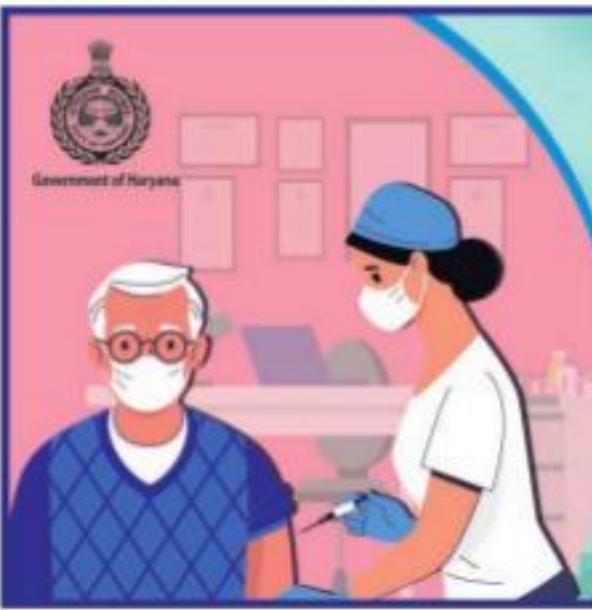


INDIA WIN THIRD ODI BY 7 RUNS, BAG SERIES SPORT

REMOVE HURDLES TO HELP FARMERS REAP DIVIDENDS INFOCUS

IN NANDIGRAM AFTER INJURY, DIDI RIPS INTO RIVAL BACK PAGE



Vaccination Campaign, Stop Corona New Strain

Mega Vaccination Campaign for Corona Prevention

Eligible beneficiaries can also get vaccine from Govt. hospitals or private hospitals authorised by Govt.

COVID-19 appropriate behaviour is mandatory, strict action for not wearing mask

Focus on screening and testing of every student in schools

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana | www.prharyana.gov.in @Cmohry @DiprHaryana



HAPPY HOLI
TO OUR READERS



HOLIDAY NOTICE
The offices of The Tribune will remain closed today on account of Holi. There will, therefore, be no issue of the paper tomorrow (March 30).

Prez nod to NCT Bill

NEW DELHI, MARCH 28

President Ram Nath Kovind on Sunday gave his assent to a Bill that accords primacy to Delhi's L-G over the elected government. The Centre announced President's assent to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021, through a notification. The "government" in Delhi will now have to seek the opinion of the L-G for any executive action. — PTI



IN PB, RECORD 69 DEATHS IN 24 HRS

Punjab reported record 69 deaths in the past 24 hours, the highest during the second spike in a single day. The govt said jabs would now be administered at all health and wellness centres, homoeopathy and ayurvedic dispensaries

6,02,69,782, the Centre again sent out reminders to high-burden Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Punjab, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu,

FIVE DIRECTIVES TO HIGH-BURDEN STATES

- Increase testing exponentially with RT-PCR accounting for 70% of total tests
- Trace, test and isolate average 30 close contacts of every Covid patient in the first 72 hours
- Ensure Covid-appropriate behaviour and optimal use of vaccines
- Muted celebrations of Holi, Shabe-Barat and Easter
- Energise public-private partnership

which reported 81.46 per cent of new cases today.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

200 seats for sure in Bengal, claims Shah after first phase

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 28

Confident of winning both West Bengal and Assam, Home Minister Amit Shah today said the turnout in the first phase was a "shubh sanket" (positive indication) that the BJP is winning the elections with huge numbers". The former party president added that no incidence of violence on the day of polling was another "shubh sanket" that the BJP would be "sweeping" the elections in the two states.

Citing the feedback received from party workers on the ground, he said the BJP would win 26 of the 30 seats in West Bengal and 37 of the 47 seats in Assam — the elections to which were held in the first phase on Saturday.

Speaking to mediapersons here, Shah claimed that the

Says PM visit to B'desh didn't violate poll code



EVASIVE ON PAWAR 'MEET'

Amit Shah on Sunday refused to divulge anything about his purported meeting with NCP's Sharad Pawar amid the crisis in the Maha Government. "Everything need not be made public," Shah said responding to a query about the "meeting". — BACK PAGE

DIDI RUBBISHES CLAIM

In Phase-I, BJP is winning 26 of the 30 seats in Bengal and 37 of the 47 seats in Assam. Overall, it will get over 200 seats (out of 294) in Bengal. Amit Shah, HOME MINISTER

BOOK NADDA, SONOWAL: CONG'S PETITION TO EC

West Bengal Assembly and improving its alliance tally of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Modern agri practices need of the hour: PM

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE & PTI

NEW DELHI, MARCH 28
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday underlined the need for modernisation and innovation in the agriculture sector to boost farmers' income.

In his monthly Mann Ki Baat radio address, Modi said: "In the agriculture sector, modernisation is the need of the hour. It has been delayed and we have already lost a lot of time."

"To create new employment opportunities and to increase farmers' income, it is important to adopt new alternatives and innovations along with traditional agricultural practices," he said.

The PM's call comes at a time when hundreds of farmers have been camping at Delhi's border points since November last year, demanding repeal of the three farm laws. In the context of diversification, Modi said bee farming was being adopted by farmers in various parts of the country, giving a boost to production and

WILL HELP BOOST INCOME, CREATE JOBS

Farmers should embrace new alternatives while doing traditional farming. This will help them boost income and create more job opportunities.

Narendra Modi,
PRIME MINISTER

TEMPLES ATTACKED IN B'DESH POST MODI VISIT



Led by BKU leader Rakesh Tikait, farmers in Ghazipur burn copies of new farm laws on Sunday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: MANAS RANJAN BHUI

Retd judge to investigate ex-police chief's charges against Deshmukh

NAGPUR, MARCH 28

Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh on Sunday said a retired HC judge will conduct a probe into the allegations of corruption levelled against him by former Mumbai police chief Param Bir Singh.

The truth would come out after a probe into the matter, Deshmukh told reporters at the Nagpur airport.

On March 20, Singh in a letter to CM Uddhav Thackeray

ANIL ACCIDENTAL HOME MINISTER: RAUT

In the Shiv Sena mouthpiece 'Saamana', MP Sanjay Raut claimed that Anil Deshmukh was made the state Home Minister accidentally. Raut said Deshmukh got the post after senior NCP leaders refused the responsibility.



Holi gesture: Farmers tidy up Tikri

RAVINDER SAINI
TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JHAJJAR, MARCH 28

Protesting farmers at Tikri border on Sunday celebrated Holi, albeit in a different way. They held a cleanliness drive at the camping site spreading over 13 km, from Jakhowa to Tikri. The farmers also decked up the main protest site with balloons.

"We are putting up at Tikri for four months. It is our home till the three farm laws are repealed. We thus cleaned

up the site and prayed that the Centre comes to its senses and agrees to our demand," said Gurbachan Singh, a farmer from Mansa.

He alleged that despite repeated requests, the local authorities failed to get garbage lifted from the site.

BKU leader Purushottam Singh Gill said the govern-

ment had claimed that the farmers would return home by Holi. "We have taken a vow not to move an inch till our demands are met," Gill said.

Terminder Singh, another farmer, said: "Till the time we are here, we will celebrate every festival with communal harmony and brotherhood. As the tradition goes, people burn negativity in 'Holika dahan'. We too burnt copies of the three farm laws today to register our protest."

Rajnath: Judicial probe against ED unfortunate

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MARCH 28

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said the Kerala government's decision to recommend a judicial inquiry against central probe agencies, including the Enforcement Directorate (ED) probing the gold and dollar smuggling cases, was "unfortunate" and amounts to challenging the federal structure of the Constitution.

Rajnath Singh, who is can-

Say won't budge till Centre meets demands

up the site and prayed that the Centre comes to its senses and agrees to our demand," said Gurbachan Singh, a farmer from Mansa.

He alleged that despite repeated requests, the local authorities failed to get garbage lifted from the site.

BKU leader Purushottam Singh Gill said the govern-

Amounts to challenging federal structure, he says

vassing in Kerala, said the Uniform Civil Code would be implemented only after taking all communities into confidence. "We will take all communities into confidence and go forward. We are firm on that decision," he said. — PTI

IN BRIEF

Fire at UP hospital, 140 patients saved

KANPUR: Over 140 patients were rescued after a fire broke out at the state-run LPS Institute of Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery here on Sunday morning, the UP Government said. The fire erupted in the store of the hospital. — BACK PAGE

Expressway portion collapses, 3 injured

GURGAON: A portion of an under-construction elevated road on the Dwarka Expressway collapsed here on Sunday morning, injuring three workers, officials said. The police said the portion collapsed around 7.30 am and three labourers sustained injuries. — INSIDE

4 crore old vehicles on Indian roads

NEW DELHI: Over four crore vehicles older than 15 years are plying on roads pan-India and fall under the ambit of green tax, with Karnataka occupying the top slot with more than 70 lakh such vehicles. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has digitised the data of such vehicles. — PTI

India, US begin naval exercise

NEW DELHI, MARCH 28
India and the US on Sunday kicked off a two-day naval exercise in the eastern Indian Ocean Region, reflecting the growing congruence in their defence and military partnership.

The Indian Navy deployed its warship Shivalik and long-range maritime patrol aircraft P8I in the 'PASSEX' exercise while the US Navy was represented by the USS Theodore Roosevelt carrier strike group, officials said. — PTI

Congress evading White Paper on power purchase pacts by SAD govt

RAJMEET SINGH
TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

POLL PROMISE NOT KEPT

In 2017 poll manifesto, the Cong had promised to renegotiate power purchase agreements (PPAs) signed by the SAD government.

As per the PPAs, the state has to pay fixed charges to power producers even when it is not drawing power from these.

In the 2017 Assembly poll manifesto, the party had promised to renegotiate the

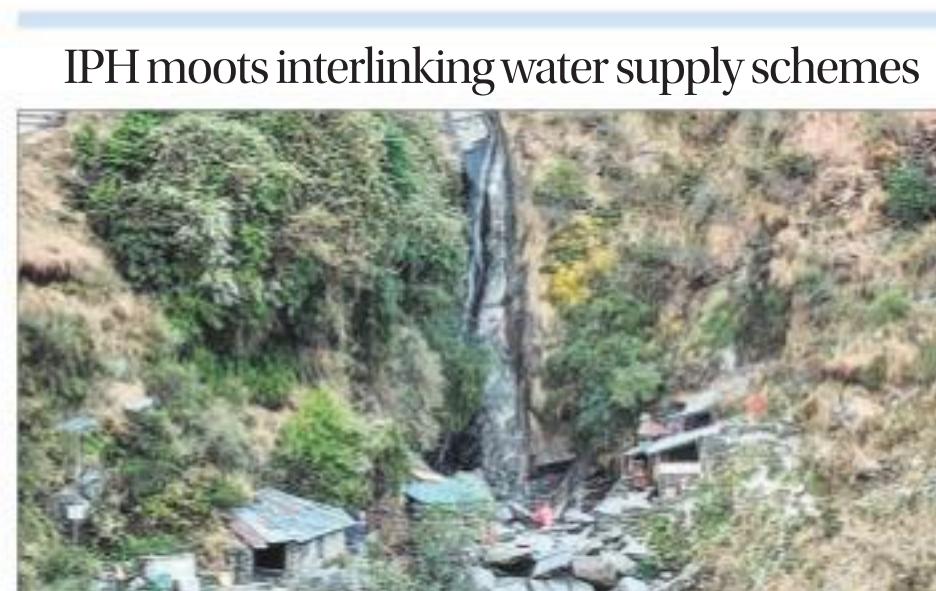
Sources drying up, Kangra stares at water paucity

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DHARAMSALA, MARCH 28

Owing to lesser snowfall in the Dhauladhar this year, the Kangra valley is staring at a water shortage. With summers yet to set in, about 25 per cent water supply schemes in Kangra district are facing water paucity. Enquiries from Irrigation and Public Health (IPH) officials reveal that water sources near Bhagsunag, from where water is lifted for supply to

IPH moots interlinking water supply schemes



Bhagsunag waterfall goes dry. The site is a major tourist attraction.

Ram Nagar and Shayam Nagar areas, has dried up. Many areas in Mcleodganj, a tourist hub, have been hit too.

Superintendent Engineer Suresh Mahajan says a proposal has been mooted to interlink water supply schemes. "The department tried to lift water from the Manji river but faced resistance by locals," he said. Villagers fear if the IPH Department lifts water from rivers, there will be no water in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

BJP holds statewide protests, burns CM effigy

ABO哈尔 MLA ASSAULT Alleges Cong workers masquerading as farmers targeting party leaders



BJP workers hold a sit-in against the attack on BJP MLA Arun Narang on the GT Road at Mandi Gobindgarh on Sunday; and BJYM activists burn an effigy of CM Capt Amarinder Singh in Amritsar. TRIBUNE PHOTOS

Tribune Reporters

BATHINDA/AMRITSAR, MARCH 28

BJP workers today gathered outside Fire Brigade Chowk and burnt an effigy of Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh, protesting the attack on the party MLA. "The Punjab Government has failed to provide security to our leaders and its leading to repeated attacks on our leaders. We will intensify our agitation in coming days," said Randeep Deol, Sangrur BJP chief.

In Amritsar, the BJP Yuva Morcha on Sunday burnt the effigy of Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh. BJP leaders said the Chief Minister was not capable of running the state and should resign. In Sangrur also, party leaders burnt the effigy of the Punjab Government to protest the attack on the party MLA. "The Punjab Government has failed to provide security to our leaders and its leading to repeated attacks on our leaders. We will intensify our agitation in coming days," said Randeep Deol, Sangrur BJP chief.

In Amritsar, the BJP Yuva Morcha on Sunday burnt the effigy of Chief Minister

Capt Amarinder Singh. BJP leaders alleged that the incident was an outcome of the Congress-sponsored 'goondaism' and deep conspiracy to intimidate BJP leaders who were holding meetings in view of the Assembly elections next year.

Led by Gautam Arora, the

THERE'S NO DEMOCRACY IN STATE

There is no democracy in the state. Everyone has the right to put forward their views and roam freely, but BJP leaders are being deliberately targeted and gagged. Sunil Singla, BJP MEDIA CO-IN CHARGE

Capt Amarinder Singh.

BJP leaders alleged that the incident was an outcome of the Congress-sponsored 'goondaism' and deep conspiracy to intimidate BJP leaders who were holding meetings in view of the Assembly elections next year.

Led by Gautam Arora, the

did not indulge in such shameful acts. "The Congress wanted to intimidate BJP leaders as the elections were approaching near in Punjab, but we will not get afraid by such tactics. We did not get scared even during the Emergency," he said.

Condemning the incident, district BJP president Suresh Mahajan said they would meet local police authorities to ensure security of BJP workers and leaders after holding a meeting with its colleagues following Holi. BJP leader Ram Chawla said the CM should immediately resign on

moral grounds for his failure to ensure security of its legislatures while there were intelligence inputs about this.

In Mandi Gobindgarh, semi-clad BJP workers, led by district BJP president Pandeep Garg today organised a protest and burnt the

effigy of burnt the effigy of CM Capt Amarinder Singh. BJP workers gathered at Mani Chowk of Mandi Gobindgarh and held a sit-in on the GT Road. They said the state government was provoking farmers to oppose the BJP leaders and workers to hide their failures.

CONG INDULGING IN PETTY POLITICS

The Congress is indulging in petty politics by using farmers to target BJP leaders... with the total collapse of law and order, the state is moving towards anarchy. Ashwani Sharma, STATE BJP PRESIDENT

Badnore seeks action-taken report

The Governor also sought a report from the state government on the action being taken on these matters.

The other party leaders who were part of the delegation were Madan Mohan Mittal, Tikshan Sood, Union Minister Som Prakash, Shwai Malik, Iqbal Singh Lalpuria, Dinesh Sharma, Jevan Gupta, Rajesh Bagha and Janardhan Sharma.

Meanwhile, Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee president Sunil Jakhar

strongly condemned the attack on the BJP MLA, saying such unlawful behaviour had no place in a democracy. He said farmer protests would be weakened with incidents like these.

Call for Malout bandh today

FOUR ACCUSED HELD

- Muktsar SSP D Sudarvizi said: "We have identified 23 more accused with the help of video footage. Four accused have been arrested. Raids are under way to arrest the other accused."
- Malout DSP Jaspal Singh said an SHO had gone to Abohar to record the statement of MLA Arun Narang.

"I condemn yesterday's violence. The 'kisan andolan' has become a 'jan andolan' and BJP leaders should refrain from giving any aggressive statement. I also appeal to the farmers to lodge protest in a peaceful manner. It is my duty to know about the well-being of the police officer. The truth will come out in the investigation," he said.

BKU (Sidhpur) state president Jagjit Singh Dallewal today visited the Civil Hospital, Malout, to inquire about the well-being of Muktsar SP Gurmail Singh, who had some injuries in the melee yesterday.

