, Shamsher Singh, Tina Chaudhary, Dr Inderbir Singh Nijjar, SC wing general secretary Ravinder Hans and district women wing president Sukhbir Kaur were also present.

Raise age bar on general category jobs, urges MLA

ABOHAH, JUNE 28

With the unemployment rate rising further due to the Covid-19 situation, the number of job aspirants belonging to the general category in the state has also gone up. Therefore, their upper age limit for recruitment to government posts needed to be increased on a par with job seekers of reserved categories, BJP MLA Arun Narang said.

Asks Capt, PM Modi to do needful

In a letter sent to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh, Narang said states like Goa, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and others have increased the upper age limit for general candidates in the range of 40 to 45 years to apply for the government jobs, it had not been revised in Punjab.

He said the recruitment for several posts had been pending for long. Many aspirants belonging to economically poor families might lose their chance to appear for the recruitment test due to the existing age bar. — OC

Bajwa's re-entry into state politics on cards

RAVI DHALIWAL

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATALA (GURDASPUR), JUNE 28

Posters of Rajya Sabha MP and former PPCC chief Partap Singh Bajwa have appeared in various parts of Batala and adjoining towns, indicating he is all set to test the electoral waters from the Assembly seat.

Even his detractors admit they will have a fight at hand because the MP carries an impressive CV. On his part, he has already

RS TERM ENDS NEXT YEAR, BATALA HIS BEST BET

■ MP Partap Singh Bajwa is anxious to return to Punjab as his RS term ends in April next year

■ Fateh Jung Bajwa is not keen on giving away his Qadian seat to his elder sibling, say sources

■ With remaining sitting legislators being certain



to be re-nominated, Batala seat remains his best bet

started touring the area.

There are rumours three-term former MLA Ashwani Sekhri may leave the Con-

gress. If this happens, Bajwa will have a smooth sailing as whatever opposition he had will be over.

Cabinet minister and Fatehgarh Churian MLA Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa is also eyeing this seat as is evident from the development works carried out by him over the last four years.

There are six seats in Gurdaspur district — Bajwa's home borough — out of which five are held by Congress MLAs. Only Batala has an opposition MLA. The MP is anxious to return to Punjab as his RS term ends in April next year.

Staff on protest, PPSC defers exams

PATIALA, JUNE 28

Protests by state government employees of district administrative offices, PPSC and others have forced the postponement of the commission's exam for hiring engineers slated for June 28, 29 and 30.

The Punjab Public Service Commission (PPSC) was supposed to hold the joint competitive examination for 82 posts of junior engineer (mechanical) for water resources, water resources management, development

Tests for hiring JEs now on July 3, 4

corporation and municipal councils on June 29. Similarly, the exam for a total of 48 posts of JE (electrical) for various departments was to be held on June 29.

In a June 25 notification, the PPSC said the exams would now be conducted on July 3 and 4. This came after the government officials

started a protest on June 23 against the recommendations of the 6th Pay Commission in the state.

Meanwhile, officials of the Punjab Personnel Department today held a meeting to resolve the concerns of the protesters. Ravinder Singh, president, PPSC Employees' Front, said the government had asked employees to present to them with the pay scale that should be implemented. "As such another meeting will be held on July 1." — TNS

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MEDICAL/SURGICAL

Sant Pritam Dass Memorial Charitable Hospital Raipur Rastpur Jalandhar. 94170-15344. Staff required Medical Officer MBBS/ BAMS- 2, Nurses GNM/ ANM- 6, Ward Boy- 4, Pharmacist- 1, Lab Technician- 2, Radiographer- 2. Walk in interview on Thursday 01.07.2021 at 2 pm. (CL21028126)

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GGs Public School, Sangrur (school buses for sale), three Tata school buses as under in good running condition are available for sale: a) PB13P6709 52 seater 2005 model, b) PB13P6710 52 seater 2005 model, c) PB13Q5111 52 seater 2006 model. Interested parties can contact school on any working day between 9 to 1 p.m. Quotations be submitted by 12.00 noon on 5.7.21 and these will be opened on 7.7.21 at 10.00 a.m. Contact: 94641-48113 Administrator. (CL21028129)

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Chandigarh: 10 marla renovated, triple storey facing East Sector 40-A for sale. Contact: 93161-12756. (CL21028108)

Chandigarh: Kanal near floorwise (lift) B-Road Sector 8C, 18-A, 19-A, 33D. Juneja Properties 98780-68071. (CL21028112)

PUBLIC NOTICES

I, Bhupinder Singh, Rank MCPO-II, Service No.191733H s/o Mohinder Singh r/o 46, Hem Bagh Colony, Patiala, declare that the name & date of birth of my wife has wrongly mentioned as Amarjeet Kaur & 31-12-1965 respectively in my service record. These may please be corrected as Amarjit Kaur & 07-08-1965. (CL21027948)

I, No. 2656202X Ex GDR Roop Singh Jamwal C/o 56 APO declare that my daughter name and date of birth wrongly mention in my Army record as Seema Devi 04.04.1973 correct name Seema DoB 04.04.1974. Please all concerned note. (CL21028056)

I, Service No. 1296316F Rank Hav. (DMT) name Surat Ram R/o Village Domehar Tehsil Arki Distt. Solan HP declare that in my Army service records my wife's name mistakenly entered as Banti Devi but her correct name is Nirmala Devi. All concerns please note. (CL21028120)

I, Bhulla Singh s/o Dhian Singh, Village Balra, Tehsil Dasuya, Distt Hoshiarpur, have changed my name to Balwinder Singh. (CL21028127)

I, Yogender Sandhu S/o Sh. Rajbir Sandhu R/o H.No. 230, Sector-8, Part-2, Karnal, Haryana, have changed my minor daughter's name from Inaaya to Inaaya Sandhu for all future purposes. (CL21028141)

I, No. 3986646-L, Rank: Ex. Naik Pandeep Singh s/o Karam Singh, Village Dilwan, PO Diara, Tehsil Amb, Distt. Una (HP), in Army documents record my daughter name be corrected as Priyanka Kumari instead of Priyanka Thakur and DoB be corrected as 29.07.1993 instead 28.07.1993. (CL21028065)

I, Jai Kumar Sharma s/o Late Bal Kishan Sharma # 231, Ward No. 6, Village Kesri (Ambala), inform that my son Mohit Sharma, his wife Neha Sharma & their son Goraksh Bhardwaj are out of my control. So I disown all of them from my movable/immovable properties. If anybody deals with them will do so his own risk. (CL21028084)

I, Abhishek Birdi s/o Ramesh Kumar r/o # 647, Sector 2, Panchkula (Haryana), have changed my name from Abhishek Birdi to Abhishek Birdi. (CL21028093)

I, Jagroop Singh Chahal s/o S.A.K.S. Singh Chahal r/o 627/103, A.K.S. Colony, Zirakpur, Distt. S.A.S. Nagar (Punjab) declare that my daughter Inderoop Kaur is out of my control. I disown her from all my moveable/immovable property. I shall not be responsible for any of her acts and anybody dealing with her shall do so at their own risk. (CL21028108)

SC rap after state failed thrice to file reply: HC

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 28

The Punjab and Haryana High Court today made it clear the State of Punjab on three occasions since February failed to file its response to the bail plea that led to admonition by the Supreme Court.

The observation came about 10 days after the SC Bench of Justice Hemant Gupta and Justice V Ramasubramanian rapped the High Court for “defeating the administration of justice” by not listing the plea for hearing for more than a year.

Taking up the petition by Chunni Lal Gaba against the Assistant Director, Directors of Enforcement, the Bench of Justice Rajan Gupta and Justice Ajay Tewari observed a perusal of the order showed the Supreme Court observed the bail application was not being listed for hearing for more than one year.

In response to the court query, senior counsel Vikram Chaudhri submitted he never projected before the SC that the case was not being listed. His only grievance was against the rejection of request for advancing the

Top court had observed bail plea not listed for hearing for a year

date of hearing the bail plea.

“Be that as it may, on February 26, in view of the assertion of the counsel for the petitioner about the precarious medical condition of the applicant, a query was put to state counsel. But even on the next date on March 25, the state of Punjab sought more time to apprise the court about the medical condition of the applicant,” the Bench observed.

It added the state counsel even today submitted he was not having information regarding the applicant's present medical condition and would file a short affidavit on the issue by the next date of hearing. The counsel submitted he would further clarify whether the petitioner remained incarcerated in jail premises or was in a hospital during the period.

The matter, dubbed as Bhola case, will now come up on July 9. The case pertains to the seizure of 25 kg intoxicant powder from a factory premises.

Withdraw cases against farm leaders: Morcha

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 28

The legal cell of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) has condemned the registration of five “false” cases at different police stations against farm leaders, including cell convenor Prem Singh Bhangu, social activists and singers.

The cases were registered under Sections 148, 149, 186, 188, 332, 341, 353 and 427, IPC. Legal cell members, including Bhangu, Raminder Singh Patiala, Inderjit Singh, Vikas Sishar, Kiranjit Singh Sekhon and Dharmendr Malik, in a joint statement said registration of cases amounted to high-handedness by the Chandigarh Police and administration who forcibly tried to foil a peaceful ‘Save Agriculture-Save Democracy Day’ march “by putting up barricades on the road and using water cannons”.

They said peaceful protest was a democratic right of the people, affirmed recently by the Supreme Court and Delhi High Court in the Disha Ravi and Natasha cases. “Protesters were provoked by the police by using force to defame the agitation. Farmers didn’t indulge in violent activity nor deterred public servants from discharging their duty,” they claimed. — TNS

R-Day violence suspect nabbed from Amritsar

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

The Delhi Police today said the Special Cell of the force’s Northern Region (NR) has arrested Gurjot Singh, wanted in the Red Fort violence case with a reward of Rs 1 lakh on his head, from Amritsar in Punjab.

DCP Special Cell Sanjeev Yadav said: “Gurjot Singh, who was wanted in FIR No. 96/21 (Red Fort case) and carried a reward of Rs 1 lakh on his head, has been arrested by a team of NR of special cell from Amritsar.”

Gurjot was produced in a local court, which remanded him in police custody for three days and allowed his counsel to meet him every day for half an hour.

In February, the Delhi Police had announced a cash reward of Rs 1 lakh for information leading to the arrest of the accused persons, including Gurjot Singh, Deep Sidhu, Jugraj Singh, Gurjant Singh and others, in the case.



Gurjot Singh in police custody.

CARRIED ₹1L REWARD

■ In February, the Delhi Police had announced a cash reward of ₹1 lakh for information leading to the arrest of the suspects, including Gurjot Singh, Deep Sidhu

■ The police had been conducting searches in Delhi and Punjab to nab the accused, who participated in the violent clashes between the police and farmers during the Republic Day tractor march

Gurjot has been accused of involvement in hoisting religious flags at Red

Fort and had been at large ever since.

“After the incident, Gurjot spoke to the media where he disclosed his role in the incident of flag hoisting at the historic monument. On that basis, he was wanted in the case and a reward of Rs 1 lakh was announced for his arrest,” the DCP said.

The police had been conducting searches in Delhi and Punjab to nab the accused, who participated in the violent clashes between the police and farmers during the Republic Day tractor march.

Unprecedented chaos was unleashed upon Delhi on the Republic Day as the tractor rally by the protesting farmers went off the designated course and rolled into the iconic Red Fort. A protester had died on the way and over 400 security forces were reportedly injured in the incident.

The farmers entered the forecourt of the Red Fort, climbed on to its ramparts, and hoisted religious flags.

BRIEFLY

Man held for theft at gurdwara

Muktsar: The Kabarwala police have arrested a man for allegedly stealing a donation box from a gurdwara at Rattakhara village here on Sunday. The box contained Rs 25,000. The accused has been identified as Manpreet Singh of the same village. A case under Sections 457 and 380 of the IPC has been registered against him. TNS

BSF seizes 2-kg heroin

Fazilka: The Border Security Force (BSF) claimed to have seized two packets of contraband heroin, weighing 2.270 kg, worth Rs 11 crore in the international market, near Gatti Bisoke border outpost on Monday. The sources said sleuths of the second battalion, during patrolling, recovered two packets of heroin wrapped in yellow adhesive tape, buried under grass across the barbed wire fencing. oc

3 held for firing on bizmen

Abohar/Sriganganagar: The police have arrested three of the four suspects, one in Moga and two in Hisar, who had reportedly indulged in firing on a businessman in Sukhadia Nagar on Friday. SP Rajan Dushyant said Arun Jain (38) on Friday told the Jawaharnagar police some car-borne miscreants fired on him and drove off. oc

Unclear if students getting edu after teachers relieved: Court

SAURABH MALIK

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 28

The Punjab and Haryana High Court today said it was not clear whether college students were being imparted education in Punjab after the relieving of the teachers hired on contractual basis and expressed surprise that the state had so far not paid heed to this important aspect.

The assertion by the Bench of Justice Rajan Gupta and Justice Karamjit Singh came on an appeal filed by Harleen Kaur and another petitioner against the state and other respondents.

As the matter came up for preliminary hearing, it was contended before the Bench that the appellants, who were already inducted as teachers on contract basis, were sought to be removed by other teachers on the same terms and conditions.

KEY ASPECT OVERLOOKED

“This dispute leads to an anomalous situation as studies of college students shall suffer immensely as there would be no education from trained teachers. It is surprising Punjab has paid no heed so far to this important aspect.

HC Bench

The counsel for the petitioners contended this was impermissible in law.

After hearing the contentions, the Bench asked the counsel whether the appellants were already in service. Responding to the court query, the counsel submitted they had already been relieved.

Taking note of the submission, the Bench asserted it was, as such, not

clear whether the college students were being imparted education in the state of Punjab in view of the pending dispute between teachers.

Issuing notice of motion to the respondents, the Bench fixed the matter for July second week for the counsel to seek instructions from the state.

The matter was placed before the Division Bench after a Single Judge of the High Court dismissed a bunch of nine petitions filed by the petitioner-teachers appointed on contractual basis.

The Single Judge had taken note of the submission that certain petitioners had not qualified the National Eligibility Test. Once they were not even qualified to be appointed, it would not be in the interest of the students to ensure their continuation in the service, the Single Bench had asserted.

F'kot admn bans spray on jamun trees

BALWANT GARG

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDKOT, JUNE 28

Days after mysterious death of a large number of birds, including parrots, in the town, the district administration today banned the use of poisonous substance as insecticides on jamun (java plum) trees.

The birds have been feared to have died due to use of banned and highly poisonous substances on jamun trees.

The birds were found falling off the trees on the premises of the mini-secretariat and district courts here a few days ago. Sources said the birds died after eating jamun sprayed with poison.

Faridkot has thousand-odd jamun trees in and around various government offices and buildings. The trees are given out on contract every



DEADLY POISON

■ Contractors' staff often use monocrotophos, an organophosphate insecticide, spray on trees. It is banned in India as it is toxic for birds and humans

■ However, for its low price and easy availability in the market, the poison is sprayed on the fruit to make it ripe quickly

<< Dead parrots under a jamun tree in Faridkot. TRIBUNE PHOTO

year and the contractors transport the fruit to Delhi.

It is alleged contractors' employees generally use monocrotophos, an organophosphate insecticide, on the trees. The insecticide is banned in India as it is acutely toxic for birds and human.

However, for its low price and easy availability in the market, the poison is sprayed

on the fruit to make it ripe quickly, said members of SEER (Society for Ecological and Environmental Resources), a voluntary organisation here.

“Every year, thousands of birds fall prey to insecticides in the orchards here and expose consumers to risk as well,” said Karamjit Singh, an office-bearer of the organisation.

“Contractors fetch a good price for the fruit in metro cities because its kernel is good for treatment of diabetes,” said Sandeep Aroora, convener, SEER.

Gurjit Singh, additional district magistrate, said orders to ban the use of dangerous insecticides were issued today and violators would be punished as per law.

Admn interfering in land row: SGPC

PATIALA, JUNE 28

SGPC chief Bibi Jagir Kaur today visited a property allegedly belonging to the Khalsa College Trust near Railway Crossing 24 and claimed the police and district administration were interfering in SGPC's attempts at keeping possession of the land.

She said the trust owned 110 bighas and Mata Sahib Kaur Girls' Khalsa College was constructed over 25 bighas. Some people had acquired a portion of the remaining land and started construction of plots, she claimed. “The administration and police are interfering in the matter and are not allowing us to keep possession of the land,” she said.

SDM Charanjit Singh said: “We are only maintaining law and order. Those who have documents of ownership should show these to us.” Meanwhile, on forced conversions in Kashmir, the SGPC chief said people should stick to the religion they were born in. — TNS

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 28

Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh today asked the Forests and Wildlife Preservation Department to revive the original flora and fauna keeping in view state's natural climate and habitat.

Reviewing the functioning of department through videoconferencing, the CM emphasised the need for undertaking massive plantation of traditional trees, including *ber*, *kikar*, *saal* and *shisham*, besides *khatta amb*, an indigenous variety of Mango commonly prevalent in Kandi region and southern Punjab.

He said these had dwindled over the passage of time and their plantation would offer a natural habitat to old species of wild animals and birds. The CM complimented the department for undertaking plantation of *chandani* and high-yielding bamboo (bam-

Stresses need to revive flora, fauna in forests

PRAISES DEPT

The CM complimented the state authorities for undertaking plantation of *chandani* and high-yielding bamboo (bamabusa balcooa), which gives double the yield of traditional bamboo.

abusa balcooa), which gives double the yield of traditional bamboo.

He asked the Additional Chief Secretary, Forests, to encourage plantation of indigenous species and motivate farmers for plantation of poplar, which was not only water efficient but also remunerative due to its demand in the wood industry.

The CM underscored the need for going for breeding of crocodiles in rivers, especially Beas and Sutlej.

He, however, appreciated the efforts of the department

for re-introduction of ghariyal, an important component of the riverine ecosystem and present in the river systems of Punjab.

Captain Amarinder lauded the efforts of wildlife for conservation of Indus dolphins that had been declared a state aquatic animal in 2019.

Taking serious view of the growing population of wild boar, blue bull and roz, especially in the kandi area and cotton belt of southern Punjab, the CM asked the Wildlife Department to take effective measures to save human lives, which are often lost due to attacks by wild animals, besides causing damage to crops.

To address this problem on a priority basis, the CM asked the Wildlife Department to work out modalities in sync with the Animal Husbandry Department for shifting and rehabilitating the stray cattle in those ‘birs’ that were not wildlife sanctuaries.

7 held with 600-kg poppy husk

SANGRUR, JUNE 28

With the arrest of seven persons and seizure of 600-kg poppy husk, the Crime Investigations Agency (CIA), Sangrur, claimed to have busted a gang involved in smuggling of drugs in the area. The CIA has started raids to arrest the remaining five accused.

Sangrur SSP Vivek Sheel Soni said the CIA team had arrested seven persons between Lehla Kalan and

Lehla Khurd on Monday and seized 600-kg poppy husk from a truck. “They were involved in smuggling of poppy husk from other states and selling it in Sangrur and nearby cities,” said the SSP.