Keep protest peaceful, AAP urges farmers

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 28

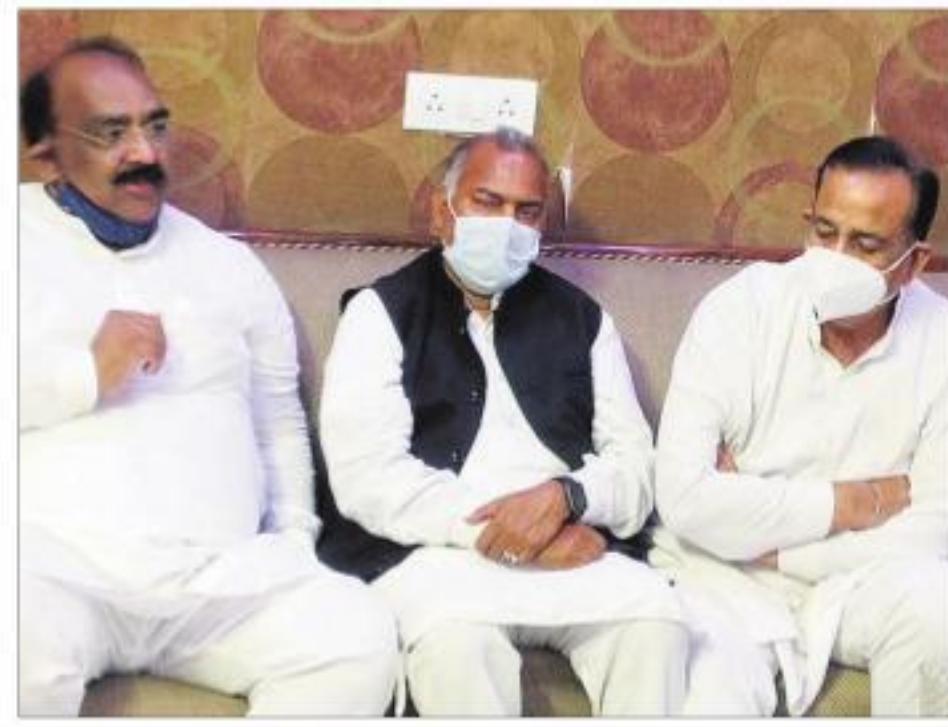
The Aam Aadmi Party has urged farmers to hold a peaceful protest to ensure that the ongoing agitation does not lose its strength.

In response to the attack on BJP MLA Arun Narang, senior AAP leader and Leader of Opposition Harpal Singh Cheema said in a democratic country, everyone has the right to speak. He said so far non-occurrence of any untoward incident had remained the foremost strength of the ongoing farmers' movement.

"This is the reason that this movement has become the largest peace movement in the world today. Farmers must maintain peace to gain victory over this agitation", he stressed. — TNS

Party state chief meets Narang

OUR CORRESPONDENT



State BJP chief Ashwani Sharma with MLA Arun Narang (R) in Abohar.

had completely failed in providing fool-proof security to Narang at the pre-schedule press meet in the party's office at Malout. Such assaults were not possible until and unless the same are backed by

the ruling Congress. Captain Amarinder Singh who also holds the charge of Home Department was directly responsible for failure of law and order situation, he must quit, he demanded.

Act against guilty: Arora community

ABO哈尔, MARCH 28

Senior leaders of the Arora (Arorvansh) community on Sunday strongly condemned the attack on legislator Arun Narang who had gone to Malout, 30 km from here, to address a press conference on Saturday.

At a meeting held here, Arorvansh Sabha officials said the Muktsar police had failed to protect an elected representative in Malout despite the prior information. It was an attack on the democracy. Such incidents couldn't be tolerated. The culprits needed to be identified and arrested at the earliest, they demanded. A call for Abolar Bandh might also be given if the police fail in ensuring justice, they said. — OC



Farmer leaders at the Kirti Kisan Mahapanchayat at the grain market in Ludhiana on Sunday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: HIMANSHU MAHAJAN

Beware of Centre's divisive tactics: Farm leaders

LUDHIANA, MARCH 28

Farmer unions' leaders today warned against the "divisive policies" of the NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 'Kirti Kisan Mahapanchayat' held at Dana Mandi near Jalandhar Bypass here.

"The danger of exploitation looms large not only on the farmers of the country with the three farm laws and the electricity Act, but also on the workers at large," warned the speakers at the event.

The mahapanchayat, organised by a non-political organisation floated by former bureaucrats SR Ladhar and Jagtar Singh, was attended by cadres of several farmers' groups, trade unions and the OBC Welfare Front.

BJP (Rajewal) president Balbir Singh Rajewal said protesting farmers' unions would forever remain indebted to the people, especially the working classes of Pun-

UNITED FIGHT CAN ENSURE JUSTICE

Only a united fight by farmers, farm workers and other working classes will ensure justice from an adamant dispensation working to scuttle the ongoing stir and safeguarding the interests of big corporates.

Balbir Singh Rajewal, BKU (RAJEWAL) PRESIDENT

jab and other states, for making the agitation as a people's struggle.

He said the three laws enacted by the Modi government without any debate or consultation with the farmers would not only destroy the basic structure of mandis and marketing of food grain, but would also make the common people suffer due to profit-oriented policies of corporates.

Ladhar and other speakers at the rally castigated the government for letting loose the reign of terror and oppression on farmers and workers. He said while the farmers would be left at the mercy of big corporates

under the new laws, the labour would also face oppression and exploitation at the hands of employers under the labour laws which would become operative from April 1, 2021.

He said the government had made a nefarious attempt to snatch the basic rights of the workers like fixed working hours, right to form unions, right to strike work and reasonably good working conditions in the name of so-called labour reforms. "The farmers and workers would have to fight a united battle to secure their democratic and constitutional rights," he said. — OC

BKU: Women to lead stir during harvest season

MANSA, MARCH 28

Scores of farmers under the banner of the BKU (Dakundia) faction participated in a protest rally organised against the three agricultural laws at Burj Rathi village in Mansa district on Sunday. The protesters vowed to "fight the battle till its logical conclusion" and continue to support and contribute to the agitation in whatever way they can.

Makhan Singh, a union leader said, "Apart from boycotting the BJP in villages of the Malwa region, we will not support any other political party. We have decided that since wheat harvest will start soon, many farmers will be returning from protest venues from Delhi to their native villages. During this time, women will hold the fort there." — TNS

Morcha to give new schedule tomorrow

ANANDPUR SAHIB, MARCH 28

Samyukt Kisan Morcha leaders will give a new programme to farmers of the country on March 30 to take on the Centre so that the three laws are repealed and MSP of a majority of crops fixed by the government.

This was stated by BKU general secretary Harinder Singh Lakhwala here today.

Lakhwala, who was here along with farmer leaders Balbir Singh Rajewal, Gurnam Singh Chadhuni, Ruldu Singh, Manjot Rai, Kuldeep Singh Bajidpur and Yograj,

addressed a gathering at a Kisan Conference and said the NDA government was testing the patience of farmers. The conference was organised on the second day of Hola Mohalla by Bhartiya Kisan Mazdoor Union. — TNS

R-Day clash: 100 farmers out on bail

NEW DELHI, MARCH 28

The legal team set up by the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC) has managed to secure bail for more than 100 farmers who were arrested during a clash between farmers and the police on January 26.

The farmers whose bails had been secured were honoured at Red Fort. A legal team of the DSGMC had been set up to get the detained protesters released. DSGMC president Manjinder Singh Sirsa had set up the team that worked from Rakabganj gurdwara here.

After the clash on January 26, several families from Punjab had reported that their family members were missing. Protesting farmers had deviated from a pre-approved route of the tractor rally on Republic Day and clashed with the police when they were stopped from entering parts of Central and New Delhi. — TNS



Fazilka: Fazilka Congress MLA Davinder Singh Ghubaya handed over a cheque for ₹3 lakh to Sumitra Bai, the wife of late farmer Bhajan Singh who had died at the Tikkri border while participating in dharna against the three farm laws. Bhajan Singh had died due to cardiac arrest on March 18 and his last rites were performed in a local gurdwara on Saturday. A cheque for ₹2 lakh was also given to the kin of the farmer at the time of his cremation. — OC

Protest at firm's proposed store in Sirhind

FATEHGANJ SAHIB, MARCH 28

Farmers today protested in front of a building where a proposed store of a corporate giant is to come up on the Sirhind-Chandigarh Road. The protesters also burnt copies of the three farm laws on a call given by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha.

The farmers, led by Nirmal Singh Reona, raised slogans against the Modi government and forced the building owner to stop renovation work. They urged him not to give



open the store till the laws were repealed. They said they would also not allow party leaders to organise functions and enter villages. The building owner, Madan Lal, who later joined the dharna, said he had signed a contract with the company to give the building on rent for a supermarket. He was supposed to hand over the building by March 31, but he had now decided not to do so till the farm laws were repealed. — OC

Leaders call on Govt, seek govt's dismissal

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 28

A day after BJP MLA Arun Narang was stripped and thrashed at Malout, a party delegation led by party's state president Ashwani Sharma called on Punjab Governor VP Singh Badnore demanding immediate dismissal of the state government for failing to protect citizens and elected representatives.

The party leaders later removed their clothes and staged a protest outside the CM Capt Amarinder Singh's residence.

Blaming the Congress for the incident, Sharma said with the total collapse of law and order, the state was moving towards anarchy.

"Criminals such as Mukhtar Ansari are safe in Punjab, whereas lives of political leaders and elected representatives are under threat. A number of BJP leaders, including MPs, MLAs or other office-bearers, have been attacked in the past," he said.

Meanwhile, the Governor said the state government couldn't allow such attacks on anybody. He conveyed his concern on the matter to Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh, who is also the Home Minister.



Nawan Naroa **PUNJAB**



**Promising transparent, accountable
and people-friendly governance**



“

My government is committed to provide citizen centric services to people in a seamless and time bound manner to make Punjab digitally empowered.

”

Capt. Amarinder Singh
Chief Minister, Punjab

Punjab Abadi Deh (Record of Rights) Act to create jamabandis for properties inside the Lal Lakir

Online registration of sale deeds

Online Revenue Court Management System

Fards also available in sewa kendras

End of VIP culture

Abolished red lights on all vehicles

Halqa System eliminated

Banned sirens/hooters in vehicles

516 Sewa Kendras

327 services being offered

60,000 persons visiting daily

e-Office in Government offices

Paperless functioning

‘Mission Tandrust Punjab’ for healthy food and clean environment

10,836 kgs unsafe/adulterated food items seized/destroyed

Landmark Legislations:

Punjab Transparency and Accountability in Delivery of Public Services Act, 2018

Punjab Transparency in Public Procurement Act, 2019

Punjab Anti Red Tape Act, 2021 to eliminate Red-tapism in government offices

Adopted e-NAM in 79

Mandis

37 made operational

A portal ‘<http://connect.punjab.gov.in>’, Mobile App ‘m-Sewa’ and Helpline number ‘1905’ launched for resolution of public grievances

Digitization of master plan maps

e-Approval of CLUs

‘PUDA 360’ for online property transactions

Online municipal services for building plans, property tax and water & sewer connections

COVA app for COVID-19 information

All subsidies being given to the genuine beneficiaries through DBT

Smart Ration Cards for eliminating fake beneficiaries

Home delivery of driving licenses and registration certificates

Jobless teachers lathicharged near CM's Patiala residence

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, MARCH 28 The Patiala police lathicharged protesting unemployed ETT teachers outside the Moti Bagh residence of Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Sunday.

The police detained hundreds of teachers who had forced their way to the main gate of the CM residence and held a sit-in there. Several teachers were injured while some of them are said to have suffered fractures as well.

The protesting teachers said the state government had been ignoring their demands continuously. They were protesting the decision of the Education Department to allow BEd graduates apply for posts of ETT teachers.

Deepak Kamboj, president, Unemployed ETT Teachers' Union, said, "The teachers, including women, were thrashed and lathicharged by



Police personnel detain a protester in Patiala on Sunday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: RAJESH SACHAR

the police for raising their voice. We have been protesting for months but the government has failed to address the issue. Many teachers have been seriously injured in the police action."

The Democratic Teachers' Front condemned the action

against the teachers. Vikram Dev, state president, said, "The Congress government has completely failed to provide jobs to qualified youth. Instead of giving job letters, the government is registering cases against them for raising their voice." Sukhdev

Singh Dhindsa, state president, SAD (Democratic), condemned police lathicharge against unemployed teachers. He said, "It is shameful that the police lathicharged teachers who have been fighting for their rights since long."

"Despite meetings and an indefinite protest, government authorities are not listening to us. We have blocked the Sangrur-Patiala road and will intensify our agitation in the coming days," said Sukhwinder Dhillwan, president of the BEd and TET Pass Union.

"We are demanding government jobs as per our qualification. Before last elections, the Punjab CM had promised to provide

Fulfil election promise of jobs, protesters urge Capt

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SANGRUR, MARCH 28

Unemployed members of five unions blocked the Sangrur-Patiala road and demanded a meeting with CM Capt Amarinder Singh over their long-pending demands.

They have been sitting in front of the local residence of Education Minister Vijay Inder Singh since December 31 last year.

"Despite meetings and an indefinite protest, government authorities are not listening to us. We have blocked the Sangrur-Patiala road and will intensify our agitation in the coming days," said Sukhwinder Dhillwan, president, BEd and TET Pass Union.

"We are demanding government jobs as per our qualification. Before last elections, the Punjab CM had promised to provide



Unemployed youths protest on the Sangrur-Patiala road.

STATE GOVT NOT LISTENING TO US

Despite meetings and an indefinite protest, government authorities are not listening to us. We blocked the Sangrur-Patiala road and will intensify our stir in the coming days. Sukhwinder Dhillwan, president, BEd and TET Pass Union

jobs to all the unemployed, but now, he and his government have forgotten the promises. We want to remind them their main election issue," said Gagandeep Kaur, a protester.

Drive to check dengue hotspots in Abohar district

ABOHAL, MARCH 28

The Health Department has started a special drive in Abohar to prevent the spread of dengue. Last year, four persons had died of dengue, while 316 had been infected.

The National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme team of the state health department reached Abohar and visited the hotspots. The team, led by Atinder Singh and Deepinder Singh, discussed the situation with MC Commissioner Abhijit Kapilash and Dr Gagandeep Singh, Senior Medical Officer (SMO), Subdivisional Civil Hospital.

The SMO said seven samples of larvae were taken by the team in Arya Nagar, Patel Nagar, Sukhera Basti and Prem Nagar, where the highest number of dengue patients were found last year. The authorities concerned will motivate people to clean water reservoirs and cover them. The department and MC will arrange for insecticides to ensure mosquito larvae are not produced. — OC

Fazilka liquor factory licence cancelled, agitation called off

FAZILKA, MARCH 28

Villagers protesting for the past 41 days over the setting up of a liquor factory at Hiran Wali village in Fazilka district lifted the dharna today after Congress MLA Davinder Singh Ghubaya announced cancellation of its licence.

Ghubaya visited the dharna site and announced the government had decided to cancel the licence of the liquor unit. Ghubaya had joined the protesters and raised the issue in the Vidhan Sabha during the recent Budget session.

Residents of nearly 30 villages had been blocking the highway against the construction of the factory.

Land for the project was originally purchased at Gumji village, near the Rajasthan border. After protests by dozens of panchayats, the project was shelved. The construction was subsequently planned



Women hold a sit-in on the Fazilka-Abohar highway on Sunday.

near Ghallu village on the Abohar-Fazilka road, but the plan was dropped again after Congress and AAP activists organised rallies in protest.

The construction reportedly began near Hiran Wali, but activists of all major political parties opposed it. The villagers raised concerns over its impact on the environment and social fabric.

Anil Jhinjha, sarpanch, who spearheaded the agitation, said although they had lifted the dharna, the government would have to bear the consequences if they were betrayed.

The protest had affected vehicular traffic besides other business activities in the area. — OC

(With inputs from Abohar)

In debt for decades, Markfed shrugs off half of its losses

RAVI DHALIWAL

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

GURDASPUR, MARCH 28 Several initiatives aimed at fiscal prudence taken by the Punjab Cooperatives Department have reduced by nearly 50 per cent the Rs 809.85-crore debt accumulated by Markfed from banks over the last more than six decades.

Markfed, considered to be Asia's leading cooperative marketing society, was established in 1954 and by April 4, 2018, it had run up a massive debt. The financial liability acted as a trigger to set off a series of measures aimed at saving the organisation. Among the initiatives taken were to plug revenue leaks, which were considered to be a big drain on Markfed's resources. Others were to put into the fast forward mode the process to initiate recoveries of arrears from the Food Corporation of India (FCI).

Cooperation Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa claimed a lot of money

SERIES OF STEPS

- Initiatives were taken to plug revenue leaks, which were a big drain on Markfed's resources
- Recovery of arrears from FCI was put into fast forward mode
- Unserviceable stock articles that were gathering dust in godowns were sold off

was also locked up in Income Tax refunds. "My officials made all-out efforts to get the refunds released. This made a big difference to our fortunes. Then, there were things lying in our godowns which were of no use. In official parlance these are called 'unserviceable' stock articles. We decided to sell them off. The revenue thus collected helped us clear a big part of our debt."

"All these factors meant that in just three years, our debts decreased to Rs 460.31 crore," said the minister.