The arrested accused have been identified as Mandeep Singh, Hari Singh, Gurcharn Singh, Buta Singh, Jarnail Singh, Kuldeep Singh and Krishan Kumar. — TNS

Priests seek action over ‘defamation’

SANGRUR, JUNE 28

A group of temple priests today met the Sangrur SSP and demanded action against individuals allegedly involved in defaming one of their members on the social media for charging fee for performing religious ceremonies. They alleged some persons had uploaded the photograph of Pushpinder Kumar, a priest, on the social media with defamatory text. — TNS

Capt. Vijyant Thapar VC
2 Raj Rif

REMEMBER US
REMEMBER WHY WE DIED
22 years ago in a spirited attack on this day you had captured KNOLL, a formidable Pakistani Post at the cost your life of merely 22yrs. Earlier you captured Barbad Barbad Bunker in Toliing. We live LIFE KING SIZE as you wanted. The courage you displayed in the historic battles at Kargil & at Kupwara are inspiring youth. We love you and are proud of you.
Col Thapar Tripta Birdie Roli
Vasundhara, 9811559557

50% Covid patients who died in May, June had no comorbidities

SUSHIL MANAV
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 28
More than 50 per cent of Covid victims, who died of the virus in the past two months, did not have any comorbidities, as per the official records of the state Health Department.

As per the weekly status report of Covid in the state, 9,385 persons died of Covid till Sunday, of which 3,501 (37 per cent) did not have any comorbidities. As many as 5,598 persons died between April 27 and June 27 and of these 2,819 (50.38 per cent) did not have any underlying medical condition. The share of multiple comorbidities among Covid victims, which was 46 per cent of total fatalities till April 26, came down to 29 per cent till Sunday.

Diabetes mellitus, considered the single largest underlying condition in Covid-19 mortalities, remained almost unchanged during the second wave, though the percentage of deaths with this condition moved slightly up from 12 per cent on April 26 to 13 per cent on June 27.

Dr Dhruv Chaudhary, head of the pulmonary medicine department, PGIMS-Rohtak, and state nodal officer for Covid, said he was not surprised by an increase



A rush of people at a vaccination centre in Gurugram on Monday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: S CHANDAN

IN DENIAL MODE
“Many patients, who were under home isolation, remained in denial mode even after their condition warranted hospitalisation. And when they were hospitalised, it was too late.”
Dr Dhruv Chaudhary, NODAL OFFICER, COVID

in the deaths of non-comorbid patients during the second wave, because the fatalities depended on several factors and not on comorbidities alone, which was definitely a major factor. “Severity of the disease, vir-

COVID METER		
Cases		96
Recovered		172
Active		1,593
Deaths		16
DISTRICT-WISE COUNT		
DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS
Palwal	16	0
Charkhi Dadri	12	0
Ambala	9	2
State total	7,68L	9,401

ulence of the virus, time taken by a patient to get medical aid, person's own immune response and genetic factors were equally responsible for fatalities,” said Dr Chaudhary. He said while virulence and severity were definitely

higher during the second wave, it had also been observed that in many cases, while parents and their children had severe infections, their spouses did not get infection, or even if they did get, it was not that severe. “It was also observed that many patients, who were under home isolation, remained in denial mode even after their condition warranted hospitalisation and finally, when they did arrive in hospitals, it was already too late. Similarly, several others kept taking medicines, including steroid, on their own, thereby worsening their condition,” added Dr Chaudhary.

Whistleblowers face dismissal from PGIMS

SUNIT DHAWAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, JUNE 28
The “ghost” guard scam, which came to the fore more than four years ago in the Post-graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (PGIMS), surfaced yet again when the Pt Bhagwat Dayal Sharma University of Health Sciences (UHS) decided to dismiss the then security officer and assistant security officer.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the PGIMS executive council on Saturday.

The two officers, who claim to be the whistleblowers in the case, face dismissal, but the security firm, which had defrauded the premier medical institute of a hefty amount, continues to evade action.

On April 1, 2017, then security officer Badam Singh and assistant security officer Sanjay Sangwan had apprised

GHOST GUARD SCAM

- On April 1, 2017, then security officers had apprised the PGIMS of irregularities in the appointment of guards
- It came to light that 103 of the 625 guards deployed on the PGIMS campus existed only on paper
- The ‘missing’ guards were working at the office of the Haryana Board of School Education in Bhiwani

DUE PROCESS FOLLOWED

“Action against the security officers has been taken after having followed the due procedure. The contract with the security firm was terminated. Its pending payments have been stopped and outstanding amount, if any, will be recovered.”

Dr HK Agarwal, UHS REGISTRAR

the PGIMS of irregularities in the appointment of guards. Singh said: “Sangwan and I had found out that security guards provided by Orion Security Solutions, the private security agency hired by the PGIMS, were not present on duty.”

Subsequently, the UHS had asked the security officers to inquire into the matter and submit a report.

In their report submitted on May 25, 2017, it came to light that 103 of the 625 security guards deployed on the PGIMS campus existed only on paper. Further investigation brought out that the “missing” guards were working at the office of the Haryana Board of School Education in Bhiwani.

“The authorities sat on the

inquiry report for several months. Eventually, I was told to get an FIR lodged in October 2017,” said Singh.

At the same time, the police had constituted an SIT to probe the matter, while the PGIMS also conducted an internal inquiry.

An accountant of the security firm was arrested in connection with the case, while the two officers were indicted for their alleged role in the scam. Subsequently, they were suspended following the pendency of the inquiry.

When contacted, UHS Registrar Dr HK Agarwal said action against the security officers had been taken after having followed the due procedure. “The contract with the security firm was terminated. Its pending payments have been stopped and outstanding amount, if any, will be recovered,” he added.

22 nabbed partying in Gurugram

OUR CORRESPONDENT

GURUGRAM, JUNE 28

A joint team of the Excise Department and district police arrested 22 men for partying at a guest house in Sector 38 here in the wee hours of today. With Covid restrictions still in place, locals violated lockdown rules.

An FIR under the excise and epidemic Acts has been registered.

On a tip-off, excise inspector Radhe Shyam and police officials conducted a raid at Aqua Inn guest house in Sector 38 in the wee hours of today. When the team reached the guest house, the party was in full swing and men in an inebriated condition were danc-

ing on DJ tunes.

When the team asked them to furnish a written permission for the party, they failed to produce any.

The accused claimed they were celebrating the birthday of their friend and it was a routine party. Of the 22 accused, 20 are residents of Delhi. They were later let off on bail.

NIKITA MURDER Convict files appeal in HC

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 28

Sentenced to life imprisonment in the Nikita Tomar murder case, Tossif today moved the Punjab and Haryana HC by filing an appeal. He claimed the lower court judgment was based on conjectures and surmises. It was, as such, liable to be set aside. — TNS

HC orders protection for man's second wife

SAURABH MALIK
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 28

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has directed the police to look into the threat perception of a woman married to a man who “divorced” his first wife by pronouncing “talaq talaq talaq”. The police was also directed to initiate steps, if required, after gauging the threat to the woman.

Justice Arun Monga of the High Court made it clear that the direction was being given for protecting the life and liberty of the second wife, who may have been “misled” into her marriage with the man.

The direction came after the first wife submitted that they continued to be married as the purported divorce given by the man was “not cognisable under the law”. She further submitted that the man was claiming to have divorced her by triple talaq, which was not recognised in law.

Even as per the Muslim rights, it was not a legitimate divorce. She further submitted that the petition had, in fact, been filed with an

He gave triple talaq to first partner

THE COURT DIRECTION

The direction came after the first wife submitted that they continued to be married as the purported divorce given by the man was “not cognisable under the law”. She further submitted that the man was claiming to have divorced her by triple talaq, which was not recognised in law.

oblique motive to create a defense in the criminal proceedings initiated against him following the registration of an FIR on May 26 for cheating, forgery and other offences under Sections 420, 467, 468 and 120-B of the IPC, along with the provisions of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act at the women police station in Palwal.

The couple, on the other hand, sought the protection of their life by invoking Article 21 of the Constitution. Among other things, the Bench was told that they had married in accordance with the Muslim rights and customs. The man had legitimately remarried after divorcing his first wife.

After hearing the rival contentions, Justice Monga asserted ground to interfere in the present proceedings was not made out. It was open to the private parties to seek other appropriate remedies as may be available to them under the law.

At the same time, Justice Monga in the interest of justice directed the Palwal Superintendent of Police to look into the second wife's threat perception in accordance with her representation dated May 29. “In case there is any substance in the same, he may take appropriate steps in accordance with law for the grant of protection of life and liberty to petitioner-second wife,” Justice Monga concluded.

4 farmhouses razed near Aravallis

SANJAY YADAV

GURUGRAM, JUNE 28

The district Town and Country Planning Department today carried out a major demolition drive in Gairatpur Bas village, Gurugram.

An illegal farmhouse colony was being developed in the Aravalli foothills. Road network had been laid on around 20 acres and four farmhouses were under construction on 10 acres.

According to the authorities, Gurugram district is an urban area and a controlled area in which permission is required to be taken from the competent authority before development of a colony.

“In the present case, the violators were developing a colony without permission. In addition, they were planning to extend the colony on another 15 acres of adjacent land as new excavation work for laying down a road network was evident at the site. Many trees



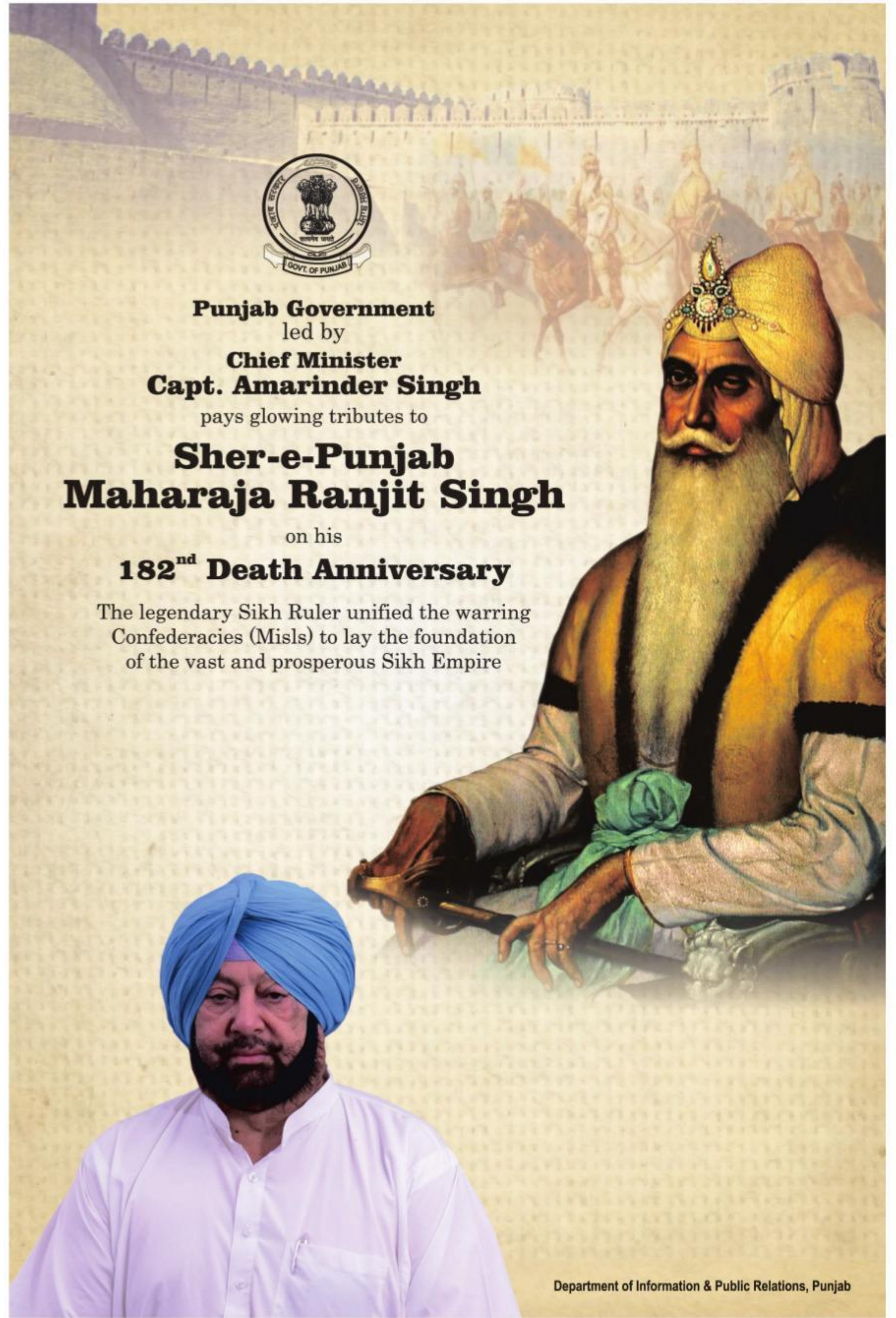
A farmhouse demolished at Gairatpur Bas village in Gurugram.

TREES FOUND UPROOTED AT SITE

“In the present case, the violators were developing a colony without permission. In addition, they were planning to extend the colony on another 15 acres of adjacent land as new excavation work for laying down a road network was evident at the site. Many trees were found uprooted at the site. RS Bath, DTPE

were found uprooted at the site,” said DTPE RS Bath. Four under-construction

farmhouse structures, boundary walls and road network were razed.



Department of Information & Public Relations, Punjab

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Drone scare

High-tech interception, strict regulation a must

THE drone attack on Jammu’s IAF station on Sunday caught India’s security establishment off guard. This shouldn’t have been the case, considering that unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) have emerged as a potent threat in recent years in the country and across the world. The use of drones by cross-border operators to drop arms and drugs in Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir is not uncommon. Terrorists have now taken things to the next level by dropping bombs through UAVs on one of India’s strategic installations. The timing of the attack — days after the PM’s meeting with J&K leaders — is also significant. Though there was no loss of life, the perpetrators’ message was loud and clear: it won’t be a one-off strike and the subsequent ones could be far worse in terms of the damage inflicted. Barely a day after the Jammu incident, Army troops spotted two drones hovering over the Ratnuchak-Kaluchak military area; they opened fire to force both of them to fly away.

The menace of drones had prompted the Directorate General of Civil Aviation to come up with a set of requirements for these UAVs in 2018. Earlier this year, the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation notified the Unmanned Aircraft System Rules, imposing strict compliance norms — right from the R&D stage. This regulatory mechanism, which demands rigorous implementation, must be backed by state-of-the-art anti-drone systems that can intercept and neutralise suspicious remote-controlled aerial platforms. Reliance on the alertness of soldiers to spot drones has its limitations. Technology has a big role to play to keep disruptive elements at bay. India can learn a lot from how other nations are dealing with the airborne intruders.

Drones have become a key component of modern warfare. Iran-backed militia are using UAVs to target US personnel and facilities in Iraq. Several cities of Saudi Arabia are facing drone attacks carried out by Yemen’s Houthi militia. Late last year, drones had helped Azerbaijan defeat Armenia in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. India needs to shed its traditionally reactive approach and opt for pre-emptive action. The challenge is to be well-equipped to prevent terrorists from spreading their wings.

RJD’s olive branch to Chirag

Opposition realises unity matters

BY reaching out to a beleaguered Chirag Paswan, the LJP leader, RJD’s Tejashwi Yadav might well have exhibited political maturity in attempting to keep alive a semblance of Opposition unity in Bihar. Chirag, who had launched an attack against Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in the recent Assembly elections and fancied himself close to PM Modi, has realised that both his own party and the BJP flattered him to deceive. What action Chirag takes to keep alive his father’s legacy will unfold gradually but political sagacity will be required on his part to mark his presence in the Opposition ranks. Leaders with a mass base in politics also come up with a constructive agenda. Ram Vilas Paswan, with his low-key presence, personal popularity and a dedicated vote bank always found himself on the right side of the political divide, earning him the sobriquet of *Mausam Vaigyanik* from RJD supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav.

Tejashwi reaching out to Chirag should be seen in a larger perspective, with the RJD leader also making it clear that the Congress party should be the fulcrum of any national coalition against the BJP-led NDA, a theme endorsed both by NCP leader Sharad Pawar and the Shiv Sena after a meeting with prominent Opposition leaders. Congress support for regional parties in Bihar also resulted in its own marginalisation. While the Lok Sabha elections are due only in 2024, a number of states are slated to go to the polls next year and the Opposition’s performance may act as a morale booster.

An attempt to forge unity in the Opposition is nothing new and ruling parties at the Centre, like the Congress in 1977, have had an experience of it. The BJP-led NDA government at the Centre is perceived to have given short shrift to its coalition partners like the SAD that walked out and has now tied up with the BSP for the Punjab polls. With a reshuffle of the Union Cabinet expected this week, it will be up to the BJP to assuage the concerns of its allies.

Spotlight back on J&K

The drone attack shows how difficult it is to disentangle the issue from geopolitics



SHYAM SARAN

FORMER FOREIGN SECRETARY AND SENIOR FELLOW, CENTRE FOR POLICY RESEARCH

THERE has been a consistent pattern of terrorist attacks in the wake of positive developments in Jammu and Kashmir or in India-Pakistan relations. There are powerful constituencies in Pakistan which consider even limited improvements in India-Pakistan relations as threatening to their entrenched interests. By the same token, for them any prospect of a return to even limited peace and political normalcy in the state — now a UT — must be nipped in the bud. The Kargil intrusion followed the then PM Vajpayee’s bus journey to Lahore in February 1999. PM Modi’s dramatic stopover in Lahore on December 25, 2015, to meet Pakistani PM Nawaz Sharif was followed within days by the terrorist attack on the Air Force base at Pathankot on January 2, 2016. The launch of the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service in 2005 was greeted by setting on fire a government tourist office sheltering bus passengers and there were blasts on the route. So the drone attack on the Jammu Air Force station in the early hours of June 27 should not come as a surprise. It happened just a few days after the surprise and well-publicised meeting on June 24 between the PM and leaders of the erstwhile much-derided Gupkar group of mostly mainstream parties of J&K. This follows the revival of the ceasefire between India and Pakistan along the LoC since February 25, 2021, which has, against expectations, been scrupulously observed by both sides. Back channel talks have been reportedly held between the National Security Advisers of the two countries and the UAE has claimed that it has played an intermediary role. The attack puts the Indian Government in a difficult position. If it undertakes some retaliatory action



LIMITED OPTIONS: The geopolitical environment is becoming more adversarial. PTI

A two-front war is becoming an operational reality. Our security planners need to understand this new reality and its ominous implications.

against Pakistan, then the promising developments in relations would be stalled and India-Pakistan tensions will be heightened. This will inevitably impact on political developments in the state. Whatever limited gains may have been anticipated from the June 24 meeting would likely diminish. If it does not retaliate, that, too, will have consequences because it will encourage more such attacks, perhaps of even greater lethality. Pakistan will deny involvement. But even if the drones were launched from inside Indian territory, there can be little doubt that the attacks have been inspired by elements within Pakistan. We have to proceed on that assumption.