New Jersey declares Guru's 400th anniv as 'human rights day'

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDKOT, MARCH 28 Budding talent Prateek Bagi (28) from Faridkot, who is an alumnus of the department of film producing, Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, received a national film award in the category of 'Best film on family values'. He produced a 37-minute short film, 'Like a Midnight Dream', as a part of his curriculum during the final year.

The 67th National Film Awards were announced this week. The film is about an upper middle class, urban society family, wherein a mother discovers that she is losing her life to cancer, and at the same time, she chances upon a video on her daughter's laptop. After seeing the video, the mother faces a dilemma. The film encourages liberal and open conservations between parents and children. The short film was the official selection of the 51st International Film

Faridkot youth wins National Film Award

Prateek Bagi produced short film on parent-child talks



Prateek Bagi

Festival of India (IFFI).

Prateek is also a recipient of a fellowship in filmmaking from Indiana University, USA. He has worked in multiple national and international projects in the capacity of a producer, executive producer, line producer and production coordinator with companies such as Kinetika (UK), Discovery India Network, Sun Bangla, World Wildlife Fund and Neoteny Studio (Hong Kong). — TNS

7,300 farm labourers ended lives in 18 yrs: Study

'High indebtedness, inability to repay loan led to extreme step'

RUCHIKA M KHANNA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 28 Over 7,300 farm labourers in Punjab have died by suicide between 2000 and 2018. As many as 5,765 of these (79 per cent of total suicides by farm labourers) were because of high indebtedness and inability to repay the loan.

An average agricultural labour family in the state has a debt of Rs 76,017 while the agricultural labourer suicide victim family had an average debt of Rs 94,579. An overwhelming 92 per cent of this debt had been taken by the victims from non-institutional sources, mainly from large farmers and private moneylenders which made them ineligible for the state government's debt relief scheme.

SHORT-TERM POLICY INTERVENTIONS

- Waive debt of all categories for suicide victim families
- Give reasonable compensation (beyond ₹3 lakh given now) within a week to families
- Ensure that compensation is provided to all victims, considering most cases of labourers are rejected

LONG-TERM POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Hike wage rates of labourers in consonance with inflation
- Safeguard land-related legal entitlements of landless labourers
- Ensure land ceiling is followed; distribute surplus land with owners at nominal rates to farm labourers

What is ghastly is that suicide in the agricultural labour families was not restricted to a single member. As many as 238 families saw two members dying by suicide, 30 saw three suicides and three families saw four or more members taking their lives. Though the

suicide mortality rate — number of suicides per lakh farm labourers — was the highest in Sangrur (20.80), followed by Barnala (19.05) and Mansa (18.62), the proportion of debt-related suicides was the highest in Barnala (90.17) and the lowest in Ludhiana (56.52). These are

the findings of a study 'Agrarian Crisis and Agricultural Labourer Suicides in Punjab' commissioned by the state government to eminent economist Sukhpal Singh from Punjab Agricultural University, along with Manjeet Kaur and HS Kingra. The study gains significance as the public discourse has so far been only on farmer suicides though labourers form over 42 per cent of the total agriculture workforce in the state. Sukhpal Singh, while talking to *The Tribune*, says in today's time when three farm laws have been enacted, the study signals how the economic distress will deepen once the corporatisation of agriculture begins. "The new Acts will deteriorate the economic condition of farmers as well as labourers," he says.

Student enrolment call from gurdwara

Patiala: Education Secretary Krishan Kumar has lent a new dimension to the ongoing enrolment drive 'Each One, Bring One'. On Sunday, after paying obeisance at Gurdwara Sahib at Baran village, he made an announcement using the public address system to mobilise villagers to motivate them to enrol their children in government schools. The Department of School Education has launched a drive to sensitise people to the changes taking place in government schools, which have been converted into smart schools. Officials of the department, school heads and teachers have been going from door to door, staging 'nukkad nataks' and holding enrolment camps in different areas.

Wall paintings spread cleanliness message

Abohar: Women have started joining 'Apna Abohar, Apni Abha' drive that was initially limited to cleanliness, but now aims at beautifying city walls with message-oriented paintings. While the team recently removed garbage and shrubs from the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited complex and Abohar Club road, budding artists Usha Rani, Renu Verma, Marjina, Sharanjit, Neelam Rani, Neha, Sophia Jakhar and Mitu Godara made paintings on the playground walls at both events. Volunteers of the Divya Jyoti Jagriti Sansthan served tea and confectionery at the camp, and followed the advisory of 'Apna Abohar, Apni Abha' team to avoid single-use plastic and disposable material. MC Commissioner Abhijeet Kapilash said people's participation would help make Abohar city-beautiful soon.

Loud opposition to 'silence hour'

Gurdaspur: After chanting "Go, corona, go" and banging utensils during the Covid-induced lockdown, residents were not willing to play ball when the Punjab Government asked them to observe one-hour silence for those who died because of the pandemic. People could be seen questioning the logic and efficacy of the drive. Even doctors could be heard saying the "government was leading residents up the garden path", as the movement served no purpose at all. Residents said the infrastructure in hospitals should be upgraded and more staff should be recruited to fight the virus. The cops, however, were unfazed. SSP Nanak Singh and his colleagues took the drive seriously. The police chief monitored the situation from his office, which had become a virtual war room. It was from here that the directives were issued to the officers concerned with the modus operandi to be adopted during the hour-long silence.



Capt's tribute to martyrs

Fazilka: Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh has announced a grant of Rs 39.5 lakh for construction of Victory Tower at Asafwala War Memorial recently. The Shaheedon Ki Samadhi Committee, which has been looking after the memorial since 1972, hailed the decision of the Chief Minister in its specially convened meeting. Committee member Karan Gilhotra said the 71-foot-tall victory tower was being raised to commemorate the sacrifice of 218 martyrs of the Army, who laid down their lives defending Fazilka in the 1971 Indo-Pak war. Gilhotra was instrumental in getting the grant for the memorial.

IN MEMORIAM



Dev Raj Sharma (29.03.1983) Vidyadevi (19.03.2011)

In ever lasting memory of Respected Babu Ji & Mata Ji Always in our thoughts, actions and prayers seeking your heavenly blessings All the Family Members, Relatives & Friends

DEV NIWAS

Sardar Colony, Street No. 2, Sangrur M: 98141-72500 & 98779-11306

e-paper.tribuneindia.com

New norms for use of sports funds by DIETs

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 28 The Punjab Government has issued new instructions to the principals of District Institutes for Education and Training (DIETs) regarding the utilisation of the existing sports funds to bring more transparency in the expenditure. — TNS

CONTRIBUTED BY KARAM PRAKASH, RAJ SADOSH, RAVI DHALIWAL AND PRAFUL CHANDER NAGPAL

Now, wellness centres to give jab, says minister

Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, MARCH 28
To speed up the vaccination drive, Health and Family Welfare Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu has said that vaccination would now be administered at all health and wellness centres, sub centres, homeopathy and ayurvedic dispensaries.

The vaccine will also be made available for all persons above 45 years without any condition at all government health centres from April 1.

Sidhu said nearly 7 lakh persons in the state had been vaccinated so far and to provide vaccination services at people's doorstep, such facilities would be provided at all government health centres and dispensaries/hospitals.

He said activities under the campaign were undertaken in full compliance of Covid

**69 DEATHS IN 24 HRS**

The state has reported record 69 deaths in the past 24 hours, highest during the second spike in a single day
As many as 2,963 fresh cases have been reported

« A woman gets inoculated at the Nawanshahr Civil Hospital. PHOTO: MALKIAT SINGH

LUDHIANA TOPS TOLL CHART

Ludhiana reported 10 deaths, Hoshiarpur and Jalandhar eight each, Gurdaspur six, Kapurthala, SAS Nagar, Amritsar and Bathinda four each, Ropar, SBS

guidelines such as maintenance of social distancing, use of face masks, maintenance of proper sanitation and hygiene etc.

All civil surgeons have been instructed to implement the guidelines as soon as possible so that the vaccination

process can be expedited in such centres and maximum eligible persons be covered under the drive," he added.

He said as per experts, the new virus was more infectious and intense so it was the moral responsibility of all to get vaccinated.

SUHKMEET BHASIN

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, MARCH 28

A fresh surge in cases across the state has brought the hospitality sector back to square one.

With the rollout of the vaccine, the sector was hopeful of business returning to normal, but with the cases rising and even employees of some private hotels also testing positive, restaurants and eating joints are facing decline in footfall.

Punjab Hotel, Restaurant Association chief Satish Arora said: "The hospitality sector is facing difficult time for the past one year. Earlier, lockdown hit them hard, then bird flu scare and now restrictions on gathering and night curfew in around 10 districts is affecting the business hard."

Further, he claimed that hotels and restaurants had high fixed expenses, which they had to bear even if the hotel didn't work. "We are also disappointed at no support

Sore at restrictions on gatherings, curfew; accuses govt of no help

from the Centre and the state government. We sent representation to both the governments repeatedly, but to no avail as no one has come to support us to date," he said.

For weddings and social gatherings, permission has been granted for only 100 persons. The period from March to May, which is the peak season for weddings, has started witnessing cancellations. The ancillary businesses like catering, decoration, photography and video shooting, music and DJ, lighting, bar tenders, flower decoration and others have also been hit hard and are suffering losses. Arora said: "Lavish resorts and banquets have been affected badly as big fat weddings have dried up in the state, upsetting the entire event industry."

6-kg heroin, pistol seized in Fazilka

FAZILKA, MARCH 28

The BSF claimed to have recovered 6-kg heroin and ammunition from across the barbed wire fencing in Jalalabad subdivision of Fazilka

district today morning.

Sources said during patrol, the BSF troops observed footmarks along zero line track near NS Wala border outpost. The team searched the area

and recovered four packets of the contraband weighing 6.150 kg, worth Rs 30 crore. Besides, the troops seized a Pakistan-made .30 bore pistol and two pistol magazines. —OC

Markfed Punjab

Sohne Punjab da Sohna swaad

SOHNA

Celebrate Pure health & happiness with Sohna Products

Have a happy & safe Holi

Markfed Bazaar: CHANDIGARH: SCO 2945-46, Sector 22 C | SCF 25, Sector 16 D
Sales Centres: Markfed Building, Sector 35 B | Punjab Civil Secretariat (Near Ayurvedic Dispensary)
LUDHIANA: SCO 31 F, BRS Nagar | JALANDHAR: Opp. BSF Chowk
AMRITSAR: Markfed District Office, Ranjit Avenue
Available at Markfed & Verka Booths and leading retailers

www.markfedpunjab.com

Debt misery hits families as youth fly abroad

Study says high cost of migration, low remittance leaves rural Patiala locals worried

RAVNEET SINGH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, MARCH 28

High cost of migration and lack of remittance back home is leaving families in rural Patiala under debt.

A study on the trend of migration from rural areas of Patiala from 1950s until 2019 published in the Indian Journal of Economics and Development has stated that migration from the region has witnessed a spurt in recent years. The study shows even educated youngsters spent lakhs on the process, many leaving their families under debt.

The paper, "Socio-economic and demographic analysis of international migration from

**KEY FACTORS**

Migration %age	Reason to go overseas
52.03%	Unemployment
46.28%	Desire to earn more
42.57%	For better living conditions
9.12%	Drug menace
34.12%	Sending home remittance

rural Punjab: A case study of Patiala district", points out that along with unemployment and the desire to earn more, the drug menace has become a significant reason for migration.

Out of 297 migrants from 207 households of five randomly picked villages of Patiala, 52.03 per cent left the country due to unemployment, 46.28 per cent with a desire to earn more, 42.57 per cent for better living conditions and 9.12 per cent left due to drug menace, it said.

The paper published by serving and former faculty members of Punjabi University and its colleges adds that most migrants opted for edu-

cation as the purpose of migration and used family savings, took bank loans and sold their properties for it.

They also spent Rs 15-20

lakh on the purpose, while some reported spending Rs 20-25 lakh as well. But only 34.12 per cent of all sent home remittances to their families, the study points out, adding that 65.88 per cent migrants sent no remittance.

Dr Gian Singh, former professor, Punjabi University, said this had left over two-thirds of all such families under debt, including 4.35 per cent households reporting a debt of over Rs 20 lakh.

"Among indebted households, 45.55 per cent were under a debt of Rs 5-10 lakh," he added. The study also states that as most migrants shifted to developed countries of the west, including Canada,

The study found that three-fourths of all who migrated were youths aged between 20 and 30 years, followed by those between 15-20 years and 30-35 years. Also, most were educated till secondary level or had a graduate and post-graduate degree. Dr Singh said: "This is causing brain drain, capital drain and loss of demographic dividends."

The study also evaluates migration on the basis of caste and states that 91 per cent who migrated were from general category Punjabi Jat families.

IN MEMORY OF SHRI ABHEY OSWAL



3RD JULY 1949 - 29TH MARCH 2016

*It's five years since you left us,
Seems like you were just here.*

*The grief is so fresh,
With your presence crystal clear.*

*Your voice still resonates,
And it's to your guidance we adhere.*

*As you watch over us,
To you we devote all that we share.*

**ABHEY
OSWAL**
GROUP

**OSWAL
GREENTECH
LIMITED**

**OSWAL
AGRO MILLS
LIMITED**

7TH FLOOR, ANTRIKSH BHAWAN, 22 K.G. MARG, NEW DELHI-110 001 | T: +91-11-23715242, 23322980

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

India-Bangladesh ties

Preserving the gains of the decade

THE defining images of India-Bangladesh ties during PM Modi's just concluded Dhaka visit would be his presence as chief guest at the National Day celebrations and New Delhi's entry into an upcoming Russian nuclear power plant there. The nuclear plant foray, buttressed by a \$1 billion line of credit, preceded by India gifting Kilo class submarines to Dhaka establish India's strategic proximity to Bangladesh as compared with China. The joint celebrations of Bangladesh's 50th anniversary of liberation from Pakistan need no subtexts to underline the complete distancing of the Sheikh Hasina government from Islamabad. India-Bangladesh ties today are a far cry from the dark era that began with the assassination of most of Sheikh Mujib's family in 1975 and closed in 2008 with the election of his surviving daughter Sheikh Hasina.

There was a five-year interlude when Hasina in her first term as PM established her pro-India leanings by inking the Ganga water sharing pact and ending unrest in Chittagong Hills where rebels from the north-east found safe havens. Yet those decades of political hostility and a slide into Islamism made Bangladesh a staging point for ISI's depredations, shattered its economy causing massive infiltration into India and generated hostility about Indian proposals to restore connectivity and transit. Favourable political winds in Dhaka since 2008 have finally dispelled the misgivings about India as a conniving giant and Bangladesh its credulous victim.

The turning point was the land boundary agreement and the trust rekindled among the two armies after years of close interaction. The steady rise in trucks and trains crossing the borders, a huge increase in documented travel and talks for an FTA indicate the two countries' preference for steady investment in ties rather than a myopic view. But uncontrolled passions of ideology and religious fervour also roil the land, as was evidenced from the police firing on protestors during PM Modi's visit. Both New Delhi and Dhaka would do well to avoid trying to squeeze in domestic political objectives. Rekindling of suspicions about a Hindu India trying to dominate Bangladesh is a spoiler both sides might want to avoid.

One-hour silence order

Essential activities should not get affected

THE Punjab Government's order on observing one-hour silence every Saturday as a mark of respect to those who lost their lives to Covid-19 may be noble in intent, but people should be spared this harassment. The government has sought the participation of civil society, religious organisations and NGOs to ensure people's participation and also directed that intra-city and intra-district vehicular traffic not be allowed. Traffic on the state and national highways has been exempted, but commuters complained of inconvenience with vehicles not being allowed to move in towns within the stipulated hour. Long queues were reported withnakas being set up and people travelling to faraway places getting stuck in traffic jams.

The decision is not without a precedent. A year ago, PM Modi urged the citizens to light lamps, candles and torches for nine minutes as a symbolic message in the fight against coronavirus to thank the frontline warriors and the essential service providers. The practice of observing the Earth Hour towards the end of March entails turning off non-essential lights for an hour as a show of commitment towards the preservation of planet earth, and the importance of nature has been renewed in no uncertain terms by the onset of the pandemic.

The state government's decision may be a preventive measure so that people avoid congregations to check the spread of the virus and spend time together. But exceptions are needed so that people are not inconvenienced. If the shutdown can have no impact on the Covid vaccination drive and essential services can continue unhindered despite the lockdown, there is no point in preventing people in the productive age group from going out to work at a time when the ambit of the vaccination drive is being widened. Attention should be directed more at restoration of activities crucial for sustaining livelihoods. Observing two minutes of silence has been a time-tested way to pay respect to the dead. The practice may well hold good even today.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Flying is learning how to throw yourself at the ground and miss. — Douglas Adams

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.