The use of drones to attack military or civilian targets introduces a dangerous new dimension to the security threats confronting India. This in any case requires an urgent and comprehensive assessment and a counter-strategy. This will be relevant not only for the India-Pakistan theatre, but also the India-China theatre. China has advanced drone technologies and production capacities. Pakistan has access to these as an ally and will see them as adding another asymmetrical capability to threaten India.

A two-front war, in which India has to confront both Chinese and Pakistan forces simultaneously, is no

longer just a possibility to guard against. It is becoming an operational reality. China and Pakistan have been conducting joint military exercises for years but recently they held their first-ever joint air exercises from airfields in Tibet. The message to India could not be more clear and direct. In a two-front war scenario, it is J&K which would be front and centre. It constitutes territory in contention with both China and Pakistan. Our security planners need to appreciate this new reality and its ominous implications.

The limited détente with Pakistan and the reaching out to the mainstream political parties in J&K have been triggered by two broad developments. Internally in the state, the sidelining and even demonising of the mainstream parties and leaders and the nurturing of a new political leadership aligned to the BJP, has failed. The population in the Valley is disaffected and sullen and the promise of development and jobs has been mostly belied.

On the other hand, the scrutiny of the Modi government’s use of coercive instruments to enforce peace and stability in the troubled region has been under greater and adverse international scrutiny. The Biden administration’s emphasis on upholding democratic values and human rights in its external relations has put the Indian

Government under mounting political pressure. Both the revival of ceasefire at the LoC and the attempt to bring about a degree of political normalcy in the Valley may be seen as a deflecting response to these external pressures.

Closer home, the very real prospect of Afghanistan falling under unchallenged Taliban rule, complicates India’s geopolitical dilemma. We should be under no illusion that reaching out to the Taliban, as we appear to be doing, will diminish the heightened security threat they represent to Indian interests. Over the past two decades and more, Pakistan has been willing to pay the price of relative international isolation and even pariah status, economic hardship and internal security challenges, to keep its eyes fixed on the prize of Afghanistan as its client state under the Taliban. And Afghanistan has value for Pakistan, mainly in the context of its relations with India. Once the Americans leave and the Taliban establish their rule over the whole of Afghanistan, expect India to be sidelined in the country and its immense investment there to be diminished in value. We have already closed our consulates in Jalalabad and Herat. Kandahar may follow. Pakistan will use Afghanistan to recreate jihadi bases to target India with convenient deniability. To think that engagement with the Taliban will prevent Pakistan from using it for its nefarious purposes against India would be naïve.

During the earlier round of Taliban rule in Kabul, India’s policy was to keep that regime destabilised by supporting the Northern Alliance and Ahmad Shah Masood in the Panjshir Valley. The Russians and Iranians worked in coordination with us. This time round, potential partners in undertaking such a policy are not visible.

Our options are limited and the geopolitical environment is becoming more adversarial. Tactical moves such as the LoC ceasefire and relaxation of political tensions in J&K may be useful. They do not add up to an effective long-term strategy to address the unprecedented, multiple and serious security challenges India is facing. The drone attack in Jammu is a wake-up call.

A room with a view

RAMESHINDER SINGH SANDHU

WORDS Cafe is the name I have given to my favourite room at home in Amritsar. It’s not my bedroom, but the only room on the rooftop that I use for my writing. Whenever home, I am mostly here, large windows of which overlook my neighbour’s beautiful garden.

I admire the tranquillity it offers, allowing my thoughts and words to flow. Sometimes, even before the crack of dawn, I am writing, taking advantage of the early morning magic, and late evening hours for editing. The day my article gets published, affection for it surges naturally.

Interestingly, it’s also where I am

writing my book, and with every passing day, it’s helping me come closer to my author’s dream. When I want more out of my words, I either turn to the windows or head to the terrace for a stroll.

But it’s also where I go beyond writing, often making me feel as if it’s my temple, where I am its only worshipper; and theatre, where I am its only character.

Taking a long flight of stairs, I daily step in around 4.30 am, beginning with meditation. By the time I open my eyes, the first rays of the sun slowly begin to bathe me. I do extend my meditation hour, listening to some inspiring podcasts.

Open any of the drawers here, or even closets: books, magazines or

old newspapers will show up as if it’s a library and it does become one during my long reading sessions. When I am done with reading, documentaries narrated in English keep me engrossed, but I don’t play them for my knowledge alone, but also to pick new words and phrases.

Besides the words, there are also moments of coffee, taking me to the table by the windows, and they, in turn, carry me to the sprawling garden in front. Lost in its pleasure, many epiphanies about life cross my mind, and it has become a ritual to turn them into articles.

Considering my many indulgences, if I ever go down to the kitchen for my meals or to meet guests, I feel my room is calling me — sometimes also

the book that I was reading or the piece I was scribbling. And for the rare solace I experience, I don’t mind bringing my meals here too. During dusk, I love racing to its roof to catch the town in a rare hue. It’s magical, every evening.

But some years back, when the room was being built, as per my father’s plan, I criticised it. Even when I visited someone, my denunciation continued. ‘When there were already many rooms in the house, what was the need for another one?’ I questioned angrily. Many agreed with me, but my wise father said, ‘You never know what could be of use someday.’ My father was right and I was wrong, I offer an apology and a warm thank you to him!

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Know thyself, know thy enemy. A thousand battles, a thousand victories. — Sun Tzu

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

LAHORE, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1921

MALAVIYA AND THE BEZWADA PROGRAMME.

THERE is nothing in the present non-co-operation programme in respect of which there need be any substantial difference of opinion among nationalist leaders. In this respect, Bezwada has completed the work begun at Nagpur. When the non-co-operation resolution was first put before the Congress at Calcutta, not only did a large and powerful minority stand aloof from Mahatma Gandhi and his supporters, but this minority included every nationalist leader of the first rank, with the exception of Pandit Motilal Nehru. The process of reunification began almost immediately after the Special Congress, when large numbers of prominent nationalists in every Province, who did not believe in the boycott of the Councils, decided to stand aside from the elections, for no other reason except that the Congress had passed the boycott resolutions. It is an open secret that until a few days before the annual session of the Congress some of the most prominent leaders were still not only in a hesitating mood, but were almost sure that they would have to put in a resolute fight at Nagpur. When the Congress did meet at Nagpur; however, a change was visible. What happened either in the subjects committee or at the open session is now a matter of history. Suffice it to say that the vast majority of those leaders who had differed from Mr. Gandhi at Calcutta was won over by the modifications which the non-co-operation resolution at Nagpur. But one leader of commanding position and authority still held out. Pandit Malaviya was unreconciled and opposed to a very substantial part of the programme. Few men can be said to represent the soul of India more truly than Pandit Malaviya, and the fact that he could not accept the programme could only mean that there were large numbers of people who remained to be inwardly convinced.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Drone attack

Apropos of ‘New face of terror: Drone attack on Air Force base in Jammu; 2’, the attack confirms that an accessory role was played by a small, off-the-shelf drone which was weaponised to carry payload. This shows the dangerous misuse lurking in technology widely available at offline and online retailers. Unlike military drones that can cost millions and look like small airplanes, mini quad copters can be obtained for a few hundred dollars — and their capabilities are exciting the imaginations of bad actors. In earlier incidents in the Punjab border range, criminals used drones to drop drugs and weapons. ISIS uses them to drop crude bombs on allied forces in Afghanistan. The Centre’s response has been largely haphazard and behind the curve.

GURWINDER SINGH, BY MAIL

Intel failure

For the last few years, drones from across the border have been used to drop drug packets and weapons for smugglers and terrorists in the border areas of Punjab and J&K, but taking such adventures by Pakistan as a routine, the defence department did ignore this serious matter till the Jammu incident

happened. It is not the first time that MoD kept such adventures by the enemy under the wraps. We would not have lost so many soldiers had the intrusion in the Kargil sector been detected in time. Similar things happened in Galwan where China intruded as far as 10 km into the Indian territory. These are major failures of our intelligence system. Late retaliation by our troops results in huge casualties that could be saved with some forethought and efficient intelligence system. Dropping IEDs at the Jammu base seems to be an attempt by Pakistan to test chinks in our aerial defence.

COL KULDIP S GREWAL (RETD), PATIALA

Income tax portal

All taxpayers may continue to face hurdles if all problems related to the new tax portal are not immediately addressed. When the Union Government announced the launch of the new website, the taxpayers were expecting better functionality. The portal continues to frustrate taxpayers with technical issues for almost every functionality. Even after a snub from the Finance Minister, the technical issues remain unresolved. Taxpayers are unable to view past e-filed returns and

many features continue to be displayed as ‘coming soon’.

SC DHALL, ZIRAKPUR

Same-gotra marriages

The murderous attack on a newly married couple of the same *gotra* of Sonapat district should be criticised by all and the perpetrators should be punished. But it is also an eye-opener for youngsters that they should respect traditionally established social values. The laws of India have been drafted keeping in view the customd prevailing in society. Society is changing fast and the judiciary is also helping tradition breakers on the plea of human rights. For example, the judiciary has approved live-in relationship, but rural society is against it. Therefore, it will be in the interest of society if the police counsels couple with the same *gotra* coming to it for protection. They should desist from such marriages.

RL BANSAL, KURUKSHETRA

Brain drain

Apropos of ‘Go West, young man’ (*The Sunday Tribune*), the write-up is a wonderful tribute to the Indian diaspora settled all over the globe as well as a scathing comment on the prevalent scenario. The youth are compelled to

go abroad as our own setup seems to paint a dark and gloomy picture regarding their future here. The reality is that they have lost faith in the State. Recruitment here takes ages to be completed and then invariably gets mired in tardy court proceedings. Talent suffers and people decide to move on. Therefore, one comes across long queues of young people waiting outside the passport office. The government is responsible for this sorry state of affairs. Financial literacy and employability should be the hallmark of education. Economic disparities should be constantly addressed to reduce the gap between the haves and the have-nots.

KAPIL SHARMA, KAITHAL

Why power freebie?

The Punjab Government, under fire from the Opposition over the high tariff of electricity, is planning to provide free 200 units to many more consumers of the state. It will not only spell doom for the cash-starved government, but also simultaneously halt development works. The government should, in fact, reduce the tariff so as to ease the pressure on the common man.

HARISH MALHOTRA, BY MAIL

Pandemic is a fit case for China to pay up



ONE had argued that reparation be paid by China to the world in general, and India in particular, for the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic which has infected more than 18 crore people and claimed almost 40 lakh lives across the globe so far, including three crore infected and 3.9 lakh dead in India. However, friends told me that unlike Germany, which was defeated in World War I, China is not ‘vanquished’. Hence, China can’t be made to pay reparation.

Examining China’s role in inflicting unprecedented devastation, misery and mayhem on the world, one found that there’s an influential section of China lovers in India (who are more concerned about trade and business even at the expense of India’s interests, preferring indifference to Beijing’s ceaseless threat to New Delhi). They are consistently trying to portray the adversely affected nations as weak, cowardly and submissive.

Hence, it’s imperative that a case is made out for the 222 ‘vanquished’ nations which collectively face the Communist Party of China (CPC), which turns 100 on July 1.

Perusing post-First and Second World War papers, it must be recalled that whereas the two 20th-century mega wars were started and fought by three or four European states’

dramatis personae against bigger nations, resulting in the victor-vanquished scenario, the 21st-century pandemic is a manifestation of Chinese culpability against humanity, perpetrated by the ruling CPC against the rest of the world. Fatally affecting every country, the virus threatens the long-term health and physical existence of humans. Covid-19 has already killed millions and devastated global economies.

China has succeeded in winning over leaders of countries to ravage resources and capture ports and islands and rupture landlocked states in Asia, Europe and Africa. It’s the new multi-front, multi-dimensional war of the CPC, included in which are several forms of criminality through wars of all means.

The CPC has broadened and redefined the art and craft of conquest through “war, irregular war, just war (*bellum justum*), mixed war, perfect war, private war, regular war, revolutionary war, solemn war.” Nothing seems to be left out.

Yet, the covert CPC attempt is unable to hide anymore its questionable intentions from the comity of nations. Slowly and steadily, realisation is dawning across continents to take on the CPC and make it accountable for its brazen lapses. The CPC can be taken before a specially constituted court by the affected nations, on the lines of the Nuremberg and Tokyo war crime tribunals.

Nevertheless, the problem arises from the fact that it will be beyond the United Nations (in its present form) to pin down the CPC since China has veto power to abort any international legal act against its own illegal act, perpetrated and perpetuated through a “devious, indirect approach”.

The real challenge, therefore, is to tackle the CPC’s malevolence and



The door is open to take the Communist Party of China (CPC), which turns 100 on July 1, to the International Court of Justice over the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. The CPC is unable to hide anymore its questionable intentions from the comity of nations. Slowly, and steadily, realisation is dawning across continents to take on the CPC and make it accountable for its brazen lapses. The International Law Commission can also be taken on board.

POWER PLAY: The Chinese State is the Communist Party of China and vice versa. REUTERS

mala fide. When the International Court of Justice’s (ICJ’s) July 2016 verdict went against China and favoured the Philippines on the South China Sea dispute, China audaciously ridiculed the ICJ with its characteristic arrogance. Reportedly, the international court has no power to enforce its own legal verdict, thereby leaving the world to face ‘might is right’ and ‘survival of the fittest’. Thus, even if the CPC harms, harasses and hits all, the world can only wait, watch, and wail.

All, however, isn’t lost. The door is open to take the CPC to the ICJ. Try, constitute a special tribunal to impart justice for the “crimes against

humanity” and “aggression” (of diplomatic threat, abuse, bullying, political blackmail), thereby impinging upon the economic activity, territorial integrity and political sovereignty of nation-states across the globe.

Since the UN Security Council has express powers to enforce the ICJ judgments, it’s time to confront the CPC rather than resorting to appeasement, born out of the fear of a CPC reprisal or retribution.

The ICJ aside, the International Law Commission (ILC) could also be taken on board. A body created in 1947 by the UN “for the purpose of encouraging progressive development and codification of internation-

al law”, the ILC consists of experts in international law who drafted important treaties like the Vienna Convention on Law of Treaties, which became a binding treaty law.

The supreme need of the hour is to combat the CPC through international bodies, showing gumption to abort the threat to human existence posed by a single nation’s ruling party. The big or small, tiny or mighty, must have consensus — as was done after World War II to nip in the bud the mindless aggression of those who once posed a threat to humanity.

Thus, those arguing that though “one could take on the vanquished power in the 20th century, yet there’s no scope to

treat China like that in the 21st century” aren’t being realist. The issue is the existential threat to humans. Whether it’s the vanquished or the victor, it doesn’t matter. What’s relevant is whoever tries to pose a universal threat to humanity must be brought to justice.

And, today, the centenary-celebrating CPC is the sole culprit, under its dictatorial regime, which is more dangerous than the vanquished of all the eras taken together, posing an “en masse existential threat to humanity”.

Countries of the world, unite. You have nothing to lose except the precious lives of your able-bodied citizens. Remember, the Chinese State is the Communist Party of China and vice versa.

Theaterisation proposal ridden with lacunae



Our energies need to be devoted to beefing up our single-service inventories and effecting cadre reviews to achieve desirable teeth. Bringing in another level of operational command in the guise of a theatre commander is inapt for our strategic security posture and an exercise in futility. The attendant handicaps would be inadequate domain expertise of a different service theatre commander and undesirable parcelling out of air power assets.

THE Kargil Review Committee recommended a ‘first among equals’ Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) — albeit a four-star one approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) in December 2019 and not a five-star one, as was desirable in a nuclearised scenario and was expected to enhance the procurement and operational integration of the three services.

But a series of missteps such as pension reforms and theaterisation bode ill for national security. The attempt by the DMA to create ‘theatre commands’ unabashedly promotes turf battles between the three services rather than leading to defence capability integration. The need for India to replace its existing seven each of Army/ IAF and three Naval single-service sectoral commands with five or so integrated theatre commands — west, north and east for Pakistan/China threats, air defence and maritime theatres — is being proposed without thinking it through.

China and Pakistan-centric operations would demand the involvement of multiple proposed theatre commands such as the Western, Northern and Eastern Land Theatres as also the Maritime and Air Defence Theatres. The need is to clearly recognise the traditional war-waging mindset and domain orientation of the Army, Navy and Indian Air Force.

The Army generally has a battle horizon of “a day’s march”, within which it sees its battle space. General Sundarji attempted to widen this to around 100 km, with his laudable mechanised ambitions.



UNSUITABLE: Creating theatre commands is putting the cart before the horse. PM

The Navy, on the other hand, operates in a few knots per hour domain, with even gunboat diplomacy and carrier battle groups taking several days to be manifestly effective.

The Air Force is the truly strategic service, capability and mindset wise. A fighter bomber on a tactical mission is capable of achieving strategic goals, as exemplified by the timely IAF Hunter and MIG-21 aircraft strike on the East Pakistan Government House on December 14, 1971, instrumental in the capitulation of the entire Pakistani Eastern Army.

Air forces have the capability to strike across the targeting cycle, directly at the enemy’s military and political leadership, if so desired, something the other two services cannot do, unless piggybacked by air assets.

Now the Department of Military Affairs’ attempt to make the IAF a tactical entity via theaterisation is worrisome and against traditional wisdom, for it’s the only service capable of prosecuting war at all three levels — tactical, operational and strategic — in any air campaign seamlessly.

All three services have their priorities for war-fighting, derived from national security objectives and associated service doctrines. The IAF was the first to articulate an Air Power Doctrine in the early 1990s. The Navy followed up with its own doctrine and finally the Army, too.

An attempt to articulate a joint doctrine is now gaining traction, more so after the formation of the Integrated Andaman & Nicobar Command. Be that as it may, joint war-fighting procedures

and norms have evolved over the years, functioning rather well indeed at the service command, i.e. operational levels.

The same has been amply demonstrated in the wars so far waged by the Indian defence forces, including in Kargil and the latest Ladakh standoff. There is no need now to try and fix a system that is not broken.

Every nation needs to adopt military organisations which suit its national ethos and threat dynamics. We do not have a five-star joint chief of staff and talking of creating theatre commands at this juncture is putting the cart before the horse.

Our energies now need to be devoted towards beefing up our single-service inventories and effecting suitable cadre reviews to achieve desirable teeth: to tail ratios. Whereas, bringing in another level of operational command in the guise of a theatre commander is inapt for our strategic security posture and bound to be an exercise in futility. The serious attendant handicaps would be inadequate domain expertise of a different service theatre commander and undesirable parcelling out of expensive air power assets.

Valuable soft skills and other command and control tools such as AWACS, AEW, flight refuelling aircraft, strategic transport/ airlift capability, electronic combat assets and other force multipliers are meant to be dynamically switched from one combat zone to another, depending on the situation. They are definitely not to be brought ‘under the command’ of one expert

military leader. A novice air commander orchestrating air power in war is fraught with danger. Aping the organisational structures in the US, Israel or China (or even the puny Maldives, as protagonists have sought to) would be detrimental to operational efficiency, especially of a nation’s air force.