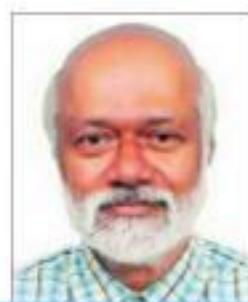
LAHORE, TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 1921

HIS EXCELLENCY AND THE REFORMS

THE one exception to the otherwise dismal record is His Excellency's part in the formulation of the Reforms Scheme. It is undeniable that the ball was set rolling by His Excellency, taking his cue from the parting words of his predecessor. It is equally undeniable that he supported Mr. Montagu in his general policy and that if it had not been for this support, the latter, with all his influence, would have found it very difficult to achieve even what he did. Indeed, it must be admitted that the knowledge that His Excellency was with the Secretary of State went almost as far towards silencing official opposition in India as did the knowledge that Mr. Montagu was acting with the full concurrence of the Cabinet, while it went even further towards weakening the opposition of the Sydenham clique in England. Let us add two essential reservations. In the first place, the Reforms, which His Excellency originally had in view, were of a very different character to the Reforms we ultimately got. We have it on His Excellency's own authority that the 1916 despatch made no provision for the axing of the enlarged councils with any responsibility. It only took the Morley Minto Reforms a step further. It did fall short of the requirements of the situation. Even the Secretary of State felt little hesitation in rejecting the main proposal of the Government of India as inadequate. Secondly, it is clear that neither as regards the actual announcement of policy in 1917 nor as regards the really good and strong itself was His Excellency anything more than a conceding party. That he was not in full personal sympathy with the spirit of that Report is shown conclusively by the despatch of the Government of India, dated 5th March, 1919, to which he was a signatory and with which he fully associated himself. That despatch was retrograde, and some of its principal recommendations were strongly condemned by Sir Sarkaran Nair.

Rooting for a handful of sky

Civil aviation set to emerge as an arm of India's economic diplomacy



KP NAYYAR

STRATEGIC ANALYST

INTERNATIONAL travel, as we have hitherto known it, is dead. Ever so often — weekly, sometimes more frequently — foreign embassies and high commissions in New Delhi are announcing changes to restrictions on the entry of Indians into their countries.

On March 28, new rules on the entry of airline passengers into Germany went into effect. The German government specifically said the new restrictions applied to what the order described as 'Covid-19 risk countries, such as India'. The French government updated its February 4 order on March 1, warning that 'all international travel — from a foreign country to France and vice versa — is totally and strictly discouraged until further orders'.

The consular section of the Embassy of Mexico in India is only entertaining visa applicants already holding a valid permit issued by the Department of National Migration in Mexico City. For many high commissions such as Canada, repatriation of their citizens from India became all-consuming work. Everything else became secondary as Canadian MPs intervened to speed up the repatriation. At one time, they had 38,000 Canadian citizens in India, desperate to go back home.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar told Parliament two weeks ago that authorities facilitated the return from India of more than 1.1 lakh foreign passport holders. They came from 120 countries. None of this was fun travel. It has changed into an experience of unimaginable stress during the pandemic.

Minister for Civil Aviation Hardeep Singh Puri said a week ago that India had brought back 6.77 million of its citizens since its global repatriation



BIG DEAL: Negotiations on civil aviation have turned into a major preoccupation for foreign diplomats. REUTERS

Instead of filling order books of aircraft manufacturers, the plan now is to route the aircraft leasing business in India.

mission known as 'Vande Bharat' began on May 7. While such flights may not be the coming home experience that they used to be, Puri says it has become the 'world's largest mission of hope and happiness'. It has certainly grown into the 'largest repatriation exercise in the history of the world' through aviation.

It is disconcerting that the numbers of returning Indians continue to grow. If it were not for a slow but steady revival in the migration of Indians who had to abandon their jobs abroad or lost work in the last one year, this would be a serious problem in terms of remittances to India and its foreign exchange reserves. Such return of Indians to their jobs is mostly true of the Gulf, where recovery is faster than in other parts of the world.

If oil prices continue to rise in the international market, more Indians will go back to the Gulf. But for them, too, travel is no longer a matter of joy. To that end, our government has concluded air transport bubbles that are temporary reciprocal arrangements for commercial passenger services until the resumption of regular international

flights. Such arrangements have been concluded with 27 nations so far,' Jaishankar said.

As a result of all this, negotiations on civil aviation have turned into a major preoccupation for foreign diplomats. Ambassadors have had to brush up their knowledge of International Civil Aviation Organisation regulations and pore through the history of civil aviation agreements concluded by their countries and India.

Along the way, these envoys have realised that only political interventions in New Delhi can get their national carriers anything like a fair deal in these negotiations.

It would not be far-fetched to predict that for the rest of this year, the big challenge facing foreign governments in their interactions with Indian counterparts will be in civil aviation. The pie is big, and getting bigger by the day. Every country with a global airline of its own wants a share of it. So far, Puri and his team have been tough in bargaining for the best deal for India in these negotiations to the point of causing frictions in several bilateral relations. It is a sea change from the previous government when the Civil Aviation

Ministry was headed, for the most part, by a member of the Nationalist Congress Party. It still rankles in Rajiv Gandhi Bhavan, headquarters of this ministry, that seats were given away to foreign airlines without protecting the interests of Indian carriers or Indian ancillary businesses.

Ten years ago, order books of Boeing, Airbus and Embraer were full of orders from Indian carriers, both state-run airlines and private companies, which brought fresh air into Indian aviation. At that time, only 1 per cent of Indians used to fly. Boeing and Airbus executives in Seattle and Toulouse were salivating over the prospect that even if 10 per cent Indians took to the skies with increasing prosperity, aircraft manufacturers would have it good for another decade or two.

The pandemic has been the death knell for many airlines the world over, but in India, recovery from Covid-19 is surprisingly robust and ongoing. But patterns of doing business will drastically change. Puri and his team are creatively adapting to this change. For instance, the Civil Aviation Minister is working on building an aircraft leasing business in India, which would finance new aircraft deliveries through leases instead of purchases. This is based on the premise that the share of aircraft on lease globally increased from 40 per cent before the onset of the pandemic to 50 per cent now.

Puri predicts that at the present post-Covid rate of recovery, India will need 100 aircraft deliveries each year for the next 20 years. If the bulk of these deliveries are to come through long-term leases, the business will be worth a whopping \$290 billion. Instead of filling order books of aircraft manufacturers, the plan now is to route the aircraft leasing business in India through the International Financial Services Centre Authority, specifically the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City, better known as GIFT City. If these plans materialise, one of the main thrusts of India's economic diplomacy in the coming years will be through civil aviation.

Show must go on, from a distance

RAJESH KRISHAN

THE time was about 8 am. I was lying in bed when I heard a sudden loud noise. At first, I thought somebody might have dropped a utensil in the kitchen, but then came another thud. I sat up startled, looked around and tried to guess where it was coming from. Just then, yet another thumping sound occurred. It was loud enough to make me jump out of bed and dash downstairs to the ground floor. But much to my astonishment, there was nobody there. I called out at the top of my voice, 'Mom! Dad! Where is everyone?' But there was no reply.

Then, as often happens in horror films, the doorbell started to ring, not once, not twice, but many times, like there was some urgency. I rushed to the door, but, lo and behold! Nobody was at the door, only a child riding his bicycle down the street. 'Hey kid! Did you just ring the bell?' I asked. He turned with a smile and said, 'No, it wasn't me!' Confused, I turned to go inside, but he called out and said, 'Could you please come out here and fix my bicycle chain? It seems stuck and I can't pull it out.'

I stepped out of the front gate only to find myself surrounded by a group of children, armed with water-guns

loaded with coloured water, water balloons and dry coloured powder. Figuring I was trapped, I dashed indoors, but alas, it was locked from the inside. I tried another door, but it was locked too. That instant, my wife and my parents emerged from behind the fence. 'You shouldn't have stepped out of your room at all,' said my mother as she applied *tika* on my forehead and offered *gujiya*.

I still recall that moment in vivid detail because in that moment, I felt no better than a goat that is fed before it is sacrificed. Anticipating that no one would bother waiting for me to finish it, I swallowed the *gujiya* as fast as I could. The next

moment, like a flash of lightning, my wife smeared my face with *gulaal*, wishing me, 'Happy Holi!' Now, it was the turn of others. 'Bura na mano, Holi hai!' they shouted again and again, and when the madness stopped, I was drenched from head to toe, looking like a modern art creation by a three-year-old.

That celebration was special, as it was my first Holi after my marriage. Years later, I long to be able to relive that euphoria once again. If it means wearing a mask, maintaining social distance and keeping celebrations within the family, well, so be it. As the saying goes, come what may, the show must go on.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Regional disparity

Refer to 'A year of apathy' (*Nous Indica*); the migrants' sufferings pointed to certain ground realities to which we must now awaken. We have disturbing regional disparity in terms of economic growth. Most migrants hailed from UP, Bihar, MP, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Odisha. For these states, we need to visualise a blueprint for holistic agricultural and industrial growth on priority. We should train ourselves mentally and culturally to accept them as equal humans.

Traders and businessmen need cheap labour for running their factories but they must be bound by law to pay them full wages even during lockdown or any such emergency. We must empower them permanently so that they do not undergo the same ignominy again.

RAJ BHADUR YADAV, FATEHABAD

Akin to bandh

The weak and the poor are always at the receiving end, and sadly, the apathy of the insular elite in the government and society is telling. The Covid resurgence points to more lessons unlearnt than learnt. All bandhs impact lives and livelihoods and any lockdown is tantamount to a state-mandated bandh. Let those in the 20-60 age range

that go out to work be inoculated first, though vaccination must be opened to all. Strict compliance of Covid protocols and mass vaccination is the only key.

LALIT BHARADWAJ, PANCHKUL

Workers vulnerable

Apropos of 'A year of apathy', the Indian economy, especially the informal sector, has been witness to unprecedented slowdown and unemployment, aggravated due to the pandemic in recent months. NGOs, employers, and even the SC stepped in, in light of the vulnerability of the migrant workers. The local authorities should be empowered to take decisions pertaining to lockdown, as and when necessary.

SIKANDAR BANSAL, SHIMLA

Structural discrimination

Apropos of 'Women Army officers', last year the SC had said short commission women officers were entitled to permanent commission. It has once again affirmed equality, pointing to the structural discrimination against women in a society 'created by males and for males'. Women have fought a long battle for inclusion in the military, against various forms of patriarchal disregard, protectiveness and hostility. As they continue to press for more

parity in the defence forces, the court's reminder about implicit gender biases and structural justice will serve as a guide to the Army, and also to the rest of us.

MS KHOKHAR, BY MAIL

Women officers

Women have played a vital role in every field of the armed forces. Their induction has boosted their confidence and also gained them the respect of society. Their dedication to duty has benefited all three forces. If they are inducted into technical and non-technical cadres, with little concession or a compromise in respect of their sex, a new structure in the defence forces will emerge that would compete with the forces of other countries.

SUBER SINGH PARIHAR, HAMIRPUR

Out of race

Reference to 'No CAA if elected to power: Manmohan to Assam voters'; it is interesting that the former PM has claimed that the Congress would not implement the CAA, while urging the people to vote wisely and elect a government that will uphold constitutional and democratic principles. The use of words 'if elected' in his pre-political speech, reveals his 'out of sync' party's real inside story. One won-

ders if its 'Jan manifesto', making a whole lot of promises to gullible voters, will make any dent on the BJP's poll prospects.

SK GUPTA, NEW DELHI

Stick to model conduct

Reference to Bengal elections; nonviolence is the very essence of democracy. Violence does not bode well for a healthy political system. It is the moral duty of every political party to give due deference to the election process and refrain from any act which vitiates the political atmosphere. Power or no power, they should not stoop low to garner votes. Governments come and go, but there should be no deviation from the model code of conduct. All political parties should instruct their cadres to act in a responsible manner.

SANTOSH JAMWAL, HAMIRPUR

Parks not for prayers

Refer to 'Another bid to disrupt namaz in Gurugram'; should it not have been 'Another illegal attempt to take over public property'? A park is not a place of worship and neither are roads. This practice of offering prayers on public property needs to be stopped, else it will create law and order issues.

AMAN PURI, SHIMLA

CLASSIFIEDS**SITUATION VACANT**

Walk-in Interview at KC Ayurvedic Hospital, Karyam Road Nawanshahr (Punjab) on 30 March 2021 at 1000 hours for Doctors in all specialization, Hospital Superintendent, Medical Officers, Ward Boy, Pharmacist, Dresser, Deputy Medical Superintendent, Staff Nurses, Operation Theatre Attendant, Pathologist, Store Keeper, Yoga Teacher, X-Ray Technician. Query # 88720-88444. (CL20114208)

Required Software developers with React/Material UI & Node.js experience. Send resume (only Jalandhar). WhatsApp: 981498289. (CL20114609)

Gilly Mundy Memorial Community School. An English Medium, CBSE Affiliated Senior Secondary Co-Educational Day School. (Run by: Buwanekothi International Trust UK & India). Urgently requires: Principal (qualification and experience as per CBSE norms), PGTs:- Economics-I, Maths- I, TGTs- S.St- I, Science- I, English- I, PRTs:- English- 2, Maths- I, Science- I, S.St- I, Primary Co-ordinator- I, Music Teacher- I. Candidate with CBSE School experience should apply. Salary no bar for deserving candidates. Accommodation available. Bhuna- Jhakhal Road, Lehrian (Fatehabad) Haryana. Send your resume on: hr@gmcschools.in or WhatsApp on: 98122-65116, Contact No. 94161-63981, 86839-23231. (CL20114610)

DAV KRIB Sr. Sec. Public School, Kot Ise Khan (Moga) 142043 Email: dav_krb@yahoo.com requires the following staff on temporary basis. LDC-1, (salary Rs. 9000). Qualifications Graduate & knowledge of Computer. Librarian-1, (Rs. 10000), qualifications as per CBSE norms. Computer Operator-1, (Rs. 9000), qualification BCA/MCA, Lab Attendant-1, qualification XII Science (Rs. 8000), Receptionist-1, qualification Graduate (Rs. 10000). Apply to the Principal up to 05.04.2021. Prescribed proforma is available at Reception counter at the cost of Rs. 300/- Chairman: 98144-34221, Manager, Principal: 95926-22003. (CL20114675)

DAV KRIB Sr. Sec. Public School Kot Ise Khan (Moga) 142043 Email: dav_krb@yahoo.com Requires the following staff on temporary basis. PGT Physics- 1, PGT Chemistry- 1, PGT Biology- 1, PGT Commerce- 1, PGT English- 1. Qualifications as per CBSE norms. Salary Rs. 20,000/- as consolidated for temporary staff. Apply to the Principal up to 05.04.2021. Prescribed proforma is available at reception counter at the cost of Rs. 300/- Chairman: 98144-34221, Manager, Principal: 95926-22003. (CL20114676)

DAV KRIB Sr. Sec. Public School Kot Ise Khan (Moga) 142043 Email: dav_krb@yahoo.com Requires the following staff on temporary basis. TGT Science- I, TGT Mathematics- I, TGT English- I, TGT Hindi- I, TGT S.St- I Qualifications as per CBSE norms. Salary Rs. 15,000/- as consolidated for temporary staff preference to CTET/ PTET qualified. Apply to the Principal up to 05.04.2021. Prescribed proforma is available at reception counter at the cost of Rs. 300/- Chairman: 98144-34221, Manager, Principal: 95926-22003. (CL20114677)

DAV KRIB Sr. Sec. Public School Kot Ise Khan (Moga) 142043 Email: dav_krb@yahoo.com Requires the following staff on temporary basis. PRT- 09, 1 Music, 1 Art & Craft & 1 Dharam Shikshak. Qualifications as per CBSE norms. Salary Rs. 10,000/- as consolidated. Preference to CTET & PTET qualified. Apply to the Principal up to 05.04.2021. Prescribed proforma is available at reception counter at the cost of Rs. 300/- Chairman: 98144-34221, Manager, Principal: 95926-22003. (CL20114678)

Nankana Sahib Public School Samrala Wants one Math Teacher (M.Sc. Math, B.Ed.), One Fine Arts Teacher (M.A. Fine Arts B.Ed.), One female peon (Middle Pass) can apply within one week in school office salary negotiable. Email- npsamrala@gmail.com 98148-17655. (CL20114699)

Lakshmi Tara Rathaur Public School Sialla Majri Mohali Required immediately experienced Accountant qualification B.Com., M.Com. knowledge of computer. Tally and finalize account books. Send resume at meeta.yadava@gmail.com (CL20114700)

DOCTORS/ENGINEERS
Wanted Sales Engineer B.Tech/ Mech/Electrical with HQ at Amritsar, Ludhiana & Chandigarh for Industrial Selling. Experienced candidate will be preferred however fresher can also apply as Trainee. Contact: 77290-00005 and mail resume to rksaisha@krsengineers.in (CL20114269)

DISCLAIMER
"The Tribune Trust does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/ Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon."

ADMISSION NOTICE

Sandhu Institute of Nursing, Nawanshahr. Walk in Counselling for admission in B.Sc. (Nursing) vacant seats on March 31, 2021 in Principal office at 11.30 morning. Contact: 98140-10221. (CL20114705)

PUBLIC NOTICES

I. Gurinder Singh s/o Mohinder Singh r/o 245-C, Rattan Nagar, Patiala, have changed my name to Gurvinder Singh. (CL20114303)

I. Suraj Parkash s/o Late Sh. Bakshi Ram Gupta r/o 78, Dhaliwal Colony, Patiala-147001, have changed my name to Suraj Parkash Gupta. (CL20114466)

I. Army No. JC422947H Subedar M. Pappu Raj of 16 Mech Inf. Lalgarh solemnly affirm that in my Army records my son's name wrongly entered as Livam Benadik correct name is P.Livam Banadik. All concerned plz note. (CL20114701)

I. Army No. - 149318661 Rank Hav. Kalp Nath Verma r/o 16 Mech. Inf c/o 56 APD hereby declares that in my daughter's school records her name wrongly entered as Shivangi Verma. Correct name is Sivangi Verma. All concern plz note. (CL20114702)

I. Monika Swami d/o Krishan Kumar r/o Vill. Nirwal Teh. Rawatwas Distt. Hanumangarh (Raj.), have changed my name from Manohari to Monika Swami. (CL20114704)

For Circulation and Advertisement booking and other related queries please call at following numbers from Monday to Saturday between 10.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m.