The prevalent career profiles in the three services do not cater to ‘maroon’ tenures in the upward hierarchical transition of a service officer. India is not yet ready to experiment with ideas such as theaterisation.

The other important deterrent against theaterisation is the dwindling force structure of the IAF, already down to 30 squadrons (and slated to reduce further), thanks to slow accretions. The dangers of parcelling out of air assets, as theaterisation envisages, need not be emphasised.

Further, the concept of a land or maritime-centric theatre is anathema to true integrated war-fighting, which is what we should strive for: a unified thinking amongst the practitioners, rather than cosmetic organisational tinkering.

If the intent is only to have a single operational commander overall, we should be aiming for a single theatre, which is what the Indian armed forces have been oriented to all these years.

Thus, the theatrisation proposal is ridden with operational lacunae which are now being sought to be thrust on an uncooperative IAF, whereas any sensible reorganisation should encompass technical weapon upgrade and efforts to better the teeth-tail ratios of our combat arms.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Sports arena (7)
4 Criminal deception (5)
7 Wander (4)
8 Spicy (8)
10 Slight offence (10)
12 Be indecisive (6)
13 Close by (2,4)
15 Apt to vary (10)
18 In progress (5,3)
19 Genus including maples (4)
20 Make fun of (5)
21 A pledge (7)

DOWN

1 Waste material (5)
2 Plead in favour of (8)
3 Measure of difference (6)
4 Genealogical diagram (6,4)
5 Prefix for against (4)
6 Unquestionable (7)
9 Assume command (4,6)
11 Meal cooked out of doors (8)
12 Throw into disorder (7)
14 As a precaution (2,4)
16 White heron (5)
17 Concept (4)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Across: 1 Big business, 9 Headway, 10 Wager, 11 Rule, 12 Indolent, 14 Wicked, 16 Flatly, 18 Twofaced, 19 Able, 22 Appal, 23 Ovation, 24 Prodigality.
Down: 2 In all, 3 Bawl, 4 Saying, 5 New World, 6 Suggest, 7 Wherewithal, 8 Pretty penny, 13 Detailed, 15 Chopper, 17 Belong, 20 Built, 21 Gall.

SU DO KU

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

MEDIUM

CALENDAR

JUNE 29, 2021, TUESDAY

- Vikrami Samvat 2078
- Shaka Samvat 1943
- Aashadh Shaka 8
- Aashadh Parvishte 15
- Hijari 1442
- Krishna Paksha Tithi 5, up to 1.24 pm
- Priti Yoga up to 12.20 pm
- Shatbhisha Nakshatra up to 1.02 am
- Moon in Aquarius sign

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

FORECAST

SUNSET: TUESDAY 19:28 HRS
SUNRISE: WEDNESDAY 05:25 HRS

CITY	MAX	MIN
Chandigarh	40	28
New Delhi	41	27
Amritsar	41	28
Bathinda	44	27
Jalandhar	41	28
Ludhiana	38	28
Bhiwani	42	29
Hisar	43	27
Sirsa	42	28
Dharamsala	31	20
Manali	29	17
Shimla	27	18
Srinagar	32	15
Jammu	41	27
Kargil	30	14
Leh	26	09
Dehradun	35	25
Mussoorie	26	17

TEMPERATURE IN °C

epaper.tribuneindia.com

OPD service resumes at Mandi hospital

MANDI, JUNE 28
The OPD and IPD services resumed at Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Government Medical College and Hospital at Nerchowk in the district today after more than two months. On April 22, it was declared a dedicated Covid care hospital

to cater to the medical needs of the patients of Mandi, Kullu, Lahaul and Spiti, Bilaspur and Hamirpur districts. Dr RC Thakur, principal of the medical college, said patients were being admitted to the Bhangrotu hospital, which is fully equipped. — TNS

EXCISE AND TAXATION DEPARTMENT
HIMACHAL PRADESH
Block No. 30, S.D.A. Complex, Kasumpti, Shimla — 171009
No. 7-82/2021-EXN-17614-28
28th June, 2021

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE FOR INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR THE AUCTION-CUM-TENDER OF LEFT OUT RETAIL VENDS OF COUNTRY LIQUOR (L-14/L-14A), FOREIGN LIQUOR (L-2) AND MANUFACTURING & RETAIL SALE OF COUNTRY FERMENTED LIQUOR (L-20B) FOR THE YEAR 2021-22 IN THE STATE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH.

In continuation to this office Public Notice No. 7-82/2021-EXN-17411-44 dated 26.06.2021 published on 27.06.2021, it is further notified for the information of general public that the venue of Auction-cum-Tender of left out retail sale licensed outlets of Country Liquor (L-14/L-14A), retail sale licensed outlets of Indian Made Foreign Liquor (L-2) and retail sale of Country Fermented Liquor (L-20B) is changed from the “**Office of DCSTE, Kullu**” to “**Zila Parishad Bhavan Near DCSTE Office Kullu**”. Other terms and conditions shall remain same.

Sd/- (Yunus)
COMMISSIONER OF STATE TAXES & EXCISE
GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH.
S.D.A. COMPLEX, BLOCK NO. 30, KASUMPTI
SHIMLA — 171009

DPR/HP/202

HIMACHAL PRADESH
JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Baggi invites tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following work(s) through e-tending process:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	E/Cost	Earnest Money	Time Limit
1	C/o LIS and FIS Gohar Tilly in GP Gohar in Tehsil Chachiot, Distt. Mandi (HP). (SH.- C/o Head Weir=1 No, 6 Nos. B.P. Tanks & Laying, Jointing, testing and carriage of HDPE pipes of 180 mm dia. in distribution system)- GRAVITY PHASE (Under HMCAD)	Rs. 12,58,291/-	Rs. 25,200/-	Six Months
2	C/o LIS and FIS Gohar Tilly in GP Gohar in Tehsil Chachiot, Distt. Mandi (HP). (SH.- C/o Head Weir=1 No, 16 Nos. B.P. Tanks, Laying of Feeder Pipe & Laying, Jointing, testing and carriage of HDPE pipes of various dia. in distribution system)- LIFT PHASE (Under HMCAD)	Rs. 19,15,014/-	Rs. 38,400/-	Six Months
3	C/o Lift irrigation Scheme Manjhagan Chudara in GP Nandi, Tehsil Chachiot, Distt. Mandi (HP). (SH.- C/o No. 7 Nos. B.P. Tanks Laying, Jointing, testing and carriage of HDPE pipes various dia. in distribution system) (Under HMCAD)	Rs. 11,69,785/-	Rs. 23,400/-	Six Months
4	CAD to Flow Irrigation Scheme Majhog Dhaniut in Tehsil Chachiot, Distt. Mandi (HP). (SH.- C/o Diversion Weirs=2 Nos, C/o Outlet Chamber=13 Nos and Laying, Jointing, testing and carriage of HDPE pipes of various dia.)- Under HMCAD	Rs. 12,58,873/-	Rs. 25,200/-	Six Months

Up to date of filling/uploading the tender through e-tendering: **05/07/2021 up to 05:00 p.m.**
The tender form and other details and conditions can be obtained from the website <https://hptenders.gov.in> or from office of Jal Shakti Division Baggi up to the date specified above.

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti Division, Baggi.

DPR/HP/1898

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, NABHA, LOCAL GOVT. PUNJAB, DEPTT. PUNJAB
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS (CIVIL WORKS)
https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
Short Term e-tender - MC Nabha
Dated: 21.06.2021

Executive Officer, Municipal Council Nabha invites Short Term e-tenders on Double bid system, for the work from the eligible contractors/societies enlisted with Municipal Council Nabha 01765-220621, P.W.D. (B&R) and State Government Dept. in appropriate category.
Tender Notice Reference No: 03/2021/LG/MC/NABHA

Sr. No.	Item	Quantity
1	18 Fireman/Driver for fire brigade Nabha for one year as per DC Rates in MC Nabha	1
2	Annual maintenance (O&M) of sewerage scheme at M.C.Nabha for one year.	1

Bid Submission Start/Sale of documents from : 25.06.2021 at 09:00 a.m.
Bid Submission Closing Date & Time : 08.07.2021 at 02.00 p.m.
Opening date of Technical bid : 09.07.2021 at 02.00 p.m.
For participating in the above e-tendering process, the contractors shall have to get themselves registered with <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> and get user ID and Password. Class-2/3 digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. For any clarification/difficulty e-tendering process flow, please contact **0172-2970263, 0172-2970284**.
Note: Any corrigendum related with this tender notice will be uploaded on the website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> and no notice in this issue will be published in the newspaper separately.

Sd/- President, Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Nabha. Municipal Council, Nabha. Asstt. Municipal Engineer, Municipal Council, Nabha.

DPR/PP/5570

ਬੀ-ਨਿਲਾਮੀ ਨਗਰ ਨਿਗਮ, ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ

ਨਗਰ ਨਿਗਮ, ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਆਪਣੀਆਂ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੀਆਂ ਜਾਇਦਾਦਾਂ/ਪ੍ਰਾਪਰਟੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਈ-ਆਕਸ਼ਨ ਪ੍ਰਣਾਲੀ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਵੇਚਣ ਵਾਸਤੇ ਖੁੱਲ੍ਹੀ ਬੋਲੀ ਦੀ ਪੇਸ਼ਕਸ਼ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ:-

ਬਿੱਡਰ ਲਈ ਰਜਿਸਟਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਹੋਣ ਦੀ ਮਿਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਸਮਾਂ	01.07.2021, ਸਵੇਰੇ 10.00 ਵਜੇ
ਬਿੱਡਰ ਲਈ ਰਜਿਸਟਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਬੰਦ ਹੋਣ ਦੀ ਮਿਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਸਮਾਂ	19.07.2021, ਸ਼ਾਮ 05.00 ਵਜੇ
ਆਨਲਾਈਨ ਬਿੱਡ ਸ਼ੁਰੂ ਹੋਣ ਦੀ ਮਿਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਸਮਾਂ	23.07.2021, ਸਵੇਰੇ 09.00 ਵਜੇ
ਆਨਲਾਈਨ ਬਿੱਡ ਸ਼ਾਮਤ ਹੋਣ ਦੀ ਮਿਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਸਮਾਂ	23.07.2021, ਸ਼ਾਮ 03.00 ਵਜੇ

ਈ-ਨਿਲਾਮੀ ਪੋਰਟਲ www.tenderwizard.com/DLGP

ਲੜੀ ਨੰ.	1.	ਬਹੀਰ ਭਗਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਨਗਰ, ਲੋਧੀ ਕਲੱਬ ਰੋਡ, ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ (ਕਾਰੋਬਾਰੀ ਐਸ.ਜੀ.ਓ. ਦੇ ਪਲਾਟ)				
ਸਬ ਲੜੀ ਨੰ.	ਜਾਇਦਾਦ/ਪ੍ਰਾਪਰਟੀ ਦੀ ਕਿਸਮ	ਨੰਬਰ	ਸਾਈਜ਼	ਕਰਬਾ (ਵ. ਗਜ਼)	ਰਾਖਵੀਂ ਕੀਮਤ (ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਵ. ਗਜ਼)	ਕਰਮ ਖਿਆਨਾ
1	ਐਸ.ਜੀ.ਓ. ਨੰ.	1	18'x50'=900 SFT.	100.00	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00
2	ਐਸ.ਜੀ.ਓ. ਨੰ.	7	18'x50'=900 SFT.	100.00	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00
3	ਐਸ.ਜੀ.ਓ. ਨੰ.	14	18'x50'=900 SFT.	100.00	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00
4	ਐਸ.ਜੀ.ਓ. ਨੰ.	15	18'x50'=900 SFT.	100.00	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00
5	ਐਸ.ਜੀ.ਓ. ਨੰ.	45	18'x50'=900 SFT.	100.00	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00
6	ਐਸ.ਜੀ.ਓ. ਨੰ.	58	18'x50'=900 SFT.	100.00	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00
7	ਐਸ.ਜੀ.ਓ. ਨੰ.	59	18'x50'=900 SFT.	100.00	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00
8	ਐਸ.ਜੀ.ਓ. ਨੰ.	61 ਤੋਂ 70	18'x50'=900 SFT.	100.00	1,50,000.00	1,50,000.00

ਲੜੀ ਨੰ.	2.	ਚੰਡੀਗੜ੍ਹ ਰੋਡ, ਜਮਾਲਪੁਰ ਅਵਾਣਾ, ਨੇੜੇ ਡਾਕਖਾਨਾ, ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ (ਕਾਰੋਬਾਰੀ ਪਲਾਟ)				
ਸਬ ਲੜੀ ਨੰ. <td>ਜਾਇਦਾਦ/ਪ੍ਰਾਪਰਟੀ ਦੀ ਕਿਸਮ</td> <td>ਨੰਬਰ</td> <td>ਸਾਈਜ਼</td> <td>ਕਰਬਾ (ਵ. ਗਜ਼)</td> <td>ਰਾਖਵੀਂ ਕੀਮਤ (ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਵ. ਗਜ਼)</td> <td>ਕਰਮ ਖਿਆਨਾ</td>	ਜਾਇਦਾਦ/ਪ੍ਰਾਪਰਟੀ ਦੀ ਕਿਸਮ	ਨੰਬਰ	ਸਾਈਜ਼	ਕਰਬਾ (ਵ. ਗਜ਼)	ਰਾਖਵੀਂ ਕੀਮਤ (ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਵ. ਗਜ਼)	ਕਰਮ ਖਿਆਨਾ
1	ਕਾਰੋਬਾਰੀ ਪਲਾਟ	1	653.00	40,000.00	2,62,000.00

ਲੜੀ ਨੰ.	3.	ਸੁਖਦੇਵ ਮਾਹਰੀ, ਬੇਕਸਾਈਡ ਕੋਲਾਜ਼ ਸਿਨੇਮਾ, ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਪੈਟਰੋਲ ਪੰਪ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ (ਕਾਰੋਬਾਰੀ ਪਲਾਟ)				
ਸਬ ਲੜੀ ਨੰ. <td>ਜਾਇਦਾਦ/ਪ੍ਰਾਪਰਟੀ ਦੀ ਕਿਸਮ</td> <td>ਨੰਬਰ</td> <td>ਸਾਈਜ਼</td> <td>ਕਰਬਾ (ਵ. ਗਜ਼)</td> <td>ਰਾਖਵੀਂ ਕੀਮਤ (ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਵ. ਗਜ਼)</td> <td>ਕਰਮ ਖਿਆਨਾ</td>	ਜਾਇਦਾਦ/ਪ੍ਰਾਪਰਟੀ ਦੀ ਕਿਸਮ	ਨੰਬਰ	ਸਾਈਜ਼	ਕਰਬਾ (ਵ. ਗਜ਼)	ਰਾਖਵੀਂ ਕੀਮਤ (ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਵ. ਗਜ਼)	ਕਰਮ ਖਿਆਨਾ
1	ਕਾਰੋਬਾਰੀ ਪਲਾਟ	1	268.44	38,000.00	1,05,000.00

ਲੜੀ ਨੰ.	4.	ਬੇਰਿੰਗ ਮਾਹਰੀ, ਪੁਰਾਣੀ ਜੀ.ਟੀ. ਰੋਡ, ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ (ਕਾਰੋਬਾਰੀ ਦੁਕਾਨਾਂ) ਜਗਰਾਉਂ ਅੱਪ ਟੋਪ ਬੱਲੇ				
ਸਬ ਲੜੀ ਨੰ. <td>ਜਾਇਦਾਦ/ਪ੍ਰਾਪਰਟੀ ਦੀ ਕਿਸਮ</td> <td>ਨੰਬਰ</td> <td>ਸਾਈਜ਼</td> <td>ਕਰਬਾ (ਵ. ਗਜ਼)</td> <td>ਰਾਖਵੀਂ ਕੀਮਤ (ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਵ. ਗਜ਼)</td> <td>ਕਰਮ ਖਿਆਨਾ</td>	ਜਾਇਦਾਦ/ਪ੍ਰਾਪਰਟੀ ਦੀ ਕਿਸਮ	ਨੰਬਰ	ਸਾਈਜ਼	ਕਰਬਾ (ਵ. ਗਜ਼)	ਰਾਖਵੀਂ ਕੀਮਤ (ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਵ. ਗਜ਼)	ਕਰਮ ਖਿਆਨਾ
1	ਦੁਕਾਨ ਨੰ.	1	4'-3"x13'-6"	6.375	100000.00	7000.00
2	ਦੁਕਾਨ ਨੰ.	3	7'-3"x13'-6"	10.875	100000.00	11000.00
3	ਦੁਕਾਨ ਨੰ.	6	5'-0"x13'-6"	7.50	100000.00	8000.00
4	ਦੁਕਾਨ ਨੰ.	8	5'-0"x13'-6"	7.50	100000.00	8000.00
5	ਦੁਕਾਨ ਨੰ.	9	2'-0"x13'-6"	3.00	100000.00	3000.00
6	ਦੁਕਾਨ ਨੰ.	10	2'-0"x13'-6"	3.00	100000.00	3000.00
7	ਦੁਕਾਨ ਨੰ.	11	10'-0"x13'-6"	15.00	100000.00	15000.00
8	ਦੁਕਾਨ ਨੰ.	12	3'-0"x13'-6"	4.50	100000.00	5000.00
9	ਦੁਕਾਨ ਨੰ.	13	3'-0"x13'-6"	4.50	100000.00	5000.00
10	ਦੁਕਾਨ ਨੰ.	15	5'-3"x13'-6"	7.875	100000.00	8000.00

ਨੋਟ:-
1. ਕਾਰਡਨ ਵਾਲੀ ਜਾਇਦਾਦ ਲਈ ਸਫਲ ਬੋਲੀਕਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਬੋਲੀ ਦੀ ਕਰਮ ਤੋਂ 10 ਪ੍ਰਤੀਸ਼ਤ ਵੱਧ ਕਰਮ ਅਦਾ ਕਰਨੀ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ।
2. ਨਿਲਾਮੀ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਡਿਟੇਲ ਸ਼ਰਤਾਂ ਦਫਤਰੀ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਬੋਰਡ 'ਤੇ ਕੰਮ-ਕਾਜ ਵਾਲੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਦੌਰਾਨ ਅਤੇ ਨਗਰ ਨਿਗਮ ਦੀ ਵੈੱਬਸਾਈਟ www.mcluhdiana.gov.in 'ਤੇ ਨਗਰ ਨਿਗਮ ਦੇ ਦਫਤਰ ਬੋਲੀ-ਕਰਮ ਹੋਣਗੇ। 8 ਤੋਂ 9 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ ਸ਼ੁੱਕਰਵਾਰ ਦੀ ਸ਼ਾਮ 4 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ।

Sਰੀ/- ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨਰ, ਨਗਰ ਨਿਗਮ, ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ

DPR/HP/5571

Tourists head for hills, hoteliers elated

2.57 lakh vehicles entered the state within fortnight | Traffic congestion irks residents

PRATIBHA CHAUHAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, JUNE 28
Most hotels in all major tourist destinations are packed to capacity as visitors are swarming the hills to escape the heat. According to an estimate, 2.57 lakh vehicles have entered the state within a fortnight. Even as locals fumed with the usual traffic congestion, hoteliers couldn't have been more happy with an average of over 18,000 vehicles entering the state daily. With the hospitality sector taking a severe beating in the last 15 months, most hotels, guest houses and homestays are witnessing high occupancy, much to their delight. According to the police, while 1.31 lakh vehicles entered Himachal between

Tourists throng Mall Road in Shimla on Monday. PHOTO: AMIT KANWAR

June 13 and June 20, the number remained almost same at 1.25 lakh between June 20 and June 27. The sudden surge of visitors was witnessed as the government has lifted the condition of getting the mandatory RT PCR report and later the e-registration on the cowin portal. "Much to our relief, the

tourism sector seems to be looking up as we are getting very good occupancy. On weekends, most properties are full to capacity," said Sanjay Sood, a local hotelier. Echoing similar sentiments, Anil Walia, who owns a resort in Mashobra, said suddenly the state had come alive with tourists arriving

NO CURBS NOW
■ 1.31 lakh vehicles entered Himachal between June 13 and June 20
■ The number of vehicles remained almost the same at 1.25 lakh between June 20 and June 27
■ The sudden surge of visitors is being witnessed as the state government has lifted the condition of getting the mandatory RT-PCR report.

from every nook and corner of the country, knocking at the doors of every hotel, guest house and homestay, be it Shimla, Manali, Dharamsala, Kinnaur, Lahaul Spiti or Dalhousie. The beleaguered hotel industry had virtually been pushed to the brink with most gasping for survival. Having remained

closed for more than a year, most feel that looking towards the government for financial help was futile. "We have to learn to run the business by the new normal, where a guest feels safe and secure amid Covid times as maintaining high levels of hygiene and cleanliness become priority number one," admitted a hotelier. With the new concept of "work from the hills" catching up, many professionals are re-locating to the quaint villages in places like a remote Manali village or a hut in Dharamkot in McLeodganj. It is the rural populace which is benefiting as these professionals only want a serene setting in the laps of nature, eating the local food with no fancy cuisine, gadgets or rooms.

7,276 vehicles cross Atal Tunnel in 24 hrs

MANDI, JUNE 28
The 9.9-km Atal Tunnel at Rohtang on the Manali-Leh highway is witnessing a heavy rush of tourist vehicles moving towards Lahaul and Spiti and Leh these days. A record 7,276 vehicles crossed the Atal Tunnel in the past 24 hours, as recorded by the police from 8 am on June 27 to 8 am on June 28. As a result, traffic is moving at a snail's pace in the area and commuters are facing inconvenience while moving to Lahaul or returning to Manali. Last time, the highest number of vehicles that crossed via the Atal Tunnel was 5,674. The Kullu and Lahaul and Spiti district police have deputed additional staff at key locations on both sides of the Atal Tunnel to regulate traffic movement. — TNS

All 18 plus get vaccinated in Lahaul-Spiti

MANDI, JUNE 28
Deputy Commissioner, Lahaul Spiti, Pankaj Rai said the target of 100 per cent vaccination for the age group of above 18 years had been achieved in the district. He said, "The work of administering the first dose to 19,244 beneficiaries in the age group of 18 to 44 was completed on Saturday. The Health Department has done a commendable work." He said there was cooperation from public representatives along with the district administration and the Health Department. Asha workers visited door-to-door and made people aware of the vaccination. "The next phase of the campaign has been started under which people above 45 years of age will be vaccinated with the second dose," he said. — TNS

Cong takes out rally in Mandi

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MANDI, JUNE 28
Led by HPCC president Kuldeep Singh Rathore, Congress workers today held a protest march here against the state and Central governments over the rising prices of food items and petrol and diesel. A large number of Congress workers gathered in front of the Gandhi Bhawan and started the protest march. Potraying unity, senior party leaders Kaul Singh Thakur, Rangeela Ram Rao, Prakash Chaudhari and Sohan Lal shared a common stage to vent out their ire at the BJP. The Congress leaders said that during the BJP regime in the state and at the Centre, the prices of essential commodities have increased manifold, making the life of common people difficult. Rathore said that "Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur-led state government has failed on all fronts. During the BJP

Congress members protest inflation, in Mandi on Monday.

regime in the state, inflation has touched new heights, affecting the life of common people badly. Petrol and diesel prices and cooking gas are now beyond the reach of common people. Survival for poor people is getting tough". He said that the Chief Minister was keen to conduct byelections to two Vidhan Sabha seats and one Lok Sabha seat in Himachal

despite the threat of the expected third wave.. He said due to poor preparations of the state government to control the spread of the pandemic, a large number of people lost their lives due to the second wave. Now, despite the threat of the third wave the government seemed reluctant to ensure advance preparations to ensure the safety of common people.

Rajnath e-inaugurates three bridges in state

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, JUNE 28
Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today inaugurated three bridges constructed by the Border Roads Organisation in Himachal Pradesh. Rajnath virtually inaugurated 63 bridges, including three in Himachal Pradesh, from Kungyam in eastern Laddakh constructed by the BRO in eight states. Rajnath appreciated the role of the BRO in providing road connectivity to border areas of the country. He said that better connectivity was vital for the security of the nation. Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur thanked the minister for dedicating the bridges in the border states. He said that three bridges inaugurated in

To provide access to remote areas along China border

Himachal Pradesh are vital, as they provide connectivity to far flung regions where paramilitary forces are deployed at the China border. He said that the Pangri bridge on the Powari-Pooch road constructed at a cost of Rs. 4.27 crore would provide round the year connectivity and would enhance logistic support to boost the morale of the troops. Thakur said that the Kiran khud bridge built at a cost of Rs 5.55 crore would play an important role in maintaining supply lines to troops, besides ensuring an uninterrupted line of communication.

No case of Delta Plus variant found in state

SHIMLA, JUNE 28
No case of the Delta Plus variant of Covid has been reported in the state. As many as 1,113 samples have sent to the National Centre for Disease Control, Delhi, for testing but the Delta Plus strain has not been detected so far. According to a spokesperson for the state Health Department, 109 samples have shown the presence of UK strains whereas eight samples have tested positive for the Kappa strain and 76 for the Delta strain. He said that the second wave of the pandemic had claimed 1,493 more lives compared to the first wave.

VIRBHADRA MUCH BETTER NOW: IGMC

Shimla: Former Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh is making good recovery at the Indira Gandhi Medical College and Hospital (IGMC). According to IGMC Medical Superintendent Dr Janak Raj, the veteran Congress leader is much better now. TNS

The number of cases during the first wave was 58,403 compared to 1,43,262 cases till June 27 during the second wave. Overall, there have been 2,475 deaths during the second wave compared to 982 during the first wave. — TNS

PCB slammed for inaction in Baddi

AMBIKA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE
SOLAN, JUNE 28
Violations of water pollution are still continuing in Baddi and mere stay of order of closure and assessment of compensation for the past violations does not justify inaction for further violations. While coming down heavily on the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) for lack of action on violators of water pollution, the Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal made this observation on June 23 in a case pertaining to pollution in Balad river on account of leakage from the Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP).

"Merely keeping an eye on units discharging more than 200 kilo litres per day (KLD) effluents is not enough and violations by those discharging less than 200 KLD effluents is no less serious or less harmful for the environment and public health," observed the Tribunal. A four-member joint committee comprising a representative of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Central Pollution Control Board, State Pollution Control Board and District Magistrate has been directed to file a status report of compliance after inspecting the erring industrial units.

148 new cases, three deaths

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, JUNE 28
As many as 148 Covid cases were reported in the state today, taking the tally to 201,813. Besides, three persons died of the virus in the past 24 hours. Two deaths were recorded in Shimla and one fatality was reported in the Kinnaur area. There were 40 cases in Chamba, 23 in Shimla, 17 in Mandi, 15 in Kangra, 10 in Bilaspur, 12 in Hamirpur, eight in Kullu, seven in Kinnaur, six each in Una and Sirmour and three in Solan. The total number of active Covid cases has declined to 1,691.

COVID METER			
Samples tested	24,10,448		
Recovered	196,629		
Active	1,691		
Positive	201,813		
Deaths	3,460		
DISTRICT-WISE COUNT			
DISTRICT	+VE	DEATHS	
Bilaspur	12,728	77	
Chamba	11,152	142	
Hamirpur	14,347	254	
Kangra	45,838	1,029	
Kinnaur	3,233	38	
Kullu	8,894	154	
Lahaul & Spiti	2,708	17	
Mandi	27,083	389	
Shimla	25,141	599	
Sirmour	15,316	210	
Solan	22,196	311	
Una	13,265	240	
Total	201,813	3,460	

Parties condemn killing of cop, kin

NC, PDP term it barbarism, a blot on security scenario in Valley

SRINAGAR, JUNE 28

Mainstream political parties in J&K on Monday condemned the killing of special police officer (SPO) Fayaz Ahmed, his wife and daughter in Pulwama district, calling it “barbarism, dastardly and cowardly act” and a blot on the security scenario in the Valley.

National Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah tweeted, “I unreservedly condemn the dastardly & cowardly militant attack.” The NC called the incident a blot on the security scenario in Kashmir.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti stated, “No words are strong enough to condemn the cowardly attack in Awantipora that claimed the lives of Fayaz Ahmad, his wife and daughter.”

People’s Conference (PC) chairman Sajad Lone said



People carry the body of the slain cop’s daughter in Hariparigam village, Pulwama. REUTERS

the news of the killing was “extremely distressing”. He called the perpetrators “thugs of violence”.

BJP’s J&K spokesman Altaf Thakur said barging

into the house of a policeman and killing him and his family members was nothing but a pure form of terrorism.

Senior CPM leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami said

killing unarmed civilians couldn’t be justified in any way. J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) termed the killings as “inhuman, dastardly and mindless”. — PTI

259 fresh cases in J&K, 23 in Ladakh

SRINAGAR, JUNE 28

J&K recorded 259 Covid cases on Monday, taking the total number of infections to 3,14,990, while six deaths pushed the toll to 4,310, officials said. Out of the fresh cases, 90 were from the Jammu division and 169 from the Kashmir division of the UT.

The active cases have dropped to 4,996 while 3,05,684 patients have recovered so far. Meanwhile, the officials said there were 29 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) in the UT as no fresh case had been reported since last evening.

Ladakh reported 23 new cases, taking the infection tally to 19,964. Twenty-three more people were discharged from hospitals, taking the overall recoveries to 19,481. The active cases stand at 281, of which 229 are in Leh and 52 are in Kargil district. Of the new cases, 20 were in Leh and three were from Kargil.

There has been no Covid-related death for the past one week in Ladakh. A total of 202 people have died due Covid in the UT. — PTI



JAGO party protests at J&K House in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

Omar for action over Sikh girls’ conversion

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

Former CM Omar Abdullah has sought action against those behind alleged abduction and forcible conversion to Islam of two girls of the Sikh community in Srinagar.

Abdullah tweeted, “Any move to drive a wedge between Sikhs and Muslims in Kashmir will cause irreparable harm to Islam.”

Media reports quoted grand mufti Nasir-ul-Islam as having said, “There is no place for forcible conversion in Islam.”

In Delhi, Manjit Singh GK, international president of JAGO party, said an anti-

DON’T DRIVE WEDGE

“Any move to drive a wedge between Sikhs and Muslims in Kashmir will cause irreparable harm to J&K. Omar Abdullah, NC LEADER

conversion law should be promulgated in J&K where Sikh girls had been falling prey to “jihadi” elements. In a memorandum to the Prime Minister, Manjit Singh GK stated that though the Article 370 had been annulled, the Sikhs in J&K were being grossly discriminated against and their plight had worsened over the years.

Forces had...

FROM PAGE 1

areas. The use of drones for civilian operations across the country is being discussed as part of a policy to regulate small drones, their ownership and permission to operate.

Sources said the Home Ministry officials wanted that drone operations should have 80-km buffer from any military, strategic or high-value targets. The armed forces maintained that the country, or even the world, didn’t have any technology to detect, destroy and prevent a drone from being a threat in an area as vast as India. Solutions could be applied only to close tactical areas, provided manned surveillance and quick response teams were in place.

The new Indian drone regulations, titled UAS Rules-2021, ask drone operators to adhere to a set of rules. This includes having a student pilot licence, remote pilot licence and a permit for becoming an unmanned aircraft operator.

The drones have to be “no permission, no take-off” (NPNT) compliant. The NPNT is a software that enables every remotely piloted aircraft to obtain a valid permission through “DigitalSky” platform before operating in India.

Gupkar puts off meet as Mufti cites unavailability

not appear before the media together to articulate a united stand. The NC’s views were voiced by party vice-president Omar Abdullah, while Mehbooba Mufti spoke separately about the PDP stand.

Alliance spokesperson MY Tarigami however told The Tribune today that there were no cracks in the group. “There is no room for speculation about a rift in the alliance. We are together. The meeting of the PAGD had been scheduled for tomorrow but Mehbooba Mufti said she would be unable to attend due to personal reasons. It was not considered advisable to pro-

ceed with the meeting in the absence of the PAGD vice-chairperson, so the meeting was postponed,” Tarigami said.

Asked what the dominant view among PAGD constituents (NC, PDP, Awami National Conference, CPM, J&K People’s Movement and CPJ) was on the sticking points about J&K, Tarigami said the allies would sit together and articulate a united strategy.

The PAGD allies currently appear adamant on the restoration of full statehood for J&K ahead of elections.

They argue that the 2019 ceasefire with Pakistan has held and militancy has

reduced, so the time is ripe to restore statehood. The revocation of Article 370 – PAGD’s principal demand when it was formally formed on October 24, 2020 – has taken a backseat as both the NC and PDP are saying that they are ready for a legal struggle to get the special status restored.

Omar Abdullah has said, “If the BJP can struggle for 70 years to abrogate Article 370, we can struggle for as long as it takes to get the special status restored.” Mufti has also said the same thing, indicating willingness to move forward towards the resolution of issues in the region.

For the PAGD to not list restoration of special status as a precondition for talks with the PM was in itself an indication that the mainstream regional parties were now willing to work for the restoration of democratic process provided the government also moved some steps forward and rebuilt the lost confidence.

Considering the PAGD had, at the time of its formation, adopted the erstwhile J&K flag to mark its commitment to the demand of special status, the latest development of agreeing to pursue the goal through legal means is a major step forward towards resolution.

10 killed...

ascertained. Local villagers had initiated the rescue with the help of the police.

“Nine people were killed on the spot while one of the injured died later,” the DSP said.

The deceased were identified as Anil Kumar (38), who was driving the vehicle, Kuldeep (26), Yash (12), Pravesh (18), Suresh (17), Pravesh (17), Neeraj (16), Inder Singh (44), Banti (16) and Nikhil (17). Those injured were identified as Akshay (22) and Kamna Ram (57). They were rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment.

The accident victims were residents of Kando Bhatnol and Chareyu villages in Shillai. Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur has expressed grief over the accident.

₹1.1 L cr loan guarantee...

month and given once to each foreigner.

The Finance Minister also announced an additional Rs 23,220 crore for short-term emergency preparedness with an emphasis on paediatric care. This is on top of Rs 15,000 crore provided in the budget.

Extra corpus will be provided to the National Export Insurance Account to underwrite Rs 33,000 crore worth of project exports over five years. For exports, the Finance Minister announced a proposal to infuse equity in Export Credit Guarantee Corpn over 5 years to boost export insurance cover by Rs 88,000 crore.

An additional Rs 19,041 crore outlay will be provided for providing broadband to

each village through Bharat-Net PPP model. Sitharaman also announced an allocation of Rs 3.03 lakh crore for a revamped reform-based result-linked power distribution scheme. Of this, the Centre’s share would be Rs 97,631 crore.

A new streamlined process for Public-private partnership (PPP) projects and asset monetisation will aid speedy clearance of projects while the productivity-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for large-scale electronics manufacturing has been extended by one year, till fiscal 2025-26. Under the scheme, the manufacturers are given incentives of 4% to 6% on incremental sales of goods under target segments manufactured in India.

LeTrole...

sentries at the Ratnuchak-Kaluchak station who fired at the unmanned aerial vehicles that then flew away. “Two separate drone activities were spotted over Ratnuchak-Kaluchak military area by alert troops,” Jammu-based Army PRO Lt Col Devender Anand said in a statement. Officials in the security agencies said over 300 drones and unidentified flying objects had been sighted along the country’s western frontiers with Pakistan since August 5, 2019, particularly in Punjab and Jammu sectors. Personnel posted in forward areas were trying to find a suitable technology to check these objects, they added.

The security agencies were also testing some indigenous counter-drone technologies in varied terrain along the border.