Circulation: 0172-2670319, 2670250, 2670442
E-mail at circulation@tribunemail.com

Advertisement: Classified: 0172-2670257, 2670338
E-mail at classified@tribunemail.com

Display: 0172-2670256, 2670342
E-mail at advt@tribunemail.com

COURT NOTICES

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
In the Court of Sh. Varun Deep Chopra Civil Judge (Junior Division)-2, Fatehgarh Sahib.

Rakesh Nanda Versus Satish Kumar Nanda

CNR No.: PBFG02-001150-2019
Next Date: 22.04.2021

Publication issued to: Rakesh Nanda Father: Krishan Chand Nanda Ward No. 7, Noon Mircha Wali Gali, Hamayunpur, Sirhind, Tehsil and District Fatehgarh Sahib.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 22.04.2021 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=fatehgarhsahib

Dated, this day of 09.03.2021.

Sd/- Civil Judge (Junior Division)-2, Fatehgarh Sahib.

Publication issued to: Rakesh Nanda Father: Krishan Chand Nanda Ward No. 7, Noon Mircha Wali Gali, Hamayunpur, Sirhind, Tehsil and District Fatehgarh Sahib.

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 22.04.2021 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=jalandhar

Dated, this day of 16.03.2021.

Sd/- Judicial Magistrate First Class-5, CL20112108 Jalandhar

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
In the Court of Sh. Prabhjot Singh Kaleka Additional Civil Judge (Senior Division), Ludhiana.

CNR No.: PBLOD02-006048-2019
Next Date: 20.04.2021

1. M/S Ashok Kumar and Sons through its Proprietor Davinder Kumar inside Delhi Gate, Ferozepur-152002

In above titled case, the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 12.05.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=jalandhar

Dated, this day of 16.03.2021.

Sd/- Judicial Magistrate First Class-5, CL20112084 Jalandhar

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
In the Court of Sh. Harpreet Singh (son), of Late Sh. Mehar Singh, both r/o VPO Ghalot, Tehsil Payal, Distt. Ludhiana.(Petitioners)

Versus General Public and others

Petition for Grant of Succession Certificate Notice to Respondent No. 03: Iqbal Kaur Grewal d/o Late Sh. Balwant Singh Grewal r/o 102, BOARDS ROSE HENVIL, LONDON W7 1AJ LONDON.

In above titled petition the respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that the respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 20.04.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=ludhiana

Dated, this day of 23.03.2021

Sd/- P.S. Kaleka, PCS Addl. Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.), Ludhiana.

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)
In the Court of Sh. P.S. Kaleka Additional Civil Judge (Senior Division), Ludhiana.

Dated, this day of 23.03.2021

Sd/- P.S. Kaleka, PCS Addl. Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.), Ludhiana.

Man killed in Jhajjar over land dispute

JHAJJAR, MARCH 28

A 35-year-old guest teacher, posted at a government school in Najafgarh (Delhi), was gunned down by three motor-bike-borne masked assailants in Dujana village on Sunday. The deceased was identified as Aril Kumar. A land dispute was said to be the reason behind the incident.

The police have booked a case against three persons on the complaint of the father of the victim, Vijay Kumar. The police said three teams were conducting raids at the possi-

ble hideouts of the accused.

Anil had come to Dujana from Delhi for Holi. The crime was committed around 11 am when Anil was at a meat shop in Dujana. The assailants opened seven to eight rounds on Anil from a close range, leaving him dead on the spot, said Manoj Kumar, SHO, Dujana police station.

Anil's father suspected the involvement of Sanjay of Birdhana village, as the accused had attacked the complainant and his son 10 months ago over a land

dispute, said the SHO. —TNS

Cattle smugglers booked in Ambala

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMBALA, MARCH 28

The police have booked unidentified cattle smugglers under attempt to murder charges for allegedly trying to run over policemen in Naraingarh on Saturday.

The case was registered on the complaint of ASI Pitamber Singh, who alleged that a canter and a pick-up truck were smuggling cattle to UP. Subsequently, a naka was set up on the Naraingarh road.

The canter driver and the pick-up truck broke the naka, sped toward Sadhaura and attempted to run over the policemen at the site. The policemen then chased the vehicles.

The pick-up driver left his vehicle behind after finding a jam. The policemen rescued seven cattle from the vehicle. A case was registered under Sections 307, 279, and 336 of the IPC, and 11 of the Prevention to Cruelty to Animals Act at the Naraingarh police station. The accused are yet to be held.

CLASSIFIEDS

COURT NOTICES

In the Court of Bhupinder Mittal Judicial Magistrate First Class-5, Jalandhar.

AVM Industrial Corporation, India Versus Waves Sanitations

CNR No.: PBJL03-014986-2018

Next Date: 11.05.2021

Purpose: Appearance

NACT/2788/2018

Publication issued to:

1. M/S Waves Sanitations through its Proprietor Sanjay Chopra, Shop No. 153, Sector D, Sanik Colony, Jammu.

2. Sanjay Chopra, Proprietor of M/S Waves Sanitations, Shop No. 153, Sector D, Sanik Colony, Jammu.

In above titled case, the accused could not be served. It is ordered that accused should appear in person or through counsel on 11.05.2021 at 10.00 a.m.

For details logon to

https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=jalandhar

Dated, this day of 16.03.2021.

Sd/- Judicial Magistrate First Class-5, CL20112108 Jalandhar

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of Sh. Harpreet Singh (son), of Late Sh. Mehar Singh, both r/o VPO Ghalot, Tehsil Payal, Distt. Ludhiana.(Petitioners)

Versus General Public and others

Petition for Grant of Succession Certificate

Notice to Respondent No. 03: Iqbal Kaur Grewal d/o Late Sh. Balwant Singh Grewal r/o 102, BOARDS ROSE HENVIL, LONDON W7 1AJ LONDON.

In above titled petition the respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that the respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 20.04.2021 at 10:00 a.m.

For details logon to

https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=ludhiana

Dated, this day of 23.03.2021

Sd/- P.S. Kaleka, PCS Addl. Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.), Ludhiana.

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of Sh. P.S. Kaleka, PCS Addl. Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.), Ludhiana.

Dated, this day of 23.03.2021

Sd/- P.S. Kaleka, PCS Addl. Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.), Ludhiana.

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In the Court of Sh. P.S. Kaleka, PCS Addl. Civil Judge (Sr. Divn.), Ludhiana.

HOLI-Festival of Colours

The Tribune Marketing Supplement



AMANDEEP HOSPITAL

Model Town, G.T. Road, Amritsar



1.25 Lacs Orthopaedics
Surgeries Done



20,000+ Joint Replacement
Surgeries Done



Trusted by more than
2 Million People



PIONEERS IN
**Robotic Knee
Replacement Surgery**



Amandeep Group of Hospitals

Amandeep Group of Hospitals pioneers in bringing Robotic Knee replacement in North India.

Robotic knee replacement, since its inception at North India at Amandeep Hospital, Amritsar has become the first choice for patients undergoing knee replacement surgery. Amandeep Group of hospitals under the leadership of Dr. Avtar Singh, Chief Orthopedic and Joint Replacement Surgeon,



Dr. Avtar Singh, Chief Orthopedic and Joint Replacement Surgeon

resistant and fearful of getting knee replacement surgery done due to fear of Covid pandemic. Robotic technique of replacing knee at Amandeep Hospital, Amritsar comes as a boon for the patients as it allows them to get discharged in 3 days from the hospital. The Hospital is fully equipped with medical facilities as per safety norms defined by Government for COVID 19.

With more than 1000 robotic knee replacement surgeries done in the last two and half years, Robotic knee replacement surgery has proven to be the most precise and trusted technique for knee replacement due to its high success rate. Quick rehabilitation after knee surgery of patients and patients getting back to normal life without pain is a big achievement for Amandeep Hospital and its team of professional doctors.

Most of the patients are

The Kalgidhar Society – Baru Sahib

TERI ENVIS, sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, has done a Case Study on The Kalgidhar Society, Baru Sahib's initiative as the largest Solar Energy Project in rural institutions. This case study has been published in "Compendium of Renewable Energy and Climate Change Case Studies in India – Volume 5".

The 97-year old ShiromaniPanthal Baba Iqbal Singh Ji, President of The Kalgidhar Society, emphasizes on the adoption of more economic and green option of solar energy to reduce the huge electricity bills and parallel fight against the

global warming. His vision is to utilize the vacant rooftops of the schools, to harness sunlight in order to enhance sustainability and reduce carbon emission as much as possible to save Mother Earth. A total of 3750 solar panels have been installed for 1.2 MWp project and a total of approximately 1.3 lakh square feet of the rooftop has been covered under this project.

This solar PV project will help in reducing 35,000 metric tonnes of carbon emission over 25 years, which will be equivalent to planting of 82,000 trees. Annual savings in power bills are expected to be around 1 crore.

Aryans Group of Colleges, Chandigarh

Established in the year 2007, Aryans Group of Colleges. The Group is growing under the leadership of young & dynamic entrepreneur Dr. Anshu Kataria, alumnus of Panjab University, Chandigarh, supported by Prof. Roshan Lal Kataria, Smt. Rajni Kataria and Dr. Mrs. Parveen Kataria during last 14 years.

The Group runs 8 different colleges including Aryans College of Engineering, Aryans Business School, Aryans Institute of Management & Technology,



Prof. Roshan Lal Kataria

Aryans College of Education, Aryans Institute of Nursing, Aryans Degree College, Aryans College of Law & Aryans Pharmacy College.

Placements: Aryans group is fully committed for the placement of its students in reputed national and international companies. Aryans has successfully conducted 51 Job Fests at its campus till now and more than 1000 companies and 10,000 job seekers from all over the country have visited Aryans Campus.

Aryans College of Law, Rajpura

Aryans gets "Best Private Law College in Punjab" award in Asian Achievers Award 2020

Aryans College of Law, Rajpura, near Chandigarh was awarded "Best Private Law College in Punjab". The award was conferred upon Dr. Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group of Colleges in a virtual award ceremony. Shri Suresh PrabhakarPrabhu, Indian Emissary to the G20 & G7 And Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Government of India, Shri Pratap Chandra Sarangi, Minister of State of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries & Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste, Minister of State of Steel Government of India were virtually present on this occasion organized by Asia Today Research & Media & Achiever India, Book of



Dr. Anshu Kataria,
Chairman, Aryans
Group of Colleges

records on Zoom in New Delhi. After the establishment of Aryans group in 2007, Aryans College of Law was started in 2016 It is approved by Bar Council of India & all the courses are affiliated to Punjabi University Patiala imparting LLB and BA-LL.B programs. In a short span of 5 years, Aryans College of Law has achieved many milestones. Aryans is the only Law College in the region to be associated with Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) in the list of the country's prestigious colleges. The world renowned company Pearson VUE selected Aryans as the exam center for Law School Admission Test (LSAT). LSAT is conducted on behalf of the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) which is a gateway for entry into Harvard Law School.

Rattan Hospital, Jalandhar

Society has faced many medical problems and calamities in the past but never has it battled a problem of the magnitude and severity like Covid-19. Never before in history has any event brought the world to a standstill. Those inflicted by this virus have gone through a nightmare and it is still haunting the families of those who have survived Covid-19. Rattan Hospital would request all fellow citizens to follow SMS (Social

distancing/Mask Sanitization) to prevent the spread of Covid.

Rattan Hospital has been extending all possible help to Covid suspected/infected persons in a patient friendly, pocket friendly way. There is total round the clock care in the hospital for Covid/NonCovid patients. Senior doctors attend to all patients 24x7. We at Rattan Hospital wish everyone a healthy, happy and prosperous year ahead.



Dr. Balraj Gupta,
M.D.

DIPLAST



DIPLAST started manufacturing plastic products for construction sector in North India in the year 1972. It started with Rigid PVC Conduits, which were never thought about in this part of the country. When the company started, it did not process more than 10 tons of material per month. However, today Diplast is processing almost 1000 tons of material and has diversified into all kinds of pipes, fittings, water storage tanks, dust bins, public toilets, planters, tubs, benches, rain water harvesting systems and hydroponic systems. Diplast, an ISO 9001:2015 certified company, is today recognized as the most reliable manufacturer and supplier of plastic products. Their strength is quality, research & development and revolutionary green products. The Company offers many environment friendly products like Rain water harvesting system, hydroelectric farming, mobile toilets, & dry & wet waste dustbins,

compost bins in various sizes. Besides, the Company also intends to go in for all modern techniques for 'Plastics in Agriculture'.

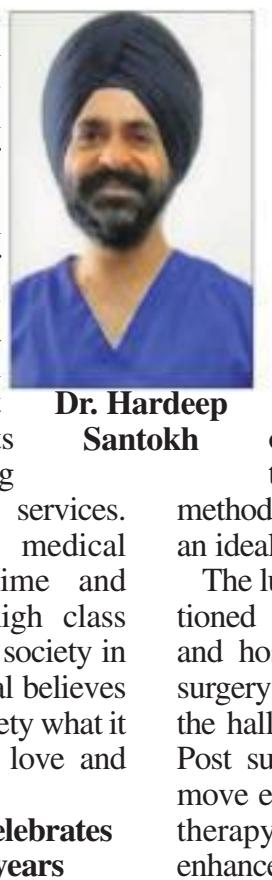
Viney and Ashok who started DIPLAST give the credit of their success of their company to their parents. "Our father is the man behind the success of our company. Initially, he supported us financially and encouraged us to continue our efforts in expanding our unit from time to time. He was a philanthropist and provided a helping hand to all. We have imbibed the same values' beams the duo. The next generation of the family, Vikram and Puneet are now actively taking part in the business and are determined to take the group to new heights." Vikram is now with the company for the last 18 years and is handling most of the marketing and dispatches whereas, Puneet is looking after the Lafru and Kala Amb units', says Viney Aggarwal.

After many years of research, a successful model of Roof Top RAIN WATER SYSTEM has been developed by DIPLAST Group by making the water suitable for drinking purpose also.

In its efforts towards Corporate Social Responsibility, DIPLAST has held several rallies for Clean City – Green City in Mohali and also developed a round-about. Senior Citizens of Mohali are supported by organizing picnics at their Farm House, holding Free medical camps and blood donation camps.

Santokh Hospital, Chandigarh

Santokh Hospital (Erstwhile Santokh Nursing Home) came into existence on 17th February, 1991 in Sector 38, Chandigarh. Dr. Kuldeep Singh dedicated it to his father, Late Mr Santokh Ram. The vision was to establish a health institution which would be recognised not by its size but by its ethics, transparent dealing and affordable medical services. He has dedicated his medical knowledge, energy, time and money in providing high class medical treatment to the society in general. Santokh Hospital believes in giving back to the society what it has got in the form of love and recognition.



Dr. Hardeep Santokh

joints of the body which carry the body weight. They help us run, move, jump, dance, and squat. Without proper knee functioning, one cannot think of being on one's feet, any impairment in one's knees can hinder the movement. With the passage of time and sluggish lifestyle, knees get worn and develop deformity. When initial treatment and traditional methods fail, knee replacement is an ideal choice.

The luxury of a deluxe air conditioned room, dedicated surgeons and hospital staff, a hi-fit joint surgery with no hidden charges are the hallmark of Santokh Hospital. Post surgery, patients are able to move easily with no extra physiotherapy sessions required to enhance the movement of the joint.

Dr. Hardeep Singh has been a key figure in effective knee replacement joint treatment. He has vast experience in the field of Knee replacement surgeries, patient should overcome their apprehensions with a visit to Santokh Hospital, Sector 38, Chandigarh, and experience a homely and friendly environment.

**Do Not Stop Living
Make a Move**

Drishti Eye Hospital, Panchkula

with goggles and also cover your head with a cap or dupatta.

• Smear your hair, face and especially area around the eyes with coconut oil or cream as this will make it easier to get rid of the colour while washing it off.

• Avoid synthetic colours and use natural/organic colours instead. These synthetic colours contain industrial dyes and harmful chemicals which can cause irritation, pink eye (conjunctivitis), blurry vision and even blindness in cases of extreme exposure.

Shiva Ayurvedic Medical College and Hospital

Shiva Ayurvedic Medical College and Hospital is an institution established by Shiva Ayush. Students can also apply online for admissions. Eligibility for admission is NEET 2020. Scholarship is also available for SC/ST students. It is affiliated to Himachal Pradesh University Shimla and is recognized by National Council of Teachers (NCTE), New Delhi

Pradesh) and has been approved for B.A.M.S by the Ministry of Ayush.