PUNJAB MANDI BOARD
email:- pmbxencjal@punjab.gov.in
NOTICE INVITING ONLINE BIDS
Tender Notice No. 20 (2021) Dt. 25/06/2021
Executive Engineer (C), Punjab Mandi Board, Jalandhar invites tenders from eligible bidders enlisted with Punjab Mandi Board for Construction of Office Building Market Committee, Nakodar. For detail terms & conditions of notice inviting bids, refer to website. <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
Corrigendum if any will only be issued on website.
Sd/- Executive Engineer (C), Punjab Mandi Board, Jalandhar.
DPR/Pb/5558

PUNJAB ROADS & BRIDGE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
S.C.F. 61-62, Phase-2, Mohali — 160055
Phone No. 172-5134620, Website: www.prbdb.gov.in
NOTICE INVITING BIDS FOR SUPPLY OF MANPOWER
Sealed bids/offers are hereby invited from authorized service providers/agencies for Supply of Manpower for various services. The bids/offers shall be received up to **3:00 P.M. on or before 14.07.2021** and opened on the same day at **3:30 P.M.** in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives who would like to be present.
*** For detailed terms and conditions of Notice Inviting Bids refer to website: www.prbdb.gov.in**
Joint Secretary, PRBDB
DPR/Pb/5558

PUNJAB HERITAGE & TOURISM PROMOTION BOARD
Invitation for Bids (IFB)
Date: 29.06.2021
Sealed bids are hereby invited from eligible individuals/firms/consortium having 3 years experience in Management & Operation of Food Court/ Restaurant/Hotel/Catering Services etc. on for allotment of PHTPB property on license basis on prescribed form. The details are as under:-

Sr. No.	Name of Property	EMD (amount in Rs.)	License Period	Last date of Sub-mission of Bids	Proposal Fee (amount in Rs.)
1.	Operation, Maintenance & Management of Bougainville Floating Restaurant at Sirhind	1,00,000/-	10 Years	22.07.2021	2,000/-

The tender document along with detailed terms and conditions will be available from **29.06.2021** on website www.punjabtourism.gov.in
Sd/- Chief Executive Officer
Plot No. 3, Sector 38-A, Chandigarh — 160036
Phone: +91 172 5042962, E-mail: ridhibhatia.mcv@gmail.com
DPR/Pb/5563

DISTRICT CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION, TEHSIL COMPLEX, NEW COURT ROAD MANSA (PB) 151505
Phone No. 01652-228649
No. DCC/Mansa/395 Dated: 28.6.2021
ADVERTISEMENT/NOTICE
The State Government has notified the Mediation Cell to be attached to the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Mansa under Section 74 (1) of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 on 11.6.2021. Under Section 75 (1) of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 a Panel of Mediators is to be prepared by this Commission. Accordingly, applications are invited from the eligible candidates under Section 75 (1) of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 for empanelment of 5 (Five) Mediators in the Mediation Cell attached with the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, as per the eligibility criteria provided in (See Regulations 3 and 4) Consumer Protection (Mediation) Regulations 2020 and the Consumer Protection (Mediations) Rules 2020 available at <https://mansa.nic.in>. The applications alongwith supporting documents on the prescribed proforma, to be downloaded from <https://mansa.nic.in>, may be submitted personally or through registered post to the Superintendent, District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Tehsil Complex, New Court Road, Mansa on or before 30.7.2021 at 4.00 P.M.
Sd/- Superintendent, District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Mansa.
DPR/Pb/5572

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT e-Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
1. The Executive Engineer, Bilaspur, Division No. 1, HPPWD, Bilaspur H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the undetermined work from the eligible and approved contractors/firms registered with HPPWD Department.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of Tender	Time Limit	Eligible class of Contractor
1.	Slope protection work on the left Bank of River Satluj from Plunge Pool to Metri Setu Bridge. (SH:- Protection work i.e. RCC Toe wall and wire crate wall etc.). Under NTPC Deposit.	1,81,14,028/-	2,13,700/-	5000/-	Six months	Class-B&C

2. **Availability of Bid document and mode of submission:** The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website <https://hptenders.gov.in>. Bidder would be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: <https://hptenders.gov.in>. Digital Signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the Digital Signature issued from authorized as can use the same in this tender.
3. **Key Dates:**

1. Date of Online Publication	07/07/2021 10:00 HRS
2. Document Download Start and End Date	07/07/2021, 10:00 HRS to 19/07/2021, 10:30 HRS
3. Bid Submission Start and End Date	07/07/2021, 10:00 HRS to 19/07/2021, 10:30 HRS
4. Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document	19/07/2021 up to 10:45 HRS
5. Date of Technical Bid Opening	19/07/2021, 11:00 HRS

4. **TENDER DETAILS:**
The Tender documents shall be uploaded online in 2 Cover:
i) **Cover 1:** shall contain scanned copies of all “**Technical Documents/Eligibility Information**”
ii) **Cover 2:** shall contain “**BOQ/Financial Bid**”, where contractor will quote his offer for each item.
5. **SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS:** The bidders are required to submit (a) Original Demand and Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) Original Bid Security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and other Technical Documents in O/o Executive Engineer, Bilaspur Division No. 1, HPPWD, Bilaspur, H.P. as specified in Key dates Sr. No. 4 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.
6. **BID OPENING DETAILS:** The bids shall be opened on **19/07/2021 at 11:00 HRS** in the Office Executive Engineer, Bilaspur Division No. 1, HPPWD, Bilaspur, H.P. by the authorised officer. In their interest the tenderer are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than **120 days** after the deadline date for bid submission.
8. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.
On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh.
Executive Engineer, Bilaspur, HPPWD Division No. 1, Distt. Bilaspur, H.P.
DPR/HP/1841

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH
TENDER NOTICE-2021-22/11
ALLOTMENT OF SHOPS/SITES
Sealed tenders are invited for licensing out certain shops/sites at PGI, Sector 12, Chandigarh. Tender form containing all terms and conditions can be seen and downloaded from PGI website <http://pgimer.edu.in>. Website: <http://pgimer.edu.in>
Di-5104 **DIRECTOR**

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH
TENDER NOTICE-2021-22/10
ALLOTMENT OF SHOPS/SITES
Sealed tenders are invited for licensing out certain shops/sites at PGI, Sector 12, Chandigarh. Tender form containing all terms and conditions can be seen and downloaded from PGI website <http://pgimer.edu.in>. Website: <http://pgimer.edu.in>
Di-5109 **DIRECTOR**

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH
TENDER NOTICE NO. PROC. BR. (INDG.) (HPD)/2021/239-240
PHONE NO. 0172-2756468 & 2756463
This Institute has to make Rate Contract as per the details shown in the table below. The manufacturer and their authorized dealers/distributors can offer their minimum rates as per terms & conditions contained in the Tender Form:-

Tender Enquiry No.	Item Name	Earnest Money	Due date and time
239	Needle Free Connector--Double Lumen (Rate Contract for two years)	No Earnest Money required till 31-12-2021	30-07-2021 at 12.30 p.m.
240	Needle Free Connector--Single Lumen (Rate Contract for two years)		--o--

The tender form and specification of the products are available on the website www.pgimer.edu.in and www.eprocure.gov.in.
The Tenders will be received manually on or before due date and time mentioned against each item in the table above at **Procurement Branch (Indigenous), 'C' Block, 2nd Floor, Central Store, Nehru Hospital, PGIMER, Chandigarh.** (Telephone Number: 0172-2756468 & 2756463). These shall be opened on the same due date at 03:00 P.M. in the presence of the authorized intending tenderer. Tenders not submitted on the prescribed form shall be summarily ignored. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders received without assigning any reason thereof.
Prof. Ashok Kumar, Officer In Charge (HPD),
Di-5114

F.No. Q-12011/2/2019-AS (Part-2)
Government of India
Ministry of AYUSH
(Ayurveda Section)
Advertisement for the post of Director, National Institute of Sowa Rigpa (NISR), Leh-Reg.
Applications are invited in duplicate from eligible candidates for filling up the post of Director, National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa, Leh, an autonomous body under the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India. Details are available on the website of the Ministry (www.ayush.gov.in) & DoPT (www.persmin.nic.in). The application in the prescribed proforma complete in all respect forwarded through proper channel should reach **Shri Abdul Sadiq Khan, Under Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, AYUSH Bhawan, B-Block, GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi — 110023** within 30 days from the date of publication of the advertisement for this post in the Employment News/Rozgar Samachar.
(Abdul Sadiq Khan)
Under Secretary to the Government of India
davep 17201/11/0017/2122

File No. PWD-BR 307/25/2020-TBR3 1/2011 10/2021
Dated: 22.06.2021
GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (B&R III BRANCH)
NOTIFICATION
Whereas preliminary notification No. PWD-BR 307/25/2020-1/BR3/ 57703/2020 dated 31.07.2020 was issued under section 11 of “The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013” for acquisition of land for the Public purpose namely “for construction of Rajpura-Bathinda Double Line project of Ambala Division of Northern Railway.” This notification was published in two daily newspapers “The Tribune” and Punjabi “Ajit” on 20.10.2020.
Whereas the Governor of Punjab is satisfied that land specified below needed by government at public expenses for the public purpose, namely “for construction of Rajpura-Bathinda Double Line project of Ambala Division of Northern Railway.”
The Social Impact Assessment Study for the project was carried out by the State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Punjab, under Section 4 of the “Right to Fair Compensation And Transparency in land acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013” and the same was reviewed by the Expert group, the recommendations of which have been accepted by the Government of Punjab. As per the Social Impact Assessment report no person is uprooted as a result of acquisition of the scheduled land. Therefore, in this connection Rehabilitation and Resettlement Scheme is not required.
This notification is made under the provisions of Section 19 of “The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013” to all whom it may concern and under the provision of section 21 of “The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013”. The Land Acquisition Collector, Rampura Phul is hereby directed to take possession of said land.
Plan of the land may be inspected in the offices of the Land Acquisition Collector-Cum-Sub Divisional Magistrate, Rampura Phul.
Village list with Area Details:

Village – Rampura (72)							
Sr. No.	District	Tehsil	Village & H.B.	No. Khasra	Type of Land	Area K-M	Re-marks
1.	Bathinda	Rampura Phul	Rampura (72)	22/24 Min	G.M.	2-9	
2.				25 Min	G.M.	3-11	
3.				23/21 Min	G.M.	0-16	
4.				48/3 Min	Chahi	3-11	
5.				4 Min	Chahi	1-2	
6.				9 Min	Chahi	3-12	
7.				10 Min	Chahi	1-0	
TOTAL AREA						16-1 or 2.00625 Acre	

Village – Gill Kalan (40)							
Sr. No.	District	Tehsil	Village & H.B.	No. Khasra	Type of Land	Area K-M	Re-marks
1.	Bathinda	Rampura Phul	Gill Kalan (40)	159/10 Min	Chahi	1-3	
2.				160/6 Min	Chahi	1-3	
3.				13 Min	Chahi	3-3	
4.				14/1 Min	Chahi	1-12	
5.				14/2/2 Min	Chahi	0-12	
6.				18/2 Min	Chahi	0-6	
7.				19 Min	Chahi	3-11	
8.				20 Min	Chahi	2-6	
9.				21 Min	Chahi	0-8	
TOTAL AREA						14-4 or 1.7750 Acre	

SUMMARY			
Sr. No.	Village & H.B.	Additional Area K.M.	Remarks
1.	Rampura (72)	16-1	2.00625
2.	Gill Kalan (40)	14-4	1.7750
Total		30-5	3.78125

Area of Total Additional Land to be Acquired in two Villages 30 Kanal 5 Marla.
Vikas Pratap, IAS
Principal Secretary to Government of Punjab
Department of Public Works (B&R).
Dated, Chandigarh
The: 17.06.2021
DPR/Pb/5564

Ukraine, NATO launch joint Black Sea drills

KYIV, JUNE 28
Ukraine and NATO on Monday launched Black Sea drills that will involve dozens of warships, an exercise that follows last week's incident with a British destroyer off Crimea.
Moscow said one of its warships fired warning shots and a warplane dropped bombs in the path of British destroyer Defender on Wednesday to force her out of an area near the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia annexed in 2014.
Britain denied that account, insisted its ship wasn't fired upon and said it was sailing in Ukrainian waters. The Sea Breeze 2021 maneuvers that began Monday and will last for two weeks are set to involve about 30 warships and 40 aircraft from US and its NATO allies and Ukraine. US destroyer Ross has arrived in the Ukrainian port of Odessa for the drills. — AP

Merkel pushes for EU talks with Russia

BERLIN, JUNE 28
German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Monday defended the idea of holding a European Union meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, arguing it would offer an opportunity to confront Putin with European concerns.
The idea was rejected last week by eastern EU members. At a summit on Friday, EU leaders agreed only to "explore formats and conditionalities of dialogue with Russia". There was no mention of any high-level meetings or plans for a summit with Putin, an idea that Germany and France had pushed. The outcome reflected deep divisions in the 27-nation EU's approach to Moscow.
The EU is concerned that Putin is turning increasingly authoritarian and wants to distance himself from the West. Both EU and the NATO military alliance are struggling to bring Russia back to



NEED FOR DIALOGUE

A meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin would allow Europeans to address all questions that weigh on us and also those on which we want to cooperate.

Angela Merkel, GERMAN CHANCELLOR

CONFRONTING PUTIN WITH EUROPEAN CONCERNS

- The European Union (EU) is concerned that Russian President Vladimir Putin is turning increasingly authoritarian and wants to distance himself from the West
- Both EU and the NATO military alliance are struggling to bring Russia back to the table

the table. US President Joe Biden's meeting with Putin this month was a rare exception. "The concern was that we perhaps wouldn't be able to put up a united front, and such a summit of course requires very intensive preparation," Merkel said at

that Germany, France, Italy and the Baltic nations have faced, Merkel added: "It's better not just always to talk about this among ourselves, but to confront the Russian president with these things and to say that beneficial cooperation can't take place on such a basis."
"This was made very clear by President Biden regarding cyberattacks, and why should Europe not be able to do exactly that?" Merkel said.
But the Baltic states are among those deeply concerned about reaching out to Moscow when the Minsk agreements meant to bring peace to Ukraine are still not being respected. On the other hand, Russia is the EU's biggest natural gas supplier, and plays a key role in a series of international conflicts and issues linked to Europe's strategic interests, including the Iran nuclear deal and conflicts in Syria and Libya. — AP

Moscow, Beijing extend friendship treaty by 5 years

MOSCOW, JUNE 28
The leaders of Russia and China on Monday hailed increasingly close ties between their countries and announced the extension of a 20-year-old friendship treaty, a show of unity amid their tensions with the West.
Speaking in a video call with Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin said the treaty signed in July 2001 in Moscow helped take relations between Moscow and Beijing to an "unprecedented height" and would be extended for another five years.
The Russian leader noted that the coordination of foreign policy efforts by Russia and China has played a "stabilising role in global affairs". — AP



GLOBE TROT



SOUND OF MUSIC: Residents take part in a music festival at Ath Bouada in Algiers. REUTERS

Man held in Kuwait for ranting over bad weather online
DUBAI: The police in Kuwait have arrested an Egyptian man for posting a video online in which he rants about bad weather and dust storms. The arrest underscored the country's restrictions on expression and drew criticism on social media on Monday. AP

N Koreans heartbroken over Kim's emaciated looks
SEOUL: North Koreans have been worrying tearfully about leader Kim Jong Un's "emaciated looks," state media quoted a local resident as saying, in a rare acknowledgment of foreign speculation about his weight loss. AP

UK military chief tests +ve

LONDON, JUNE 28
UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace and top military commanders went into self-isolation on Monday after the country's Armed Forces chief, General Sir Nick Carter, tested positive for Covid.
The Cabinet Minister and heads of the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force (RAF) and Strategic Command were alerted by the National Health Service (NHS) Test and Trace app to stay at home for 10 days after coming into close contact with Sir Nick.
The head of the UK Army, General Sir Mark Carleton-Smith, who is Sir Nick's deputy, have also spent the weekend in quarantine while they await the result of PCR

TRACKING VIRUS	
NATION	DEATHS
US	6,19,424
BRAZIL	5,13,544
INDIA	3,96,730
MEXICO	2,32,564
UK	1,28,100
WORLDWIDE TILL JUNE 28, 11 PM	

tests after also attending the meeting but maintaining a greater distance from the commander, the Daily Telegraph reported.
"The Chief of the Defence Staff has tested positive during routine Covid-19 checks," said a spokesperson for the Ministry of Defence. — PTI

Poland, Israel in diplomatic spat over Warsaw property law

WARSAW, JUNE 28
Poland and Israel have summoned each other's diplomats in a growing dispute over Poland's planned changes to property restitution rules that Israel and Jewish organisations say would prevent Jewish claims for compensation or property seized during the Holocaust and communist times.
On Monday, Israeli charge d'affaires Tal Ben-Ari Yaalon met with Poland's Deputy Foreign Minister Pawel Jablonski, who insisted the new regulations do not bar any property claims, which should be made

'DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED'
The World Jewish Restitution Organisation said it was "deeply disappointed" by Poland's response to their concerns.

through courts. Poland also says it must not be made responsible for property seizures by Nazi Germany during its World War II occupation of Poland.
Jablonski later said Ben-Ari Yaalon repeated the embassy's statement from last week, which called the new regulations "immoral" and said they "will have a

Pak says 5,000 TTP ultras present in Af

ISLAMABAD, JUNE 28
Pakistan on Monday claimed that more than 5,000 militants of the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) were present in Afghanistan, a day after Kabul denied the presence of the banned terror outfit in the war-torn country.
"The assertions of the Afghan side are contrary to facts on ground and various reports of the UN, which also corroborate the presence and activities of over 5000-strong TTP in Afghanistan," Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudri said.
He made the remarks in response to the media queries

about the Afghan Foreign Ministry statement, which said the TTP "is neither founded in Afghanistan nor operates on our soil". "Terrorist groups are recognised as the enemy of peace, stability, and prosperity in Afghanistan and the region, and the Afghan Government fights against this terrorist outfit like any other without discrimination," the Afghan Foreign Ministry said on Sunday.
Afghanistan has "consistently stressed implementation of UNSC resolutions and Doha agreement that calls on the Taliban to cut ties with regional and international terrorist groups," it said. — PTI

Pak body for early drafting of Hindu Marriage Act

PESHAWAR, JUNE 28
A delegation comprising members of Pakistan's minority communities on Monday urged the provincial government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in northwest Pakistan to expedite the drafting of rules for the Hindu Marriage and Divorce Act.
The federal government approved the Hindu Marriage Bill in March 2017 with the consent of the governments in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, and Baluchistan provinces and issued necessary instructions to them to draft the required rules. Pakistan has about 3.8 million Hindus. — PTI

BUSINESS

USD \$	EURO €	POUND £	JPY ¥	YUAN 元	CAD C\$	AUD A\$	SGD S\$	HKD HK\$
₹74.19	₹88.56	₹103.18	₹0.67	₹11.50	₹60.22	₹56.26	₹55.26	₹9.57

BSE

189.45
52,735.59

NSE

45.65
15,814.70

GOLD

₹47,160
Mumbai (MCX)

SILVER

₹67,900
Mumbai (MCX)

Relief for Franklin Templeton MF as SAT stays SEBI's order

NEW DELHI, JUNE 28
Franklin Templeton Asset Management (India) on Monday said the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) has stayed SEBI's order, whereby the regulator had barred the asset management firm from launching any new debt scheme for two years.
In addition, the regulator had asked Franklin Templeton to refund investment management and advisory fees to the tune of Rs 512 crore, including interest, collected with respect to its six debt schemes which are now shut.
"With reference to the order issued by whole time member (WTM) of SEBI on June 7, 2021, Franklin Templeton Asset Management (India) Pvt Ltd filed an appeal and an application for

NEXT HEARING ON AUGUST 30

- Markets regulator SEBI had barred the asset management firm from launching any new debt scheme for two years
- In addition, SEBI had asked Franklin Templeton to refund investment management and advisory fee to the tune of ₹512 crore collected with respect to its six debt schemes which are now shut
- The matter has been listed on August 30 for next hearing

stay before the SAT. After hearing the parties, the SAT has stayed the operation of the order passed by the WTM," a Franklin Templeton spokesperson said.
The matter has been listed on August 30, 2021 for further directions, he added.
SEBI in its order found that Franklin Templeton Asset Management (India)

"committed serious lapses/violations with regard to a scheme categorisation (by replicating high-risk strategy across several schemes) and calculation of Macaulay duration (to push long-term papers into short duration schemes)." Also, it committed violations in respect of non-exercise of exit options in the face of

emerging liquidity crisis, securities valuation practices, risk management practices and investment related due diligence, the regulator had noted.
"As a result of the irregularities in the running of the debt schemes inspected, loss has been caused to the investors. The noticee (Franklin Templeton AMC) was under a statutory obligation to abide by the provisions of the Mutual Regulations and Circulars issued thereunder, which it failed to do," SEBI had said.
According to SEBI, serious lapses and violations appear to be a fallout of the Franklin Templeton AMC's obsession to run high yield strategies without due regard from the concomitant risk dimensions, it added. — PTI

Sensex retreats from record peak as RIL, IT stocks skid

BSE benchmark ends 189 pts lower at 52,735

MUMBAI, JUNE 28
Equity benchmark Sensex reversed early gains to close 189 points lower on Monday, pressured by Reliance Industries and IT stocks, as investors gave a lukewarm response to the government's fresh stimulus measures for Covid-hit sectors.
After touching a lifetime high of 53,126.73 in opening session, the 30-share

BUYING IN PHARMA STOCKS CAP LOSSES

- A lacklustre trend in global equities further weighed on sentiment, though robust buying in pharma and metal counters capped the losses, traders said

BSE index ended 189.45 points or 0.36 per cent lower at 52,735.59.
Similarly, the broader

NSE Nifty settled 45.65 points down at 15,814.70. It touched an intra-day record of 15,915.65. — PTI

Mastercard buys stake in Instamojo

NEW DELHI, JUNE 28
Mastercard has picked up a stake in Instamojo, a digital platform catering to small businesses and self-employed workers. The investment is aimed at empowering millions of MSMEs and gig workers by providing solutions that will help them set up online stores, digital payment acceptance capabilities and reaching out to customers, even during the pandemic, Mastercard said. — PTI

The Tribune CORPORATE BROADBAND

Punjab & Sind Bank celebrates 114th foundation day
Punjab & Sind Bank celebrated 114th foundation day on June 24. The journey of the bank commenced in 1908 in Amritsar and continues to grow pan India since then. On the occasion, the Mumbai Zone and its branches thanked its customers for their valued association with the bank. Patiala zonal office also celebrated the foundation day. Customers were honoured by Satbir Singh, Zonal Manager.

SBI launches 'Aarogyam Healthcare Business Loan'
The SBI has launched 'Aarogyam Healthcare Business Loan'. Under this new product, entire healthcare ecosystem such as hospitals, nursing homes, diagnostic centres, pathology labs, manufacturers, suppliers, importers, logistics firms engaged in critical healthcare supply can avail of loans up to Rs 100 crore (as per the geographic location) repayable in 10 years.

SCOPE organises session on enhancing immunity via yoga
On the occasion of 7th International Yoga Day, Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) organised a session on 'Enhancing Immunity through Yoga & Meditation' in collaboration with Bapu Nature Cure Hospital and Yogashram, (BNCHY), Delhi. Atul Sobti, DG, SCOPE, and Pradip Kumar Das, CMD, IREDA and vice-chairman, SCOPE, also addressed the participants.

Powergrid recognised as 'Great Place to Work'
Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (Powergrid) has been recognised as 'Great Place to Work' by the Great Place to Work® Institute (GPTW) which is a 'gold standard' for workplace culture assessment. It has also won the recognition of India's Best Employers among Nation-Builders 2021 category.

Takshila Institute extends help to students hit by Covid
Takshila Institute, Zirakpur, is providing free coaching to students for IIT-

JEE/NEET examination to those who have lost their parents or the earning member of their family because of Covid. Set up 23 years ago, the Institute is both into offline and online model providing coaching from Class VIII & above.

Sri Chaitanya student secures first rank in NTSE stage-I
Raghav Goyal (regular classroom student) of Sri Chaitanya, Chandigarh, has secured first rank in NTSE stage-I. The National Talent Search Examination was held on December 13, 2020. Few more regular classroom students secured great ranks in the NTSE qualifying exam.

SBI Card, Fabindia in pact to launch co-branded card
SBI Card and Fabindia have joined hands to launch an exclusive co-branded contactless credit card - Fabindia SBI Card. The card is designed to offer a rewarding shopping experience to its premium customers and comes in two variants - Fabindia SBI Card SELECT and Fabindia SBI Card.

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance distributes ambulances
Bajaj Allianz General Insurance in collaboration with Jankidevi Bajaj Gram Vikas Sanstha has distributed 17 advanced ambulances in 17 cities as a part of the company's 'Saving Lives' initiative.

E-comm presents big exports opportunity: Amazon India
Amazon's flagship e-commerce exports programme 'Global Selling' has lowered the entry barrier for motivated Indian MSMEs to expand their business and launch their brands globally from anywhere in India. With this programme, homegrown businesses get instant access to global markets from Day 1, benefiting from Amazon's distribution capabilities and global footprint to scale rapidly, creating a sustainable exports business.

Microsoft unveils Windows 11
Microsoft has introduced Windows 11. From intuitive design features that

make multi-tasking a breeze to an all-new Microsoft Store that provides users with easy access to apps, games, and movies, it is optimised for working, learning and playing.

Under Armour opens flagship brand store in Jalandhar
Under Armour has opened its flagship brand store in Jalandhar. The store will have the latest global range of Under Armour's innovative athletic performance merchandise, including HOVR Phantom running shoes, mineraHfused apparel line - RUSH and RECOVER, and the much-loved Project Rock collection.

Hewlett Packard deploys 53 Covid vaccination centres
Hewlett Packard Enterprise has deployed 53 Covid vaccination centres across Assam, Karnataka, UP, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan and Chandigarh in collaboration with state governments and NGO partners. It also announced that its 50 Covid test labs and OPD centres have collectively facilitated over 5 lakh patient visits across 14 states in India.

eduVelocity students make it to top universities abroad
Tricity-based overseas education consultancy eduVelocity's students have brought laurels by making it to the top universities across the world. It felicitated the outgoing class of 2021 in a virtual felicitation ceremony held recently. The students have bagged admission offers and scholarships from universities across India, the US, the UK, Canada, Australia, France, Hong Kong, Italy, Ireland among others.

Training workshop held for street vendors at Morinda
The Municipal Council, Morinda, in collaboration with Department of Community Medicine & School of Public Health, PGIMER, Chandigarh, recently organised a capacity building and training workshop. It was inaugurated by Jasvir Singh, SDM, Morinda. The workshop was organised to improve street vendor's skills so as to provide safe street food to the general public.

BRIEFLY

NEW DELHI
Boxers Simranjit, Gaurav nominated for Arjuna
Olympics-bound Simranjit Kaur, Commonwealth Games gold medallist Gaurav Solanki and World Championships silver winner Sonia Chahal have been nominated for the Arjuna Award by the Boxing Federation of India. Simranjit (60kg) is a 2018 World Championships bronze winner and is among the four women boxers who have qualified for the Tokyo Olympics. The federation also nominated women's assistant coach Sandhya Gurung and national youth head coach Bhaskar Bhatt for the Dronacharya Award.

PARIS
Deepika reclaims world No. 1 ranking after triple gold
Star Indian archer Deepika Kumari today regained the No. 1 position in global rankings following her hat-trick of gold medals at the World Cup Stage 3 here. The 27-year-old from Ranchi had achieved the top spot for the first time in 2012.

NEW DELHI
BWF cancels India Open, shifts Tour Finals from China
The India Open Super 500 and Hyderabad Open Super 100 tournaments were today cancelled by the Badminton World Federation (BWF), which announced a revamped international calendar. However, Syed Modi India International Super 300 tournament, scheduled to be held in Lucknow from October 12 to 17, remained on course as of now. BWF also said that Finland will host the Sudirman Cup Finals in September-October while the season-ending World Tour Finals will be staged in Indonesia. China was earlier scheduled to host both the events.

DARMSTADT (GERMANY)
Olympics javelin champ Rohler out of Tokyo
Germany's Thomas Rohler ruled himself out of defending his Olympics javelin title because of a back injury. Rohler was injured in training. AGENCIES

TODAY ON TV

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP
ENGLAND VS GERMANY 9:30PM
SWEDEN VS UKRAINE
00:30AM (WEDNESDAY)
SONY TEN, SONY SIX

WIMBLEDON
STAR SECT 3:30PM

TOUR DE FRANCE
EUROSPORT 3:30PM

SHOOTING WORLD CUP
OSIJEK (CROATIA), JUNE 28
Olympics-bound Rahi Sarnobat displayed sensational form to clinch the women's 25m pistol gold medal at the ISSF shooting World Cup here today but teen sensation Manu Bhaker ended seventh in the same event.
Sarnobat's gold is India's first in the ongoing edition after the country secured one silver and two bronze medals earlier in the tournament.
The 30-year-old Sarnobat fired a final score of 39 after qualifying second with a total of 591. Her stupendous performance in the final included perfect scores in the third, fourth, fifth and sixth series.

"After I got assurance about the gold, it was more about technicalities for me in the last few series as I wanted to try out a few things so I was doing that," Sarnobat said.
"This competition was absolutely not about performance or medal because I was trying out a few things which I am going to do in the Olympic Games and this is the final competition before that. It was more about trying out things and finalising everything before the Olympics for the last time and that was just that," she added.
Nonetheless, winning a

Wonder woman

Rahi grabs India's 1st gold, Bhaker ends seventh



Rahi Sarnobat poses with the medal alongside France's Mathilde Lamolle (L) and Russian Vitalina Batsarashkina. ISSF

After I got assurance about the gold, it was more about technicalities for me in the last few series as I wanted to try out a few things so I was doing that. This competition was absolutely not about performance or medal because I was trying out a few things which I am going to do in the Games

gold here has given Sarnobat the belief that her preparations for the Tokyo Games are on the right track. "I have to keep working on this up to and

after the Olympic Games as well," she said.
The silver went to France's Mathilde Lamolle, who scored 31 in the final. Rio Olympics silver-medallist in the 10m air pistol, Vitalina Batsarashkina of Russia, won bronze with 28 hits, bowing out after the ninth five-shot series.
In qualification, Sarnobat fired a brilliant 296 in the rapid fire round today. Her precision score was an equally impressive 295 yesterday.
Bhaker recorded a total of 588 to qualify third after firing a 296 in the rapid fire round today following an impressive 292 in the precision round yesterday.
However, she was eliminated early in the final with a disappointing score of 11, losing a shoot-off to Bulgaria's Viktoria Chaika.
There was disappointment for India in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions competition as both Tejaswini Sawant and Anjum Moudgil failed to make the finals.
Sawant ended 20th in qualification with a score of 1168, while Moudgil was further down at 32nd after firing 1162. — PTI

T20 WC in UAE, says Ganguly

NEW DELHI, JUNE 28
The T20 World Cup scheduled to be held in India is being shifted to the UAE owing to the health safety concerns posed by Covid-19, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly told PTI today, ending weeks of speculation surrounding the mega event in October-November.
"We have officially intimidated the ICC that the T20 World Cup can be shifted to the United Arab Emirates. The details are being chalked out," Ganguly said. "The decision was taken keeping

health safety concerns of all stakeholders in mind."
The BCCI will, however, remain the hosts of the showpiece. Asked if October 17 has been finalised as the start date of the tournament, Ganguly said: "We will be able to finalise itinerary details in some days. October 17 start hasn't yet been finalised."
Even an ICC spokesperson confirmed that the global body is yet to zero in on a final schedule. The ICC, at the start of the month, had given BCCI a four-week window to decide and inform whether India could host the marquee event considering the Covid-19 situation in the country.
BCCI secretary Jay Shah, in a letter to all state units, said that the decision was taken keeping in mind that "safety of players and other stakeholders is of paramount importance..." Shah also wrote that "it was not an easy decision and we mulled over it for months, constantly keeping an eye on Covid situation all along."
The Indian team, with its T20 players, will reach Dubai on September 15. — PTI

WESTERN RAILWAY

MATERIAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
CORRIGENDUM TO e-AUCTION SALE PROGRAMME
Additional e-auction Sale program during July, 2021 for P. WAY & Other various Scrap

Please refer to e-Auction Sale Programme No. SIII/Auction Programme-1/July-2021 dt. 15.06.2021, following additional E-auction programme for disposal of P. Way scrap & other various scrap material will also be held in July, 2021 in addition to existing for following depot and divisions :

Depot/ Divisions	Additional e-Auction program of July, 2021	Depot Officer in charge	Contact No.
PRTN	08.07.2021	Deputy Chief Materials Manager - DHD	02673241295 09724090455
MMCT	14.07.2021	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager - MMCT	022-23094142 09004499006
RJT	28.07.2021	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager - RJT	02812476943 09724094770

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. Please visit Western Railway Website of material Management Department i.e. www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in as well as on www.ireps.gov.in e-auction portal for further information. (SIII/Auction Programme-2/July-2021-22 Dt.25.06.2021).

0217

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Toor wants to breach 22m barrier

VINAYAK PADMADEO
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, JUNE 28
Tajinder Pal Singh Toor had a target in mind when he stepped onto the throw pitch at the Netaji National Institute of Sports in Patiala today. His coach Mohinder Singh Dhillion had placed two cones past the 22-metre mark as a measure for Toor to cross.
While the target was set, the burly shot putter had doubts about participation. The 27-year-old Arjuna Award winner had a slight pain in his throwing arm and so he was not sure how he would hold up. The plan was to try out a few throws during the warm-up and then decide.
"I have been disturbed by slight muscle tightness for the last 4-5 days. I wanted to see what happened during the warm-up and had I experienced pain I would have not started today. Thankfully there was no pain," Toor said



Tajinder Pal Singh Toor set a new meet record of 21.10m.

minutes after registering a throw of 21.10 metres, which is also a new meet record at National Inter-State Athletics Championships.
However, even after deciding to go through with the competition, the Tokyo Olympics-bound thrower was conservative in his first three throws today. Toor registered 20.42, 20.63 and 20.92

in his first three attempts. His second throw was a new meet record – he bettered the mark set by Inderjeet Singh.
Toor consistently bettered his own mark in his next three throws, finally registering the best of 21.10 in his sixth and final attempt. Despite finishing far above the competitors, Toor said he could have done more. Punjab's Karnveer Singh and Rajasthan's Vanam Sharma finished in the other two podium places with best throws of 19.33m and 18.33m, respectively.
"I was conservative in my first three throws because of the muscle issue. I am not happy with my performance as I could record only one good throw," Toor said while analysing his performance.
"My target was to touch 22 metres today but the arm disturbed me a bit. It is not a major issue and I think I will be fine in 3-4 days," he added.

Toor, who qualified for the Tokyo Olympics with a national record throw of 21.49m at the Indian Grand Prix last week, said he was looking to cross 22m at the Tokyo Games.
"This was the last competition before the Tokyo Olympics that's why I took part in the meet. My target is to cross the 22m mark and I am very confident that I will be able to achieve that in Tokyo," the Asian Games gold medallist said. Mixed day for Annu Rani
Javelin thrower Annu Rani failed to touch the 64m mark to win automatic qualification for the Olympics. She registered 62.83m in her first attempt in the final, but then registered five straight foul throws. Annu is placed 19th as per the world's ranking quota, which would be enough for her to earn her Tokyo ticket. Annu's throw was enough for gold medal.

Hazard rocket fires Belgium past Portugal into last-8

SEVILLE, JUNE 28
Belgium knocked defending champions Portugal out of Euro 2020 with a 1-0 victory in the last-16 on Sunday to set up a mouth-watering quarterfinals tie against Italy.
A 43rd-minute strike from Thorgan Hazard secured the win for Roberto Martinez's team, who survived plenty of pressure from the Portuguese in the second half. But with the finishing touch missing, it was the end of the road for Cristiano Ronaldo and a Portugal team who had triumphed in Paris five years ago.
Ronaldo bows out with five goals from four games, and is currently the tournament's top scorer. Yet it remains to be seen if the 36-year-old will return for a sixth Euros in Germany in 2024 or if the competition's all-time top scorer will bow out of national team duty after the Qatar World Cup next year.
Belgium were among the pre-tournament favourites but this was a stodgy and uninspired display and they will need to raise their game significantly if they are to get past Roberto Mancini's Azzurri who are unbeaten in 31 matches.
Thorgan Hazard's fine goal was their only effort on target



Belgium's players celebrating the win against Portugal. REUTERS

Let past remain in past is England's mantra
LONDON: Coach Gareth Southgate said England's past defeats to Germany at major tournaments have no bearing on tomorrow's Euro 2020 last-16 game and his players will go into the match focused on their own performance. England have not defeated Germany in the knockout match of a major tournament since the 1966 World Cup final, losing at the 1990 World Cup, 1996 Euros and 2010 World Cup, the first two defeats coming after shootouts in the semifinals. Southgate, who missed the crucial spot-kick in their Euro 96 loss, said history meant little to his young squad. "I don't need to demystify it. The history is an irrelevance for them," Southgate told ITV Sport. England have never won a knockout match over 90 minutes at the Euros. Four of their knockout stage games went to shootouts and England progressed only once – against Spain at Wembley at in 1996. REUTERS

in the whole 90 minutes and there was little invention or flair from their midfield.
"In the first half we were playing high and putting pressure on Portugal, but looking at that second

half, we are lucky to win," said Belgium defender Thomas Vermaelen.
Earlier, 10-man Netherlands were ousted by Czech Republic after a 2-0 win. — Reuters

Djokovic survives teenage shocker

LONDON, JUNE 28
Defending champion Novak Djokovic overcame an early fright to fend off British teenager Jack Draper 4-6 6-1 6-2 6-2 and launch his quest for a sixth title as Wimbledon returned after a two-year absence today.
The first match on Centre Court since Djokovic's nail-biting victory over Roger Federer in the 2019 final — 716 days ago — was classic David versus Goliath material. And while there was to be no fairytale Grand Slam debut for 19-year-old Draper, the match proved the perfect way to bring Centre Court back to life after the enforced silence due to the coronavirus pandemic.
Tsitsipas ousted
American Frances Tiafoe stunned third seed Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4 6-4 6-3 as the Greek became the first big



Aryna Sabalenka beat Monica Niculescu 6-1 6-4. REUTERS

casualty on Day 1.
Tsitsipas, playing his first match since his French Open final defeat by Novak Djokovic on June 13, also went out in the opening round on his last appearance as seventh seed in 2019.
Meanwhile, second seed Aryna Sabalenka beat Romanian qualifier Monica Niculescu 6-1 6-4. — Reuters

Copa America: Draw enough for Brazil
SAO PAULO: Ecuador held a below-strength Brazil to a 1-1 draw to secure a spot in the Copa America quarterfinals. Neymar, defender Thiago Silva and striker Gabriel Jesus didn't play against Ecuador. Meanwhile, Peru beat Venezuela 1-0. AP

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Notice Inviting Tender

Sr. DEE/TRS/LDH acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No 2021-22-04. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date 27.07.2021 at 15.00 Hrs. only Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered. Bidders are allowed to make payments against this tender towards cost of tender document and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand Draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDRs etc. are not allowed.