Students can also apply online for admissions. Eligibility for admission is NEET 2020. Scholarship is also available for SC/ST students. It is affiliated to Himachal Pradesh University Shimla and is recognized by National Council of Teachers (NCTE), New Delhi

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Parking blues in Solan, challans add to misery

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SOLAN, MARCH 28

The inordinate delay in completing various parking projects here is creating inconvenience to the people, who are facing hefty fines for parking vehicles in the available space.

Though several projects were conceived years ago, some of these have either failed to be completed or some are yet to begin. The railway road parking project meant for 102 vehicles was conceived in 2008. Though bids were invited for the project on a build, operate and transfer basis in 2008, only a portion was completed in 2018 and the construction of its second phase is yet to begin.

Another multi-level parking project was conceived at the old bus stand involving transfer of Army land. The parking lots for 156 vehicles were supposed to be created in three floors, along with some commercial space. Since the exchange of land failed to take place, the project, too, has been hanging fire since then.

Vishal Singh, a resident, who has been facing the scourge of challans, said, "The local authorities have

failed to create parking space vis-à-vis the increase in the number of vehicles and challans have become a routine affair. There is inadequate space even to park two-wheelers and one is forced to pay fines for issuing a challan."

The parking facility is available at Sapron, but its location along a curve on the busy national highway has reduced its utility as motorists find it difficult to gain access to it. Another parking lot near Thodo Ground is occupied by locals, leaving little room for those coming from outside.

"As many as 2,748 vehicles have been challaned since January by the Solan police and a penalty of Rs 2,97,600 has been collected while 1,453 cases have been sent to the court," said Superintendent of Police Abhishek Yadav.

Pawan Gupta, MC councilor and former president, said the work to construct the second phase of the railway road parking would begin soon. A sum of Rs 70 lakh had been made available for constructing an approach road for the Army authorities and this would pave the way for exchange of land and construction of the parking at old bus stand soon.

MC elections: Cong leader, supporters join BJP in Solan

Thakur releases Sankalp Patra, addresses public meetings in wards

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SOLAN, MARCH 28

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Sunday urged residents of Solan to ensure the victory of BJP candidates by an overwhelming majority in the Municipal Corporation poll.

More than 150 retired officers, employees and women of various wards, along with Congress district secretary Jatin Soni, joined the BJP. As many as 40 Congress supporters of ward number 14 also joined the BJP in presence of the CM.

He assured the people that the government would fulfil all promises made in the 'Sankalp Patra' released for these poll today. He addressed public meetings in favour of party candidates Rajani Bala, Swati Kashyap, Kulbhushan Gupta, Rekha Sahni, Pawan Gupta and Rajesh Thakur in various wards.

He said the government had fulfilled the long-pending demand of granting the MC status to Solan and this



CM Jai Ram Thakur addresses a public meeting in Solan.

STRESS ON IMPROVING CIVIC AMENITIES

The BJP's Sankalp Patra for MC polls has laid stress on improving civic amenities like improving water availability, cleanliness, sewage system, roads and parking facilities. Other priorities included developing playgrounds, free Wi-Fi in select places, ridding the town of power and telephone lines, provision of round the clock quality power, improving health infrastructure.

would ensure the balanced and planned development of the area.

He accused the Congress of misleading the people, especially residents of the merged rural areas, and

said the government was committed to protecting their interests. No tax would be levied for five years in the merged areas. On the lines of MGNREGA, the Urban Livelihood Mis-

sion was being implemented and the rights of the people of the merged areas would remain intact.

Thakur said special funds for the development of towns like Solan would be sought from the Centre. He said a master plan would also be drafted for its planned development and special attention would be laid on cleanliness, beautification, proper sewerage and creation of modern infrastructure.

A complaint in this regard was forwarded to the Tehsildar, who had also clarified in his report that Asha Devi's caste certificate was not valid, he added.

Addressing a press conference, the minister said the BJP would approach the State Election Commission and the High Court to seek the cancellation of Asha Devi's nomination.

Yesterday, former minister and AICC secretary Sudhir Sharma had accused BJP leaders of threatening their candidate from ward 17 to withdraw her nomination.

Sudhir Sharma said the caste certificate was issued by the competent authorities and there was no question of it being invalid.

Doubts raised over caste certificate of Cong candidate

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

DHARAMSALA, MARCH 28

Forest Minister Rakesh Pathania today alleged that Congress candidate Asha Devi, who had filed her nomination papers from ward 17 (reserved), had submitted invalid caste certificate.

A complaint in this regard was forwarded to the Tehsildar, who had also clarified in his report that Asha Devi's caste certificate was not valid, he added.

BJP in-charge for the Solan election Dr Rajiv Bindal, addressing the people, said the CM had provided more than Rs 16.50 crore for strengthening the drinking water system in Solan and Rs 19 crore for other development works. Now, 32 doctors and sufficient paramedical staff had been deputed in the Regional Hospital.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Rajiv Saizal, state BJP general secretary Trilok Jamwal and Power Minister Sukhram Chaudhary were also present.



Will approach the HC for cancellation of her nomination: Pathania

BJP MP from Kangra Kishan Kapoor alleged that large-scale corruption had taken place in the Dharamsala civic body during the stint of the Congress government. He alleged that crores were spent on installing underground dustbins.

However, Kapoor failed to explain why the BJP government, which has been in power in the state for the past more than three years now, has taken any action in the corruption cases.



The first convoy of IOC tankers being flagged off at Sarchu for Leh. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Manali-Leh highway reopens

TREBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MANDI, MARCH 28

The BRO has restored 425-km Manali-Leh highway for vehicular movement, which will provide access to military and common civilians from the Manali side in Himachal Pradesh to Leh in the union territory of Ladakh.

The first convoy of IOC bowsers was flagged off from the Himachal side by Stanzin Chospel, Executive Councillor, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), today in the presence of BRO officials to announce the opening of this highway.

The strategically important Manali-Leh highway remains closed for about six months every winter and Ladakh remains cut off from rest of the country which makes the region dependent on supplies through the aerial route.

Due to the ongoing border issue with China in Ladakh, the Union government had this year asked the BRO to restore this highway earlier as soon as possible.

As a result, the BRO had started snow clearance operation on the road stretch between Manali and Leh in mid-February with a strategy to simultaneously commence snow clearance on four

important passes along the route — Baralach La (16,047 ft), Nakeela (16,170 ft), Lachung La (16,616 ft) and Tanglang La (17,582 ft).

These passes receive 20 to 30 feet high heavy snowfall every year, which keeps the highway blocked for traffic movement for months.

BRO sources said the latest hi-tech machinery was swiftly inducted for clearing snow. BRO teams worked relentlessly day and night to provide early connectivity to Leh. The dynamics were different this year with the inauguration of Atal Tunnel as there was no necessity of opening the Rohtang Pass.

In another resolution, the panchayat also proposed to withdraw the facilities of the BPL, IRDP and Antyodaya if anyone found consuming liquor and drugs in the village. —OC

Village plans crackdown against drug, liquor mafia

PALAMPUR, MARCH 28

Mahajarna panchayat of Baijnath has decided to launch a crackdown against drug and liquor mafia.

The newly formed panchayat in its general house yesterday announced to impose heavy fine on the persons found involved in drug trafficking, illegal sale of liquor and other illegal activities. Mahajarna is the first panchayat of Kangra district, which has come out against drug trafficking openly.

The panchayat proposed to slap a penalty of Rs 10,000 on violators. Besides, the panchayat will also deprive them from taking the benefits of government schemes like subsidised ration, financial assistance for the construction of house under the PM Awas Yojana, grants for marriages, free LPG stoves and cylinders, etc.

In another resolution, the panchayat also proposed to withdraw the facilities of the BPL, IRDP and Antyodaya if anyone found consuming liquor and drugs in the village. —OC

Shimla ropeway project to address travel woes; bids to open on April 6

SUBHASH RAJTA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, MARCH 28

The way Shimla residents travel within the city and to the peripheral areas could change for good in not too distant future. The Ropeway and Rapid Transport System Development Corporation (RRTSDC) will open technical bids for its ambitious passenger ropeway system for the city on April 6. "If our promoters are able to travel this time to India, the project will start moving," said an RRTSDC official.

The RRTSDC had floated the request for proposal last May, inviting companies/consortiums to design, construct, operate and maintain a passenger ropeway system for the city struggling with increasing traffic on its narrow roads and almost non-existent parking spaces. "A few international companies expressed interest in the project, but their representative could not travel to India because of the Covid outbreak.



The Jakhu ropeway in Shimla. PHOTO: AMIT KANWAR

FIRST CITY TO USE CABLE CARS ON ROPEWAYS

Shimla will be the first city in the country to use cable cars on ropeways for urban transportation. It will be a sort of pilot project for other cities that need an alternative transport system. If it succeeds here, it could be replicated in other cities as well. — RRTSDC official

Hopefully, they will be here this time for technical bids," the official said, adding that the Rs 1,200-crore project would be executed in PPP/VGF mode.

"Shimla will be the first city in the country to use cable cars on ropeways for urban transportation. It will be a sort of pilot project for other cities that

need an alternative transport system. If it succeeds here, it could be replicated in other cities as well," he said. "And since it will be a transport facility, the fares will be more or less similar to bus fares."

The ambitious plan has three phases, with the initial stage catering to the core Shimla area.

In the next two phases, the RRTSDC has plans to bring in distant places like Kufri, Mashobra and Chail into the ropeway network. "In the first phase, 22.1-km-long ropeway will be laid, having 26 stations from where people can board and disembark the cable car," the official said.

He said the land for the project had been identified and the required surveys, including an aerial survey by a Czech company through drones, had been completed.

"It will be akin to Metro on ropes. Hopefully, it will not get stuck in files and permissions. The city needs it desperately," said a city resident.

6-month jail to man in cheque bounce case

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NURPUR, MARCH 28

The Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Nurpur, Nitin Mittal yesterday convicted Jivan Kumar of Raja Khalsa of the Indora sub-division in a cheque bounce case and sentenced him to six-month imprisonment.

The court has also ordered to pay compensation to the tune of Rs 4 lakh to complainant Sushil Kumar of Sakoh who had filed the case in the court in 2016 under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act.

The accused had some land deal with the complainant and had issued a bank cheque of Rs 2.60 lakh to the latter. The cheque had bounced due to fund shortage.

State suffers 50 pc revenue loss as collections at toll barriers take a hit

AMBika SHARMA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

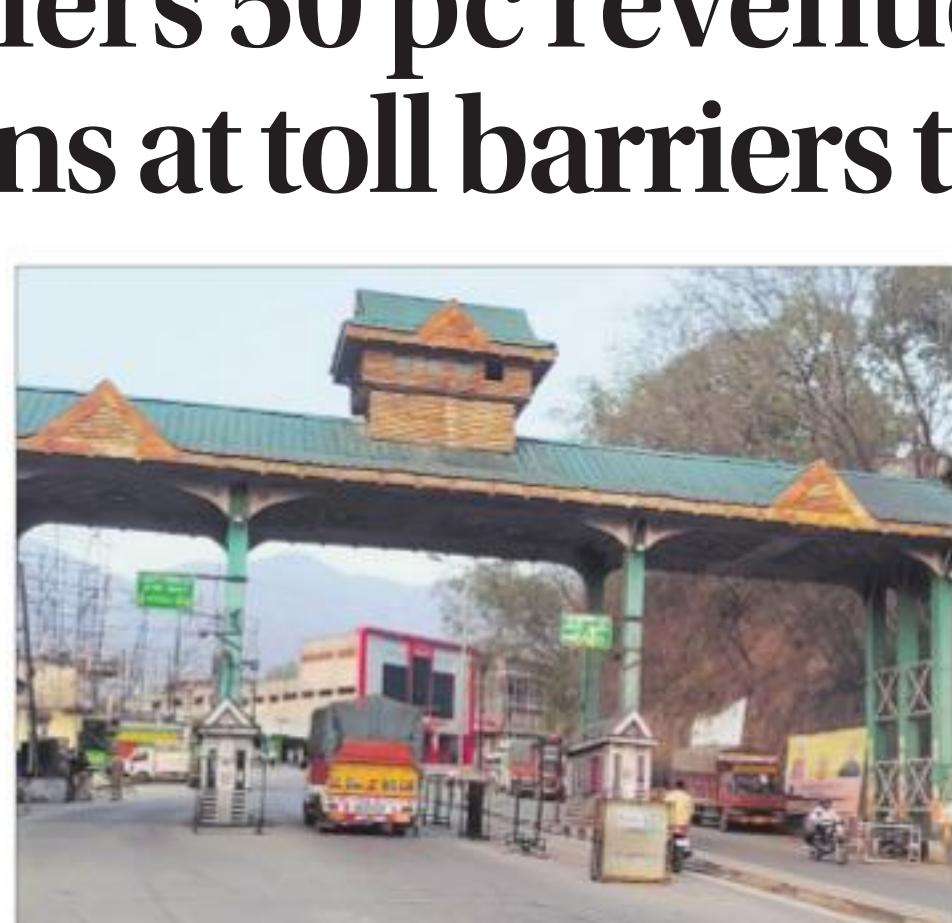
SOLAN, MARCH 28

More than 50 per cent revenue loss has been suffered by the state government on account of inter-state toll tax due to the Covid lockdown.

Parwanoo and Baddi inter-state barriers have suffered the most as there was a lockdown from April to September. Though tourism arrival began in September but a decline has been registered in March due to the second wave of Covid informed toll lessees.

"The tourist arrivals has once again taken a dip due to Covid surge in Punjab, Delhi and other states," informed a hotelier.

In Parwanoo the highest monthly collection of toll has been about Rs 50 lakh while it was as less as a few thousands in the months from April to August. Barely Rs 4.80 crore were collect-



The tourist arrivals has once again taken a dip due to Covid surge in Punjab, Delhi and other states. TRIBUNE PHOTO

ed until February this year and the shortfall was more than 55 per cent.

There are two inter-state barriers in Parwanoo, one at Tipra and another on the Parwanoo-Kalka highway. Their lease was renewed for Rs 12.96 crore for the financial year. It

included a 10 per cent increase in its value and 1 per cent as renewal fee. In Baddi, the toll barrier lease was renewed for around Rs 16 crore.

The Parwanoo inter-state barrier is the gateway to the state, which leads to popular tourist destina-

Holi festivities a low-key affair in Mandi amid Covid surge

MANDI, MARCH 28

Due to Covid-19 scare, the Holi celebrations remained a low key affair in the district today. On the directions of the state government, the administration has imposed restrictions on Holi celebrations across the district to

277 new cases, 3 deaths in state in last 24 hrs

avoid mass gathering at a single place to check the spread of Covid-19 infection.

Only a few people came out to celebrate Holi. Generally every year a large number of people gather in front of Seri Manohar to celebrate the festival collectively.

However, the procession of Madho Rai deity was taken out in the town to mark the festival symbolically. According to ritual, residents of Mandi throw "gulaal" on the deity to celebrate the festival. Today very few people joined the procession in the town. — TNS



The procession of Madho Rai deity being taken out in Mandi.

Baijnath village containment zone

PALAMPUR, MARCH 28

The district administration today declared Upper Kalsi village of Baijnath sub-division, 25 km from Palampur, as containment zone following death of one person and rising number of Covid-19 cases.

One death was recently reported in the village while a 23-year-old girl shifted to Tanda Medical College. She was in a critical condition. Over one

dozen persons in the village are having fever, cough and chest infection. Besides, a number of persons, who have tested positive for Covid-19, are in home isolation.

Chief Medical Officer Kangra Gurdarshan Gupta said the situation was being monitored and the health department has launched massive testing of Covid-19 in the village. — OC

Woman among three killed in mishap

KATHUA/DODA, MARCH 28

Three persons, including a woman, were killed and one other went missing in two separate road accidents in Kathua and Doda districts of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday, officials said.

While two motorcycle-borne youths were crushed to death under a truck in Kathua, a woman died and one other person went missing after their vehicle rolled down a hill into the Chenab in Doda, the officials said.

In the second accident, they said a car plunged into the river Chenab near Pul-Doda, resulting in the death of a woman and critical injuries to another person.

One more person, who was also travelling in the vehicle, is missing and efforts are on to locate him, the officials said. — PTI

NIA: Parra involved in 'dirty' gunrunning, paying ultras

TERROR LINK

The NIA has alleged that PDP youth leader Wahid-ur-Rehman Parra is involved in "dirty" gunrunning, providing finance to terror groups and being "part of the larger conspiracy" hatched by Pakistan-based terrorist outfits to make "inroads" into important institutions in J&K to carry forward their secessionist agenda.

According to a supplemental chargesheet filed at a Jammu court recently in the terror funding case, which also involves Deputy Superintendent of Police Davender Singh, the agency has listed Parra's activities since 2010 and alleged he had formed a group of 20 to 25 youths who indulged in stone-throwing during protests at his behest.

This was done by Parra to yield political mileage for himself from the People's Democratic Party (PDP), the NIA alleged. The party was in the opposition in 2010 in the erstwhile state of J&K. Parra, who is at present in judicial custody, has denied the charges of his involvement with terror groups, and his party has said that he has been framed in the case only because he refused to join political parties being sup-



ported by the BJP. The NIA alleged that banned terror group Hizbul Mujahideen had sought the support of some mainstream political leaders like Parra.