Tender No.	Name of work	App Cost (In Rs.)	Cost of tender form (In Rs.)	Date & time of submission of tender	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
2021-22-04	Provision of modified hand brake (gear type) arrangement in WAG-7/ WAG-9/WAG-9H Electric Locomotive application at ELSDH as per RDSO modification sheet no. RDSO/2014/ELMS/0440 Rev. '0' dated 16.09.2015.	₹ 19,90,898.00/-	NIL	Upto 27.07.2021 15:00 Hrs	NIL	12 Months	27.07.2021 at or after 15:30 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Notice No. 230-TRS/LDH/WC/OT/Modified hand brake/2021-22/01 Dated : 28.06.2021

1426/2021

Serving Customers With A Smile

NORTHERN RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER NOTICE

Open Tender Notice No. 08/2021-22 Open tenders through E-tendering are invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/G, Northern Railway, Ambala from the willing contractors for following work upto 15:00 hrs on the date of closing shown against the work and will be opened thereafter:

Sr. No.	Open Tender No.	Name of Work	Date of Closing/ Opening	Approx. Cost.	Completion period	Validity period
1.	30-Elect / T-14 / 2021-22(open Tender)	Electrical work in connection with raising of passenger platform from rail level to high level alongwith two bay platform shelter at Ahmadgarh(AH-H) station, provision of seven short term facilities for divyangjan at CUL,MOT, SAG,SFM, HMI,JPS,LHA &PKJ stations in the section of Sr.DEN/II/UMB & provision of seven short term facilities for divyangjan in the section of Sr.DEN/II/UMB under over Ambala Division.	22.07.2021	₹ 1149810.02	04 Month	45 Days
2.	30-Elect / T-15 / 2021-22(open Tender)	Electrical work in connection with provision of Electronic interlocking(EI) at 7 stations i.e Balluana, Giddarbaha,Malout,Pakk, Panjkoshi,Hindumalkot & Fatuhi on BTI-SGMR section, over Ambala Division.	22.07.2021	₹ 5555801.63	06 Month	45 Days

1. Tenderer (s) are required to upload scanned copies of all related eligibility documents including PAN/TIN as per conditions. The required Earnest Money & Tender Document Cost will be acceptable On-Line payment through Net Banking/ or Payment Gateway payment only well before & upto 1500 Hrs of closing date & time of tender. 2. As a proof of technical experience/competence, the tenderer should submit details as per TenderForm4AofAnnexure-I(in tender documents) , the tenderer must have successfully completed any of the following during last 07 (seven) years, ending last day of month previous to the one in which tender is invited: Three similar works costing not less than the amount equal to 40% of advertised value of the tender, or One similar work costing not less than the amount equal to 60% of advertised value of the tender. Definition of Similar Nature of Work to be considered for the above work (Item No. 2): "Design, manufacture, supply, installation and commissioning of LT Panels complete with earthing arrangements and associated electrical works". Or Design, manufacture, supply, installation and commissioning of APFC Panels and associated electrical works such as earthing arrangements and laying of cables". 3. Tenderer(s) should have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate to participate in E-Tendering of Works Tenders. 0 For details, please log on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in

No. 30-Elect/T/Notice/08/2021-22 Dated:28.06.2021

1432/2021

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NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDERING

Open tenders through E-tendering are invited by Sr. Divisional Engineer/Coordination, Northern Railway, Ambala from the willing contractors for following work upto 15:00 hrs. on the date of closing shown against the work and will be opened thereafter.

S. N.	Name of work	Approx. Cost (₹)	Period of Completion	Date of closing & opening
1	Annual repair, white washing and painting to staff qrs. & service buildings under zone no. 1 & IA in the section SSE/W/E/BTI for the period ending 30.06.2022 underADEN/BTI.	5829150	12 Months	22.07.2021
2	Annual repair, white washing and painting to staff qrs. & service buildings under zone no. 2 in the section SSE/W/L/BTI from BTI (Includ.) to DUI (Excl.) for the period ending 30. 06.2022 underADEN/BTI.	3742826	12 Months	22.07.2021
3	Annual repair, white washing and painting of staff quarters & service buildings etc. under zone no. 3 & 4 from BTI (excl)-SGNR (excl) for the period ending 30.06.2022 in the section of SE(W)/ABS underADEN/BTI.	3177470	12 Months	22.07.2021
4	Annual repair, white washing, C/washing and painting of staff quarters & service buildings under Zone "A" Chandigarh (Incl. CDG-MRND Sec.) in the section of SSE/W/CDG-I & Zone B-UMB-KLK Sec. (Excl. CDG) in the section of SSE/W/CDG-II for the period ending 30.06.2022 underADEN/CDG.	8024799	12 Months	22.07.2021
5	Supply of R.O. potable drinking water in camper at various L-xings on LDH- DUI section of SSE/W/DUI underADEN/PTA.	966280	28 Months	22.07.2021
6	(i) Repair to various LHS to avoid water logging during monsoon by repair of end ramp, gratings, raising of side walls of approach roads, sealing of joints etc. on DUI-JHL-HSR section in the section of SSE/W/SAG underADEN/ PTA. (ii) Repair to water supply system at LG No. 57-C, 67-Spl, 77-Spl, 83-C, 94-C, 100-C on DUI-JHL and 6-C, 12-C, 16-C, 25-B, 26-C, 36-C, 39-C, 45-C, 52-C, 57-C, 58-C on JHL-HSR section in the section of SSE/W/SAG underADEN/PTA.	3465296	12 Months	22.07.2021
7	Cess repair at Km. 63.160 to Km. 76.915 Km. and Km 99.485 to Km 127.120 on DUI-JHL section in the section of Sr.DEN-II/UMB.	13183105	12 Months	22.07.2021

Note: 1. Tenderers are required to upload scanned copies of all related eligibility documents including PAN/TIN/GST as per conditions. 2. Tenderers should have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate to participate in E-Tendering of works tenders. 3. For detail, please log on IREPS website WWW.IRREPS.Gov.in. GST will be levied as per GST Act. 2017.

OPEN TENDER NOTICE No. NIT- 08/UMB-2021-22 DATED 28.06.2021

1430/21

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sr. DEE/TRS/LDH acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No. 2021-22-03. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date 27.07.2021 at 15.00 Hrs. only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered. Bidders are allowed to make payments against this tender towards cost of tender document and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand Draft, Banker's Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDRs etc. are not allowed.

Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost (Rs.)	Cost of tender form (Rs.)	Date & time of submission of tender	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
2021-22-03	Conversion of CBC coupler operating handle from bottom operated to top operated as per RDSO Modification sheet no. RDSO/2016/ELMS/0454 Rev '0' dated 29/04/2016 at Electric Loco Shed, Ludhiana.	₹ 22,01,466.08/-	NIL	Upto 27.07.2021 15:00 Hrs.	NIL	12 Months	27.07.2021 at or after 15:30 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Notice No. 230-TRS/LDH/WC/OT/CBC coupler operating handle/2020-21/06 Dated :- 28.06.2021

1427/2021

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SCjunks PIL over probe into forced conversion in Nuh

NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a PIL seeking an SIT/NIA/CBI probe into alleged forced conversion, crime against women of Hindu community and threat to life and liberty of Hindus in the Nuh area of Mewat in Haryana.

“Sorry, we don’t think we can entertain this (PIL) on the basis of news reports”, a Bench led by Chief Justice of India NV Ramana told senior counsel Vikas Singh, who represented the petitioners — a group of lawyers and activists — including Ranjana Agnihotri and Shishir Chaturvedi. Alleging that dominant members of the Muslim community have overpowered Hindus of the area, the PIL filed in October last year had sought the top court’s intervention for protection of fundamental rights Hindus whose population has witnessed a decline over the years. — TNS

SC: Persons with disabilities entitled to promotion

NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

Persons with disability (PwD) are entitled to reservation in promotion as well, the Supreme Court ruled on Monday.

“It would be discriminatory and violative of the mandate of the Constitution of India if the respondent is not considered for promotion in the PwD quota on this pretext. Once the respondent has been appointed, she is to be identically placed as others in the PwD cadre,” the Bench said, directing the Kerala Government to consider appellant Leesamma Joseph of Kerala for reservation in promotion. — TNS

Conditions unfavourable for monsoon till July 7, says IMD

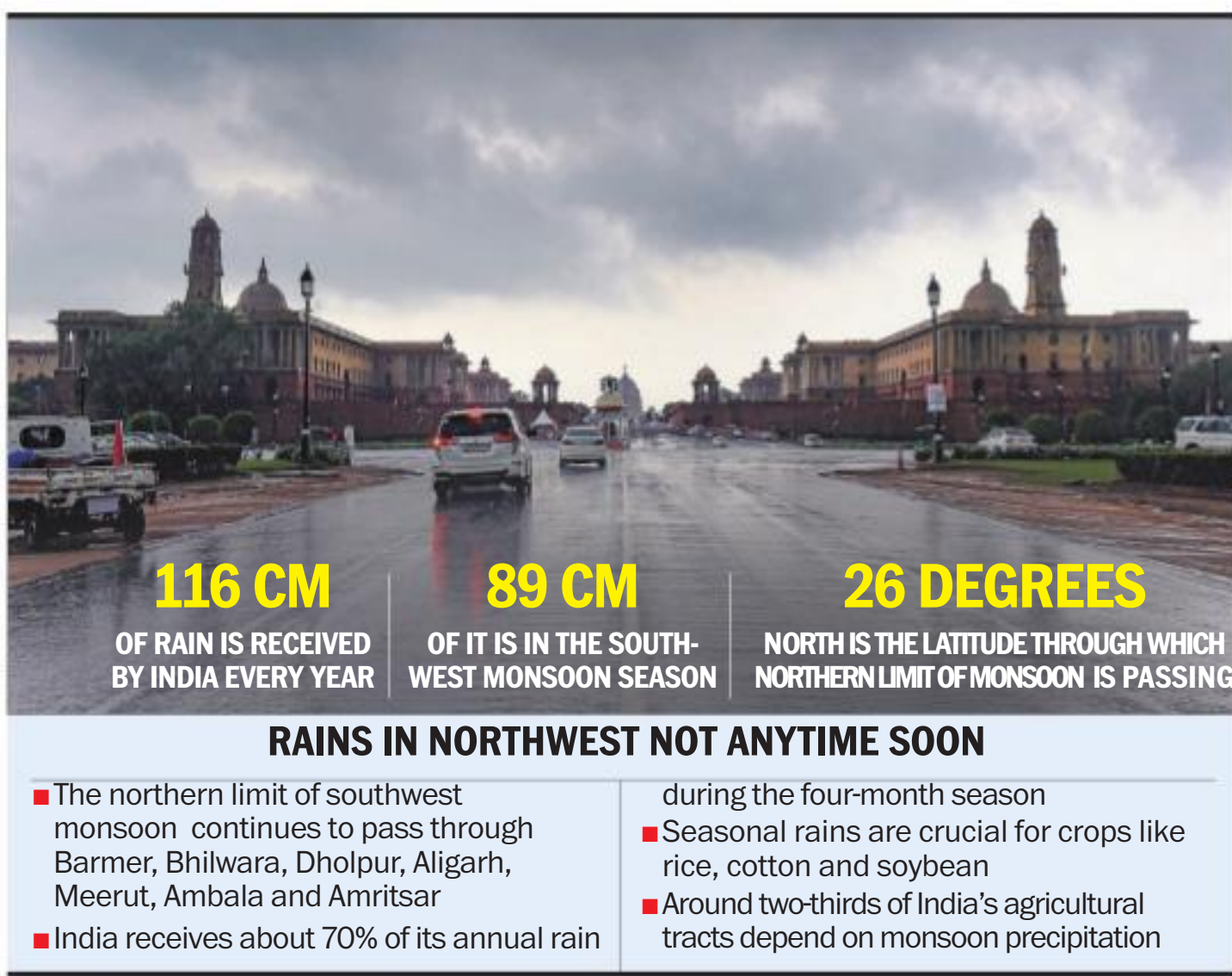
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

Prevailing meteorological conditions, large-scale atmospheric features and the forecast wind pattern by dynamical models suggest that no favourable conditions are likely to develop for further advance of southwest monsoon in Delhi, Rajasthan, west Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh and Punjab during the next six to seven days, India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Monday.

The IMD said the northern limit of southwest monsoon (NLM) continued to pass through Rajasthan’s Barmer, Bhilwara and Dholpur, and Uttar Pradesh’s Aligarh and Meerut, as well as Haryana’s Ambala and Punjab’s Amritsar.

Some independent forecasters believe the monsoon may continue to give the hitherto uncovered parts of the North-



west a miss till around July 10. According to Mahesh Palawat of Skymet, from Mon-

day/Tuesday, the monsoon axis is also shifting towards foothills, further leading the

seasonal rains into perhaps the “longest break spell” at this time of the year.

RSS to hold 5-day brainstorming session at Chitrakoot ahead of UP elections

VIBHA SHARMA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

BJP’s ideological fountainhead, the RSS, will be holding its annual ‘Akhil Bhartiya Prant Pracharak Baithak’ in Chitrakoot (Madhya Pradesh) close to Uttar Pradesh, where the saffron party is headed for its biggest electoral challenge next year. Sources say the top brass of the Sangh will brainstorm on several important issues, including the forthcoming elections in key states,

TO PREPARE ROADMAP FOR POLL-BOUND STATES



- UP elections are also expected to figure in Chitrakoot along with ways to improve the image of the Yogi government affected due to the charges of Covid “mismanagement”.
- Sources say the RSS is actively monitoring the situation in the key state to set things right for Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and the BJP.
- The feedback from the meeting is also expected to help the BJP prepare its political pitch for poll-bound states, including UP.

between July 9 and 13. UP elections are also expected to figure in Chitrakoot along with ways

to improve the image of the Yogi government affected due to the charges of Covid “mis-

management”. Sources say the RSS is actively monitoring the situation in the key state to set things right for Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and the BJP. The feedback from the meeting is also expected to help the BJP prepare its political pitch for poll-bound states, including UP. Adityanath is facing resistance from within the state unit. After a string of meetings between RSS and BJP top brass in Delhi and Lucknow, it was decided to go with the incumbent CM as party’s face in UP elections.

Parliamentary panel meets on Covid, discusses third wave preparations

NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, headed by Congress MP Anand Sharma, met today and took stock of the of India’s preparedness to deal with the possible third wave of Covid, economic impact of the pandemic and possibility providing direct financial assistance to those migrant workers, who lost jobs.

Sources said the members also asked the officials to explain efficacy of available vaccines against new virus



variants and concerns over the threats future Covid waves could pose to children.

Union Home Secretary, Health Secretary and other top officials of the two min-

istries also attended the meeting and gave a detailed presentation before the committee members. Committee members raised important questions regarding the status of a possible third Covid wave and preparations to tackle it.

While discussing the issue of migrant workers losing jobs and the economic loss due to low consumption amid the pandemic, a committee member advocated for giving direct financial assistance to the labourers. — TNS

Hopefully ‘soon’: Govt on WHO nod for Covaxin

NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

Member, Health, NITI Aayog, Dr Vinod Kumar Paul on Monday said the application of Bharat Biotech for emergency use listing of the World Health Organisation was proceeding very well.

The chairman of the National Expert Group on Covid Vaccine Administration did not indicate any immediate change in the

dosage interval between Covishield shots, saying the decision had been taken based on “robust scientific evidence”. On the WHO approval for Covaxin, Paul said, “The process is under way and is progressing very well. Additional documents have been submitted by Bharat Biotech last week. We would like to see an expedited review of the submitted data and also hope that the WHO decision regarding emergency use listing of the vaccine will come very soon.” — TNS

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Another faceoff: Mamata calls Governor ‘corrupt’, he hits back

KOLKATA, JUNE 28

In yet another face-off with Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Monday alleged he was involved in the Jain Hawala case, provoking a sharp rebuttal from the latter who accused her of propagating “lies and misinformation”.

Banerjee, who called Dhankhar “corrupt”, also criticised him over his recent visit to North Bengal, claiming a conspiracy was being hatched to divide the region. The TMC supremo said she has written to the Centre thrice seeking his removal.

Infrustrated over her remarks, Dhankhar, locked in a running feud with Banerjee, rejected the accusations as a “knee-jerk reaction” to his raising questions over the contents of the speech he is



BE FAIR: DIDI TO NHRC ON VIOLENCE PROBE

- An NHRC team probing charges of post-poll violence in West Bengal by supporters of the ruling Trinamool Congress was urged by CM Mamata Banerjee to work impartially and not follow the “dikats” of the BJP.
- The CM assured the NHRC team of full cooperation. “I want to say respectfully to the team not to go by what the BJP says,” she said.

supposed to read out at the start of the upcoming Assembly session. “The allegations levelled by the CM don’t have an iota of truth. It is unfortunate that she is spreading misinformation. It doesn’t suit a CM to level such allegations,” he said. According to sources close to the two, the

CM was livid over Dhankhar’s call for a special audit of the accounts of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) and his objections to the contents of the draft speech that he is supposed to read at the start of the inaugural session of the newly elected Assembly. — PTI

Centre extends Venugopal’s tenure as A-G

NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

The Centre has decided to extend Attorney General KK Venugopal’s tenure by one year, sources said on Monday.

The decision has been taken keeping in view the high-profile cases he is handling in the Supreme Court and his experience at the Bar, sources said.

This is the second one-year extension given to the 90-year-old veteran lawyer who was appointed as the top law officer of the government in 2017 for a three-year term.

Venugopal’s current tenure ends on June 30, the sources said, adding, a formal notification in this regard would be issued soon. — TNS

At UNSC, India raises worrying trend of kids being recruited for terror activities

NEW DELHI, JUNE 28

India has called upon other nations to protect children from being recruited and involved in terrorism-related activities by ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict and adopt robust legal frameworks for protection and promotion of child rights.

“The aim should not be merely protecting children from child-related crimes but also to provide them with holistic development oppor-

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF SCHOOL CLOSURE

“Schools’ closure due to the pandemic has provided an even greater opportunity to these groups to target kids. Harsh Vardhan Shringla, FOREIGN SECY



tunities, including free and compulsory education,” said Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla while participating virtually in a debate at the UN Security Council Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict on Monday. “We are witnessing terror groups taking advantage of the fact that children are the most suscep-

tible to manipulation. School closures due to the pandemic have provided an even greater opportunity to these terrorist groups to target children, including through online avenues, for radicalisation and indoctrination in violent extremist ideologies,” he cautioned.

Pointing out that the Covid pandemic had further negatively impacted children in situa-

tions of armed conflict by hampering their access to education, health and social services, Shringla said it had made them susceptible to recruitment and abduction. “It is, therefore, important that states keep child protection concerns at the core of their pandemic response measures,” he observed. The Foreign Secretary called for ending impunity for all actors responsible for perpetrating grave violations against children. There must be greater accountability and sincere efforts in bringing the perpetrators to justice, he said. — TNS

Narada case: Didi, others file fresh pleas

KOLKATA, JUNE 28

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Law Minister Malay Ghatak and the state government on Monday filed fresh applications before

the Calcutta High Court for submitting affidavits before it in connection with the CBI’s plea for transfer of the Narada sting tapes case, as per a direction of the Supreme Court. — PTI