The nexus clearly establishes that some of mainstream politicians are involved in "politics of convenience and deceit wherein they are seeking help" from terrorist organisations for "securing cooperation during election campaigns and for assisting their workers in man-

agement of election process, the agency said in its charge-sheet. "These mainstream politicians are seeking this cooperation through payment of money thereby making mockery of the electoral process," the NIA said.

In the charge sheet, the NIA has alleged that Parra was involved in the "dirty business" of gunrunning from Kupwara in 2016, when PDP was in an alliance government with the BJP in the erstwhile J&K state.

"He (Parra) used to visit the Kupwara area with his escort party and bring weapons in his vehicle as none of the security agencies used to check his vehicle en-route (with he) being an important political entity," the agency said. — PTI

Kashmir to host 6-day festival to celebrate arrival of spring

SRINAGAR, MARCH 28

Kashmir will host a six-day 'Tulip Festival' next month to celebrate the arrival of spring, promote tourism, and familiarise visitors with the Valley's rich culture and tradition, an official said on Sunday.

The festival, beginning April 3, will be inaugurated by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

"All arrangements are in place for the festival and we are looking forward to it," Ideel Saleem, Deputy Director, Tourism and Publicity, said.

A host of activities, including cultural shows and musical evenings, will be held during the festival. Around 25 stalls would be set up to display and promote the rich tra-



'Tulip Festival' will be inaugurated by the J&K L-G on April 3. FILE

ditions, culture, cuisines and crafts of the Valley, the deputy director said.

Another Tourism Department official said the festival would present a unique opportunity to display the diverse culture and cuisine of Jammu and Kashmir.

A live exhibition of handicraft and handloom products

along with a slew of cultural activities would be held during the festival, he said.

The official said pan-India promotional activity had been taken up and enthusiastic campaigns to lure tourists were being held at prominent places, including metro stations, travel marts and other public places. — PTI

FROM PAGE 1

Cong evading White Paper on power..

An effort to push a draft of the White Paper at a Cabinet meeting during the recently held Budget Session did not find favour with some ministers, who insisted on naming the "vested interests" behind the PPAs.

Later, a draft of the White Paper tabled in the Cabinet Sub-Committee meeting was rejected by two Cabinet ministers Sukhjinder Randhawa and Tripti Rajinder Bajwa, who apparently again insisted on exposing those behind the agreements.

Incidentally, the CM during a recent press conference to mark four years of the Congress government in the state had stated that the PPAs were legal documents and it was difficult to touch them.

Sources said that by insisting on naming the officials who were instrumental in preparing the PPAs, the government would achieve little

by way of targeting Akalis, as the officials who prepared the PPAs are also part of the White Paper drafting team.

"If the PPAs are watertight documents and there's nothing on record to prove the Akalis' complicity in the matter, the party leadership will find it hard to build a political narrative against them," said the sources.

During the previous SAD-BJP government, PPAs were signed regarding the payment of fixed charges to three power plants.

Congress leaders maintain that the PPAs should have stated that the state would purchase as much power as was required. PPCC chief Sunil Jakhar said, "I believe the government is working on the legal framework to bring out the White Paper. I still believe the government should move the Supreme Court over the PPAs."

Daily deaths over...

Maharashtra reported the highest number of fresh cases at 35,726, followed by Chhattisgarh (3,162), Karnataka (2,886) and Punjab (2,805).

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan has asked 12 high-burden states (Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Punjab and Bihar) to increase testing exponentially with RT PCR accounting for 70 per cent of total tests; trace, test and isolate average 30 close contacts in the first 72 hours;

energise public-private partnership; ensure Covid-appropriate behaviour and muted celebrations of Holi, Shab-e-barat and Easter; optimally use vaccines.

"While 90 per cent people in these 46 districts are aware that masks were important, 44 per cent are actually wearing masks. In the absence of any restriction, one infected person can spread Covid to 406 individuals in 30 days. This can be reduced to just 15 persons by decreasing physical exposure to 50 per cent and to 2.5 persons by decreasing it to 75 per cent," the Health Ministry told the states.

200 seats for sure...

86 seats in the 126-member Assam Assembly. He asserted that people had voted for the "positive" agenda espoused by the party.

He also appealed to the people of Nandigram — the seat from which Bengal CM and Trinamool Congress (TMC) supremo Mamata Banerjee is contesting polls — to vote for change and a better future.

Shah also rejected Mamata's charge that PM Narendra Modi's visit to a temple of the Matua community — which is in sizeable number in the state — during his trip to Bangladesh violated the poll code.

He said the visit had nothing to do with the elections and was aimed at fostering deeper ties between the two countries.

Sources drying up...

khuls (natural drains) to irrigate their fields.

With glaciers in the Dhualadhars receding each year, experts say the government should look for alternative schemes rather than depending on the natural flow in streams. Major rivers Neugal, Binwa and Baner, which feed over 200 water supply schemes in the district, are with little water these days. The water discharge in most of the natural

water sources, particularly in Palampur, has come down to 20-30 per cent.

Scientist working on global warming say melting glaciers and receding snowline have affected the availability of surface water. However, groundwater is available in abundance right up to the higher reaches of the Himalayas. Therefore, the government must shift emphasis from surface to ground water.

Two civilians injured in grenade attack

SRINAGAR, MARCH 28

Two civilians were injured after militants hurled a grenade at a CRPF party in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday, police said.

The incident took place at Sangam in Bijbehara area of the south Kashmir district, a police official said after the attack.

The grenade exploded on the roadside, causing minor injuries to the two civilians, he said. Security forces have launched a hunt to nab the militants, the official said. Yesterday, two militants were killed in an encounter with security forces in Shopian district. — PTI

4,204 prisoners out on bail since Covid outbreak

JAMMU, MARCH 28

Over 4,200 prisoners were released on bail and 41 on parole since the outbreak of the Covid pandemic in March last year, VK Singh, DGP, Prisons, has said.

He said there was only one Covid-positive patient among the prisoners, who is being treated at a hospital in Kathua district.

"Since March last year, 4,204 inmates were released on bail and 41 on parole, in pursuance of decisions taken by the high-powered committee (constituted on the Supreme Court's directions to decongest jails to ensure social distancing among prisoners)," Singh said.

Speaking at a cultural pro-

gramme organised at the Amphalla District Jail here on Saturday, he said 542 inmates across various jails were infected with the coronavirus, but all of them recovered, except two elderly prisoners who succumbed due to comorbidities. "Presently, there is only one Covid case from the Kathua District Jail, who is admitted to the local Government Medical College," the DGP said. He said the prisons department has introduced a video-conferencing facility for the purpose of trial and remand, the e-mulqat facility and the Prison Inmate Calling System, besides setting up modern interview rooms in jails. — PTI

J&K witnessed rise in expenditure from 2014 to 2019: CAG report

REFUND UNSPENT GRANT, UT TOLD

Taking a serious note of non-establishment of model schools in J&K in the past 10 years despite availability of Rs 44.13 crore, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has asked the state government to refund the unspent funds and fix responsibility. PTI

year ended March 31, 2019.

The report, which was recently tabled in Parliament, said the budget estimates and actual expenditure for 2015-16 was Rs 62,726 crore and Rs 79,281 crore, respectively, while the budget estimate was Rs 80,465 crore and actu-

al expenditure was Rs 85,084 crore in 2016-17.

The budget estimate was Rs 89,939 crore and actual expenditure Rs 89,624 crore in 2017-18, it said. "The total expenditure of the state (Jammu and Kashmir) increased from Rs 34,550 crore to Rs 64,572 crore from 2014 to 2019, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has asked the state government to refund the unspent funds and fix responsibility. PTI



Punjab Government

led by

Chief Minister

Capt. Amarinder Singh

extends heartiest greetings on the joyous occasion of

Holi

THE FESTIVAL OF COLOURS

All are requested to comply with COVID safety protocols such as wearing masks, maintaining social distance and sanitizing their hands regularly





GLOBE TROT



CRIME SCENE: The public library where several persons were stabbed in the Lynn Valley neighbourhood of North Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. REUTERS

1 dead, six hurt in attack at Canadian library

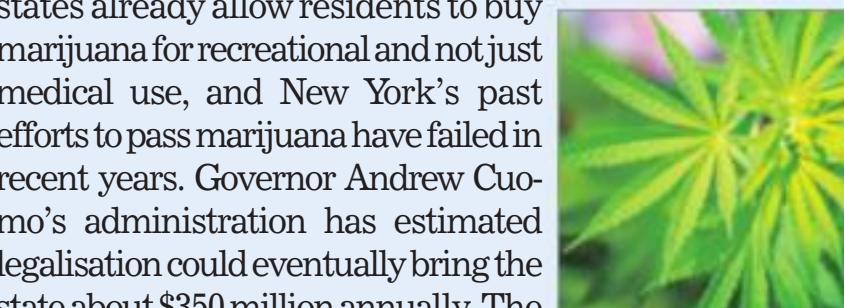
VANCOUVER (BRITISH COLUMBIA): A man went on a stabbing spree inside and around a library, killing one woman and injuring six others in North Vancouver, British Columbia, the authorities said. Sgt Frank Jang of the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team said a suspect was in custody. He said the man was in his 20s and had interactions with the police in the past. Jang said officials didn't have any information yet about a motive. One witness, Steve Mossop, said he and his partner stopped on seeing a bloodied woman who told them she had just been stabbed. They then saw several victims within about 100 m of each other, he said. AP

Indian-origin boy finds millions of years old fossil

LONDON: A six-year-old Indian-origin boy says he is "really excited" after he found a fossil from millions of years ago while digging in his garden in the West Midlands region of England. Siddak Singh Jhamat, known as Sid, was using a fossil-hunting set he received as a Christmas present when he came across a rock that looked like a horn. "I was just digging for worms and things like pottery and bricks and I just came across this rock which looked a bit like a horn, and thought it could be a tooth or a claw or a horn, but it was actually a piece of coral which is called horn coral," the schoolboy said. PTI

NY lawmakers agree to legalise recreational marijuana

NEW YORK: Lawmakers reached an agreement to legalise recreational marijuana sales in New York. At least 14 other states already allow residents to buy marijuana for recreational and not just medical use, and New York's past efforts to pass marijuana have failed in recent years. Governor Andrew Cuomo's administration has estimated legalisation could eventually bring the state about \$350 million annually. The legislation will allow recreational marijuana sales to adults over the age of 21, and set up a licensing process for the delivery of cannabis products to customers. AP



INFOCUS AGRICULTURE

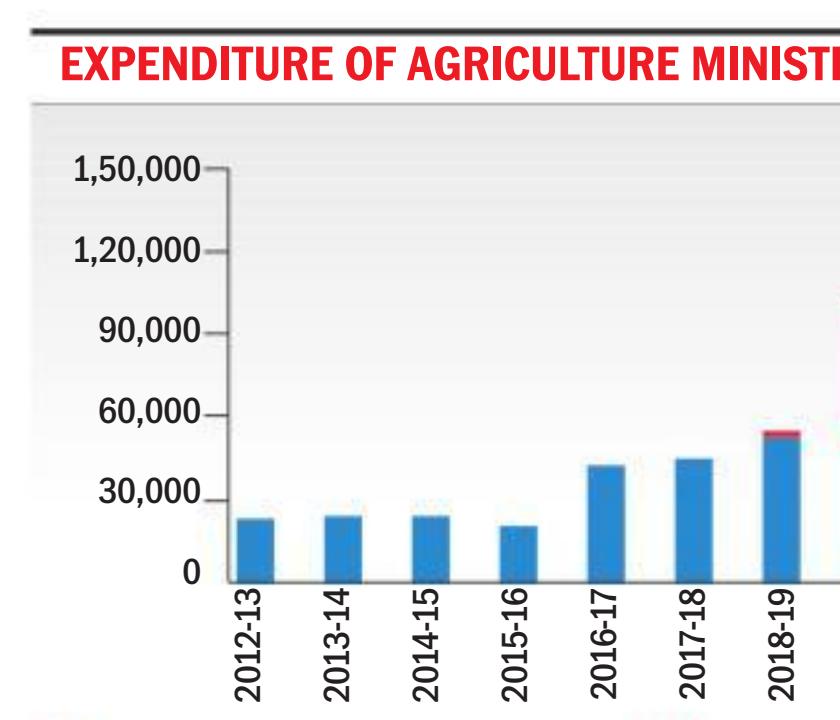
CONTRACT FARMING

Remove hurdles to help farmers reap dividends

SS CHAHAL

Agriculture is the engine of economic growth in our country. However, the annual growth rate of agriculture and allied sectors has shown big fluctuations with declining trends during the post-Green Revolution period. The growth rate in real terms was 2.88 per cent from 2014-15 to 2018-19, according to the Economic Survey Report 2020. Studies have revealed that stagnant investment is one of the major factors for the decline, besides the slowdown of irrigation expansion, downscaling of production due to farm fragmentation and soil degradation due to improper use of chemical fertilisers. An analysis of data reveals continuing deceleration in public investment both at the national and state levels after the 1980s 'in' agriculture (land development, irrigation, markets etc.) as well as 'for' agriculture (roads, power, transport etc.), because of which there is no desirable improvement in the structural support system. Public investment, which has declined over the years, is mostly consumed for subsidies, fertilisers, irrigation, electricity, credit etc., whereas private investment made by farmers is adversely impacted by heavy indebtedness.

The share of public investment in the Gross Capital Formation (GCF) has dipped to an extremely low level. As per figures given by the Union government, the GCF in agriculture and allied sectors at the current prices for 2016-17 was estimated at Rs 64,410 crore and Rs 2,79,066 crore from public and private investments, respectively. Any increase in public investment is beyond expectations with the 7.71



per cent cut for agri-schemes in the Union Budget 2021-22. To put agri-growth in the rapid mode, there is an acute need to improve infrastructure, including transportation and storage facilities, cold storage capacity in proximity to farms, warehouses and adequate processing, marketing and export facilities, the lack of which is causing huge wastage and losses to the public exchequer as well as the farmers. A study in 2016 estimated that about 67 million tonnes of food worth Rs 92,651 crore was lost annually in farm produce wastage.

To build infrastructure for curbing such losses and achieving the target of 10.4 per cent income growth rate in farming over a period from 2016-17 to 2022-23 (with 2015-16 as the base year), the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare aims at an annual investment growth rate of 12.5 per cent 'in' agriculture and 16.8 per cent 'for' agriculture. While expecting a substantial increase in private investment by farmers, attracting corporate investment, which is cur-

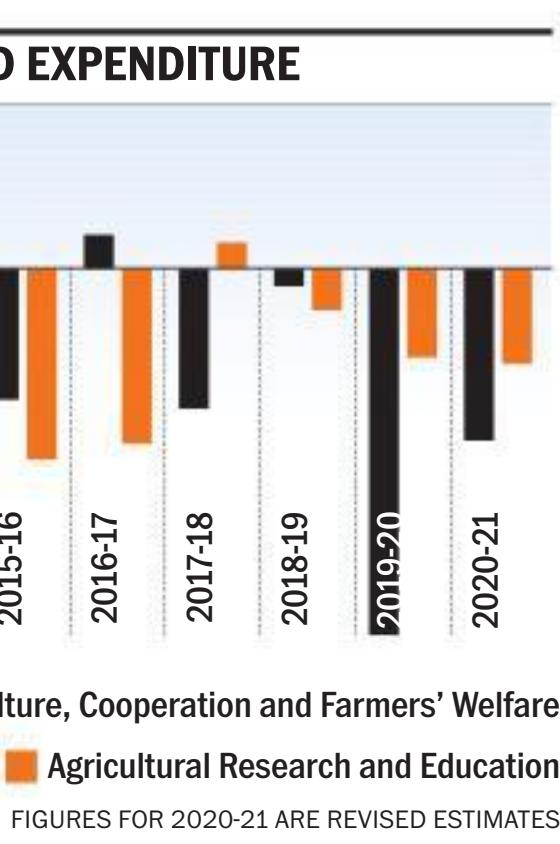
rently around 2 per cent of the overall investment, is a huge challenge. A growing need has been felt for corporate investment in food processing, building warehouses, scientific storage and cold storage in addition to the farm mechanisation sector, the seed sector and the horticulture and food processing sector. Further, it is prudent to develop models defining capability-based activities for qualitative improvement and sustainable flow of corporate investment.

Direct contact

It is with such considerations that contract farming (CF) is promoted to involve corporate agri-business entities, bringing them directly in contact with the primary producers as well as linking farmers with the market. The CF system basically involves a pre-determined price, quality, quantity and defined acreage at a time for production and commitment for the supply of agricultural produce to the known buyer under the contract which may be total, partial or for procurement

only. The system got established in the country with the advent of new seeds and production of their certified versions since the 1960s. Further, it has been pushed by growth in the international trade demanding high quality, supermarket chains, demand for organic food, drying up of state funding, the agrarian crisis and support from the industry and the banking sector. Public as well as private sector banks leveraged their interest and promoted financing for CF by formulating special policies, setting up of agricultural credit, offering quick loans, reducing interest rates, increasing direct agriculture lending portfolios and tying up for end-to-end financing through tripartite agreements between farmers, banks and the industry.

Seen as an alternative to private and corporate farming, CF lowers transactional costs for both the contracting parties because many transactions become internalised. Farmers get access to new technologies and inputs and contracting agencies get assured supply of



FIGURES FOR 2020-21 ARE REVISED ESTIMATES

useful. However, the best course is that small farmers should enter into CF by forming New Generation Cooperatives commonly known as Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs). That will enhance access to a variety of resources, effectively maintaining quality standards, better application of scientific farming techniques and increase in bargaining power and capacity to pursue litigation collectively. The Centre has set a target of supporting 10,000 more FPOs in the next financial year. Some problems faced by the growers include delayed deliveries at the factory, unforeseen pest attacks raising the cost of cultivation, no legal protection for often verbal and informal contracts, monopsony and lack of strict enforceability of contractual provisions. Delayed payments are of frequent occurrence.

Making payments within the stipulated time frame has been addressed in Clause 6(3) of the new law, the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Prices Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020. However, restricting dispute settlement rights up to the district-level bureaucratic set-up and barring normal judicial course in the same Act (Clause 19) have not gone down well with the farmers and need reconsideration. There is visible fear among the peasantry that CF may lead to greater direct entry by corporate entities in agriculture and that would result in dispossession of their land. It is important to dispel this fear for spurring this potentially transformational system of farming.

The author is former VC, Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur

Armed forces open fire at funeral as Myanmar mourns day of bloodshed

YANGON, MARCH 28

Myanmar security forces opened fire at a funeral on Sunday, witnesses said, as people across the country gathered to mourn 114 persons killed the previous day in the worst crackdown on protests since the military coup.

Mourners fled the shooting in Bago at a service for 20-year-old student Thae Maung Maung near the commercial capital Yangon and there were no immediate reports of casualties, three persons in the town told Reuters. "While we are singing the revolution song for him, security forces just arrived and shot at us," a woman called Aye who was at the service said. "People, including us, run away as they opened fire."

Three persons were killed in other shooting incidents on Sunday and thousands of villagers in a border area fled to Thailand after army air strikes on one of several ethnic militias that have stepped up attacks since the coup, wit-



Protesters take cover behind a barricade in Yangon. AP/PTI

TOTAL NUMBER OF CIVILIANS REPORTEDLY KILLED

440

- Thousands of villagers in a border area flee to Thailand after army air strikes
- UN investigator accuses army of committing 'mass murder'
- The US, Britain, Germany and the European Union condemned the violence.

nesses and local media said. One person was killed when troops opened fire overnight on a group of protesters near the capital Naypyitaw, Myanmar. Now news reported and there were several protests on Sunday in the Sagaing region near the

country's second city, Mandalay. There were no reports of large-scale protests within Mandalay, which bore the brunt of the casualties on Saturday. At least six children aged 10 and 16 were among those killed on Saturday, according to news reports and

FOREIGN CRITICISM FAILS TO DETER JUNTA

- At least six children aged 10-16 were among those killed on Saturday, according to news reports and witnesses.
- The bloodshed drew renewed Western condemnation. The UN Special Rapporteur for Myanmar said the army was carrying out "mass murder" and called on the world to isolate the junta and halt its access to weapons.
- Foreign criticism and sanctions imposed by some Western nations have failed to sway the military leaders, as have almost daily protests around the country since the junta grabbed power

witnesses. Protesters call the victims 'Fallen Stars'. The UN Special Rapporteur for Myanmar said the army was carrying out "mass murder" and called on the world to isolate the junta and halt its access to weapons. —Reuters



A cop stands guard on a road following an explosion outside a Catholic church in Makassar, South Sulawesi province, Indonesia. REUTERS

Suicide bomber targets Indonesian church, 14 hurt

MAKASSAR (INDONESIA), MAR 28

A suicide bomber blew himself up outside a packed Roman Catholic cathedral on Indonesia's Sulawesi island during a Palm Sunday Mass, wounding at least nine people, the police said. A cellular video obtained by The Associated Press showed body parts scattered near a burning motorcycle at the gates of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Cathedral in Makassar, the capital of South Sulawesi province.

The first batch of churchgoers was walking out while another group was coming in. —AP

TRACKING COVID

NATIONS DEATHS

US	5,62,083
BRAZIL	3,10,694
MEXICO	2,01,429
UK	1,26,592
ITALY	1,07,933



WORLDOMETER TILL MAR 28, 10 PM

Antibodies less effective against Brazil, S Africa variants

BERLIN, MARCH 28

Variant forms of Covid which were first reported in South Africa and Brazil are less efficiently inhibited by antibodies from recovered patients and vaccinated individuals, a new study confirms.

According to the research, published in the journal cell, recovery from Covid-19 as well as vaccination may offer only incomplete protection against these mutant virus forms.

"This is worrisome because the rapid spread of variants that might not be efficiently inhibited by antibodies could undermine our current vaccination strategy," said Stefan Pohlmann, a co-author of the



study from the German Primate Center in Gottingen.

These virus variants have mutations in the spike protein — the structure on the surface of the virus that is responsible for attachment to host cells — the researchers said.

GRAPPLING WITH VIRUS

- These virus variants have mutations in the spike protein — the structure on the surface of the virus that is responsible for attachment to host cells — the researchers said.
- In order for the virus to enter a cell, they said, it must first attach to the host cell surface using its spike protein, which is located on the viral envelope. The spike protein is also the target for antibody therapies and vaccines.

attachment to host cells — the researchers said. In order for the virus to enter a cell, they said it must first attach to the host cell surface using its spike protein. "These variants were less well inhibited by antibodies from convalescent or vaccinated individuals, they partially bypassed the neutralising effect of the antibodies," said Jan Munch, another co-author of the study. —PTI

useful. However, the best course is that small farmers should enter into CF by forming New Generation Cooperatives commonly known as Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs). That will enhance access to a variety of resources, effectively maintaining quality standards, better application of scientific farming techniques and increase in bargaining power and capacity to pursue litigation collectively. The Centre has set a target of supporting 10,000 more FPOs in the next financial year. Some problems faced by the growers include delayed deliveries at the factory, unforeseen pest attacks raising the cost of cultivation, no legal protection for often verbal and informal contracts, monopsony and lack of strict enforceability of contractual provisions. Delayed payments are of frequent occurrence.

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BRIEFLY

ORLEANS (FRANCE)

Garaga-Goud lose after taking first game

The Indian pair of Krishna Prasad Garaga and Vishnuvardhan Goud let slip a strong start to go down fighting to England's world No. 8 pairing of Ben Lane and Sean Vandy in the men's doubles finals of the Orleans Masters badminton tournament. The unheralded Indians, the only ones from the country left in contention on the final day, lost 21-19 14-21 19-21 in a 56-minute battle with the fourth-seeded Englishmen.

MANAMA (BAHRAIN)

Hamilton wins in Bahrain, Schumacher Jr 16th

Seven-time Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton won the season-opening Bahrain Grand Prix for Mercedes on Sunday after an epic, knife-edge battle with Red Bull's Max Verstappen over the final laps. Verstappen finished a mere 0.745 seconds behind after starting on pole position. Thirty years after his father first raced, Mick Schumacher, the 22-year-old son of seven-time world champion Michael, had a spin in his Haas early in the race on his F1 debut but recovered to finish in 16th.

HAMILTON

Conway, Sodhi power NZ to big win over Bangladesh

Devon Conway continued his red hot form with the bat to power New Zealand to a big total before Ish Sodhi spun a web around the Bangladesh batsmen as the hosts won the opening T20I by 66 runs. Conway hammered an unbeaten 92 as the hosts posted 210/3, and then leg-spinner Sodhi derailed Bangladesh's chase by picking up four wickets in his first two overs to finish with figures of 4/28.

MIAMI

Barty sets up Azarenka clash; Tsitsipas advances

World No. 1 Ashleigh Barty looked sharp in a straight-set victory over Jelena Ostapenko at the Miami Open. Barty defeated the former French Open champion from Latvia 6-3 6-2 to set up a fourth-round clash with Victoria Azarenka. Men's second seed Stefanos Tsitsipas was untroubled in a 6-1 6-4 over Bosnian Damir Dzumhur.

DELHI

Sunil Chhetri recovers from Covid-19

India's talismanic football captain Sunil Chhetri today said he has recovered from Covid-19, days after testing positive for the infection that ruled him out of the friendlies against Oman and the UAE. AGENCIES

TODAY ON TV

FOOTBALL FRIENDLY
INDIA VS UAE
EUROSPORT HD 8:30PM

India win thriller after Sam scare

PUNE, MARCH 28

India weathered a late-innings storm created by Sam Curran — who remained unbeaten on 95 off 83 balls — to win the third and final ODI against England tonight. With it, India won the series 2-1 against the world champions.

Left-arm paceman Thangarasu Natarajan managed to restrict England to only six runs in the final over, in which they needed 14 for victory. Curran, who had batted brilliantly until then, hit a four off the fifth ball, but that was not enough.

Curran's 83 included nine fours and three sixers as he threatened to single-handedly win the match.

Chasing India's 329, which had seemed below par on a batting track, England started in blazing fashion but kept on losing wickets, and at 95/4 in the 16th over, they seemed to be in some trouble. But a partnership of 60 between Liam Livingstone and Moeen Ali steadied the innings, but thereafter, at 200/7, England seemed out of the game. Curran, though, fought hard, which won him the Man of the Match award.

Pant-Pandya fire

Rishabh Pant and Hardik Pandya hit stroke-filled half-centuries but the Indian low-

er-order caved in meekly to settle for a below-par 329. Pant's sparkling 78 off 62 balls was well supported by Hardik (64 off 44 balls) but India lost their last four wickets for a mere eight runs.

Pant, during his career-best knock, plundered four maxi-

That's match, series!



Virat Kohli is overjoyed as Shardul Thakur removes Jos Buttler. Thakur took four wickets. PTI

“The most pleasing thing is the depth of our batting. Very exciting times ahead for us. It has been an amazing season for us...”

Virat Kohli

mums and five boundaries, while Hardik had five fours and four sixes during their 99-run stand for the fifth wicket.

However, Hardik Pandya's 25 off 34 balls showcased his serious limitations while facing express pace, and he was exposed by Mark Wood (3/34).

Krunal Pandya at times was

finding it difficult to bring his bat down in time while facing the pace of Woods and didn't get a single boundary, consuming nearly six overs of the innings. — TNS, agencies

SCOREBOARD

India		37
R Sharma	b Rashid	37
S Dhawan	c & b Rashid	67
V Kohli	b Ali	7
R Pant	c Buttler b Curran	78
KL Rahul	c Ali b Livingstone	7
H Pandya	b Stokes	64
K Pandya	c Roy b Wood	25
S Thakur	c Buttler b Wood	30
B Kumar	c Curran b Topley	3
P Krishna	b Wood	0
T Natarajan	not out	
Extras: (LB 1, W 10)		11
Total: (All out, 48.2 overs)		329
FOW: 1-103, 2-117, 3-121, 4-157, 5-256, 6-276, 7-321, 8-328, 9-329		

Bowling

O	M	R	W
Sam Curran	5	0	43
Reece Topley	9.2	0	66
Mark Wood	7	1	34
Ben Stokes	7	0	45
Adil Rashid	10	0	81
Moeen Ali	7	0	39
Liam Livingstone	3	0	20

England

J Roy b Kumar	14
J Bristow lbw b Kumar	1
B Stokes c Dhawan b Natarajan	35
D Malan c Sharma b Thakur	50
J Buttler lbw b Thakur	15
L Livingstone c&b Thakur	36
M Ali c H Pandya b Kumar	29
S Curran not out	95
A Rashid c Kohli b Thakur	19
M Wood run out	14
R Topley not out	1
Extras: (LB 1, W 12)	13
Total: (9 wickets, 50 overs)	322
FOW: 1-14, 2-28, 3-68, 4-95, 5-155, 6-168, 7-200, 8-257, 9-317	

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Bhuvneshwar Kumar	10	0	42	3
Thangarasu Natarajan	10	0	73	1
Prasidh Krishna	7	0	62	0
Shardul Thakur	10	0	67	4
Hardik Pandya	9	0	48	0
Krunal Pandya	4	0	29	0

After Oman high, India face UAE

Tougher challenge vs world No. 74

DUBAI, MARCH 28

But India will draw inspiration from their match against UAE during the 2019 Asian Cup group stage where they had created a lot of scoring chances even though they lost 0-2. India paid dearly for poor finishing in that match and luck didn't favour them as two shots hit the framework.

“UAE are even tougher than Oman, so I except a very tough match tomorrow. They (UAE) are technically better side, play quicker football and they will give a lot of pressure on us,” Sti-mac said. “But that is something we want to face and that is why we are playing international friendly against them.”

Despite the tougher match, Sti-mac will still be bringing in new players from his 27-man squad tomorrow.

He said even senior defender Sandesh Jhingan will not start while goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu is set to play instead of Amrinder Singh and captain the side. — TNS, agencies

Covid-care: 2 Oly reserves, bio-bubble

VINAYAK PADMADEO
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 28

The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) has decided to name two reserves in each discipline when they meet to select the team for the Tokyo Olympics. NRAI president Raninder Singh disclosed this today, the last day of the ISSF World Cup.

He also informed that the selection meeting would be held on April 3 or 4, depending upon the availability of the selection committee.

“We will have the meeting either on April 3 or 4, subject to the availability of people. I prefer a personal interaction but if we have to do it over Zoom then we will do it,” Singh said. “We will also be announcing two reserves per event. If the selected shooter is infected then the one named as Reserve 1 will be sent. If both get infected then we will send Reserve 2,” he added.

Singh, who is also a vice-president of ISSE, the sport's governing body, added that there are plans to put the Olympics-bound team in a secure bio-bubble before the Olympics.



Shreyasi Singh (left) takes aim during the women's trap team final. ABOVE: The men's trap team of Kynan Chenai, Prithviraj Tondaiman and Lakshay Sheoran won the final gold.

“We are looking for an advisory from the Health Ministry regarding when the peak of this Covid-19 is expected. My first priority now is to think about their exposure or competitions. We have experienced and highly exposed athletes, but you can be anyone, the best in the world, you will be rusty if you do not have international exposure. We are ready, we need to get the rustiness out,” Singh said, explaining the plans leading up to the Tokyo Games.

“But at the same time it is equally important to make

sure that our athletes are protected from Covid-19. It is a difficult thing to keep people away from the families and it can be counter-productive. We are looking at the peak period and we are planning to keep them in the bio-bubble till the Olympics with only one intention — to minimise the possibility of them getting ill,” he added.

After this, the men's trap team of Kynan Chenai, Prithviraj Tondaiman and Lakshay Sheoran won gold by beating Slovakia 6-4 in a closely-contested final.

However, there was disappointment in the men's

including 15 gold, 9 silver and 7 bronze medals.

The day's first gold medal was won on the trap ranges, where the Indian team of Shreyasi Singh, Manisha Keer and Rajeshwari Kumari beat the team from Kazakhstan 6-0 in the final of the women's trap team final.

After this, the men's trap team of Kynan Chenai, Prithviraj Tondaiman and Lakshay Sheoran won gold by beating Slovakia 6-4 in a closely-contested final.

Reckoning of age for all Classes shall be as on 31.03.2021. Reservation of seats will be as per KVS Admission Guideline available on the Website (<https://kvsgangathan.nic.in>). Under present situation of COVID -19, the directions issued by Competent Authority (Central/State/Local) are to be followed. Accordingly, the parents are requested not to visit Kendriya Vidyalayas physically to avoid gathering. All information regarding Admission, Registration form will be available on Vidyalaya/KVS (HQ) website for download. Kindly fill the Registration form, Scan it and send it to this KV through email only.

E-mail: kvghumarwin@gmail.com
School website: <https://ghumarwin.kvs.ac.in/>
Contact No.: 01978-254022, 98161-07353
Contact Principal/Admission in-Charge only when called in the given time slot.

Principal

Ronaldo fumes as goal denied, Portugal held



Serbia's Filip Kostic scores their second goal against Portugal. REUTERS

In charge



Stephanie Frappart made history as the first woman to referee a men's World Cup qualifier, in the Latvia-Netherlands game. REUTERS

half an hour to play. Serbia defender Nikola Milenkovic saw a direct red card in stoppage time for a dangerous studs-first tackle on Danilo.

Lukaku saves Belgium

Romelu Lukaku extended his impressive scoring record with Belgium to salvage a 1-1 draw against Czech Republic as the top-ranked team was

lucky to escape with a point. Facing an inspired Czech side which hit the woodwork twice, Belgium struggled defensively and conceded early in the second half. Lukaku, Belgium's all-time leading scorer, then took his tally to 59 goals in 91 international matches after Kevin De Bruyne's brilliant assist.

Both teams had depleted squads after German clubs refused to release players including Belgium's Thorgan Hazard because they could have been forced into quarantine after returning from the Czech Republic. In the other Group E match, Belarus twice came from behind to kick off its World Cup qualification campaign with a 4-2 win over 10-man Estonia.

The Netherlands got their qualification back on track by beating Latvia 2-0, while Turkey beat Norway 3-0.

